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WINDOWS

I am now fit on court & ready to go: PV Sindhu

NEW DELHI: Days after giving a mini 'heart-attack' to her fans, ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu says she is totally fit, not just health-wise but also on the badminton court and is looking forward to competing in the upcoming tournaments. In an interview, Sindhu opened up on how she coped up with the Covid-19 induced lockdown, her reaction to the Tokyo Olympics postponement, her preparation for the upcoming Asia Cup, and also her relationship with national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand. "It was quite difficult to suddenly stop a very active routine. But at the same time, we all realised how important it was to pause everything and take care of ourselves," Sindhu said about the nationwide-lockdown which was first put in place towards March end following the outbreak of novel coronavirus.

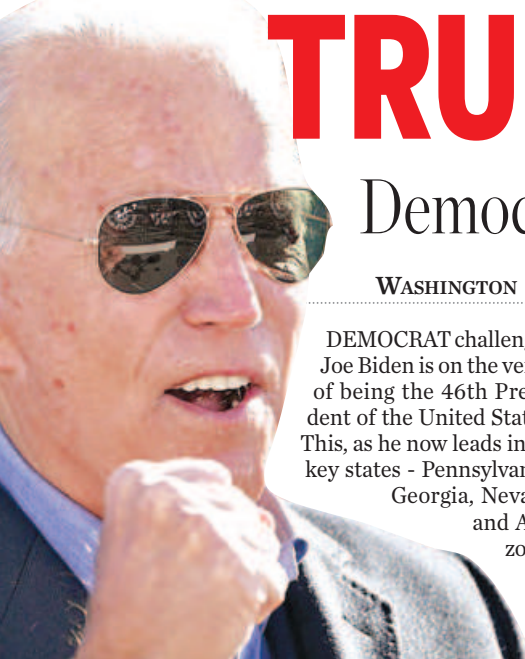
Situation at border tense: Rawat

NEW DELHI: India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday claimed that situation at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh remains tense and possibility of a war with China cannot be ruled out. "In the overall security calculus: border confrontations, transgressions, unprovoked tactical military actions -- spiralling into a larger conflict therefore cannot be discounted," Rawat said. His statement came amid an ongoing military talk between India and China at Chushul of Friday.



TRUMP FOR-BIDEN

Democrat Joe Biden on cusp of WH victory



WASHINGTON

DEMOCRAT challenger Joe Biden is on the verge of being the 46th President of the United States. This, as he now leads in all key states - Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada and Arizona.

Biden, who currently has 264 projected electoral votes, needs to win just Pennsylvania to win the presidency. For President Trump, it is getting increasingly difficult to retain the White House and win a second term. He currently has 214 electoral votes, making a win in Georgia and Pennsylvania a must.

While it could take several more days for the vote count to conclude in some states, a

projection on who will be the next President can be expected in the next few hours if more ballot details are announced soon. If Biden wins, America will also see its first woman Vice President - Kamala Harris.

Earlier, Biden eclipsed Trump in Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial Midwestern battleground states, and holds a lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania early on Friday. Biden over-

took Trump in the number of ballots counted in the state, which Trump must win to have a shot at re-election. Biden now holds over 6,000-vote advantage.

Thousands of still uncounted ballots - many in counties where Democrat Joe Biden was in the lead - are what's making the Georgia contest between President Donald Trump and Biden too early to call.

Continued on Page 5



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaks at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the redevelopment of Rohtak Road, in New Delhi on Friday

MASK IS MEDICINE

CM underlines need for mask movement

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

AMID the third wave of the rising Covid-19 epidemic in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that promoting masks to prevent the spread of coronavirus needs to be taken up like a movement.

Inaugurating a PWD project in Mundka, the Chief Minister said that he hopes that just as people have faced the first two waves of coronavirus, they will

also face the third wave and it will soon be over and go. "Mask is the medicine until there is no medicine for coronavirus. This is the greatest defence against virus infection. We need to spread the use of masks as a movement," Kejriwal said, adding that 32,000 Indians returned from infection-affected countries in March, as well as people from other parts of the country returned and Delhi saw a very difficult time. Continued on Page 5

Chill, Donald, Chill!

Thunberg copies Trump's tweet to her in 2019

Even as Donald Trump continued to tweet about the US presidential election results, teenage climate change activist Greta Thunberg responded to one of his tweets by parodying something the US President said to her in 2019. Many on social media have declared it the 'best mic-drop ever' and led to her name dominating trends on Twitter. "So ridiculous. Donald must work on his Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a

friend! Chill, Donald, Chill!" Thunberg tweeted, in response to the US President's tweet that said 'STOP THE COUNT!'. The tweet has been liked 1.2 million times on Twitter in less than 12 hours.



SC asks Centre to ensure no smog in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to ensure that there is no smog in Delhi-NCR as it was informed that the commission for air quality management will start functioning from Friday.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian posted the pleas related to air pollution for hearing after the Diwali vacation. The Centre on Thursday appointed former Chief Secretary of Delhi M M Kutty chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed the bench that the com-



mission on Air Quality Management will start functioning from Friday and the government has appointed members of the commission as well.

On October 29, the top court was informed by the Centre that it has come out with an Ordinance on curbing pollution and it has been promulgated already.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY 'VERY POOR'

THE national capital recorded its air quality in the very poor category on Friday morning, while government agencies said it is likely to improve slightly in the next 24 hours.

On Thursday, the city's air quality had dropped to the worst levels since November last year, with farm fires accounting for 42 percent of its pollution, the maximum this season so far.

Experts said unfavourable meteorological conditions "calm winds and low temperatures" and smoke from farm fires in neighbouring states pushed the air quality index to the severe zone on Thursday, the first time since January.

India's first space mission in 2020

ISRO TO LAUNCH WEATHER SATELLITE TODAY

CHENNAI

THE countdown for the launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C49 (PSLV-C49), carrying country's radar-based weather imaging satellite and nine other foreign satellites, is set to launch from the Sriharikota Space Centre on Saturday.

The PSLV in its 51st mission will launch EOS-01, the primary satellite, along with nine customer satellites owned by the US (4



satellites), Luxembourg (4), and Lithuania.

The primary satellite is a weather satellite intended

for applications in agriculture forestry and disaster management support. The satellite can take pictures

both, during the day and the night, and will be useful for surveillance and civilian activities.

The customer satellites are being launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), ISRO's new commercial arm.

This will be ISRO's first satellite launch in 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which has slowed down all space activities since March.

Continued on Page 5

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Battle for US Senate may last until January next year

WASHINGTON

THE balance of power in the US Senate may not be decided until January, as Georgia may have to hold run-off elections for both its seats. No candidate in either race has polled 50%, as required by state election law, reports the BBC.

The run-off elections would take place on 5 January, two days after the new Senate is due to convene. The Republicans currently have a 53 to 47 majority in the Senate and appear on course to retain control, with a loss so far of one seat overall.

The Democrats had high hopes of gaining the four seats they needed to take control, but many Republican incumbents held their seats.

If however the Democrats can

gain both seats in Georgia, a traditionally Republican state, this would lead to a 50-50 tie in the Senate.

New York Attorney General Letitia James has slammed President Donald Trump for raising doubts around the integrity of the 2020 election, saying in America it's the people who choose their president and the will of the people will be heard.

"Regardless of Trump's inflammatory, misleading, and divisive rhetoric, Americans across the country should be assured that this election was administered fairly and securely by state officials of both major political parties. Election workers around the nation are hard at work counting all legal votes, just as they have done in every election before," she said.



When US election was decided two days before inauguration

HERE'S a history lesson that might interest all those who are complaining about how long it's taking to declare a winner in the United States elections.

During the election of 1876, lawmakers had an election mess on their hands, with a contest between Democrat Samuel Tilden and Republican Rutherford Hayes.

Tilden was one vote short of a win in the electoral college. Four states had electoral disputes - and if Hayes won those, he'd win it all.

Lawmakers appointed a bipartisan commission to

decide the winner.

And so came the Compromise of 1877: Hayes won by a margin of one electoral vote after he negotiated with southern Democrats. He promised to have a Democrat in his cabinet and not to intervene in the South.

In return, Democrats would give him the election and give civil rights to their black citizens. (Only one of those two things happened, and hint: it wasn't the latter.)

And so, the election was resolved just two days before Inauguration Day.

'APPEASEMENT POLITICS HURTING BENGAL'S GLORY'

KOLKATA

STRESSING that there was a need to restore West Bengal's "lost glory", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the present "appeasement politics" in the State has hurt its age-old tradition of upholding the nation's spiritual consciousness.

Maintaining that Bengal is the land of luminaries such as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, Shah said the state once used to be the centre of spiritual awakening in the entire country.

"However, the politics of 'tustikaran' (appeasement) has hurt this glorious tradition of Bengal. I hereby call upon the people of Bengal to wake up and



perform their responsibilities to bring back the glory of the state." The top BJP leader, who vis-

ited Dakshineswar temple on the second day of his two-day visit to the state, was taken to the sanc-

tum sanctorum of the centuries-old shrine, where he offered puja to the goddess.

"I prayed for the well being of the entire state, the country and its people. We prayed that the country retains its position of glory in the world under the leadership of (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi."

Shah was greeted at the temple by members of state BJP Mohila Morcha, including its president Agnimitra Paul, who blew conch shells and put a "tilak" on his forehead. The Union minister, after offering prayers, headed to eminent vocalist Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty's music school-cum-residence "Shrutinandan", where he met his students and family members.

'4.39 crore bogus ration cards cancelled since 2013'

NEW DELHI

AROUND 4.39 crore ineligible/bogus ration cards have been weeded out across the country from 2013 to 2020 by state/UT governments, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Friday.

These ration cards were cancelled as part of the technology-driven PDS reforms initiated across the country to modernise the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and to improve transparency and efficiency in operations.

This was taken up through digitisation of ration cards/beneficiaries database, Aadhaar seeding, detection of ineligible/bogus ration cards, prevention of duplication of digitised data, updating migration/deaths of beneficiaries during the run-up to the implementation of NFSA. Further, the respective quota under the National Food Security Act coverage is regularly utilised by states/UTs concerned for 'Rightful Targeting' of beneficiaries under the NFSA, i.e., inclusion/addition of other genuine and eligible beneficiaries/households by issuing



new ration cards to them, while remaining within the respective ceiling limits of coverage defined for each state/UT under the Act, said the Ministry.

The NFSA provides coverage for 81.35 crore beneficiaries to receive highly subsidised foodgrains through TPDS, which is nearly two third of the country's population as per the census of 2011.

Presently, more than 80 crore persons in the country are receiving foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) at highly subsidised central issue prices of Rs 3, 2 and 1 per kg respectively under the NFSA on a monthly basis, the Ministry added.

Indian-origin Min speaks in Malayalam in NZ Parl

CHRISTCHURCH

AFTER Priyanka Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister earlier this week, an old video of her addressing the country's Parliament in Malayalam went viral on social media. Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri shared the three-year-old video on Twitter.

Born in India, Priyanka Radhakrishnan, 41, went to school in Singapore before moving to New Zealand to further education, according to news agency PTL. She was elected as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. Three years later, she became the country's first Indian-origin minister after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern inducted five new ministers into her cabinet.

In the video, Ms Radhakr-

ishnan, who has her roots in Kerala, can be heard speaking a few lines in Malayalam before saying, "Speaker, I believe that it's the first



time my mother tongue, Malayalam, has been spoken in this house." The video is from a parliament session from November 2017.

"Doing India proud, the Indian origin minister in New Zealand @priyancanzlp addresses her country's parliament in Malayalam," wrote Puri while sharing the video on Twitter.

Apply online for Haj 2021 from Nov 7 to Dec 10

NEW DELHI

THE Haj Committee of India has issued the action plan for Haj pilgrimage 2021 with precautionary measures in place due to coronavirus pandemic. The guidelines will be issued soon.

The online application process for Haj 2021 will start on November 7 that will continue till December 10. The last date to submit the medical certificate is January 1, 2021. According to the action plan, the last date to deposit the first instalment of fee will be March 1, 2021 while the last date for the same will be April 30, 2021. The pilgrims will also be vaccinated on May 15-16, 2021 at the vaccine camp. The first batch of pilgrims will depart for Saudi Arabia on June 26, 2021 and the last flight will take off on July 13, 2021. The return phase will begin from August 14, 2021. A total of Rs 2,100 crore were refunded to 1.23 lakh pilgrims who could not go for Haj in 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak. Saudi Arabia has also refunded around Rs 100 crore to pilgrims for Haj 2018-19. As an average around two lakh Indians go for the Haj pilgrimage every year.

Bihar election: Final phase to be the decider

PURNEA

POLLING for the third and final phase of the Bihar Assembly election for 78 seats in 15 districts will take place on Saturday. It is estimated that whoever clinches more votes in this phase will be able to form the government.

From the National Democratic Alliance, the Janata Dal-United has fielded 37 candidates while the Bharatiya Janata Party, Vikassheel Insaan Party and Hindustani Awam Morcha have fielded 35, 5 and 1 candidates respectively. On the Mahagathabandhan side, the Rashtriya Janata Dal has fielded 46 candidates while the Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation and the Communist Party of India have fielded 25, 5 and 2 candidates respectively. Separately, the Lok Janshakti Party has put up 42 candidates.

The Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) has fielded candidates for all the seats in alliance with the All India Majlis-e-Ttehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and several other parties. The al-



liance of Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party is also in the electoral fray in this phase.

Political expert and senior journalist Girindra Nath Jha said: "Votes are believed to be scattered in this election."

After AIMIM fielded candidates in the border areas and other political parties also gave tickets to Muslim candidates, a split of votes will be seen, he said. According to Jha, "Former

Madhepura MP Pappu Yadav and AIMIM can dent both the alliances' vote bank but none of these parties can claim votes from any particular community."

Jha believes that the main contest is between both the big alliances but in Yadav dominated areas including Madhepura, the Jan Adhikar Party and in some areas the LJP and the RLSP are making the contest triangular or multi-cornered.

Madras HC CJ tests positive for Covid

CHENNAI (IANS)

THE Chief Justice of Madras High Court, Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital here, said a senior doctor. "His condition is stable," the senior doctor told IANS on Friday. Sahi was admitted to hospital on Thursday evening after feeling unwell. According to the official, there are about 270 Covid-19 patients in the same hospital undergoing treatment.

Over 500 UP cops infected by COVID

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Police has begun training its personnel on how to deal with COVID-19 infected criminals, as 500 policemen have tested positive for the disease while seven have died so far in the state, a senior police official said. Additional Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police 112, Aseem Arun, in a statement issued here on Thursday, said, "Police personnel have been instructed that if they apprehend any criminal or a suspect or ask someone to stop for a search, they should assume that he may be a COVID-19 patient."

'Modi govt betraying Armed Forces by snatching away pension'

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Friday alleged that the Modi government was denting the morale of army officers by 'snatching away' their pension. Addressing a press conference on Friday, Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "The Modi government has become the first regime in history to steal the pension and alternate career choice after the active service of those officers who protect our motherland. A letter circulated by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the office of the CDS has sought suggestions for the same."

"This Diwali, PM Modi exhorted the nation to light a 'diya' for our soldiers, but has ensured darkness in their lives by attempting to reduce their pension by

half," he added.

Surjewala said, "According to the Modi government's new proposal, only those officers who have spent more than 35 years in the Armed Forces service shall be entitled to a 'Full Pension'. But reality is, 90 per cent of the army officers retire before 35 years of service. In such a situation, the Modi government is hatching a conspiracy to deny 90 per cent of the army officers their full pension." The Congress said at the time of recruitment in the military, every officer in the Indian Military Academy has to compulsorily sign a 20-year mandatory service bond. An officer after 20 years of service, presently gets 50 per cent of the last drawn salary as pension, but the Modi government's new proposal is snatching away 50 per cent of that.

Posters of anti-CAA protesters again appear in Lucknow

LUCKNOW

THE Lucknow administration has, once again, put up posters with photographs of activists who had campaigned against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) earlier this year.

The posters that came up late Thursday, announce a reward of Rs 5,000 for anyone who provides information about the accused persons.

The posters -- labelled 'wanted' with the photographs of eight anti-CAA activists -- declares them 'absconders' and put out their names and addresses.

An announcement regarding them was also made on a loudspeaker in the old city areas.

One of the 'accused' is Shia cleric Maulana Saif Abbas. The eight are Mohammad Alam, Mohammad Tahir, Rizwan, Rafat Ali, Ahsan, Irshad, Hasan and Irshad. They have been accused of vandalism during protests in December 2019 against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

All the accused are from the Thakurganj area of old Lucknow. Mobile numbers of senior police officials of



the Thakurganj police station have also been provided in the posters so that information could be forwarded to them.

The accused have been booked under The UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986.

A police official said that the activists were involved in the 'violence' during the anti-CAA protests in 2019 and had been 'missing' since. He added that pictures of the accused have been put up everywhere they were likely to meet. Posters and notices have also been put up near the houses of the accused.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Sh. Sandeep Yadav S/O Sh. B.S. Yadav, Sh. B.S. Yadav S/O Sh. Deepchand, S.A. Propcon Private Limited in collaboration with M/S Sternal Buildcon Private Limited, had obtained a license bearing no. 21 of 2020 dated 13/08/2020 from the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana(DTCP) to develop an affordable group housing colony on the land admeasuring 7.325 acres situated in the revenue estate of Village Dhorka, Sector-95, District Gurugram.

We now propose to transfer the license in favour of Sternal Buildcon Private Limited having its registered office at 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001. We have obtained permission from Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana Vide Memo No. LC-4154-ASSTT(IAC)-2020/19363 Dated 04.11.2020.

Any entity/person including any Government Authority, Bank or Financial Institution having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, demand or interest with respect to the licence or has any objection to the intended above referred matter, such person/entity may inform in writing to O/O STP Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Total land admeasuring 7.325 acres situated in the revenue estate of Village Dhorka, Sector 95, Gurugram.

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Date: 05.11.2020

Place: Gurugram

Air pollution is a permanent problem now

The Central government should take steps to ensure that Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) does not grapple with smog in the coming days, the Supreme Court said on Friday observing that courts have limitations in dealing with such issues. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde asked Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta to ensure that the national capital is not impacted by smog and bad air quality while calling for “grading” actions/ offences that contribute to decline in Air Quality Index (AQI).

SG Mehta informed the top court that a body known as Commission for Air Quality Management for NCR and Adjoining Areas (Commission) has been set up by the Central government and will start functioning from today. The

Centre in exercise of its powers under Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020, had constituted the Commission on Thursday for tackling air pollution and plummeting AQI levels in the NCR.

The air quality in Delhi, the capital territory of India, according to a WHO survey of 1,650 world cities, is the worst of any major city in the world. It also affects the districts around Delhi. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill about 2 million people every year; it is the fifth largest killer in India. India has the world's highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases and asthma, according to the WHO. In Delhi, poor quality air irreversibly damages the lungs of 2.2 million or 50 percent of all children. In addition we have COVID-19 situation

now. Delhi is undergoing a third wave of it or so with more than 6,000 cases being reported every day now.

On 25 November 2019, the Supreme Court of India made statements on the pollution in Delhi saying “Delhi has become worse than narak (hell)” Supreme Court Justice Arun Mishra said that it is better to get explosives and kill everyone. A research paper published by the Ministry of Earth Sciences paper in October 2018 attributing almost 41 per cent to vehicular emissions, 21.5 per cent to dust and 18 per cent to industries. The director of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) alleged that the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is lobbying “against the report” because it is “inconvenient” to the automobile industry. Pollution in Delhi spikes in the winter, owing to a mix of

cultural practices involving burning and meteorological factors. A thick, noxious mix of smog and dust obscures the sun and chokes lungs, forcing schools to close and citizens who can afford breathing masks to don them.

Under pressure to do something, the Central Pollution Control Board has been testing a few technologies every winter in addition to filters at intersections. Thirty smaller air filters had been placed atop public buses. The CPCB also planned to sprinkle magnesium chloride and cement powder on roads and construction sites; these hygroscopic materials absorb water from the air, making the ground moist and keeping dust from flying up. The agency had announced a cloud-seeding project that, according to those in charge, should generate artificial rain to wash away pollution. However, no one seems to be interested in keeping our air clean, not just in Delhi but also in other cities. Hence, the suffering.



Magnetism of Himalayan rocks reveals its tectonic history

The tectonic collision that formed the world’s largest mountain range was actually a complex, multi-stage process – and not a single continental collision

CRAIG ROBERT MARTIN

Breathing quickly in the thin mountain air, my colleagues and I set down our equipment. We’re at the base of a jagged outcrop that protrudes upwards out of a steep gravel slope.

The muffled soundscape of the spectacular Himalayan wilderness is punctuated by a military convoy roaring along the Khardung-La road below. It’s a reminder how close we are to the long-disputed borders between India, Pakistan and China which lie on the ridgelines just a few miles away. This area also contains a different type of boundary, a narrow sinuous geological structure that stretches along the length of the Himalayan mountain range.

Known as a suture zone, it’s only a few kilometers wide and consists of slivers of different types of rocks all sliced together by fault zones. It marks the boundary where two tectonic plates fused together and an ancient ocean disappeared.

Our team of geologists traveled here to collect rocks that erupted as lava more than 60 million years ago. By decoding the magnetic records preserved inside them, we hoped to reconstruct the geography of ancient landmasses – and revise the story of the creation of the Himalayas.

Geologists generally thought that the Himalayas formed 55 million years ago in a single continental collision — when the Neotethys Ocean plate subducted under the southern edge of Eurasia and the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates collided.

But by measuring the magnetism of rocks from northwest India’s remote and mountainous Ladakh region, our team has shown that the tectonic collision that formed the world’s largest mountain range was actually a complex, multi-stage process involving at least two subduction zones.

Sliding plates, growing mountains

Tectonic plates make up the surface of Earth, and they’re constantly in motion — drifting at the imperceptibly slow pace of just a few centimeters each year. Oceanic plates are colder and denser than the mantle beneath them, so they sink downward into it at subduction zones.

The sinking edge of the ocean plate drags the ocean floor along behind it like a conveyor belt, pulling the continents toward each other. When the entire ocean plate disappears into the mantle, the continents on either side plow into each other with enough force to uplift great mountain belts, like the Himalayas.

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Magnetic messages, preserved for all time

Constant movement of our planet’s metallic outer core creates electric currents which in turn generate Earth’s magnetic field. It’s oriented differently depending where in the world you are.

The magnetic field always points toward the magnetic north or the south, which is why your compass works, and averaged over thousands of years it points toward the geographic pole. But it also slopes downward into the ground at an angle which varies depending on how far you are from the equator.

When lava erupts and cools to form rock, the magnetic minerals inside lock in the direction of the magnetic field of that location. So by measuring the magnetization of volcanic rocks, scientists like me can determine what latitude they came from.

Essentially, this method allows us to unwind millions of years of plate tectonic motions and create maps of the world at different times throughout geologic history.

Over multiple expeditions to the Ladakh Himalayas, our team collected hundreds of 1-inch diameter rock core samples. These rocks originally formed on a volcano active between 66 and 61 million years ago, around the time that the first stages of collision began.

We used a hand-held electric drill with a specially designed diamond coring bit to drill approximately 10 centimeters down into the bedrock. We then carefully marked these cylindrical cores with their original orientation before chiseling them out of the rock with nonmagnetic tools. The aim was to reconstruct where these rocks originally formed, before they were sandwiched between India and Eurasia and uplifted into the high Himalayas. Keeping track of the orientation of the samples as well as the rock layers they came from is essential to calculating which way the ancient magnetic field pointed relative to the surface of the ground as it was over 60 million years ago.

We brought our samples back to the MIT Paleomagnetism Laboratory and, inside a special room that’s shielded from the modern-day magnetic field, we heated them in increments up to 1,256 degrees Fahrenheit (680 degrees Celsius) to slowly remove the magnetization.

Different mineral populations acquire their magnetization at different temperatures. Incrementally heating and then measuring the samples in this way enables us to extract the original magnetic direction by removing more recent overprints that might hide it.

Magnetic traces build a map

Using the average magnetic direction of the whole suite of samples we can calculate their ancient latitude, which we refer to as the paleo-latitude. The original single-stage collision model for the Himalaya predicts that these rocks would have formed close to Eurasia at a latitude of around 20 degrees north, but our data shows that these rocks did not form on either the Indian or the Eurasian continents.

Instead, they formed on a chain of volcanic islands, out in the open Neotethys Ocean at a latitude of about 8 degrees north, thousands of kilometers south of where Eurasia was located at the time.

This finding can be explained only if there were two subduction zones pulling India rapidly toward Eurasia, rather than just one.

During a geologic time period known as the Paleocene, India caught up with the volcanic island chain and collided with it, scraping up the rocks we eventually sampled onto the northern edge of India.

India then continued northward before ramming into Eurasia around 40 to 45 million years ago – 10 to 15 million years later than was generally thought. This final continental collision raised the volcanic islands from sea level up over 4,000 meters to their present-day location, where they form jagged outcrops along a spectacular Himalayan mountain pass.

It is better for kids to stay at home, learn online



V RAMU SARMA

Should or should not the schools be re-opened in India? This debate has been on for some time. It is rather unfortunate that the Centre had failed to play the role of big brother on this issue.

The attitude of the Centre towards the plight of the students has been indifferent. The Centre and state governments seem to be ignoring their duty towards lakhs of children.

The Centre should have called for a series of meetings to assess the situation in each state, should have sent teams to study the preparedness of the schools in implementing the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP)s before permitting them to re-open the schools. Instead, the central government left it to the states to decide.

Yes, the country needs to get into unlock mode but this does not mean that it can wink at Covid-19. The threat still looms large. The reason being that in India, we believe that the rules and protocols are meant to be followed only more in breach. We wear helmet only when we see a policeman. We stop at stop signal only if a policeman is there.

There is a saying in Sanskrit, “Yatha Raja Tatha Praja.” When the rulers don’t follow protocols and guidelines issued by Centre, how can they implement them at ground level? For example, in Andhra Pradesh we have seen ministers and MLAs not following any protocols. Though they are not supposed to hold big meetings, large number of leaders are seen on dais at every function. No social distancing is maintained and none of them wear masks.

The situation is no different even in the hall where the cabinet meeting is held. If some one

puts on a mask, it is more for ornamental purpose and the nose and mouth is not covered. This being the attitude of the law makers, how can one expect the school authorities to strictly implement the SOPs or the children to follow the protocols strictly.

The government is not willing to hold local body elections in view of the pandemic but has decided to open the schools. Certainly, it appears to be a decision in a hurry particularly when experts are cautioning the authorities and people of second and third wave of Covid-19.

No one knows when this pandemic would end. Vaccine is yet to come and made available to the people. This means that at least for another one year, one must be extremely careful and continue to have live-in relationship with Corona virus.

The schools particularly the government schools do not have necessary resources to strictly enforce the health protocols. The state governments do not seem to be in a mood to take up the responsibility of funding these schools to ensure that SoPs are strictly implemented. They only argue that globally many countries had re-opened the schools, but never did they compare the conditions there and here.

The State governments are not even able to ensure that the GOs it issued asking schools to collect only tuition fees. In Telangana for example, the government has issued a GO asking schools not to collect full fees. But private schools continue to fleece the parents asking them to pay term fees and that too in full though no physical classes are being held.

Even after collecting full fees, they have not been paying even 50 percent salaries to most of the teachers. Good number of them have lost their jobs in the name of downsizing and the government has been a silent spectator for various reasons.

The government had issued GO asking house owners to give moratorium to the tenants, but there are very few instances where the tenants got any relief. No state government seems to



have done a realistic analysis of the situation in other countries where schools were re-opened.

A comprehensive study conducted by researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital and Mass General Hospital has found that children may play a larger role in the community spread of coronavirus than previously thought, triggering concerns of the drastic increase in the cases if the schools reopen.

Some argue that despite having highest number of Corona cases, the American states have opened schools. But they do not seem to think or look beyond this. They should understand that these schools have enforced strict measures. Desks in these schools are kept six feet apart, schools are sanitised regularly and routine temperature checks are done every day. Despite all this an increase of cases has been reported among children.

In Germany, schools have provided better ventilation in classrooms and strict protocols are maintained. This has helped in no serious outbreaks. Denmark is another country where schools were re-opened and children continue to be safe because strict social distancing is maintained. The students are split in micro group, each group comes at different time slot, they eat lunch separately and students

are made to wash their hands every two hours. Even the class rooms are cleaned twice a day.

Such measures here is a luxury. It is something which we cannot expect. Because we do not adopt a holistic approach. Our calculations are based mostly on political considerations and whims and fancies of the ruling party. The rulers never feel the need to consult anyone as they are allergic to opposition and in fact no ruling party in the country would like to have a strong opposition.

South Korea is well known for its emphasis on education. There children have 12 hour school days. Not willing to lose an academic year, the government there reopened the schools but in the absence of strict implementation of SoPs there was a surge in the number of cases, and it had to shut down the schools once again.

Similarly, reports say that in Israel too large number of students and teachers were reported to have been infected with Corona after the schools were re-opened. A similar situation is now being witnessed in Andhra Pradesh as well.

A scientific study should be made by any state government to conclude that the virus was under control. But nothing of the sort is happening in India.

Studies have proved that kids who are of the age of 10 years and up may transmit the virus as easily as adults. States where schools have been re-opened were for this category of students. Schools in India do not have enough space to place desks several feet apart. Most schools say that they can at the most provide water to wash hands and that they do not have enough resources to sanitise the school every day. True, most of the schools do not even have clean toilets. Expecting them to sanitise the school premises is too big an expectation.

This being the situation, minimising negative impact during the unlock and pre-vaccine phase requires unwavering adherence to safety protocols, and additional vigilance on the part of State health authorities who must monitor the situation in educational institutions. If the state governments cannot ensure this, it would not be proper to re-open the schools.

Continuing with online learning as of now is the best choice. The Centre and states can think of reopening the schools only after the vaccine comes and is made available to all. The governments should focus attention on systematic distribution of vaccine so that the life can spring back to normalcy.

LETTERS

Crackers and Covid scare

Celebrating Diwali with the sparkles of crackers is an age old tradition. Crackers are essential elements during many major festivals and events. Banning crackers in many of the regions like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Odisha and Rajasthan is absolutely good idea but the reason they mentioned “Due to Covid 19” is not quite satisfying. People around the world are worried about pollution but we are still in a dilemma whether to ban fire crackers or not. Even after Covid 19 there must be a ban on fire crackers or reducing the use of crackers so that we can at least reduce the pollution by 2.5 per cent caused by crackers. The makers of fire crackers in Tamil Nadu are the major sufferers of this act as mentioned by its CM. So there must be some actions to employ those workers in other sectors, they can also be funded by the government for their livelihood. so India must also head for pollution-free India.

K Sai Manideep, Rangareddy

II

Propos “Mumbai, Kolkata ban crackers” (THI 6 November). On the other hand, the Tamil Nadu CM keeping in mind livelihoods of lakhs of people Sivakasi the major hub of fire crackers has urged his counterparts not to ban crackers. Unfortunately, crackers ban either by courts or the government in India become a big joke as there is no mechanism to implement ban. As a matter of fact, law makers, judiciary and police are to be blamed for making mockery of crackers ban. Whenever some low level to high level leaders get some post or win elections, even during non-Diwali period crackers are openly burnt and police remains mute. Come marriage season, it’s free for all irrespective of time of the day. The other day, a nominated Judge of Telagana HC was celebrating marriage of his family member. It ended with crackers

and fireworks at midnight along with band baja without caring for his sleeping neighbours. If this is how a responsible judge behaves, how the ban be implemented among the common people. Though yours truly like many others as youngsters used to burn crackers but those days parents had small budget which would be less than fifty rupees and the rich families may cross hundred rupees and with less population, noise and pollution was less. However, now with growing population, congested cities compounded by people splurging huge money on crackers mainly to show off is adding more noise and pollution. We the people should show some responsibility towards our society and fellow citizens. Those in power should do some introspection and practice what they want to implement among general public.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Sustaining safe higher education

The UGC has granted the green signal for reopening of universities and colleges through its latest guidelines issued on November 5. As per circular, the guidelines may be adopted by the institutions as per the local conditions and directives of the Government authorities. The universities and colleges outside the containment zones may be opened in a graded manner after consultations with concerned State/UT Governments and subject to the fulfillment of the guidelines/SOP for safety and health protocol prepared by UGC.

The institutions should ensure that not more than 50 percent of the total students will be present at any point in time and necessary guidelines/protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19 are in place. Universities and colleges must follow social distancing, use of face masks, and other protective measures also with administrative offices, research laboratories, and libraries. This is a good move to sustained higher education in the post-pandemic period.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, Satna (MP)

thehansreader@gmail.com

Arnab found his match in Shiv Sena

Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami’s arrest by the Mumbai police was not a politically motivated act or an infringement of media freedom, as made out to be by the right-wing ruling elites. It was in connection with an abetment to suicide case.

What is at issue is whether the TV anchor refused to pay the money that he allegedly owed to Anvay Naik, an interior designer by profession and abetted his suicide. The case should not have been closed the way it was when Anvay Naik named Arnab Goswami and mentioned the non-payment of dues in his suicide note and there was evidence that the anchor tried in vain to transfer money into Anvay Naik’s account after his death. Re-opening a case is not done for the first time.

Any sort of glee at the TV anchor’s arrest is unwarranted and must be avoided as he should not be held to his own abysmally low standards. It is also not necessary to say that he has found his match in Shiv Sena. At the same time, we can be upfront about the immense harm that his style of journalism bordering on hate-mongering does to the country. Gratuitous polarization on television is his forte. Be that as it may, a TV anchor, by virtue of being a pro- or anti-this or that TV anchor, cannot have or claim immunity from prosecution for alleged offences.

To say that Arnab Goswami has been BJP’s de facto spokesperson is to state the obvious. He is certainly perceived to be BJP’s proxy and mouthpiece. His use of lung power in support of the BJP cannot place him above the law of the land. BJP cannot support the beleaguered anchor beyond a point without giving the impression that it is not in favour of the law taking its own course.

BJP cannot afford to be seen to be unkind and unsympathetic to the Anvay Naik’s family. It cannot say that the law should take its course “selectively”. When it comes to pre-trial arrests, the rule should be the same to all. Remember that the criminal code is uniform in our country. Politics or political affiliations cannot be a determinant or consideration in cases. Justice must prevail in all cases.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Diners seek concrete solution to maintain quality standards

- To make up for the loss incurred, even popular restaurants are serving stale food to consumers
- For many of them making profits precedes safeguarding customers' health
- From using preservatives to non-permitted food colours and serving stale food to customers, the non-compliance to safety norms has been detected by the food safety officers in the restaurants in city
- According to the Food Safety Officer of GVMC, V Appa Rao, 21 hotels and restaurants are being served notices for violating safety norms
- Cancelling the licence of the restaurants and initiating stringent action should be considered in order to avoid recurrence of violations, diners assert



Stale food being collected from one of the popular restaurants in Visakhapatnam

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

MAKING up for the loss incurred, even popular restaurants are not thinking twice to serve stale food to customers.

For many of them making profits precedes safeguarding customers' health. Since consumers are not confident to venture into small eateries fearing poor quality standards, they prefer branded restaurants to dine even if it means paying a fat bill. Just a few days before, popular

restaurants and hotels in Vijayawada were raided only to find stale and leftover food being served to customers.

The picture is no different in Visakhapatnam. However, whenever the food safety officers go on a raiding-spree, they end up discovering lapses in maintaining quality standards in hotels. From using preservatives to non-permitted food colours and serving stale food to customers, the non-compliance to safety norms appear to be the same most of the time. But what needs to be fo-

cused is to figure out a concrete solution to avoid recurrence of such practices. Sharing statistics, Food Safety Officer of GVMC, V Appa Rao, says that already 21 hotels and restaurants are being served notices for violating safety norms. "Samples have been collected and sent to the lab. Action will be initiated against the management once we receive the report," he says.

The diners opine that the raids should go beyond food testing, seizing sub-standard food, collecting samples, send-

ing them to Hyderabad-based laboratory and waiting for weeks to get reports. "The system will not change by charging an 'affordable' fine and serving a notice. The authorities concerned should go beyond their regular checks. Cancelling the licence of the restaurants and initiating stringent action should be considered in order to avoid recurrence of violations. Ultimately, it is the life of the customer that is at stake," says N Srinivas Rao, an entrepreneur.

WALT AIR DIVISION

Freight loading records growth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

FROM 4.58 MT of freight that was recorded in September, the Waltair Division registered 4.65 MT of freight loading last month.

Despite the pandemic situation, the division has achieved 29.12 MT of loading from April to October and thus generating revenue of Rs 3,402.69 crore, moving on average 36.6 rakes a day.

The upswing in the freight loading is being witnessed in almost all commodities. In the current financial year, Indian Railways has announced several freight concessions and introduced several policy initiatives.

In addition, business development units (BDUs) have been set up which aided in strengthening the freight traffic even in times



Waltair Division of East Coast Railway records increase in freight loading with each passing month

of the pandemic.

The increased movement of freight trains is an outcome of regular interaction with the customers involving officers and staff.

Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, lauded the efforts made by the departments concerned in achieving the enhanced freight loading.

He said the BDUs will continue concentrating on generating new traffic apart from retaining the existing one.

Sput in Covid cases in Srikakulam district

- 117 cases in 24 hours
- Total cases increase to 44,757
- District surveillance officer Dr Bagadi Jagannadha Rao calls upon people to strictly follow Covid protocols

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRIKAKULAM

COVID cases are increasing in Srikakulam district with each passing day due to the failure of the people to follow Covid guidelines.

The total cases in the district increased to 44,757 on Friday. During the last 24 hours, 117 coronavirus positive cases have been reported in the district. The onset of winter and rise in functions seem to be contributing to the spread of virus.

In Ponduru mandal, 43 covid positive cases have been reported in one day while in Meliaputti mandal seven cases were recorded.

"We are monitoring the cases regularly by creating awareness among people," said district surveillance officer (DSO) for covid cases, Dr Bagadi Jagannadha Rao.

People need to follow Covid protocols strictly to prevent the spread of Covid, he added.

Many parents not prepared to send their wards to schools

- Instead they prefer online classes to their children to protect them from getting exposed to the risk of infection
- As many as 829 teachers and 575 students test positive for coronavirus across the State within a few days of reopening of schools



Armed with masks, students head to their classes at GVMC High School in Visakhapatnam
Photo: A Pydiraju

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

DESPITE the precautions considered and Standard Operating Procedures released for reopening the educational institutions across the State, 829 teachers and 575 students tested positive for coronavirus in Andhra Pradesh just a few days after reopening of schools.

With the count likely to go up in the coming days, the situation is not quite conducive for many parents as they feel reluctant to send their wards to schools even if it means for a few hours.

A majority of parents prefer online classes over regular ones as they find the former much safer than exposing their children to the risk of infection. "My daughter is in a crucial phase of academic life. She is in Class X and a topper. Since her mother also works in the same school, we are sending her to clarify doubts if any. But with strict adherence to safety protocols. Given the rise in the number of coronavirus cases, we do not know how long we can send her to school," says Koda Appa Rao, a sweet master.

Currently, students from classes IX to XII are attending half-day school on alternate days. Some of

them say that being 'masked' for hours eventually makes them feel suffocated. "Not just suffocating but masks are inconvenient to don when we are communicating with our friends and teachers. Unless required, I am keeping my interactions minimal in the class and making sure the mask is rightly placed on my face," reasons K Niharika, a Class IX student.

However, school staff finds it rather difficult to monitor students all the time as they have their own set of targets to meet. "Most of the time, we find the masks dangling to the ears or below the chin of children. We do alert them to wear it appropriately but it is tough to keep an eye all the time," says a GVMC high school teacher.

With close to 1,500 teachers and students being tested for coronavirus across AP as on Friday, representatives of the Federation of Teachers Organisations appealed to the Commissioner of School Education to keep the schools open for half-day for the high school staff and allow them to continue with online classes for the students.

Given the current situation, a majority of parents are not favouring sending their wards to schools even if it lasts for a few hours on alternate days.

TDP demands handing over of houses to beneficiaries

- Police stop the TDP activists as they try to enter Saripalli housing complex where 2,800 houses were built during the TDP regime
- The Opposition party leaders express concern over the failure of the State govt to hand over the houses to beneficiaries



TDP leaders visiting housing project at Saripalli village in Vizianagaram district on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIZIANAGARAM

TENSION prevailed at Saripalli housing complex when police prevented TDP leaders from entering into the complex.

On Friday a large number of TDP activists the housing complex raising the slogan 'Naa Illu Naa Sontham' and demanded that the government hand over the houses to the beneficiaries.

The TDP leaders tried to enter into the housing complex where 2,800 houses have been constructed during the TDP regime but the State government is yet to distribute them to the beneficiaries.

K Nagarjuna, party president for Vizianagaram Lok Sabha constituency, stated that 2,800 houses were constructed in several blocks at Saripalli village during the TDP rule but so far the YSRCP government could not distribute them to the people. The poor and downtrodden were eagerly waiting to take possession of the houses and get dream of owning a house fulfilled. But the government is simply ignoring the issue.

Not only the housing beneficiaries, but the farmers were also struggling under the YSRCP regime. Maize farmers are wait-

ing for selling their produce but the market yards are not purchasing maize, he pointed out.

The State government also closed Anna Canteens which were providing food at a very subsidised price to the poor.

The government should learn about the problems of people and try to solve them as soon as possible. Nagarjuna said that if the government fails to hand over the houses to public they would intensify the stir and expand it to the entire State. Party leaders P Adithi Gajapathi Raju and others have participated in the protest.

11th convocation of GITAM today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE 11th convocation of GITAM Deemed to be University goes online on Saturday amidst pandemic. Renowned industrialist and chairperson of Biocon Limited Kiran Majumdar-Shaw will be chief guest during the ceremony. She will deliver the convocation address and inspire the graduates to march ahead. University Registrar D Gunasekharan said that over 4,670 students hailing from different States of India will be given their UG, PG and PhD degrees from the institution.

During the e-convocation ceremony, students will also be awarded gold and silver medals for their outstanding performances. GITAM Centre

- To be held in virtual mode
- Over 4,670 students will receive UG, PG and PhD degrees
- Gold and silver medals will also be awarded
- Biocon Limited chairperson Kiran Majumdar-Shaw will be the chief guest and she will deliver the convocation address

for Advanced Technology Solutions (CATS) department is taking all precautions and technical support for the smooth conduct of the event.

PSY 3RD ANNIVERSARY

YSRCP activists take out huge rallies, violate Covid guidelines



YSRCP activists taking out a rally in Cheepurupalli constituency of Vizianagaram district on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIZIANAGARAM

THE activists and leaders of YSR Congress party organised rallies across the district on Friday on the occasion of the completion of three years of party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's Praja Sankalpa Yatra (PSY).

Jagan had launched his Padayatra on November 6, 2017 and passed through the entire State, covering more than 150 Assembly

constituencies out of total 175 constituencies.

His Padayatra drew huge response from the people and subsequently he secured a resounding victory in 2019 State Assembly elections. To mark the third anniversary of the completion of the Padayatra, the party activists organised rallies in the district on Friday. The rallies witnessed huge gatherings ignoring the Covid protocols like maintaining social distance and wearing masks. People have crammed on

dais at the venues of meetings organised on the occasion. The ruling party activists failed to follow the Covid guidelines issued by the State government. A large rally was taken through the villages of Garividi, Gurla, Cheepurupalli and Parvathipuram. Karrothu Narsinga Rao, district president of Telugu Yuva, said, "The rallies will definitely cause the spread of virus."

Even senior citizens also participated in the rallies organised by the YSRCP.

Srikakulam-Amudalavalasa 4-lane road gets govt nod

- Speaker Tammineni Sitaram says a cricket stadium and an indoor stadium have been sanctioned for Amudalavalasa
- Thanks CM for sanctioning several developmental projects for Srikakulam district

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRIKAKULAM:

THE road widening project between Srikakulam district headquarters and Amudalavalasa municipal town secured the State government's nod, said AP Legislative Assembly (APLA) Speaker Tammineni Sitaram.

Addressing the media here on Friday, he explained that the government allotted Rs 40 crore for transforming the existing two-lane road into a four-lane road between Srikakulam city and

Amudalavalasa.

Heavy rush of traffic is witnessed between Srikakulam city and Amudalavalasa municipal town every day due to increase in number of vehicles. The road widening is a long pending issue which has been settled now, the Speaker pointed out.

In addition, the State government sanctioned cricket stadium at Amudalavalasa by considering representations submitted by Andhra Cricket Association district leader T V S Chiranjivi Nag, he said. The State government

also sanctioned indoor stadium at Amudalavalasa. The Speaker said the projects have been sanctioned by the government after identifying the talented people in the district.

Tammineni expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Dharma Krishna Das and other Ministers for sanctioning several developmental projects for Srikakulam district and particularly for Amudalavalasa Assembly constituency.



Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram addressing a press conference in Srikakulam on Friday

TODAY'S QUOTE

Microsoft to drive public sector on digital path

Microsoft is committed to partnering with the public sector in India to enable a technology-led transformation and build a strong digital skilling ecosystem that empowers everyone to benefit from technology. The public sector has been using technology to rebound from the crisis

— **Anant Maheshwari**, president, Microsoft India



POWER DUES

Discoms' dues to generators rise 48%

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a wider impact on the country's power sector. The poor run for the sector during the pandemic led to a further deterioration in the financial position of discoms as their pending dues to genscos have shot up 48 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.27 lakh crore.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.64
Euro	92.28
UAE Dirham	22.22
Thai Baht	2.79
British Pound	101.29
Australian Dollar	56.58
Canadian Dollar	59.56
Swiss Franc	85.55

South African Rand	5.41
Hong Kong Dollar	11
Japanese Yen	0.83
New Zealand Dollar	52.85
Saudi Riyal	21.75
Swedish Krona	9.81
Singapore Dollar	57.78

DELHI SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Vim launches campaign

VIM, the dishwasher brand owned by Hindustan Unilever Ltd, launched #VimWhata-Player campaign that aims to "unstereotype" dishwashing. Seeped from the Covid-led impetus of male participation in household chores, that further got a big fillip with the nationwide lockdown, the brand took this as an opportunity to break the age-old stereotype around dishwashing with this campaign. To the men who were actively helping in the chore, but were newly discovering the pain points of dishwashing, the campaign communicates the functional benefits of the product and how it makes the dishwashing chore easy. The campaign will be aired throughout the current IPL season. Prabha Narasimhan, Executive Director and VP, Home Care, Hindustan Unilever, said, "being an industry leader, we are committed to contribute to positive cultural change as well as making better connections with people through our advertising."

80% play free fantasy sports

THE Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) for online fantasy sports platforms (OFSP) on Friday said that 80 per cent of OFSP users prefer to participate in the free-to-play format. The industry body also shared some other interesting facts about the users and on format of online fantasy sports platforms. Industry discussions and research reports such as the IndiaTech whitepaper have established that 80 per cent of the OFSP users participate in the free-to-play format. Statistics demonstrate that 99.60 per cent of users who participate in a fantasy sports contest have either won or lost less than Rs 10,000 net on OFSP in their lifetime. The average ticket size of participation in the pay-to-play format is usually as low as Rs 35. FIFS was founded in 2017 and is led by Bimal Julka, as Chairman.

Mkts hit 10-mth high amid positive cues

Soar for 5th straight day as Sensex adds 553 pts; Reliance gains

MUMBAI

RISING for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex rallied 553 points and closed at a nearly 10-month high on Friday, tracking gains in index-heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC twins amid largely positive global market sentiment.

The 30-share BSE index ended 552.90 points or 1.34 per cent higher at 41,893.06, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 143.25 points or 1.18 per cent to 12,263.55.

On January 14, Sensex had closed at a record peak of 41,952.63. Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 3.78 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, HDFC twins and Kotak Bank. On the other hand, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and Nestle India were among the laggards.

According to Hemant Kanawala, Head-Equity, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, Indian markets rallied in sync with its global peers, putting to the back-



burner the uncertainties in the US Presidential election. They delivered a broad-based performance, with both Nifty and Nifty midcap indices returning 1.5 per cent over the last week.

Sectorally, BSE energy, bankex, finance, realty and consumer durables indices rallied up to 3.16 per cent, while telecom, healthcare and FMCG fell up to 0.92 per cent. Broader midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.54 per cent.

During the week, Sensex soared 2,278.99 points or 5.75 per cent, while Nifty advanced 621.15 points or 5.33 per cent. "Positive global sentiment from

the US election, expectation of Fed open market operation and improving economic activities have added optimism in the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Markets have surged consistently over the week, and Indian benchmark indices have continued their strong momentum supported by a good set of quarterly numbers and strong foreign fund inflow, he noted. Democratic leader Joe Biden appeared to be a step away from winning the US presidential election as the latest count of votes from a handful of battleground states indicated that the re-election chances of incumbent Republican President Donald Trump are getting slim by the hour.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai ended in the red, while Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo closed with gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a negative note in early deals. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.93 per cent lower at \$40.14 per barrel.

Bank credit rises 5.06%: RBI data

MUMBAI

BANK credit grew by 5.06 per cent to Rs 103.39 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 10.12 per cent to Rs 142.92 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 23, according to the RBI data.

In the fortnight ended October 25, 2019, bank credit had stood at Rs 98.40 lakh crore, and the deposit was Rs 129.78 lakh crore. In the previous fortnight ended October 9, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.66 per cent and deposits by 10.55 per cent. Non-food bank credit growth decelerated to 5.8 per cent in September 2020 from 8.1 per cent in the same month previous year, according to the data.

Credit to industry recorded 'nil' growth in September 2020 as compared to 2.7 per cent growth in the year-ago period. Credit to agriculture and allied activities rose by 5.9 per cent during the reporting month as against a growth of 7 per cent a year ago. Loan growth in the services sector accelerated to 9.1 per cent in September 2020 from 7.3 per cent in the same month last year. Personal loans registered a growth of 9.2 per cent in the month as compared to 16.6 per cent growth in September 2019. (PTI)

RULES OF ORIGIN

Japanese cos in India facing serious problems

NEW DELHI

OVER 600 Japanese companies showed up recently at a webinar to discuss issues related to India's new Customs Rules of Origin under CAROTAR 2020.

As per a report in Asian Community News, the mandatory declaration of country of origin, as well as cost of components of imported goods by the importers under newly implemented Rules of Origin, have emerged as a cause of serious concern among various nations, especially the countries with which India has entered into Foreign Trade Agreement (FTA) such as Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN.

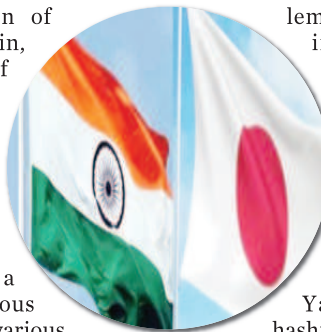
'All such problems came to the fore during a webinar conducted jointly by the Embassy of Japan in India, the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII). More than 600 Japanese companies turned up during the webinar

Over 600 Japanese companies have showed up recently at a webinar to discuss issues related to India's new customs rules

which is a clear indication of the severity of the problems related to the implementation of the provisions of new Rules of Origin laid under CAROTAR 2020," the report said.

JETRO was represented by Yasuyuki Murahashi, Chief Director General, and the Japan Embassy by Yuichi Koshikawa, Second Secretary, Economic Section.

According to JETRO Chief DG, India entered into FTA with countries like Japan and other ASEAN countries for extending the benefit of low custom charges to them and it was good for promoting bilateral business. But the new Rules of Origin (CAROTAR 2020) is creating new problems for the companies at the port level.



Ather installing fast charging points in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

ATHER Energy said it started setting up its fast charging public network - The Ather Grid, across Hyderabad. Installations of the charging points have already begun across key hotspots in 11 locations in the city. The company will partner with hosts like cafés, restaurants, tech parks, malls, and gyms which can offer EV owners' easy accessibil-



ity, curb range anxiety, and ease the adoption of electric vehicles in the city.

Hyderabad is among few cities after Bengaluru and Chennai to have Ather Energy's fast charging public network.

MSAF launches new steel product

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

MS Agarwal Foundries (MSAF) on Friday announced launch of a new product MS Life 600, aseismic resistance steel. The new high-grade steel is manufactured at the company's factory at Toopran in Telangana

"India, where seismic activities are common, needs a product with seismic resistance. MS Agarwal Foundries came out with this new product which has been fully developed from scratch in our modern R&D Laboratory. Our unquenching thirst for innovation resulted in the best product till date from our mill," the company said in a statement. Gautam Ganeriwala, Director, MS Agarwal Foundries, said the new launch reflected the company's commitment to enhance its product portfolio by combining world-class technology. "MS 600+ portfolio will definitely be a significant product for the Company," he added.

Smartphone mkt grows by 17% in Q3

Online channel share reaches an all-time high of 48 per cent, growing by a healthy 24 per cent year-over-year

NEW DELHI

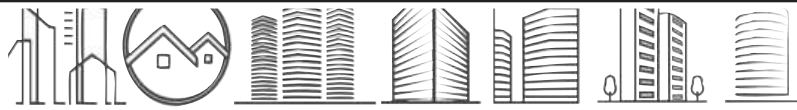
SMARTPHONE shipments in India reached 54.3 million units in the third quarter of this year, a growth of 17 per cent year-over-year, shows data from industry tracker International Data Corporation (IDC) on Friday. India was the only Smartphone market in the top 3 to witness growth, as both the China and the US



markets declined year-over-year in the July-September quarter, said IDC's Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker.

The reopening of the economy in India with fewer restrictions was fur-

ther fueled by pent-up demand in July and August and channel stocking in September to meet the upcoming Diwali quarter demand. In Q3, online channel share reached an all-time high of 48 per cent, growing by a healthy 24 per cent year-over-year. Offline channels registered a moderate 11 per cent YoY growth after a challenging first half of the year.



REAL CORNER



'Linking Aadhaar to property will reduce black money'

A survey reveals that people in favour of mandatory linking of all property ownerships

A majority of respondents in a survey want the government to make 'mandatory linking of all property ownerships with Aadhaar' and 'mandatory disclosure of all assets of all ministers and government employees and their direct families' as a way forward to curb black money.

The recommendation from people about disclosures applies not just to central government and public sector undertakings but also to all State government ministers and employees and their direct families. One of the key issues identified by people continues to be the usage of shell companies by public officials to accept bribes.

Citizens have listed how family members of corrupt public officials are listed as directors in these shell companies and graft is received as share capital at a high premium. The money received is then utilised by the promoters of the company to pay salaries to themselves or fake employees on the payrolls.

Citizens on the LocalCircles platform pointed to various ar-

reas where illegal economic activities are rampant. On a question in the survey asked, "What should be the one move that the Government should implement immediately to further reduce black money in India?", 15,492 voters responded. Of which, 33 per cent said "make linking of all property ownerships with Aadhaar mandatory", 38 per cent said "mandatory disclosure of all assets of all ministries and government employees and their direct families", 10 per cent said "demonetise Rs 2,000 rupee note immediately", 7 per cent said "levy 2 per cent transaction tax on all cash transactions above Rs 10,000", and 5 per cent each voted for "detailed scrutiny of all individual with a Swiss Bank account" and "other things", while 2 per cent said "can't say".



When compared with last year's survey, this year's results show that buying "groceries" and giving out "salaries to domestic staff" continue to be the top categories where citizens transacted in cash and didn't produce a receipt in the last 12 months.

Residential real estate sees sharp recovery in July-Sept

Icra says Covid pandemic has triggered one of the worst demand crashes

Ratings agency Icra said the residential real estate segment has witnessed a sharp recovery in Q2FY21, post a severe decline in Q1FY21.

According to the agency, the Covid-19 pandemic had triggered one of the worst demand crashes that the Indian residential real estate industry witnessed in recorded history.

Overall, the housing sales volume witnessed a YoY decline of 50 per cent in H1 FY21 across the top eight cities of the country. "However, sales volume bounced back considerably with a QoQ growth of 60 per cent, recorded across property markets in the second quarter of the current fiscal," an Icra note said.

As per the note, the recent improvement was primarily driven by a gradual unlocking of the economy, pent-up demand, and improved affordability on the back of reduced home loan rates and attractive payment schemes or discounts.

"An increasing focus on home ownership, both from domicile residents as well as the NRIs, has been aiding sales. Reverse migration has further supported an increase in housing demand in tier II or III cities," said Shubham



The recent improvement was primarily driven by a gradual unlocking of the economy, pent-up demand, and improved affordability on the back of reduced home loan rates

Jain, Senior Vice President and Group Head at Icra.

"Notably, increasing digitisation has played a key role in enabling sales in the current environment, with extensive use of digital marketing and digital engagement tools by the developers aiding online home sales and transaction payments. The crisis has thus pushed the sector towards widespread technology integration."

The agency noted that buyers preferences for rightly priced inventory at advanced stages of construction continued to be in place,

although larger format units seemed to be finding increasing favour, possibly due to the requirement for dedicated work and study areas.

"While quarterly average sales for under-construction units registered a decline of 78 per cent during H1FY21, a significantly lower decline of 29 per cent was noted for advanced stage or completed projects," the agency's note said.

"With the higher pace of recovery for advanced stage or completed inventory, this segment contributed to over half

the pan-India sales generated in Q2FY21."

This preference, combined with the significantly higher supply of under-construction units vs advanced stage units, is expected to pose challenges for developers having a high dependence on sales from under-construction inventory, it cited.

"However, demand for under-construction units will remain supported to some extent by buyers preferring staggered payment, parallel plans of liquidating other holdings, etc."

ICICI HF launches home loan festival

Offering spot sanction of home loans with subsidy of up to ₹2.67 lakhs

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited has announced its 'Maha Loan Festival' for the ongoing festive season.

During this festival, loan seekers can avail of spot sanction for products such as home loan (Apna Ghar and Apna Ghar Dreamz), gold loan and loan against property. To enable quick processing, the company has made available local, branch level sanctioning facilities for all loan applications.

In this festive season, the company is making home loan accessible to customers in the informal segment of the economy, such as carpenters, plumbers, small business owners and traders. Customers need to submit their pan card, aadhar card and bank statements of past six months.

Businessmen and traders in need of urgent financial assistance can avail gold loans with just one branch visit. The gold loan scheme offers features such as bullet repayment, fixed interest rate throughout the loan tenure and foreclosure payment option. Customers can walk into their nearest ICICI Home Finance branch.

Anirudh Kamani, MD & CEO, ICICI Home Finance, said "Our Maha Loan Festival offers multiple products and benefits that will help customers in the informal segment with financing options to fulfil their needs.

CONG PITCHES FOR PROBE INTO FLOOD RELIEF SCAM

TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy urges Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan to order a high-level probe into the alleged irregularities with regard to distribution of flood relief money in Greater Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday urged Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan to order a high-level probe into the irregularities with regard to distribution of flood relief in Greater Hyderabad.

Uttam spoke to the Governor over telephone and pointed out several instances of misappropriation of funds meant for distribution among people affected due to recent heavy rains and floods. He described the entire operation as an 'open loot in broad daylight' by the ruling TRS party and alleged that the flood relief was not carried out in a transparent manner.

Demanding that the affected should be given relief of at least Rs 50,000 each, the TPCC chief pointed out that the State government on October 19 has sanctioned Rs 550 crore towards distribution of flood relief. "In the time of national calamity or crop loss, the official machinery enumerates the losses and prepares



TPCC chief and Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy addressing the media in Hyderabad on Friday after speaking to the Governor on the flood relief scam.

a list of affected people. Later, cheques are distributed to all the affected. Even a payment of Rs 100 is paid through cheque. However, of the Rs 550 crore sanctioned amount, the State government withdrew Rs 387 crore in cash and it was distributed through TRS cadre," he said.

He said that disbursement of relief in cash in such big numbers was unprecedented in independent India and it also goes against

the principles of demonitisation. "There is no legality, no justification of withdrawal of huge cash and its distribution through TRS party cadre. We can give proof of TRS cadre taking commission from the affected people. At many places, they took Rs 5,000 as commission to distribute Rs 10,000 relief among the affected," Uttam alleged.

He described the distribution of Rs 387 crore cash as open loot,

bribery and corruption in brazen daylight. Calling Dr Soundararajan as a fair person who has always maintained the highest morals and values in public life, he urged the Governor to order an inquiry. He said that the State government needs to be questioned on this issue as it must maintain minimum standards. The Governor has assured to look into the issue raised by the Congress chief.

NCP chief lauds TS agri policies

Sharad Pawar discusses challenges being faced by the agriculture sector, with State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FORMER Union Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar appreciated the State for giving top priority to the agriculture sector.

Recalling his party extending support to the formation of separate Telangana, during an interaction with the State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy on Friday, Sharad Pawar inquired about the impact of the recent unseasonal rains on the agriculture sector in the State.

Niranjan Reddy met the NCP chief on the fourth day of his official visit to Maharashtra at Sri Someswara Farmers Cooperative Sugal Factory at Baramati near Pune.

Sharad Pawar expressed that the abandoned water resources in the rural areas and the Hyderabad city would give a fillip to the development of Telangana.

The former Union Minister said that he discussed different challenges faced by the agriculture sector, formation of pro-farmer policies and innovative agriculture practices for the development of the agriculture sector with Niranjan Reddy.

The Telangana Agriculture Minister after visiting the cooperative sugar factory said that Sharad Pawar is considered as the harbinger for the development of agriculture sector in Maharashtra.

His efforts in giving a fillip to the farmers cooperative system, starting cooperative industries, Krishi Vigyana Kendra (KVKs) proved as role models.

He said that underlining the



Telangana State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy meets NCP chief and former Union Minister Sharad Pawar in Pune on Friday

importance of the collective strength of farmers would yield amazing results, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has brought the new Panchayat Raj Act. Besides, the Rythu Bandhu Committees would help empower the farmers, he said.

He added that to give a fillip to the agriculture sector in Telangana, the State government has been facilitating the development of agriculture sector by providing free power, water, crop investment, Rythu Bima etc, to empower farmers and the agriculture sector.

Added to these, the Rythu Bandhu Samithi's has to play a key role in bringing farmers together for the development of increasing

The former Union Minister said that he discussed different challenges faced by the agriculture sector, formation of pro-farmer policies and innovative agriculture practices for the development of the agriculture sector with Niranjan Reddy

the production and integrated marketing system. Similarly, usage of technology and tools, purchase of fertilizers, sale of farmers produce should have a compre-

hensive mechanism to ensure farmers play an important role. This would not only make agriculture profitable for the farmers but also sustain it, he said.

76.87 per cent candidates qualify in law entrance tests

Out of 21,559 candidates who appeared for the test, 15,610 were males, 5,947 were females and two were transgenders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A total of 76.87 per cent candidates qualified in the TS LAW-CET and PGLCET-2020 conducted by the Osmania University.

Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), Chairman Papi Reddy, Vice Chairmen R Limbadri and Venkata Ramana and TS LAW-CET and PGLCET-2020 Convenor GB Reddy released the results, here, on Friday.

TSCHE Chairman informed that a total of 30,262 candidates have registered for the three and five years LLB course and the two year LLM course.

Out of them, 21,559 appeared

Out of 21,559 candidates who appeared for the test, 15,610 were males, 5,947 were females and two were transgenders.

in the tests and 16,572 have qualified. On the whole, 76.87 per cent of candidates qualified in both LLB and LLM law entrance tests, he added.

Gender-wise analysis of the results reveals that out of 21,559, who appeared for the test, 15,610 were males, 5,947 were females and two were transgenders. Out of them, 12,444 males (79.72 per cent), 4,127 females (59.40 per cent) and one transgender (50 per

cent) qualified in the LAW-CET and PGLCET-2020.

He said that in the LAW-CET 3 years LLB course, out of 15,398 appeared candidates, 12,103 candidates qualified with an overall pass percentage of 78.60. Similarly, out of the 3,973 candidates who appeared for the LAW-CET 5 year integrated LLB course, 2,477 have qualified with an overall pass percentage of 62.35.

Likewise, 2,188 candidates who appeared for the PGLCET two year LLM course, 1,992 qualified with an overall pass percentage of 91.04, he informed and said that the qualified candidates can download their rank cards from <https://lawcet.tsche.ac.in/>

BJP urges govt to contain criminal activities in Hyd

Party chief spokesperson Krishna Saagar Rao requests the DGP and Police Commissioners to contain the rising criminal activity of drug peddlers, paedophiles and sexual predators in the city



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao has urged the State Director General of Police and the Police Commissioners of all the zones in Hyderabad to contain the rising criminal activity of drug peddlers, pedophiles and sexual predators in the city.

In a statement released on Friday, Rao said, "I earnestly urge the DGP and the Police Commissioners of all the zones in the State capital to take steps to contain such crimes." Adding that many of these criminals were illegal foreigners using on-line social media platforms to lure young school-going boys and girls to abuse and victimise them, he said, in the interest of

protecting young kids and adolescents from this menace, strong and decisive police action against such criminals was essential.

"Also, I urge Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, IT Minister KT Rama Rao and the State DGP to ensure the protection of youngsters from these criminals is prioritised to secure law and order in Hyderabad," he added.

Ex-MP seeks increased MSP for fine variety of paddy

Vivek Venkataswamy demands the government to procure the fine variety of paddy at an MSP of ₹2,500 per quintal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP State core committee member and former MP Vivek Venkataswamy demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to take immediate steps for the procurement of fine rice, by offering a minimum support price of Rs 2,500 per quintal.

He said on Friday that the TRS chief had assured to make farmers 'crorepatis', but, taking water from the Tummidi Hatti Irrigation Project (THIP) to Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in the name of redesigning of the KLIP has left farmers cultivating cotton, in an extent of 9,000 acres in Chennuru, in the lurch. Similarly, farmers in the State have cultivated fine variety of rice following the advice of the CM, but the MSP of Rs 1,850 per quintal currently offered to the paddy will make the farmers paupers. He said that it was the responsibility of



the Chief Minister to ensure that the farmers are not at a loss as they have cultivated the fine varieties of paddy following his advice. He said his party demands that the State government procure the fine variety of paddy at an MSP of Rs 2,500 per quintal.

Vivek reminded how the State government had agreed to procure maize offering the MSP after they demanded. Similarly, the former MP said that his party would stand by the side of the farmers and fight for their cause and mount pressure on the government for the procurement of fine variety of paddy.

IPL betting gangs busted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WARANGAL

TASK Force police busted two cricket betting gangs in Hanamkonda on Thursday night when they were placing bets over the match between Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals.

Four people - Nerella Pramod, Polamena Prakash, Pittala Prashanth and Konda Murali - were betting on the game over phones when the cops raided the house of Nerella Pramod in Gudi Bandala Colony under Hanamkonda police station limits. During police inquiry, they confessed that they have been betting since the start of the IPL. Inspector Nandiram Naik informed that they have seized Rs 31,000 and four smart mobile phones, which they used for placing bets. The culprits were handed over to Hanamkonda SI, he added.

In another incident on the same night, police apprehended two persons - Gade Amar and Md Munawar, one was home guard at IB office and another police home guard, while they were doing betting near Ambekar junction.

Task force inspector G Madhu said Rs 15,000 cash and two mobile phones were seized from them.

DIESEL THIEVES HELD

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHOUTUPPAL
(YADADRI-BHONGIR)

RACHAKONDA and Yadadri - Bhongir zone DCP Narayana Reddy said that Choutuppal police arrested two offenders in diesel theft case and seized Rs 1,28,000 and Tata lorry, 100 litres diesel and 20 empty cans. The remaining accused - Imran, Jugunu, Ashikh, Javed and Salam Khan were absconding. The arrested were identified as Bhagath Singh (40), a labourer and resident of BD Colony, Begumganj town, Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh and Mohammed Tahir. Of the seven offenders, six belongs to Madhya Pradesh and one belongs to Hyderabad.

According to the DCP, Salam Khan is the gang leader and as per his instructions, the remaining offenders will steal diesel from lorries parked beside road on national highways, like Hyderabad to Vijayawada, Hyderabad to Bombay, Hyderabad to Bangalore and Hyderabad to Nagpur etc.

On Friday morning, during regular patrolling, the



DCP Narayana Reddy briefing the media about diesel theft at a press meet in Choutuppal on Friday

police apprehended a lorry on suspicious grounds at Panthangi Toll gate. On seeing the police, four persons escaped from there, while police took Bhagath Singh into custody and seized lorry and 50 litres diesel and 28,000 cash from him. Based on the information given by Bhagath Sing, police arrested Tahir at Aaramghar in Hyderabad and seized 50 litres diesel and Rs one lakh cash from him.

The duo arrested confessed their crimes, he stated.

LEGAL NOTES

High Court directs EC to extend graduate voters' enrolment deadline

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

ON Friday, the High Court Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy heard a plea filed by Advocate TV Ramesh that the Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana has concluded the procedure for preparation of the electoral rolls for Graduate Constituencies, which will deprive many eligible voters. The Petitioner Counsel Chikkudu Prabhakar informed the court that the petitioner had approached the

CEO, Telangana requesting him to extend the date.

The Election Commission informed the court that it will issue a fresh notification for enrolment from December 1 to December 31 2020. For fresh enrolment, those who used to apply through Form 18, can now apply through Form 6 and 7. Moreover, the EC informed the Court that it will extend the deadline of Graduates Voters Enrolment From December 1st to December 31, 2020. The High Court recorded the explanation of EC and disposed of the petition. Meanwhile Election Commission's dead-

line for voters' registration to the two Graduate MLC elections ended at 12 midnight on Friday. State authorities stated that no directions were received to extend the deadline from New Delhi.

RGV's 'Murder' movie to release with conditions

On Friday, the High Court directed the "Murder" movie team to release the film by following certain conditions. The Court reprimanded film maker Ram Gopal Varma for using actual names of victims in his movie - "Murder". The movie is based on the honour

killing of Pranay who was murdered by his wife's family in broad daylight. It is known that Pranay's wife Amrutha filed a case in the Nalgonda court seeking to stop the movie from being released. Now, the High Court lifted the stay order issued by the Nalgonda court.

Based on a petition filed by the victim's wife, the VII Additional District Judge, Nalgonda directed the film maker to refrain from releasing the movie. Aggrieved by the same, Ram Gopal Varma approached the court. Counsel for RGV informed the court that the film was fictitious.

How IPL table toppers have fared on way to finals

