

Further, Kumar said, from next session 'President Chair of Excellence' has been planned to be established in the institution.



# Womenia

## The goodness of natural sugars

DIWALI is just around the corner and let's not let this pandemic dampen our spirits. The virus won't keep us from spirit of Diwali. Along with Lord Ram's arrival, I also anticipate the homecoming of the Indian sweets. Jalebis, ladoos, halwas are undoubtedly delicious but they hide within them our long-time foe, processed white sugar. On this joyous occasion that symbolizes the victory of good over evil, choose natural sweeteners over their evil counterpart. Here are some natural sweeteners that you can incorporate:

### Fresh fruit

Full of fibre, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals; fruits are invariably good for us. They also add the much needed sweetness to life and our dishes. Add pineapple to your sheera and relish this delicious sweet. Instead of sprinkling white sugar on your fruit, drizzle with honey.

### Dry fruit

Dry fruits like little gems that adorn our food by adding a touch of opulence. They also add the right amount of sweetness to a meal. Dried fruits like dates, apricot, figs and raisins are fibrous. Dates contain much needed magnesium and iron. Raisins contain Iron and are known to be antimicrobial. Dry figs are rich in calcium and also aid in relieving constipation.



Naini Setalvad

stipation. Contribute to your wellness by including Iron, copper, calcium, Vitamin A and K rich figs as sweeteners.

### Stevia

Derived from the leaves of its namesake, here is a zero calorie sweetener that is very versatile in use. The stevia plant extract is also known to reduce blood pressure in hypertensive and improve glucose control in diabetics. To have it in its most natural form, one can get stevia plant and boil the leaves to get a concentrated sweet solution. Add it to shrikhand, ladoos and any of your mithai's.

### Honey

Liquid gold is a well-deserved title for this commodity. It is an ancient cure for coughs and colds. It is powered with antioxidants that boost immunity. Its anti-fungal, anti-bacterial nature makes it a great healer. Caramelize your nuts with a dash of honey and satisfy your sweet tooth.

### Jaggery

Can't imagine my childhood without the golden chunks of jaggery sweetening up every meal. This cane-sugar derivative acts as a digestive aid and helps

in the prevention of respiratory ailments. Containing Iron and folate it's useful in regularizing the menstrual cycle and preventing anaemia. The delicious Noleen Gur made from date palm is added to Bengali delicacies like Sandesh and Mishti Doi. Replace white sugar with Jaggery in your sweet treats.

Ditch the empty calories of white sugar and go natural this festive season by adding the right kind of sweetener to your celebrations! Don't overdo, as even though natural sweeteners may be better than refined sugars, moderation is the key.

## Follow a sensible diet for healthy hair

HAIR health also has to do with what's under the scalp, since it eventually reflects on what's above. If you find yourself nutrient-deficient, you'll find your hair instantly looking lacklustre, dull and thin.

Protein is the building block of healthy hair since it holds each strand together. The hair itself is made up of a protein called keratin, and yours tends to be stripped off it with everyday styling, pollution and stress. Increase the protein levels in your diet by consuming a diet rich in dairy.

Omega 3 fatty acids are also essential to keep your scalp and hair follicles from drying out, reducing inflammation and promoting hair growth. Try salmon, mackerel and sardines. Vegetarians, you can get your daily dose of Omega 3 from avocados, flaxseeds, olive oil and walnuts. Eat vitamins as well - particularly generous helpings of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Zinc is vital to balancing your hormones and for RNA and DNA production, which in turn affects hair texture and thickness. Oysters are an

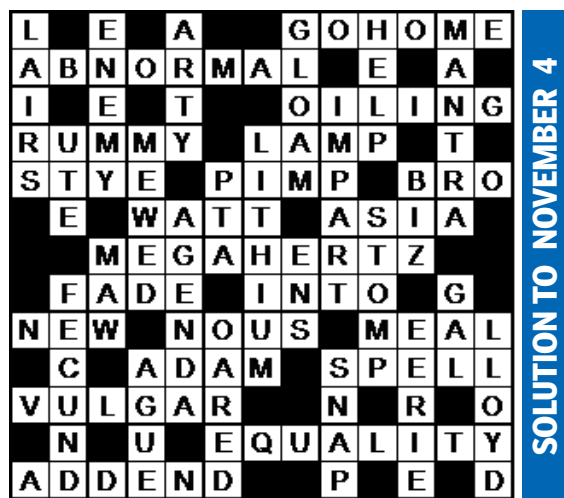
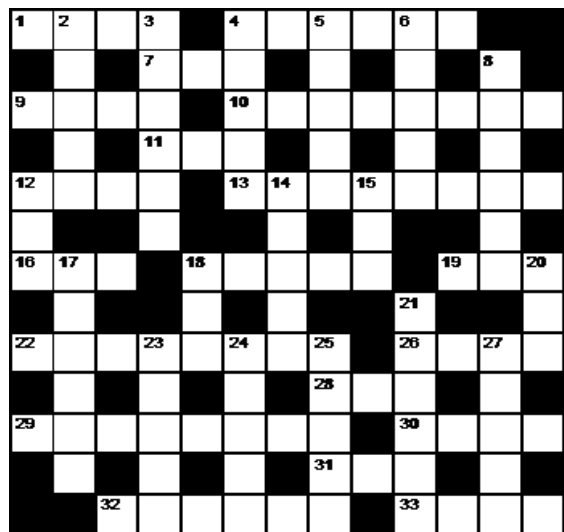


amazing source of zinc, as are shrimps, mussels, beef, and fortified cereals like oatmeal, beans and eggs. Selenium is found in mushrooms, sunflower seeds, brazil nuts, brown rice, whole grain rye

and crabs.

The body also needs at least 18 mg of iron a day to ensure healthy hair growth and strength, so eat your greens! Silica is important for the absorption of the vitamins you

consume. So even if you're eating up a lot of healthy food, but not getting your daily requirement of silica, it's a bit lesser effective. Silica-rich foods include bean sprouts, cucumbers and red bell peppers.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 4

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Kinds of poems (4)
- 4 Heat (6)
- 7 Scoundrel (3)
- 9 Forbidden (4)
- 10 Devious (8)
- 11 Permit (3)
- 12 Broth (4)
- 13 Parachutist (8)
- 16 Golfer's standard (3)
- 18 Nasal tone (5)
- 19 And so on (3)
- 22 Dark-haired woman (8)
- 26 Drove (4)
- 28 Modern prefix (3)
- 29 Elementary particle (8)
- 30 Travel on foot (4)
- 31 Exploit (3)
- 32 Sultanate in Borneo (6)
- 33 Failures; clothes (4)

#### Down

- 2 Constellation : The dragon (5)
- 3 Carve (6)
- 4 Court orders (5)
- 5 Reddish (5)
- 6 Ankles (5)
- 8 Receive (6)
- 12 It's given to pacify or quiet, or as a bribe (3)
- 14 Venomous snake (5)
- 15 Excavated (3)
- 17 Blithely (6)
- 18 Golf item (3)
- 20 Fish (3)
- 21 Exhibited or displayed (6)
- 23 More pleasing (5)
- 24 Italian city (5)
- 25 Boredom (5)
- 27 Governed (5)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 4

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## IIAD student, Kanika Agarwal, quills 2,500 dolls for Guinness Book of World Records

ATTEMPTING to break a Guinness World Record is no small feat. Kanika Agarwal, an Interior Architecture and Design student at IIAD, put on display 2,500 handmade paper dolls at the IIAD campus. If selected, she will have broken the current record of most number of quilled dolls on display and will have her name in the prestigious Guinness Book of World Records.

Kanika has been working on her display for over a year since she first came across the Guinness's 'Largest Display of Handmade Paper Dolls' World Record in 2019. In order to challenge the current record of 2,111 dolls, Kanika has quilled 2,500 dolls. While it was an exciting journey, Kanika claims that it required a great deal of effort and patience. She thanks her professors for not only helping her with the intricate details such as which paper type to use for her project but also providing her with motivation, guidance and support throughout the process. "If you want to do something crazy, just go for it, believe in yourself and start working," Kanika says.

Dr Jitin Chadha, the director of IIAD, applauded her effort and perseverance, saying "The hard work, effort and thought that has gone into conceptualising and executing this is clearly visible and we are proud of our student". IIAD is a contemporary design institute situated in New Delhi that offers courses in Fashion Design, Communication Design, Interior Architecture and Design and Fashion Business Management in collaboration with Kingston University, London ranked as the number one design school in the UK.



TWEET PATROL



PALAK MUCHHAL  
@PALAKMUCHHAL3

Behind  
the  
mask!



## Versatile, affordable jewellery for multi-faceted women

The Jewel Factor is an online e-commerce brand, birthed in 2019 with the idea to provide customers with a wide range of jewellery, befitting all occasions

Tejal Sinha

BIRTHED out of deep love and passion for jewellery, The Jewel Factor provides patrons with an unparalleled choice of pieces and styles. Helming from a family business background of diamonds and fine jewellery, Priti Mandhana launched 'The Jewel Factor' with a desire to experiment with style whilst making it more accessible and affordable.

As an Indian girl who grew up in Hong Kong, lived a few years in London and is now residing in India; Priti drew inspiration from the cultures she imbibed, the work experiences she garnered, the people she met and the places she travelled to.

Garnering vast knowledge of the industry as well as a deep-rooted understanding of aesthetics, fashion and creativity, it was her relentless love of fashion jewellery that took the forefront in her career.

A striking hybrid between Indian and Western design influences, the brand is a reflection of diversity, therefore stands out due to its versatility.

Priti shares, "From a very young age, I was fascinated by design and appreciated creativity in all forms such as art, architecture, fashion and of course jewellery. Having grown up around jewellery and seeing how something so small, can yet be so beautiful and precious, instantly caught my eye, a form of art, on your body. I loved how I could play with so many materials, techniques, colours and cater my pieces to a much larger segment of women."

The idea behind the brand is to provide the customer with a wide range of jewellery for all occasions and styles. Since inception, the brand has done private



shows and exhibitions around India and abroad. One of the key USP's of the brand is giving comfort a huge importance. Their jewellery often looks heavy due to the craftsmanship or material, is adored by customers because of its light weight.

"The idea of making women from all walks of life and not just a certain segment of society, feel more beautiful, empowered and confident is a huge driving factor. I want to make The Jewel Factor accessible and known to woman from all parts of the world, just bringing gorgeous jewellery. Whenever I would imagine my jewellery brand, I always imagined it with more of an offline presence than an online business model. Of course, being present online for any brand today is very important but I didn't think that I would run a full-fledged e-commerce brand," adds Priti.

Priti also believes that the beauty of the internet and social media is that you are able to reach places over a click of a button and geography doesn't set boundaries. However, that also demands the brand to be constantly communicating and dealing with customers who overall have a very short attention span.

Meanwhile sharing about her competitors, Priti said that a lot of the brands whom they consider as competitors, have been in the market for a much longer time.



Priti Mandhana

She adds, "Our strength is our design and versatility. We provide our customers with a wide range of jewellery and personally feel the quality of our collection is stronger than our competitors already. We also have a pretty strong international presence and a sizeable percentage of our business is from out of India. That definitely is a proud achievement as it takes much more of leap of faith to pay for international shipping and trust to order from an e-commerce brand and we have managed to achieve that in a short span of time."

In the next 2 years, The Jewel Factor sees itself as a go-to brand for women in India, well known amongst the magazines, stylists, influencers - being their first choice for gifting purposes. The brand has already gained a good customer base in the international market and would like to further expand on that in the upcoming years, positioning itself in the international domain.



Despite incomplete results from several battleground states that could determine the outcome of the U.S. Presidential race, President Donald Trump proclaimed victory over Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Wednesday.

The premature move confirmed worries Democrats had voiced for weeks that Trump would seek to dispute the election results. That could set off any number of legal and political dramas in which the presidency could be determined by some combination of the courts, state politicians and Congress.

Here are the various ways the election can be contested:

LAWSUITS

Early voting data shows Democrats are voting by mail in far greater numbers than Republicans. In states such as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that do not count mail-in ballots until Election Day, initial results appeared to favor Trump because they were slower to count mailed ballots. Democrats had expressed concern that Trump would, as he did on Wednesday, declare victory before those ballots could be fully tallied.

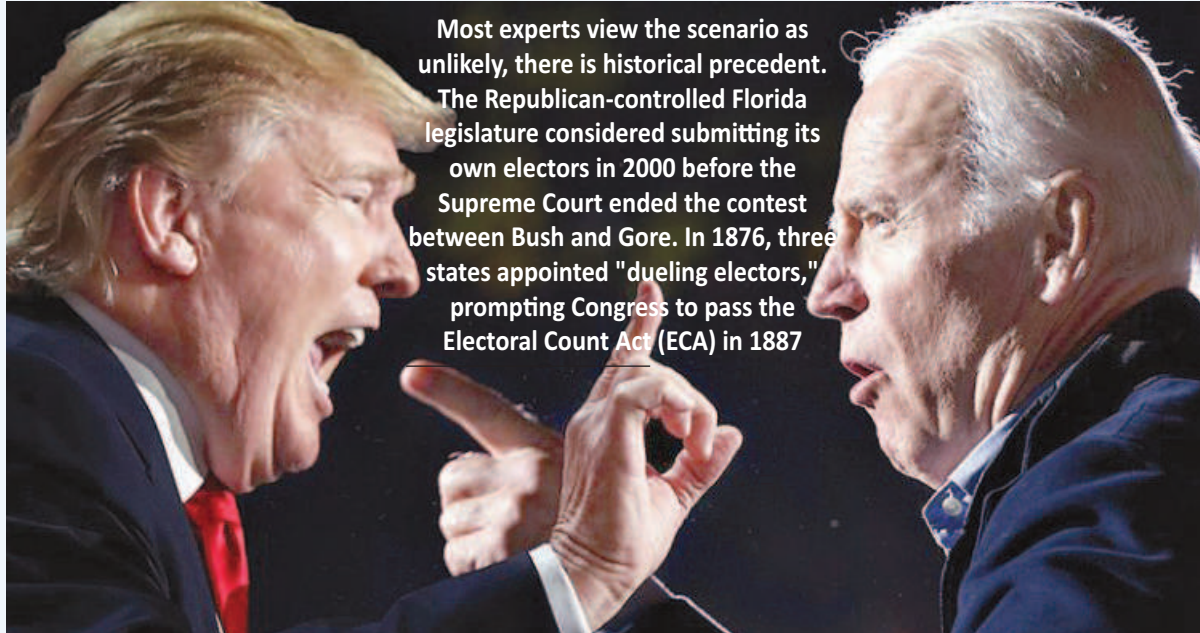
A close election could result in litigation over voting and ballot-counting procedures in battleground states. Cases filed in individual states could eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court, as Florida's election did in 2000, when Republican George W. Bush prevailed over Democrat Al Gore by just 537 votes in Florida after the high court halted a recount. Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett as Supreme Court justice just days before the election, creating a 6-3 conservative majority that could favor the president if the courts weigh in on a contested election. "We want the law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop," Trump said on Wednesday, even though election laws in U.S. states require all votes to be counted, and many states routinely take days to finish counting legal ballots.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The US President is not elected by a majority of the popular vote. Under the Constitution, the candidate who wins the majority of 538 electors, known as the Electoral College, becomes the next president. In 2016, Trump lost the national popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton but secured 304 electoral votes to her 227. The candidate who wins each state's popular vote typically earns that state's electors. This year, the electors meet on Dec. 14 to cast votes. Both chambers of Congress will meet on Jan. 6 to count the votes and name the winner.

Normally, governors certify the results in

# WHAT HAPPENS IF RESULT IS DISPUTED



their respective states and share the information with Congress.

But some academics have outlined a scenario in which the governor and the legislature in a closely contested state submit two different election results. Battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and North Carolina all have Democratic governors and Republican-controlled legislatures.

According to legal experts, it is unclear in this scenario whether Congress should accept the governor's electoral slate or not count the state's electoral votes at all.

While most experts view the scenario as unlikely, there is historical precedent. The Republican-controlled Florida legislature considered submitting its own electors in 2000 before the Supreme Court ended the contest between Bush and Gore. In 1876, three states appointed "dueling electors," prompting Congress to pass the Electoral Count Act (ECA) in 1887.

Under the act, each chamber of Congress would separately decide which slate of "dueling electors" to accept. As of now, Republicans hold the Senate while Democrats control the House of Representatives, but the electoral count is conducted by the new Congress, which will be sworn in on Jan. 3.

If the two chambers disagree, it's not en-

tirely clear what would happen.

The act says that the electors approved by each state's "executive" should prevail. Many scholars interpret that as a state's governor, but others reject that argument. The law has never been tested or interpreted by the courts. Ned Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University, called the ECA's wording "virtually impenetrable" in a 2019 paper exploring the possibility of an Electoral College dispute.

Another unlikely possibility is that Trump's Vice President Mike Pence, in his role as Senate president, could try to throw out a state's disputed electoral votes entirely if the two chambers cannot agree, according to Foley's analysis.

In that case, the Electoral College Act does not make clear whether a candidate would still need 270 votes, a majority of the total, or could prevail with a majority of the remaining electoral votes - for example, 260 of the 518 votes that would be left if Pennsylvania's electors were invalidated.

"It is fair to say that none of these laws has been stress-tested before," Benjamin Ginsberg, a lawyer who represented the Bush campaign during the 2000 dispute, told reporters in a conference call on Oct. 20. The parties could ask the Supreme Court to resolve any congressional stalemate, but

it's not certain the court would be willing to adjudicate how Congress should count electoral votes.

'CONTINGENT ELECTION'

A determination that neither candidate has secured a majority of electoral votes would trigger a "contingent election" under the 12th Amendment of the Constitution. That means the House of Representatives chooses the next president, while the Senate selects the vice president.

Each state delegation in the House gets a single vote. As of now, Republicans control 26 of the 50 state delegations, while Democrats have 22; one is split evenly and another has seven Democrats, six Republicans and a Libertarian. A contingent election also takes place in the event of a 269-269 tie after the election; there are several plausible paths to a deadlock in 2020. Any election dispute in Congress would play out ahead of a strict deadline - Jan. 20, when the Constitution mandates that the term of the current president ends. Under the Presidential Succession Act, if Congress still has not declared a presidential or vice presidential winner by then, the Speaker of the House would serve as acting president. Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, is the current speaker.

## Twitter hides Trump's tweet

Twitter flagged a tweet in which President Donald Trump accused Democrats of trying to steal the presidential election.

"We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election," Trump wrote on Twitter moments after Biden told supporters he expected to win.

Twitter quickly flagged and hid the Trump tweet, saying "some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be

candidate, while about 1 in 6 called the Covid-19 pandemic as the most important in their decision, Xinhua news agency reported. Despite the importance of economy, the exit poll also shows that a slim majority of voters believe that the nation's priority now should be containing the coronavirus over rebuilding the economy. Noting that voters are divided over the top issues, the poll said President Donald Trump's supporters are far more likely to cite the economy their top issue (about 6 in 10) than to cite coronavirus (just 5 per cent). However, among Democratic presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden's supporters, more cite coronavirus as



misleading about an election or other civic process."

Facebook also flagged a Trump post which said: "We are up BIG." The social media company said "final results may be different from initial vote counts as ballot counting will continue for days or weeks."

In his tweet Trump said nothing to back up his charge of theft. Throughout the campaign Trump has sought to cast doubt on the integrity of the electoral process, repeatedly alleging for instance that mail-in voting will lead to fraud.

Twitter, long criticized for not acting against baseless Trump claims, has asserted itself in recent months, flagging such comments and others in which Trump was seen as glorifying violence.

## Economy most critical issue: Poll

Roughly one-third of the registered American voters have cited the economy as the most critical issue as ballots were cast in the US presidential election, according to the preliminary results of a nationwide CNN exit poll. The poll released on Election Day, showed that about 1 in 5 cited racial inequality the most critical issue in choosing a presidential

their top issue (around 3 in 10) than the economy (about 1 in 10).

## US formally exits Paris climate deal

The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement on Wednesday amid election uncertainty, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year. The US exited the pact after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Wednesday. The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 12th November, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. at 145, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate Phase-III, New Delhi-110 020, to inter-alia, consider and take on record the unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th September-2020.

By order of the Board  
For Virtualsoft Systems Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Place: New Delhi Mukta Ahuja  
Date: 04.11.2020 Company Secretary

# Arnab Goswami arrested

Mumbai

REPUBLIC TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami was on Wednesday arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer in 2018, a police official said.

The official said a team of Alibaug police picked up Goswami from his Lower Parel house in the morning. Goswami, who was seen being pushed into the police van, claimed he was assaulted by police at his home, before being taken away. "Alibaug police arrested Goswami under sections 306 (abetment of suicide), and 34 (acts done by persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. This (arrest) pertains to the 2018 case of a man and his mother committing suicide. We have evidence (against Goswami)," the police official said. "When we gave the intimation (of arrest) to



Goswami's wife, she tore up the paper," said the official who was present at Goswami's home when he was picked up by police. Soon after the vehicle carrying Goswami reached Alibaug, just over 90 km from Mumbai, he was produced in a

local court, which directed police to take him to the civil hospital there for medical check-up, after his lawyer alleged the senior journalist was assaulted by police. In May this year, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh announced he has ordered a fresh probe in the case after a complaint by Adnya Naik, daughter of the architect Anvay Naik. Deshmukh said Adnya alleged that the Alibaug police had not investigated the alleged non-payment of dues from Goswami's channel, which she claimed drove her father and grandmother to suicide in May 2018. Police said Goswami was taken to Alibaug in Raigad district in connection with the suicide case.

Terming the Goswami's arrest as a "blatant misuse of State power", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the "attack on free press must be and will be opposed".

## Kerala withdraws general consent for probe to CBI

Thiruvananthapuram

ON expected lines, the Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet that met here on Wednesday decided to withdraw the general consent given to the CBI for conducting probes in the state.

Kerala thus joins states like West Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, which had earlier withdrawn the general consent.

This was on the cards ever since the CBI arrived in the state to conduct a probe into the Life Mission project which provides homes for the homeless and is a pet project of Vi-

jayan. The Life Mission project at Thrissur ran into trouble soon after the now infamous gold smuggling case surfaced on July 5. The prime accused in the gold smuggling case Swapna Suresh's links in the Life Mission project surfaced when it was found out that a staggering sum of Rs nine crores was paid as commission from the total project cost of Rs 20 crores. When local Congress legislator Anil Akkara wrote to the CBI about the alleged corrupt deal, the CBI took up the case, leaving Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan red faced.

## India's Covid tally races past 83L

New Delhi

INDIA'S COVID-19 caseload went past 83 lakh, while the number of recoveries surged to 76.56 lakh, pushing the national recovery rate to over 92 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Wednesday. With 46,253 fresh infections, the total number of coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 83,13,876, while the death toll rose to 1,23,611 after 514 more fatalities were reported, the data updated at 8 am showed. A total of 76,56,478 people have recuperated from the infection so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.09 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent.

## Firecracker ban adds to worries of Sivakasi's manufacturers

Chennai

ALREADY faced with reduced production owing to coronavirus pandemic, firecracker manufacturing industry in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi is now more worried about its future prospects as states like Rajasthan, Odisha and West Bengal have banned sale of firecrackers owing to the pandemic. They pointed out that not only their loan repayments and other transactions would be affected, but also the livelihood of lakhs of workers involved in the manufacturing process was under threat. The industry players and common people are of the view that Diwali festival is being "targeted by vested interests".

"There has been a consistent attack on the industry for a long time on one or the other pretext. Diwali is one festival that is celebrated across the country and

Sivakasi's firecrackers provide a reason for the people to celebrate," former Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorfes Manufacturers Association (TANFAMA) President T Asaithambi told IANS.

He said that for the past two years, the industry was bogged down by the issue of manufacturing 'green crackers' that emit less smoke.

The National Green Tribunal too wants firecrackers to be banned this time around, he added. "If sales are banned, then our payments from wholesale dealers will take time to be realised, which in turn will impact our loan repayments and payments to our raw material suppliers," Asaithambi rued. More important is the livelihood issue for several lakh workers due to reduced or total stop on production of firecrackers as dealers/retailers will be saddled with unsold stocks that

they may carry over to the next Diwali.

Industry stakeholders told IANS that owing to lockdown and other uncertainties the production of firecrackers this year was cut by 35 per cent. "Till now, firecracker sales is good in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and others," Rajendra Raja, Vice-President, Indian Fireworks Manufacturers' Association, told IANS.

Pointing to pollution caused by automobiles and other sources, they said that firecrackers only caused negligible pollution and that too for a short period of time. Industry officials maintained that they are manufacturing 'green crackers' in accordance with formulations provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

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# US poll results and global politics

It is going to be a long and agonising wait for the Americans. Have they dumped Donald Trump in the dustbin as had been asked by Joe Biden? Or is the former still kicking around with all his might? How long will Trump fight to retain a second term? If Biden loses now, will the democrats ever become confident enough to face the elections? For that matter, is it going to be a so near, yet so far case for Biden? Anyway if the US is not sure of what it needs and who should be governing it, there is little that the world could do.

The immense interest that the world has in it, is because it affects all of us. Whether the President prefers to play around with the world politics or prefers to make the US withdraw into a shell, it would certainly impact the world either

way. We will come to know the result if it is a 'hung situation' as we call it in our country. But, the fact that it may be just one State or a couple of States that could play a decisive role in the end in deciding the next President is really nail-biting.

Even as questions abound on whether the 'black lives matter' has consolidated the white vote are yet to be answered, let us understand Trump's impact on the US. Democratic candidate Joe Biden spent Sunday in Pennsylvania, a battleground state that has become increasingly significant to both candidates. Donald Trump held rallies in five states, in last-minute, breakneck appeals to energise voters – a strategy that helped him ride to victory in 2016. More than 92 million US citizens have already cast their votes, far outpacing

early voting in any past elections and accounting for 67 percent of all votes counted in 2016.

While Trump's campaign has also put a strong eleventh hour emphasis on Pennsylvania – hosting four back-to-back rallies in the state on Saturday and planning a jab at Biden with a visit to his hometown Scranton on Monday – the President's schedule was significantly more diverse as he scrambled to respond to Biden's expanding electoral map. Hoping to defend as many states as possible that favored him in 2016, Trump hosted five rallies on last Sunday across Michigan, Iowa, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. So if he loses the White House, what new phase would begin on January 21? But, what happens if Trump falls behind? The

Trump Era is unlikely to end when the Trump presidency ends.

Analysts envision a post-presidency as disruptive and norm-busting as his presidency has been – one that could make his successor's job much harder. They outline a picture of a man who might formally leave office only to establish himself as the president-for-life amid his own bubble of admirers – controlling Republican politics and sowing chaos in the U.S. and around the world long after he's officially left office. A president unwilling to respect boundaries in office is almost certain to cross them out of office. He would leave the White House with one of the largest social media platforms in the world – including 87 million Twitter followers – and a large campaign email list with a demonstrated small-dollar fundraising capability. Trump will be Trump, whether he loses or wins, disrupting the world around him.



# France and Islam

Asad Mirza

THE French attacks on Islam and its Prophet are nothing new, we only have to peep a little bit into the past, to find the roots of this hatred.

The recent storm over the inflammatory statements against the Holy prophet and Islam itself, by the French President Macron has set the Muslim world on fire. Leaders of all hues and denominations have condemned the so-called latest attacks on Islam. The outcry as expected follows a similar pattern after any anti-Islam incident takes place in the Western world. We need to take a long breath, pause and wonder on the similarity of attacks and the Islamic response to it globally.

Muslims, unlike other followers of the books do not believe in ruminating about the past. Instead they move on with times. While the two other communities, which follow the book, impart their young generations about the atrocities faced by them in the past, instill anti-Islam feelings in them. Alongside the western world also continues with its activities related to interfaith relations and peaceful coexistence. In real terms one wonders whether these activities are indeed carried out with intentions or are just a eyewash, while beneath the surface anti-Islam hatred continues unabated, as they are in real terms afraid of Islam and its teachings.

What has happened in France is nothing new. The French radical extremism, legitimises itself under the French term laicite meaning secular, and under this garb it continues its attacks on French and non-French Muslims, and this deceiving is nothing new.

A French NGO, The Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) listed 1,043 Islamophobic incidents that occurred in 2019 (a 77 percent increase since 2017). Not so far back, in October 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and his then Interior Minister Christophe Castaner connected terrorism in France to any signs of French Muslims' faith and culture, including having a beard, praying five times a day, eating halal food, etc.

## 'Liberating' Islam

Last week, Macron declared "Islam is a religion that is in crisis all over the world today, we are not just seeing this in our country". He added that he is seeking to "liberate" Islam in France from foreign influences by improving oversight of mosque financing.

One wonders who gave the right to Macron to 'liberate Islam'. Historically, Macron is not the first French ruler who wanted to "liberate" Islam. This is an old French "secular" tradition from the times of Napoleon Bonaparte. When Napoleon invaded Egypt and Palestine in 1798, he lied to the Egyptians by announcing that he and his army were "faithful Muslims" and that they have come to liberate Muslims and Islam from the tyranny of the Turk Mamluks.

However, the deception did not work and both the Egyptians and Palestinians rose against him. Napoleon was defeated, though his army committed untold atrocities in Egypt and Palestine. At that time Napoleon and France wanted to avenge the defeat-faced by French forces in the Palestinian city of Acre, two centuries ago.

## French invasion of Algeria

The French invasion of Algeria was launched in mid-June 1830 and Algiers fell on 5 July. The French army robbed Algiers' treasury clean, stealing upwards of 43 million Francs in gold and silver. The French King Charles X told the French National Assembly that the immediate goals of the invasion were to avenge the French for the Algerian insult, besides "ending piracy and reclaim Algeria for Christianity".

In line with its Christian commitments, the conquering French army took over mosques and converted them into churches and cathedrals at gunpoint, including the largest Ottoman Ketchaoua mosque in Algiers, built in 1612, which was converted into the Cathedral of St Philippe in December 1832. That same year the French wiped out the entire tribe of the Ouffias, sparing no woman or child, and seizing all their possessions.

## French barbarism

We should not forget the French barbarism, which has been recorded for posterity by history. In 1871, Algerian Muslims revolted again against French rule, with 150,000 people joining the forces of a local tribal leader, Al-Muqrani.

The French genocidal machine responded by killing hundreds of thousands of Algerians, which, combined with the French-caused famine deaths in the late 1860s, resulted in the death of one million Algerians. The French razed dozens of towns and villages to the ground while eliminating the entire elite of Algerian society. But even that did not resolve France's "crisis" with Islam.

During the 19th century, France colonised many Muslim nations, and thus their concern about their "crisis" with Islam increased further. To answer this quest, a journalist of ill repute and with known anti-Turk views was appointed to seek answers. Edmond Fazy (1870-1910) presented his analysis in the form of Questions diplomatiques-coloniales, which contained submissions by known anti-Muslim and anti-Turk academics, journalists or so-called experts on Islam and African nations.

## Future of Islam

Chauvinism and hate has always dominated the French culture, whether it is with the British or Islamists. Many of the contributors to Fazy's journal saw fit to manipulate Islamic theology and transform Muslim ulemas to produce not only a modern Islam that European modernity would tolerate, but also one that, they hoped, would weaken the Ottoman Empire.

The project of transforming Islam into something compatible with European Christianity and which French laicite can tolerate continues afoot in 2020, but with unsatisfactory results as far as Macron is concerned.

Both the French Muslims and immigrant Muslims continue to face an institutionalised discrimination in France. The country continues to be submerged in a dominant discourse of chauvinism and hate today that is not dissimilar to the one that always dominated French culture even before the French Revolution.

The current French crisis is based on its white supremacist Christian agenda and a country holding on to its past glories or misdeeds, while in reality they should strive to undo or repent their misdeeds committed by them in the former colonies held by them.

What the French need to do is to pay back the debts they owe to all those whom they robbed and killed around the world since then. Only that will end France's crisis with 'Islam' and with itself.

At the same time, Muslims across the globe need to connect or reconcile their national, ethnic and sectarian identities within the context of Islam's inner unity and integrity based on moral and human grounds, on the one hand, and maintain its global and cosmopolitan outlook on the other. This will be the best antidote against such vitriolic agenda.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. He can be reached at [asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com](mailto:asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com). The views expressed are personal.)

# Water- the foundation of the universe



**TALKING OF MANY THINGS**

WATER, and with it, the rain that brings it to us, have become so much an integral part of day-to-day life of human beings that, from nursery rhymes to songs in movies they are a recurring theme. While children learn the catchy 'rain, rain go away come again another day...', or chant the popular "vana vana vallappa" in Telugu, people of my generation recall with great fondness numbers such as 'zindagi bhar nahi bhoolegi woh barsaat ki raat...' And the unforgettable lilting melody penned by Hal David and Burt Bacharach 'raindrops keep falling on my head...' from the film 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance kid'.

The twin resources gifted to us by nature, water and rain, have a specially significant role in the process of growth and development of India's economy. Firstly agriculture, the mainstay of more than two-thirds of the workforce of the country is substantially dependent on the rain that the monsoons bring to us, twice in a year. While it still remains a mystery how precisely rain is formed, the fact remains that the country, and its population of over 1.2 billion were, for a long time, fortunate to enjoy a predictable rhythm of the arrival and withdrawal of the monsoons.

That gift of nature, however, has been mauled, in recent decades, by the onset of phenomena such as global warming, climate change, and atmospheric pollution. As a result, the behaviour of the monsoons has become erratic and extreme

weather events have become commonplace. It is no doubt, true, that the monsoons in India occur over a very short period of time during which most of the rainfall of the whole year occurs. Even given that, the substantial change in the behaviour of rainfall in the two seasons is to be regarded as something worrisome and a challenge. Year after year one sees a large part of the country ravaged by severe droughts, while, in several other regions, there are floods, causing unacceptable losses of lives and property.

The Sanskrit expression of 'athivrishti, anavrishti' (meaning either too much of rain or none at all), has now become reality! While even drinking water is difficult to think of in some parts of the country, it is, at the same time, literally raining 'cats and dogs' elsewhere!

During my days as Joint Secretary, in the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Kamal Pandey (Secretary, Agriculture), fondly called me 'the Anantapur groundnut man', as I frequently referred to the travails that district went through in times of droughts. Also because groundnut was the principal crop grown in the district.

It is indeed paradoxical that years later, first as Secretary to the Governor, I was among those who participated in the ceremonial send off to Governor Sharda Mukherjee. She was given an inter-services guard of honour in pouring rain! And, again, much later, as Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh I spent a good deal of my time organising rescue and relief operations in the wake of the flooding of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad following heavy rains.

And it is not as though the scores of flooding is a phenomena peculiar to Hyderabad alone. We have all seen the acute disruption of normal life and the extensive damage caused by flooding following heavy rains in metropolises such as Bombay and Chennai year after year.

One method of meeting the challenge of frequent and unre-



The twin resources gifted to us by nature, water and rain, have a specially significant role in the process of growth and development of India's economy. Firstly agriculture, the mainstay of more than two-thirds of the workforce of the country is substantially dependent on the rain that the monsoons bring to us, twice in a year. While it still remains a mystery how precisely rain is formed, the fact remains that the country, and its population of over 1.2 billion were, for a long time, fortunate to enjoy a predictable rhythm of the arrival and withdrawal of the monsoons

dictable changes in the pattern and quality of rainfall distribution, over space and time, appeared, at least for some time, to be that of 'cloud seeding'. It was, in fact, tried in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh when I was the Chief Secretary of that state. Whether the method is effective or not however, remains an issue on which the jury is out.

As part of the National Policy on the subject, the government of the composite state of Andhra Pradesh piloted the enactment of the Water, Land and Trees Act (APWALTA-2002) with the basic objectives of:

- Promoting water conservation and tree cover.
  - Protecting and conserving water sources, land and matters connected therewith and
  - Regulating the exploitation and use of ground and surface water.
- While the law is very comprehensive, its implementation has remained inadequate and needs attention in the future. Measures of conservation of water are increasingly being built into the technology regime of buildings, in urban areas in particular. Growing kitchen gardens and decorative plants inside homes,

particularly in multi-storied apartments, is rapidly catching up, not only as a measure of water conservation, but also as part of the effort to 'green' cities.

In our own case, we are fortunate enough to have a small patch of a lawn, the fact that our flat is in the first floor notwithstanding. And thanks to the green fingers my wife Usha possesses, quite a collection of flower and fruit-bearing plants have made their appearance over the last few years. I am, in fact, in the midst of designing an ambitious programme to promote and popularise such practises all over the twin cities.

I must share an interesting fact with the readers for over 50 years now, there has hardly ever been a happy event celebrated in the family of the Kandas without there being a cloudburst or a downpour disrupting the entire arrangements! The only consolation being that the event is seen as being auspicious!

Before ending this discussion it would be appropriate recall one of the oft quoted properties of time, namely that of it being a great healer. No matter how serious a wound, be it physical, mental or emotional, the passage of time invariably makes the pain abate, though, on occasion, it may leave behind a harmless scar as a reminder of the episode that caused the injury.

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

# LETTERS

## Hypocritical netas of BJP

The way the union ministers are condemning the arrest of Arnab Goswami is bizarre. Is he an independent journalist or BJP worker? Where were these ministers, not uttering a word when the China occupied our land, when China killed our soldiers and other journalists are booked under sedition laws.

The union ministers comparing the arrest with Emergency period quoting it as death of democracy. In the mid of corona pandemic BJP formed the government in Madhya Pradesh, in Hathras case no solidarity shown to the victim and threatening to victims family. These union ministers not speak or tweeted immediately about Hathras case or Munger case as they did in Goswami arrest.

Vikas Pancharaddy, Hyderabad

## BCCI brouhaha

The controversies regarding BCCI continue to haunt Indian cricket for some time. Dada Sourav Ganguly, who speaks the truth was the first to mention that under Virat Kohli, Team India could not record a single win in ICC sponsored tournaments despite being the number one side in the world during that time.

Again, the injury prone Indian side could not do well on overseas tours and the partiality in team selection played a pathetic role in our inevitable defeats.

Usually pace bowlers were given a chance with serious injuries they were facing. But this time round BCCI did drop



Rohit Sharma from all three formats citing hamstring injury. But the contradictory outcome of the injury of Rohit Sharma came during the IPLs last league match. BCCI boss Sourav Ganguly says that Rohit Sharma has a serious injury and the latter responded by leading Mumbai side against SRH and to prove his worth opened the batting as well.

This is a bad precedent and there is no coordination between players, coach and the BCCI president. Controversy regarding BCCI will continue forever.

C K Subramaniam, Mumbai

## Of inhuman bondage

The article 'Bomb eaters of Kerala' penned by Sukumaran C V was very touching. The inhuman behaviour of so-called human beings towards the most lovable, intelligent, huge and revered as the incarnations of Lord 'Vinayaka' elephants was exposed threadbare. The vivid narrative of cruelty perpetrated in various forms by humans towards elephants and writer's own experience with elephants are well presented. It certainly touched the hearts of all readers. Thank you THI for publishing such a realistic and thought-provoking piece.

Rama Krishna M, Kakinada

## Of intellectuals and democracy

Top scientific journals like Nature, Scientific American, and New England Journal of Medicine in recent times ran articles and editorials condemning the present President of the US and seeking to change him. Similarly, many intellectuals, academicians, and politicians publicly declare that they do not accept our present PM as their

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# SEC is playing to Naidu's tunes, alleges YSRCP

- ▶ Govt Chief Whip Srikanth Reddy alleges that Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar has leaked affidavits he filed before HC to a section of media
- ▶ Says govt can't trust that he will conduct elections in a transparent and unbiased manner
- ▶ Describes TDP a 'closed party' and Naidu a 'Zoom leader'



Gadikota Srikanth Reddy

Hans News Service  
Tadepalli

TERMING the conduct of State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar as highly objectionable, YSRCP said that the affidavit he filed in High Court was already leaked to a section of the media which can be seen as lowering the image judiciary.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here on Wednesday, Rayachoti MLA and Government Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy alleged that SEC Ramesh Kumar was playing to the tune of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, siding with the opposition party. The public has witnessed Ramesh Kumar's private and secret meeting with the close associates of Naidu and even saw how he splurged crores of rupees on hiring top-

notch advocates to defend him in the Supreme Court, he said and made it clear that the AP government was not targeting Ramesh Kumar. He stated the YSRCP was only exposing nexus between him and the TDP chief so that people can know the truth.

The MLA said that Ramesh Kumar had been leaking the court proceeding to select media houses, including the writ petitions. He said that the behaviour of SEC was raising many doubts and he cannot be trusted to hold the elections transparently. The same Ramesh Kumar had postponed the elections in March when there were hardly three cases of Covid-19, but was now trying to go for polls when over 3,000 cases are showing up a day.

Further, Srikanth Reddy played opposition leader Chan-

drababu Naidu for exploiting the constitutional systems for his selfish ends and said that Naidu had a record of threatening the Election Commission of India during the 2019 general elections. He asserted that the YSRCP was not afraid of elections and was ready to face them anytime, trusting the welfare activities done by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. He said with an absolute mandate, the YSRCP was confident of romping home in all the local body elections.

Srikanth Reddy said TDP supremo was a stay-at-home zoom leader. "It's (TDP) a closed party with a stay-at-home leader who does not come out of his home. He is a zoom leader who conducts zoom meetings," he said.

According to him, the state government was doing a great job while Naidu was simply criticising without knowing what was happening and how people were coping with the Coronavirus pandemic.

He claimed that the former Chief Minister sent his son and TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh for optics to tour some flood-affected places, and ridiculed that he did not even know the difference between a paddy field and a fish pond. He alleged that Lokesh posed for some photos during his tour and returned home to Hyderabad.



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy lays foundation stone for several developmental projects worth Rs 330 crore at VV Nagar Bailey Bridge Centre during his visit to Eluru in West Godavari district on Wednesday. Ministers and public representatives are also seen.

## Pandemic-hit sex workers to get free ration

▶ ICDS project director Krutika Shukla says the rations will be supplied through Anganwadi centres

Amaravati

THE state government will distribute free ration to sex workers in the state as many of them are struggling to make their ends meet because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had directed all states to distribute free rations to sex workers and submit the details of the operation.

All the sex workers identified by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and other departments will be provided with the free ration, said an official.

The Andhra Pradesh government will provide free ration for the month of November.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) project director Krutika Shukla said the rations will be supplied through Anganwadi centres.

As many as 1.2 lakh sex workers are expected to benefit with free ration in the state.

The state government will distribute rations equal to what it gives to below poverty line (BPL) families.

# Constable arrested for kidnapping ex-fiancee

Hans News Service  
Anantapur

A police constable has been arrested on charges of kidnapping a 20-year-old girl, with whom he was engaged, which was later cancelled. The accused, B Achari and the kidnapped girl were spotted by Banaganipalle police at Kovelakunta police near here on Wednesday morning.

SP Sathya Yesubabu told 'The Hans India' that the girl told the police that she was forcibly whisked away by Achari with whom she was engaged by parents of the both last year. At a time when marriage was to be performed in December, 2019, the girl's parents came to know of his true character and cancelled the marriage. Subsequently, Achari, a police constable, planned the Kidnap and abducted her on November 2. He was arrested by Banaganapalle police on Wednesday morning at Kovelakunta village in the district. After the kidnap, police had launched a manhunt by



- ▶ Constable Achari was engaged to the girl last year, but her family cancelled the alliance after coming to know of some negative things about him
- ▶ The cop forcefully takes away the woman on Nov 2 with an intention to marry her
- ▶ On a complaint by girl's parents, police form teams and find the duo at Banaganapalli

forming rescue teams and alerting all police stations resulting in his arrest and handing over the girl to her parents. DSP Veeraragha Reddy said

that the accused Achari had whisked her away on when she came out from her house in the 6th road in the town to go to a tailor shop along with her relative. The two had developed a relationship after they were engaged but the girl opposed Achari's kidnap of her and did not consent for marriage against her parents' wishes. She issued a statement that she was forcibly taken away by Achari to coerce her to marry him against her parents wishes.

Achari escaped police drag-net when vehicle checking was going on on Tadipatri outskirts on November 2 when he was travelling in a Scorpio vehicle. Sensing trouble, he abandoned the vehicle and escaped in another vehicle which he managed to arrange with the help of his friends. Circle inspector Srinivasulu and his team managed to track the duo at Kovelakunta village and took both into custody. The girl was restored to her parents and the accused is being questioned by police for further details.

## Covid: State sees highest recovery rate in country

▶ 2,477 new infections and 10 deaths reported in 24 hours

Amaravati

THE total coronavirus positive cases increased to 8,33,208 in the state with the addition of 2,477 on Wednesday but the overall infection positivity rate dropped below 10 per cent after about four months. After a total of 83,42,265 sample tests, the overall infection positivity rate stood at 9.99 per cent but AP now boasts a recovery rate of 96.62 per cent, the highest in the country.

The latest bulletin said 2,477 patients had also recovered in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday, pushing the total recoveries up to 8,05,026. The state saw only 10 Covid-19 deaths in 24 hours, the lowest in more than three months, as the overall toll rose to 6,744.

East Godavari district once again reported the highest number of 424 new cases in a day. West Godavari added 375, Krishna 332, Guntur 323 and Chittoor 321 new cases in 24 hours. Kadapa, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam added 127, 122 and 117 cases respectively. Anantapur district crossed the 65,000 total cases mark but added only 52 in 24 hours, the lowest in over three months. Nellore reported 94, Vizianagaram 85, Prakasam 70 new cases while Kurnool saw the lowest addition of 35 cases. Krishna, Guntur and Visakhapatnam saw two fresh Covid-19 fatalities each while four other districts reported one more death each, the bulletin said.

## Agri meters a noose around farmers' necks: TDP

▶ TDP legislator Nimmala Rama Naidu criticises the Jagan govt of sacrificing the long-term interests of farmers for the sake of more loans

▶ Demands that the govt collect Rs 6,000 cr electricity dues from Telangana discoms if it is in dire need of funds

Hans News Service  
Amaravati

TDP Palakollu MLA Nimmala Rama Naidu on Wednesday strongly objected to the manner in which the YSRCP government was going ahead with fixing electricity meters to agricultural connections without being bothered about the long-term interests of farmers.

Rama Naidu accused the YSRCP of already burdening the people by hiking power tariff twice in the past 17 months. Now, the government was going to fix meters which would become a noose around the necks of the

farmers in long-run, he said.

In a statement here, the TDP MLA asked Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to collect the massive dues from the Telangana Electricity distribution companies instead of imposing needless burden on the AP people and farmers. Nearly Rs 6,000 crore dues were to be collected from the Telangana discoms but AP has not received a single rupee so far. If the Chief Minister has any prestige and courage, he should collect these amounts and save the AP people from additional charges.

Rama Naidu accused the YSRCP of running an anti-farmers and anti-people regime in AP by pursuing vengeful and regressive policies. The meters were being fixed to pump sets only for the purpose of obtaining more loans, which would become an unbearable burden ultimately on the people of the state. Already, the YSRCP government has pushed the state into massive debts without spending the borrowings on productive and developmental works, the TDP legislator said.

## OU PG entrance exam from Dec 1

Hyderabad

THE entrance exam of PG courses offered by Osmania University would be held from December 1. The authorities of the university have released a fresh schedule to hold the exams. In a statement released on Wednesday, the authorities said that the complete information about the entrance exam will be available on the website www.tscpgcet.com. The exams scheduled in October were postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic and the recent floods in Hyderabad. OU is holding the entrance exam for admission into various courses by Osmania University affiliated- Satavahana University, Palamuru University, Telangana University, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kakatiya University and JNTU every year.

## TS lorry owners demand single permit pact with AP

Hans News Service  
Hyderabad

WITH the transport corporations of the two Telugu States entering into an agreement, the lorry owners are now demanding the government to take up their issue of 'single permit' with Andhra Pradesh as it has been pending for the last six years.

The State Lorry Owners' Association has been demanding the government to have a single permit system. The single permit is nothing but 'counter signature permit' which provides permit to the State lorries to enter into other States. The single permit would cost Rs 5,000 and be valid for one year. However, the Andhra Pradesh government has been collecting Rs 1,400 per week and Rs 4,600 per

month. The lorry owners pay Rs 5,000 to enter into the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu every year. However, they are made to pay more than Rs 55,000 per year leading to losses.

The lorry owners who have lorries for more than 12 years, opt for 'National Permit' by paying Rs 17,000 per year and they can travel anywhere in the country. The lorry owners said that most of them are single vehicle users and driver cum owner basis and it impacts their earnings specially those who have purchased a new vehicle. "Many are driver cum owners and if the agreement is made, many of the owner cum drivers can get the benefit," said the Telangana Lorry Owners' Association president N Bhaskar Reddy.

## Harish's sweet relief to sugarcane farmers

This time, we expect to get about huge sugarcane crop in 3 lakh of acres, says the Minister

Hans News Service  
Hyderabad

STATE Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Wednesday said that the officials take steps to protect interests of sugarcane farmers avoiding loss. He directed the officials to issue notices as per Revenue Recovery Act to Trident company for failing to clear the dues of Rs 12.70 cr and make alternative arrangements to crush sugarcane product.

At Sangareddy Collector's office, the Minister held a meeting with representatives of Trident, Ganapati and Magi sugar companies along with

others and farmers on crushing the cane stocks. This time, we expect to get about huge sugarcane crop in 3 lakh of acres, the Minister said.

The officials should make alternative arrangements for crushing sugar cane stocks and help the farmers get benefits, he said expressing displeasure that the management is failing to clear Rs 12.70 cr arrears to 1,400 farmers for several months. As an alternative Ganapati and Magi sugar companies will tie up to crush sugar cane crops, he said and assured that Zaheerabad farmers will not incur losses on sugarcane crops.



Hans News Service  
Nellore

MINISTER for Water Resources Dr P Anil Kumar Yadav said that the government has planned to build 6 substations for resolving power outages in the city.

Anil Kumar Yadav along with in-charge Minister B Srinivasa Reddy formally inaugurated a 33 KV substation at Yalamalavari Dinne in the 13th division on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said three substations were already completed and sites were identified for the rest of the three substations.

He also said they had started 9-hour free power supply during the daytime to farmers in the state and the district stands top across the state in terms of paying power bills on-time. He said former Chief Minister N Chandrababu now can take rest in Hyderabad as his party's



Ministers Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, Dr P Anil Kumar Yadav and legislators participate in substation inauguration in Nellore on Wednesday

chapter ended in AP.

In-charge Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy said 88 per cent of the target for supplying a 9-hour daytime free power supply to farm connections and the rest would be

completed shortly.

Earlier, the TDP government has done some mistakes in power supply and they had tried to rectify them for providing quality power supply, he stated.

## ACB books drugs dept official

Hans News Service  
Vijayawada

ANTI Corruption Bureau (ACB) personnel conducted raids on the residence of Mothiki Venkata Siva Satyanarayana Vara Prasad, deputy director, Drug Control Administration (DCA), Guntur region, in Guntur and unearthed properties worth crores of rupees disproportionate to his known sources of income. The officials raided the residence of Vara Prasad located in Currency Nagar in Vijayawada and three other places in Guntur on Wednesday. According to ACB, DD Vara Prasad joined the DCA department as drug inspector in 1989 through APPSC examination and later was promoted as assistant

director in the same department in May 2011. He was elevated to the post of deputy director in 2018 and now acting as in-charge joint director of DCA. The total value of properties is estimated at Rs 5 crore. On complaints received on the disproportionate assets, four teams conducted searches in Vijayawada and Guntur and noticed four buildings worth Rs 3,43,80,000, one flat worth Rs 6 lakh, three house sites measuring 800 square yards worth Rs 15.64 lakh, agriculture land admeasuring 2.47 acre worth Rs 1.35 lakh and one four-wheeler and one motor cycle worth Rs 7.50 lakh. The ACB officials also found Rs 1.18 lakh cash and 1.18 kg gold worth Rs 18 lakh.

## 'Samosa caucus' of 4 Indian-American Democrats re-elected

Continued from P1

If elected, Tipirneni, 52, would be the second ever Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. Jayapal, 55, was the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives in 2016.

The 'Samosa caucus' currently comprises five Indian-American lawmakers, including the four members of the House of Representatives and Senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris, 56.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, 47, easily defeated Preston Nelson, 30, of the Libertarian Party. When last reports came in, he had accounted for nearly 71 per cent of the total votes counted.

Ro Khanna, 44, easily defeated fellow Indian-American Ritesh Tandon, 48, of the Republican Party with a margin of more than 50 percentage points. This was his third-consecutive win from the 17th Congressional district of California.

Dr Ami Bera, 55, the senior most member of the 'Samosa

Caucus', won the seventh Congressional District of California for the fifth consecutive term. When the last report came in, he had established an inaccessible lead by more than 25 percentage points against his Republican rival 65-year-old Buzz Patterson.

Meanwhile, Democratic candidate Sri Preston Kulkarni, 42, lost to his Republican rival Troy Nehls, 52, a popular sheriff and military veteran endorsed by President Donald Trump, in the 22nd Congressional district of Texas.

Republican Manga Anantamula lost to Democratic incumbent Gerry Connolly in the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Republican Nisha Sharma from the Republican Party also lost her maiden Congressional attempt. She was defeated by incumbent Mark Desaulnier from the Democratic Party by more than 50 percentage points.

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the US Congress, with the Senate being the upper house.