

# Big new climate goals, horror in India and a strange Oscars night

Last week's virtual climate summit at the White House gave Joe Biden a forum to announce that the US would slash emissions by half by 2030. Other countries, including the UK, made commitments to move more quickly towards net zero. Now, ahead of the vital Cop26 summit in Glasgow, attention turns to other big polluters to confirm their plans to curb their carbon output and help to keep global heating below 1.5C. Environment correspondent Fiona Harvey looks at the progress made last week and what more needs to be done.

**The big story** *Page 10* →

Since our last issue the pandemic in India has accelerated beyond crisis point. Hundreds of thousands of daily cases are seeing hospitals too full to take critically ill patients and oxygen supplies dwindling. Our correspondent Hannah Ellis-Petersen looks at a nation's descent into "hell", while Peter Beaumont asks what the explosion in cases there means for the rest of the world.

The situation has also had a direct impact on the Guardian. This week we lost Kakoli Bhattacharya, a journalist who was a researcher, translator, news assistant and friend to Guardian correspondents in Delhi for over a decade. Kakoli's work was vital in producing much of the reporting from India that has appeared in the Weekly since 2009. She died of Covid, aged 51. **Covid in India** *Page 15* →

It was an Oscars night like no other on Sunday. Mainly because it was held in a train station ... The big story was a triumph for Chloé Zhao whose *Nomadland* picked up many of the top awards. It was also a historic night for the Guardian. Our film team's documentary *Colette* - the story of a French resistance fighter visiting the camp where her brother was killed - was named best documentary short. You can watch it for free at [theguardian.com/Colette](https://theguardian.com/Colette)

**Peter Bradshaw's verdict** *Page 20* →



**4-14 GLOBAL REPORT**  
*Headlines from the last seven days*

**10 The big story** The new climate targets

**15-33 SPOTLIGHT**  
*In-depth reporting and analysis*

**15** **India** A Covid calamity

**19** **Chad** Déby's death causes shockwaves in the Sahel

**22** **Russia** Putin forces his opponents into hiding

**23** **UK** Boris Johnson's inglorious isolation

**24** **Football** Fans give greedy club owners the boot

**30** **US** Chauvin's conviction and America's police

**34-44 FEATURES**  
*Long reads, interviews and essays*

**34** Can Deliveroo eat the world?

*By Jack Shenker*

**39** The invention of whiteness  
*By Robert P Baird*

**45-50 OPINION**  
**Nesrine Malik**

Justice for George Floyd was won in the street

**47** **Uli Hesse**  
A lesson from German football

**48** **Andrew Rawnsley**  
Sleaze will sink the Tories

**51-60 CULTURE**  
*TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture & more*

**51** **Design**  
Thomas Heatherwick's great show

**55** **Art**  
The stunning land art of Nancy Holt

**58** **Books**  
Edmund de Waal's story of a family and its art

**61-63 REGULARS**  
*Puzzles, recipe, chess*

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## On the cover

As the US plans for a 50% reduction in planet-destroying emissions, this week's cover shows a coal-fired power plant in the US state of Missouri. Under the Biden administration's new climate plans, coal use will be limited - and though it has been in decline since 2013, high gas prices have led to a surge in its use.

*Photographs: Charlie Riedel/AP; Shunli Zhao*