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HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of
The Hans India will
remain closed on Saturday
November 14, 2020
on account of Diwali.
There will be no issue
of the edition on Sunday
November 15.

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BUSINESS



Adani's rise fuels criticism of capital concentration P6

SPORTS



Prajnesh beats
Jack to enter Cary
Challenger's
quarters > P8



Ayodhya lit up for Diwali

AYODHYA

THE Uttar Pradesh government on Friday went all out in marking the homecoming of Lord Ram to this holy town – the mythical event in 'treta yug' on which the festival of Diwali is based. So, there was the reenactment of the arrival of God Ram and Goddess Sita on their 'pushpak viman', a laser and sound show, cultural programmes and the lighting of a record 5.51 lakh earthen lamps on the banks of the Saryu. The figure has been claimed by the government.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel were there at Ayodhya's 'Deepotsav', the first since the groundbreaking ceremony earlier this year of a Ram temple in the holy town. Several new development projects were launched to mark the occasion.

"Our generation is not only fortunate to see the start of the construction of a Ram temple here but we also attended the historic event. In the struggle of 500 years, many saints passed away with a dream to see the start of construction. I thank PM Modi who is the one who implemented the ideol-



Devotees light earthen lamps on the bank of Saryu river during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Friday

ogy of Ram Rajya," Adityanath said while addressing the 'Deepotsav' event here.

Actors representing Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Lakshman descended on the Saryu bank in a 'pushpak viman' -- a helicopter that sprinkled rose petals -- and were received by the governor and

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh started Deepotsav celebration in Ayodhya after Yogi Adityanath became the chief minister in March 2017. PTI

Happy Diwali For the Prestigious People... RAMRAJ COTTON DHOTIS • SHIRTS • BANIANS whop on the Bloww ramrajcedon in

Supreme Court allows green crackers in TS

Cracker time: 8 pm to 10 pm

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE decision of the Supreme Court setting aside the High Court order banning bursting of crackers has come as a relief to the shop-keepers and those who were looking forward to bursting crackers.

A day after the High Court directed the Telangana Government to ban the sale and bursting of firecrackers on Diwali festival in the state, the government imposed the ban with immediate effect. But the Telangana Fireworks Dealers' Association approached the Supreme Court seeking relief from the ban on sale of firecrackers and the apex court allowed the dealers to sell the crackers as per the National Green Tribunal (NGT) norms. The tribunal allowed to sell only green crackers and banned the China products and permitted the bursting of the crackers between 8 pm to 10 pm on the festival day.

Continued on Page 5

Russian Covid vax arrives in India for human clinical trial

New Delhi

THE Russian 'Sputnik V' vaccine for Covid-19 has arrived in India following the nod to Pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for the vaccine in the country.

In a video that surfaced on media, containers with logos of Dr Reddy's and Sputnik V being unloaded from a small truck was seen.

On Wednesday, Russia's National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced that the Sputnik V vaccine demonstrated high efficacy -- 92 per cent.

On September 4, The Lancet, one of world's leading medical journals, published a research paper on the results of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials of the vaccine that showed no serious adverse events and effective immune response of those vaccinated.

Requests for more than 1.2 billion doses of Sputnik V vaccine came from over 50 countries. The vaccine supplies for the global market will be produced by RDIF's international partners in India, Brazil, China, South Korea and other countries Earlier this October, Dr Reddy's and Russia Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for the Sputnik V vaccine in India.

"The government is committed to fasttrack clinical development of COVID vaccine candidates and provide facilitation to accelerate market readiness of a suitable vaccine," said Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT and Chairperson, BIRAC. Continued on Page 5



From the $\overline{\mathbf{HANS}}$ Group of Publications

Launching soon...

Serum Institute to keep 200 mn vax doses ready by Jan

New Delhi

PUNE'S Serum Institute of India will have 200 million doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford University vaccine for the coronavirus ready by January, ramping up its capacity to make 100 million doses of the inoculation monthly.

Sources said the company has recruited over 1,600 participants in India for phase 3 trials of Covishield (the AstraZeneca vaccine candidate).



All participants have received the first shot of the vaccine and by the end of November, the second shot would be completed. Data analysis would begin after the second shot, sources said. "SII has started stockpiling the vaccine and now has roughly 40 million doses ready. It is using some of the capacities it had for under development products for the COVID-19 vaccine and by January we will have a capacity to make 100 million doses per month and a stockpile of 200 million doses," said a source. About 50 per cent of its capacity will be for India, it said.

Covid situation to be normal in 10 days: CM

New Delh

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the Covid-19 situation in the national capital should come under control in seven to 10 days and that his government is taking several steps in this regard.

Kejriwal also said that pollution is the "biggest" reason behind the spike in coronavirus cases in the city.

"Covid-19 cases have been increasing for the last few days. I am also concerned about it. We have been taking all appropriate measures to control it. We are considering taking more steps next week. I think the situation should come under control in 7 to 10 days and the cases should start decreasing," he said during a press conference.

"Pollution is biggest reason behind the spike in Covid-19 cases in Delhi. We had situation under control until October 20," the CM said.

Citing a report, Kejriwal also said that the anti-stubble solution prepared by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, decomposed 70 to



95 per cent of crop residue in 24 villages in Delhi.

The Delhi government will submit the report along with a petition to Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas, and urge it to issue directions to all state government to implement it.

Delhi recorded 7,053 fresh Covid-19 cases in a day, taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4.67 lakh on Thursday, while 104 more fatalities in a same period, the highest in over five months, pushed the death toll to 7,332, authorities said.

authorities said.

The national capital had recorded its highest single-day spike of 8,593 Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, while 85 deaths linked to the disease were recorded on that day.

Centre gives ₹4,382 cr calamity aid to 6 States

New Delhi

A HIGH-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved the release of nearly Rs 4,382 crore to six States as central assistance for the natural calamities they faced this year. The funds will be released to West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Sikkim as assistance for the damage caused by cyclone, floods and landslides during the year.

The high-level committee has approved additional central assistance of Rs 4,381.88 crore to six states from the National Disaster Response Fund, a statement by the home ministry said. For cyclone 'Amphan', Rs 2,707.77 crore has been approved for West Bengal and Rs 128.23 crore for Odisha. For cyclone 'Nisarga', Rs 268.59 crore has been approved for Maharashtra. For floods and landslides

during the South-West monsoon, Rs 577.84 crore has been approved for Karnataka, Rs 611.61 crore for Madhya Pradesh, and Rs 87.84 crore for Sikkim. In the aftermath of cy-

In the aftermath of cyclone 'Amphan', Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited the affected states of West Bengal and Odisha on May 22. As announced by the prime minister, financial assistance of Rs 1,000 crore was released for West Bengal and Rs 500 crore for Odisha, in advance, on May 23 for immediate relief activities in the two states.

In addition, the prime minister had also announced Rs 2 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured, which was over and above the ex-gratia provided through the State Disaster Response Fund and the NDRF, the statement said.

Continued on Page 5

Finally, China congratulates Biden, Harris for victory

BEIJING

CHINA on Friday shed its initial hesitation and congratulated United States President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris for their victory in the 2020 US presidential election, saying Beijing respects the choice of the American people. "We have been following reactions on the US elections from both within the US and the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when pointed out that more world leaders as well as

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres have congratulated 77-year-old Biden.

gratulated 77-year-old Biden.

"We respect the American people's choice and we extend congratulations to Biden and Harris and we understand that the result of the US presidential elections will be determined following the US laws and procedures,"

Wang said.

Wang said.
China initially hesitated to
congratulate Biden, a Democrat,
after Republican incumbent
President Donald Trump refused
to concede.

On November 9, Wang had declined to congratulate Biden on



his victory, saying the outcome of the American election should be determined by the country's laws and procedures. He, however, was more forthcoming on the victory of Harris as the first woman Vice President-elect. When reminded about Chinese President Xi Jinping's statement calling for greater gender equality in a recent UN conference on women and does China have any comment on Harris, Wang quoted a Chinese saying which states women hold half of the sky.

"In China, there is a saying that women hold half of the sky. China has been committed to realising gender equality and advancing women's development around the world," he said.

Trump's four years in power were the worst phase in China-US relations as the ruling Communist Party of China headed by President Xi struggled to deal the most elusive and unpredictable American leader ever since the former US president Richard Nixon in 1972 established ties with the Communist nation.

During his tenure, Trump

with what China's officials say is

pushed aggressively on all aspects of US-China ties, including with his relentless trade war, challenging China's military hold on the disputed South China Sea, its constant threats to Taiwan and branding coronavirus as "China virus" after it emerged from Wuhan in December last year.

Continued on Page 5



MADHURI DIXIT NENE @MADHURIDIXIT

Back with one of my most requested videos on YouTube! It's all about my skincare tips and tricks, I hope this video helps you



When Tradition meets Trends

he saying, 'You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus, and the support', goes well with the journey of Neha Arora, a Dehradun based entrepreneur.

Who does not love the typical traditional juttis, especially during the current festive season? With the same love for Punjabi suits and juttis, Neha always wanted to do a business of the same.

Neha shares, "Doing business was always on my mind. It was like either I'll be doing something related to Punjabi suits or juttis because these two things I have loved since childhood. So I decided to do a business of the juttis as it was something which people can't get easily. For me 'Tradition Meets Trends' is my baby brand. I always wanted people to know me by my work and Tradition meets trends has made this possible. We have our own manufacturing of Punjabi juttis. Each and every style is designed by me and then we have a team of artisans who give life to my designs. Tradition Meets Trends is known for its genuine pricing and good quality. This is something which we make us different."

Not to forget, business without challenges is something that can never happen and so like the other entrepreneurs Neha had her own challenges in order to make her business a success. Tradition meets Trends being an e-commerce site, there were a different



set of challenges that Neha had to over-

"Building online clientage is a big challenge. Gaining the trust of the people is a challenge till date. Since, I live in Dehradun, getting that perfect kind of raw material is still a challenge due to which I have to source everything from different places. The pandemic has also affected our business like the others. Since the raw materials are imported from various states, the rates of courier companies has been increased up to 25% and even the raw material cost has been increased. So it's getting tougher to manage the price range," adds

Tradition meets Trend also include a team of artisans who are $expert\,in\,doing\,various\,techniques$ of handwork. The juttis are manufactured in their workshop.

She says, "Managing everything sometimes get very tough but the support from my family is one thing that will always keep me

going. I am blessed to have a family who support and respect my work. My daughter is 12 years old now and she is now able to understand my work. We will be launching few different kinds of footwear in the coming years. Our website is in making and will be launched by January."

A few well-known clients of the brand include Mouni Roy, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Heli Daruwala, Surbhi Jyoti, Sunanda Sharma, Sara Gurpal, Mahi Vij and many others.

Opt for 'sustainable' Diwali fashion

PUJA GUPTA

tyle plays a major role in helping people express Their mood and showcase their personality. The festive season is signified by bright colours with hues and accents of gold. While comfortable clothing has been the preferred choice this year due to work from home; the festive season is expected to bring back bright colours and beautiful outfits. The pandemic has also given rise to conscious consumerism, wherein customers are more aware of their choices and the impact that they have on the environment.

The fashion Industry globally produces hefty amount of greenhouse emissions every year. One of the reasons for this is that the vast majority of our beloved clothes are petroleum-based and made from fossil fuels. These materials require significantly more energy in the production phase and have a long degradation period, which is harmful for the environment.

We have listed down some trendy outfit ideas for the festive season:

Cropped waist coat with a Glitter Saree

Opt for a viscose based glitter saree and pair it with a plain black or white waist coat. This trendy yet fashionable look has been sported by many fashion bloggers and is definitely not for the faint of heart. You can also add a gota belt to the waist to add some structure.

Jeans drapped with a Saree

This sounds a little out there, but take your favourite pair of boyfriend jeans and pleat your saree and tuck it at the front. Take the remaining fabric around your back and bring it to the front to complete the saree drape. If you want opt for a sustainable denim option, Spykar Lifestyles offers denims which boast of the lowest water usage during production in the country.

Sharara for the festive season

Shararas have been very trendy this festive season. This fashionably safe yet stylish look is a



great option! Opt for colours like bright yellow, pistachio green or pink to feel extra festive. Pick out materials that have some gold accents! Your make up also plays a key role too; "try a holographic glitter liner that makes the eye look like a reflection of water. The colors intertwine well to form a beautiful and graceful look when paired with the outfit," suggests Priya Sureka, Creative Make up Expert at Enrich Salons.

Dr. Maureen Lobo, Dean - Academics ITM -IDM says, "Sustainability is the buzz word today as we are all concerned about the future of our planet and what the future holds for the generations to come. It's important to 'green' your wardrobe, believing in slow fashion.'

How to use neem leaves for hair loss

eem or Indian Lilac, scientifically known as Azadirachta indica, is an evergreen herb from the Meliaceae or mahogany family. Neem trees are characterised by broad-spreading leaves, white fragrant flowers, and small bittersweet drupes. Bark, leaves, fruits, seeds, and roots of the plant have strong medicinal uses while shoot and flowers are used in culinary preparations.

Now, here are five different ways that you can follow to use neem leaves for hair loss:

Massaging neem oil The healthy growth of hair requires a

healthy, nourished scalp. Your scalp can get affected by many factors and develop various issues, such as the dry scalp, flaky scalp, dandruff, etc., which stimulate hair loss largely. Neem oil is a topical treatment for scalp infections. Heat the neem oil (don't let it boil) to warm it up and massage the scalp with it gently for 5 to 10 minutes. Take a bath in lukewarm water after an hour. You can apply neem oil twice a week. The smell of neem oil might seem to be disgusting.

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However, tolerate it by thinking about the lustrous hair you will get soon.

Using neem water

Neem-infused water is another highly effective remedy that eliminates dandruff and opens clogged pores caused due to it. As a result, you get squeaky clean scalp with significantly reduced hair fall. Take a handful of neem leaves and boil it in water. Let them boil until the color of the water changes (until water extracts the medicinal value of neem leaf). Allow the infusion to cool down and remove the neem leaves from it. After shampooing, rinse your hair with the infusion.

Opting for a neem mask

Another method of using neem for hair loss is grinding the leaves into a paste and using it as a mask. Get some fresh neem leaves and grind them into a fine paste with medium consistency. You can add some hot water if needed. Apply the paste to your hair from the root to the tip. Also, don't ignore the scalp. Now, wrap your hair in a towel and

wait for one or two hours. Shampoo the hair and rinse the mask off thoroughly.

Applying neem pack

If fresh neem leaves are not available, go for readymade neem leaf powder. You can easily get a pack of neem lea powder in any departmental store or even in a pharmacy. Make sure to buy the organic one for the best results. Add enough lukewarm water to this powder and turn it into a smooth paste of medium consistency. Apply the pack to the scalp and cover your hair too. Let it dry for an hour or so. Then, rinse the hair thoroughly. However, using fresh neem leaves is always recommended.



CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Words of wisdom (5) 8 Muslim headscarf (5)
- 10 Artificial silk (5)
- 11 Cropped hairstyle (3)
- 12 Community spirit (5) 13 Fiasco (7)
- 15 Has on (5)
- 18 Chafe (3) 19 Finally; in the end (2,4)
- 21 Improve a photograph (7)
- 22 A cud-chewing mammal
- (4)
- 23 Far from beautiful (4)
- 24 Reinvigorate (7)
- 26 Didn't fail ? (6)
- 29 Employ (3)
- 31 Choose by ballot (5)
- 32 Young tree ? (7) 34 Money in Mecca (5)
- 35 Old French coin (3)
- 36 A person of the fairer sex
- 37 Consumers (5)

38 Giant, red, Chinese

mammal (5)

Down

- 1 Rome's river (5) 2 Floor show for adult
- audience (7)
- Be excessively fond (4)
- Development (6)
- Artist's frame (5)
- Uncouth chaps (5)
- Piece of work (3) 12 Nudged or jostled, in a
- way (7)
- 14 Batting stroke (3) 16 Frustration exclamation
- (5)
- 17 Remains behind (5) 19 Accumulation (7)
- 20 Open-mouthed (5)
- 21 Lift (5)
- 23 Ineffectual (7)
- 24 Eye part (6) 25 Psychic power (3)
- 27 Let (5) 28 A small piece (5)
- 30 Harden by habituation (5) 32 Beach gravel (4)
- 33 Frozen water (3)

SUDOKU

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SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 13	9	7	2	1	3	6	8	4	5
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	7	2	5	3	1	4	9	6	8
	1	4	8	9	6	7	5	3	2
	2	8	7	6	9	1	3	5	4
	4	5	9	2	7	3	6	8	1
	3	1	6	4	8	5	7	2	9

NEWS ROUNDUP (

Anita Dongre opens doors to flagship store in Hyderabad

🧻 or every wanderlust-ing Hyderabadi, Anita Dongre has a the doors to her first flagship store in Banjara Hills. The store houses sustainable luxury brand Grass root, Anita Dongre bridal couture and menswear, Anita Dongre ready-to-wear, as well as Anita Dongre silver jewelry and Anita Dongre Pink city all under one breathtaking roof.

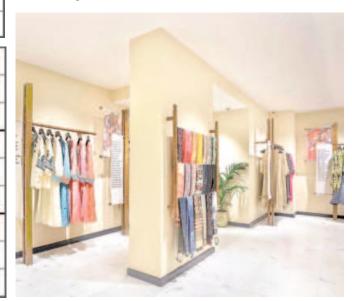
Occupying three stories, spanning across 4000 square feet, the store is an ode to Rajasthan's rich culture that inspires much of the designer's work. Each section is carefully curated into a holistic experience and tied together but the dreamy rose petal aroma of royal gardens of a time past. The ground floor welcomes you out of the world you left at the doors with a soothing neutral palette of beige and blush pink inspired by the palaces of Jaipur. Reclaimed wood racks and soothing water feature frame stories of artisans who make these fashion favorites by hand

The Anita Dongre bridal, pret, and menswear sections on the other hand, recreate the splendor of Rajasthani architecture including arches that frame richly embroidered lehengas, and the blue walls of the Jaipur city palace. From one space to the other you are transported out of your worries into the bygone era and regal splendour of a stately Haveli.

The store retails a stunning collection of pocket squares, kurtas, bandis, and sherwanis for men; and lehengas, sarees, printed kaftans, and dresses for women; along with a curation of Anita Dongre silver jewelry and Anita Dongre Pink city. The Anita Dongre store in Banjara Hills is a living, breathing celebration of Indian art. Across the garments and store features, what strikes you is the breadth and intricacy of Indian craftsmanship.

Rich gota patti, intricate embroideries and meticulous handwoven fabrics find place alongside inlaid floors, pichwai paintings, thikri mirror work and metalwork. Stone carvings, handmade rugs, antique lighting and furniture pieces provide little corners to unwind and discuss life's important decisions as you're

Anita Dongre says, "Every store is a labour of love but this one is particularly special. It is an ode to craftsmanship in a year that has been particularly hard on Indian craftspeople. I couldn't think of a better city than Hyderabad with its rich craft culture to create this space in."



Won't retract or apologise for tweets against SC: Kunal

STAND-UP comic artist Kunal Kamra on Friday refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they "speak for themselves".

Kamra's statement comes a day after Attorney General K K Venugopal consented to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against him for a series of tweets following the apex court giving interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami. "The tweets I recently put out have been found in contempt of court. All that I tweeted was from my view of the Supreme Court of India giving a partial decision in favour of a Prime Time Loudspeaker," he said in a statement addressed to Venugopal and the judges on his

"My view hasn't changed because the silence of the

liberty cannot go uncriticized. I don't intend to retract my tweets or apologise for them. I believe they speak for themselves," he added. Kamra, who was banned by several airlines after he heckled Goswami on an IndiGo flight earlier this year, said he enjoys a platform with a captive audience but a time slot before the Supreme Court is a scarce commodity and should go to more pressing issues in front of the nation.

He also referred to contempt proceedings against lawyer Prashant Bhushan, who had refused to apologise for his derogatory tweets and was held guilty of contempt earlier this year. "I wish to volunteer having the time that would be allotted to the hearing of my contempt petition (20 hours at the very least, if Prashant Bhushan's hearing is anything to go by), to other matters and parties who have not been as lucky and privileged as I am to jump the queue," Kamra said.



stand-up comedian and satirist then went on to list the important petitions pending in front of the court, listing the pleas on demonetisation, the challenge to the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the matter of the legality of electoral bonds and "countless other matters that are more deserving of time and at-

"The Supreme Court of India hasn't yet declared my tweets anything as of now but if and when they do I hope they can have a small laugh before declaring them Contempt of Court," he said. The apex court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Goswami in an abetment to suicide case, saying it will be a "travesty of justice" if personal liberty is curtailed.

Terming Kamra's tweets in "bad taste", Venugopal on Thursday said it was time for people to understand that attacking the apex court brazenly will attract punishment. "I have gone through each one of the tweets

of criminal contempt against Kunal Kamra. The tweets which I am extracting below are not only in bad taste but clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of the court," the top law officer said in a letter to one of the applicants who had sought his consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Kamra. "I therefore grant consent to proceed by way of initiating contempt proceedings against Kunal Kamra," Venugopal said.

The consent of either the attorney general or the solicitor general is necessary, under section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for initiating contempt proceedings against a person.

In one of the letters seeking the attorney general's consent, three lawyers claimed that Kamra had allegedly attempted to "lower the authority of the Supreme Court of India" through his tweets after the apex court granted Goswami bail.

5 jawans among 10 killed

Multiple ceasefire violations by Pak along LoC

SRINAGAR

FIVE security forces personnel were among 10 people killed in multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) from Gurez to Uri sectors of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

Srinagar-based defence spokesman Col Rajesh Kalia said Pakistan used mortars and other weapons and deliberately targeted civilian areas. The troops retaliated strongly causing causalities and substantial damage to Pakistan Army's infrastructure across the LoC, he

"Several ammunition dumps, FOL dumps and multiple terrorist launch pads have been damaged," the defence spokesman said. Four Army personnel, a BSF sub-inspector and six civilians were killed in Pakistani action while four security forces personnel and eight civilians were injured.

"Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC spread across multiple sectors to include Dawar, Keran, Uri and Naugam. Three Indian Army soldiers have been killed in action and three soldiers injured," Col Kalia said, adding the nation salutes their supreme sacrifice. A BSF sub-inspector was killed in Haji Peer sector while a jawan was injured, officials said. Two civilians were killed in Kamalkote sector, also in Uri, while a woman was killed in Balkote area in Haji Peer sector, they added. They said apart from various places in Uri, the ceasefire vio-



Children undergo treatment after an alleged unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan in the Sawiian area of Poonch district, in Poonch district on Friday

lations were reported from Izmarg in Gurez sector of Bandipora district and Keran sector

of Kupwara district. A defence official in Jammu said Pakistani troops violated ceasefire twice in Poonch district. "Around 1345 and 1445 hours today, Pakistani army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in sector in Sawjian in Poonch," he said, adding Indian troops retaliated in a befitting manner. Earlier, Col Kalia said the Army foiled an infiltration bid, which was aided by the

ceasefire violation, along the LoC in the Keran sector. "Suspicious movement was observed by our troops at the forward posts along the LoC in Keran sector (in north Kashmir's Kupwara district) today. The suspected infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops," he said, adding. This was the second infiltration attempt within a week. The earlier unsuccessful bid in Machil sector during the intervening night of November 7-8 was foiled in which three militants were killed. Three Army soldiers, including a Captain, and a BSF jawan also lost their lives during the operation. In New Delhi, BSF officials said SI Rakesh Doval, 39, deployed at the force's artillery battery at the LoC in Baramulla was killed after he sustained head injury.



Launching soon...

Shiv Sena hits back at Amruta **Fadnavis over** 'Shav' remark

MUMBAI

THE Shiv Sena on Friday hit out at Amruta Fadnavis, wife of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, over her critical remarks against the party and said she should realise that every alphabet was important. Amruta Fadnavis took a jibe at the Uddhav Thackeray-led party over its poor performance in the just held Bihar assembly elections and called it "Shav (corpse) Sena".

Hitting back, the Sena, which heads the MVA government in Maharashtra, told her to realise the importance of alphabets in her own name. "Don't let the alphabet 'A' in your name go into "mruta" state (dead in Marathi). Realise the importance of 'A' in your name

"What is going on exactly? The Shav Sena did kill its own colleague (Congress) in Bihar. No matter where they are taking Maharashtra, but thanks for putting Bihar at right place," Amruta Fadnavis, a banker, had tweeted. Devendra Fadnavis, a former chief minister of Maharashtra, was the BJP's election in-charge in Bihar, where his party put up a stellar show. The Sena had contested certain assembly seats in Bihar, but failed to open its account.

Rampal appears before NCB, friend arrested

BOLLYWOOD actor Arjun Rampal is being questioned by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday in connection with a drug case, while his friend has been arrested, an official said. Rampal, who was initially summoned by the central agency on Wednesday, arrived at the NCB's zonal office in

The 47-year-old modelturned-actor is being questioned in connection with the case related to alleged drug use in the Hindi film industry, the official said. In a related development, Rampal's friend Paul Giyard, a foreign national, has been arrested by the NCB, he said.

Ballard Estate, South Mum-

bai, around 11.00 am.

Giyard was arrested by the NCB team probing the case after his interrogation, the official said. The actor's partner Gabriella Demetriades was questioned by NCB officials for two consecutive days.

The apex drug law enforcement agency, which is probing the case for the last few months, had questioned her for almost six hours each on Wednesday and Thursday. The NCB summoned Rampal and Demetriades after

conducting a search at the actor's residence in suburban Bandra on Monday.

The probe agency had seized electronic gadgets like laptops, mobile phones and tablets during the search and also questioned Rampal's driver. A day before the



search at Rampal's house, the NCB had arrested Bollywood producer Firoz Nadiadwala's wife after ganja was allegedly found at their residence in suburban Juhu.

The central agency arrested Rajput's girlfriend, actor Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and a few others under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Rhea and some other accused are currently

Judge who sent Musharraf to gallows dies of coronavirus

PESHAWAR

PESHAWAR High Court Chief Justice Wagar Seth, who handed down the death sentence to former Pakistan president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf in the high treason case, passed away due to coronavirus-related complications at a private hospital in Islamabad, officials said on Friday. He was 59 and is survived by his wife and a daughter. He belonged to Dikhan district of the Khvber Pakhtunkhwa province. Seth tested positive for COVID-19 on October 22 and was subsequently admitted to a hospital in Peshawar. $He\,was\,later\,shifted\,to\,Kulsum$

International Hospital in Islamabad, where he succumbed to the deadly viral infection on Thursday, the officials said. Seth, who took oath as Peshawar High Court top judge in June 2018, rose to prominence when while heading a special court in December 2019, he handed down the death sentence to self-exiled former military dictator Musharraf in the high treason case for imposing emergency in the country on November 3, 2007.

Musharraf, who ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008, was the first military dictator convicted for subverting the Constitution

Mumbai attack

Pakistan issues list of terrorists

PAKISTAN issued a list of 1,210 most-wanted terrorists including some of those involved in the Mumbai terror attack. The list issued by the anti-terrorism wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) also includes London-based leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Altaf Hussain and a worker of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Nasir Butt. The list seen by PTI shows the names and profiles of those involved in carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The list gives details like name, father's name and last known addresses along with the reward, if announced, by the government on information leading to their arrest. The first 19 entries are about

the terrorists linked in some way with the Mumbai terror attack. For example, the first entry on the list shows that Muhammad Amiad Khan was the most wanted by the FIA. His address is listed in Multan. He was the former member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and was a crew member of LeT (boat Al-Hussaini and boat Al-Fauz). "He also purchased boat Al Fouz which was used during Mumbai



Yamaha Motor boat engine, life jackets, inflatable boats etc. from ARZ water sport Karachi, these things were used in Mumhai terror attacks and recovered by Indian authorities," according to the details provided in the list. The second entry listed Iftikhar Ali with address, identified as former LeT. "He is an activist of ex-Lashkar-e-Tayyaba. He deposited USD 250 at Euro 2005 Money Changer in Islamabad to obtain Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) connection for terrorist Communication in the abovementioned case. Impersonating himself as Malik Taimoor," according to the details.

Active cases drop below 4.85L

New Delhi

INDIA'S active COVID-19 cases remained below five lakh for the third consecutive day at 4,84,547, which comprise 5.55 per cent of the total caseload, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday.

This has been made possible by the trend of COVID-19 recoveries exceeding new cases, which has ensured a total net reduction of the active caseload, it under-

In contrast to 44,879 new infections reported in a span of 24 hours, 49,079 cases have recovered in the last 24 hours, which continues India's trend of having daily high recoveries that outnumber the daily new cases. This trend has been observed for the 41st day today, the ministry highlighted. The total recovered cases have surged to 81,15,580, which



A health worker conducts COVID-19 testing at Baratooti Bazar, as Coronavirus cases surge across the national capital, in New Delhi on Friday

translates to a national recovery rate of 92.97 per cent. "The gap between recovered cases and active cases continues to grow and presently stands at 76,31,033,"

the ministry said. It said that 77.83 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 states and

Trump silent as virus surges

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has publicly disengaged from the battle against the coronavirus at a moment when the disease is tearing across the United States at an alarming pace. Trump, fresh off his reelection loss to President-elect Joe Biden, remains angry that an announcement about progress in developing a vaccine for the disease came after Election Day. And aides say the president has shown little interest in the growing crisis even as new confirmed cases are skyrocketing and hospital intensive care units in parts of the country are nearing capacity. Public health experts worry that Trump's refusal to take aggressive action on the pandemic or to coordinate with the Biden team during the final two months of his presidency will only worsen the effects of the virus and hinder the nation's ability to swiftly distribute a vaccine next year.

Dhoni orders 2,000 black 'Kadaknath' chicks

New Delhi Date 12/11/2020



MAHENDRA Singh Dhoni is set to farm famous black 'Kadaknath' chickens at his organic poultry unit because the former Indian cricket team captain has ordered for 2,000 chicks. The Kadaknath breed originally from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh will reach his Ranchi farm soon. Dhoni's order will be delivered by Decem-

ber 15 from tribal farmer Vinod Menda, I.S. Tomar, director of the Kadaknath Murga Research Center in Jhabua, told reporters that Dhoni had initially contacted him through his friends but as he was not in a position to deliver, the former India captain was asked to contact the Thandla farmer. The Kadaknath chicken meat has GI tag and is recognised for its delicious taste with black blood and black flesh. It is fat- and cholesterol-free.

CHANGE OF NAME Harsh Maheshwari S/o Vijay Maheshwari-As Maheshwari, R/o B-1738 Shastri Naga

Delhi 52. My name is mis spelled in some of my documents. My correct and actual name is Harsh Maheshwari, so I should be nown as Harsh Maheshwari for all future

WHO to set up centre for traditional medicine in India; matter of pride: Modi

New Delhi

THE World Health Organisation announced on Friday that it will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing confidence that just like the country has emerged as the 'pharmacy of the world', the WHO institution will become the centre for global wellness.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement in a video message at an event in which Prime Minister Modi dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur and Jamnagar to the nation via video conferencing on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day. The Institute of Teaching and Research



in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar (Gujarat) and the National Institute of Avurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan) are both premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country. The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act of Parliament and the one at Jaipur has been designated an Institution Deemed to be University (De novo Category) by the University Grants Commission (UGC), according to the AYUSH ministry.

"This new centre will support WHO's efforts to implement the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023 which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine as part of their jour-

ney to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world," Ghebreyesus said.

Traditional systems of medicine such as Avurveda can play an important role in integrated people-centric health services and healthcare, but they have not received enough attention, the WHO DG said. Ghebreyesus also lauded Prime Minister Modi for his commitment to the universal coverage under Ayushman Bharat and evidence-based promotion of traditional medicines to achieve health related objectives. Modi said Ayurveda is India's heritage whose expansion entails the welfare of humanity and all Indians will be happy to see that the country's traditional knowledge is enriching other countries.

VIRTUALSOFT SYSTEMS LIMITED Regd. Off: S-101 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi - 110017 CIN-L72200DL1992PLC047931

EXTRACT STATEMENT OF UN AUDITED STANDLONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

		Standalo	ne	Consolidated		
Particulars	Quarter ending/ Current Year ending (Un-Audited)	Year to date Figures/ Previous Year ending (Audited)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year Quarter Ending (Un-Audited)	Quarter ending/ Current Year ending (Un-Audited)	Year to date Figures! Previous Year ending (Audited)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year Quarter Ending (Un-Audited)
	30.09.2020	31.03.2020	30.09.2019	30.09.2020	31.03.2020	30.09.2019
Total income from operations (net) Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	21.29 (13.70)	90.67 (60.66)	21.34 (14.21)	32.20 (80.07)	555.22 (481.32)	129.58 (82.13)
(after Extraordinary Items) Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown	(13.70) 1029.76	(60.66) 1029.76	(14.21) 1029.76	(80.07) 1029.76	(481.32) 1029.76	(82.13) 1029.76
in the Balance Sheet of previous year) Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each) Basic : Diluted:	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Basic : Diluted : Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹10/- each)	(0.13) (0.13)	(0.59) (0.59)	(0.14) (0.14)	(0.78) (0.78)	(4.67) (4.67)	(0.80) (0.80)
Basic : Diluted :	(0.13) (0.13)	(0.59) (0.59)	(0.14) (0.14)	(0.78) (0.78)	(4.67) (4.67)	(0.80) (0.80)

OTES (The above is in extraort of the detailed format of the Standione and Consoliated Quarterly Un Audited Financial Result for the Quarter ended Nover 2,2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the uarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.besindia.com and on the Company

Gokul Tandar naging Director

Kashmiri saffron is now an all-India plant

THE saffron bowl, which was so far confined to Kashmir, may soon expand to the North East of India. Plants from seeds transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and acclimatised there are now flowering in Yangyang in the Southern part of the North-East state. Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Pampore region, in India, commonly known as Saffron bowl of Kashmir, is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtwar districts. Saffron has traditionally been associated with the famous Kashmiri cuisine. Its medicinal values were considered as part of the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. As saffron growing was confined to very specific areas in Kashmir, its production re-

mained limited. Though the National Mission on Saffron focused on several measures to improve its farming, the measures were still limited to the specified areas of Kashmir.

North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India supported a pilot project to explore the feasibility of growing saffron in North East region of India, with the same quality and higher quantity. The Botany and Horticulture department of Sikkim Central University carried out tests to understand the soil and actual pH conditions of Yangyang of Sikkim and found it comparable to saffron growing places of Kashmir. Saffron seeds/corms were purchased and air transported from Kashmir to Yangyang site by the department.

One saffron grower was engaged and stationed to look after the complete growing process, along with the faculty of the university. The corms were irrigated during the month of September and October, which ensured timely corn sprouting and good flower yields. The matching of climatic and geographical conditions between Pampore (Kashmir) and Yangyang (Sikkim) led to the successful sample farming of Saffron in Yangyang.

The project also focused on post-harvest management and value addition of saffron so that quality saffron drying and efficient post-harvest processing can improve saffron recovery, thereby improving its production. Further, detailed analysis and testing of all parameters, including soil testing, quality, quantity, and possible value addition are planned, for immediate results and extrapolation of the project to other parts of the North East Region along with Micro Food Enterprises.

The 67th Plenary Session of North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong in July in 2018 gave a boost to the ongoing development activities in the region. It was here that, for the first time, the Centre spelt out its promise to lay a road to "New India" through a developed and peaceful "New North East". It was said that the "New North East' will emerge with better road connectivity and Information Technology which will generate employment opportunities for the youth closer to their homes.

Hope the efforts are well received by the North East which is a few decades behind the rest of India. Credit must go to the BJP-led NDA government which is doing its best to keep its word regarding the overall development of the region keeping aside the politics.

ADMISSIONS AT HARVARD

Indian applicants lose case

ARUL LOUIS

US federal appeals court has ruled against Asian students, a category that also includes Indians, in a case they brought against the Harvard University, saying that it discriminated against them in admissions and it was likely to end up in the Supreme Court.

On Thursday, Chief Judge Jeffrey Howard and Judge Sandra Lynch of the circuit court in Boston upheld a judgment by a lower court that sided with the university ruling that the university did not discriminate against Asians in its attempts to have a diverse student body.

Four Indian organisations were among the group that brought the suit alleging that the Ivy League university violated the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings by discriminating against Asians in admissions.

Although the goal of diversifying the student body is to help students from groups like African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans who have been historically discriminated against by the Whites, research has found that policies claiming to help them also favour Whites at the expense of academically better performing Asian students.

The root of the case is the affirmative action programmes that have a goal similar to the reservations policy in educational institutions and in government and public sector jobs in India to help those who have been historically discriminated against gain a foothold in education and jobs.

However, in the US setting quotas like those in India is illegal and institutions have to come up with race-neutral ways like using economic criteria to boost the admissions of the previously discriminated groups in order to comply with Supreme Court's rulings against overt use of race or setting up racial quotas.

The judges wrote that in Harvard there was "limited use of race in its admissions process in order to achieve diversity" but it "is consistent with the requirements of Supreme Court precedent".



To get around the injunctions against using race as a direct consideration, institutions give greater weight to criteria other than the common entrance test scores in which Asians score very high to effectively limit their numbers.

President Donald Trump's administration sided with the Asians and filed a brief supporting their case. Edward Blum, who heads Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) which brought the case, said that they would appeal the case to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court now has a solid conservative majority strengthened by Trump's appointment of Amy Coney Barrett that could side with the Asians. Harvard's admissions policy applies only to students who are citizens or residents of the US as universities use a different set of criteria in selecting foreign students.

SFFA was joined by Global Organization of Persons of Indian Origin, National Federation of Indian American Associations, American Society of Engineers of India Origin, and BIT Sindri Alumni Association of North India in bringing the case.

Four Indian organisations were among the group that brought the suit alleging that the Ivy League university violated the Constitution and Supreme Court rulings by discriminating against Asians in admissions. Although the goal of diversifying the student body is to help students from groups like African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans who have been historically discriminated against by the Whites, research has found that policies claiming to help them also favour Whites at the expense of academically better performing Asian students. The root of the case is the affirmative action programmes that have a goal similar to the reservations policy in educational institutions and in government and public sector jobs in India to help those who have been historically discriminated against gain a foothold in education and jobs

Harvard College, which is the university institution for undergraduates and was directly involved in the case, is headed by an Indian-American, Rakesh Khurana who is its dean. In their judgment, the judges cited the report of a committee headed by him to look at the admissions issue. The judges quoted the Khurana committee report: "Today,

Harvard College graduates 'are founding and running global companies in technology, retail, finance, and healthcare, among

others'.

"It concluded that if Harvard does not provide its students with the opportunity to engage with other students in a diverse undergraduate environment, '(its) students likely would be constrained

in their pursuit of excellence, and (Harvard) would be remiss in failing to provide them with the skills they need to flourish after graduation'."

During the trial in the lower court, it was revealed that Harvard rated applicants on academic, extracurricular, personal and athletic criteria and also considered race and ethnicity. An academic expert who analysed Harvard's admissions records on behalf of SFFA found that it consistently rated Asians lower on "positive personality," and as less "widely respected".

An unrelated study by a Princeton University academic found that to gain admission to elite universities. Asian students had to score 140 points more than whites in the SAT, a common entrance test. Harvard President Larry Bacow welcomed the judgment and said: "The consideration of race, alongside many other factors, helps us achieve our goal of creating a student body that enriches the education of every student."One of the groups filing a brief supporting the university was the Harvard South Asian Association, according to court papers.

E

LETTERS

Dubbaka has equal lessons for BJP

 Γ OR once, BJP chief spokesperson Vidya Saagar Rao is objective in his surgical strike- Dubbaka by-election- a game changer. There can't be two opinions on the fact that the arrogance of KCR and KTR is the main factor for Dubbaka debacle. The writer had also given due credit to the diligence of the candidate Raghunandan

Thus the highhandedness of TRS top brass coupled with right candidature of BJP tilted the scales rather than the face value of BJP. The author had made following valid observations. 1) Power is cyclic in any democracy. 2) Arrogance of its leaders can cost the party dear in elections. 3) what goes up has to go down. These fundamental truths are equally applicable to BJP as well. The party is currently on a upward swing. So, it has to come down. Arrogance, indifference and complacence of top BJP leaders is too evident to be ignored. Rao considers Bihar victory phenomenal. Is that so?

Fighting against a veteran CM and blazing PM, opposition led by Tejaswi Yadav kept the NDA on tenterhooks till the last. Does BJP consider it Phenomenal? It will be yielding the driver's seat to Nitish Kumar whose party won lesser seats. Is it phenomenal? I consider it only face-saving. Rising from two MP seats in 1984 general elections to 303 MP seats in 2019, BJP has come a long way, avers the author.

Well, 35 years is not a short period and I feel that the party had covered rather a small distance in a long period. That too because of the charisma of its two leaders-Vajpayee then and Modi now. What is BJP minus Modi? Coming back to original point, Dubbaka may not be a

game changer. It is a wakeup call. Whether it will wake up or mess up is up to TRS.

Vinay Bhushan Bhagwaty. Hyderabad

BJP can win AP too

WITH its win in Dubbak, BJP has been infused with renewed enthusiasm which made its president foretell that they are going to form the next government in AP. Frankly, there appears to be no credible alternative before AP. electorate except the waning TDP. This void can be effectively plugged if BJP comes out with a specific progressive and all-inclusive agenda taking into account all pending issues. But the party needs to find a person who is not only articulate and clean but also one whom people trust.

DSP Rao, Kakinada

Good scheme, bad implementation

THE Education Ministry has launched National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISTHA) a teacher training programme to improve the quality of education in schools across India. It is indeed a good step to improve the quality of teaching. As a part of this program, all the school teachers (irrespective of position) have been asked to complete a online course comprising 18 modules by January 2021. The course is focused more towards New Education Policy scheduled for implementation from 2022 keeping in view the current situation which means for teachers who are likely to retire in another two years, it is an exercise in futility as when the NEP actually gets implemented the teachers who are on the verge of retirement may not be teaching in schools.

It is therefore surprising that the government school teachers are being pushed into this course at a time when

their hands are full preparing materials for ongoing online classes. Each module consumes a lot of time depending on the kind internet connection they have at home as schools have no proper connection. Obviously the Education Ministry is attempting to show off the number of teachers enrolled in the course as a portal counting number of minutes spent by registered teachers. If the government is at all serious, they should make new teachers and those who have service beyond 2023 or thereafter as this would help them to implement new education policy inside the class rooms.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Covid scare is real, safety is vital

WE all know that schools and colleges have opened throughout the country and struggling rigorously to stop the spurt of Covid among students. Some institutions are badly affected by this pandemic because of lack of thermal screens, group gatherings and unsanitary premises.

According to the reports of ICMR, the second wave of covid razing severely among students and teachers. Now parents are not willing to send their children to school by the daily updates they learnt about the crisis. Even though government is giving guide lines, some educational institutions have turned a deaf ear towards the government's instructions and have fallen as prey to Covid. Every parent is questioning the government whether we should send our children to school or to Covid clubs. Coming to private schools and colleges, they are doing as they like without following Covid measures. They don't care about student life and only prefer money rather than being safe.

Subbaiah Vankaraju, Kadapa

thehansreader@gmail.com



Gender decides how healthcare expenditure is financed in India

Females are always at a more disadvantaged position in terms of healthcare financing

PALASH BARUAH, D L WANKHAR

ACCESSIBILITY and affordability of healthcare services depend on how healthcare expenditure is financed. One of the worrisome and perhaps unsustainable aspects of healthcare financing is the huge out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure that households have to shell out.

OOP expenditure can be defined as direct payments made by individuals to healthcare providers and institutions at the time of availing healthcare services. This excludes any pre-payment for health services in the form of taxes or insurance premiums, reimbursements, etc.

Estimates of OOP expenditure for India are quite revealing. The

National Health Accounts Estimates for India estimated that OOP expenditure constituted about 60.6 per cent of the total health expenditure (THE) in 2015-16.

During the said period, government health expenditure (GHE) as

During the said period, government health expenditure (GHE) as percentage of THE stood at only 1.18 per cent of gross domestic product. The commitment of India's public financial resources towards healthcare is one of the lowest in the world. This does not augur well in a country where the have-nots in society are also the most vulnerable to various diseases.

These facts mean that a huge burden is being imposed on the population to either shell out from their own savings or borrow to finance their healthcare expenditure.

Not being able to finance would result in some section of the population foregoing treatment for want of finance or resort to desperate financing. In this conundrum of high dependence on OOP expenditure, coupled with rising healthcare expenditure, the vulnerable section(s) of society are the worst sufferers.

We tried to find out to what extent did a gender gap exist in households' strategies towards financing health care expenditure. For this, we looked at the 75th National Sample Survey, Household Social Consumption: Health, 2017-18.

We analysed those households that had witnessed hospitalisation of at least one male and one female member of the household in the last 365 days. Through this criteria, we believe that the analysis will truly reflect the behavioural pattern of households.

truly reflect the behavioural pattern of households.
Our analysis showed that households, irrespective of gender, would primarily dig into their income and savings to meet hospitalisation expenditures. The extent to which such financing would be resorted

to, would largely depend on the economic status of the household. Households falling in the upper quintiles (3rd & 4th), with more disposable income, were better-off and could finance their healthcare expenditure out of their savings (above 83 per cent), with lesser de-

pendency on other sources.

However, households in the lower quintiles would also first dig into their savings. But this being insufficient, they would go in for 'distress financing' in the form of borrowings (the next preferred source of financing), sales of physical assets and other sources of financing.

There is no apparent divergence in financing healthcare through income / savings for male and female hospitalisation. But when the need to avail finance through borrowings arose, female patients were in a disadvantaged position.

Households would be more reluctant to resort to borrowings for financing female hospitalisation expenditure. This bias in behaviour cut across economic groups, with lower variation observed in the higher quintile groups.

Thus, if financing involved repayment, we observed a gender bias. Surprisingly, households were also dependent on 'unreliable' sources like contributions from friends and relatives for financing. This was more so for households at the higher quintile.

For plausible reasons, further probing will be required. But here too, gender bias is observed where female patients are more dependent on such sourcing as compared to their male counterparts.

How are states placed with regard to sourcing for healthcare between the genders? There are a few stark examples to show the disparity.

For instance, in Harrana, which has one of the lowest female to

For instance, in Haryana, which has one of the lowest female-to-male population ratios, we found instance of borrowings for healthcare financing at 32 per cent for male and only 3.8 per cent for female hospitalisation.

Similar trends were also observed in states like Uttar Pradesh (18.1 per cent male, 10.9 per cent female), Bihar (9.3 per cent male, 3.7 per cent female), Andhra Pradesh (33.6 per cent male, 23 per cent female), Karnataka (25.2 per cent male, 18.3 per cent female) and Tamil Nadu (22.8 per cent male, 19.6 per cent female).

There is a gender bias

Our analysis clearly proves that the OOP expenditure is largely being financed through income / savings for both male and female hospitalisation, with differences among the various economic status groups.

Households in the higher quintile groups would be less dependent on borrowings or other sources of financing, as compared to households in the lower quintile groups.

We also observed that gender biases existed against female patients in terms of how healthcare expenditure was financed. Households are relatively averse to finance healthcare expenditure through borrowings for in-patient females.

This bias is evident as borrowings would involvement repayment. This argument is well supported by the fact that in-female patients have to depend on contributions from friends and relatives and other sources as compared to in-patient males.

This particular characteristic is common across economic groups. If this is the phenomenon during normal times, we can unfortunately conclude that the same bias has existed during the current novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Thus, a high OOP expenditure, coupled with lesser preference by households to resort to borrowings, a relatively higher dependence on contribution from friends and relatives and higher incidence of female hospitalisation requires further investigative research.

With the kind of social status and hierarchy that they have, coupled with fewer employment and economic opportunities, females are always at a more disadvantaged position in terms of healthcare financing.

To mitigate the problem, certain steps like differentiated interest rates of borrowing or some kind of easy financing through the government for females in case of hospitalisation can be thought of.

Insurance companies can also fine tune their health insurance products to tap this segment of healthcare financing. The criteria for inclusion of households under the Ayushman Bharat scheme can be relaxed to cover especially those households with female members of lower income groups.

At the outset, a thorough survey and research study would be required as to understand the unique, varied and distinct issues faced by females in financing their healthcare.

(Palash Baruah is Senior Research Analyst, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. DL Wankhar is a Retd Indian Economic Service Officer. Views expressed are the authors' own and don't necessarily reflect those of Down To Earth)

'New sand policy allows poor to get sand free of cost'

- The State govt proposes to handover the sand mining to a Central govt agency or a public sector undertaking which will pay seigniorage and other taxes
- However, if the Central govt agencies do not come forward, the State govt will invite tenders and the cash-rich companies which have the capacity and experience will be selected through technical and commercial bids
- The reaches have been divided into three packages
- The first package comprises Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam
- The second package includes West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts
- Nellore, Anantapur, Kurnool and Kadapa

will be under third package HANS NEWS SERVICE

AMARAVATI

THE new sand policy approved by the Cabinet recently allows poor people to get sand free of cost from anywhere in the State, according to Principal Secretary of Mining Gopalakrishna Dwivedi who released the GO to that effect on Friday. The sand policy-2019 was amended suitably as per the decision of the Cabinet that would do away with the online booking of sand. Now it is only offline and the price fixed by the government would be final.

As per the amendment to the policy, people could go to the sand reaches and pay the amount in cash and take it away.

The sand mining would be handed over to the Central government agency or the public sector undertakings which would pay seigniorage to the government and other taxes. If the Central government agencies do not come forward, the State government would call for tenders and the cash-rich companies which have the capacity and experience would be selected through technical and commercial bids. The



reaches were divided into three packages-Srikakulam, Viziangaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari in the first package, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts in the second package and Nellore, Anantapur, Kurnool and Kadapa in the third package.

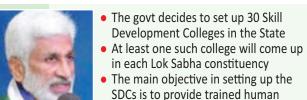
The selected companies may think of providing employment to the boatmen societies to mine through desiltation in the notified reaches. Sand would be dredged in the barrages of Prakasam and Dowleswaram to increase the availability of sand.

The people could transport sand on bullock carts free of cost for personal use. Free sand would be given through coupons to the people of villages near the reaches, for the housing for weaker sections.

The Special Enforcement Bureau would have the powers to file criminal cases in case of illegal mining, stocking and transporting

Minister for Panchayat Raj Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy said that the sand policy was amended as per the opinion of various sections of people.

SDCs to impart training in 162 courses to unemployed youth



HANS NEWS SERVICE **A**MARAVATI

YSRCP Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy took to Twitter and tweeted on Friday that "There has been a debate for decades stating that our studies only give degrees but they will not be suitable for getting jobs."

He further added that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has come up with the idea of developing Skill Development Colleges (SDCs) for the first time and they will benefit the

The State government has decided to set up 30 SDCs to ensure at least one in all the 25 Lok Sabha constituencies. Jagan Mohan Reddy is going to inaugurate the SDCs at the earliest. The main objective in bringing the SDCs is to provide human resources to the industry sector by imparting skill development training to youth as per the industry requirements, he pointed out.

resources to industries, points out

MP V Vijayasai Reddy

senior YSRCP leader and Rajya Sabha

Earlier in a meeting, Y S Jagan said that the SDCs will play a key role in providing a skilled workforce. A total of 162 courses will be there, 127 are for finishing skills, while the remaining 35 are for alternative employment.

Four international institutes Singapore Polytechnic, Van Hall Larenstein (University of Applied Studies, GIZ and Department for International Development, have collaborated with the State government for developing and planning the skill development curriculum.

A total of 23 reputable organisations, including Dell, Tata, HP, IBM and Biocon, have come forward to sign MoUs with the government for the establishment of laboratory infrastructure in skill centres.

Paddy farmer killed by jumbos

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIZIANAGARAM

ELEPHANT menace is continuing in tribal areas of Parvathipuram agency of Vizianagaram district.

A herd of wild elephants entered into Parvathipuram Agency from Odisha forests on Friday and create panic in the area by killing one farmer. Earlier, five ryots were killed in attacks by the jumbos in different incidents.

The elephant herd has been roaming in Komarada, Kurupam and G L Puram mandals and destroying banana orchards and sugarcane crops. The farmers in the area are scared to go to their fields due to the persistent elephant menace.

On Friday, the elephants killed K Lakshum Naidu (50) of Parasurampuram village in Komarada mandal.

After getting information that the herd of jumbos was roaming in his paddy field and trampling his crop, Lakshum Naidu went to fields to chase them. But, inadvertently, he went close to the elephants. The herd of elephants then attacked him and trampled him to death.

Vehicle breakdown: **Naidu halts** in Nalgonda

- The TDP chief was on his way from Amaravati to Hyderabad on Friday and his vehicle breaks down on the highway at Narketpally
- Subsequently, he moves to another vehicle and leaves for Hyd after a gap of 20 minutes

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

FORMER Chief Minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu. was forced to halt on the highway in Nalgonda district on Friday due to a breakdown of his vehicle. Naidu was proceeding from Amaravati to Hyderabad in his convoy when the vehicle broke down near Kamineni Hospitals, Narkeptpally in Nalgonda district. He had to switch vehicles and travel to Hyderabad after about 20 minutes, it is learnt.

New sand policy only to benefit henchmen of YSRCP leaders: TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE **A**MARAVATI

SENIOR TDP leader and MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary on Friday accused the ruling YSRCP MLAs, MPs and their henchmen of committing irregularities in sand mining and transportation causing huge loss of revenue to the State government.

Butchaiah Chowdary demanded that the State government publish a white paper on the facts of how much revenue it had got from sand mining. sale and transportation and also from the seigniorage all over the State in the past 17 months.

From day one, the ruling party leaders looted the sand resources from the rivers in the State in an indiscriminate manner and transported the

 Senior TDP leader and MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary alleges that the ruling party leaders looted sand from various rivers in the State

 Expresses concern over the YSRCP govt failing to execute any new projects during the last 18 months

same to Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore to make easy money, he alleged.

Addressing a press conference here, the senior TDP leader said that the latest new sand policy would only help the YSRCP activists to execute their plans of looting the sand systematically.

No Central institution would come forward to carry out sand mining under the present scenario in the State. Everybody knows how Jagan and Co have been robbing the State of all its natural resources without bringing any revenue to the government.

Consequently, no projects and works were being taken up in public and private sectors.

Butchaiah Chowdary deplored that the construction industry in the State collapsed after the YSRCP came to power. Construction workers were thrown on to the roads with no work. The government did not bother to give them any relief by at least drawing funds from their own welfare fund of Rs 1,200 crore during the coronavirus crisis.

He also pointed out that the sand rates have been increased from Rs 50 to Rs 525 per tonne at the level of sand

reaches and boatmen societies. All this was being done to help the YCP henchmen and leaders to loot more from sand mining, the TDP leader alleged.

Stating that Polavaram project was stopped due to narrow-minded policies pursued by the YSRCP government, Butchaiah Chowdary said that the Jagan's regime was only interested in advancing their personal selfish interests while the State was going backwards by several years. Vijay Sai Reddy was looting natural resources in Visakhapatnam area, SV Subba Reddy was doing the same in Godavari districts while Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy and Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy were looting the resources in Rayalaseema region.

Extend tech support to the growth of pilgrim city: Kishan Reddy

Interacts with Heads of Dept in IIT, Tirupati



K N Satvanaravana presenting a memento to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy

IIT Tirupati

Director Prof

HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUPATI

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddyvisited IIT Tirupati campus at Yerpedu in Chittoor District on Friday evening.

On the occasion, Kishan Reddy suggested to the IIT faculty to extend support to the TTD and the growth of Tirupati city by providing technology-based solutions.

Prof K N Satyanarayana, Direc

tor of the IIT, briefed the Minister about the progress of the institute and the achievements. Later, the Director showed the master plan of the campus and explained the phase wise construction and the technologies being used in it.

The Union Minister visited the laboratories in the institute. He also interacted with the Deans and Heads of the Departments. Kishan Reddy lauded the progress being made by the Institute. IIT faculty and students were present.

Finally, China congratulates Biden, Harris for victory

Continued from P1

Chinese strategic experts said Biden entering the White House is expected to provide an opportunity for breakthroughs in resuming high-level communication and rebuilding mutual strategic trust between the two major countries. "The Biden tenure could usher

in a buffering period for alreadytense China-US relations and offer an opportunity for breakthroughs in resuming high-level communication and rebuilding mutual strategic trust between the two countries," state-run Global Times quoted Chinese experts as saying on Monday. Jin Canrong, Associate Dean of

the School of International Studies at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, said that Biden will usher in a "buffer period" for China-US relations - relations may still worsen, but not as quickly.

"Biden will be more moderate and mature in handling foreign af-

Russian Covid

vax arrives in

human clinical

On August 11, the Sputnik V

vaccine developed by the

Gamaleya National Research

Institute of Epidemiology and

Microbiology was registered by

the Ministry of Health of Rus-

sia and became the world's first

registered vaccine against

Covid-19 based on the human

adenoviral vector platform. IANS

India for

Continued from P1

trial

fairs," Jin said.

Biden is expected to appoint more professional officials to his diplomatic team and so it will be possible for US-China tensions to take a brief timeout, he said. The vicious circle has led to

damaged strategic mutual trust, a suspension of high-level communication and little concrete cooperation, Xin Qiang, deputy director of the Centre for US Studies at Fudan University, told the daily. It might now be expected that

some liaison mechanisms and stalled dialogues can be resumed, "but it will take time to rebuild mutual strategic trust," he said. However, the pending change in US leadership will not change the overall direction of Washington's China policy, observers said.

Regardless of who resides in the White House, the US will to some extent maintain its current approach toward China, the experts

Centre gives ₹4,382 cr calamity aid to 6 States

Continued from P1 In all the six states, the central government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of memorandum from the affected states.

In addition, during the financial year 2020-21, till date, the central government has released Rs 15,524.43 crore to 28 states from the SDRF, the statement added.

1,593 new cases in AP

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh reported 1,593 new Covid-19 cases in the 24 hours ending at 9 am on Friday, taking the infection count to 8,51,298. Total number of sample tests for coronavirus crossed the 90 lakh mark in the State on Friday, which turned out an overall infection positivity rate of 9.44 per cent. According to the latest bulletin, 2,178 more patients recovered and 10 succumbed. The active caseload fell to 20,262 after a total of 8,24,189 recoveries and 6,847 deaths, it said. East Godavari district crossed 1.20 lakh confirmed positive cases as it added 259 cases afresh in 24 hours.

Supreme Court allows green crackers in TS

Continued from P1

But the problem in Hyderabad is there are no green crackers to be sold in the market. The dealers cannot get green crackers now. Earlier, State Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar had issued a circular and said that "the Government after careful consideration of the matter and keeping in view the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, hereby impose a ban on the sale and use of firecrackers by the people and organisations, with immediate effect." The Chief Secretary accordingly instructed the Director-General of Police, Fire Services DG, District Collectors, Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to immediately ensure closure of such shops.

YSRCP activist killed in group clash in Kadapa dist HANS NEWS SERVICE

KADAPA

TENSION prevailed in P Ananthapuram village of Kondapuram mandal in Kadapa district on Friday following the murder of YSR Congress Party functionary during a group clash between the followers of Jammalamadugu MLA P Sudheer Reddy and former MLA P Ramasubba Reddy in the

Four others were injured in the clash. The deceased was identified as U Gurunatha Reddy (52), follower of former MLA and YS-RCP leader P Ramasubba Reddy. According to the sources, revenue officials proposed to hold • Scuffle breaks out between the two groups over the selection of beneficiaries for implementation of R and R package to the displaced families under the Gandikota reservoir project

 Members of both the groups attack each other with sticks and stones

• U Gurunatha Reddy (52), follower of former MLA P Ramasubba Reddy, succumbs to injuries in the clash

Grama Sabha with regard to implementation of R&R package to the displaced families of Gandikota reservoir in the village on Friday. However, Gurunatha Reddy had reportedly lodged a complaint with revenue authorities stating that irregularities were committed in the selection of beneficiaries under the R and R package. The rival group reportedly bore a grudge on Gurunatha Reddy over the issue.

Subsequently, there were heated exchanges between the two groups and they attacked each other with sticks and stones. Gurunatha Reddy sustained serious injuries in the clash and was immediately shifted to Tadipatri government hospital in Anantapur district. However, he was declared brought dead by the doctors at the hospital.

Four others who sustained injuries in the clash were also admitted in the same hospital. The condition of one of them is stated to be critical.

Meanwhile, revenue officials cancelled the Grama Sabha following the Friday's incident. Heavy police bandobast has been provided at the P Ananthapuram village following the murder of the YSRCP activist. Kondapuram police registered a case and are investigating.

Pandemic casts a shadow on Diwali celebrations

VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Festival of Lights assumes a greater significance and people look forward to celebrating it with fervour. After bitter experiences in 2014 when cyclone Hudhud wreaked havoc along the Visakhapatnam coast, lakhs of trees were uprooted and fell flat. Since it was riskier to burst crackers, the state government called for a muted Diwali celebration

Revellers volunteered to give up using crackers during Diwali, paving way for the lamp-laden celebrations.

Six years down the line, Vizagites are likely to witness a quiet Diwali again. With restrictions imposed on bursting crackers and the stress growing on the use

In 2014, Visakhapatnam witnessed a muted Diwali due to cyclone Hudhud

 Now, Covid-19 pandemic casts a shadow on the Festival of Lights

 Many confine to a quiet celebration

of green crackers that too for only two hours, many avoid lighting crackers only to usher in a muted festival. "Our celebration should not be a cause of concern for others. Instead of adding to the Covid-19 blues and pollution level, we prefer to confine ourselves to decking up the house with lamps and flowers rather than bursting crackers which used to form a part of the revelry," says M. Rajini, an entrepreneur.

Since there are no firework stalls accessible in major localities such as Simhachalam, Pendurthi, Gopalapatnam, NAD, Kancharapalem, Malkapuram, not many look forward to visiting other places to procure crackers. "As we have two kids at home, we just want to invest in a set of sparklers rather than going out of the way to invest in fireworks like earlier," says P. Kishore Kumar, who works in a

private firm. While some of the traders try to sell firecrackers illegally in the city, the police, on the other hand, are acting tough against them. In 2014, the port city witnessed a muted Diwali due to Hudhud. But in 2020, the coronavirus pandemic casts a shadow on the Festival of Lights.

Ganababu elected as VFI vice-president

VISAKHAPATNAM

PGVR Naidu (Ganababu) is the vice-president of Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) as the results of the

election held recently been announced. The

High

The newly-elected vice Madras president of the VFI PGVR Naidu

Court directed the authorities to conduct the elections for the office-bearers and executive committee of the VFI. On November 11, the election results were declared. Speaking on the occasion, Ganababu said he will work

hard for the development of the federation.

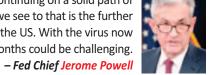


TODAY'S QUOTE

Rising Covid case hinders economic recovery

HANS BUSINESS

We do see the economy continuing on a solid path of recovery, but the main risk we see to that is the further spread of disease here in the US. With the virus now spreading, the next few months could be challenging.



Infosys co-founder gets 4L shares as 'gift'

Infosys co-founder S D Shibulal has received little over four lakh shares of the company as a gift, taking the total number of shares owned by him to more than 21.6 lakh shares, according to a regulatory filing.S D Shibulal along with N R Narayana Murthy and five others, founded Infosys in 1981

THE RISE & RISE OF ADANI

cent of banking sector loans

FOREX (bu		4			
US Dollar	79.08	South		NAME OF	
Euro	92.56	African Rar	nd	5.48	
UAE Dirham	22.34	Hong Kong	Dollar	11.06	
Thai Baht	2.84	Japanese Yen		0.82	
British Pound	102.16	New Zealar	nd Dollar	53.49	
Australian Dollar	56.8	Saudi Riyal		21.87	
Canadian Dollar	59.65	Swedish Kr	ona	9.88	
Swiss Franc	84.78	Singapore I	Dollar	58.07	

DELHI SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Asus launches new product

ASUS announced the launch of the latest line-upof Intel powered laptopsconsisting of VivoBookultra 14/15, VivoBook Ultra K15, and ZenBook 14. Building on its commitment to elevate user experience, Asus brings a whole range of devices that are precision engineered keeping in mind the needs of the Gen Z. Equipped with the latest 11th Gen Intel Core Processors, the ultra-slim design, visually satisfying aesthetics, custom intelligent cooling solutions, faster RAM, expandable storage, and NanoEdge display. the blazingly fast laptops offer optimized performance etc. Arnold Su, Business Head, said "We aim to surpass ourselves with every new offering. The new lineup is definitely no exception. With the latest entries into the VivoRook Ultra and ZenBook series, our intent is to deliver superpowered performance, exhilarating visuals, and a host of upgrades to existing features to our users."

12cure lotion gets certified

12cure BioShield antiseptic lotion which provides advanced molecular Iodine protection against Covid-19 has received Halal certification in a recent inspection and assessment conducted by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind Halal Trust. The trust stated that I2cure antiseptic lotion complies with Halal requirements and helps adversely affected Muslim community due to the non-usage of the alcohol-based sanitizers and there was a dire need to provide protection to a community which is forbidden to use alcohol products. After receiving the Halal certification, I2cure can cater to the Muslim community and will help them in controlling the spread of the deadly virus. Anil Kejriwal, Global Chairman, India, said: "I2cure is going to be the next generation of innovation in healthcare & preventive health and we are now taking it to the global markets and educating people about the strength of this product."

Adani's rise fuels criticism of capital concentration

Financial Times report says whatever Adani touches turning gold

\$30 billion

total debt

under 'severe stress' that accounted for 12 per

Credit Suisse

warned in a

Debt' report

Group was

one of 10

2015 'House of

conglomerates

New Delhi

GAUTAM Adani's mushrooming empire has become a focus of criticism for those who believe that capital is being concentrated in the hands of a few favoured corporate titans at the expense of India's middle class, Financial Times reported.

The report said some argue the concentration of economic power in family-run conglomerates is a way to fasttrack India's economic development,

like the Chaebol did for post-war South Korea. But critics say the rapid consolidation of state assets is creating monopolies and stifling competition.

The report said whether India's industrialisation leaves it more closely resembling the US at the turn of the 20th century when the likes of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller wielded vast influence, or Russia in the 1990s, Adani's voracious appetite for deal-making and political instincts have ensured he will play a central role.

"Gautam Adani is very powerful, very politically well connected and very astute at using that power," says Tim Buckley, an energy analyst based in Australia who tracks India.

The Adani Group declined to comment for this article, FT said.

that the Adani Adani Group's

The Adani Group's total outstanding debt came to more than \$30 billion as of November 11, according to data from Dealogic, including \$7.8 billion worth of bonds and \$22.3 billion in loans. High debt is nothing new among Indian conglomerates but the Adani Group's

rapid expansion has raised concern. Credit Suisse warned in a 2015

Loans availed

by Adanis

"House of Debt" report that the Adani Group was one of 10 conglomerates under "severe stress" that accounted for 12 per cent of banking sector loans. Yet the Adani Group has been able to keep raising funds, in part by borrowing from overseas lenders and pivoting to green energy. The report said Adani continues to enjoy ample access to capital, both at home and overseas, and can tell investors that he has never defaulted on a loan despite highly leveraged balance sheets.

Adani Group companies tapped international debt markets with bond sales of more than \$2 billion and Adani Gas sold a 37.4 per cent stake to Total for a reported \$600m, which gave him ample cash flow to weather the shock of the pandemic when it hit. And international groups are queueing up to partner with the mogul.

Earlier this month, Adani announced a strategic collaboration in hydrogen and biogas with Italian gas and infrastructure group Snam.

But for others, Adani has become too big to fail. "He's become one of the most powerful men in India in the space of 20 years," Buckley says. "What he touches turns to gold," the report said.

Centre allows pastureland for solar power plants

New Delhi

IN an attempt to bring even small farmers under its solarisation drive, government has allowed use of pastureland and marshy land for the development of grid connected solarpower plants. The ministry of new and re-

newable energy had amended guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme is expanding its scope to include new areas for setting up of solar power plants in rural agricultural areas.



The scheme so far allowed power plants only on barren, fallow and agricultural land. But with the changes, solar power plants can now also be installed on pastureland and marshy land of farmers.

Changes have also been made on the size of the power plant so that it makes it easier even for small farmers to invest in power

Vivo rolls out new campaign

HYDERABAD

SMARTPHONE brand Vivo launched a new campaign called #SmileWalaDiya to celebrate Diwali festival. Thecampaign is based on vivo India's brand proposition of 'Delight Every Moment'and captures the nuances of the prevailing situation. It unveiled a thoughtprovoking video film and narrated the excitement of Diwali, and the expectations children have in the current backdrop of challenging business situations. NipunMarya, Director - Brand Strategy, vivo India, said, "This year has been incredibly tough for all of us as we embraced the new normal and had to become socially distant. Therefore, the festival of Diwali becomes even more significant since it brings together people to celebrate and enjoy with their loved ones".

REAL CORNER

Exports dip 5.12% in Oct; trade deficit narrows

New Delhi

INDIA'S exports fell 5.12 per cent to \$24.89 billion in October, after recording positive growth in September, on account of drop in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather and engineering goods, according to government data released on Friday. Trade deficit in October narrowed to \$8.71 billion as

against \$11.75 billion in the corresponding month a year ago. Imports also fell 11.53 per cent to \$33.6 billion (year-onyear) in October 2020. Major export commodities that recorded negative growth in October included petroleum products (52 per cent), cashew (21.57 per cent), gems and jewellery (21.27 per cent), leather (16.67 per cent), manmade varn/fabrics/ madeups (12.8 per cent), electronic goods (9.4 per cent), coffee (9.2 per cent), marine products (8 per cent) and engineering goods (3.75 per cent). During April-October 2020, exports declined 19.02 per cent to \$150.14 billion, while imports fell 36.28 per cent to \$182.29 billion over the same period a year ago. Oil imports dipped 38.52 per cent to \$5.98

Mkts bounce back as bank stocks recover

Samvat 2076 closes with11% gains **M**UMBAI

DOMESTIC equity benchmarks eked out modest gains on Friday after a day's pause as banking and finance stocks found firmer ground amid mixed global cues.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 85.81 points or 0.20 per cent higher at 43,443. The broader NSE Nifty rose 29.15 points or 0.23 per cent to 12,719.95. Both the benchmarks closed Hindu calendar year Samvat 2076 with smart gains.

The Sensex rallied 4,384.94 points or 11.22 per cent, while the Nifty soared



1,136.05 points or 9.80 per cent. Markets will have a special one-hour Muhurat trading session on Diwali (Saturday) to mark the beginning of Samvat 2077. Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, rising 3.32 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI and UltraTech Cement. On the other hand, L&T, HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, TCS and M&M were among the major laggards, slumping up to 2.04 per cent.

During the week, the Sensex

rallied 1,549.94 points or 3.69

per cent, while the Nifty soared 456.40 points or 3.72 per cent. "Markets continue to maintain their positive momentum over the week driven by latest positive news of Covid-19 vaccine development, US election results and inflows of foreign investor money. Good set of quarterly numbers 'Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0' stimulus measures announced by government also helped in keeping the momentum of market strong. "Over the week, market maintained high valuations and this led to profit booking in banking sector.

I-T sop will help developers liquidate unsold inventory

Finance Ministry says the move will boost demand in reale state sector

he central government's move to allow primary or first sale of housing units costing up to Rs 2 crore at a price 20 per cent below the stamp duty circle rate would enable real estate developers to liquidate their unsold inventory and also benefit homebuyers, the finance ministry said on Friday.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday included income tax relief measures for real estate developers and homebuyers for primary purchase/sale of residential units of value of up to Rs 2 crore for the period from November 12, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

"In order to boost demand in the real-estate sector and to enable the real-estate developers to liquidate their unsold inventory at a rate substantially lower than the circle rate and giving benefit to the home buyers, it has been decided to further increase the safe harbour from 10 per cent to 20 per cent under section 43CA of the Act for the period from November 12, 2020-June 30, 2021, in respect of only primary sale of residential units of value up to Rs

"Consequential relief by increasing the safe harbour from

Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package announced by **Finance Minister** included income tax relief measures for real estate developers and homebuyers for primary purchase/ sale of residential units of value of up to Rs 2 crore

10 per cent to 20 per cent shall also be allowed to buyers of these residential units under section 56(2)(x) of the Act for the said period," the ministry said in a statement.

So far, the law restricted the differential between circle rate and agreement value at 10 per cent. The I-T relief announced on Thursday would mean that tax would not have to be paid if, for example, the circle rate of a property in Rs 100 and the purchase/sale value is up to Rs 80. Therefore, for these transactions, circle rate shall be deemed as sale/purchase consideration only if the variation between the agreement value and the circle rate is more than 20 per cent. This relaxation, which is applicable till June 2021, would help builders clear their unsold stock, which is estimated at around 7 lakh units in major seven to eight cities.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said increasing the spread between the circle rate and agreement value to 20 per cent under Sec-

tion 43CA of the I-T Act for primary sale till June 2021 is sure to provide a breather to the industry. "Interestingly, the total value of consideration for residential units is limited to Rs 2 crores, limiting this respite only to middle income group feeling the heat of cash and liquidity crunch in the pandemic ridden environment.

"This reprieve is expected to ease developers in aligning the prices of inventory, thereby inducing new customers to the market," Jhunjhunwala added

PRESTIGE LAUNCHES NEW

 $T^{\text{he fourth virtual property}}_{\text{launch in as many months by}}$ India's leading real estate developer heralds growing customer confidence and Indian realty's steady path to recovery. Three inaugurations of completed developments Prestige Leela Residences, Prestige Lakeridge and Prestige North Point Retail in Bengaluru, also took place on the same day.Prestige Group has been strategically paving the way for recovery in the pandemic world with virtual property launches over the last few months. Two more virtual property launches are in the pipeline this year.

India's first and only developer rated DA1 by Crisil has announced the digital launch of its latest residential project Prestige Tranquil in Hyderabad. Located in Kokapet the up and coming suburb that is easily accessible from the airport as well as the financial district, this



spacious, self-contained, aesthetic enclave of 906 three-bed, high-rise homes offers an exceptionally sustainable residential community in the City of Pearls. Irfan Razack CMD, Prestige

Group, said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most adaptable to change. This quote is often wrongly attributed to Charles Darwin's Origin of Species. Nonetheless, the wisdom in these words is unquestionable. The last few months have tested



dential segment, he added. According to a recent report by JLL, Hyderabad's real estate showed a 76 per cent increase in residential sales in the third quarter of 2020 as compared to the previous quarter. Prestige Group's earlier residential projects in Hyderabad include Prestige High Fields, Prestige Ivy League, Prestige Nirvana and Prestige Royal Woods.

Realty sector propels PE/VC deal activity in October

Realty sector bets have helped in doubling the overall private equity and venture capital investments in October to \$ 8.4 billion, a report said on Thursday. Overall venture investments had stood at \$ 3.2 billion in the yearago period and \$4.4 billion in the preceding September month, a report by EY, a consultancy, said. Real estate sector had two deals of over \$1 billion each in the commercial space to take the overall inflows in the sector to \$ 3.7 billion, while \$ 3.3 billion came as

Private equity exits have witnessed a slowdown. October witnessed muted activity with only nine deals of \$ 288 million mainly supported by open market activity

part of equity dilution by Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries in its retail arm, it said. From a year-to-date perspective, the first ten months of the year have seen deals of \$ 37.5 billion, which is 5 per cent lower than the

same period last year. "However, investments in Reliance Group entities account for 40 per cent of these investments. Excluding this outlier, the PE/VC investments are 43 per cent lower than the same period last year," its partner Vivek Soni said. He said we are still not out of the woods as yet and there are still concerns on global growth outlook despite the US elections outcome as countries in the European region are going into the second round of lockdowns.

Gandhi junior docs continue strike for non-Covid services

- Demand restricted Covid services while resuming non-Covid treatments
- ▶ The junior doctors have been missing out on practical knowledge and exposure to patients suffering from non-Covid ailments as they have been deputed only for **Covid duties since March**

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE junior doctors of the Gandhi Hospital have continued with their decision to boycott duties claiming that conthe Health department's circular to the Superintendent for the resumption of non-Covid services were not what they have demanded. Director of Medical Education has asked the Gandhi Superintendent to bifurcate Covid and non-Covid services and start non-Covid services by November 21.

This according to junior doctors would overburden the existing system leading to new problems. Continuing unrestricted delivery of Covid serv-



Gandhi Hospital junior doctors taking part in a protest, demanding resumption of non-Covid services, on Friday

ices and at the same time resuming of non-Covid services in a full-fledged manner was not desirable, they felt, demanding the resumption of non-Covid services, but confining of Covid beds to 200 at Gandhi for the smooth functioning.

"Only critical cases that require super-specialty treatment and attention should be admitted in Gandhi, while the rest of the virus infection cases

should be diverted to TIMS or King Koti hospital. At present. over 300 Covid patients (of all kinds) are getting treatment at Gandhi. Just bifurcation of services would mean again all Covid cases will continue to be admitted in Gandhi again. TIMS has good infrastructure and it can be made a designated hospital replacing Gandhi," the doctors said.

Dr Khizer Hussain, general secretary, Gandhi JUDA stated that infrastructure and human resources should be properly utilised to benefit the general public. Also, thought should be given to academic requirements of junior doctors of different specialties who have been missing out on practical knowledge and exposure to patients suffering from other non-Covid ailments as they were being deputed for only Covid duties for nearly eight months since March this year.

Guv extends Diwali greetings

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has extended Diwali greetings to the people of State. In a message, here on Friday, Governor said "On this joyous occasion of Diwali. I extend my warmest greetings to the people of Telangana. This festival of lights signifies the victory of righteousness over the evil. As our Prime Minister appealed let us celebrate by buying our festival materials of indigenous manufacturers and bring brightness in their lives during festival. Let us hope to celebrate the next Diwali in Covid-19 free conditions, she

CM pays rich tributes to poet Kaloji

HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said that Kaloji Narayan Rao, who lived as a voice of people, would be remembered

The CM paid rich tributes to the poet on the occasion of Kaloji's death anniversary on Friday. The CM described Kaloji as the reformer who activated the Telangana society through his literature and speeches.

Stop issuing of passbooks for structures raised in tribal areas: HC to govt

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

THE High Court issued orders to the State government asking it to not to issue Maroon or any other passbooks for recognition of rights over the structures raised in the scheduled areas constructed after 03-02-1970, till the next date.

The High Court division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy heard a public interest litigation filed by Adivasi Sankshema Parishad. The petitioner alleged that declaring the action of the State government for enlisting all the structures in the Scheduled Areas of the State for issuing Maroon passbooks creating permanent rights as owners over such properties constructed without obtaining permissions and Rythuwari Pattas over such

lands as illegal, arbitrary and contrary to the Telangana Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulations under 5th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The counsel for the petitioner. PV Ramana, argued that the present policy of the government was directly in contravention if the government issues Maroon passbooks to the structures raised in the Scheduled Areas after 1970 without any permissions from panchayat or municipal authorities. Chief Justice RS Chauhan directed the State government to stop issuance of passbooks till the next hearing in tribal areas, otherwise, it would lead to unnecessary complications.

The High Court directed Advocate General Banda Shivananda Prasad to file the counter by November 18 and the matter was posted to November 19.

RESPONDING ON CHIRANJEEVI'S CASE

No test is foolproof, says TS Health Director HYDERABAD

THE Director of Public Health (Telangana), Dr G Srinivas Rao, stated that no test was foolproof and there were limitations for all. Replying to a query on actor K Chiranjeevi's issue, who was tested positive for coronavirus, Rao said that RT-PCR test also results in

false positives and false negatives. Research keeps going on always for 99 per cent to cent per cent accuracy in tests. Chiranjeevi, for more clarity and reassurance, might have got tested 2-3 times. There is no wrong in false positives. As per guidelines, if a test result comes positive, we consider it as positive, he said.

28 % seats vacant in engineering colleges

HANS NEWS SERVICE RANGA REDDY

NEARLY 28% seats are vacant in government and private engineering colleges after the final phase of counseling of allotment of seats. There are 14 government engineering colleges and 167 private engineering colleges in Telangana. In these colleges there are 70,120 seats available in various courses. After the completion of the final phase of allotment of seats, only 50, 884 seats were fulfilled and 19,726 seats are left vacant.

In government engineering colleges, 98.7 percent of seats have been fulfilled. In 14 government engineering colleges 3,110 seats have been fulfilled out of

3,150. In 167 private engineering colleges 71.3 percent of seats have been filled with students. Total 44,927 seats were fulfilled out of 66,969 seats. 19,235 seats are vacant in private engineering

In 38 government, private engineering colleges are filled with 100 percent of seats. The seats in 12 government, 26 private engineering colleges were filled with students.

In the engineering colleges, 92.47 percent of CSE courses, 75.4 percent of ECE courses, 53.95 percent of EEE courses, 55.75 percent of CIVIL courses, 47.43 percent of Mechanical courses, 97.01 percent of IT courses seats have been fulfilled

Orientation programme held on latest technologies

HANS NEWS SERVICE RANGA REDDY

RACHAKONDA Police organised a special session in order to enlighten the field police officers over the latest technologies that are being used in the Hyderabad city wide Surveillance Project (Smart City Project) in order to ensure public safety and security in a more professional way on

The officers were given complete knowledge over the project as to how the various technological platforms of Telangana police integrated into one platform and how they can be utilised on time to get results on the field. How can the standard of living of



citizens can be improved with the help of this project. The executing agency of the project M/SL & T representative Srinivas Rao and Inspector IT cell Sridhar Reddy explained in details about the HCS project and ITMS project. Additional DCP

SOT Surender Reddy, Additional DCP SHE teams Saleema and Additional DCP Traffic Manohar and all ACPs and Inspectors of L&O, Traffic, SOT, Special Branch, SHE teams, CCS and Control Room officers were seen

KTR and Mahmood Ali conducted a meeting with DGP TS, three CPs and other senior officers and instructed to achieve the target of 10 lakh cameras installation on at foot basis in order to improve the living standards of Hyderabad citizens. Government of Telangana has also issued a GO directing various departments including GHMC, ULBs, TRANSCO, Marketing Dept, TSRTC etc to install cameras under their charge.



Books, masks, sanitisers distributed

HANS NEWS SERVICE MOINABAD

BOOKS, masks and sanitizers were distributed to students on the occasion of Children's day under the supervision of T Veeresham in Appojiguda School in Moinabad mandal on Friday. On this occasion, Veere-

sham said that parents should take care of their children's education. These children are one who leads the path for the development of the country in the future. The children should lay a strong foundation for their future. Sarpanch Gorkanti Raiu and the local people were also

WINTER BLUES

People told not to lower guard against Covid-19

CP meets constable

lauded by Dattatreya

- ► Health experts feel that the dip in temperatures might make
- the Covid effect stronger However, they say Covid
- impact has reduced in TS

HYDERABAD

THE Health department sounded Covid alert to people as generally respiratory-related health issues are more commonly seen in the winter season post Diwali festival. With decrease in temperatures, there is a chance of virus effect going stronger, it said. Director of Public Health, Telangana Dr G positive cases in New Delhi in the last week has been attributed to pollution levels. Due to Diwali fes- reasons for this decline, he felt.



tival, people are going on a shopping spree, but care should be taken to follow Covid safety measures at all costs, he stressed. The department also appealed to people to avoid burning firecrackers during the festival and also in weddings this season. Dr Srinivas Srinivasa Rao said that jump in Rao, however, said that Covid impact has been reduced in the State. People following Covid safety dip in temperatures and increased measures is also one of the main

Woman, son killed in accident

RANGA REDDY

A woman Chandrakala (48), and her son Pradeep Reddy (19) were killed in an road accident after the motorcycle on which they were travelling was hit by a speeding car at Sagar Road in Ramanagudu on Friday. The car hit the motorcycle while they were going to Ibrahimpatnam to Hyderabad. Two persons who were travelling in the car were also sustained with serious injuries and they were immediately shifted to a corporate hospital in LB Nagar.

MLA grieves over Sarpanch's death

HANS NEWS SERVICE RANGA REDDY

MLA Jaipal Yadav visited Kasagudam Sarpanch Azarudin's residence on Friday who committed suicide recently, he laid a wreath at the body and expressed deep grief over his death. MLA later provided financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to Sarpanch's family. Sarpanchs Jangayya Krishna Reddy, Jangayya Parvathamma, Srinu MPTCs Brahman, Venkataya, Former MPP Jaipal Nayak, Former ZPTC Ravi Teja, TRS leaders Lalayya Goud, Pawan Reddy and other local leaders were also present.



Uttam castigates govt for ignoring inundated Osman Nagar

The TPCC chief visits Osman Nagar and assures help to the affected families

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

STATE Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy criticised the TRS government for not helping the residents of Osman Nagar in the Maheshwaram Assembly constituency which remained inundated even af-

Accompanied by senior Congress leaders, Uttam visited Osman Nagar and surrounding areas on Friday and interacted with the affected families.

ter a month of heavy rains and

Speaking to the media persons later, Uttam said that nearly 610 houses have been in water for a month and the State government did nothing to either help the affected families or pump out the water from the locality. He said that hundreds of residents of Osman Nagar were forced to live on the streets for the last one month as they could not return to their homes. They lost all their household belongings and valuables. He described their condition as inhuman and said that Osman Nagar exposes the hollowness of claims being made by Municipal Administration KT Rama Rao on



submerged areas of Osmansagar in Maheshwaram constituency in Ranga Reddy district, on Friday

flood relief in Hyderabad.

"It is a shame on the TRS government that even after a month of excess rains, many of houses remain submerged in Hyderabad. It is really inhuman that no relief or food grains have been supplied by the State government to the flood ravaged residents of Osman Nagar,"

Uttam said that the TRS government completely neglected the residents of Osman Nagar to the extent that it made no efforts to pump out water and restore normalcy. He alleged that there was a big conspir-

acy behind keeping the entire area inundated. He said that the government was not helping the residents at the behest of land grabbers who want the residents to abandon their inundated houses.

The TPCC chief said that the entire Osman Nagar has now turned into a lake with the formation of green algae on the accumulated water. He said thousands of families living around Osman Sagar were now facing the risk of water-borne and other diseases. He alleged that the State government was manufacturing a major humanitarian cri-

sis just to help a few land grabbers, and it was highly unfortunate that **Education Minis**ter Sabitha Indira Reddy has failed to help flood victims de-

in her constituency. "While the conditions in Osman Nagar are worst, it is not an isolated case. Several localities in Hyderabad did not receive any help from the State government. TRS and

spite Osman Nagar falling

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi for not doing anything to help the residents of Osman Nagar. It is a shame on the

than half of Rs 550 crore which the

State government claims to have

The TPCC chief also slammed

spent on flood relief," he alleged.

TRS government that even after a month of excess rains, many of the houses remain submerged in Hyderabad. It is really inhuman that no relief or food grains have been supplied by the State government to the flood-ravaged residents of Osman Nagar

> -Uttam Kumar Reddy, President, TPCC

> > manded that the State government take immediate measures to pump out water from Osman Nagar and help the affected families. Else, he warned of launching an agitation.

HANS NEWS SERVICE RANGA REDDY

HIMACHAL Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya appreciated Abdullapurmet constable Surender for displaying poise and dedication. Constable Surender recovered a dead body from nala in a challenging situation during the heavy rains last month in Hyderabad, Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagawat handed over the appreciation letter of Himachal Pradesh Governor to constable Surender.



CARY (US)

INDIAN tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran came out with a fighting performance as he defeated America's Jack Sock in three-set thriller to enter the last eight of the ongoing Atlantic Tire Championships, an ATP Challenger event, held at Cary, North Carolina, United States.

Prajnesh, fourth-seeded southpaw, defeated Sock 6-7 (3), 6-2, 7-6(5) in a tight round two contest, which lasted almost three hours. The gritty Indian broke the serve of Sock, who reached a career-high singles ranking of eight in 2017 but is now placed 253, thrice and dropped his own serve only once in

Ranked 146 in the ATP rankings, Prajnesh will now lock horns with Brazilian qualifier Thomaz Bellucci for a spot in the semifinals of the USD 52,080 hard court tournament. Belluci was ranked as high as 21 at one stage of his career, in which he has won four singles ATP titles. The 32-year-old is now ranked 297.

Another Indian participating in the event, Ramkumar Ramanathan, has already made an exit. In singles, Ramkumar lost 6-3, 4-6, 1-6 while in doubles, he along with Andre Goransson, lost 1-6, 4-

6 to the duo of Hunter Reese and Sem Verbeek. GANS

ATP Finals

Djokovic drawn with Zverev, Medvedev

WORLD no.1 Novak Djokovic has been drawn in a group with Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev and Diego Schwartzman at the upcoming ATP Finals. The men's tennis season finale is going to be held in London from November 15 to 22 and the top eight singles and doubles players learned their groups for the tournament on Thursday, reports Xinhua news agency.

Djokovic, 33, will try to clinch the trophy for a record of six times while the Serbian needs to reach the semifinals first by qualifying from the Group Tokyo 1970 containing Russia's world number four Medvedev, German's world number seven Zverev and debutant Schwartzman from Argentina. World number two Rafael Nadal leads Group London 2020 alongside Aus-

trian Dominic Thiem, defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas from Greece and Russian Andrey Rublev, who reached the year-ending event with a career-high world ranking of eight. Schwartzman, ranked nine in ATP rankings, earned his place in London's O2 Arena as Swiss maestro Roger Federer has decided to skip the rest of the season due to a knee injury.

This is the 50th anniversary of the ATP Finals, which was first held in 1970 in Tokyo and it is the tournament's 12th and final edition in London. Next year, it will move to Turin, Italy. (IANS

Argentina held 1-1; Bolivia official arrested

SAO PAULO

LIONEL Messi had a goal disallowed and another denied as Argentina was held to a 1-1 draw in South American World Cup qualifying.

The draw at La Bombonera stadium puts Argentina on the top of the standings with seven points from three matches, but Brazil - on six - couldmove ahead with a home win over 9thplace Venezuela on Friday. Paraguay is in 4th position with five points. Argentina's fourth match in qualifying will be on Tuesday, when Paraguay hosts Bolivia and Ecuador is at home to Colombia.

In Thursday's opening match, 10thplace Bolivia conceded a late penalty to lose 3-2 at home to Ecuador. The Ecuadorians are now in 3rd place with six points in three games.

The top four teams will automatically qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The fifth-place team will go into an inter-continental playoff.

Paraguay once more gave Argentina trouble, opening the scoring in the 21st minute via Angel Romero's penalty. Argentina equalised in the 41st after Giovani Lo Celso took a corner and found Nicolas Gonzalez free in the box to head it home.

Messi appeared to give Argentina a lead in the 57th minute, but a video reviewed decision by Brazilian referee Raphael Claus found a foul for Paraguay 27 seconds earlier when the ball was still in Argentina's half.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni h to be creative for the match. Messi started with pain in his left ankle, and defender Nicolas Tagliafico had to be replaced by González, who usually plays as a striker at Stuttgart.

Scaloni also lost midfielder Exequiel Palacios to injury after only 30 minutes, but his replacement Lo Celso ended as one of the best on the pitch - though not enough to secure Argentina a home victory. Ángel Di Maria, who was initially expected to start, entered in the second half but was unable to produce a goal for Ar-



gentina's much-needed home win.

Ecuador's win in La Paz was decided in the final minutes. But a significant moment for Bolivia occurred earlier, off the pitch at Hernando Siles stadium, when investigators arrested the interim president of the country's soccer federation, Marcos Rodriguez.

Local media broadcast a video showing Rodriguez, who is accused of corruption, being escorted by investigators during halftime. Bolivia's soccer federation, which has been in political turmoil since the death of Cesar Salinas in July, had been scheduled to elect a new president on Friday.

Juan Carlos Arce opened the scoring for the hosts in the 37th minute, with an angled low shot to the left corner of Ecuador goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez. The Ecuadorians equalised a minute after halftime when defender Beder Caicedo calmly entered the penalty box and scored with a left-foot shot.

Angel Mena put the visitors in front in the 55th, beating Bolivia's Enrique Flores on the right edge of the box and, with a precise shot, squeezing the ball between Carlos Lampe's hands and the

Bolivia equalised on the hour when captain Marcelo Martins headed home after a corner. But it ended in disap-

pointment for the hosts when a VAR decision went to Ecuador for a handball by Adrian Jusino. Carlos Gruezo scored from the spot two minutes from time to seal the win. (AP)

Neymar ruled out of qualifiers

SAO PAULO

NEYMAR has been ruled out of Brazil's World Cup qualifier against Uruguay next week because of a groin injury he sustained playing for PSG in a Champions League

Thursday confirmed Neymar will not play in the South American qualifying match on Tuesday in Montevideo.

PSG coach Thomas Tuchel last week said it would be "impossible" for Neymar to play for Brazil as he recovered from the injury, but Brazil coach Tite insisted that the striker travel.

Neymar had already been ruled out of Friday's game against Venezuela.

On this day: Rohit hits highest individual ODI score

New Delhi

ON November 13, 2014, star Indian opener Rohit Sharma registered the highest-ever individual score in One-Day Internationals. Rohit smashed 264 against Sri Lanka at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata and etched his name in record books.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a link of Rohit's historical knock on their official Twitter handle.

'On this day in 2014, Rohit Sharma created history by smashing 264 - the highest individual score in the ODIs. A knock that included 33 fours and 9 sixes #TeamIndia. Watch that splendid knock here," the BCCI tweeted.

The right-handed batsman faced 173 balls during his marathon innings in which he smashed 33 fours and nine sixes. He started slowly as he reached the 50-run mark in 72 balls. However, after that, he changed gears to bring up next fifty off just 28 balls. His next 50 runs - which took his score from 100 to 150 - came in 25 balls and he reached his double century off 151 balls.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) also reminded social media users about Rohit's record as it shared how the innings of

dian opener progressed ball-by-ball during the course of the match.

Courtesy his innings, India posted a monstrous total of 404/5 in their allotted 50 overs.

In reply, Sri Lanka could manage just 251 runs and lost the match by a whopping margin of 153 runs

Rohit, popularly known as the 'Hitman', has so far played 224 ODIs in which he has amassed 10250 runs, including 29 centuries, 3 double centuries and 43 half cen-

Recently, he led Mumbai Indians to their fifth Indian Premier League (IPL) title. He has now returned back to India and will be joining his Indian teammates for the four-Test series to be played in Australia beginning December 17 in Adelaide. (IANS)

Former Man United forward Quixall dies at 87

MANCHESTER



FORMER Manchester United forward Albert Quixall passed away at the age of 87, the club

has informed.

Quixall spent six seasons at the Old Trafford, during which he helped the club to win its first trophy of the 1960s - the FA Cup in 1963. He was Sir Matt Busby's first signing after the Munich Air Disaster in 1958 and the transfer fee of 45,000 pounds was a British record at the time. He made 184 appearances for the Reds, scoring 56 goals, before moving on to Oldham Athletic in 1964. "In his autobiography, Sir Bobby Charlton described Quixall as "a new blond star of English football" and recalled how he "played a significant role in my rush of goals"," the club wrote on its website in an obituary.

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TOUGH CHALLENGE



England's Jude Bellingham (top, challenges Ireland's Jeff Hendrick during the international friendly soccer match between England and Ireland at Wembley stadium in London, England on Thursday. Harry Maguire, Jadon Sancho and Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored as England dominated Ireland in a 3-0 victory

Heart is fine: Kapil Dev

New Delhi

WEEKS after undergoing angioplasty, former India captain Kapil Dev on Friday informed he is all hearty and healthy as his "heart is working

Last month, Kapil suffered a cardiac arrest and subsequently underwent an angioplasty at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute in the national

"Happy Dipawali to everybody and I hope this year brings lots and lots of happiness to everybody. Thanks for your wishes. I am healthy and happy. Heart is working good but I want to wish everybody lots and lots of happiness around the world," India's first World Cup-winning captain said in a video posted on his official Twitter han-

On Thursday, the 61-year-old got back to the golf course after 20 days of the surgery and shared a video playing the sport with his friends at the Delhi Golf Club.

Nizam Cricket Club emerge champs in junior cricket event

HYDERABAD

BANKING on a 52 runs partnership for the 8th wicket between Dharmik (50 runs) and Aryan Saiyed, Nizam Cricket Club registered a narrow one-wicket win over Legala Cricket Academy in finals of the 5th edition of Winter Premier League Junior Cricket Championship-2020-21 played at SKN Cricket Grounds, Boduppal here on

The championship was organised by

Emerging Cricketers Development Group (ECDG) in collaboration with School Sports & Games Federation (SSGF). Later in a day prize distribution function

was graced by Mohammed Faiyaz Uddin Ghazi (Secretary, ECDG) and Dr. Faheem uddin Khaja (Secretary, SSGF & Principal, Crescent Model English School).

AWARDS: Most Valuable Player: Ashwin Sooraj; Player of the Tournament: Dharmik S; Best Batsman: Pruthvi Sai; Best Bowler: Ansh Gupta; Best Fielder:

Ambarish B; Best Wicket-Keeper: Rahul Chukka; Best Allrounder: Akash S; Game Changer Award: Aryan Saiyed; Emerging Players: Ameer Shaikh; The Spirit of Cricket Award: Sravan G; Promising Plaver: Vineeth.

Brief Scores: Legala Cricket Academy 191/7 in 35 overs (Vasu 92, Ashwin Sooraj 3/27. Ansh Gupta 4/30) lost to Nizam Cricket Club 195/9 in 34.2 overs (Dharmik 50, Aryan Saiyed 34; Om Karthik 3/25, Arshdeep 3/29)