

on Sunday



Blast in Assam school
stokes fresh tension
with Mizoram

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Gujjars threaten to
intensify quota stir
from November 9

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UAE set to overhaul
Islamic laws, may
loosen alcohol curbs

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Shreyas' DC faces
Warner's SRH for a
place in the final

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NEARBY



Record COVID deaths in
Delhi, toll nears 7,000

NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded the highest single-day spike in deaths due to COVID-19 complications, with 79 fatalities reported in the past 24 hours. The death toll now stands at 6,912. The city also reported 6,953 new COVID cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 4,30,784. As many as 3,83,614 patients have recovered so far while there are 40,258 active cases.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Level Up IAS
Starting From
Optional Foundation Batch
by Karandeep Singh
8826486658, 8826496658

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES
CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4

Joe Biden elected 46th President of the United States

He won more than the required 270 Electoral College votes; Kamala Harris will be the first woman and the first minority Vice-President

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Democratic candidate Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., was elected the 46th President of the United States late on Saturday morning, beating incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump, by securing more than the required 270 of the 538 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House.

Mr. Biden's running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, a U.S. Senator from California, will become the first woman and the first Indian and African American Vice-President of the country. Mr. Biden will inherit, from President Trump, a deeply divided country, battered by the coronavirus pandemic, facing high levels of unemployment and fraying race relations.

As news agencies such as CNN, the Associated Press, and *The New York Times* started projecting Mr. Biden as the winner, celebratory shouts, car horns and festive

music was heard on the streets of Washington DC as Americans had waited more than three full days to hear who their next President would be. Similar celebrations were reported in other cities across the country, including New York.

Pennsylvania taken

The win came as Mr. Biden, who was at 253 electoral college votes going into Saturday, as per most news agencies, was projected to win Pennsylvania – a gain of 20 electoral seats.

The Democratic candidate was ahead by over 34,000 votes in Pennsylvania late Saturday morning – too large a gap for Mr. Trump to bridge, based on the fact that the majority of mail-in ballots tend to be Democratic and based on the number of ballots Republican and Democratic counties had left to count.

Mr. Biden was also leading Mr. Trump, who had 214

electoral votes going into Saturday, in other key swing States. Mr. Biden led Arizona (11 electoral votes) by more than 20,000 votes; Nevada (6) by over 25,000 votes; Georgia – which is likely heading for a recount – by over 7,000 votes. Mr. Trump led in North Carolina by over

76,000 votes.

"America, I'm honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise you this: I will be a President for all Americans – whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have

placed in me," Mr. Biden said on Twitter, in his first public reaction to the news.

'Soul of America'

On Friday night, Mr. Biden had stopped short of giving a victory speech, but delivered remarks about the need to bring the country together.

Biden's team
steps up
transition plans

Fox News and the *New York Post*, magnate Rupert Murdoch's main media outlets, appeared to distance themselves from Donald Trump as the U.S. vote counting drama dragged on. On Thursday in Phoenix, Arizona, supporters of Mr. Biden bluntly shouted "Fox News Sticks" after the channel called Arizona for Joe Biden. ▶ PAGE 10

"This election is about so much more than @JoeBiden or me. It's about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it. We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started," Ms. Harris tweeted.

The Vice-President Elect posted a video of herself calling [apparently] Mr. Biden.

"We did it...we did it, Joe. You're going to be the next President of the United States," she says in the video.

Ms. Harris was born to Shyamala Gopalan, a biologist who immigrated to California from Chennai.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Victorious team: Senator Kamala Harris looks on as Joe Biden speaks in Wilmington, Delaware, on Friday. Mr. Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States on Saturday. ▶ AFP

India successfully launches earth observation satellite EOS-01

This is ISRO's first mission in 2020, amidst the pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRIHARIKOTA

India successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine international customer space-craft on board a Polar rocket from the spaceport here on Saturday, in its first mission this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C49) injected EOS-01, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support, and other satellites, one by one in orbit, around 20 minutes after lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), about 110 km from Chennai, at 3.12 p.m.

This is ISRO's first mission in 2020 after the COVID-19



Taking off: PSLV-C49, carrying EOS-01 and nine international satellites, was launched from Sriharikota on Saturday. ▶ ANI

pandemic induced lockdown disturbed 10 missions planned by the agency.

The nine customer satellites are from the United States, Lithuania and Luxembourg.

'Unusual for ISRO'
ISRO Chairman K. Sivan described the mission as a

"success" and termed it "unusual" for ISRO as a rocket launch cannot happen like "work from home" and all engineers and technicians had to travel from different centres and work together at Sriharikota for rocket launches.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Arnab fails to get relief from Bombay HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

In an unconventional hearing, the Bombay High Court on Saturday reserved the order in the interim bail plea filed by Editor-in-Chief of Republic TV Arnab Goswami, who is in judicial custody in connection with a 2018 case of abetment of suicide.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik reserved the order after hearing the matter for an entire day.

Once an order/judgment is reserved, the court can take up to three months to deliver it.

However, the Bench said that it would try to give the order as early as possible.

The court said, "We can't pass any order today."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Mahagathbandhan ahead: exit polls

Jump in tally predicted for RJD; BJP looks likely to retain seats from 2015

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

For the Mahagathbandhan, polls have predicted a huge jump for the RJD and in particular, popular support for Mr. Tejashwi Yadav.

The exit polls also predicted that the Congress would be the weak link in the Mahagathbandhan and is unlikely to pull through its part of the bargain.

A majority of the polls predicted a sharp drop in the number of seats for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led NDA. The BJP, however, is likely to retain its 2015 tally, with some polls predicting a slight increase.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Popular choice

Most pollsters have projected a victory for the Rashtriya Janata Dal led 'Grand Alliance' in the Bihar Assembly election. The table shows the number of seats an alliance is projected to win according to different networks and polling agencies

POLLSTER	RJD-INC-LEFT+	BJP-JD(U)+	OTHERS
CNN News 18-Today's Chanakya	180 (44% vote share)	55 (34%)	8 (22%)
TV9-Bharatvarsh	115-125	110-120	13-18
India Today- Axis My India	139-161 (44%)	69-91 (39%)	9-15 (17%)
Times Now-C Voter	120	116	7
Republic TV-Jan ki Baat	116-138	91-119	8-14
ABP News-C Voter	108-131	104-128	5-11
NewsX-Dv research	108-123	110-117	12-33

Constable runs to make way for ambulance

Hyderabad policeman hailed as 'hero'

ABHINAV DESHPANDE

HYDERABAD

"Congratulations Daddy" – the message written on a piece of paper by his seven-year-old daughter moved a traffic constable to tears. His child was among the thousands who appreciated his response to a call of duty. Abids traffic constable G. Babji last week went the extra mile to save the life of a cardiac patient being transported in an ambulance, and it has earned him praise from Union Ministers and also ordinary folk who watched him on their televisions.

For Mr. Babji, a resident of Hyderabad's Lal Darwaza, it was but a dull day until he sighted an ambulance blaring its horn, seeking immediate road clearance on the busy Bank Street-Koti stretch during peak hours. As the siren was not heeded by the chock-a-block traffic, the 38-year-old constable started running in front of the ambulance, waving and gesticulating to other vehicles to give way for the emergency vehicle.



A screengrab of the video of the running constable.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The patient was admitted in time and his life saved within the golden hour, thanks to Mr. Babji's efforts. The patient's son, who was sitting in the front cabin of the vehicle, videographed the constable, who ran for almost 2 km.

"I did not know I was being videographed. I was only focused on securing clearance for the ambulance," Mr. Babji told *The Hindu*.

He informed his inspector about the incident and went back home at night. Two days later, when the video went viral on social media winning hearts on the internet, he was hailed as 'hero'.

Gupkar alliance to compete in DDC polls

Leaders hold series of meetings

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Amid protests by right wing parties, six constituents of the People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) held a meeting in Jammu on Saturday and decided to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections jointly.

The PAGD has decided to fight the DDC elections united. Despite the abruptness of the DDC elections in terms of timing, it is important that this sacred space in democracy is not allowed to be invaded and marauded by divisive forces," PAGD spokesperson Sajad Lone said.

Significant decision
The decision is significant in the backdrop of the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), both part of the Gupkar alliance now, boycotting the panchayat and urban bodies polls (held in 2018) over the issue of Article 370.

The alliance meeting was held at NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah's house in Jammu. It was attended by the top leaders of the NC, PDP, and the J&K Peoples Movement.

The alliance leaders also held a series of meetings with representatives of groups of Sikhs, Gaddis, Sipis, Kashmiri Pandits, Gujjars, Bakerwals, Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, IAS aspirants, and the Bajwan Samaj Party (BSP), besides delegations from the Chenab and the Pir Panjal valleys.

J&K Congress president G.A. Mir, who missed the alliance meeting for the third time, held a separate press conference to announce the party's decision to contest the DDC polls.



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Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

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to more than 80,000 youth
on merit basis in the
last 6 years, about
10,000 jobs given
in one year

Around
80,000 youth
employed
in contract
participation
with various
companies

Under 'Pahal
Yojana',
34 Govt. colleges
collaborated with
private companies
so that students
can be prepared
for on job
training

27 ITIs
collaborated
with 40 Industries
in 71 Trades to provide
Industry oriented
training

75% Reservation
in Jobs for Youth of
Haryana in Private
Companies/
Firms/Trust etc.

'Udyog Mitra
Scheme'
initiated to ensure
the training to youth
as per the Industrial
requirement

Under Haryana Skill
Development Mission
skill training facility for
68,770 youth and an
arrangement for **71,000**
youth at Vishwakarma
Skill University



Sanitization



Mask



Social Distancing



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	Timings
	SUNDAY, NOV. 08
	RISE 06:39 SET 17:32
	RISE 23:57 SET 13:05
	MONDAY, NOV. 09
	RISE 06:39 SET 17:31
	RISE 00:00 SET 13:47
	TUESDAY, NOV. 10
	RISE 06:40 SET 17:31
	RISE 01:00 SET 14:26

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 30 12
Safdarjung 30 12
Palam 28 14

Delhi Palam Today
30°C Patchy smog in morning and hazy day with light winds. Pollution would remain severe over many parts.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
29°C Cool morning with smog and clear sky. Light easterly winds would affect.

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THE HINDU
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Judge gives 'lyrical' order while granting bail to man in riots case

Court uses novel way to describe merit in plea of accused

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

It is not every day that a judge summarises in imaginatively crafted verses the reasons for granting bail and the roller coaster journey of judicial proceedings.

In a rare display of his poetic side, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat decided to describe in a 'different way' why he thought there was merit in the bail application of Babu, who was arrested in connection with the north-east Delhi riots case and has been in custody since April 8.

The Judge granted bail to Babu on furnishing a bail bond of ₹10,000 with a surety of like amount.

To appreciate the poem, it is imperative to know that the bail order comes in a case where one Rahul suffered a gunshot injury allegedly during the communal violence that erupted in February this year.

While Rahul gave a fake

The poem

Babu pleading for his bail;
State opposing tooth and nail.
Summers bygone, winters have arrived;
But crime you did, and Rahul cried.
I am not the one, I am not the one;
Too grave the charge, don't pretend.
Whom did I attack, where is he;
Oh! That we know, in the trial we will see.
You say I have said & I deny from the first blush;
Rahul may be gone yet Satish said.
 Didn't we say, don't rush;
Let me go, let me go, even Imran is on bail.
Even then, even then;

it wouldn't be a smooth sail.
Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop!
I have heard, heard a lot.
Mind is clear, with claims tall;
It's my time to take a call.
Babu has a sordid past;
proof is scant, which may not last.
His omnipotence can't be assumed;
Peril to vanished Rahul, is legally fumed
Take your freedom from the cage
you are in;
Till the trial is over, the state is reigned in.
The State proclaims; to have the cake and eat it too.
The Court comes calling; before the cake is eaten, bake it too.

address to the police and is now untraceable, Babu, who allegedly has a bad antecedent, was arrested for the offence on the basis of a purported identification by Constable Satish.

Little evidence
The court noted that apart from identification by the constable, who has stated that he saw Babu rioting near Maupur on February

25, there is nothing much that has been brought on record in connection with the assault case.

Taking note of the facts, the Judge granted bail to Babu with the condition that he will not leave Delhi without prior permission of the court nor shall he indulge in any kind of criminal activity. He also ordered Babu not to tamper with any evidence or contact any witness.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded the highest single-day spike in deaths due to COVID-19 with 79 fatalities reported in the past 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday. The death toll stands at 6,912.

The High Court did not allow reserving 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 patients at several private hospitals here.

Of the total cases, 3,83,614 patients have recovered and there are currently 40,258 active cases in Delhi.

Earliers in the day, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the Capital is currently reeling under a "third wave" of COVID-19 infections but cases should begin to come down soon.

He also said that the Delhi government has filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court after the

Virus spread
Total number of COVID-19 cases
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SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Jain said Delhi saw the first wave around June 23, second wave around September 17 and this is now the third wave of infections, adding that cases should begin to dip as there has been a spell of rising cases in the last five-six days.

Asked about factors behind the third wave, Mr. Jain said the spike could be due to easing of restrictions and the "festive season", while reiterating the importance of wearing masks.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association on Saturday said that 13% increase in COVID-19 infections in Delhi was due to air pollution and air purifiers may not provide full-time protection.

Mr. Jain, however, said that pollution was not a reason for the spike. "The biggest reason for the increase in infections is our lax behavior," he added.

Speeding car mows down home guard; manhunt on

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 41-year-old home guard was killed after being hit by a speeding car in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar in the early hours of Saturday while he was on duty.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said that the victim was identified as Naresh, a resident of Mandawali.

Police said that the incident was reported around 2.30 a.m. when Naresh was on duty at a picket.

Hit the barricade

"A speeding car hit the barricade and then hit Naresh after which the car fled from the spot," said a police officer. The victim was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. Police said that a case has been registered and the vehicle has been identified. Teams are working to identify and arrest the accused.

Stubble burning keeps city's air quality 'severe'

Contribution of farm fires to city's PM2.5 pollution at 32%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital's air quality remained in the 'severe' category for the third consecutive day on Saturday as Punjab and nearby regions recorded the highest number of stubble burning incidents so far this season.

The farm fire count in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand stood at 4,528 on Friday, the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said. It also stated that the city's air quality is likely to remain 'severe' on Diwali too.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) on Saturday was 427. It had reached 443 in the morning.

The AQI of Gurugram was 439 on Saturday, 436 in Ghaziabad, 428 in Greater Noida, 426 in Noida and 414 in Faridabad – all in the 'severe' category.

Experts said while weather conditions were "moderately" favourable for dispersion of pollutants, a "very high" number of farm fires in Punjab was the main reason for the 'severe' air quality.

Surface winds are likely to decrease over the coming days and no quick recovery in air quality is expected.

It added that AQI is likely to remain in the upper end of 'very poor' category on November 13 and enter the 'severe' category on November 14 (Diwali).

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta attacked the Delhi government over rising pollution.

"The Arvind Kejriwal-led government has a budget of ₹60,000 crore but has not installed smog towers, bought buses or fulfilled any promise of the Green budget to control air pollution," he said, while addressing the Kotla Mubarak and Deoli Mandal Prashikshan Shivir (training camp).

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 427	Gurugram 439		
Ghaziabad 436	Faridabad 414		
Noida 426	Greater Noida 428		
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			

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Regarding attendance of

Eight arrested in fake credit cards racket

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested eight people, including four women who allegedly procured credit cards from several banks using fake documents, the police said on Saturday.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing) O.P. Mishra said that the accused have been identified as Ajay Kshatriya, Manish Kshatriya, Kavil Raj, Arun Sharma and their wives.

The police said that Manish is the mastermind and was instrumental in arranging fake IDs. He used photos of his family members to create different identities with different names and address, the police said. Probe began after a complaint from a private bank stating that 36 customers, who got their savings account opened under different names and addresses, availed the limit and didn't pay the amount.

DU principals call Sisodia's charges of funds misappropriation baseless

Audit records available in the colleges, can be verified

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Condemning Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's remarks on misappropriation of funds in Delhi University colleges funded by the city government, the Delhi University Principals' Association on Saturday called the allegations baseless.

The DUPA appealed to CM Arvind Kejriwal to intervene and resolve the issue while stating that audit records were available in the colleges and could be verified.

DUPA president Jaswinder Singh said, "In all the 12 colleges, three layers of auditing of accounts is done and put in the public domain. DU approves the audit report after going through all

sections of the balance sheets. DU has found no embezzlement or misappropriation of funds or faulty recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff."

No govt. effort
"The Deputy CM is making allegations without citing a single example. We did not expect this from the Education Minister. The Delhi government has made no extra effort to improve infrastructure pertaining to online classes in colleges. We appeal to Mr. Sisodia to withdraw his statement as it is damaging for the reputation of the colleges," said Mr. Singh, who is also the principal of Khalsa College.

Regarding attendance of

the most popular courses across colleges now stands at 96.75% at Daulat Ram College, 96.25% at Gargi College, 96.5% at Indraprastha College for Women, 97.75% at Ramjas College and 98.75% at Miranda House.

Among the commerce courses, admissions have closed for economics honours at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) while cut-off for BCom (Hons) at the college is at 98.12%.

The cut-off for political science honours course, which was touted as one of

Record deaths in Delhi, toll nears 7,000 mark

Capital is reeling under third wave of infections, says Jain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridgrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi

Bengali

Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

English

Gujarati

Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

Advocate

Business

Defence

Doctor

Engineer

Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt.

IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA/ CA/ ICWA

NRI

Cosmopolitan

Divorcee

Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

ENGINEER

MUDALIAR GIRI, 23 /160, Uthram, BE(CSE) at Bangalore, Fair, Alliance from Boy with BE/ME Govt/ Bank/MNC Employed, Clean Hands and same Community. Preferred Bangalore, Chennai Settled. 9444289932, kumares@rediffmail.com.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

CSI CHRISTIANNADAR Girl, 25, 171 cm, Msc Mphil pursuing PhD, Fair, good looking. Parents govt. class I officers looking for a suitable groom. Handsome, preferably employed in govt. with good qualification from same community. 9884068094

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Kerala SI Nadar Christian, IPOS Probationer 32, 55. Seeks Groom from Protestant Christian/State no bar Contact: 9496202446.

KANNADA

GOOD LOOKING Smartha Iyer, 28/163, Athreyappa Dhanishta with good family background. Master in Communication- Manipal Institute with Specialisation from Utrecht University-Netherlands, empid in MNC Blore, seeks suitable alliance from Blore based Brahmin boy, trustworthy, qifd & promly empid. Ct: 948562258

MALAYALAM

JACOBITE PARENTS settled in Bangalore seek alliance for their daughter M.Arach Student, fair, good looking, 26 years from Parents of boys (Engineers / M.Tech / Doctors) working in Bangalore. Phone: 9900191470 / 9886101966

NAIR GIRL, 36/165, Ayiyilam, PhD (IIT) Assistant Professor in Rajasthan seek alliance from employed professionals. 9072031198

ALLIANCE FOR Nair girl 28/160, Porurattath, B.Tech, Mba, employed at Chennai from affluent, well educated family. 9447123134.

TAMIL

CSI Tamil Christian Pillai Vellarai Gir M.Arach fair, 160 cms, 32 yrs, affluent similar profiles welcomed language no bar. Ph: 98948 36842.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil , working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private) Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

WANTED A SUITABLE Roman Catholic postgraduate doctor for our daughter aged 27 years height 158cm studying final year MS OG.Both parents are doctors well settled in Salem. Contact no.94433 7743 / 861039801

RC NADAR 27/154 B.E Software Eng 7.55 LPA seeks R.C.Nadar B.E. Groom good job contact: 708459824

PROTESTANT NADAR, 35yrs / 155 cm, PG, Chennai employed, 8.6 Lac per annum, Upper middle Class parents seeks suitable Groom for an early marriage. Mobile / WhatsApp - 9345202020.

35, SW Engr. Seeks Qifd Christian Groom. 9514951554. SC/ST Plz Excuse

TAMILNADU CHINAI based good looking girl 29yrs 157cms MCA IT working sees suitable match from decent & peaceful loving family 9382152059 / kngkmohd@gmail.com

CATHOLIC/NADAR/31-33YRS/HT: 172 and above well settled groom with similar background working in Bangalore or abroad. 9442367854, usha1954@gmail.com

WANTED A suitable RC groom for our daughter aged 26 B.Tech MBA female. employed. Contact 994164 43190.

DOCTOR

DEVANGA CHETTIYAR, 32/157cms, MBBS/ MS OBG, good looking divorced without issues, well settled. Seeks suitable good looking, unmarried/ divorced without issues, less than 42yrs age. Doctor/others in & around Chennai, caste no bar. CT: 7339157563

ADI DRAVIDAR, 29/162cms, IPS officer, Both Parents doctors. Seeks well settled, IPS/IRS/IAS/PG Doctors. Caste/Religion no bar. CT: 7339157563

HINDU PADAMSHALI Girl, MBBS MS (OGB) ongoing age 24 , height 5'6 ft seeking handsome groom from Doctors / civil services / business and other equal Cadres. Boy should be below 29 years height atleast 5'10 - 6 ft, preferably Padamshali community from Hyderabad, Telangana state. Andhra Pradesh, strictly well settled Ultra Rich family. CT: 9515849420

V/FAIR, B/FUL, GIRL 37 Yr Divorcee. No Issue!Looking caste NoBar. Sealed Edu Groom. 9442088077, 9843178738

Hindu, Pallan Parents Seeks Groom with PG from reputed USA University. Working in USA or Canada for daughter. 29 years, Height 165 cms B.Tech (IT)-Admned/ MBA(Yale),MS (Harvard)University/Working in New York, USA Ph: 9442614904, 944347169

Reddy Lady Doctor, 28, Working at Bangalore Seeks Alliance from Doctors. Contact: 8939992651

KARKATHAR VELLALA, Hashath / Kannai 30 MBBS Rich Affluent family working in chennai seeks MBBS suitable match from decent & peaceful loving family contact: 9080296807

NELLAI SAIVAM, MBBS Bride, Fair, 26/165cm, Visakham Doctor parents seeks PG Medical Groom with clean habits from respectable family. Contact: 9442642046.

SLIM BEAUTIFUL homely girl 31/165 final yr MD, Anesthesia Chennai. Father Kerala, Fair, Mother Tamil. Doctors family. Looking for a smart MD MS DM Mch boy from good family USA. Contact: 9443153507

HINDU NADAR, 29/152cm,M.E.,MBA (USA) Divorcee, working in USA, CNB seek suitable well settled Groom in USA. Contact: 9443153507

Pillai / Mudaliar, 24 B.E Ketai Working in MNC, Reputed Business Family Seeks Alliances for His Daughter Call 9840015855

HINDU, 1984, Doctor, MD, Gynaecology, MRCOG, Chennai Seeks Doctor, Businessman CNB Ct: 9514518555

IYER VADAMAL 35/MBBS,MD(Micro Biology) working in Chennai sees qualified doctors MD/MS below 38 years Ct: yohesh2004@gmail.com

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

25,15CM,V.FAIR, Smart Upclass Groom in Bangalore sees handsome, well settled Groom. Ct: 9499835653

HINDU BRIDE 37 B.Sc Smart Upper Middle class AnnaNgir Chennai 1st marriage needs suitable groom. 7358164190

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 9443680973

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WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/MD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerela and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rayalseema, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerela, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...31.3...	16.4	...	Kozhikode	18.2...	34.6...	25.0
Ahmedabad	...34.3...	17.5	...	Kurnool	1.6...	33.1...	23.6
Aizawl	...25.1...	16.8	...	Lucknow	...28.9...	12.7	...
Allahabad	...32.0...	13.8	...	Madurai	9.4...	33.2...	23.4
Bengaluru	...30.2...	20.2	...	Mangalore	3.7...	33.5...	23.6
Bhopal	...30.4...	13.5	...	Mumbai	...35.4...	19.7	...
Bhubaneswar	...31.4...	20.6	...	Mysuru	...30.0...	22.0	...
Chandigarh	...30.4...	12.0	...	New Delhi	...30.0...	11.8	...
Chennai	22.6...	30.0...	24.5	Patna	...29.6...	15.4	...
Coimbatore	0.5...	32.4...	23.4	Port Blair	31.8...	30.9...	24.2
Dehradoon	...27.6...	11.0	...	Puducherry	7.9...	32.4...	24.0
Gangtok	...18.0...	10.3	...	Pune	...30.4...	14.9	...
Goa	...35.2...	23.2	...	Rajpur	...31.7...	16.6	...
Guwahati	...30.2...	18.4	...	Ranchi	...27.4...	12.6	...
Hubballi	...29.0...	21.0	...	Shillong	...22.3...	10.4	...
Hyderabad	31.4...	21.1	...	Shimla	...22.0...	11.8	...
Imphal	...27.5...	11.2	...	Srinagar	...19.8...	1.1	...
Jaipur	...32.1...	15.6	...	Thiruvananthapuram	1.2...	34.1...	24.7
Kochi	...33.0...	25.0	...	Tiruchi	6...	35.0...	25.0
Kohima	...22.7...	15.6	...	Vijayawada	...31.8...	25.2	...
Kolkata	...29.8...	18.6	...	Visakhapatnam	...32.0...	25.8	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	38	112	.50	135	125	...
Bengaluru	...-35...	11...	39	58
Chennai	18	13	.49	38	-	...
Delhi	16	153	107	433	434	...
Hyderabad	5	90	11	167	152	...
Kolkata	19	22	10	306	182	...
Lucknow	7	121	28	442	405	...
Mumbai	10	93	.39	151	174	...
Pune	21	28	.54	77	55	...
Visakhapatnam	19	29	147	134

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

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

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

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

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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dharanpura, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 474 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Mysuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

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

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Showik seeks bail for third time in drugs case

Actor Rhea Chakraborty's brother cites Supreme Court order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Showik Chakraborty, arrested in a drugs case linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, has once again sought bail from a special court in Mumbai, citing a recent Supreme Court order.

This is Mr. Chakraborty's third attempt to seek bail since his arrest by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in September. Earlier, the special court as well as the Bombay High Court had rejected his bail pleas.

In the application filed recently before the special court hearing cases related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Mr. Chakraborty relied on a recent apex court judgment, which says "confessional statements" made to the NCB officials cannot be considered as evidence.

"The Supreme Court, in its recent order rightly held that the officers who are invested with powers under sections of the NDPS Act (pertaining to the current case) are police Officers within the meaning of section 25 of the Evidence Act. As a result, any confessional statement made to them cannot be taken into account in order to convict an accused under the NDPS Act," he said in his plea.

'Fresh consideration'

As per Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act, no confession made to a police officer shall be proved against a person accused of any offence. "In view of the apex court's judgment, there has been an obvious change in circumstance which would warrant a fresh consideration for bail," the plea, filed



Showik Chakraborty

through Mr. Chakraborty's advocate Satish Maneshinde, said. In the application, Mr. Chakraborty reiterated that he has been "falsely implicated" in the case. The accused has been booked under Section 27(A) mechanically and without application of mind, it said.

The plea said that the remand applications produced thus far are completely silent as to any allegation of harbouring of offenders as mentioned under Section 27A of the NDPS Act.

It claimed the case of the NCB was silent on the amount of financing, quantum of drugs and type of drugs allegedly procured and financed by Mr. Chakraborty. The probe agency's case, in layman terms, is that Mr. Chakraborty used to coordinate the delivery of drugs for Rajput. In essence, his alleged role, if any, is the purchase of a small quantity of drugs for the late actor. Hence, the allegations against him are bailable in nature, the plea said.

It alleged that the probe agency spun a false narrative that portrays Mr. Chakraborty as being someone who finances and procures drugs. The matter is likely to be heard next week, Mr. Maneshinde said.

The decision has been taken in view of the pandemic situation in Goa. We don't want huge crowds to gather

MANOHAR AJGAONKAR
State Tourism Minister

neshinde said.

The agency has alleged that actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother used to facilitate drug deliveries and payment through credit cards, cash and other payment gateways. The NCB is probing multiple drug angles linked to the death.

It began its investigation after the Enforcement Directorate, which was probing money laundering charges linked to Rajput's death, indicated that he has been "falsely implicated" in the case. The accused has been booked under Section 27(A) mechanically and without application of mind, it said.

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Khopoli blast: owner, directors of chemical factory booked

Accused charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Khopoli police have booked the owner and directors of a chemical factory in Raigad district, where a blast on November 5 claimed two lives and injured six others, including three children.

The incident occurred at 2.55 a.m. on November 5 at Jashnova Pharmaceuticals and Specialists Private Limited located in Sajgaon industrial area. According to the police, the accused, who are on the run, have been booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

According to the police, prima facie the reason behind the blast was a breakdown in the reactor. The impact of the explosion could be felt within a radius of around two km.

The police are also verifying if the factory is legal and if the owners had the required permissions to use the chemicals. Around 12 fire tenders doused the blaze in four hours.

The watchman's shed collapsed in the impact of the blast, killing his wife, and injuring him and their three children. The watchman of a neighbouring company was also killed after his shed also came crashing down, senior police inspector Dhanya Kshirsagar, Khopoli police station, said.

The deceased have been identified as Bishnavi Krishna Neupani (40) from Nepal and his children Aarti (12), Ashish (9), and one-and-a-half-year-old Akriti; and two labourers of the company identified as Sagar Ramesh Kondlikar (23) from Karjat and Nathu Pawar (30) from Roha.

The accused have been booked under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

Properties of Ansari's wife attached

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW/ MAU (U.P.)

The District Magistrate of Ghazipur has ordered the attachment of properties belonging to the wife and brothers-in-law of gangster-turned-politician and BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari while the Mau administration demolished an illegal construction of two of his aides.

Land and building worth ₹28.58 crore, belonging to Ansari's wife Afsha Ansari and brothers-in-law Anwar Shahzad and Sharjeel Raza, were attached under section 14(1) of the Gangsters Act, Additional Chief Secretary Avanish Awasthi said.

A building on government land in Mau, constructed by Ansari's close associates Irshad and Maqsood, was demolished on Saturday, Assistant SP Tribhuwan Nath Tripathi said.

NSUI protests against delay in Panjab University senate poll

It is a direct assault on the institution's fundamental structure'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

With the four-year term of Panjab University's highest governing body, the senate, having completed on October 31 and no clarity so far on fresh election amid the COVID-19 pandemic situation, members of the National Students' Union of India on Saturday staged a demonstration against the delay in election.

'Hold elections'

NSUI members staged protest outside the residence of the Vice-Chancellor and alleged that the delay in elections to the senate was a direct assault on the fundamental structure of the University. They demanded immediate elections.

"The senate elections

have been postponed by the University administration on the pretext of the pandemic. However, no consent was taken from the syndicate members. There is a strong possibility that the administration, with advice from the Central government, is preparing to replace the senate with a Board of Governors," alleged Rahul Verma, vice-president, Panjab University Campus Students' Council and a member of NSUI.

Another student leader and NSUI social media chairman Manoj Lubana accused the University administration of attempting to destroy the democratic structure of the institution. "The University administration and Central government are attempting to destroy this premier institute. The government's proposal to set up a Central

board in place of the democratically elected senate of the Panjab University is an attack on the democratic system," he said.

'Scrap proposal'

"We want that the senate elections to be held as soon as possible and that the old senate continue till the elections are held. An autonomous senate should be continued and the proposal of the Board of Governors should be scrapped," said Mr. Lubana.

Of the 91-member senate, six are ex-officio members while 49 are elected from among professors, associate professors, assistant professors, principals of colleges and graduates of the University. Thirty-six members are nominated by the Chancellor.

Punjab farmers slam Centre for not resuming goods trains

Railways to either operate both freight and passenger trains or none

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Farmer organisations protesting against the farm laws on Saturday slammed the Centre for not resuming goods trains in Punjab even as they stuck to their stand of not allowing passenger trains. They also accused the Centre of adopting a stubborn attitude and alleged that it wanted to cause harm to Punjab on the economic front for raising voice against the three legislations enacted recently.

The Railways on Saturday declined to resume goods trains in Punjab, saying it will either operate both freight and passenger trains or none.

The train services in Punjab are suspended since September 24, when farmers



Farmers blocking railway tracks in Amritsar. ■ FILE PHOTO

started their 'rail roko' agitation against the Central laws.

Goods trains had resumed in the State briefly after farmer unions on October 21 announced exempting them from their stir but the Railways suspended them again, saying farmers were still blocking the tracks.

"We strongly condemn the stubborn attitude of the Railways and the Centre for

president Buta Singh Burjgill.

"The Central government wants to harm Punjab on the economic front by making baseless excuses," he added.

The Punjab government on Friday had said, "Rail network all across the State is presently totally clear for uninterrupted movement of goods trains."

Power crisis

The suspension of goods trains has led to a power crisis as coal supplies to thermal plants have been hit. It has also adversely affected the supply of fertilizers for rabi crops, movement of foodgrain stocks besides impacting the State industry which is unable to get raw material and send finished goods outside.

BJP lashes out at Assam ally ahead of Bodoland council polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Addressing a series of rallies in Bodoland in Assam, State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and State BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Das have lashed out at the party's ally in Assam, Bodoland People's Front, for its "reign of terror" and "favouritism" for over 16 years.

The BPF is one of two regional parties that rule Assam in alliance with the BJP. But the upcoming elections to the 40-seat Bodoland Ter-

itorial Region (BTR) has

made the BJP and BPF drift apart to set the tone for the Assembly election by May 2021.

"There have been allegations of large-scale misappropriation of funds during the rule of BPF under Hagrama Mohilary. The Bodoland council areas need change to end favouritism, ensure safety and security of the people and all-round development," Dr. Sarma said at rallies in Udagong and Dima Hasao, both of which are ruled by the BJP.

The council has had a history of conflicts between the Bodo community and non-Bodos, who together are a majority.

The BJP would, for the first time, be contesting most of the seats in the BTR polls to be held by December 15. It is the third largest – and the most politically crucial – tribal council after Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, both

of which are ruled by the BJP.

I have tried to see India in a village'

M. Gani is trying to bring back the poor who have gone missing from our cinematic universe



M. Gani (left) with Prakash Jha. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Online Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for Admission to Post-graduate programmes and post -graduate Diploma Programmes at different post Graduate Departments, PG Centers, Constituent and Affiliated colleges of Kuvempu University for the Academic Year 2020-21

1. The Application forms & E-Prospectus can be downloaded and relevant documents may be uploaded from 12.11.2020.

The last date for submission of filled in application is 30.11.2020. 2. For more details visit University website:

www.kuvempu.ac.in/admission2020-21

Note: In lieu of Covid-19, students are requested to login from any internet centres at their convenience. University is not responsible for any delay or network issues from their end.

Sd/- Registrar

DIPR/SMG/No.15-11ZENKAR/2020-21

KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY

Vishwavidyalaya Karyalaya, Kuvempu Centenary Building

Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghata-577451,

Shivamogga District. Karnataka Ph. 08282-256166 Fax: 08282-256262

No. KU/AC-4(180C)/2859/2020-21 Date: 04.11.2020

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES AND PG DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

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KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY

Vishwavidyalaya Karyalaya, Kuvempu Centenary Building

Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghata-577451,

Shivamogga District. Karnataka Ph. 08282-256166 Fax: 08282-256262

No. KU/AC-4(180C)/2859/2020-21 Date: 04.11.2020

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES AND PG DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

Online Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for Admission to Post-graduate programmes and post -graduate Diploma Programmes at different post Graduate Departments, PG Centers, Constituent and Affiliated colleges of Kuvempu University for the Academic Year 2020-21

1. The Application forms & E-Prospectus can be downloaded and relevant documents may be uploaded from 12.11.2020.

The last date for submission of filled in application is 30.11.2020. 2. For more details visit University website:

www.kuvempu.ac.in/admission2020-21

Note: In lieu of Covid-19, students are requested to login from any internet centres at their convenience. University is not responsible for any delay or network issues from their end.

Sd/- Registrar

DIPR/SMG/No.15-11ZENKAR/2020-21

KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY

Vishwavidyalaya Karyalaya, Kuvempu Centenary Building

Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghata-577451,

Shivamogga District. Karnataka Ph. 08282-256166 Fax: 08282-256262

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FROM PAGE ONE

Mahagathbandhan ahead, say exit polls

The polls have predicted just between 1-10 seats for Chirag Paswan's outfit.

Two of the polls – India Today-Axis and Chankaya News 18 – predicted a clear sweep for the Mahagathbandhan. The India Today-Axis polls predicted a two-third majority for the Mahagathbandhan with 139-161 seats.

The NDA, as per the Axis polls will be limited to 69-91 seats. The gamble of contesting alone is unlikely to pay off for the LJP.

The exit polls gave the party only 3-5 seats. However, as per the polls, the LJP has impacted the NDA's fortunes in at least 30 seats.

The Chankaya News 18 forecasts that the Mahagathbandhan could win up to 180 seats, far more than the majority mark of 122 for the Bihar Assembly. The poll also claimed that the NDA alliance will shrink to 55 seats. In 2015, BJP's own tally was 53.

At least three polls, however, indicated a close contest, suggesting a possible hung assembly. The Republic Jan Ki Baat poll predicted 128 seats for the

India successfully launches earth observation satellite

"Today, I am extremely happy to declare that PSLV-C49 successfully placed earth observation satellite EOS-01 as well as nine customer satellites precisely into 575 km orbit," he said at the Mission Control Centre.

Subsequent to the successful launch, the primary satellite commenced operating its own functions, including deployment of solar panels, Dr. Sivan said.

In view of the pandemic, ISRO implemented precautions for COVID-19, and scientists, Mission Directors and Project Directors were seen with face masks, maintaining social distancing at the Mission Control Centre. There was no gathering of mediapersons and the public viewing gallery too was closed.

ISRO made arrangements for the live telecast of the launch through various platforms, including its website and social media sites.

In a textbook sequence, the four stage 44.5-metre tall PSLV-C49, in its 51st flight, blasted off from the first launch pad of SDSC at 3.12 p.m. at the end of a 26-hour countdown and soared into the sky. The launch, originally scheduled for 3.02 p.m., was delayed as the scientists, around 15 minutes before lift-off, "decided to put on hold following debris on the path of the rocket and inclement weather conditions".

Besides human resources, he also referred to availability of "hardware" for the launch as they had to be transported "carefully" from various parts of the country to Sriharikota.

Arnab fails to get relief from Bombay HC

"We will clarify that pending of the petition will not bar the petitioner from approaching the sessions court for bail and if such an application is filed, it should be decided within four days," the court added.

After Mr. Goswami was arrested on November 4 by Raigad Police and was sent to judicial custody for 14 days by the chief judicial magistrate. He then moved the High Court on November 6 seeking immediate release and quashing of the FIR against him.

He along with Firoz Shaikh and Nitish Saradaare charged with Sections 306 (abettment of suicide) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

They have been accused of not paying Naif ₹50.04 crore.

The court said all the petitioners can seek regular bail under Section 439 (spec-

Mahagathbandhan and 104 for the NDA. Breaking down the numbers, the polls predicted 80 seat for the RJD, 71 for the JD(U) and 53 for BJP, which is identical to the tally that all these parties had in 2015 polls.

The ABP exit polls also predicted a similar outcome, giving the Mahagathbandhan 108-131 seats and the NDA 104-128. As per the poll, the RJD will win 81-89 seats, JD(U) just 38-46 seats, shrinking down from 71 in 2015.

Mr. Kamaruddin, as the chairman of Fashion Gold and three other companies, and co-accused Pookoya Thangal, who is the managing director, allegedly cheated investors after accepting money and gold from them.

Mr. Kamaruddin has been arrested in the four cases



Serious charges: Manjeswaram MLA M.C. Kamaruddin being taken away by the police in Kasaragod on Saturday.

that were initially registered at the Chandera police station. The MLA was taken to the Kasaragod General Hospital for COVID-19 examination and then produced before the Hosdurg Judicial Magistrate.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pookoya was also summoned by the

police and questioned for nine hours. It is learned that he was also arrested along with Mr. Kamaruddin.

Many of the complainants in the case are IUML workers and supporters.

This is the first time that an MLA is being arrested in the State for financial fraud. The arrest has come at a

time when the State is preparing for the local body elections. The arrest is likely to have a major impact on the United Democratic Front and the IUML's prospects.

Earlier, the probe team also questioned Mahin Haji, the mediator appointed by the IUML to resolve the issue, for three hours. The investigation team will look into whether there are any discrepancies between the statements regarding the current assets and liabilities of the jeweller.

Mr. Kamaruddin said there was a planned conspiracy behind the arrest. "I have no part in it. No offence is in my name. The only reason I am prosecuted is because I am the chairman," he said.

No notice was served on him before the arrest, he said, adding that his case would be considered in Kerala High Court on Monday.

Bineesh's custody extended by 4 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A special court on Saturday extended the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody of Bineesh Kodiyeri by four more days. The son of Kerala CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan had been arrested on charges of funding a drug racket.



Bineesh Kodiyeri

debit card of a bank in the name of Mohammed Anoop, but signed by Bineesh. The agency has asked the bank to provide further details.

Two of Bineesh's associates who are reportedly part of the benami racket have been summoned but are yet to appear for questions. Officials said that if granted bail, Bineesh would influence his associates who are at large.

Karnataka releases norms on sale of 'green crackers'

Only authorised traders in the State can sell them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Saturday released a set of guidelines for the sale and bursting only "green crackers" during Deepavali.



A shop displaying new types of crackers in Bengaluru on Saturday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

The agency had maintained that duty exemption provided to the diplomatic mission was conditional and since the imported items were subsequently diverted with the support of the State agencies, it amounted to a violation of the conditions.

Dr. Jaleel and the government had maintained that there was no illegality in the way the State handled these imports.

"It was part of a goodwill gesture by the consulate and the State only facilitated the same," they had said.

The government, which had first announced a ban on crackers, has now scaled it down to say that only "green crackers" will be allowed.

Authorities would grant permission to sell crackers at public grounds or vacant spaces. Shops should maintain a six-meter distance to ensure free flow of air. All shops have to display licences granted to them to sell crackers, according to the circular.

Wearing masks and maintaining social distance have been made mandatory. Facilities such as sanitizer and thermal screening should be made available at each shop.

On Friday, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had appealed to the people of the State to celebrate Deepavali in a "simple manner" and refrain from bursting fire-crackers.

Karnataka's positivity rate at 2.12%

Kerala adds over 7,200 cases; A.P. reports 2,368 new infections, Telangana 1,607

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala on Saturday recorded 7,201 new COVID-19 cases, maintaining the recent trend. It tested 64,051 samples and found the test positivity rate to be 11.2%.

With 28 more deaths, the State's cumulative COVID-19 toll was 1,668. Of these, Kannur reported five deaths, Er-



Spreading the word: A man dressed like Lord Yama creating awareness of wearing masks in Chennai. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

nakulam and Alappuzha four each, Malappuram, Thrissur and Pathanamthitta three each, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram two each and Kottayam and Kozhikode one each.

They seized a safari suit, one toy pistol, duplicate police identity card in the name of N. Santosh, another card in the name of Mahankali Prakash, Sub-Inspector of Police, AR-Cyberabad city, a mobile phone and ₹25,000 cash from his possession.

The new cases included 296 from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area, 124 in Bhadravati Kothagudem, 115 in Rangareddy, 113 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 78 in Karimnagar, and 84 in Khammam. No case was registered in Narayanpet and nine were recorded in Jogulamba Gadwal.

Andhra Pradesh's new infections stood at 2,368 and deaths at 11 on Saturday.

The test positivity rate of 79,601 samples was 2.97% and overall positivity rate

9.80%. The tests per million ratio crossed 1.6 lakh and reached 1,60,676.

Karnataka on Saturday reported 2,258 new cases. With 22 deaths, the toll rose to 11,369.

As many as 1,06,317 tests were conducted in a day, including 78,494 RT-PCR tests.

With this, the total number of tests rose to 86,20,970.

While the test positivity

rate for the day stood at 2.12%, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) touched 0.97%.

Bengaluru Urban reported 1,046 cases taking the tally to 3,47,748. With seven of the 22 deaths reported from Bengaluru, the toll in the district rose. Active cases in Bengaluru touched 17,978.

Tamil Nadu reported 2,341 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday as the number of persons under treatment fell below 19,000 after nearly five months. The number of active cases in the State stood at 18,966.

The fresh cases pushed the State's tally to 74,148. Another 2,352 persons were discharged and 25 persons, including a 101-year-old man, died.

This took the total number of persons discharged till date to 71,119 and toll to 11,324.

(With inputs from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bangalore and Chennai bureaus)

IN BRIEF



Kerala Governor tests positive for COVID-19

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. The Governor felt uneasiness and discomfort on Saturday. "I have tested positive. There is no cause for concern. I request all those who had contact with me in New Delhi last week to be under observation," the Governor said in a tweet.

Suspect in Divya Tejaswini case produced in court VIJAYAWADA

The Disha Mahila Police produced B. Nagendra Kumar, suspect in Vankayalapati Divya Tejaswini's murder case, in the court on Saturday. An engineering student, Divya Tejaswini, 22, resident of Krishnajupuram in the city, was stabbed to death at her residence on October 15.

Central team to assess flood damage in A.P.

KAKINADA A six-member Inter Ministerial Central Team, headed by Saurav Ray, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, will visit East Godavari district on November 10 to assess the damage to crops, roads and various infrastructure facilities due to Godavari floods and rain.

Power staff in A.P. plan relay hunger strike VIJAYAWADA

Employees of the power utilities staged a demonstration at the office of the SPDCL on Saturday under the aegis of the AP State Power Employees' Joint Action Committee in protest against the government's alleged negligence in resolving critical issues faced by the power sector. The JAC leaders have planned relay hunger strike from Nov. 9-14.

Four more biodiversity heritage sites for Karnataka

State Biodiversity Board has passed a resolution

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MANGALURU

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has decided to declare four more areas in the State as biodiversity heritage sites.

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MANGALURU

Chairman of the Board, Ananth Hegde Ashisara, told *The Hindu* that the board, at a meeting last month, passed a resolution to declare Antaragange Betta in Kolar; Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta in Gudibande taluk, Chickballapur, had many dry-belt species protected by locals.

Mr. Ashisara said Antara-gange Betta has a unique and perennial water source flowing all through the year, and Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta in Gudibande taluk, Chickballapur, had many dry-belt species protected by locals.

Mahima Ranga Betta is a prominent lung space surviving in Bengaluru.

Urumbi area in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada

Kumaradhara river basin in Dakshina Kannada as biodiversity heritage sites. Biodiversity heritage sites are considered unique and fragile ecosystems that can be marine ecosystems, coastal and inland waters, or terrestrial areas.

Mr. Ashisara said Antara-gange Betta has a unique and perennial water source flowing all through the year, and Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta in Gudibande taluk, Chickballapur, had many dry-belt species protected by locals.

Mahima Ranga Betta is a prominent lung space surviving in Bengaluru.

Urumbi area in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada



Karnataka Biodiversity Board has recommended GI tag to Kari Ishad, a variety of mango grown in the State.

has a fragile environmental system and is located on the banks of the river Kuma-

radha.

There was a move by a private company to set up a 24 MW hydroelectric power

project across the river in the same area a decade ago. But environmental activists, including Kumaradhara Parisa Samarakshana Samiti and Vruksha Laksha Andolan, launched a series of agi-

ritations against it and ensured that the project did not come to fruition.

The Centre for Ecological Sciences, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, too had recommended that the project be shelved.

Survey, document

Mr. Ashisara said notifying an area as biodiversity heritage site will help protect the rich and unique ecosystem in a particular area from further destruction. Now, the Forest Department will take necessary steps, such as a survey of the areas for earmarking the borders, and documentation, before issuing the notification of declaration.

He said, "Arrest happens before a person is produced before the Magistrate. The moment your illegal arrest has resulted in a judicial remand, the question of arrest is not relevant later."

He added, "The issue of arrest is distinct from issue of custody. Questions of quashing FIR for not disclosing offence, question of illegal arrest and question of detention are different."

IN BRIEF

**Yashvardhan Sinha sworn in as CIC**

NEW DELHI Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was sworn in as the country's new Chief Information Commissioner on Saturday by President Ram Nath Kovind. Mr. Sinha later administered the oath to the three new Central Information Commissioners: former Labour Secretary Heera Lal Samariya, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Saroj Punhani, and journalist Uday Mahurkar.

ED conducts searches in Goa; properties seized

NEW DELHI The ED has searched the premises of Agnelo C. Lobo, a former attorney of the Comunidad de Serula (Goa), and others in connection with alleged illegal allotment of plots and acquisition of land belonging to the association. The properties of Mr. Lobo's brother Reginaldo, former official of Comunidad de Serula Joseph D'Sa and ex-clerk Rajesh Suhas Verenkar have also been seized.

Class X exam schedule likely to be disrupted

BHUBANESWAR The schedule of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) examination in Odisha is likely to be disrupted with the State government holding back the filling up of forms for the crucial Class X exam usually held during February-March. The announcement came a day after the government decided to keep schools shut till the end of 2020. The form fill-up process was to start on November 8.

Police file case against Niira Radia for loan fraud

NEW DELHI The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi police has registered an FIR against Nayati Healthcare's Niira Radia and four others for alleged embezzlement of over ₹300 crore of bank loan, following a complaint filed by orthopaedic surgeon Rajiv Sharma from whom they had acquired two hospitals. Nayati Healthcare has rejected the allegations as baseless.

Punjab MPs meet Shah, seek restarting of trains

State is facing a shortage of essentials

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI** A delegation of Members of Parliament from Punjab met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday to seek the resumption of train services to the State stopped since September due to the agitation by farmers in protest against the three farm Bills passed by Parliament in the monsoon session.

There has been a shortage of essential supplies in the State due to the train blockade.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was present at the meeting. After the meeting, Congress MP Jasbir Singh Gill said they were hopeful

Delhi reports most virus cases

With 7,178 infections, it has overtaken Maharashtra & Kerala: Health Ministry

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

There were 577 COVID-19 fatalities in the past 24 hours in the country, and of these, 10 States/Union Territories accounted for nearly 83% of the deaths, according to a release issued by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

Over 27.9% of the new fatalities were reported from Maharashtra (161). Delhi and West Bengal followed it with 64 and 55 respectively.

Also, 77% of the new cases were from 10 States and UTs. Delhi had overtaken Maharashtra and Kerala to report 7,178 cases in the last 24 hours. Kerala recorded 7,002 new cases.

Active cases decline

Active cases had been on a sustained decline and stood at 5,16,632 on Saturday. This figure translated to 6.11% of the total positive cases.

The total recovered cases stood at 78,19,886, which pushed the national recovery rate to 92.41%. The gap between the recovered cases and active ones presently stood at 73,03,254, the Ministry stated.

Viral tracker

With 44,806 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday, India's tally stood at 85,05,410. As many as 547 deaths were added, taking the toll to 1,26,110. A total of 11.65 crore samples were tested as of November 6, according to the ICMR.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS
CASES 44,806 **7 DAY-CHANGE** -0.1%
DEATHS 547 **7 DAY-CHANGE** -15.7%

The graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases and deaths in the last seven days are higher than the previous seven days, then the cases and deaths are rising ■ if they are lower, then dropping ■; if they are similar, then cases and deaths are flattening ■ in that State

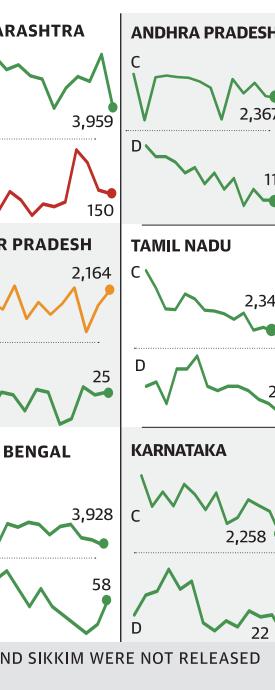
Maharashtra continued to have the maximum number of single-day recoveries. Over 11,000 recoveries pushed up its total recoveries to 15,62,342.

"The last five weeks has seen a continuous decline in average daily new cases. The average daily new cases have declined to 46,000 cases

from more than 73,000 average daily new cases in the first week of October," the release noted.

Seventy-nine per cent of the new recovered cases were concentrated in 10 States/UTs, it said.

The country's daily new recoveries have been exceeding the daily new cases



since more than a month. "In contrast to 50,356 new reported cases, 53,920 cases have recovered in the last 24 hours. This trend has been observed for the last five weeks. This also played a pivotal role in pushing down the active caseload which is presently pegged at 5.16 lakh," it added.

Plea to free Indians held in Yemen

Wife of worker from T.N. moves SC

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court has sought the government's response on an urgent plea from a 33-year-old Tirumelveli resident to rescue her husband and other Indian workers held "captive" by Houthi rebels in Yemen.

M. Velmathi from Tamil Nadu said there had been no response from officials despite repeated entreaties. She said the duty of the government to its citizens extends beyond the territories of the country to those struggling abroad for their families back home.

40 persons in distress

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman heard the submission made by senior advocate S. Nagamuthu and advocates Paari Vendhan and Prabu Ramasubramaniam for Ms. Velmathi and issued notice to the government.

The Centre has to respond in three weeks.

The petition said the lives of 40 Indians, including Ms.



The Supreme Court has given the Centre three weeks to respond to the petition.

Velmathi's husband, were in danger.

The petitioner said these Indians had a right to life. She said the Indians were trapped or "entangled" with inadequate facilities and infrastructure while "inchling to death".

The petition said the government, under Section 35 of the Disaster Management Act, has the power to coordinate with the United Nations, international organisations and even foreign governments for the well-being of its citizens abroad.

Innovate on mass scale, PM tells students**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

Addressing the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi's 51st convocation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said technology would be playing the biggest role in the post-COVID world and that virtual reality and augmented reality had now become the working reality.

Mr. Modi also emphasised on innovations on a mass scale and focus on quality ensuring reliability. "Focus on quality – never compromise, ensure scalability – make your innovations work at a mass scale, assure reliability – build long-term trust in the market and bring in adaptability – be open to change and expect uncertainty as a way of life. If we work on these mantras then it will reflect the country's product and will get global recognition."

The pandemic has taught that while globalisation is important, self-reliance is equally important, Mr. Modi said.

Blast in Assam school triggers fresh tension**Second attack by miscreants from Mizoram****SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI**

the miscreants from Mizoram carried out the blast in the school in a forest area. We are strengthening our forces to avoid such incidents," Assam's Home Secretary G.D. Tripathi said.

Central forces deployed He said Central forces were being deployed to maintain security and defuse tension. "We are also in touch with the Mizoram government."

Mizoram's Chief Secretary Lalnummawia Chuaungo said the State government was "making all efforts to ensure things do not flare up".

A local organisation on Saturday called a 12-hour shutdown across the three districts (bordering Mizoram) of southern Assam's Barak Valley to protest the alleged custodial death of 48-year-

old Intiaz Ali Laskar from Cachar's Lailapur, in Mizoram. The Assam government had said the man, a firewood collector, had been abducted by miscreants from Mizo NGO on November 1.

old Intiaz Ali Laskar from Cachar's Lailapur, in Mizoram. The Mizoram government claimed he was a drug peddler who succumbed to injuries while trying to flee capture by members of a Mizo NGO on November 1.

On the brighter side, truckers' unions of both States appealed together to both governments for "safe passage" for vehicles stranded on the border.

Trouble in the decades-old border dispute began on October 17 when miscreants set some 20 shops and houses ablaze and 50 people were injured in attacks and counter-attacks. The resultant economic blockade against Mizoram imposed by Assam-based organisations was lifted on October 22 before flaring up again on October 28.

Assam's Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya claimed Mizoram was occupying 1.5 km of Assam land. Mizos say "illegal migrants" from Assam have occupied 10 km land from the border.



In no mood to budge: Gujarati leader Kiroli Singh Bainsla speaking to the media in Dausa on Saturday. ■ANI

Gujjars threaten to intensify quota stir

We will block more highways: Bainsla

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR**

Gujjars occupying the railway tracks in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district with the demand for reservation on Saturday threatened to intensify their agitation from November 9. Gujarati supremo Kiroli Singh Bainsla had earlier given an ultimatum to the State government to fulfil the demand for 5% quota in the most backward class (MBC) category.

The blockade of the Delhi-Mumbai rail route at Peelupura village and the Bayana-Hinduan road near Chhonkra continued on Saturday, leading to diversion of many trains and cancellation of the Rajasthan Roadways in the region.

Col. Bainsla addressed a meeting of the community leaders at Sikandra in Dausa district and announced that an indefinite protest would be launched and more highways across the State blocked from November 9.

Contrary to earlier indications, Sports Minister Ashok Chandra did not reach Peelupura to meet the agitating Gujjars till Saturday evening.

Some leaders of the Gujjar Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti had met the members of a Cabinet Sub-Committee in Jaipur and signed an agreement comprising 14 points last week. However, there has been no headway on the issues of appointments to backlog posts and the benefit of 5% reservation in the ongoing recruitments.

Rival faction's appeal

A rival faction of Gujjars and the traders in Bharatpur's Bayana tehsil appealed to Col. Bainsla to call off the agitation and vacate the railway tracks in view of the inconvenience being caused to the public and local businesses.

The candidates appearing in an ongoing police constable examination are also finding it difficult to reach their exam centres.

Gujarati leader Vijay Bainsla said the ruling Congress had promised in its manifesto for the 2018 Assembly election to clear the backlog of vacancies, but no action was taken after it came to power.

SC reserves order on GST on lotteries

Act imposes two rates on sale of lotteries, which petitioners feel is discriminatory

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court has reserved its judgment on the constitutional validity of imposing Goods and Services Tax (GST) on sale of lotteries sold within the same State and 28% GST for sale of tickets from other States.

Petitions filed by lottery dealers, including Skill Lotto Solutions Ltd., argued that the Central GST Act of 2017 and notifications wrongly viewed lotteries as "goods" while they were only "actionable claims".

They said lottery tickets by themselves were only "valueless pieces of paper" and the GST Council was wrong to recommend the imposition of tax on them.

A three-judge Bench led

by Justice Ashok Bhushan would primarily hear and pronounce the verdict on charges of discrimination raised against the law for imposing 12% GST on lotteries sold within the same State and 28% GST for sale of tickets from other States.

"Under the GST Act, there are two rates prescribed on the sale of lottery tickets. One is 12% if the lotteries are sold within the same State, and the other is 28% if a State sells the lottery tickets in other States. Arbitrary, discriminatory, unreasonable and clearly violative of Articles 14 of the Constitution," senior advocate Ravindra Shrivastava and advocate Arjun Garg, for Skill Lotto, had

argued. Several intervenors, represented by senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, questioned the imposition of GST on the "face value" of lottery tickets.

argued. Several intervenors, represented by senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, questioned the imposition of GST on the "face value" of lottery tickets. This "face value" includes prize money to be distributed to the winners of a lottery, margin of agents, retailers and distributors, etc.

"In the earlier tax regime, in which no VAT was levied on lotteries, but service tax was levied, the rate of tax was 1.28% or 8.2% on the face value of the lottery tickets depending on the prize money payout. Thus the Legislature never intended to tax the prize money component in the lottery trade, as it did not form part of the income of lottery traders, but payable to the winner of the ticket prize. However, the notifications levy GST on the face value of the tickets without adjusting or taking into account the prize money component," Mr. Garg had argued.

development on our own," he said.

The issues over India-Iran cooperation are believed to have been taken up during quick stops by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in Tehran in September in transit to and from Moscow respectively, where they attended the SCO ministerial meet.

U.S. poll results

The U.S. election results projecting Mr. Biden as the next President are being watched in both India and Iran for the possibility that sanctions on Iran might ease, allowing India to increase its engagement with its traditional

partner who used to be a major supplier of oil before the Trump administration forced India to "zero out" imports. New Delhi is also watching negotiations on a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement between China and Iran believed to be worth \$400 billion, which could fund other parts of the Chabahar development, including a free trade zone along the Makran coast, and oil infrastructure projects.

According to Mr. Rezvanian, however, the "umbrella agreement" would not impinge on India's interests in any way.

(Full interview can be accessed at bit.ly/MasoudInterview)

India is not a part of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway at present, but as Iran begins the second phase of the 628-km project, Tehran hopes New Delhi will help it procure equipment to run the rail line from the Chabahar port to the Afghan border.

According to a senior Iranian diplomat, Iran's Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) recently conveyed to India a request for cranes, tracks, switches and signalling equipment, locomotives comes as Tehran has had difficulty in getting them directly due to U.S.-imposed sanctions.

**SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI**

CON completed the site inspection and feasibility report, and had been waiting for the Iranian side to appoint a nodal authority.

Official sources said the real sticking point was that Iranian construction company Khatam Al Anbar is under U.S. sanctions for its links to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Committee (IRGC) and although the Chabahar project has secured a special waiver from the U.S., the government is hesitant to deal with the IRGC entity.

On November 4, Iran's Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami inaugurated the track-laying ceremony for the second of the three phase construction.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), IR-

the Afghan border, but through the existing rail system, to Turkmenistan and Central Asia as well. The first phase was inaugurated in July last, leading to a controversy over the fact that India had been dropped from the project.

"We think that we should look at the future instead of digging into the past, where there have been some

'Corruption diminishes public trust'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge N.V. Ramana on Saturday said corruption drains out public trust in institutions.

Nations struggle when decisions are made in power corridors to further one's own self-interest, the judge said.

He was speaking at the 17th Asian Law Institute conference on 'Law and Justice in Asia'.

"Corruption eats away at the roots of democracy and democratic institutions... Where corruption becomes the norm, public trust upon institutions is diminished, ultimately sacrificing the ethos of our democracy," Justice Ramana said.

The veteran judge referred to B.R. Ambedkar's words that "however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot".

Cyber law

Justice Ramana spoke on laws against cyber crime and violation of privacy on the Internet.

"The global citizenry is currently struggling with this challenge, with respect to the technological advancements being made – from social media and the Internet to automated vehicles. This area in my view requires a lot of work," Justice Ramana said.

Bihar poll ends on a note of suspense

Opposition focused on jobs and migration, while NDA stressed on previous RJD regime's poor record

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The three-phase Bihar Assembly poll amid the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent economic slowdown ended on Saturday with around 55% voting for the third and final phase with 78 seats at stake.

Over the last month of relatively subdued campaigning due to the coronavirus outbreak, leaders of both alliances – the JD(U)-led NDA and RJD-led UPA – have addressed a series of public meetings every day. While the ruling NDA raised issues of Pulwama, the Ram Temple and CAA, the Opposition focused on development, a fight against corruption and jobs for unemployed youth in a State where nearly 58% of the population is below the age of 25.

Winds of change

While a month before the election, the prospects for the NDA was bright with the caste and class combination adding up in its favour, the arrival of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav changed the scenario with his whirlwind campaign. Mr. Yadav addressed a marathon 247 public meetings, with an average of 19 a day.

His speeches raising issues of employment and promising 10 lakh government jobs attracted and electrified huge crowds of young people. Mr. Yadav was the major campaigner for the UPA, addressing 51 public meetings



Final phase: People queuing up to vote in Bihar's Vaishali district on Saturday. ■ PTI

for Congress candidates, and emerged as the face of change as opposed to three-time Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. In the process, the RJD leader also broke out of the party's traditional Muslim-Yadav calculation.

Despite his relative youth, the RJD leader kept his cool and did not react to aspersions and jibes from Mr. Kumar, who cast aspersions on him and his family, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who termed him "jungle raj ka yuvraj" (crown prince of lawlessness).

On the other hand, JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was often seen losing his temper during public meetings – sometimes

berating protesting audiences and sometimes attacking Tejashwi Yadav personally. At one public meeting at Harlakhi in Madhubani, onions were thrown at Mr. Kumar, apparently in protest against sky-rocketing prices of the kitchen staple, while at Parsa in Saran, his rally was interrupted by slogans of "Lalu Yadav zindabad".

Apart from corruption and prohibition, the NDA campaign was also marred by confusion with the exit of the NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) led by Chirag Paswan. The party put up candidates against most JD(U) candidates while leaving the field for the BJP. Mr. Modi also slammed Mr

Yadav, reiterating his epithet of "jungle raj ka yuvraj" in all his 12 public meetings and harping on "15-years of lawlessness of the previous RJD regime".

The Prime Minister and other BJP leaders also touted the scrapping of Article 370, the upcoming Ram temple at Ayodhya, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and invoked Chhatee and Ganga (deities) to woo the voters. However, these issues may have failed to resonate with the voters, especially the youth for whom "unemployment, corruption and migration" were the core issues deciding their vote preferences. Results will be out on November 10.

TV Today does not have to pay fine: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Saturday issued notices to Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and other police officers in a plea filed by Hansa Research Group requesting that a probe in the Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation case be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

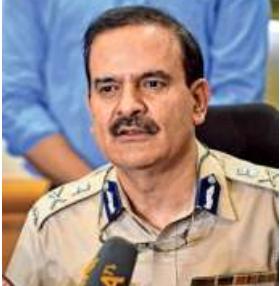
A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik was hearing a petition filed by the TV Today Network Limited that owns *India Today*, Aaj Tak and Headlines Today, challenging an order and warning dated July 31 by the BARC's disciplinary council.

To which the court said, "The petitioners should not be called unnecessarily and they can be called in by the Crime Branch for two hours on two days of the week."

Mr. Kamat accepted the same and the matter will now be heard on November 25. On October 8, Mr. Singh said a TRP racket had been busted by the Crime Branch. The scam allegedly involved Republic TV, Box Cinema and Fakt Marathi.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, representing the group, said that police officers were calling employees of Hansa every day to the Crime Branch office and forcing them to give statements that could implicate Republic TV. He said if any documents were required, the officers could issue summons for the same.

Senior advocate Devadatt



Param Bir Singh

Kamat, representing Mr. Singh, said the petitioners were playing "hide and seek" and that the accusations and allegations made by Mr. Vaidyanathan were not fair.

To which the court said,

"The petitioners should not be called unnecessarily and they can be called in by the Crime Branch for two hours on two days of the week."

Mr. Kamat accepted the same and the matter will now be heard on November 25. On October 8, Mr. Singh said a TRP racket had been busted by the Crime Branch. The scam allegedly involved Republic TV, Box Cinema and Fakt Marathi.

During the construction, which was expected to take 10 months, the site should remain available to the public, it said. "Central Vista Avenue is visited by thousands of visitors daily, therefore, site for the work shall be made available in phased manner [as per agreed schedule] so that some part either in pre-development stage or post-development stage remains available to the visitors," the NIT said.

As a part of the larger redevelopment of the Central Vista, which stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan till India Gate, the CPWD had awarded the contract to construct a new Parliament building to Tata Projects Ltd. in September at a cost of ₹861 crore.

The Parliament construction work is likely to start in December, according to the architects of the project, HCP Design, Planning and Management.

stated that this was a "rough" estimate. "The site of work is very sensitive from the security point of view. In view of security concerns at the site and the work itself, stringent access control measures shall be exercised for entry and exit of manpower, material and construction equipment in the area," the NIT said.

The project includes "large scale stone work, construction of underpasses, underground amenities blocks, stone furniture, horticulture work, electric substations, pumping rooms etc.", the document said.

During the construction, which was expected to take 10 months, the site should remain available to the public, it said. "Central Vista Avenue is visited by thousands of visitors daily, therefore, site for the work shall be made available in phased manner [as per agreed schedule] so that some part either in pre-development stage or post-development stage remains available to the visitors," the NIT said.

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CPWD invites tenders for the redevelopment of Rajpath

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The government has kicked off the second portion of its Central Vista redevelopment project, with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) this week inviting bids from contractors for the "development/redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue" or Rajpath at an estimated cost of ₹463 crore.

The CPWD has asked for bids in a two-phase process with the deadline for technical bids being December 1, according to the notice inviting tender (NIT) published on Wednesday.

The project includes demolition of some existing structures and the construction of underpasses and a "Presidential dais". The estimated cost of the construction work is ₹447.58 crore and maintenance for five years is ₹15.51 crore, according to the NIT, which also



The project is estimated to cost ₹463 crore.

stated that this was a "rough" estimate. "The site of work is very sensitive from the security point of view. In view of security concerns at the site and the work itself, stringent access control measures shall be exercised for entry and exit of manpower, material and construction equipment in the area," the NIT said.

The project includes "large scale stone work, construction of underpasses, underground amenities blocks, stone furniture, horticulture work, electric substations, pumping rooms etc.", the document said.

Bombay HC seeks police response in Naik case

Matter will be heard in December

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has granted relief to the TV Today Network Limited, and quashed and set aside an order passed by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) imposing a fine of ₹5 lakh on the network.

A Division Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Milind Jadhav was hearing a petition filed by the TV Today Network Limited that owns *India Today*, Aaj Tak and Headlines Today, challenging an order and warning dated July 31 by the BARC's disciplinary council.

On April 27, the BARC had issued a show cause notice to the group after the statistical data provided by the BARC's measurement science team showed an abnormal increase in the viewership of the channels owned by the group.

The BARC accepted the same and the matter will now be heard on November 25. On October 8, Mr. Singh said a TRP racket had been busted by the Crime Branch. The scam allegedly involved Republic TV, Box Cinema and Fakt Marathi.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, representing the group, said that police officers were calling employees of Hansa every day to the Crime Branch office and forcing them to give statements that could implicate Republic TV. He said if any documents were required, the officers could issue summons for the same.

Senior advocate Devadatt



Anvay Naik

ing our legitimate dues." The note named Arnab Goswami of Republic TV as owing ₹83 lakhs for Bombay Dyeing studio project, Feroz Shaikh of IcastX/Skimedia owing ₹4 crore for a project at Andheri and Niteesh Sarada of Smart Works for not having paid ₹55 lakh for projects at Magarpatta and Banner. The suicide occurred on May 5, 2018.

The matter will be heard in December, after the court's Diwali vacation.

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

HELP US FOR DEEPAVALI



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Our Email ID: info@BuildHope.org

Third phase voter turnout over 57%: EC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Turnout in the third and final phase of polling in the Bihar Assembly elections on Saturday was over 57%, according to the Election Commission of India.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday alleged that BJP MLAs were receiving calls from State Congress chief Kamal Nath who was trying to lure them.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Deputy Election Commissioner in-charge of Bihar, said the polling percentage had been 55.22% as he was speaking at the press conference and that the number was likely to increase. As of 8 p.m., the EC's live turnout portal showed the third phase polling percentage at 57.27%. Turnout in the Lok Sabha byelection for the Valmiki Nagar seat in Bihar and the Assembly byelection in Manipur were 56.02% and 91.54% respectively as of 8.10 pm.

Mr. Kumar said 52,000 senior citizens over the age of 80 and persons with disabilities had opted to vote from home, an option that was extended to them due to the pandemic.

During campaigning for the three phases, 876 violations of the Model Code of Conduct and 156 violations of COVID-19 safety norms were seen, he said. Seizures of ₹66.84 crore were made.

Kamal Nath trying to lure BJP MLAs, says Chouhan

Both Cong., BJP claim victory in bypolls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOJPAL

Ahead of the November 10 results of the bypolls held on 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, the ruling BJP and Opposition Congress have accused each other of horse-trading MLAs and claimed respective victories.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday alleged that BJP MLAs were receiving calls from State Congress chief Kamal Nath who was trying to lure them.

"The Congress and Kamal Nath are attempting unsuccessfully to contact and lure BJP MLAs. It was Nath who played the politics of horse-trading and effected manipulations. Nath has muddied the politics of Madhya Pradesh," Mr. Chouhan told reporters.

Horse-trading charges

He was responding to a query on allegations raised by Mr. Nath on Friday that the BJP was again trying to lure some legislators of the Congress.

By-elections in the State

were held on November 3

for 28 constituencies, 25 of

which fell vacant due to resignations by Congress MLAs who joined the BJP earlier this year while the remaining three seats have been unrepresented due to demise of the sitting legislators.

"Whenever the Congress resorts to this [horse-trading], it is termed as manage-



Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

ment, but when someone comes to us [join the BJP] on his own, it is called horse-trading," Mr. Chouhan said.

Holding Mr. Nath responsible for "political corruption", the senior BJP leader said MLAs of the BJP would not fall prey to the attempts being made by the Congress to lure them. "Our MLAs work for principles and ideology," he said.

On Friday, Mr. Nath issued a statement accusing the BJP of luring its MLAs with "offers". "The BJP is sensing a crushing defeat in the by-elections. They are now resorting to horse-trading [of MLAs]," said the former Chief Minister.

In the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, the BJP currently has 107 members and requires nine more MLAs to attain a simple majority, while the Congress's tally stands at 87. Among other members, the BSP has two legislators, while the SP has one member besides four Independents.

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY Central College Campus, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph.No. 080-22961016/22131385, E-mail: registrarbcu@gmail.com	Date: 0
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Biden's team steps up transition plans

The first key decisions are expected to focus on health care and addressing the pandemic, say officials

SHANE GOLDMACHER
GLENN THRUSH

Joe Biden's advisers accelerated their transition planning on Friday as election results showed him with an advantage in battleground States, well before Saturday's victory for Mr. Biden, with the first senior officials in a potential Biden White House possibly named as early as next week.

In Wilmington, Delaware, and Washington, Mr. Biden's advisers and allies are ramping up their conversations about who might fill critical posts, both in the West Wing and across the agencies, guided heavily by Mr. Biden's plan to assemble what would be the most diverse Cabinet in history.

The behind-the-scenes activity underscored that even as Mr. Biden publicly offered a disciplined message about counting every vote, he was already mapping out a quick start in office as the nation faces a worsening pandemic and a damaged economy.



Jubilant mood: (Clockwise from left) Celebrations in New York; a supporter holding balloons with the faces of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris; and a girl waving the U.S. flag in Delaware. • AFP

Mr. Biden, who ran from Day 1 on a message of bringing the country together, is said to be interested in making a bipartisan gesture as he plans a prospective government after a divisive election whose results President Donald Trump has tried to undermine. Mr. Biden is looking to fill out his possible White House staff first, with Cabinet posts not expected

to be announced until around Thanksgiving, according to more than a half-dozen people familiar with the planning process.

Critical decisions

Mr. Biden's team quietly began raising money for his transition operation in May and has raised at least \$7 million to pay for its efforts.

As coronavirus infections

hit new highs, Mr. Biden's aides are planning for the first critical transition decisions to focus on health care and addressing the pandemic, the central theme of his campaign in the final months. They have assembled an internal group of roughly two dozen health policy and technology experts to look at the development and delivery of a vac-

cine, improving health data and securing supply chains, among other issues.

Among those expected to play a key health care role in a Biden administration is Vivek Murthy, a former surgeon general under President Barack Obama, who has privately advised Mr. Biden for months on the pandemic.

Transition officials are also looking at what types of economic actions could be taken almost immediately, including rolling back some of Mr. Trump's executive orders, part of a tradition in which new presidents move quickly to change or reverse regulations across federal agencies.

Mr. Biden, 77, has told associates that he considers his two terms as Vice-President and his knowledge of how a White House operates from the inside as crucial advantages in building out a government. And he has made it plain in public and private that a diverse team is central to his mission. NY TIMES

FROM PAGE ONE

Joe Biden elected 46th President of the United States

in history.

The Trump campaign mounted close to a dozen legal challenges across the country in various courts to either stop ballot counting or provide Republican observers greater access to ballot counting centres (such as in Pennsylvania). However, their attempts met with little success. Allegations and suggestions of voter fraud, including by the President and his sons, as well as top Trump campaign officials and a few Republican lawmakers, have not been backed by evidence.

He

talked about how De-

mocrats rebuilt "the blue

wall" (winning Michigan,

Wisconsin and Pennsylva-

nia) and how 74 million

Americans voted for him.

Mr. Biden won Michigan and Wisconsin, where Mr.

Trump may seek a recount.

The turnout in this year's

elections – expected to be over 70% – is the highest in decades, with Mr. Biden receiving about 74 million votes, the highest in history, and Mr. Trump receiving 70 million, the second highest

preme Court, seeking to exclude ballots that arrived after November 3 from the count in Pennsylvania (the highest court in Pennsylvania had permitted ballots to be counted, provided they were postmarked by November 3 and arrived by November 6).

On Friday evening, Justice Samuel Alito ordered the State to separate late ballots from others – but this was already being done by Pennsylvania and not likely to impact the overall outcome for the State.

"I know he'll do the job with the best interests of every American at heart, whether or not he had their vote," former U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement about Mr. Biden.

"So I encourage every American to give him a chance and lend him your support," he said.

Mr. Biden is scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. Eastern Time on Saturday night.

World congratulates Biden and Harris on 'historic' win

They hope the U.S. will once again join the climate deal



Rahul Gandhi

Although U.S. President Donald Trump wasn't conceding defeat, people in other parts of the world started celebrating Joe Biden's election victory on Saturday and expressed hope that the Democrat will quickly set to work on a topic that wasn't vital in the White House for the past four years - combatting climate change.

"Welcome back America!" tweeted the Mayor of Paris.

Referencing the Paris climate accord that Trump pulled out of, Anne Hidalgo called Biden's victory "a beautiful symbol to act more than ever together against the climate emergency."

Cascading around the globe on social media and live news broadcasts, word of the victory in Pennsylvania that pushed Barack Obama's former Vice-President past the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes need-

ed to take over the Oval Office himself brought widespread relief in world capitals.

The election of Kamala Harris as the first Black woman Vice-President also struck an immediate chord internationally.

The

election

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Future moves
HC on SIAC's
Amazon order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail Ltd. (FRL) on Saturday said it had approached the Delhi High Court seeking relief against an arbitration order passed by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) with regard to the ₹24,713-crore deal with Reliance Industries.

FRL has contended that Amazon is 'misusing' the interim order passed by the SIAC on October 25.

The SIAC had passed an interim award in favour of Amazon barring FRL from taking 'any step to dispose of or encumber its assets or issuing any securities' to secure any funding from a restricted party.

FRL has filed the necessary suit in the Delhi High Court in relation to seeking necessary reliefs against Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC, it said.

Goldman Sachs invests \$150 mn in Biocon arm

Transaction values firm at \$3.94 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU
Biocon Ltd. said the board of its subsidiary Biocon Biologics had approved a capital infusion of ₹1,125-crore (about \$150 million) from Goldman Sachs.

Goldman Sachs will be issued optionally convertible debentures at a post-money equity valuation of \$3.94 billion, Biocon said.

"This capital injection by Goldman Sachs will enable us to make prudent investments in R&D, high-quality manufacturing as well as establish a global footprint," said Christiane Hamacher, CEO, Biocon Biologics.



Ather raises \$35 mn, round led by Bansal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU
Ather Energy, an electric scooter maker, has raised \$35 million in a Series D round of funding led by Flipkart's co-founder Sachin Bansal.

Founded in 2013 by IIT Madras alumni Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain, Ather Energy was one of the earliest start-up investments of Mr. Bansal who contributed \$23 million in the latest round. He had invested \$0.5 million as an Angel investor in 2014. Hero MotoCorp has invested \$12 million in the Series D round, Ather said in a statement.

Plant engineering seeing rebound: L&T Tech Services chief

+ INTERVIEW | KESHAB PANDA

'Pandemic brought in tectonic shifts in customer behaviour'

How is customer sentiment changing in a pandemic-hit marketplace?

■ Customers globally are looking for higher levels of personalisation, faster go-to-market for their solutions, and increased connectivity driven by digital engineering. At the same time, they are demanding solutions that provide enhanced safety and remote productivity in the context of the pandemic. In response to this new market requirement, we introduced F.R.U.G.A.L. Manufacturing, a manufacturing concept based on social distancing, business continuity and business sustainability.

We also strengthened our cybersecurity offerings, and built AI solutions for

LTTS closed eight multimillion dollar deals from global customers across all verticals during Q2

Industrial use that are pertinent to today's business environment.

Are decision-making cycles getting shorter in the second half of the fiscal compared with the first half?

Decision-making cycles for large deals are admittedly taking longer than it used to a year ago. Broadly speaking, there are pockets where customers have begun to accelerate the decision-making cycles. There has also been a slight slowdown in new product development, although we have seen acceleration in enhancements to the existing portfolio of products and solutions. It really varies from sector to sector.

For example, in plant engineering we have already started to see a rebound of sorts as manufacturers globally embrace touchless solutions and remote manufacturing practices.

We are hopeful of relatively more positive traction in the second half of the current fiscal as customers ac-

celerate the deployment of digital engineering projects to enable business continuity and drive scale.

What has been the election year impact on engineering and R&D budgets?

■ We are awaiting clarity on the decisions and believe a clearer picture will emerge after November. So far, there has been no impact on customer decision-making on account of it being an election year as that is an aspect that had been factored into the budgeting process at the start of November.

Give us a sense of LTTS's localisation and hiring in the U.S.?

LTTS has been focussing on localisation and has been hiring engineers and management graduates from U.S. colleges.

We have seven design centres and almost 1,600 employees across all our locations in the U.S. and will continue to hire local engineers and graduate engineers from various colleges across the country.

Give us a short commentary on your pipeline for the second half and beyond.

■ LTTS closed eight multimillion dollar projects from global customers across all our verticals during Q2 and revenues from digital and leading-edge technologies jumped to 49% during the quarter, from 39% during the same period last year.

Our deal pipeline has been on a consistent upward trajectory from Q4, and is currently 30% higher than the pre-COVID levels.

We are confident of sequential growth during the second half of the fiscal,

Plantation body representatives urged the Centre take quick measures to curb misuse of imports.

"We also want the government to restrict pepper imports through designated ports, prohibiting EOU units and units in SEZs from selling black pepper in the domestic market; and fixing a higher minimum value-addition requirement for re-exports," added Mr. Vijayendra.

CM YK

'Rein in misuse'

Scan the QR code

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SNAPSHOTS



Cheer up

A study has found that those people who feel enthusiastic and cheerful, exhibiting what psychologists term, 'positive affect', are less likely to experience memory decline as they age. In the study, published in the journal *Psychological Science*, the researchers analysed 991 middle-aged and older U.S. adults.



Tasting tentacles

Harvard University researchers have found the mechanism of how octopuses touch and taste with their tentacles while foraging. The first layer of cells in the suction cups have chemotactile receptors that have adapted to sense molecules that do not dissolve in water. So the animal figures out whether it is a prey it is touching.

Delivery of COVID-19 vaccines poses a huge challenge

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines, the RNA vaccines in particular, require -70 degrees C to -80 degree C cold-chain

R. PRASAD

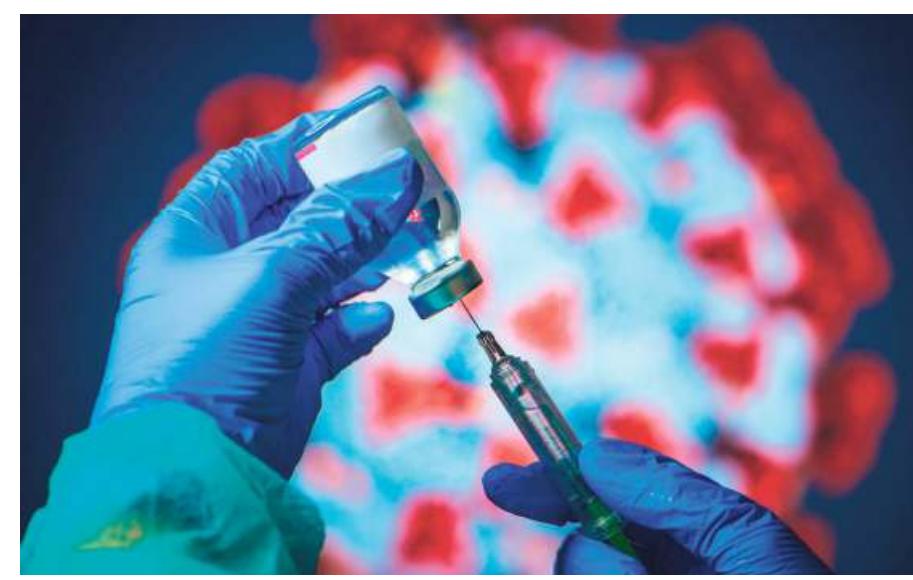
ly? Is there a bar below which vaccines should not be used in a particular group? As soon as we move beyond the big picture characterisation of initial priority groups, there are more questions for discussion than clear answers," she says.

Ultralow temperatures

But a bigger challenge comes in the form of keeping the vaccines at ultralow temperatures during distribution. Most of the COVID-19 vaccines, the RNA vaccines in particular, that are in the advanced stage of Phase-3 trials require -70 degrees C to -80 degree C cold-chain.

The Ebola vaccine, too, requires the same kind of cold storage. "This kind of storage was difficult to establish in West Africa, but was managed on the scale needed for Ebola – which is in the hundred thousand doses range," Dr. Kang recalls. "But when we need tens and hundreds of millions of doses, I do not know how feasible that will be in the U.S. or UK, let alone in India."

Attempts are being made to modify the vaccines and increase their stability to suit the storage conditions that already exist in many parts



Easy to handle: The Oxford vaccine does not require ultracold temperatures. Hence, the existing system used in the routine immunisation programme may be able to handle the vaccines. ■ GETTY IMAGES

of the world. But they are unlikely to become available in the first-generation vaccines.

Resources needed

"In India we have never had this kind of storage requirement and building the infrastructure for ultracold storage requires considerable resources, because you need not just the freezers, but also uninterrupted power supply," Dr. Kang says. "I think we may need to decide

whether vaccines that require this form of storage should be used only in cities where such facilities can be built. It may make sense to even think about bringing people to the vaccine, instead of taking the vaccine to people in some settings."

Hence, the decision to use a COVID-19 vaccine will need to take into consideration logistics and infrastructure needed to distribute and deliver vaccines, which goes

beyond financial resources to purchase vaccines.

The Oxford vaccine does not require ultracold temperatures, and hence, the existing system used in the routine immunisation programme may be able to handle the vaccines.

The next biggest challenge might be in vaccinating people with two doses four weeks apart during the pandemic. Most of the vaccines at advanced stages of Phase-3

trial use two doses of the vaccine to achieve best results. But Dr. Kang does not foresee much problem here. "Vaccinating twice one month apart is something we know and have done for polio programmes for well over a decade. Although oral vaccines are much easier to deliver than injectable vaccines, the logistics of storage, transport and delivery are similar," she says. "For injectable vaccines where two doses need to be given three or four weeks apart, we will need to learn from our experience with polio and measles-rubella campaigns."

Children and adults

While the national immunisation programme is limited to vaccinating children, COVID-19 vaccination will be across age groups, including older people. It remains to be seen how well the lessons learnt from the national immunisation programme can be replicated for other age groups.

With vaccines seen as one sure way to end the pandemic if 60-70% of the population is vaccinated, the question of making the vaccines available for free gains importance. But that does not rule

out the possibility of selling them when vaccines become available in plenty even while they are available for free. "Initially, I assume vaccines should be prioritised for groups as identified by the government, which might mean that all vaccines are only available in the public sector, at least when supplies are limited" she says.

Buying vaccines

There is a possibility of the government allowing companies to purchase vaccines to maintain business continuity. Probably, other groups that might be willing to pay for vaccines might also become eligible to buy vaccines. "Any vaccines being diverted at a time when supply is limited deprives priority groups, so perhaps another way to think about this, is that certain types of vaccines that are unsuitable for public programmes in India because of expense or cold chain requirements, might be opened up for purchase by companies, organisations and individuals as a premium product," says Dr. Kang. "All this is ethically contentious, and needs discussion. There are no easy decisions or choices."

Ancient skeleton offers clues on prehistoric era

The severely eroded teeth indicate a fibre-rich, grain diet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

German researchers are piecing together the life of a prehistoric woman who died more than 5,000 years ago in the Neolithic period, after her skeleton was found when excavating for wind turbines.

The "Lady of Bietikow," as she has been named, was found near a village of the same name in northeastern Germany's Uckermark region.

Investigations have shown that she was between 30 and 45 years old and died more than 5,000 years ago.

That means that she lived during the same period as Oetzi the Iceman, the stunningly preserved corpse found by tourists in the Alps in the 1990s.

"You can compare Oetzi and the Lady of Bietikow in terms of age," said Philipp



Tell-tale remains: Discovered in northern Brandenburg, this skeleton of a woman is thought to be 5,000 years old. ■ AFP

Roskoschinski, one of the two archaeologists who made the discovery.

All that is left of the skeleton are bones and some fragments of clothing.

It was during the Neolithic period that humans first introduced grains into their diet, since they could be stored more easily than meat and could also be used as a means of payment, according to anthropologist Bettina

Jungklaus.

However, this led to a deterioration in people's general health. This can be seen in the state of the Lady of Bietikow's teeth, which are severely eroded and missing completely in some places, Jungklaus said.

It remains unclear whether the condition of the Lady of Bietikow's teeth indicates an illness or even the cause of her death.

Lessons from Ladakh's glacial lake outburst

The cause was not spillover but rather a tunnelling drainage process

ASWATHI PACHA

In August 2014, a glacial lake outburst flood hit the village of Gya in Ladakh, destroying houses, fields and bridges. Using remote sensing data, researchers from Germany have mapped the evolution of Gya glacial lake and note the cause of the flood. In a paper recently published in *Natural Hazards*, the team notes that this case study "illuminates the problem of potentially hazardous lakes being overlooked."

How it happened

Most interesting was finding the cause of the flood – it was not a spillover but rather a tunnelling drainage process. "Imagine a bucket full of water. It can overflow when you drop a stone, or the water can drain if there is a hole under the bucket. Similarly, here the flooding did not happen due to the spillovers due to an avalanche or

landslide, rather there was a thawing of the ice cores in the moraine [a field of dirt and rocks that have been pushed along by the glacier as it moves] which drained through the subsurface tunnels," explains Ravi Baghel from the South Asia Institute, Geography department, Heidelberg University, and an author of the paper.

Future speeding

The team notes that such thawing of ice cores may accelerate in the future due to global climate change, and there is an urgent need to use multiple methods for better risk assessment and early warning.

"It is almost certain that other glacial lake outburst floods will happen all over the Indian Himalaya. However, not all of these events have catastrophic outcomes.

It largely depends on urban planning, the size of the lake, the distance between



Being prepared: The thawing of ice cores may accelerate in the future due to global warming, and there is an urgent need of better risk assessment and early warning. ■ MARCUS NUSSER

the lake and affected villages, the valley section and some more aspects. In some cases, cloudbursts can also trigger glacial lake outburst flood events like in the Kedarnath disaster in 2013," explains the lead author Marcus Nüsser from the Heidelberg Centre for the Environment in an email to *The Hindu*.

He adds that in different sections of the Himalaya the occurrence of such floods has received different attention.

"While these events have been regarded as a major risk in the central Himalayan region including Sikkim, the arid Trans-Himalayan regions of Ladakh have received attention only recently. Here the glaciers are located at high altitudes not lower than 5,200 m and most glaciers are of small size. Likewise, the glacial lakes are quite small in size. In the case of the Gya lake at 5,400 m, the lake is almost always ice-covered, even during summer," writes Dr.

Nüsser.

Monitoring lakes

The team adds more bathymetric studies are needed to analyse lake volumes, and it is important to regularly monitor lake development and dynamics. New, sophisticated technologies can also be put to use to understand the stability of the moraines that dam the lake. "However, it is definitely not only a question of technology but also of land use planning and accessibility," he concludes.

Soak in the Sun, sleep early and tight to avoid myopia

At this rate, by 2050, 64 million children in urban India may have myopia



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Myopia or shortsightedness is turning out to be an epidemic across India, and indeed even more in Southeast Asia. It occurs because of the potential role of myopic genes and also local environmental conditions such as the prolonged 'near work' and/or less sunlight exposure, and not because of any infection due to harmful germs. It will not become a worldwide pandemic, as COVID-19 has. Yet, drastic changes in lifestyle (becoming more indoor-centric) and the timing and levels of sunlight we receive, it is time to take measures to counteract myopia, which may well become a global pandemic.

What is myopia?

Myopia occurs when the eye ball becomes longer, relative to the focusing power of the cornea and the lens; this leads to focus not on the surface of the retina, but at a point before it. This leads you to find it difficult to focus distant objects clearly, though you can see close-up



Young achievers: There is a need for awareness among parents to control the use of near-vision devices such as smartphones. ■ GETTY IMAGES

objects such as while reading and using the computer use (allaboutvision.com). In the year 2000, about 25% of the world's population was nearsighted or myopic, but it is expected to increase to above 50% by 2050 (30 years from now).

Dire predictions

Based on the current increasing prevalence of myopia in India, scientists from the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) predict that 64 million children (aged 5-15 years) living in urban regions of the country alone will have myopia by the year 2050, if no interventions are made to control it. While many factors are known to counteract this problem, recent studies indicate less time spent outdoors to be a risk factor for myopia. Ambient levels of light during daytime tend to be over 10 to 100 times brighter than that indoors. There are various ways in which such outdoor brightness helps protect the human eye from becoming myopic. (1) If you

are in an open space, and not performing any 'near work', the stress on the eye is reduced. (2) Outdoor environment provides equal optical stimuli to various parts of the peripheral retina (the posterior part of the eye) and also enables exposure to different colours (the so-called VIBGYOR) equally well, while indoor lighting using artificial sources that cut off specific wavelengths. (3) Upon bright illumination in sunlight, the pupil reduces its size and reduces blur, and increase the depth of focus. (4) Sunlight exposure helps the biology of the eye, helping it to produce more vitamin D. (5) Exposure to bright light releases the hormone dopamine, which controls the length of the eye ball; the shorter it is, myopia might set in. (In this connection, see Rohit Dhakal

and Pavan K. Verkitcharla: "Increasing time in outdoor environment could counteract the rising prevalence of myopia in Indian school-going children", *Current Science*, 119(1-4), 2020). Intense educational pressure from the family and teachers to achieve academic excellence, excessive homework, attending coaching classes (invariably held late in the evening, or before school timing for entrance exams) rob high school children of sunlight, leading to the myopia epidemic becoming an endemic, and a sub-global pandemic in Central and East Asian subcontinent.

Policy suggestions

Rohit Dhakal and Pavan Verkitcharla (myopia researchers from LVPEI) have made some obvious and public

health policy suggestions, which can be implemented right away, particularly now that we have the National Education Policy getting ready for implementation.

These are: Mandatory 60 minutes of recess time in all schools during the school hours every day, by locking the classrooms to keep the students in sunlight, starting from primary level to the high schools. Have a structured recess time incorporated into all their curricula. Make it mandatory for schools to have enough space for playgrounds. Create public awareness among parents about the importance of proper eyesight and control the use of near-vision devices such as smartphones. Recommend/promote community centres in each locality to organise outdoor programmes weekly or at least twice a month.

Many reasons

All these are obvious and yet not followed, due to economic, financial, real estate and sociological reasons. But at least schools and colleges in the hands of the State and Central governments should attempt to do so. The future stares at us – lest we become short-sighted or myopic in more than one sense.

Even as I write, comes a new publication which says that suggests that

late is a risk factor for myopia development amongst school-age children in China (X N Liu et al.; *Scientific Reports* (2020) 10:17194 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-74348-7>). They point out that years of study have identified a number of risk factors for myopia, such as family history, genetics, urban living environment. Recent studies also indicate that shorter sleep duration and poorer sleep quality are associated with the development of myopia. They disturb the circadian rhythm of the body, particularly in the brain, and also strain the retina. Thus, early to bed and deep sleep are preventive measures against the onset of myopia.

Again, we know that this, too, is becoming difficult with online teaching through web classes, and with the use of television as an instructive medium, particularly for poorer children in rural areas who do not have smartphones. While this may be inevitable during these lockdown days, it should not become an inevitable teaching method, and schools must reopen and conduct classes during daytime.

(I thank Dr. Pavan Verkitcharla for sharing views and advice, and contributing to this article.)



Question Corner

Bird brains can hold a lot

How different are the brains of birds from those of mammals?

Ravens recognise themselves in a mirror, and these birds are known to even plan for the future. Studies have shown that pigeons can be taught to recognise English words learned spellings.

Now, another study (*Science*, September 2020) shows that birds have a more organised brain than previously thought. The cognitive skills of mammals are related to the cerebral cortex. But birds don't have this cerebral cortex, they have a region called the pallium, and studies on this region have now revealed new information on its architecture.

Using a special technique, the team studied the orientation of individual nerve fibres in the brains of 42 homing pigeons, nine barn owls, a rat, a vulture

monkey and one human. They found that the brains of the birds had an organisation similar to mammalian brains. The fibres were arranged horizontally and vertically, just like in the neocortex region of the mammal brain. Another study to examine the interconnection of cells in the sensory areas of bird brain found connections similar to mammal brains.

According to the researchers led by Martin Stacho from Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany, there is a possibility that mammals and birds independently developed similar microcircuits by convergent or parallel evolution. The study addresses how mammals and birds show such similar perceptual and cognitive feats.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in





Students appearing for NEET in Coimbatore on September 13. ■ SIVA SARAVANAN

NEET quota in T.N.

How will the reservation of 7.5% seats in medical admissions help students from State-run schools?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: On October 30, the Tamil Nadu (T.N.) Governor gave his assent to a Bill that sought to reserve 7.5% seats in undergraduate medical admissions for government-school students who qualified NEET. The Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a Bill on the quota in September this year.

Why was Tamil Nadu opposed to NEET? Among the States that were strident in their opposition to NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) was Tamil Nadu. The opposition was manifest in protests on the streets and in the corridors of justice. One of the primary arguments that were made was that NEET would push certain categories of students out of the race for MBBS degrees, and its goal of providing equitable opportunities for all would be frustrated. Students from government schools and rural areas would not be able to afford the coaching that would be essential for the competitive test, the State government argued. The State wanted to continue its own criteria for entry of students from government schools and rural areas into medical colleges – candidates were being accommodated with a computed aggregate score of relevant subjects in the Class XII examination.

Since 2017, when NEET was implemented in Tamil Nadu, only 14 students from government schools have managed to get admitted to the MBBS course.

What did the State do?

The inevitability of using NEET to select candidates for MBBS seats led critics to point to unique disadvantages for students from government schools, and seek redress on this front. The government ran free coaching centres for NEET to help students prepare for the examination.

In 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, of the nearly 700 government-school students who cleared the NEET, nine entered government medical colleges, according to data provided by Tamil Nadu health authorities. In 2017, the Centre granted exemption to the State to admit students under the State quota (SQ) based on marks in Class XII. But self-financing colleges had to admit on the basis of NEET scores, and three students from government schools got admission into private medical colleges that year.

Clearly, some form of affirmative action was required to increase these numbers, the government reasoned.

In mid-September, the State government has acted on the recommendations of the P. Kalaiyasan Commission, which tried to set right the “*de facto* inequalities between government school students and private school students”

Assembly passed a Bill that sought to provide 7.5% horizontal reservation for government-school students in MBBS admissions, based on the recommendations of a Commission headed by retired High Court judge P. Kalaiyasan, to set right the “*de facto* inequalities” between government-school students and private-school students. The Commission, in its report, made the observation that students from government schools are placed at a disadvantage, compared to their counterparts in private schools, “due to a cognitive gap created by socio-economic factors such as caste, wealth, parental occupation, parental education, gender, etc., and these psychological and socio-economic barriers cannot be bridged by a few months of intensive coaching for NEET, even if provided for free”. It recommended setting aside 10% seats for government students.

Who will benefit? The government, however, chose to go with 7.5%. Students, who studied in government schools from Class VI onwards, including corporation schools, municipal schools, Adi Dravida and tribal welfare schools, Kalla reclamation schools, forest department schools and those managed by government departments, and have qualified the NEET, would benefit. An intervention was made to include students from government-aided schools too, but that has not been factored in yet. The Bill was passed unanimously, and forwarded to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for his assent.

How many seats will students from government schools be eligible for this admission season? In the MBBS course in government medical colleges, 15% seats are set aside under the All India Quota, and the remaining 85% will be available for the SQ, to be filled up according to the rule of reservation. A further percentage of seats (65% in private self-financing colleges, and 50% in private, self-financing minority colleges) will also be added to the government’s quota. This year, it adds up to a total of 4,058 seats, and 7.5% of that comes to 304 seats, according to State health authorities. Where 14 students were admitted in three years, 304 students from government schools will have the opportunity to take up medical education, provided they have cleared NEET, in Tamil Nadu.

Horizontal reservations are applied irrespective of the community a student belongs to, just as in the case of quota for persons with disability or wards of ex-service personnel. The government also specified that if a government-school student has scored high marks, she or he could also opt to be allotted a seat based on their community reservation.

State Health secretary, J. Radhakrishnan, reiterated that the integrity of the 69% caste-based reservation for medical admissions would be preserved while admitting students to ensure that it is not violated in any manner.

Rethinking America's electoral system

What is the debate around the poll process and why are questions being raised about its viability?

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The story so far: The 2020 U.S. presidential election has been one of the most bitterly polarised democratic exercises in recent memory. The winner, Democrat and former Vice-President Joe Biden, has won over 74 million votes, and his rival, incumbent Republican president Donald Trump, has garnered over 70 million votes. The fact that this election has seen one of the highest turnout numbers since 1960 suggests that voters and both campaigns pushed hard to get their chosen candidate elected. But despite the presence of both a ‘blue wave’ and a ‘red wave’, the final outcome came down to the wire, and hinged on narrow vote margins in a handful of ‘swing States’. These circumstances have fuelled anger over the lack of direct representation in the electoral system and has raised questions surrounding the viability of the institution, the ‘Electoral College’, that renders the popular vote insufficient to determine the victor.

How does the Electoral College work?

The Electoral College refers to the process by which the winner of the popular vote in each State is allocated a pre-specified number of electoral delegates, or electors, per U.S. State, and these electors go on to decide who the President of the country will be. The electors of each State are appointed by the Democratic and Republican Parties (and third parties, where applicable) of the State.

The college follows a winner-takes-all rule for the popular vote, giving the first candidate past the post all of the electors of that State. For example, if more than 50% of the voters in North Carolina vote for the Republican Party, then all the electors allocated to that State will be Republican. Each State has the same number of electors as it does members in its Congressional delegation, namely one for each member in the House of Representatives and two Senators. Across the U.S., there are 538 electors. To win the presidency, a candidate would be required to secure at least 270 votes in the Electoral College.

Are there any exceptions and caveats to this system?

The minor exceptions to this system are Maine and Nebraska, which appoint individual electors based on the winner of the popular vote for each Congressional district and then two electors based on the winner of the overall State-wide popular vote. Although it is rare for either State to have a split vote, that occurred in Nebraska in 2008 and in Maine in 2016.

Once the votes are in, the electors are required to meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December to cast ballots for the President and the Vice-President. In 2020, that will be on December 14.

A caveat in the Electoral College system that might end up being salient to the 2020 election is that while an overwhelming majority of electors cast their vote for the President based on their prior party affiliation, there have been occasions in the past, however rare, when the electors have surprised the college by picking another candidate than the one they were pledged to choose. These electors are known as “faithless electors”. Had Mr. Biden not won a significant number of Electoral College votes, a few such faithless electors might have endangered his prospects of entering the Oval Office.

Why is there frustration over the Electoral College today?

At the broadest level, there are two reasons why the Electoral College, as a mechanism for representing the will of the people, might be considered suboptimal.

Firstly, under this system, surprisingly few voters truly



Collective action: Voters wait in a line outside a polling centre in Kenosha, Wisconsin on November 3. ■ AP

Under the Electoral College system, few voters truly matter. It also comes packaged with complex and potentially self-defeating contingency proceedings in unusual election circumstances, some of which have occurred in the 2020 election

matter in an election. The reason is that except for a handful of ‘swing States’, which have the potential to flip from one party to the other, all the others have historically only voted for the same party, and are likely to do so this time too.

The swing States of the 2020 election included Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio,

Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Even with a historically high turnout this year, not all voters in these States would likely be independent or undecided voters, capable of switching votes from one candidate to another. This puts, according to some analyses, the proportion of voters actually determining the outcome of the U.S. presidential election well below 10% of the total population.

If the Electoral College were done away with, and the popular vote at the precinct or county level became the criterion for victory in a presidential election, this would considerably expand the extent to which the preferences of the voting population were truly represented in the choice of political leaders.

Second, the Electoral College also comes packaged with complex and potentially self-defeating contingency proceedings in unusual election circumstances, some of which have occurred in the 2020 election. Consider this: If Mr. Biden had not obtained an undisputed majority of Electoral College votes, a ‘contingent election’ might have had to be held under the 12th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Under this system, the election of the President would have become the responsibility of the House of Representatives, with each State delegation

casting one vote for its preferred candidate. This would also happen in a scenario where legal cases filed by the Trump campaign delay the confirmation of the final result. Given that red States outnumber blue States in this election, such a process might have led to Mr. Trump, rather than Mr. Biden, being confirmed by Congress as President. However, according to the Congressional record, only two presidential elections have been decided in the House, in 1800 and 1824 respectively.

How did the Electoral College come into being and why has it not been replaced by direct representation?

Some among the framers of the U.S. Constitution were of the view that Congress ought to elect the President, while some preferred that the power rest with State legislators or Governors. It was James Wilson of Pennsylvania, one of the founding fathers of the U.S., who suggested the Electoral College system as a compromise, wherein “electors would serve as informed intermediaries between the masses and their government and have independence to break from the popular vote in their States when they deemed that necessary”.

Ironically, another founding father of the country, Alexander Hamilton, endorsed the system in 1788 on the grounds that it guaranteed that U.S. Presidents would be “characters preeminent for ability and virtue” and not merely adept at “the little arts of popularity”.

Congressional proposals to pass a constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College in favour of a direct, popular election, were put forth in 1969, and again a decade later, but the measures never reached the required two-thirds majority. Efforts by Democratic Senators to revive this discussion in 2019 have not advanced either.

Resistance to such change comes not only from swing States, which receive outsized focus from presidential candidates during election campaigns, but also from smaller States with relatively minuscule populations, who fear loss of voice in the federal government system, should the Electoral College be abolished.

Inter-faith marriages, conversion and the law

What are the provisions of the Special Marriage Act and why are States opting for legislation on ‘freedom of religion’?

K. VENKATARAMAN

The story so far: The Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA) was enacted to facilitate the marriage of couples professing different faiths and preferring a civil wedding. However, some practical problems arise in registering such marriages. The law’s features on prior public notice being given and objections being called from any quarter place a question mark on the safety and privacy of those intending to marry across religions. Many settle for marriage under the personal law of one of them, with the other opting for religious conversion. Even this option is now under threat, as recent remarks by the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and a Karnataka Minister indicate. All of them want to ban conversion for the sole purpose of marriage.

What are the features of the SMA?

The marriage of any two persons may be solemnised under the SMA, subject to the man having completed 21 years of age and the woman 18. Neither should have a spouse living; both should be capable of giving valid consent, should not suffer from any mental disorder of a kind that renders them unfit for marriage and procreation. They should not be within the degrees of prohibited relationship – that is, they should not be related in such a way that their religion does not permit such marriages. Parties to an intended marriage should give notice to the ‘marriage officer’ of the district in which one of them had resided for at least 30 days. The notice will have to be entered in a ‘Marriage Notice Book’ and a copy of it displayed at a conspicuous place in the office. The Notice Book is open for inspection at all reasonable times without a fee. Further, if either of the parties is not a permanent resident of the district, the marriage officer has to send a copy to his counterpart in the district where the party has permanent residence. The notice shall be displayed in that district office too.

The marriage has to be solemnised within three months of the notice, and if it is not, a fresh notice will be needed. The law also provides for objections to the marriage. Any person can object to the marriage within 30 days of the publication of the notice on the ground that it contravenes one of the conditions for a valid marriage. The marriage officer has to inquire into the objection and give a decision within 30 days. If he refuses permission for the marriage, an appeal can be made to the district court. The court’s decision will be final.

Also, the Act says that when a member of an undivided



The provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954, have been challenged in the Supreme Court recently on the grounds that they violate the privacy of the couples, their dignity and right to marry

of them converting to the religion professed by the other. While conversion to Islam and Christianity has formal means, there is no prescribed ceremony for conversion to Hinduism. The Hindu Marriage Act is also applicable to “any person who is a convert or re-convert to the Hindu, Buddhist, Jain or Sikh religion”. In a recent ruling, the Allahabad High Court declined to grant police

protection to a couple, of whom the bride was a Muslim who converted to Hinduism, citing past precedents that said conversion should be based on change of heart and conviction and should not be solely for the purpose of marriage.

Based on a Kerala High Court recommendation, the Law Commission of India had recommended in 2010 that every person who has converted may be allowed to send a declaration within a month to the officer who registers marriages in the area, and it may be confirmed in person after 21 days. However, this recommendation was not made applicable to States that have a Freedom of Religion Act (which are essentially anti-conversion laws).

Are there laws against conversion for the sake of marriage?

Even though Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) and Karnataka have spoken about a separate enactment, at least two States have legal provisions to the effect. The Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019, and the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018, both prohibit conversion by misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence, inducement, allurement and ‘by marriage’. There is a separate section in both laws under which, not conversion for the purpose of marriage, but marriage done solely for the purpose of conversion, may be declared null and void by a family court based on a suit by either party.

The U.P. State Law Commission has recommended a similar Freedom of Religion law in the State and favours a provision under which marriages solemnised solely for conversion of one of the parties may be nullified by a family court.

PARIS ACCORD

A race against the clock to keep the planet cool

Joe Biden, who won the 2020 presidential race, could take the U.S. back to the leadership position in the fight against climate change

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

The U.S. could become the leader in the world's quest to avert dangerous climate change under a Joe Biden presidency, marking a return to global cooperation and reversing President Donald Trump's isolationist rejection of efforts to cut carbon emissions.

On November 4, a year after serving notice, and three years after expressing its intent, the U.S., under Mr. Trump, formally exited the UN's Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This concluded the repudiation of the vision outlined by President Barack Obama in the French capital in 2015 to over 150 country leaders at the UN climate conference. He had assured them that "the United States of America not only recognises our role in creating this problem, we embrace our responsibility to do something about it." Mr. Biden, who worked with Mr. Obama to win acceptance for the climate accord, has vowed to return to the Paris Agreement on his very first day in office.

Pressure from civil society is mounting on all countries to act on carbon emissions, in order to keep global temperature rise well within the goal of 2°C from pre-industrial levels, and to try and limit it to 1.5°C, as mandated by the Paris Agreement. The global compact works on the principle of voluntary national contributions to re-

duce greenhouse gas emissions, and came into force on November 4, 2016. So far, 188 out of 197 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have ratified it, but the U.S. is no longer a party after Mr. Trump's move.

Under the Agreement, developed countries are required to help raise funds for developing countries, aid in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and help transfer clean technologies. But out of \$100 billion dollars targeted to be raised for such climate funding by 2020, the latest assessed figure in 2018 was \$78.9 billion, an OECD study says.

As countries have opened up after lockdowns, emissions have begun to rise after a temporary fall, turning the focus back on longer-term clean energy solutions

Fund flows slowed after the U.S. decided to withdraw.

The Paris Agreement also lays emphasis on transparency, requiring all parties to submit national emissions sources and removals of carbon dioxide, using good practices outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These reports are to be technically reviewed, and the



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

performance of countries compared with the emissions reductions they have pledged. As the second largest emitter of CO₂, and a superpower with a wide body of research on climate issues, the U.S. has a major role in advancing global goals.

Mr. Trump has spent a great deal of time undoing the measures taken by his predecessor to cut greenhouse gas emissions, focusing on high-pollution sectors such as outmoded coal plants and fossil-fuel-powered ground transport, and defunding enforcement. Over the past four years, Mr. Obama's rules created impact, with the International Energy Agency estimating the fall in U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2019 at 2.9%, or 140 million tonnes, the highest for any

country. The COVID-19 pandemic produced the temporary effect of sharply reducing emissions in all countries, including the U.S., exceeding even the years of the Second World War. The fall in emissions in the first half of 2020 globally may be of the order of 8.8% compared to the previous year, coinciding with the lockdowns, researchers report in *Nature Communications*. But as countries have opened up again, emissions have also begun to rise, turning the focus back on longer-term clean energy solutions envisaged in the climate accord.

The Biden Plan

This is where the Democratic leader hopes to make a mark. The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice,

which he articulated during the presidential election campaign, vows to steer the U.S. back to its leadership position, after re-entering the Paris Agreement. The process requires only a notification to be sent to the UN.

Within 100 days, he's also promised to host a world summit on climate at which the leaders of the nations with the highest emissions [which would include China, the European Union and India] would be engaged, to collaborate and raise ambition on cutting greenhouse gases. Under the Paris pact, updated plans aimed at achieving enhanced goals are expected to be filed by ratifying countries every five years, and they are due in 2020, although the pandemic has slowed progress.

If Mr. Biden gets the op-

portunity to put U.S. policy back on track, it will mean a return to the UN system's scientific consensus on climate change and a progressive plan to come up with enforceable targets that will take America to net zero emissions by mid-century and achieve measurable progress on this goal by 2025.

The Democratic plan also adheres to the vision of a Green New Deal, with its promise of good jobs. Mr. Biden sees a "huge opportunity to revitalise the U.S. energy sector, boost growth economy-wide, and reclaim the mantle as the world's clean energy leader and top exporter". His emphasis on multilateralism, which underpins the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, implies strong emphasis on arrangements

to increase funding and transfer of clean technologies that innovation makes possible. These objectives are part of Articles 10, 11, and 13 of the accord.

Mr. Biden would have to forge a difficult consensus on using prices and levies to move to a low carbon business path. In his climate plan, he has spoken of preventing other countries, including China, becoming "destination economies" for polluters. He also favours adjustment fees or quotas for carbon-intensive goods from other countries, aligned with steps to make domestic polluters pay.

In Focus

■ The Paris Agreement came into force on November 4, 2016, and works on the principle of voluntary national contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

■ It seeks to keep global temperature rise well within the goal of 2°C from pre-industrial levels, and to try and limit it to 1.5°C

■ So far, 188 out of the 197 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have ratified it, but the U.S. is no longer a party after Donald Trump pulled the country out

TEJASHWI YADAV

The cricketer-turned-heir apparent

The RJD leader has the party under his command but faces tough challenges

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who became the talking point of the Bihar Assembly elections with enthusiastic and almost delirious crowds thronging his round-the-clock rallies, will turn 31 on Monday.

Born on November 9, 1989, four months before his father Lalu Prasad Yadav, at the age of 42, became the Chief Minister of Bihar for the first time, Mr. Tejashwi is now at the centre of the opposition campaign to unseat Nitish Kumar, who has been in power for 15 years.

Today's media-savvy crowdpuller stands in stark contrast with the Tejashwi Yadav of May 2019, when the RJD suffered a big loss in the Lok Sabha elections.

It was the first election of the RJD without Mr. Lalu Yadav in charge. Mr. Tejashwi's elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav had formed the Lalu-Rabri Morcha. The youngest of Mr. Lalu Prasad's nine children, Mr. Tejashwi faced criticism for "not accommodating" allies, especially the Communist Party of India's rising star Kanhaiya Kumar, due to "insecurity". There were reports of him not being "respectful" towards the RJD's senior leaders.

He did not cast his vote in the Lok Sabha polls, after suffering a ligament injury. For more than a month, he disappeared from the public eye, leaving it to others to explain the party's humiliat-



ing defeat – the RJD drew a blank in the Lok Sabha elections.

So what has changed in 18-months? "Nothing," says his close aide Sanjay Yadav. The 'media' media have discovered Mr. Tejashwi only now, says Mr. Yadav. "False perception was created that he [Tejashwi] doesn't have a connect with the party cadres or the voters. If that was the case, the party would have disintegrated after Nitish Kumar returned to the NDA in 2017. Did that happen?"

The transition from being Mr. Lalu Prasad's son to coming on his own took a long time for Mr. Tejashwi. Politics was not his first choice of career. He started out as a cricketer after dropping out of class 10. He was studying at Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, in Delhi.

A middle order batsman with good cover drive, he was in Delhi's under-19 cricket team at the same time when Virat Kohli was

playing. He also played a season for Jharkhand during a Ranji Trophy tournament. Later, he was picked for the Delhi Daredevils IPL team, where he had to stick it out on the reserve bench for four seasons from 2008. In 2012, he gave up on cricket and decided to focus full time on politics.

First public address

Mr. Lalu Prasad picked him over his elder brother, Tej Pratap Yadav, to be his political heir. Mr. Tejashwi's first public address was in 2010 when he campaigned with his father for the Assembly election. The RJD then won only 22 seats in the 243-member Assembly.

When Mr. Lalu Prasad was arrested in September 2013, the party was not ready to appoint Mr. Tejashwi as the heir. Ram Kripal Yadav, a Lalu aide, told reporters then that the polls were being fought under guidance of the party patriarch. "Tejashwi has the ability to listen to everyone from people of Bihar to experts who closely study the State and then make his mind independently," Mr. Jha said.

volved in the party affairs. But he will be made a leading face of the party only in the long term," he had said. A year later, Mr. Ram Kripal switched over to the BJP after Mr. Lalu Prasad chose his daughter Misa Bharati for the Pataliputra seat over him.

At 26, Mr. Tejashwi contested his first election in 2015 from the Raghunath Assembly constituency and won as the RJD and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal-United (JD-U) were in an alliance. With 81 seats, 11 more than the JD (U)'s tally, it was a resounding victory for Mr. Lalu Prasad. Mr. Tejashwi was appointed Deputy Chief Minister under Nitish Kumar.

Months before the alliance fell, a CBI case was registered against Mr. Tejashwi on State government's consent for a 'land for hotel' scam. Mr. Tejashwi accused the BJP of playing vendetta politics. The Mahagatbandhan collapsed in July 2017 when Nitish Kumar returned to the NDA.

Now, when the elections are under way, Mr. Tejashwi is facing the biggest test of his career – unseat the NDA from power.

Senior RJD leader and Raja Sabha MP Manoj K. Jha, who has been associated with Mr. Tejashwi since 2012, claims that, he is a keen learner. "He has the ability to listen to everyone from people of Bihar to experts who closely study the State and then make his mind independently," Mr. Jha said.

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The Khorasan Province – referring to an area encompassing Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia – in January 2015, the group's immediate strategy was to exploit the divisions within the jihadist groups operating in the region. It appointed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander Hafiz Saeed Khan as its leader and former Afghan Taliban commander Abdul Rauf Aliza as his deputy (both were killed in U.S. strikes). It attracted members from different militant organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the Haqqani Network and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan into its fold.

The ISKP declared its allegiance to Baghda. In operational tactics and ideology, it followed its parental organisation. The key goal is to establish "Islamic rule" in the "province". "There is no doubt that Allah the Almighty blessed us with jihad in the land of Khorasan since a long time ago, and it

The Taliban did not like its monopoly over violent jihad being challenged by another organisation. The Taliban are a tribal, nationalist militant force whereas the ISKP doesn't believe in national borders, and stands for a global Islamic Caliphate. The Taliban fought back. The U.S. carried out a number of targeted attacks, killing several of the ISKP's leaders. In April 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered troops to drop the 'Mother of all Bombs', the most powerful non-nuclear bomb, on IS caves in eastern Afghanistan. One of the terms of the U.S.-Taliban agreement, reached in February, was that the Taliban would not allow transnational terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and the IS operate in Afghan soil.

But despite the U.S.'s targeted bombings and the Taliban's counter-attacks, the ISKP has continued to expand its operations. While the Taliban have shifted the focus of its war to the police and security officials, the ISKP is waging a sectarian war on the Afghan public.

As much of the country remains lawless, the conditions favour the ISKP to grow, like they did in Iraq and Syria in 2013-14. Also, when the Taliban are involved in direct talks with the Kabul government, the ISKP would try to wean the hardline factions away from the insurgency. When the Taliban want to be back in Kabul, the ISKP wants to be the new Taliban.

IS-KHORASAN PROVINCE

Black flag in Afghanistan

Despite U.S. strikes and Taliban attacks, IS continues operations in the country

STANLY JOHNY

In June 2015, a few months after the Islamic State announced its Khorasan Wilayat (Province), the Taliban wrote a letter to the IS chief, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, asking him to stop recruiting jihadists in Afghanistan. The letter, signed by the then political committee chief of the Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Mansour (who would take over the insurgency's leadership in a month), said there was room for "only one flag and one leadership" in the fight to re-establish Islamic rule in Afghanistan.

But the IS faction, which came to be known as the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), did not stop recruiting disgruntled Taliban fighters. Nor did it stop attacking the Taliban or launching terror strikes across Afghanistan, mainly targeting the Shias and other minorities.

In the last five years, the ISKP has built an organisational network in Afghanistan from the eastern Nangarhar province, attracted followers from across South, West and Central Asia, and killed hundreds. In their latest attack, three gunmen stormed the Kabul University on November 2, killing at least 35. A week earlier, a suicide bomber struck an education centre in one of the capital's Shia populated areas, killing 24, many among them teenagers.

When the Islamic State announced the formation of

the Khorasan Province – referring to an area encompassing Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia – in January 2015, the group's immediate strategy was to exploit the divisions within the jihadist groups operating in the region. It appointed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander Hafiz Saeed Khan as its leader and former Afghan Taliban commander Abdul Rauf Aliza as his deputy (both were killed in U.S. strikes). It attracted members from different militant organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the Haqqani Network and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan into its fold.

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is from the grace of Allah that we fought any disbeliever who entered the land of Khorasan. All of this is for the sake of establishing the Shariah," the ISKP said in a video message in 2015.

Under pressure

When the IS in Iraq and Syria came under pressure in 2015 and 2016, the core organisation shifted its focus to Afghanistan. The IS was losing territories to Kurdish militias in Syria and government forces in Iraq. In Afghanistan, a divided country with the government's writ hardly reaching its hinterlands, the IS saw an opportunity to build a branch. Having built its base in eastern Afghanistan, the ISKP issued propaganda videos in which its militants appeared holding the group's notorious black flags, and called on Muslim youth across Asia to join them.

The IS came under pressure in Afghanistan as well.

In-form Sunrisers, struggling Capitals face off in last chance saloon

Warner's side is playing its best cricket at the back-end of the tournament, winning four in a row; Shreyas' men need to turn things around after the heavy MI loss

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi Capitals will need to regroup quickly from the crushing defeat to Mumbai Indians as the red-hot Sunrisers Hyderabad come calling in Sunday's second qualifier at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

DC, which appeared to have turned a corner by snapping a four-match losing streak, against Royal Challengers Bangalore, was battered by MI into submission. SRH, on the other hand, is on a four-match winning run and appears hungry for more.

Interesting

It will be interesting to observe the extent to which DC skipper Shreyas Iyer and head coach Ricky Ponting can motivate the team. Shreyas' recent form is a cause for worry and the brittle top-order has left him with very little room for error. Prithvi Shaw will be fortunate to get another game, following six single-digit scores in the last seven outings.

Of late, sides are seemingly turning towards collective decision-making and DC's will be severely tested on Sunday. In the last four matches it has won the toss, DC has opted to bowl every time, only to con-

cede in excess of 190 thrice and then wilt under scoreboard pressure. One of these was against SRH, when the latter racked up 219.

Bright spot

R. Ashwin's bowling has been a bright spot, especially against MI, when he returned figures of 4-0-29-3. Despite struggling with an injury, he sent back Rohit Sharma, Quinton de Kock and Kieron Pollard, even as four other frontline bowlers, Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje included, went for 163 runs from 15 overs and picked up just one wicket.

Should Ashwin be ruled fit, the ace off-spinner's match-up against Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson will make for fascinating viewing. But before that, DC will have to keep the explosive David Warner quiet. Fellow opener Wriddhiman Saha, who has scored 214 runs from four games at a strike-rate of 139.86, missed the Eliminator against RCB and remains a doubt.

Outstanding Holder

While the bowling trio of Sandeep Sharma, T. Natarajan and Rashid Khan continues to impress, Jason Holder, the world's top-ranked Test all-rounder, has been outstanding of late. The West Indian

Can Delhi break the hoodoo?

Delhi has never made it to the final, twice losing in Qualifier 2. SRH, on the other hand, has won both its 'semifinal' games

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

2016

- Qualifier 2: SRH bt Gujarat Lions by four wickets
- Eliminator: SRH bt KKR by 22 runs

2018

- Qualifier 2: SRH bt KKR by 14 runs
- Qualifier 1: SRH lost to CSK by two wickets

- Qualifier 2: DC lost to CSK by six wickets
- Eliminator: DC bt SRH by two wickets



DELHI CAPITALS

2012

- Qualifier 2: Delhi Daredevils lost to CSK by 86 runs
- Qualifier 1: Delhi Daredevils lost to KKR by 18 runs

2019

- Qualifier 2: DC lost to CSK by six wickets

- Eliminator: DC bt SRH by two wickets

has picked up seven wickets in the previous three games at an economy rate under 6.5 and played match-winning knocks from No. 6 in two recent chases.

It even prompted the calm and collected Williamson to describe Holder as "cooler than me". If the two Test captains can help their side keep their heads again, the right to play MI in the final will be SRH's.

TODAY'S MATCH



ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

FORM GUIDE

(last five matches, latest game first)

DC L | W | L | L | L

SRH W | W | W | W | L

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

PowerPlay impact

Matches won by teams scoring more runs than opposition in PowerPlay (PP)

37 | 71.15% WIN RATE

Range of runs in PP

Matches won

Win %

Less than 30

1

16.67

30-34

1

11.11

35-39

8

61.54

40-44

8

44.44

45-49

8

47.06

50 & above

28

62.22

As Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad get ready to meet in Qualifier 2, breaking down the way the first six overs of an innings have influenced the outcome of contests in IPL 2020

Matches won by teams losing fewer wickets than opposition in PowerPlay

26 | 65% WIN RATE

Range of wickets in PP

Matches won

Win %

No loss

18

72.00

One down

20

51.28

Two down

12

40.00

Three down

4

40.00

More than three down

0

0.00

(TIED MATCHES NOT INCLUDED)

Matches won by teams scoring more runs and losing fewer wickets than opposition in PP

23 | 79.31% WIN RATE

Matches won by teams scoring fewer runs and losing more wickets than opposition in PP

23 | 79.31% WIN RATE



TEAMWISE POWERPLAY SUMMARY

Warner's men lead the table both in terms of average runs (50.33) and minimum wickets lost (0.80). The Hyderabad side has also scored the highest in the PowerPlay (77) in this edition, incidentally against DC

	Best	Worst	Average	Overall record
MI	63/1	35/2	48.93/1.27	P 15 W 10 T 2 L 3
DC	63/0	22/2	43.20/1.73	P 15 W 7 T 1 L 7
SRH	77/0	26/1	50.33/0.80	P 15 W 8 T 1 L 6
RCB	59/0	30/2	45.20/1.07	P 15 W 6 T 1 L 8
KKR	59/1	17/4	42.64/1.64	P 14 W 6 T 1 L 7
KXIP	60/0	35/3	48.36/1.00	P 14 W 5 T 2 L 7
CSK	60/0	24/5	42.79/1.50	P 14 W 6 T 0 L 8
RR	69/1	31/3	46.43/2.07	P 14 W 6 T 0 L 8

Statistics pertain to the first 58 matches of IPL 2020. Four games – Delhi Capitals vs Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bangalore, Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers and Mumbai Indians vs Kings XI Punjab – ended in a Tie.

Oz tour:
Kohli may miss last two Tests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
India skipper Virat Kohli might miss the last two Tests of the four-match series against Australia as he gets ready to welcome his first child in January.

Kohli's wife Anushka Sharma is due to give birth in early January.

Official word on the skipper's itinerary is not yet out, but a BCCI source said that Kohli can be expected to take paternity leave after the first two Tests of the series starting on December 17.

Atapattu and bowlers put Supernovas in the final

Will face Trailblazers again after a thrilling two-run win; Velocity knocked out on net run rate



T20 CHALLENGE

SPORTS BUREAU

They looked down and nearly out, but Harmanpreet Kaur's women survived several anxious moments and moved into the final of the Women's T20 Challenge.

It was Harleen's fifth-wicket partnership of 52 with Deepthi Sharma (43 not out, 40b, 5x4) that had brought her side back into the game.

Despite the loss, Trailblazers made it to the final.

With all three teams fin-

ishing on two points, net run rate identified the finalists.

Velocity missed out, paying the price for being shot out for 47 against Trailblazers.

Radha's calmness may have clinched the issue for Supernovas, but the win was set up by a splendid innings from Chamari Atapattu (67, 48b, 5x4, 4x6), which helped her side to 146 for six.

With her opening partner Priya Punia (30, 37b, 3x4) struggling early on, the onus

SCOREBOARD

SUPERNOVAS

Priya Punia c Deepthi b Salma 30 (37b, 3x4), Chamari Atapattu c Hemalatha b Harleen 67 (48b, 5x4, 4x6), Harmanpreet Kaur run out 31 (29b, 1x4, 1x6), Jeemimah Rodrigues c & b Jhulan 1 (2b), Shashikala Sirivardene run out 2 (2b), Anuja Patil run out 1 (1b), Radha Yadav (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-6, w-7): 13; Total (for six wkts, in 20 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-89 (Priya, 11.6 overs), 2-118 (Chamari, 16.2), 3-122 (Jeemimah, 17.1), 4-143 (Shashikala, 19.1), 5-145 (Harmanpreet, 19.5), 6-146 (Anuja, 19.6).

SUPERNOVAS BOWLING

Ayabonga 2-0-17-0, Anuja 4-0-18-1, Radha 4-0-30-2, Shakera 4-0-31-2, Shashikala 3-0-19-0, Harmanpreet 2-0-15-0, Poonam 1-0-10-0.

TRAILBLAZERS BOWLING

Jhulan 4-0-17-1, Deepthi 2-0-25-0, Ecclestone 4-0-20-0, Rajeshwari 2-0-19-0, Salma 4-0-25-1, Harleen 4-0-34-1.

TRAILBLAZERS

Deandra Dottin lbw b Shakera 27 (15b, 4x4, 1x6), Smriti Mand-

was on Atapattu to find the boundary. She did. Though Priya found fielders with regularity, she eventually was able to break the shackles and added 89 for the first wicket in 12 overs,

TV PICKS

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m., 7.30 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.45 a.m. (Monday)
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m., 10.30 p.m. & 11.15 a.m. (Monday)
Paris Masters: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
MotoGP: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3.10 p.m.
PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Aditi finishes tied sixth, Tvesa is T-27 in Dubai

DUBAI
 Aditi Ashok carded a stunning eight-under 64 to sign off at an impressive tied sixth at the Omega Dubai Moonlight Classic here on Friday. Aditi rose from overnight T-17 for her second best result of 2020 after she tied fourth at the NSW Open in January. Tvesa Malik shot a 69 and rose to finish T-27, but Diksha Dagar (83) dropped to T-48 and Astha Madan T-52. Minjee Lee (69) beat Celine Boutier (68) in the play-off for the title. PTI

Shubhankar makes the cut, Chawrasia exits

PAPHOS (CYPRUS)
 Shubhankar Sharma was among 32 players who made the cut after the second round but compatriot S.S.P. Chawrasia fell by the wayside in the Aphrodite Hills Cyprus Showdown golf on Friday. Play was stopped early due to a threat of lightning. Shubhankar was five-under and tied 11th. Chawrasia was T-63. Jamie Donaldson led the field a shot ahead of Spaniard Jorge Campillo, who signed for a course record 62. PTI

SAI launches revamped diploma course

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
 NEW DELHI
 Eminent sportspersons will be undergoing the revamped sports diploma course of the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, inaugurated by the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, on Thursday.

"We are working to enhance the value and dignity of sportspersons and those who are connected with sports, creating better job facilities and economic well-being," the sports minister said.

With the focus aimed at attracting the former sportspersons of the country to give back to the sport by getting into coaching, the course has been redesigned to equip them with training methods matching global standards.

"We invite all former players and engage them in our talent scouting process and coaching," the minister said.

Simplifying the procedure, direct admission to the course was given to the sportspersons, including Olympians, so as to strengthen the coaching ecosystem in the country.

Taylor to captain OFC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 KOLKATA
 Former Newcastle United defender Steven Taylor will be the captain of Odisha FC in the seventh season of the Indian Super League, the club announced on Saturday.

"As you already must have noticed in the training sessions, his intent to mentor the young players, commanding presence and winning mentality shall help the team enormously," said OFC head coach Stuart Baxter.

"We have to stand by each other and be there for each other on and off the field," said Taylor.

OFC will meet Hyderabad FC on November 23 in its first match.

CM YK

We did not adapt as the pitches got slower: Hesson

Our core group is very good, but we need a little bit of tweaking, says Royal Challengers Bangalore's Director of Cricket Operations

IPL 2020

ASHWIN ACHAL
 BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)'s Director of Cricket Operations Mike Hesson stated that an inability to adapt to the slow pitches in the latter half of the IPL affected the team's progress. After a bright start, RCB lost the last five league matches, before going down to Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Eliminator on Friday.

Hesson added that there was no need to overhaul the RCB squad for the next season, and that a few tweaks would suffice.

"The strike rate of our middle-order in the first eight games was the second best in the competition."

"The problem manifested in the last five games. We did not adapt as the pitches got slower. We need more experience and adaptability in those conditions," Hesson said in a media interaction on Saturday.

Can't expose bowling
 "We've already had discussions (on plans for the next auction). Our core group is very good, but we need a lit-



The accumulator: Runs flowed from Devdutt Padikkal's bat in his debut IPL season. Right: Yuzvendra Chahal... crafty as ever.

• BCCI/IPL

te bit of tweaking. The middle-order cannot be filled with overseas players. We also can't stack one part of our game which we've done in the past – and leave our bowling exposed," Hesson said.

Hesson stated that the

team was pleased to have a strong Indian group of players, consisting of Devdutt Padikkal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Navdeep Saini and others.

Hesson defended Virat

Kohli's captaincy and unusually sedate tournament strike-rate of 121.35. "On most occasions,

"Kohli came in to bat after the PowerPlay. This is not an easy time to start batting, particularly in slow condi-

tions at UAE.

"But we saw his class in that 52-ball 90 against Chennai Super Kings. Certain game situations did not help him either.

"There were times when we would lose wickets when

he was on top of the bowling, which would slow his progress," Hesson said.

Time with youngsters

"From a leadership point of view, Kohli is highly professional and respected by the group here.

"Both Kohli and his wife Anushka (Sharma) spent a lot of time socialising with our group. Kohli spent a lot of time around younger players, especially with Padikkal as a mentor.

"Spending time with Kohli was invaluable for Padikkal's growth," Hesson said.

Batsmen looked nervous

Kohli, speaking to the broadcaster after the loss to SRH, said that the batsmen needed to be "more expressive" and that they seemed nervous and hesitant.

"We allowed bowlers to bowl in the areas they wanted to and didn't put enough pressure.

"In the last three-four games we have hit it straight to the fielders... lot of good shots going to the fielders.

"It has been a strange kind of phase in the last 4-5 games," Kohli said.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Royal Striker, Sports Cube in title clash

Haryana Ranji player Arun Chaprana slammed a quick fire 65-ball 123 as Royal Striker defeated Friends Club by seven wickets to enter final of the YS Sports T20 tournament.

In the other semifinal, Sumit Kumar scored an unbeaten 98 off just 38 balls as Sports Cube Academy beat Sahgal & Chaudhary in Super Over.

The scores: Friends Club 177/6 in 20 overs (Rohan Rathi 79, Jonty Sidhu 33, Priyansh Arya 31, Pramod Chandela 2/22) lost to Royal Striker 177/3 in 19 overs (Arun Chaprana 123, Paras Dogra 38 n.o.); S&C 183/6 in 20 overs (Suman Ansari 71, Harsh Raj 3/43) lost to SCA 183/4 in 20 overs (Sumit Kumar 98 n.o.).

Chikara hits 148 n.o.

Swastik Chikara's unbeaten 148 and all-round performance by Hitesh Gemini saw Haryana Academy thrash Devil Club by 317 runs in the Evententures Cup.

The scores: Haryana Academy 443/5 in 50 overs (Swastik Chikara 148 n.o., Harsht Kaushik 77, Hitesh Gemini 67) bt Devil Club 126 in 34.5 overs (Lakshit Kumar 63, Hitesh Gemini 3/22, Dhruv Sharma 3/23).

Siddhant and Kamal among wickets

Siddhant Sharma and Kamal Singh Bairwa took three wickets each and Delhi U-19 player Keshav Dabas top-scored with 84 as Ravindra Academy beat Sporting Club by 13 runs in the fifth Shanti Devi memorial tournament.

The scores: Ravindra Academy 173 in 39.1 overs (Keshav Dabas 84, Gaurav Sabharwal 38, Hardik Ranyal 4/28) bt Sporting Club 160 in 37.4 overs (Tanuj Dagar 52, Sameer Rai 41, Siddhant Sharma 3/27, Kamal Singh Bairwa 3/18).

Chigumbura to retire after Pakistan series

RAWALPINDI: Former Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura will retire from international cricket after the conclusion of the ongoing T20 series against Pakistan here. He is only the second Zimbabwean to achieve a double of 4000 runs and 100 wickets in ODIs. PTI

Ramkumar in final

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
 ECKENALT (GERMANY)

Ramkumar Ramanathan outclassed qualifier Marvin Moeller of Germany 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals of the €88,520 Challenger tennis tournament on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Ramkumar fired 12 aces, converted five of seven break-points in the match to pull through in an hour and 22 minutes.

In the ATP Masters event in Paris, Jürgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin defeated Rohan Bopanna and Oliver Marach 6-0, 7-6(2) in the doubles quarterfinals.

Bopanna and Marach collected 180 ATP points and shared €32,000.

In the ITF men's event in Egypt, Arjun Kadhe won his second successive doubles title with Vladislav Manafov of Ukraine. The 26-year-old

Arjun has seven other ITF doubles and two singles titles, apart from a Challenger doubles title with Saketh Myneni.

In the ITF women's tournament in Lousada, Portugal, Riya Bhattacharya made the doubles final with Ines Murta.

The results:

€3,732,680 ATP Masters, Paris: Doubles (quarterfinals): Jürgen Melzer (Aut) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt Oliver Marach (Aut) & Rohan Bopanna 6-0, 7-6(6).

€88,520 Challenger, Eckental, Germany: Semifinals: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Marvin Moeller (Ger) 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

€15,000 ITF women, Lousada, Portugal: Doubles (semifinals): Ines Murta (Por) & Riya Bhattacharya bt Kamila Bartone (Aut) & Alina Charaeva (Rus) 6-4, 6-3.

€15,000 ITF men, Sharjah, UAE: Doubles (final): Vladislav Manafov (Ukr) & Arjun Kadhe with Vladislav Orlov (Ukr) & Francisco Vilardo (Ita) 6-1, 6-3.

RACING

Cosmos wins Madras Race Club Trophy

BENGALURU: Darius Byramji-trained Cosmos (Irvin up), won the Madras Race Club Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (Nov 7).

The winner is owned by Mr. Rienzie Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards.

Trainer: S. Padmanabhan won three races, while jockey Trevor rode four winners.

Owner: Mr. R. Stud Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. N. Chandrasekhar Rai. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

4 KOKKAREBELLUR PLATE (I,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): LORD FRANKEL (Trevor) 1, Christopher Wren (A. Imran) 2, Antibes (Antony) 3 and Sporting Memories (Mark) 4. Nk, Hd and I. Im, 39.91s. ₹15 (w), 10, 13 and 10 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 34, FP: 390, Q: 94, Trinella: 295 and 1,517, Exacta: 3,833 (carried over). Favourite: Handsome.

Owners: Manjiri Horse Breed Pvt. Ltd, M/S. D.T. Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: Neil Darashan.

5 ANTAR GANGE PLATE (DIV. II), 1 (I,400m), rated 15 to 35: NIGHT SECRET (A. Imran) 1, Handsome (Suraj) 2, Rule of Engagement (J.H. Arul) 3 and Ultimate Striker (Jagadeesh) 4. 3, 1-1/2 and 6-3/4. Im, 27.16s. ₹16 (w), 30, 12 and 10 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 34, FP: 390, Q: 94, Trinella: 92 and 32, Exacta: 393 and 168. Favourite: Lord Frankel.

Owners: Mr. S. Padmanabhan, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Bachchawat Farms Pvt Ltd and Mr. C. Aryama Sonawala. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6 BIDAR PLATE (I,200m), rated 30 to 50: 1. DONNA BELLA (Suraj) 1, General Patton (Antony) 2, Anna Boleyn (Zervan) 3 and Rani Jindan (Neeraj) 4. 1, 2-1/2 and 1. Lnk. Im, 14.30s. ₹37 (w), 10, 15 and 40 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 66, FP: 213, Q: 157, Trinella: 271 and 116, Exacta: 904 and 193. Favourite: Donna Bella.

Owners: Mrs. Mahima Shailesh, Dr. Dayananda Pai, P. Dr. Thomas A. Chandy and Mr. K. Ravi. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

8. BANGARET PLATE (I,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: RORITO (Trevor) 1, Jain Sahab (Irvin) 2, Grey Channel (Jagadeesh) 3 and Fictioneer (Arvind Kumar) 4. 3/4, Nose and 1-3/4. Im, 27.75s. ₹31 (w), 20, 149 and 21 (p), SHP: 152, THP: 42, FP: 1,489 (carried over), Q: 1,788, Trinella: 2,434 (carried over). Favourite: Rorito.

Owner: Mr. Kishore M. Dingra. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6 MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (I,400m), rated 75 & above: COSMOS (Irvin) 1, Royal Crystal (Antony) 2, Into The Groove (P.P. Dhebe) 3 and Cerise Noir (Trevor) 4. Jackpot: ₹8,266 (one tkt); Runner-up: 1,771 (two tkt); Treble (i): 678 (two tkt); (ii): 1,181 (carried over).



In control: Tijil Rao on way to winning the Formula LGB 1300 Race-1. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
 CHENNAI

Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) chalked up another fluent win despite trouble with his car in the top end Indian Touring Cars class as the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship commenced at the MMRT behind closed doors here on Saturday.

Also finishing on top of the podium were Bengaluru's Rithwik Thomas (Race Concepts) in the Super Stock class and T.S. Diljith from Thrissur in the MRF Saloon Car Championship. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsport) and Mohamed Ryan (M Sport) won a race each in the Formula LGB 1300 category.

A couple of spells of rain led to some delay, but the stop-go proceedings did not affect the competitive nature of the races.

In the ITC, Balu, swept to his third consecutive win in the championship following a double in the opening

round in February, but was far from pleased with his performance.

"I was still down on my lap times and was not too happy with the balance of the car. We made some changes to the car from the previous round, and so, had to deal with some teething issues," said Balu.

The results (provisional): Formula LGB (Race-1): 1. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports, 15mins, 20.044secs); 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum, 15:20.726); 3. T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing, 15:25.857).

Race-two (10 laps): 1