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IT'S A TUG-OF-WAR

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris inching towards victory



STOP THE COUNT

WASHINGTON

WEARY Americans will have to wait for some more time to know the clear winner of the closely-fought election between Republican President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden, as the final outcome hinged on a few states on Thursday where a flood of mail-in ballots triggered by the coronavirus pandemic were still being counted. Two days after the presidential election, Biden is nearing the magical figure of 270 electoral votes to win the race to the White House, with the former US vice president bagging 253 votes compared to 213 won by Trump, according to latest US media projections.

The results in four states — Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nevada — are yet to be declared as officials counted millions of votes, some that were cast on Tuesday and many more during weeks of early voting amidst the surging pandemic.

In the US election, voters decide state-level contests rather than a single, national one. Each US state



People gather in Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House in Washington

17
electoral
votes stand
between Joe
Biden/Kamala
Harris and the
White House

gets a certain number of Electoral College votes partly based on the size of the population, with a total of 538 up for grabs.

To reach the magic figure of 270 to claim victory, Trump, 74, must

EVERY VOTE MUST BE COUNTED

win all four remaining battleground states: Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nevada. There are approximately 90,735 ballots still outstanding in Georgia, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger's office told CNN.

The state has 16 Electoral College votes. With 71 per cent of mail-in ballots counted in Pennsylvania, officials still need to count 763,000 of the 2.6 million cast, according to the state's official website. The state has 20 Electoral College votes. North Carolina has 15 Electoral College votes while Nevada has six.

Projections on Wednesday put Biden, 77, as the winner in Michigan and Wisconsin, two states Trump won in the 2016 election. As several battleground states continue to count votes and the margins remain razor-thin, Biden tweeted Thursday morning: "Every vote must be counted. Keep the faith, guys. We're gonna win this." An hour later, President Trump tweeted, "STOP THE COUNT!"

Continued on Page 5

Indian-origin millionaire wins Michigan

SHRI Thanedar, an Indian-origin millionaire businessman who ran for Governor two years ago, has been elected to the House of Representatives in Michigan with 93 per cent votes. Thanedar, 65, also a scientist, raised a record-breaking USD 438,620, primarily from his own wealth, in the state House primary against six other opponents of the Democratic Party.



Toxic air: Shun crackers, says CM, invites all to virtual Lakshmi puja

NEW DELHI

WARNING THE double whammy of pollution and the Covid pandemic could further "worsen" the national capital's scene in the coming days, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday appealed people to shun firecrackers for the safety of their kids and family.

Kejriwal said he will be performing Lakshmi Puja at 7.39 p.m. on November 14, along with other Delhi Cabinet Ministers, which will be live-streamed. He appealed every Delhiite to join in the Diwali celebrations by performing Lakshmi Puja at their homes.

He also declared that Delhi has given an alternative to stubble burning. "Hopefully," he said that "this will be the last year when we have to tolerate pollution due to stubble burning". "There are adverse effects of both corona

and pollution in Delhi this year. The Delhi government, along with the people of Delhi, are making all efforts to deal with the issue. The situation of Corona is deteriorating due to pollution," the Delhi CM said.

The smoke from stubble burning causes pollution in Delhi every year but no

state government

has provided any effective solution to the problem of stubble burning, he said and claimed to have spoken on the issue

with many farmers in the neighbouring states, and come up with a plan.

Farmers say "they do not want to burn stubble because it kills the good bacteria on the farmlands, makes the soil infertile, and causes major pollution", Kejriwal said and added, however, "they do not have any option because they are provided with no alternative".

Continued on Page 5

BUSINESS



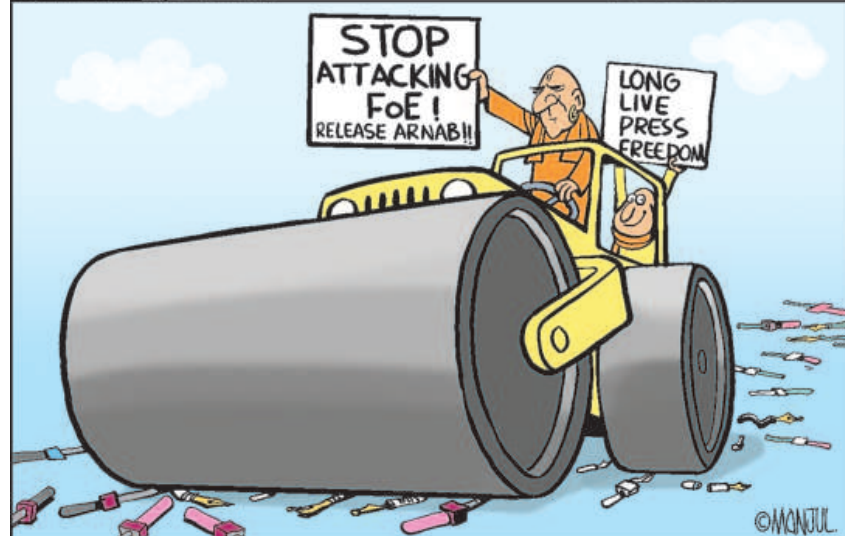
TS to train students as cyber warriors

AFTER carving a niche for itself in the global IT industry, Telangana is poised to become a place for cyber warriors to resolve problems arising out of cyber security threats. ►Details: P6

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Two-third majority in WB: Amit Shah sets 2021 goal

KOLKATA

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that violence and political killings have become the hallmark of Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government's regime. "The atrocities on Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) karyakartas have ensured the formation of the BJP government by two-thirds majority. I appeal to the people of Bengal to uproot the Trinamool Congress government and bring BJP to power to ensure the prosperity of the state," Shah said at Puyabagan in Bankura district during his

two-day visit to Bengal.

Shah also visited Bankura district where he interacted with karyakartas, leaders and office-bearers of BJP's Bengal unit in Bankura. He met BJP leaders from 13 districts in an internal meeting to outline the strategy of the coming polls. IANS

India faces challenges on borders, will defend territorial integrity: Rajnath

NEW DELHI

IN A clear message to China, just ahead of talks to resolve border issue, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that India is facing challenges on its borders and will defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"India is a peace-loving country and that peace can only be ensured through the ability to deter war," Singh said while speaking at a webinar celebrating the Diamond Jubilee to mark 60

years of the National Defence College in Delhi.

The webinar theme was on 'India's National Security - The Decade Ahead' and it started with a keynote address by Rajnath Singh.

The Minister said: "We believe that differences should not become disputes. We attach importance to the peaceful resolution of differ-

ences through dialogue. India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression, no matter what the sacrifice."

India and China are engaged in border dispute for the last seven months in Eastern Ladakh. Despite several rounds of talks between

the two countries, the dispute remains unresolved. Talking about India's relations with friendly counties he said: "We have enhanced the scope and quality of our relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman in the West and with Indonesia, Vietnam and South Korea in the East."

He also mentioned that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special interest in reaching out to partner countries in West Asia, South East and East Asia.



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Castor oil for silky-shiny hair

IF you've ever struggled with restoring your edges, excessive shedding, or thinness, there's a good chance you've heard about the alleged miracle hair growth properties of castor oil. A quick search on YouTube yields dozens of positive testimonials. But is there any scientific evidence to back castor oil's growth stimulation claim?

Castor oil, also known as ricinus communis, is a nutrient-rich vegetable oil that comes from castor beans. Castor oil is usually clear or pale yellow unless it is derived through roasting or boiling, which is known as black castor oil. Some benefits of using castor oil include increased gloss or shine of the hair, increased hair shaft flexibility by coating the hair shaft, and providing antimicrobial properties.

When applied to the scalp, increased blood vessel dilation increases the flow of oxygen-rich and nutrient-rich blood to the powerhouse of your follicle, the dermal papilla, or the root of the hair. Castor oil indirectly promotes hair growth because of the nutrients in castor oil, it protects the hair follicle from outside cellular and tissue invaders that destroy the health and vitality of the hair follicle.

Although castor oil is widely used, it is not meant for everyone. The importance of a patch test comes into play again before applying it to your scalp. Apply a small amount behind the ear or the inner upper arm for a week.

Fine to medium straight hair

Castor oil can be used as a deep treatment to protect the very ends of your hair fibre, the last 2-3 inches of hair. Use it as a pre-shampoo treatment to help keep the tangles away. Be sure not to overuse. Shampoo out and style as desired.

Medium to thick straight/wavy hair

Apply throughout the entire head for an intense pre-shampoo treatment. Add heat or steam for deeper penetration into the hair cuticle.



Wavy to loose curls

I suggest mixing drops of castor oil into conditioners during these hot and humid summer months.

Curly to tightly coiled

Using castor oil as needed throughout your regimen, as a pre-shampoo, added treatment, or as a weekly moisturizer. It is important to perform a proper monthly detox shampoo when you are using heavy oils like castor oil. It is best to avoid using castor oil on your hair if you're suffering from dandruff. Both of our experts say it can make the condition worse.

Eating habits take a healthy route as Covid teaches us lessons

TEJAL SINHA

THE coronavirus pandemic has drastically changed our lives. Although many blogs talk vastly about various sectors and emerging technologies, they seldom discuss its effect on our personal choices. Agree or not, COVID-19 has altered our food preferences.

Dolly Kumar, Founder & Director at Cosmic Nutracos Solutions Pvt. Ltd., the parent company to health and wellness brand Gaia shares, "The early days of the lockdown revolved around hoarding calorie-laden processed food. With restaurants shuttered, concerns over hygiene, and to break free from the robotic routines of WFH, the pandemic brought out the chefs in most of us."

Even today, the cooking channels are becoming popular as people are turning to the kitchen to experiment with edibles or say, to just enjoy a lavish food spread at the dining table. After all, it is not just the consumption of food videos or blogs that experienced a spike. e-commerce giants Grofers and Flipkart too reported a spike in sales of food items. The trend continues to rise. Undoubtedly, the contagion has initiated a new bonding between us and the food we eat. A sudden thrust towards health and nutrition has drawn us to immunity-boosting food items, ditching our spicy pack-



aged eatables. Here are a few eating habits that people have adopted during this period.

Healthy eating

People are moving towards the raw food items such as grains, cereals, fruits, and veggies and incorporating them in their daily meals. They have become the primary source of nutrition and the go-to option for between-the-meal snacking.

Mindful of processed foods

A lot of people are watching their intake of fats, salt, and refined oils in their diet. As per some analysts, the consumption of sugar is also expected to slip during this year. The

speculations are based on the data shared by one of the leading soft drink brands that reported a dip in sales by 25% during the first three months of April. In fact, the brand's direct competitor had a similar story to tell.

Choosing nutritional supplements and healthy food substitutes

Nutritional supplements are finding their place in kitchen larders and in the daily routines. People are incorporating supplements like Curcumin, Amla and Spirulina in the diet to strengthen immunity. Additionally, there is an increased awareness and demand for healthy food substitutes like infusion teas, oats,

muesli, honey, etc.

Opting for on-the-go immunity enhancers

Remote working schedules have called for holistic but instant food items. Here, energy bars and multi-grain cookies are helping people stay clear of binge-eating during hunger pangs. They are abundant in nutritive elements and a tasty and efficient way to strengthen immunity. The best part, they can be munching while working on a laptop as one does not have to fear spillage.

Good food hygiene

This is one part that should have been a priority. But, it is only re-

cently that hygiene is being practiced very seriously. Not only people are washing their hands but also cleaning their fruits and vegetables rigorously to get rid of even the slightest strain of germs on the surface. Moreover, people have become cautious about sanitizing the food packages that they receive from food aggregators or grocery stores. This is one of the reasons that the business of online food delivery plummeted during the first phases of lockdown.

Following healthy habits

People have started pairing healthy eating with other activities that promote well-being. These range from regular exercising, drinking plenty of water, quitting smoking, moving to sustainable food patterns, etc. It is a relief that comfort foods no longer account for our first preference. But as we step into the New Normal, we have to still ensure that we don't normalize or glamorize eating junk. They act as a silent killer to deteriorate our immunity that we have built over the years. Thankfully, people are exploring and picking up healthier food alternatives. With the threat of various viruses looming large and the season changing, it is only advisable to not compromise with your health and sticking to the new-found love of nutritious foods.

Veteran designers launch their collection at virtual IRW

THE virtual edition of IFFD's India Runway Week that concluded recently saw veteran fashion designers like Rohit Bal, Ashima Leena, Abhinav Mishra, Amit GT and others showcase their collection in a digital format.

Ball, the finale designer, showcased an affordable range of his latest creations made from organic fabrics like malmal and Chanderi. He said: "This time around we had showcased an affordable range so that the brand could reach the masses virtually and people can have a look at this collection for the upcoming festive season".

He added: "The idea was to reach a wider set of the audience because people are more active digitally these days, so IRW's second edition happened at the right time when the festive season was



knocking on our doors!" Amit's collection comprised of ensembles for various

wedding functions like Haldi, Mehendi, reception, Sagan and wedding. He said: "I did

the virtual edition of IRW as it was the right time since the wedding season is around."

Commenting on the experience of doing a virtual fashion show, Leena from Ashima Leena said: "The new technique of green screen was very impressive. The outcome of the whole show was really nice. In the times of Covid when everything has become virtual, IRW took it to another level."

Designer Poonam Dubey's collection was presented by Avon Watch me which was about celebrating the transformation of women of different walks of life. Dubey presented an Indian festive collection. Virtues' collections, known as Banarasi silk and had sarees, lehengas, and anarkalis.

Designer duo Leonat Hement launched a daily wear collection inspired by nature.

-PG

NEWS ROUNDUP



How Indian jewellery market will adapt with pandemic

PUJA GUPTA

THE halt over the market and economy due to the outbreak of COVID-19 has brought a severe economic issue to the industries all over the world. The situation has introduced us to a rapid change in lifestyle as well as the whereabouts of running the economy within the hemisphere of risk and adaptation.

Affected severely by store closures and not responsive to e-commerce, the jewellery industry is one of the luxury segments that has suffered the most from the consequences of the health crisis. The long-term effect of this catastrophe is more intense and consequential to every aspect of society, says Ageerika Hari, Founder, Vaitaanika.

"Many businesses irrespective of their size, were forced to shut down and others were just limping without any precautionary measure and absence of hope to survive. People feared for their jobs, their lives, and their dwindling toilet paper supplies. They went into survival mode, stocking up on essentials and forgetting everything else," she says.

No one — not even the trend analysts are exactly sure what the future of fashion looks like, what they agreed on is that, because of the pandemic, the future of clothing and Jewellery is arriving way ahead of schedule, with back-burner projects front-burner and fashion's never-ending hamster wheel getting a good, hard look.

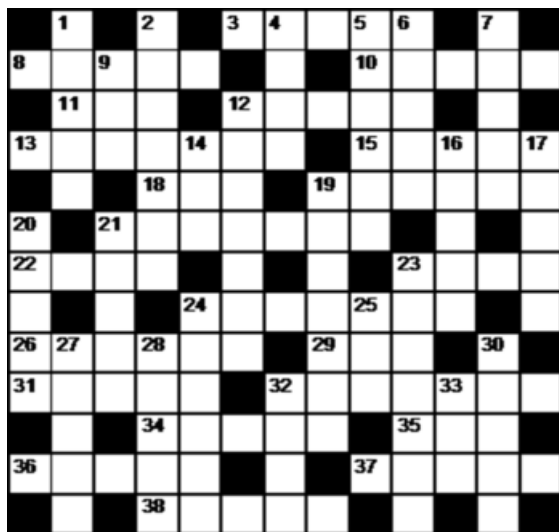
The pandemic has also forged people to change their taste while adapting to a certain lifestyle including food, cosmetic, jewellery, etc. The current scenario of the fashion life is always on a peak, of course, certain aspects that have affected the industry and declined surplus, Hari says.

"People may have just stopped taking the effort to dress like before. Styles of fashion in a simple and classy Jewellery will emerge largely than before. Choosing Plains or Solids over-prints and pattern or neutrals over new trending colours jewels is being seen for workwear fashion. For people who operate a small jewellery business, the impact of COVID-19 has seen a shift from in-person sales to online sales."

"This is perhaps the biggest indicator of where the jewellery industry is headed as a result of the pandemic. Learning a new normal happened nearly overnight for many small businesses and making changes and figuring out how to proceed is something that is going to impact how these small businesses are run for many years to come."

People used their time in quarantine to evaluate their life and their values and many of them are now purchasing jewellery as a self-care measure to reward themselves for their time in quarantine. Others are buying jewellery for loved ones as a way to acknowledge the difficulties we've been through during the pandemic.

Also, people are shopping as a way to escape the reality of what's happening in the world. This pandemic has inevitably changed the fashion industry forever. The necessity to purchase clothing or Jewellery frequently no longer exists.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 5

CROSSWORD

Across

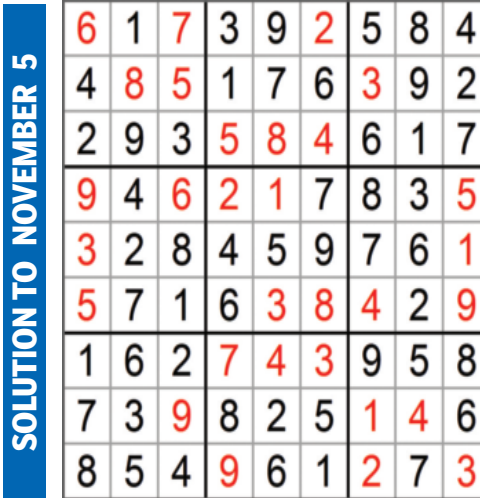
- 3 Japanese home divider (5)
- 8 Purchaser (5)
- 10 Smell (5)
- 11 Aries (3)
- 12 Very fat (5)
- 13 American Indian baby (7)
- 15 Lock catches (5)
- 18 Trinitrotoluene (3)
- 19 Pertaining to Tuscany (6)
- 21 State in erstwhile USSR (7)
- 22 Greek letters - "seat" changed ? (4)
- 23 A state of mind (4)
- 24 Bright red (7)
- 26 Wet thoroughly (6)
- 29 As slippery as an ____ ? (3)
- 31 English royal house (5)
- 32 Obliquely (7)
- 34 Cross-pieces of ladder (5)
- 35 Old gambling game (3)
- 36 Nuclear weapon (1-4)
- 37 Leers (5)
- 38 Very (mus.) (5)

Down

- 1 City in South Gujarat

- famous for its silk mills (5)
- 2 Devices that can control a machine from a distance (7)
- 4 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer to the gods (4)
- 5 Moses' successor (6)
- 6 Notions (5)
- 7 Guilt (5)
- 9 Yelp (3)
- 12 Big bird (7)
- 14 Plastic ___ Band (3)
- 16 Move rapidly (5)
- 17 Slyly derogatory (5)
- 19 Female feline (7)
- 20 Open grassland in South Africa (5)
- 21 Stood in awe (5)
- 23 Mixture (7)
- 24 Surgeon's garb? (6)
- 25 A monetary unit of Albania (3)
- 27 Form of football (5)
- 28 Bellini opera - "Roman" anagram (5)
- 30 Pinnacles (5)
- 32 Taj Mahal site (4)
- 33 This means 'no score' (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 5

This is my last election: Nitish

PURNEA

WITH the campaigning for the third and last phase of Bihar Assembly elections concluding on Thursday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made a big announcement saying it was his last election.

Addressing an election rally in Purnea's Dhamdaha, Nitish said: "Today is the last day of campaigning. Voting is due day after tomorrow and this is my last election. All is well that ends well. Now you tell me whether you will vote for the NDA candidate or not?"

Kumar was campaigning for JD(U) and NDA candidate Leshi Singh. In the third and final phase of the Assembly elections, voting will be held on 78 seats on November 7. Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan said Nitish Kumar is "greedy", "would befriend anyone to remain in power" and thus the "most corrupt Chief Minister" Bihar has ever seen.

"He (Nitish Kumar) is the most greedy person and will do anything to remain in power. He used to stand with folded hands in front of PM Narendra Modi in political rallies. He can even go to Ranchi to meet Lalujee or meet Tejashwi Yadav to save his chair," Paswan said.



AIMIM colluding with BJP: Cong

DUBBING the AIMIM as the BJP's "B-team", Congress' Bihar unit chief Madan Mohan Jha accused the Asaduddin Owaisi-led party of colluding with the BJP, but said it will not have any significant impact on the assembly polls as people will not "waste" their votes.

The Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee chief also said the Tejashwi Yadav-led 'Mahagathbandhan' will get a clear majority in the polls and the Congress will "definitely" do better in terms of winning percentage on the seats contested as compared with the 2015 polls.

Jha said the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) will not be able to cut into the 'Mahagathbandhan' vote share as its voters will vote intelligently and not let even one vote go waste. The assertion assumes significance as it comes ahead of Bihar Assembly elections' third phase which is set to see a triangular contest with the AIMIM entering the poll dynamics on many seats in the Seemanchal belt, which has a substantial Muslim population, to challenge the National Democratic Alliance and the BJP-led grand alliance. The AIMIM is in the fray on 20 seats. The state (Telangana) from which Owaisi comes, he is not strengthening his party there but is giving tension to people in other states, Jha said.

Mumbai, Kolkata ban crackers

MUMBAI, KOLKATA

THE Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on Thursday announced that it will ban bursting or lighting of all fire-crackers at public places during the upcoming Diwali festival. Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said that any violators shall be penalized and the SOPs in this regard would be issued shortly. The ban has been proposed in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the early winter that has set in.

An official said that bursting firecrackers would release a lot of smoke and other pollutants which would adversely impact the health of Covid-19 patients and increase the risk of infection among the other high-risk categories like children or senior citizens.

The Calcutta High Court banned the use and sale of firecrackers on Kali Puja to curb pollution amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A division bench of justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee gave the direction while hearing two Public Interest Litigations (PILs).

Kali Puja is on November 15. The court directed that the ban will also be in force during Jagaddhatri Puja, Chhath and Kartik Puja. The court said that the guidelines, which were in place during Durga Puja such as no entry to pandals, will also be in effect during Kali Puja.



TN CM urges CMs' not to ban crackers

CHENNAI

TAMIL Nadu CM K. Palaniswami requested his counterparts in Rajasthan and Odisha to reconsider their governments' decision to ban the sale and bursting of crackers during Diwali.

Palaniswami in a letter to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said: "There is no empirical or validated data to demonstrate that the bursting of crackers has any effect on COVID patients." Palaniswami pointed out that Diwali festival is celebrated across the country by the public by bursting crackers as part of their cultural ethos. He said considering the direct and indirect employment involved in the manufacturing of crackers, as well as to safeguard the traditional and cultural way of celebrating the Diwali festival, the apex court in its order of October 2018 directed all the states "to encourage bursting of crackers in public places for a limited period of 2 hours on the day of Diwali".

"I would like to inform you that in Tamil Nadu, in tune with the Supreme Court directions, we have restricted the bursting of green crackers to 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening," Palaniswami said.

5 held for duping 27k people

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police have arrested five members of a gang which allegedly duped over 27,000 job seekers of Rs 1.09 crore by promising them jobs through a fake website of an entity, police said on Thursday.

The police claimed to have recovered Rs 49 lakh of the duped amount and also seized seven mobile phones and three laptops from them. The gang was headed by Vishnu Sharma and Ramdhari, who operated from Hisar in Haryana, and since August 2020, the duo along with their associates cheated over 27,000 job seekers by promising them government jobs, police said. Ramdhari, who was one of the key conspirators, has been arrested while raids are being conducted to nab Vishnu Sharma who is still at large, they said. Apart from Ramdhari, the police have arrested other gang members -- Surrender (50), Sandeep (32) and Joginder (35) -- from various parts of Haryana and Delhi. According to the police, the fraudsters created fake website of a fictitious entity -- Swastha Avm Jan Kalyan Sansthan (SAJKS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare -- and offered over 13,000 fake jobs through their bogus website --www.sajks.org.



Ban use of disinfectants on people: SC to Centre

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court asked the Centre to issue directions for banning use of disinfectants and ultra violet rays on humans for Covid-19 management. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan asked the government to do the needful in this regard within a month. The bench passed the verdict on a plea seeking directions to the Centre to forthwith ban the installation, production and advertisement of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of chemical disinfectants on humans. On September 7, the apex court had asked the Centre why it has not banned the use of tunnels for disinfecting people for Covid-19 despite taking the stand that spraying of chemical disinfectants is physically and psychologically harmful. The top court was hearing a PIL filed by Gursimran Singh Narula who also sought forthwith a ban on spraying or fumigation of organic disinfectants and exposing humans to ultraviolet rays for the purposes of disinfecting them.

50,210 new cases reported in India

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally climbed to 83.64 lakh with 50,210 new cases in a day, while 77,11,809 people have recuperated so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.20 per cent. The total coronavirus cases mounted to 83,64,086 and the death toll climbed to 1,24,315, with the virus claiming 704 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed. The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.49 per cent. There are 5,27,962 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 6.31 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 11,42,08,384 samples have been tested up to November 4, with 12,09,425 samples being tested on Wednesday. The COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

No bail for Arnab, hearing today

MUMBAI

REPUBLIC TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami, who has been sent to 14 days judicial custody in an 2018 abetment to suicide case, failed to get any interim relief from the Bombay High Court. The division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice M S Karnik, which said it would hear both the sides and pass an appropriate order on Friday. Arnab is in judicial custody till November 18.

The bench said it will also hear tomorrow a plea by Adnya Anvay Naik, daughter of late interior designer Anvay Naik, seeking reinvestigation of the A-sumary report filed in connection with the FIR of her father's suicide case. The Shiv Sena slammed the BJP for describing the arrest of Arnab in an abetment to suicide case as "black day" and an "attack on the freedom of press". An editorial in Sena mouthpiece "Saamana" said it was surprising that central ministers along with state BJP leaders should say there was an "Emergency-like situation" in Maharashtra due to Goswami's arrest. The editorial alleged that the previous state government "covered up" Naik's suicide case to protect Goswami. It further claimed that a journalist was arrested in Gujarat for writing against the state government, while in UP, journalists have been killed. "Nobody felt these incidents were reminders of the Emergency. In fact, the state BJP leaders should demand justice for Anvay Naik, a son of the soil," the editorial said. Everyone including prime ministers are equal before the law of the land, it said.

IMPECCABLE



An artisan gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Kali ahead of Kali Puja, in Nadia district on Thursday

WhatsApp introduces 'disappearing messages'

LONDON

WHATSAPP on Thursday said it is introducing 'disappearing messages' feature on its platform that will allow new messages sent to a chat to disappear after seven days. The feature will be rolled out to all users this month.

The Facebook-owned company said the goal is "to make conversations on WhatsApp feel as close to in-person as possible, which means they shouldn't have to stick around forever".

"That's why we're excited to introduce the option to use disappearing messages on WhatsApp. When the 'disappearing messages' feature is turned on, new messages sent to a chat will disappear after 7 days, helping the conversation feel lighter and more private," it said in a statement. In a one-to-one chat, either

person can turn disappearing messages on or off. In groups, administrators will have the control.

"We're starting with seven days because we think it offers peace of mind that conversations aren't permanent, while remaining practical so you don't forget what you were chatting about. The shopping list or store address you received a few days ago will be there while you need it, and then disappear after you don't," it explained.

Earlier this week, WhatsApp had said it has redesigned the storage management tool to make it more useful for people to easily identify, review and bulk delete content that may be filling their phone. The new storage management tool is being rolled out to users worldwide this week and is available under the 'Settings' option.



Major reshuffle in Delhi bureaucracy

NEW DELHI

IN a major reshuffle in the national capital's administration, various transfers have been effected at the bureaucracy level, including that of Deputy Commissioner (South), BM Mishra.

Mishra, who is currently holding the charge of Deputy Commissioner (South), Revenue Department, has now been posted as Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, with additional charge of CEO, NDMC Smart City Ltd.

Amit Singla, who is currently holding the charge of NDMC Secretary, has now been made CEO, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). With this appointment, Singla will relieve G.S. Meena from the additional charge of CEO, DUSIB.

Replacing Mishra, Ankita Chakravarty will now become the new Deputy Commissioner (South) with additional charge of Director, DIHRM.

Biden vows to rejoin Paris Climate Pact

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270.

His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media. On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one. The US, under the Obama administration, had acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016.

It was a signature achievement of the Obama administration. The Paris accord committed the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures below 2C above pre-industrial levels and attempting to limit them even more, to a 1.5C rise. Trump argues that the agreement is disadvantageous for the US, while it gives benefits to countries like China, Russia and India. According to him, it could be economically detrimental and cost 2.5 million Americans their jobs by 2025. The decision by the US -- one of the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases -- to quit the agreement has led to condemnation from environmentalists and expressions of regret from world leaders. Biden has proposed a USD 5 trillion plan to combat climate change.



Vikas Dubey case: SIT recommends action against 80 UP cops

LUCKNOW

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT), set up to probe the Bikru massacre in which eight policemen were ambushed and killed on July 3, has submitted its report to the state government. According to the government spokesman, the report runs into 3,500 pages. It involves the proceedings against about 80 senior and junior officers while SIT has recommended administrative reforms against 30.

It also recommended action against 75 officials including 40 police personnel for having links with the main accused Vikas Dubey. SIT has prepared its investigation report on the basis of more than 100 witnesses.

The SIT commenced its investigation on July 12 which was completed on October 16.

The investigation team was initially supposed to submit its report to the chief minister

Yogi Adityanath on July 31 but the time was extended to the increasing number of witnesses. Constituted under the chairmanship of senior IAS officer, Sanjay Bhoosreddy, SIT has probed the incident with special reference to the role of police personnel in dealing with the gangster.

Gangster Vikas Dubey was the main accused in the encounter that took place in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur, in which a group of assailants opened fire on a police team, which had gone to arrest Dubey. Eight police personnel were killed in the encounter.

Dubey was arrested by the Madhya Pradesh



Police on July 9 from the premises of the Mahakaal temple in Ujjain. He was killed in an en-

said that Dubey had planned and discussed the ambush strategy in

counter on July 10 after he "attempted to flee" while being taken to Kanpur from Ujjain by the Special Task Force.

Slain Bikru gangster Vikas Dubey had hatched his barbaric plan for bloodbath much before the police team reached his village on July 3 to arrest him and had ordered his aides to fire directly and indiscriminately at the police personnel.

Meanwhile, Dubey's aide Uma Shankar Yadav, who had surrendered in court, has said that Dubey had planned and discussed the ambush strategy in

detail and had sent a message to all his aides to assemble at his residence with firearms, hours before the incident.

SP (rural) Brijesh Kumar Srivastava told reporters that "Uma Shankar revealed that Dubey instructed all the men to fire directly and constantly on the policemen. Following his instructions, the gangster's aides fired bullets directly at policemen non-stop for half-an-hour after taking positions on roof top."

TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED, TIRUPATI (A.P.)
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The Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites Tenders on e-Procurement platform from the "eligible contractors" for the following works:

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites online bids under e-procurement vide IFB No. 13/2021/Smart City/Ty/Ty, 14/2021/Smart City/Ty/Ty, 15/2021/Smart City/Ty/Ty and 19/2021/Smart City/Ty/Ty Dated: 27th October 2020 for 04 (Four) Works. Tenderers can be further details and download the tender schedules from e-Procurement market place from 06-11-2020 @ Hours i.e., <http://tender.eaproecurement.gov.in> (published by TSCCL).

Sd/- Sri Girisha, P.S., I.A.S., Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati

National interest to the fore in J&K

In a logical move, after the abrogation of the special status of Kashmir, the Ministry of Home Affairs, on October 26, notified new land laws for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir. This move of the central government has sparked fears (mildly put) or led to an outrage (subdued perhaps) among locals as the local land was earlier reserved only for permanent residents under the now-scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution of India.

Opposition leaders in the state have criticised the Centre for rewriting the land laws, with former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah claiming the government could not tolerate even one Muslim-majority state in India. Any Indian citizen can now buy land, except agricultural, in municipal areas of Jammu and Kashmir without being a domicile.

In its order, the home ministry said the new laws will be called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. It added that it will come into effect immediately and will encourage development in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre said the “permanent resident of the state” clause has been omitted now. Under this, 12 state laws have been repealed and 26 others have been adapted with changes or substitutes. Under the notification, for the first time the spouse of a Jammu and Kashmir domicile shall also be deemed as a domicile. Earlier, spouses of Permanent Resident Card holders were considered at par but were not considered domiciles. Children of central government officials posted for over ten years in Jammu and

Kashmir will also continue to be considered domiciles.

The notification stated that the government may, on the written request of an Army officer not below the rank of Corp Commander, declare an area “strategic” within a local area. This can only be done for the direct operational and training requirements of the Armed forces, which may be excluded from the operation of this Act. A government spokesman has replaced the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions.

There is always room for disagreement. The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K. The issue is simple. Should Kashmir remain only an agrarian economy or move over to industrial economy too? A number of protections have been built into the new land laws on similar lines as had been enacted in other states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

To begin with, no agricultural land could be transferred to any person from outside the Union Territory of J&K but could only be sold to an agriculturist from within J&K. No land used for agricultural purpose could be used for any non-agricultural purpose. The fresh enactments have provoked anger in the Union Territory, where suspicions abound that the Centre is gradually disempowering the local population and consolidating control through untrammelled executive power. The move has exacerbated concerns of Kashmiris and rights groups. Yet, it is a welcome move and in the national interest.



Maha exhibitors wish they were given ample notice to reopen halls

AHANA BHATTACHARYA

With the government of Maharashtra announcing reopening of theatres across the state from November 5 with 50 per cent occupancy, cinema hall and multiplex owners sound relieved. However, they feel the announcement could have been made a little in advance, giving them time to prepare after almost eight months of being shut.

Manoj Desai, Executive Director of G7 Multiplex and Maratha Mandir theatre, told IANS: “It’s a little surprising. They should have announced at least a couple of days before. We are mentally not prepared. But anyhow, we are thinking to start with our small theatres from this Friday like Gossip, Glamour, Gem, and Gemini, and then we will open the bigger ones like Gaiety and Galaxy a few days later. We will also run a matinee show of Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge at Maratha Mandir from Friday.”

Talking about the precautionary measures being taken amid the pandemic, he added: “Hand sanitiser will be provided at the main gate and wearing masks will be compulsory for everybody entering the hall. Tickets will be available both online and at the ticket window.”

Cinema Owners and Exhibitors Association of India President Nitin Datar is also of the opinion that a little more time should have been given for exhibitors to prepare. “I feel fine and exhibitors are also happy about the decision. But it should have come a bit earlier,” Datar said.

“With cinema halls reopening in Maharashtra and Mumbai, distributors will be inclined to release Hindi films throughout India. With (halls in) Maharashtra was not opening, the states where exhibitors had opened their cinemas were finding it difficult to procure Hindi films. We hope the audience turns up, if not immediately but gradually,” Datar added.

Kunal Sawhney, Senior Vice President of Carnival Cinemas, is grateful to the government for finally paying heed to their appeal. “We are very happy and thankful to the government that finally they have heard our appeal. With theatres opening in Maharashtra, there are two benefits to it. Firstly, we have over 100 screens in Maharashtra, it is a very big portfolio for us. Plus, once Maharashtra opens, we will see a lot of Bollywood and Hollywood movies start releasing in India. Cinemas were opened in several parts of India since October 15 but not a single Bollywood or Hollywood movie released. So not only for Maharashtra, this is a very big news for entire India,” he said.

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With theatres opening with 50 per cent occupancy, how much business do they expect to do? Sawhney sounded optimistic while discussing the issue. “Last to last week during Durga Puja, a movie called ‘Dracula Sir’ released, and we saw back to back housefull shows on all four days in Kolkata, with the statutory 50 per cent occupancy. If the content is good, people will come to theatres no matter what, so we are optimistic,” he replied.

The average business in other parts of India has not been promising over the past weeks that cinema theatres have opened. Can the all-important Maharashtra and Mumbai circuit buck the trend and revive the exhibition scene amid pandemic? Time will tell.

SURGICAL STRIKE



KRISHNA SAAGAR RAO

US Presidential Election 2020 and its aftermath has shocked the world. Many outsiders who have little or no exposure to US politics are wondering what is underway in USA since the Election Day on November 3rd. It is 3 days by now and there is no result called out for the election of ‘The leader of the free world’.

American democracy is a role model for many democracies in the world. It is robust, functional and transparent. However, the ongoing episode is exhibiting the chinks in the armour of American electoral system. World is watching with wide eyes, the visible and vertical split of USA voters on ideological lines. While it’s a representative of a mighty democracy, the opposition to any elected President both at Senate and House level will be quite an ordeal.

This is a historic and unprecedented close contest, especially when the entire election process is impacted by COVID19 counter measures, leading to more mail-in-ballots and early voting. There is explicit chaos and confusion on the ground and the pace of counting election results is highlighting it.

President Donald Trump’s statement calling out fraud and manipulation in counting, in certain states ruled by Democrats has certainly made the US voters and the world more edgy. There are almost equal number of voters on either side wishing for their candidate to win this election.

There are millions of Americans supporting and trusting President Trump’s claim of mis-

chief to defeat him and millions of those who are calling it below-the-belt politics by President Trump, as he is losing. Few more hours, days or weeks will end this long and tiring episode for American voters.

There are some fundamental questions and observations which can lead to reasons for this bitterness and division in US Presidential Elections.

‘Two-Party’ versus ‘Multi-Party’ electoral play?

In any functional democracy with multi-party system, parties are ideologically founded to attract voters on the basis of their political agenda. In nations where there are more than two or three strong parties at play, the voters spread out their ideological support leading to less consolidation. Elections in India, United Kingdom, France are some examples of multiple parties at electoral play with and without alliances.

There’s nothing which stops a third political party rise in USA and there have been attempts for the same for a very long time. However, none could find traction against the leading two parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. This is one of the primary reasons for large scale and concentrated electoral support base, leading to bitter battles.

Do strong leaders divide or unite?

In a democracy led by ideologically supported and elected governments, strong leaders unite their party cadre more than ever. Their conviction to party ideology, political agenda leading up to the governance agenda if in power, consolidates the strength of the party from grassroots all the way to the top.

A strong elected leader in power, in a functional democracy does polarize the ideological groups in a nation towards him and against him. Consolidation of ideological support base naturally leads to polarization of other groups against the leader and his party. Especially in a nation like USA where there are only two main stream ide-



USA is certainly the model federal union in the entire world with unprecedented independence resting in State Governments. Any misuse of this independence by the party in power can lead to massive national conflicts. Sometimes abuse of power locally in a state can impact a national course. It is commendable that USA has been a full-scale, functional federal union of states for over 243 years

ologies, the polarisation is naturally more concentrated and bitter.

Is federalism flawed?

There is no flawless governance framework in the world. Democracy has been around only since French Revolution and some proclaimed democracies in the contemporary world are more hybrid than real. However, democracy by far is the most efficient system which is more representative of a nation’s citizens than any other format available to the world, as of today.

The span of independence for States in a nation, is certainly a contentious subject in a democratic frame work. Especially in large nations with historic backdrop of union and annexation of

regions. Nations like India and USA are comparable in this context.

USA is certainly the model federal union in the entire world with unprecedented independence resting in State Governments. Any misuse of this independence by the party in power can lead to massive national conflicts. Sometimes abuse of power locally in a state can impact a national course. It is commendable that USA has been a full-scale, functional federal union of states for over 243 years.

India was structured by its constitutional architects as a ‘quasi-federal union’. To manage even partial independence of states is a huge challenge, in this side of the world. Especially, when there are multiple re-

gional parties with regional agendas, at times even overriding the national agenda for political expediency.

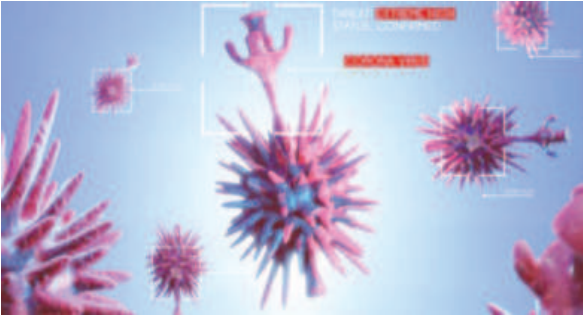
Imagine in a country like India, if there is no Central Election Commission and states are free to conduct full spectrum of elections by themselves, for both State and Central elections. Today’s conflicts in US Election System are reflective of issues surrounding the level of decentralisation in their federal framework, especially in Presidential Elections.

The US Elections 2020 results will be out soon and the nation will elect its President. It is essential for USA to showcase to the world, that the entire process of electing its President is fair, transparent and tamper-proof, for it to retain its respect amongst the committee of nations in the world.

I am very certain, this glorious democracy and its spirit will win, no matter which candidate fails to be the President of USA in this election.

(The writer is the chief spokesperson of BJP, organisational strategist & internationally reputed leadership coach)

LETTERS



Covid is still a threat, beware!

On 27th October, Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India has issued an order directing that the guidelines that were issued on 30.9.2020 will remain in force up to 30th November 2020, exercising the powers conferred under section 10(2)(I) of the Disaster Management Act 2005.

Even though there are clear instructions that every citizen has to follow till 30th November, there are clear violations of the above said directives everywhere. People are under a feeling that Covid-19 has gone. Surprisingly, Media is also not getting involved in giving publicity for these directives. Governments are also not focusing on the fines as prescribed by the rules, if they strictly impose the directives. The statistical figures reported by the Government sources are providing RED alarm. The total daily cases and the total daily deaths are increasing linearly with a constant slope when the worldwide figures were taken into account. The total cases on May 1st were 33,67,474 and on Nov 4th they are 484,19,190. The total deaths on March 16th were 22,188 and on Nov 4th 12,30,109. Linear plots of this data clearly indicate that the pandemic is still continuing and the mankind is in danger.

Statistics will never always end as a lie. Keeping this in mind, the citizens should feel the responsibility and strictly

follow the Guidelines issued to the Governments. The Government should see that the Guidelines are implemented effectively. The media should give wide publicity for what-to-do and what-not-to-do activities keeping the Guidelines in the background. Every Government, Department, Society and Citizen should act accordingly in order to protect mankind.
Dr M Venkata Ramana, Khammam

Dharani portal troubles

I would like to share my experiences with Dharani Portal. The efforts of the Telangana State government in developing and operationalising the Dharani portal are commendable. However, in an effort to make it operational with in a short period of about 50 days, the developers simply ignored the basic requirement of user friendly software. Generally, every software will have a “Help” tab for providing the guidance and clarification on various terms used in the software. But in Dharani portal, one can not find any help. Another requirement is the list of contact numbers for registering any grievance. While making online payments, sometimes it is possible that though the amount is deducted from the users account the same will not be updated due to technical issues like slow net, server response time and disruption of net connectivity etc.

Encumbrance details tab and Land details tab in the home page are not working. In Buyer details page, buyers having



land in the same village and pattadar passbook, after entering the pattadar passbook number and the pressing the fetch button, the system instead of displaying the buyer details it is throwing the message “There is some discrepancy, you will be informed with in one week “. If the process is continued, the system is considering that the buyer is not having pass book.

While making payment of stamp duty through Net Banking facility, the amount is deducted from the account but in Dharani portal status is shown as “Payment Pending”. I could book a slot until I made payment for second time.

There is no option/ facility of reporting such issues and requesting for refund. In fact, the government should have started a customer care service centre with toll free number for such an important portal for resolving any issues/ problems faced by the users.

I could find the link “Contact Dharani” on Google with mail ids and landline numbers of Chief Secretary & CCLA, Director of Land Administration and Secretary to CCLA. One can imagine the response from the landline number of the offices like office of the Chief Secretary and other state level officers.
Shankaratah Karnati, Hyderabad

Better water resource management needed

It is really shocking to know that according to a recent survey conducted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) almost 350 million people living in 100 cities across the world are at immediate risk of a water crisis by 2050 and more shocking it is as many of our Indian cities too come under the ‘high risk category cities’ list.

The survey is an alarm, a warning bell to the government, the public and all stakeholders and emphasises on the need for immediate development processes to develop a sustainable water conservation strategy. In recent years we witnessed the severe scenario of many of our towns and metros experiencing severe water scarcity and the citizens running helter skelter for a pot of water.



Having been threatened by one of the worst-ever water crisis in recent years, residents of the South African city of Cape town and our own city Chennai became water-wise, that is they learnt to collect, conserve, preserve and use water in a meticulous manner. These methods and techniques can be followed by the other towns and cities.

Proper studies and use of water conservation techniques, recycling and reuse of effluents, mandatory installation of water harvesting methods, maintenance of groundwater extraction, water collection in lakes and ponds, desalination plants, stopping encroachment of water bodies can to an extent help avoiding severe water scarcity.

The Modi government has to be lauded for setting up a ministry of water power to tackle water conservation and management which can also seriously look into the water scarcity crisis. The centre and the states should work hand in hand to mitigate the woes of the people and take all necessary steps on a war footing to see that such crisis do not happen or at least minimise it in the coming decades

M Pradyu, Kannur

thehansreader@gmail.com

A march that heralded a new era of welfare

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THREE years ago, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy began walking from YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya to Ichapuram town bordering Odisha to listen to the heartbeats of the people as an opposition leader. On November 6, 2017, he began his Praja Sankalpa Yatra and by the time he concluded it in 341 days covering 3,648 km across 134 Assembly constituencies of the state, he not only rewrote history, but also got en-censored in the hearts of people. He listened to the people's woes promising them a way out if he came to power.

The spirit of the Padayatra brought in revolutionary changes in the state in the fields of education, agriculture, medicare, providing social, economic and political empowerment of weaker sections and women and a social welfare delivery system was put in place in the form of Village and Ward Secretariats.

Gone are the days when the aged and physically-challenged had to travel to the pension office for Rs 1,000 every month. Instead, Rs 2, 250 is now being delivered at the doorstep on the first of every month by volunteers.

People need not run from pillar

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF PRAJA SANKALPA YATRA



Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy consoling a woman during his Praja Sankalpa Yatra (File picture)

to post to get social documents, like birth certificate, ration card and the like. For the delivery of all social benefits, one village secretariat is set up for a population of every 2,000 persons ushering in a real Gram Swaraj. The secretariats provide over 500 types of services and about 10 to 12 locals are employed with each volunteer looking after 50 houses. This initiative provides employment as well as serv-

ices under one roof in the same village.

Farmer welfare has been on the priority. From providing quality seeds and other inputs to marketing of their agriculture produce, Rythu Bharosa Kendras(RBKs) were set up across the state to take care of the needs of farmers. Rythu Bharosa is being given at Rs 13,500 per family annually and MSP was announced to all crops, including

- YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy began his walkathon three years ago today at YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya
- During his 3,648 km yatra, he listened to woes of people and promised a way out
- As Chief Minister, he introduced a wide-range of measures that marked the new age of welfare and social empowerment for weaker sections of society

perishable goods. A Market Stabilisation Fund with Rs 3,000 crore was set up to check price fluctuations. Such a thought has stemmed from the feedback Jagan Mohan Reddy has received during his odyssey where farmers were seen in distress.

Jaganna Vidya Kanuka, Amma Vodi, Goru Muddha take care of school education and Vidya Deevena and Vasati Deevena, of the college and professional courses.

Aargoyasri has got a new lease of life with the flagging off of a fleet of 1,200 ambulances of 104 and 108 on a single day.

The number of ailments covered has gone up to 1,000 and all medical treatments more than Rs 5 lakh were brought under its cover. Pensions are being given to people with chronic diseases besides post hospitalisation allowance.

About 90 per cent of the poll promises were fulfilled in the first year itself. Jagan gave a word during his Padayatra and kept the same after coming back to power.

SC issues notice to TDP on stalling of SIT probe

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

AMARAVATI LAND DEALS

- Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan is hearing an appeal by the AP govt seeking lifting of AP High Court's stay on SIT probe into alleged scam in Amaravati land deals and ban on publishing of contents in an FIR filed in the case
- AP govt's advocate Dushyant Dave questions the locus of Varla Ramaiah in filing petition in HC praying for invalidation of SIT
- He also submits that High Court has no extraordinary power and is bound by SC judgments

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan issued notice to TDP leader Varla Ramaiah on an appeal by the Andhra Pradesh government against AP High Court order stalling probe into alleged Amaravati land scam here on Thursday.

The bench comprising Justices Subhash Reddy and M R Shah issued notice on the prayer of the AP government to set aside the High Court order and also on the interim prayer to grant a stay on the September 15 order which had stayed a probe by the Special Investigation Team into the alleged scam. The court posted the hearing after four weeks.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the AP government, questioned the locus of Varla Ramaiah. "Unless you are personally affected by the action of the state, a writ is not maintainable. This is what has always been held by this court. Whatever wrong the previous government might have done, should (that) go unchecked? SIT (Special Investigation Team) was supposed to probe this. What natural justice has been served here? Plea is devoid of any detail by a man with no locus," Dave maintained. Dave added that the state gov-

ernment had already requested the Centre for a CBI probe into the case in March, 2019.

It may be recalled that the AP government had constituted a SIT to probe the alleged irregularities in the Amaravati lands issue under the previous TDP government. The SIT was to probe "beneficiaries", including daughters of a Supreme Court judge.

TDP leaders Varla Ramaiah and Alapati Rajendra Prasad filed a petition in the AP High Court chal-

lenging the formation of the SIT following which the High Court stayed the government orders setting up the SIT. The HC also barred the media from reporting the contents of the FIR.

Political slugfest followed when the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's Principal Advisor Ajeya Kallam told the media about a letter written to the Chief Justice of India by the Chief Minister naming Justice N V Ramana and the AP High Court as powers trying to destabilise the state government. The issue led to an intense debate in the legal circles too over the propriety of the Chief Minister's action.

"Courts should refrain from interfering in a premature stage of investigation. This demoralises the probe. The High Court does not have extraordinary power and is bound by Supreme Court judgments," argued Dave.

The TDP leaders in their plea before the High Court had argued that "the Executive actions of a government were prospective and not retrospective and the people's mandate in favour of the party which came to power did not include a review of policy decisions of the outgoing government".



Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu at the virtual launch of 'International Satavadhanam' organised by Krishnadevaraya Satsang, at Upa-Rashttrapati Nivas in New Delhi on Thursday

Vice-Prez stresses need to promote 'avadhanam'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

VICE-PRESIDENT of India M Venkaiah Naidu observed that 'Avadhanam' as a literary feat has greatly contributed to the Telugu language's glorious tradition. Launching virtually the 'International Satavadhanam', organised by Dr Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati, he said that 'avadhanam' was like a test of the poet's literary prowess and scholarship. "This extraordinary feat, a historical and unique feature of only a few languages, should be further promoted," the Vice-President advised.

"Our mother tongue is our wealth. Writers, poets, linguists and others should put in greater efforts to preserve our heritage and pass it on to future generations," he said.

Observing that language was not just an expression of emotion, the Vice-President said that language conveys a person's nationality and cultural heritage. Stressing the need to preserve

- ▶ Launches virtually 'International Satavadhanam' conducted by Medasani Mohan from Tirupati
- ▶ Stating that our mother tongue is our wealth, he calls upon writers, poets, linguists and others to put in greater efforts to preserve our heritage and pass it on to future generations

and nourish one's mother tongue, he said that it was important to accord respect to all languages. "As a civilisation we can prosper only when we preserve our mother tongue, Bharatiya Sanskriti, nature and the environment."

Venkaiah Naidu appreciated the efforts of Medasani Mohan and others in preserving and promoting Telugu language traditions. Holding such a virtual event in the times of the current pandemic was laudable. Turning adverse circumstances into opportunities is the way forward, he added.

Total land survey to commence from Jan 1

AMARAVATI

'YSR Jaganna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana', a comprehensive land survey will take off from January 1 and all sand reaches will be handed over to a single entity.

Briefing media after the Cabinet meeting here on Thursday, agriculture minister K Kannababu said the land survey and sand policy were approved by the Cabinet, chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

To provide permanent land ownership, every inch of the land in the state will be resurveyed using the latest technology like a drones, with 4,500 survey teams and 15,000 surveyors at an estimated cost of about Rs 1,000 crore.

The state would mark the boundaries, issue passbooks to landowners and further set up a mobile court to resolve the land disputes on the spot. Such a survey is overdue and will be held in the state after a gap of over 100 years.

Under the new sand policy, auctions will be limited for the sand reaches and they will be assigned to Central public undertakings first and in case they don't come forward, then to private entities through open tenders.

The users can directly go to the reaches and transport sand using their own vehicles without any additional cost.

The tenders have been sorted into three groups with three districts in each group, where separate tenders will be called for each group.

The government will fix the prices for buying at the reach and for door delivery based on the distance while sand can be booked on both online and offline.

The Cabinet also approved the

- ▶ Minister Kannababu says every inch of the land in the State will be resurveyed using drones and other modern tech
- ▶ Cabinet also approves new sand policy under which users can directly go to the reaches and transport sand using their own vehicles
- ▶ Adani group to build Integrated Data Centre, IT and biz park and skill university in Vizag

construction of Integrated Data Centre, Integrated IT and Business Park, Recreation Centre and Skill Development University in Visakhapatnam at a cost of Rs 14,630 crore and the project will be taken up by Adani Group.

Kannababu alleged that opposition TDP leaders had been spreading false news that the Adani Group had left the project. In fact the Chief Minister and the state government had sanctioned the projects and signed an MoU by allotting 150 acre to create employment for 25,000 people.

For the same project, the previous government had given 500 acre land and signed for 6,000 jobs.

The Cabinet also approved the land allotment to 16 new medical colleges in various districts. Land was allotted to the Andhra Cricket Association on 33-year lease for setting up cricket stadiums at Srikakulam and Kadapa districts.

He said that the ban on gambling, online-offline bettings, use, and sale of drugs and narcotics across the state would be brought under the jurisdiction of the State Enforcement Bureau (SEB).

The task of curbing smuggling of red sanders was assigned to SEB along with the Task Force, he said.

It's a tug-of-war

Continued from P1

Earlier, Biden said, "I'm not here to declare that we've won." But I am here to report that when the count is finished, we believe we will be the winners." ?????

Biden could reach the 270 Electoral College vote threshold needed to win the election if he holds onto his leads in Arizona and Nevada. Trump, however, still has a path to victory if he can take back any one of the states where Biden is leading.

Trump is leading in other states that have not yet been called: Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Alaska. By sweeping these, but not flipping a Biden-leaning state, Trump would end up with 268 Electoral College votes, just short of the 270 needed to win. But senior Trump campaign aide Jason Miller said: "By the end of this week, it will be clear to the entire nation that President Trump and Vice-President Pence will be elected for another four years." Even as vote-counting was ongoing in the early hours on Wednesday, Trump appeared before supporters at the White House to claim victory.

The incumbent president said he would go to the Supreme Court to try to have what he called the "voting" stopped, although polls had closed hours earlier and state election officials were continuing the ballots.

"This is a major fraud on our nation," Trump contended, adding, "As far as I'm concerned, I already have won." In the battle-

ground states key to determining the winner of the election — Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania — the Trump campaign filed lawsuits on Wednesday over mail ballot handling, while in Wisconsin the Trump team requested a recount.

The Trump campaign said the president would formally request a Wisconsin recount, citing "irregularities in several Wisconsin counties". Incomplete results indicate the margin between Trump and Biden in Wisconsin is less than one percentage point, which allows a candidate to seek a recount.

The overall voter turnout in the November 3 presidential election was projected to be the highest in 120 years at 66.9 per cent, according to the US Election Project. Former US vice president Biden got over 72 million voters, the most won by any presidential candidate ever.

President Trump received more than 68 million votes, four million more than he gained in 2016 when he defeated his then Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. The one of the most divisive and bitter election race was dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, which hit a new record high of 103,000 daily cases in the US on Wednesday, according to the Covid Tracking Project. The US is the worst-hit nation with over 233,700 deaths and more than 9,486,000 confirmed cases, according to latest data from Johns Hopkins University. PTI

Toxic air: Shun crackers, says CM, invites all to virtual Lakshmi puja

Continued from P1

"To provide an alternative to stubble burning, the Delhi government has taken a crucial step in association with the PUSA Institute.

The farmers do not need to burn stubble, they can use a chemical developed by the PUSA Institute on the fields, and the stubble turns into manure in just 20 days. I hope that this is the last year when we have to suffer due to pollution," Kejriwal said.

"No government should be able to make any excuse to not provide an alternative to

stubble burning, as Delhi has given an alternative to all the states," Kejriwal reminded how Delhiites had vowed last year not to burn firecrackers on Diwali.

"We had celebrated Diwali together at Connaught Place through a light show. We will celebrate Diwali together this year as well, without burning crackers. If we burn crackers, we will be playing with the health of our children and our family. We are arranging for something different for Diwali this year," he added. IANS

WALKERS OPPOSE COLLECTION OF USER CHARGES IN PARKS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

MEMBERS of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and a few locals staged a protest in front of Prakasam municipal park on bypass road demanding to drop collection of user charges from walkers. They said the collection of Rs 100 per month and Rs 1,000 per annum as user charge from the walkers was nothing but business and providing proper healthcare infrastructure and good atmosphere was the responsibility of civic body.

Over 1,500 people used to go to Prakasam Municipal Park for walking, a major recreation place on bypass road in the city. Recently, Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) has modernised the park with all amenities at a cost of

- Collection of user charges from walkers opposed
- DYFI members stage protest demanding to drop collection of user charges from walkers
- Says providing proper healthcare infrastructure and good atmosphere is the responsibility of civic body

Rs 15 crores.

Now, the civic body decided to collect money from walkers for the use of walking tracks on park.

In view of that, the Commissioner banned free entry into the park and fixed tickets for all the visitors as well as walkers too. Opposing the MCT move, the walkers strongly opposed the collection of user charges.

Similarly, many residents in



Walkers under the aegis of DYFI staging a protest in front of municipal park against collection of user charges in Tirupati on Thursday

dwelling areas are also opposing the collection of Rs 30 user charges from each household for waste management. Officials are saying that waste collection charges collected from residents as per solid waste management 2015 rules only.

R Ravi, a resident of Siva Jyothi Nagar, says "I used to walk

in municipal park for the last many years. Now, officials have implemented a new rule that I have to pay Rs 100 per month for walking."

N Srija, a resident from Khadi Colony, expressed her anger on officials' decision and asked them to withdraw the move immediately.

Nellore Covid numbers puzzle experts

P V PRASAD
NELLORE

EVEN as public health experts are warning of the second wave of Covid-19 infections in the country, district officials appear to be playing numbers game by giving a lesser number of positive cases. Officials are claiming that they were collecting 8,000 samples daily but reporting only 90-100 infections per day.

But, suddenly, the number of infections was increased to 130 on Thursday, a clear spike compared with the figure of last 15 days. Doubts are being expressed over the number of sample collection and the infection rate in the backdrop almost normal movement of people in public.

To put it in perspective, around 400-500 cases were reported daily in the first week of October. But it was reduced to 200-300 per day by the second week. Later, it has been reported that there were cases between

90 and 100 per day, which puzzled people in view of near total unlock.

In regard to sample collection, Sanjeevini buses are also not collecting samples in urban areas and the activity is confined only to government-run testing centres. Some 4-5 buses are visiting rural areas daily for collecting samples. This naturally begs the question when and where so many samples are being collected as Government General Hospital has opened its OP services to public indicating that Covid is not a problem.

When contacted, district medical and health officer (DMHO) Dr G Rajyalakshmi said they had intensified sample collection and speed testing in the district. "The volume of samples per day is around 8,000. The positivity rate has reduced in the district due to various steps taken by the government. Now, the situation is under control," she said.

Senior doctors in the city say

the second wave had already started in the district with severe symptoms. Infected persons are now experiencing symptoms within 3-4 days of contact and most of them are approaching the local pulmonologists and corporate hospitals for medical advice.

"Private hospitals are insisting that patients undergo rapid antigen tests twice or thrice whenever they visit hospitals for a health check. These figures are added to statistics as negatives. How we can say the situation is under control? When the officials say this showing a lesser number of positive cases, people take the pandemic lightly and move as they like which certainly leads to the severe second wave," said a senior physician, maintaining anonymity. Further, the district is on top in the state in conducting the Covid tests per million population, which in reality, are consisting of rapid antigen tests.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Global economic crisis an opportunity

“

The global economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic will continue to remain a challenge and India has been looking at it not as constraints but as an opportunity for its economy as well as rebalancing of the international system.


— Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**



PANDEMIC

UK announces bigger stimulus

Bank of England increased its monetary stimulus by a bigger than anticipated 150 billion pounds (\$195 billion) as it tries to boost the economy through new lockdown measures. The consensus in financial markets was that the bank would raise its bond-buying program by 100 billion pounds.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	78.85	South	
Euro	92.22	African Rand	5.41
UAE Dirham	22.27	Hong Kong Dollar	11.03
Thai Baht	2.77	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	100.99	New Zealand Dollar	52.54
Australian Dollar	55.35	Saudi Riyal	21.81
Canadian Dollar	59.49	Swedish Krona	9.82
Swiss Franc	85.26	Singapore Dollar	57.69

DELHI FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Kotak cuts home loan interest rates

KOTAK Mahindra Bank Ltd has reduced its home loan interest rates by a further 15 basis points (bps) to 6.75 per cent. Kotak home loan and balance transfer loans now start at 6.75 per cent per annum which is one of the lowest rates in the home loan market. The new normal has changed the functioning of the entire ecosystem. Interest rates at a 15-year low, developers significantly reducing residential property prices and having a ready inventory of ready-to-move-in homes and lower stamp duty make home buying at this point of time extremely attractive. Shanti Ekambaram, Group President – Consumer Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, “Keeping the consumer’s interest in mind and to make home purchases more affordable, Kotak’s home loan interest rates are now available starting at 6.75 per cent”.

Festive campaign from Mondelez

MONDELEZ India launched new festive campaign called Iss Diwali Aap #KiseKhushKarenge? The company will further add sparkle to the festivities, with an e-commerce-exclusive premium pack, Oreo Moments and Cadbury Co-coa. Anil Viswanathan, Senior Director, Marketing, Mondelez India, said, “Throughout festivities exchanging gifts and sweets holds a significant emotional value and embarks the beginning of a new era, and it makes us extremely proud about the fact that we humbly found a place in this small, yet important tradition. Moreover, this year, than any other warrants for acts that signify new beginnings and the potential of goodness in an imperfect world, and our recent Cadbury Celebrations campaign infuses this thought at the back of evoking generosity.”

Vestige unveils new filters

VESTIGE launched Nasofilters, a revolutionary disposable respiratory filter that restricts entry of dust and suspended particulate matter (PM) from entering the body while breathing. This is a great value addition to their health and wellness product range. Gautam Bali, Managing Director, Vestige Marketing Pvt Ltd, said, “Air pollution is a silent killer and it has been proved that people suffer from so many respiratory and related ailments, like asthma, allergies, long-term breathing problems and other health issues due to it. We are committed to providing the best, world-class solution to our people and I am delighted to introduce Vestige NASOFILTERS. It will not just provide an easy breathing solution, but also prevent harmful PM 2.5 particles from getting inside the body.”

New app from GloFans

GLOFANS LAUNCHED a sports quiz app which is first of a kind mobile application that allows fans from various geographical boundaries to connect, play and participate in Cricket Quiz hosted by well-known sports personalities. A team of dedicated sports enthusiasts, passionate fans, eminent journalists, historians and data scientist have worked together for six months to offer a statistically devised digital platform to the fans. The app is free to play exclusively for the fans and now available on Google Play Store and can also be downloaded from GloFans official website. “The app marks the beginning of a new chapter in the world of fandom with administration and technical execution all designed by the same tribe of fans, right from creation to consumption, it has been created by the consumers themselves,” the company said.

TS to train students as cyber warriors

KTR presents life-time achievement award to J Satyanaryana at 28th edition of Hysea event



Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao, IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Hysea president Bharani K Aroll and V-P Kiran Cherukuri releasing a white paper on ‘Post-covid imperatives for Hyderabad IT Industry’ in Hyderabad on Thursday

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

AFTER carving a niche for itself in the global IT industry, Telangana is poised to become a place for cyber warriors to resolve problems arising out of cyber security threats. Universities in Telangana, JNTU has already been providing, would take up courses on cyber security to train students as cyber warriors. Further, the T-Hub will also support startups to develop products and services on cyber security. Telangana government has taken several initiatives to develop GenNext technologies in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, said Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao.

Hyderabad Software Enterprises’ Association (Hysea) organized its annual summit here on Thursday. The 28th edition of the Hysea event on ‘Innovation Summit-2020’ featured- conference, product expo and annual industry

awards. The theme for this year’s event was ‘Surge Ahead: Win the New Normal’. The conference, exhibition and awards were in a organized in a hybrid (virtual + physical) mode.

Speaking on the occasion, KTR said: ““This is one industry in times of Covid-19 withstanding with the challenges and promoting hope for a brighter future. Telangana government is keen on training and promoting cyber warriors in the state to protect the industry and data from unforeseen cyber threats.” VC Sajjanar, Cyberabad Police Commissioner, was facilitated for his services to IT industry as Covid-19 Nodal officer.

“We have a super cop Mr Sajjanar. We’ll have train students as super cyber warriors as well. I thank Hysea and IT companies for donating Rs100 crore for medical infrastructure in Telangana amid coronavirus outbreak,” added KTR.

Mahindra Logistics adds warehousing space in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

MAHINDRA Logistics Ltd. (MLL), a third-party logistics (3PL) solution provider, added more than 7.5 lakh sq ft area to its existing ‘built-to-suit’ warehousing capacity in Hyderabad and Chennai. The facilities are developed to sustainable standards and allow the company to provide flexible and scalable fulfillment and integrated distribution solutions.

This phase-I expansion focuses on integrated solutions for e-commerce, consumer and engineering industries. In addition to this, with the anticipation of strong demand during the forthcoming festive season, it has set up nearly 10 lakh sq. ft. of flex warehousing solutions for supporting customers in anticipation of the upcoming festive season.

PRIORITY SECTOR

RBI launches co-lending scheme for banks, NBFCs

It is aimed at improving flow of credit to unserved, underserved

MUMBAI

THE Reserve Bank on Thursday came out with a Co-Lending Model (CLM) scheme under which banks can provide loans along with NBFCs to priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.

The CLM, which is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018, seeks to provide greater flexibility to the lending institutions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a release. Under the CLM, banks will be permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, RBI said, adding that “the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books”.



“However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the individual loans on their books.”

The primary focus of the scheme, rechristened as “Co-Lending Model” (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the NBFCs, it added.

Smartphone sales at record high

Samsung emerges as top brand; online sales account for 70%

NEW DELHI

WHILE the India smartphone market registered double-digit growth in the third quarter this year and reached highest-ever levels with 14 percent (on-year) growth, the overall feature phone grew marginally, primarily because consumers at the bottom of the pyramid continue to be sharply affected by the pandemic, a new report said on Thursday.

According to the latest research from CMR “Mobile Handset Market Review Report for Q3 2020,” Samsung emerged as the top smartphone brand as well as and top mobile brand in the September quarter. From affordable to mid-tier to premium segment - Samsung posted a strong YoY growth across price tiers.

“In Q3 2020, the smartphone market offset the ongoing pan-

demic-related challenges in H1 2020 and grew handsomely. Across price bands, smartphone brands unveiled competitively priced strong offerings,” said Amit Sharma, Analyst-Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR.

“We estimate the smartphone



demand to outstrip other product categories during the festive climate, despite cautious discretionary spending being low”. The smartphone market grew on the back of attractive pre-festive season launches, aggressive marketing, and attractive promotions and discounts by all the leading smartphone brands in

under a possible Biden presidency, while the Republican-controlled Senate would prevent measures like higher taxes or stricter regulations, analysts said.

“Domestic market moved in tandem with the global market and marched to 8 months high, in expectation that the US presidential election is moving in favour of the Democratic Party.

“Further, investors are expecting new supportive measures from ongoing Fed policy meet while keeping rates unchanged. Positive result season and increasing inflows from foreign markets will help the market to maintain its optimism going forward,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Barring realty, all BSE sectoral indices closed higher, led by metal (4.43 per cent), oil and gas (3.19 per cent), basic materials (2.57 per cent), energy (2.39 per cent) and bankex (2.14 per cent). The BSE mid-cap and smallcap indices jumped up to 1.74 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals. In the forex market, the rupee zoomed 40 paise to close at 74.36 against the US dollar.

NEW DELHI

BILLIONAIRE Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd’s (RIL) retail arm on Thursday raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total fundraise in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement. The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.587 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of



Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore. Mukesh Ambani, CMD, Reliance Industries, said: “We at Reliance have a long-standing relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

PIF is at the forefront of the economic transformation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance as we continue our ambitious journey to transform India’s retail sector for enriching

India best place for investment: Modi

NEW DELHI

SOLICITING global investments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is the best place for generating long-term returns.

Addressing the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020, he said the country has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world.

“If you want returns with reliability, India is the place to be. If you want demand with democracy, India is the place to be. If you want stability with sustainability, India is the place to be. If you want growth with a green approach, India is the place to be,” Modi said.

India offers “democracy, demography, demand as well as diversity. Such is our diversity that you get multiple markets within one market. These come with multiple pocket sizes and multiple preferences. These come with multiple weathers and multiple levels of development”, he said.

The country’s growth has the potential to catalyse global economic resurgence as “any achievements by India will have a multiplier impact on world’s development and welfare”, the Prime Minister said. VGIR 2020 was attended by 20 top institutional investors from the US, Europe, Canada, Korea, Japan, Middle East, Australia and Singapore.



Saudi Arabia’s PIF invests ₹9,555 cr in Reliance Retail

At equity value of ₹4.587 trn, RRVL raises Rs47,265cr in 2 mths

The oil-telecom-to-retail conglomerate intends to divest minority stakes in its digital and retail businesses, and hold IPOs for each within five years

the lives of 1.3 billion Indians and millions of small merchants.”

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, Governor of PIF, adds: “We are pleased to be furthering our trusted partnership with Reliance Industries, the leading player in some of India’s most exciting sectors. This transaction demonstrates PIF’s commitment to investing and partnering for the long-term with innovative businesses around the world that lead and transform their sectors.”

Cigniti Tech Q2 net falls 29% to ₹25 crore

HYDERABAD

IT firm Cigniti Technologies on Thursday posted a 29 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 25 crore for the second quarter ended September 2020, mainly on account of a one-time provisioning against an income tax order.

The company had logged a net profit of Rs 35.72 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Commenting on results, Cigniti Technologies Chief Financial Officer Krishnan Venkatchary told PTI that the company’s year-on-year profit has come down on account of one-time write-off of around Rs 8.95 crore which was necessitated for an income tax order received around transfer pricing for 4 years between 2015-2018 in the US.

“We have concluded the IT assessment scrutiny in the US. It will not affect us in coming quarters,” Venkatchary said.

GHMC ELECTIONS

Poll spending capped at ₹5 lakh

New voters can enrol their names till notification is out

SUGGESTIONS...

- Officials told to brace for conducting hassle-free elections
- Spacious rooms to be hired for voting in view of the pandemic
- Need for police help to identify sensitive polling stations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi holding a review meeting with the GHMC Commissioner, Collectors of Hyderabad, Sangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts and other officials in Hyderabad on Thursday

STATE Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi on Thursday asked the officials to make arrangements for free and fair elections by coordinating with the GHMC commissioner and deputy commissioners.

The Commissioner held a review meeting with the GHMC Commissioner, Collectors of Hyderabad, Sangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts and additional commissioners of urban local bodies in preparation for the polls.

The Commissioner said that the term of GHMC was ending on February 10 and the officials should make all the arrangements before the time. He said that a notification was issued on October 31 for the voter list. The draft list would be released on November 7, and the final list would be issued on November 13. He said that the citizens who have no voter card can apply for fresh even after the publication

of the final list. They can enrol their names till notification for the polling was issued.

Orders were issued appointing Additional Collectors (ULBs) as deputy election authority. The Commissioner asked the officials to have spacious rooms for polling stations in the wake of corona. He asked them to take the support of police officials in identifying sensitive polling stations. They should ensure that there

are not more than 1,000 voters in a polling booth. At polling booths which have less than 1,000 voters, there will be one presiding officer and three other staff and at booths where there are more than 1,000 voters, there will be four election officials. The SC, ST, BC and Women reservations will be implemented akin to 2016 polls. The maximum limit of expenditure by the candidate is Rs 5 lakh.

Kavitha showers accolades on Sandhya Rasakatla for her feat in mining sector

Sandhya Rasakatla is the first woman in the Indian mining sector to get Underground Second Class Manager's Certificate

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha felicitated Sandhya Rasakatla, the first woman in the Indian mining sector to get Underground Second Class Manager's Certificate.

Sandhya Rasakatla met Kavitha at her residence on Thursday. Rasakatla had recently created history by becoming the first woman in the Indian mining sector to be awarded Underground Second Class Manager's Certificate Competency. Kavitha had been advocating employment of women in mining and she had raised this issue in the Parliament several times.

This accomplishment of Sandhya Rasakatla was first acknowledged by Kavitha on her Twitter handle where she tweeted, "Sandhya has created history by becoming the first woman in the Indian mining sector to be awarded Underground Second Class Manager's Certificate Com-



MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha felicitating Sandhya Rasakatla, the first woman in the Indian mining sector to get Underground Second Class Manager's Certificate, in Hyderabad on Thursday

petency. It fills our hearts with pride to see the heights that women of our State are achieving. May you shine and rise. #Singareni"

She congratulated Sandhya for her remarkable achievement and celebrated the glory that Sandhya has brought to the State of Telangana due to her will and determination to break the glass ceiling.

Kavitha spoke with Sandhya and told her that she was immensely proud of this daughter from Singareni and that she would always stand by her.

Her certification for Second Class Manager's Certificate Competency has made her the first woman in the Indian mining sector to be certified for this profile.

Centre releases ₹117 crore to TS

Union Minister Kishan Reddy reiterates Centre's commitment to support immediate and long-term needs of the State

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DENYING the accusations of Telangana government that the Centre was not helping it, the Union government on Thursday has released Rs 117 crore to the State.

According to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy, the funds were released as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government's commitment to ameliorate the living conditions of people across the cities.

As part of the said scheme, the Union Finance Ministry has released

Rs 117 crore for capacity building of local bodies in Telangana. Besides, to enhance the air quality in Hyderabad.

The Union Finance Ministry release comes within a week since the Central governments' decision to pre-release Rs 224 crore to Telangana under the disaster management. The Union Minister said that earlier Rs 224.5 crore has been released for the State to take up relief and rehabilitation after heavy rains and floods in Hyderabad and other parts of the State. Kishan Reddy said that a team of the Central officials had already visited Hyderabad to take stock of the flood situation and assess the damage. "Once

the report comes, the Centre will consider allocations for a comprehensive flood relief package for the entire State."

He reminded that before the pre-release of SDRF funds, the Centre had also released Rs 202 crore for repair and maintenance of roads in Telangana, and it would help the State government to carry out the much-needed repair works of the roads in Telangana ravaged by the floods and heavy rains. Kishan Reddy said that the Centre has been making efforts to ensure maximum possible support to Telangana to meet immediate exigencies and realise long-term goals.

Govt rakes in nearly ₹8 crore through registrations on Dharani

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE State government earned Rs 7.77 crore through 2,622 registrations done on Dharani portal so far, said Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Thursday.

The Chief Secretary visited the Dharani Control Room set up at the Secretariat building - BRKR Bhavan where a 100-member team is working to address the technical issues. The officials along with State IG (Inspector General) Stamps and Registrations Seshadri and other officials are personally monitoring the functioning of the Dharani portal. Somesh claimed that the system has been stabilised.

He said the portal has logged 5.84 lakh views and

- 2622 registrations have been made and 7.77 crore amount has been paid
- The portal logs 5.84 lakh views, says CS Somesh Kumar



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar inspecting the Dharani Control Room set up at the Secretariat building, in Hyderabad on Thursday

5,971 slot bookings have been done while 6,239 members have made payment so far.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary held a teleconference with the

District Collectors and directed them to ensure that Dharani portal is used effectively in a transparent and simple manner. He warned that serious action will

be initiated if anybody is found negligent. The Collectors should ensure that all the slots booked are completed on the same day without fail.

World's largest Buddhist heritage theme park on the anvil in State

HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government is coming up with the world's largest Buddhist heritage theme park, a first of its kind Buddhavanam project, at Nagarjuna Sagar. This was disclosed by the Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on his Twitter account on Thursday. He said that it was first of its kind and the largest Buddhist theme park in the world. The park coming

up in 275 acre land will feature monasteries, eco-tourism resorts, cottages, food courts and much more, revealed KTR on his social media account. Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud, who reviewed the project on Wednesday, said that teachings of Acharya Nagarjuna were widely recognised in the world and to spread the same all over the world, the world's biggest project, Buddhavanam has been taken up in the State and it would be completed soon.



Telangana Agriculture Minister S Niranjn Reddy visiting Krishi Vigyana Kendra (KVK) at Baramti Agriculture Development Authority (BADA) near Pune, on Thursday

TS Agri Minister visits Krishi Vigyana Kendra in Maharashtra

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AGRICULTURE Minister S Niranjn Reddy said that the need of the hour is to focus on cultivating crops with low capital investment, in a lower extent of the land with high yielding making agriculture profitable.

The Minister, who is on his four-day official visit in Maharashtra, on Thursday, visited the Krishi Vigyana Kendra (KVK) at Baramti Agriculture Development Authority (BADA) near Pune.

Speaking after visiting the KVK, he said, that the agriculture farming at KVK of BADA is a modern temple and appreciated the efforts of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Sarad Pawar and his brother Appa Saheb Pawar for their efforts in the agriculture sec-

- Appreciates the agriculture practices at the KVK
- Stresses the need for TS farmers to adopt practices followed there

tor for the last 30 years.

He said that the Telangana State under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been taking a series of measures to make agriculture profitable.

Visiting the KVK would help in sharing the experiences and study the ways and means of agriculture practices being implemented there, he added.

Niranjn Reddy said that both the Telangana and Western Maharashtra have similar climatic conditions. And, the Telangan

farmer should also adopt the best agriculture practices being implemented at KVK. The Minister said that the Telangana State has been making efforts to transform and give direction to farmers in the State to cultivate crops of international standards and quality.

He also shared the welfare schemes of round the clock power supply to the agriculture sector, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima and other schemes extended to the farmers in the State.

State Agriculture Secretary Dr B Janardhan Reddy, State Horticulture Director Venkata Rami Reddy, Marketing Department Director Lakhmi Bhai, KLB Agriculture University Registrar and among other members of the Telangana official delegation visited the KVK of BADA located near Pune.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

EXPRESSING confidence of winning the Dubbaka by-election, Animal Husbandry Minister and TRS leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Thursday said that the victory with even one vote also is a victory.

The Minister was replying to a question raised on the majority of TRS, during a press conference, here, at Assembly media point. He expressed confidence that the party would win Dubbaka with a good majority. "Victory with a margin of one vote is also a victory and they will also be allowed into the Assembly. Public pulse is in favour of TRS," said Srinivas Yadav.

The TRS leader lashed onto the Union Minister G Kishan Reddy stating that the latter visits the city as per protocol but does not bring funds to the State in the same manner. The BJP showed interest to destabilise

Animal Husbandry Minister and TRS leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav alleges that BJP showed interest to destabilise the governments even during the corona time, but fails to show the same interest in welfare works



the governments even during the corona time but failed to show the same interest in welfare works. The central team visited the State but the flood relief has not yet come, said Yadav. He further said that the BJP leaders have won in a wave. "They are making personal abuses on the Chief Minister. If they don't stop their personal abuses, we will have to start targeting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Yadav adding leaders like these have been elected again. The TRS leader criticised the Congress party for stating that they would give 50 per cent tickets to BCs.

The Congress leaders remember about BCs only during the elections. Justice for BCs was done by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Last date for DOST-2020 reporting extended till tomorrow

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE last date for confirmation of college by students' allotted seats in the special phase self-reporting of the DOST-2020 has been extended till November 7.

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) and Commissioner of Collegiate Education (CCE) in a statement on Thursday said that the decision to extend the last date is taken following the requests received from the students, parents and colleges.

Accordingly, the last date for online self-reporting of special phase and physical reporting to the college by the candidates who have self-reported in the phases - I, II, III and special phases is also extended till November 7.

The statement said that it is mandatory to physically confirm the seat in the college otherwise the candidate shall forego the self-reported seat, it read.

ONE-DAY SALARY CUT FOR CMRF

Employees Ikya Vedika rues Finance dept's order

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE employees, Teachers, Pensioners, Public Sector and Contract Employees Ikya Vedika demanded the State government to immediately bring suitable changes to Finance Department orders numbered 1142 issued on November 2.

In a statement here on Thursday, the Ikya Vedika has found fault with the State Finance Department issuing the said orders based on a letter given by some employee associations.

It said that there is no Joint Action Committee (JAC) or a single association to represent all the employees.

Against this backdrop, it would be unbecoming on the part of the

- Demands making a contribution to CMRF voluntary
- Warns to challenge the legal validity of the order if the G.O. is not modified

Finance Department to issue orders to deduct one-day basic salary towards the contribution to CMRF from their November month salaries.

The Ikya Vedika leader said the employees' associations of TNGO and TGO have given a letter for the dedication of the one-day basic salary without consulting the other organisations. It alleged that the said deduction following the Finance Department orders amounts to a forceful collection

but not a voluntary contribution to the CMRF. Reason being, the decision taken was unilateral, they added.

They demanded to issue directions to the DDOs to the effect that they should deduct the one-day salaries from the employees only on the expression of voluntary acceptance.

Further, a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Finance, to make the contribution voluntary. However, the Finance Department has issued orders unilaterally, they alleged.

It demanded the State government to collect the one-day basic salary only from the members of the employees' associations who have given the letter to the State government. And, make it volun-

tary in case of all others.

"Failing which, the Ikya Vedika will be forced to challenge the legal validity of the orders of the Finance Department," they warned.

The Ikya Vedika Steering Committee members Ch Sampath Kumaraswamy, G Balaswamy, P Nirmala, Tajmohan Reddy, K Jangaiah, Chava Rai among others demanded the State government to issued orders immediately.

Meanwhile, Teachers Constituency MLC, Alugubelli Narasi Reddy in a letter to the Finance Secretary asked to bring suitable changes to the orders issued. He asked the official to issue directions to the drawing and disbursing officers to obtain willing letters to contribute to the CMRF based on their economic capacity from their November salaries.



Nadal enters 1,000-wins club

PARIS

TWENTY-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal has added yet another feather to his already illustrious cap by becoming only the fourth tennis player to register 1,000 Open Era single wins. It was the second milestone he reached in Paris this year, having won the French Open last month to tie Federer on 20 majors.

On Wednesday, Nadal defeated Feliciano Lopez 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 to reach the third round of the ongoing Paris Masters. But while 1,000 fans cheered him at Roland Garros, none were at the Bercy Arena. "Winning 1,000 matches) means that I am old. That means that I played well for such a very long time, because to achieve that number is because I have been playing well for a lot of years and (that) is something that makes me feel happy," Nadal was quoted as saying by the

reer tally also includes 35 Masters titles and 86 tournament victories overall.

The 39-year-old Lopez won their first meeting back in 2003 and had beaten Nadal four times overall. He had 22 aces and troubled a sluggish Nadal, who failed to convert six break points in the second set but broke immediately at the start of the third.

"I started the match the worst way possible, especially against a big server like Feli," Nadal said. "After that I played under a lot of pressure the rest of the match, but I found a way."

The 13-time Roland Garros champion Nadal, who has never won this tournament, next plays Jordan Thompson of Australia, who upset 15th-seeded Croat Borna Coric 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, for a place in the quarter-finals. The 2007 runner-up has reached the quarter-finals or better in each of his previous seven tournament appearances.

Alexander Zverev joined Nadal in the third round by beating Miomir Kecmanovic 6-2, 6-2. The fourth-seeded German did not face a break point against the 42nd-ranked Serb. Zverev hit eight aces and converted his first match point. Chasing a third title of the year, he next faces Adrian Mannarino of France.

Fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev easily won 6-1, 6-2 against Radu Albot for a tour-leading 40th win of the year, moving one ahead of top-ranked Novak Djokovic. Rublev won the Erste Bank Open in Vienna last Sunday for a tour-leading fifth title of the season and next plays three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka. The 12th-seeded Swiss won 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2 against unseeded American Tommy Paul.

Meanwhile, No. 3 Russian Daniil Medvedev advanced after Kevin Anderson retired when trailing 5-2 in the first-set tiebreaker because of a right leg injury. No. 6 Diego Schwartzman beat Frenchman Richard Gasquet 7-5, 6-3, keeping the Argentine on course to clinch the final spot for the Nov. 15-22 ATP Finals in London. He can guarantee that by reaching the semifinals in Paris.

No. 10 Milos Raonic also advanced by winning 6-4, 6-4 against Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert. The big-serving Canadian, a runner-up here in 2014, had 11 aces and concluded with a sliced volley at the net. He next faces American Marcos Giron. No. 16 Alex de Minaur also advanced with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Italian Lorenzo Sonego — the runner-up to Rublev last Sunday. (HANS/PTD)

Paris Masters


ATP Tour website.

The 34-year-old's first win came in May 2002 at the age of 15, when he beat Paraguayan Ramon Delgado in the first round at Mallorca. A year later, the 16-year-old Nadal stunned the tennis world by beating French Open champion Albert Costa under floodlights in the second round at the Monte Carlo Masters. By the age of 24, he had already reached 500 wins. His ca-

The Spaniard is the fourth player to reach the milestone in the Open Era, joining Jimmy Connors (matches won 1,274- matches lost 283), Roger Federer (1,242-271) and Ivan Lendl (1,068-242). The 34-year-old leads all players in the Open Era with an 83.3 winning per cent (1,000-201)

Women's T20 Challenge

Ecclestone spins Trailblazers to win over Velocity



Brief scores

Velocity 47 all out in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 13, Leigh Kasparek 11 not out; Sophie Ecclestone 4/9) lost to Trailblazers 49/1 in 7.5 overs (D Dottin 29 not out) by 9 wkts

SHARJAH

LEFT-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone took four wickets for just nine runs on Thursday as Trailblazers blew away Velocity for a paltry 47 runs and then chased the target down in 7.5 overs at the cost of one wicket to clinch the second Women's T20 Challenge match at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

By the time the powerplay came to an end, Velocity found themselves tottering at 22/5 wickets in 20 overs. Rajeshwari Gayakwad then took consecutive wickets in the ninth over to reduce the batting side to 27/7 wickets in 20 overs. Ecclestone finished things off by dismissing Jahanara Alam off the first ball of the 16th over.

Only three of the Velocity batters could reach double digits with Shafali Verma (13) being the top-scorer. Velocity captain Mithali Raj's decision to bat first backfired as half of her batswomen were back in the dressing room inside powerplay for just 22 runs. The talented Shafali threatened to play a big innings as she hit a four and a six early one but the seasoned Goswami outfoxed the youngster, sending her stumps cart-wheeling. It was rather ordinary shot selection from the young Shafali who missed the line of a straight ball in her attempt to run it behind the wicket for a single.

In reply, Deandra Dottin made unbeaten 29 off 28 balls to lead Trailblazers to win. "When the wicket wasn't turning, I tried to keep it straight and vary the pace. It's quite nice to get few wickets. So many youngsters around, they are teaching me the Hindi language and I'm trying to understand their culture," said English-woman Ecclestone after the match.

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
TBZER	1	1	0	2	3.905
VELOC	2	1	1	2	-1.869
SNOVA	1	0	1	0	-0.204

Hockey players resume activities in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam: Around 48 hockey players have returned to the field and resumed limited sports activities in Andhra Pradesh in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) amid the Covid-19 pandemic. These players are mostly above the age group of 18 years are training towards the state championships which will be a trial for the Hockey India National Championships. "We have been following all the protocols stated in the Hockey India SOPs and are ensuring our players have a safe environment to resume training. Only limited training has begun for a small group of players who are from the senior category and few are from junior groups," G Harsha Vardhan, General Secretary, Hockey Andhra Pradesh said. (HANS)

Gaikwad signs multi-year deal

New Delhi: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batsman Ruturaj Gaikwad has signed a multi-year deal with sports marketing firm Baseline Ventures. Baseline will now be managing all the commercial interests of Gaikwad. "Baseline represents some of the biggest athletes from our country and therefore I am very excited to be represented by them. They are one of the best sports marketing companies in India and have helped many young talents move forward in the right direction and build their careers. I look forward to a fantastic partnership with them," Gaikwad said. The 23-year-old made his first-class debut against Jharkhand in 2016. Since then, the top-order batsman has scored six centuries and four half centuries in his first-class career. Gaikwad was one of the shining lights for the franchise in their 2020 IPL campaign. (HANS)

Ferguson calls time on 1st-class career

Melbourne: South Australia batsman Callum Ferguson will call time on his 16-year-old first-class career after this week's Marsh Sheffield Shield match against Queensland. Ferguson, however, will continue to lead Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League and remains keen to continue playing one-day cricket for South Australia. "I'd like to thank my family, my parents Pauline and Jim, and my wife Rhianon who have supported me through the journey," Ferguson said in a statement. With a total of 8,210 runs and 19 centuries, Ferguson will go down in history as one of South Australia's finest and most fluent stroke makers. (HANS)

National 4W C'ship from Nov 7

Chennai: After a nine-month break, the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2020 will resume in a bio-bubble at the MMRT circuit on Saturday and behind closed doors necessitated by the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. MMSC conducted the first round of the National Drag Racing Championship for two-wheelers last month and thus took the lead to resume motorsport activities in the country following easing of restrictions. "It has been a tough year for everyone due to the pandemic, but after the government eased restrictions and allowed resumption of sporting activities, we conducted the National Drag races last month without incident," said Vicky Chandhok, chairman of the meet. The weekend card includes triple-headers in the popular Indian Touring Cars (ITC), Super Stock and the Indian Junior Touring Cars categories, as also the MRF Saloon Car Championship, featuring Toyota Etios, making its debut in the national championship, while the Formula LGB 1300, will have four races. (HANS)

IFA Shield likely before I-League

New Delhi: If all goes well the IFA Shield, the countrys oldest football tournament, may take place before the I-League this time. A senior official in the Indian Football Association (IFA) told IANS that the association is planning to hold the IFA Shield in December this year. However, the source did not confirm the dates. "As per our plans, it will be held prior to the I-League," the source said. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is yet to announce the dates for I-League. An I-League team source told IANS that the league may take place in January next year. (HANS)

Surya, Hardik propel MI to a challenging 200 for 5

DUBAI

SURYAKUMAR Yadav's near flawless half-century complemented by Hardik Pandya's death-over fireworks saw Mumbai Indians put up an above-par 200 for 5 against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier of the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Surya smashed his way to a 51 off 38 balls to lay a foundation that was enough for Hardik murder the bowling with five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

In between, Ishan Kishan was an ideal anchor with a priceless half-century (55 off 30 balls), adding 60 for the sixth wicket with Hardik in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with his cerebral bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics as far as his pace department was concerned. Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office. In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls bowled by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants, who were bowling short of length consistently. At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)'s dodgy hamstring did play its part

as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before. De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs. While De Kock was severe on anything bowled short or on his legs, Surya's flowing drives off spin and pace were a treat for the eyes. However Ashwin's sharp cricketing mind came to the fore as he dismissed De Kock by simply shortened the length by a yard or two and the left-hander mistimed it to be holed by Shikhar Dhawan in the deep.

SRH pacer Sandeep's swing makes him dangerous in powerplay

NEW DELHI

SUN Risers Hyderabad pacer Sandeep Sharma's ability to move the new ball has ensured that almost half of his 108 wickets have come in the powerplay in the Indian Premier league (IPL). The right-armher has scalped Virat Kohli seven times in the IPL history, a joint record. Not surprisingly, four of those Kohli dismissals have been in powerplay overs.

"The great thing about Sandeep's bowling that I have noticed since his early days is his good wrist position and his ability to swing the ball both ways. That makes it possible for him to trouble the batsmen, and that plays on their minds," said Munish Bali, Sharma's mentor and head

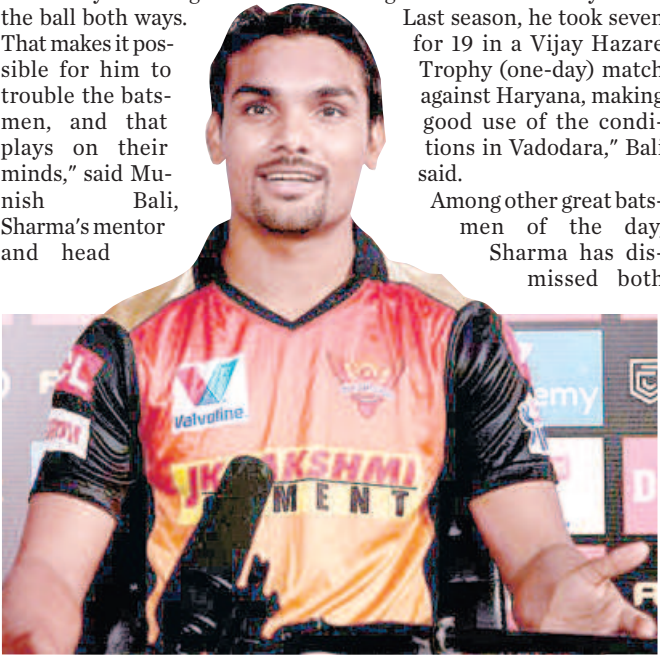
coach of Punjab Ranji Trophy team.

Bali was also the assistant coach to Dav Whatmore when India won the 2008 under-19 World Cup, which the Kohli-led Indian team won.

In the game against Mumbai Indians (MI), Sharma took his 53rd wicket in the powerplay, scaling the record of Zaheer Khan for most wickets in the phase. He incidentally shares the record of dismissing a batsman most times with Zaheer, who has scalped Dhoni seven times.

"I have watched him since his early days. I am not surprised he got Kohli out so many times. Last season, he took seven for 19 in a Vijay Hazare Trophy (one-day) match against Haryana, making good use of the conditions in Vadodara," Bali said.

Among other great batsmen of the day, Sharma has dismissed both



Chris Gayle and Rohit Sharma four times each. A look at Sharma's statistics shows he has matched Bumrah in IPL in every yardstick. Both have played 90 matches. While Bumrah has taken 105 wickets, Sharma has bagged 108. Bumrah's economy rate and average are 7.46 and 24.21, respectively, whereas Sharma's corresponding figures are 7.75 and 24.02.

In this season's IPL, Sharma has taken 13 wickets in 11 matches at 7.34 runs per over, which is a shade better than his overall IPL economy rate.

On Tuesday, former Australia all-rounder Brad Hogg had tweeted, saying Sharma's consistency was the most impressive thing for him in this IPL edition.

Sharma was part of the India under-19 World Cup squads in 2010 and 2012. Unmukt Chand-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi scores a penalty kick during the Champions League group G soccer match against Dynamo Kyiv at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain

Messi scores in 150th European game, Barça beats Dynamo

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi scored in his 150th European competition appearance as Barcelona beat Dynamo Kyiv 2-1 in the Champions League. Messi converted a penalty in the fifth minute at an empty Camp Nou on Wednesday after he had earned a foul when he was crunched between two Dynamo defenders while dribbling into the box. It was goal No. 121 for the Argentina forward in 146 Champions League games and four European Super Cup appearances combined.

Gerard Pique added a second goal for the Spanish hosts with a header in the 65th. Dynamo forward Viktor Tsygankov pulled one back with 15 minutes to go. Ronald Koeman's Barcelona leads Group G with nine points from three wins. Juventus has six points after Álvaro Morata scored twice in a 4-1 win at Ferencváros. Dynamo and Ferencváros have one point each.

Dynamo played with a squad depleted by the coronavirus. The Ukrainian side said nine players —including its two main goalkeepers — tested positive ahead of the team's trip to Spain.

Coach Mircea Lucescu had quipped on Tuesday that "it would have been better to have another positive case and play the game at a later date" after his players all passed another screen in Barcelona. (AP)