

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 28 | OCTOBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 25°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 12
Tithi: Dwadashi/ Thrayodashi
Star: Puratathi/ Uthirathathi
Rahukalam:
12 noon to 1.30 pm
Yamagandam:
7.30 am to 9 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.49 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.14 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm

CORONA COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|-----------|----------|
| (+41,756) | (+485) |
| 79,87,731 | 1,20,023 |

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,522)
TN: 7,14,235 10,983

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,40,71,979

DEATHS

11,68,562

COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES

215

worldometers.info

Erode boy addicted to PUBG ends life

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC
ERODE, OCT 27

The suicide of a boy near Sathyamangalam, allegedly addicted to online game PUBG, on Monday triggered tension in the area for a while. Sources Arun (14), the only son of Kandavel, manager in a private company in Vandalur, Chennai, committed suicide despite the family's best efforts to wean him away from the game. Arun was a class 9 student in a private school in Vandalur but had not attended school due to his addiction to PUBG. Kandavel had shifted the family to Kallipalayam near Punchaipuliampatti, Erode district, to divert his son's attention from the game and the family was staying in his friend's garden house. He also arranged for medical treatment for Arun. But Arun hanged himself when family members were away from home for a while. On an alert, Punaichipuliampatti police rushed to the spot and retrieved the body and sent it to Sathyamangalam government hospital for autopsy. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

COUNTER POINT



First phase of Bihar assembly polls today; 71 seats go to polls

Patna, Oct. 27: More than two crore voters in Bihar will decide the fate of 1,066 candidates on Wednesday across 71 assembly segments in the first phase of elections. Guidelines have been issued by the Election Commission for safe conduct of the electoral exercise, which takes place in the midst of the raging Covid-19 pandemic. These include lowering the cap on the maximum number of voters for a polling booth from 1,600 to

1,000, staggering of polling hours and postal ballot facility for those aged above 80, or those afflicted with or suspected to be carrying the contagion. Besides, sanitisation of electronic voting machines, wearing of masks and other protective gear by polling personnel and availability of thermal scanner, hand sanitiser, soap and water will be ensured. Of the 2.14 crore voters who will exercise their franchise, 1.01 crore are women and 599 belong to the third gender.—PTI ■ **P4**

STATE | 3

Pondy proposes 10% quota for govt school students in medical courses



WORLD | 5

Don pick Barrett sworn in as SC justice

FINANCIAL CHRONICLE | 7

Ankhi Das quits FB



US says it will stand by India on border threat

- **Two countries sign five pacts, including the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement**
- **Pompeo pays tribute to Indian soldiers killed in Galwan**
- **Esper refers to aggression and destabilising activities by China in Asia and the Indo-Pacific region**

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

In a strong message to China at the conclusion of the third edition of the 2+2 Dialogue, United States secretary of state Michael R. Pompeo said the US “stands with India to deal with any threat” and expressed his country's support for India's efforts to “defend its sovereignty”. He also paid tributes to the memory of the 20 Indian troops killed in a clash with the Chinese PLA at the Galwan valley in the Ladakh sector in mid-June. At the foreign and defence ministerial level dialogue in New Delhi on Tuesday the two nations inked five pacts, including the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for “greater geospatial information-sharing” between the armed forces of the two countries. This is the third defence pact signed between India and the US in the past four years and it will enable India to use US geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery to improve the accuracy of missiles and

drones. The two nations “shared assessment of the security situation across the Indo Pacific” and decided to boost bilateral cooperation between their navies and strengthening overall defence ties as part of their existing Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership during the 2+2 talks on Tuesday. Hinting at China, external affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar also made it clear that the basis for a multi-polar world has to be a “multi-polar Asia”.

In an obvious pointer to the military face-off with China in the Ladakh sector, the US state department on its website interestingly quoted defence minister Rajnath Singh as saying in his opening remarks at the Dialogue that India is “challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders”.

Speaking later in the presence of the other three participants of the Dialogue, US secretary of defence Mark T. Esper pointed to the “aggression and destabilising activities by China” in Asia and the Indo-Pacific

region. Mr Pompeo promptly added that the ruling Communist Party in China is “no friend to democracy and the rule of law”.

The two visiting US officials also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who “appreciated the successful conclusion of the third 2+2 Dialogue” and “expressed satisfaction about the multifaceted growth in the bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in recent years”, the PMO said.

Pakistan also came in for criticism. Calling for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, an Indo-US joint statement said the four ministers “called on Pakistan to take immediate, sustained and irreversible action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for terrorist attacks, and to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators and planners of all such attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai, Uri, and Pathankot”.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper at a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

India, US resolve to expand bilateral defence collaboration

New Delhi, Oct. 27 As India and the US inked the landmark Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), the two countries on Tuesday resolved to further expand bilateral defence collaboration in a range of areas including co-development of military platforms and weapons systems.

The BECA, which provides for sharing of high-end military technology, classified satellite data and critical information, was signed during the third edition of the 2+2 dialogue between external affairs

minister S Jaishankar and defence minister Rajnath Singh and their US counterparts Mike Pompeo and Mark Esper.

“The signing of BECA for geo-spatial cooperation today after signing of LEMOA in 2016 and COMCASA in 2018 is a significant achievement in that direction,” Singh said at a media briefing after the talks. The two countries inked the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.

The COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) was inked in 2018. It provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high end technology from the US to India.

“In today's meeting we also explored probable capacity building and other joint cooperation activities in third countries, including our neighbourhood and beyond. We have convergence of views on a number of such proposals and will take those forward,” Singh said. — PTI

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT

Centre declares 18 more individuals as terrorists

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Union home ministry on Tuesday declared 18 more Pakistan-based individuals as designated terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for their involvement in acts of terrorism and subversive activities.

The list includes chief of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen Syed Sallahudin, founders of Indian Mujahideen Bhatkal brothers, Sajid Mir, one of the key conspirators in the Mumbai 26/11 attacks and a

top commander of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, and a close lieutenant of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel, taking the total number of such proscribed persons to 31.

“These individuals are involved in various acts of terrorism from across the border and have been relentless in their nefarious efforts of destabilising the country,” the ministry's statement said.

Details given by the Ministry further states that apart from Sajid Mir, Yusuf Muzammil is the commander of LeT operations in

Jammu & Kashmir, an accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and has been declared a terrorist.

Shahid Mehmood, the Pakistan-based deputy chief of proscribed organisation Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) — a frontal organisation of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) — has also been declared a terrorist.

Other in the list are Farhatullah Ghori, who was involved in the attack on Akshardham Temple (2002) and the suicide attack on the Task Force office in Hyderabad (2005).

Any Indian citizen can buy land in J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
with agency inputs
SRINAGAR, OCT. 27

The Centre has paved the way for people from outside Jammu and Kashmir to buy land in the Union Territory by amending several laws, drawing sharp reaction from various political parties and leaders in J&K barring the BJP. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — an amalgam of seven mainstream parties in the Union Territory — termed the move as a deliberate attempt to usurp the rights of the people of the erstwhile state.

More than a year after the nullification of Articles 370

and 35A of the Constitution, the Union ministry of home affairs on Monday evening in a gazette notification in Hindi and English announced that several changes have been made to land laws, including allowing use of agricultural land for setting up facilities of public purpose.

The MHA repealed 12 of J&K's 26 land laws and adopted changes or substitutes with the rest. The most important tweak has been made in the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act that deals with disposal of land in the Union Territory as the Centre has omitted the phrase “permanent resident of the state” from Section 17 of the law. ■ **P4**

Air pollution adds to Covid mortality: ICMR

- **It is well-proven that pollution is related to mortality, Dr Bhargava said and asserted that the most inexpensive prevention for Covid-19 and pollution is rapid and widespread adoption of wearing masks**

but they are not active viruses”.

“There have been studies in Europe and the US, where they have looked at polluted areas and compared mortality during

lockdown and correlation with pollution...they found that pollution is clearly contributing to mortality in Covid-19 and that's well established by these studies,” Dr Bhargava said at a

press conference.

It is well-proven that pollution is related to mortality, Dr Bhargava said and asserted that the most inexpensive prevention for Covid-19 and pollution is rapid and widespread adoption of wearing masks.

He said in some cities with high pollution levels, people wear masks even

when there is no pandemic. “Following Covid-appropriate behaviour, be it wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene, do not cost us anything. Wearing a mask has a double advantage as it can protect one from Covid-19 as well as from pollution,” the ICMR chief said. — PTI

Khushbu held ahead of protest against Thiruma, released

SINDHIYA SAMUEL & P.A. JEBARAJ | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

Actor-politician Khushbu Sundar, who recently joined the BJP, was detained along with a few party workers in Muttukadu on ECR while on their way to Chidambaram on Tuesday to participate in a protest against Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi chief Thol Thirumavalavan. The protest was organised by BJP's women's wing in Chidambaram, condemning the MP's alleged statement on women

MANUSMRITI ROW

Manusmriti. She was released later in the day after being kept at a resort in Kelambakkam where she and her colleagues staged a dharna. Police sources said Khushbu was detained because she had violated prohibitory orders owing to lockdown rules.

The police had denied permission for the agitation at Chidambaram on Monday night but Khushbu, along with former Rajya Sabha MP Sasikala Pushpa and other BJP workers were planning to attend the

VCK, BJP members caned

Chennai: Tension prevailed in Chengalpet district on Tuesday, after police lathi-charged members of VCK who attempted to protest in front of the resort where Khushbu had been detained.

According to reports, the protest by VCK was unexpected and took place near Kelambakkam. VCK members came to know of the

place where Khushbu was being detained and arrived at the spot to conduct a demonstration. While BJP workers also reached the spot and began raising slogans against VCK, tension prevailed at the spot. The Chengalpet district police had to lathi-charge to disperse the members of both the parties to prevent untoward incidents.

protest defying the restrictions. “Arrested.. been taken in a police van. We

will fight till our last breath for the dignity of women.” Khushbu tweeted. ■ **P3**



BJP leader Khushbu and her supporters taken under preventive custody by police on Tuesday. — DC



SC ASKS A'BAD HC TO MONITOR HATHRAS PROBE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Supreme Court on Tuesday left it to the Allahabad high court to look into all aspects of the 19-year-old Hathras dalit girl's gang-rape and murder case, including monitoring the investigation by the CBI, protection of the victim's family and witnesses.

Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, heading a bench also comprising Justice A. S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, left it to future a plea seeking transfer of the trial in the case from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi.

Noting that the crime occurred within the jurisdiction of Allahabad high court and that Lucknow bench of the court has already taken the cognisance of the incident, the top court said that it is “not necessary to divest” the high court of the charge of the case and take upon itself the task of monitoring the proceedings and investigation.

Referring to the affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government detailing steps taken to provide security to the victim's family and witnesses, the court said, “We are convinced that steps have been taken by the state government to make adequate arrangement for security to the victim's family and witnesses.”

2 held for killing Haryana woman

Chandigarh, Oct. 27: Police on Tuesday arrested two men for allegedly killing a 21-year-old woman outside her college in Haryana's Ballabhgarh, a murder which triggered protests with students and local residents blocking the road to Sohna.

A special investigation team has been formed to ensure a quick probe into the case, Haryana home minister Anil Vij said.

The police said main accused Tausif, hailing from Sohna in Gurgaon, and his accomplice Rehan, who is from Nuh, have been arrested.

The two men were produced before a court in Faridabad district and sent to two-day police remand.

Nikita, a student of B.Com final year, had come out of her college after appearing for an exam on Monday afternoon when the incident took place, Ballabhgarh ACP Jaiveer Singh Rathil had earlier said.

SHORT TAKES

Srinivas takes charge as Salem Divisional Rly Manager

Salem: A.G. Srinivas has taken over charge as Divisional Railway Manager, Salem division, on Tuesday. He succeeds U. Subba Rao posted to South Central Railway. A.G. Srinivas belongs to the 1989 batch of IRSE (Indian Railways Service of Engineers) and notable among his achievements is that during his tenure as Deputy Chief Engineer and Chief Engineer / Construction / Secunderabad, 200 km of new railway line / gauge conversion / doubling has been completed.

Hyundai's all-new i20 booking starts on October 28

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

With the national launch of Hyundai's all-new i20 scheduled for November 5, the booking for the South Korean car will commence on October 28. Customers can now book the car through <https://clickto-buy.hyundai.co.in> or at Hyundai dealers for Rs. 21,000, from October 28.

S.S. Kim, MD & CEO-Hyundai Motor India Ltd, said, "The all-new i20 is all set to re-establish benchmarks in the premium hatchback segment with its sleek style, thrilling performance and unmatched new technologies."

Hyundai is offering the all-new i20 in Magna, Sportz, Asta and Asta (O) variants. Customers can choose from a variety of petrol, diesel and turbo petrol BS6 engines and transmission options that include first-in-segment intelligent manual transmission, intelligent variable transmission (IVT), 7-speed dual clutch transmission and manual transmissions. Hyundai offers customers a wide choice of colour options.

PMK, Baalu condemn attack by SL Navy

FROM P1

Condemning the attack, PMK founder S. Ramadoss said the nets that they had laid out on the sea were damaged by the Lankan naval personnel who had intruded into the Indian water to launch the attack. This was the second such attack in the last 10 days after a similar incident near Katchatheevu on October 18, he said. Urging the Centre to make efforts to retrieve Katchatheevu, MDMK general secretary Vaiko blamed the attacks on the Indian government giving away the 285 acre uninhabited island to Sri Lanka in 1976. DMK treasurer T. R. Baalu said the BJP should not be in cahoots with the Sri Lankan government in taking away the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

Fruits, flower vendors of Koyambedu left in lurch

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

Though it has been a month since the Covid-19 hit Koyambedu market complex was reopened for wholesale business, the flowers as well as fruits vendors continue to struggle without a proper marketplace to do business.

After the market complex was shut, the Chennai Metro Development Authority (CMDA), which administers the Asia's largest market, had shifted the vegetable market to Tirumazhisai in Tiruvallur district and fruits market to Madhavaram in the city. But the CMDA failed to retain small scale flower vendors in the complex, while wholesale business including vegetables and grains are continuing in the Koyambedu market.

Arul Viswasam, an office-bearer of Koyambedu Wholesale Flower Merchants Welfare

Association, said their space inside the complex remains closed despite the festival season ahead. "We were allotted space for just 30 vendors in Madhavaram despite 470 flower shops at the market. As a result, flower vendors started to sell on the streets of Chennai in small vans. We had requested the government to provide us the open

vacant space outside the Koyambedu market complex for business as we required little space to do business compared to vegetable and fruit markets. But the government officials did not pay heed to our request. After the traders made a desperate appeal to the owner, the parking space of the Rohini theatre in Koyambedu was opened for 22 flower vendors. We have set up the market at our own expense maintaining social distancing and periodic disinfection," he said.

He also said they could not do business during rain as they sell flowers in open spaces. He also urged the authorities to take steps to reinstate the marketplace inside the Koyambedu market complex before Deepavali.

The flower market, which used to get at least 30 truckloads of flower in the post-pandemic era,

now ended up in just 5-10 lorries - each lorry with five tonnes, he added.

S. Sreenivasan, member, Koyambedu Wholesale Fruit Vendors Association, said they were doing business in Madhavaram in limited space. Only 300 merchants out of total 800 are able to do business there. "We hoped we would be reinstated once the market complex is open. But it's difficult for us to do business. Many merchants have stopped business as Madhavaram is far away from the city. So, we request the authorities to open the fruits market at Koyambedu at earliest," he added.

The CMDA officials said they could not open the marketplaces without the consent of the health department. The reopening of fruits and flower wholesale markets was delayed in order to maintain Covid-19 protocol, the officials said.

CB-CID probes 'land grab' by Jagathrakshakan

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

The CB-CID officials on Tuesday questioned officials at the Pallavaram tahsildar office, in connection with the land grabbing case against Araknonam MP and former union minister S. Jagathrakshakan.

The allegation was that he had committed fraud in a matter relating to owning the land and office of an erstwhile leather firm - Chrome leather factory in Chromepet.

The CB-CID officials along with DSP Kannan questioned tahsildar Ravi and zonal officer Ravichandran regarding the land in Pallavaram.

The case was registered against Jagathrakshakan in 2016. The disputed land was originally owned by Chrome leather factory Jagathrakshakan is a former chairman of the company. In 1982, the then AIADMK government acquired the land under the Tamil Nadu Urban Land Ceiling & Regulation Act. Later, the then Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran announced that the land would be used for water resources and laid the foundation stone in 1984. It is alleged that Jagathrakshakan illegally removed the foundation stone and recommended to the competent authority to allot the land to 41 people who were either his relatives or employees.

Recently, the ED seized properties, valued at ₹89.19 crore, owned by Jagathrakshakan and his family members. During its probe, the ED found that Jagathrakshakan and his son Sundee Anand had subscribed to 70,00,000 shares and 20,00,000 shares respectively (valued at Singapore \$1 per share) of Silver Park International Pte Ltd, Singapore, without prior approval of the RBI.

Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019, in respect of insisting mandatory building completion certificate for providing Electricity, Water and Sewage connections. The bench posted to November 6, 2020, further hearing of the petition, after Abdul Saleem, standing counsel for Tangedco took notice on behalf of Tangedco.

Cracker of a chocolate



N. SAMPATH | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Chocolates designed like crackers is the latest fad before Deepavali after lockdown. People want to celebrate Deepavali in an eco-friendly manner without smoke and sound. So to make kids happy, Mallika, a chocolate-

maker in Ashok Nagar, Chennai, has come up with the idea of cracker-like chocolate. She said there are a lot of people in Chennai and suburbs who make hygienic chocolates at their houses and deliver it at people's doorsteps. But lockdown affected the business for seven months. This month they

have received some orders for homemade chocolates. Mallika said, "to attract more customers, especially kids, we have made these cracker-like chocolates to celebrate this Deepavali. We hope more kids and elders will like our chocolates and place order with us to help us make a livelihood."

4 houses damaged in cracker unit blast

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
PUDUKKOTTAI, OCT. 27

Police arrested four persons of a family (all brothers) in connection with an explosion that took place late on Monday night in Keelanelikkottai village near Thirumayam in the district, in which four houses were damaged.

Recalling the history of the cracker unit, police said the unit was run by Vignesh and his three brothers where an explosion in 2017 claimed five lives. Subsequently, the district administration cancelled the license for the cracker unit.

Despite this, Vignesh attempted to get back the licence for reviving the unit, which was opposed by villagers in and around Keelanelikkottai. Last night's explosion took place under these circumstances.

Enquiries revealed that some explosives concealed under the earth in the closed godown where the unit (vanappattarai) functioned, could have blown off causing Monday night's mishap, in which four houses and a pumpset room were damaged.

Protesting against this,

■ 5 workers died in same unit & place sealed in 2017

■ Despite this, Vignesh attempted to get back the licence for reviving the unit, which was opposed by villagers in and around Keelanelikkottai. Last night's explosion took place under these circumstances

the villagers laid siege to the house of Vignesh and also damaged a car parked inside his house. They also resorted to a road roko on the Thirumayam - Karaikudi highway, demanding immediate arrest of Vignesh and his brothers.

On information, a police team led by Sengamalakannan DSP Ponnamaravathi, rushed to the spot and persuaded the agitators to leave, with an assurance that suitable action would be taken against the accused and normalcy restored.

Later, police arrested Vignesh and his brothers Vivek, Annamalai and Udhayakumar and produced them at the Judicial Magistrate Court, Thirumayam. Magistrate Indira Gandhi remanded them to judicial custody.

Surat-based doc, who removed his oxygen support to help patient, safe

Chennai, Oct. 27: Surat-based Dr Sanket Mehta, who risked his life to intubate a Covid-19 patient, is "fine" and has booked his plane tickets to fly back home from here on November 1 after being hospitalised for over 90 days for treatment of the deadly infection.

Mehta, who had tested positive for the virus, shot to fame when he removed his oxygen support to help another elderly Covid patient despite being in 'critical condition' at a hospital in Surat where he was treated for 45 days.

He was airlifted to Chennai on September 13 since his health condition worsened but now it has improved and he is breathing normally, doctors treating him at MGM Healthcare said on Tuesday. When reporters sought to know how he was, Mehta, who was seen sitting in his bed during the press conference, showed the 'thumbs up' sign and said "I am fine" in a feeble voice. Asked what inspired him to remove his oxygen support to extend support to the elderly patient, he said, "It is (the) duty of a doctor (to save a patient's life)." — PTI

Memo on exemption of building completion certificates for power connection stayed

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

The Madras high court has stayed the operation of a memo issued by the director (distribution), Tangedco, dated October 6, 2020, withdrawing its earlier orders of insisting building completion certificate for new service connection for electricity, water and sewage connection in the state of TN.



A division bench comprising Justices VParthiban and

G.R.Swaminathan granted the interim stay on a PIL filed by Coimbatore Consumer Cause represented by its secretary K.Kathirmathiyon, which sought to quash the memo dated October 6, 2020, and consequently direct the state government to issue appropriate orders/instructions/directions to all the authorities concerned to strictly enforce the Tamil

Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019, in respect of insisting mandatory building completion certificate for providing Electricity, Water and Sewage connections.

The bench posted to November 6, 2020, further hearing of the petition, after Abdul Saleem, standing counsel for Tangedco took notice on behalf of Tangedco.



Rajan eye-care hospital launches online eye donation (OED) project in Chennai on Tuesday.

— DC

ARULOLI M | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, OCT. 27

The Direct Port Entry Facility (DPE) was inaugurated at V. O. Chidambaram Port here to ensure efficiency and reduce dwell time to increase competitiveness of shippers in international trade.

The state of the art Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility, according to Union minister of shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, who formally inaugurated the facility here on Tuesday through video-conferencing, is to help reduce logistics cost and increase the velocity of the cargo, and thereby, ensure ease of doing business for exporters through

This DPE facility would also enable direct movement of containers from factories without intermediate handling at any Container Freight Station (CFS), to help shippers to gate-in their factory stuffed exports directly to the container terminal, on a 24x7 basis the port.

This DPE facility would also enable direct movement of containers from factories without intermediate handling at any Container Freight Station (CFS), to help shippers to gate-in their factory stuffed exports directly to the container terminal, on a 24x7 basis.

Port chairman T. K. Ramachandran, said the facility established in an

area of 18,357 sq.m inside the port's truck parking terminal under the 'Sagarmala project' for issuing customs clearance of export cargo, will help the customs department through the central warehousing corporation to generate Let Export Order (LEO) under a single roof without hassles. Through this facility, the port can handle 18,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalent units) per month, he added.

Earlier, the factory stuffed self sealed containers were taken to one of the container freight stations (CPSSs) or Inland container depot (ICD) operating in Thoothukudi, causing considerable delay in

admitting the self-sealed containers into the container terminals.

The Port Trust here has signed an MoU with the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to operate the facility for 30 years and the customs department has also approved operating the facility in the port," added Ramachandran.

Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, secretary, ministry of shipping, in his address at the inaugural ceremony through video-conferencing, said the IT-enabled infrastructure at the ports would make our Indian ports world-class ones, aligning with the 'Maritime Vision 2030' of the Union ministry of shipping.

SHORT TAKES

Four held in murder case, four absconding

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT. 27

Police arrested four rowdy elements and are on the lookout for four more persons in connection with the murder of an autorickshaw driver at Thiruvanaikaval near here, on Monday.

Police said the deceased Murugan and his neighbour Parameswari had a recent quarrel over the alleged attempt of Parameswari to steal goats owned by the deceased.

On Monday, the arrested rowdy, Parameswari and her son Manikandan, fatally attacked the deceased in front of his house. Police arrested Sachin alias Sachidhanandham, Bala alias Dhana-vendhan, Gopalakrishnan and Murali, and are on the lookout for Parameswari and her son Manikandan, and two others who are absconding, police added.

House burgled

DC CORRESPONDENT
ARIYALUR, OCT. 27

Police are on the lookout for miscreants who broke open a locked house of a retired official of the private sugar plant and made away with 13 sovereigns of gold ornaments and other valuables here in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Police said, Krishnan (60) and his family members were away at Chennai and returned home on Tuesday morning. They were shocked to find the main doors of his house broken open and the steel almirah where the valuables kept, ransacked. Based on his complaint Ariyalur police registered a case and are investigating.

No fresh corona death in Pondy for second straight day

Puducherry, Oct. 27: The union territory of Puducherry did not record a fresh COVID-19 related death for a second straight day while 147 new infections were reported, Health Minister Malladi Krishna Rao said on Tuesday. While no death was recorded on October 18 for the first time this month, no fatalities were added in the last two days, Rao said at a virtual press conference. The toll in the union territory remained at 588.

He said the 147 fresh cases were identified at the end of examination of 3,570 samples taking the overall tally to 34,482 (after transfer of one case to Tamil Nadu). While the number of active cases stood at 3,741, as many as 30,153 were cured and discharged, he added. Of the 147 fresh cases reported in the last 24 hours, the Puducherry region alone had 72, followed by Karaikal (10), Yanam (30) and Mahe (35). The Health Minister said as many as 163 patients were discharged during the last 24 hours ending 10 AM on Tuesday. He said the fatality and recovery rates were 1.71 per cent and 87.45 per cent respectively.

As many as 2.93 lakh samples were tested so far and it was found that 2.56 lakh of them were found to be negative and the result of examination of remaining was awaited. The Minister said the people should not lower their guard in the battle against COVID-19 and should not be complacent because the number of cases was on the decline. "A bit of carelessness and complacency would offer scope for the infection to become intensive. Hence, safety norms should be adhered to, particularly during the forthcoming Deepavali festival," he said.

—PTI



Cops warn youth against riding atop an auto to celebrate the guru pooja of Marudhu Brothers at Teppakulam in Madurai on Tuesday.

—K. Manikandan

DMK MPs write to Centre on 7.5 per cent quota

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

DMK MPs have written to the Union home minister seeking a direction to the state governor to approve the Bill providing 7.5 per cent reservation for students of government schools in medical admissions while party president M. K. Stalin expressed fear over the reservation not being implemented due to the inaction of the state government.

In a statement on Tuesday, Stalin wondered if Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami would let the students of government schools lose an opportunity to study medicine this year now that the counselling for medical courses had started.

He feared that the Chief Minister would sacrifice the interest of the student by letting the Bill go with a view to keeping his power and also escaping from charges over the alleged irregularities committed by his government.

The letter by the leader of the DMK in Parliament T. R. Baalu urged the Union home minister to give a direction to the Governor Banwarilal Purohit to respect the sovereignty of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and give his nod

Tension in Kovai as cops cancel DMK meet

ANANTH MATHIVANAN |
DC
COIMBATORE, OCT. 27

Tension prevailed here for a while after police refused permission for a protest to be led by DMK state youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday to condemn the action of the city police who arrested around 12 DMK cadre for allegedly tearing posters designed to mock DMK president M.K. Stalin and general secretary Durai Murugan, pasted in various parts of the city, on Sunday. Later, the DMK cadres were all released on bail.

Subsequently, arrangements were made by Singanallur constituency DMK M.L.A N Karthick to stage a protest led by Udhayanidhi Stalin. But, even as arrangements were being made on Tuesday to install a temporary stage in front of the South taluk office, police suddenly denied permission for the

for the Bill.

Baaluu said that the Governor had been holding for 43 days the Bill pro-

test, and ordered removal of the stage.

Tension prevailed in the area as Karthick and his supporters made an attempt to stage a road roko and raised slogans condemning the city police and AIADMK minister SP Velumani. The efforts taken by the police to pacify Karthick failed, and finally to avoid untoward law and order issues, police granted permission.

The protest was staged as per schedule led by DMK youth wing secretary, Udhayanidhi Stalin. In his address, Udhayanidhi said the protest was not only to condemn the arrest of the DMK cadres, but also to reveal the corruption of the present government.

Udhayanidhi also said that his party cadres would soon stage a protest in front of the Kuniamuthoor police station if miscreants who posted the controversial posters against the DMK were not arrested.

viding horizontal reservation for students of government schools in medical courses.

After a cabinet meeting, he told reporters that his government has decided to introduce the quota through an order and the file relating to this had since been sent to Lt Governor Kiran Bedi for approval

Only 16 students from the government schools could get into the medical colleges here during 2018-19 while 243 candidates from private schools could join medical courses.

He said the territorial government had therefore decided to bring in 10 per cent internal reservation for government school stu-

Slugfest between BJP, VCK over Manusmriti row

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, OCT. 27

Tension prevailed in various places across the state as women members of the BJP made a vain bid to organize protests against VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan, accusing him of denigrating Hindu women by speaking about the contents of the Hindu religious text Manusmriti in a webinar recently. Khushbu was detained and released in the evening. The photo of Khushbu sitting on the floor along with other BJP supporters soon went viral on social media and meme creators had a great day making fun of the vignette. Soon another image of Khushbu on a plush sofa before a dining table with other people seated with her started doing the rounds on social media with many questioning if that was the way all those who are 'arrested' would be treated. Meanwhile, attempts to organise protests in various places were thwarted by the police, who took the BJP workers into custody and lodged them in various places like kalayana mandapams. In Madurai, BJP state president L. Murugan staged a protest when he was prevented from visiting the memorial of the Marudhu brothers. However, he left after police allowed him to proceed.



State BJP women's wing members protest against VCK leader Thirumavalavan near the collectorate on Tuesday.

—DC

BJP, VCK cadre stage protests

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, OCT. 27

It was the BJP versus the VCK here on Tuesday. BJP women's wing members led by Thanjavur north district secretary, Boomiselvi, tried to stage a demonstration before the collectorate demanding the arrest of VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, who according to them had

spoken ill of Hindu women. As there was no police permission, cops tried to prevent them and a heated argument between the police and the BJP cadre erupted. Later, police arrested 90 of them including some women.

Meanwhile, VCK members led by Satyamurthy, party Thiruvonam union secretary, tried to stage a counter demonstration and were seen advancing

towards the BJP cadre, but police stopped them and arrested 22 VCK cadres.

Tension prevailed near the new collectorate complex because of these incidents. Another group of VCK members led by Thanjavur district secretary Chokka Ravi, staged a road roko near the new bus stand in support of Thirumavalavan. Police arrested 36 of them.

KHUSHBU TWEETS AGAINST VCK

>>>>>

Floyer work at Echangadu signal going on at fast pace.

—DC



Vigilance awareness week at BHEL

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, OCT. 27

Dr Nalin Shinghal, chairman and managing director, BHEL, on Tuesday, inaugurated the 'Vigilance Awareness Week' throughout the corporation from BHEL's corporate office in New Delhi, by administering the integrity pledge to all the unit heads and senior officials, through video-conferencing.

TN records 2,522 new corona infections, 27 deaths

Chennai, Oct. 27: Continuing to register a dip in new infections, Tamil Nadu on Tuesday recorded 2,522 fresh COVID-19 cases and 27 more deaths, pushing the tally to 7,14,235 and toll to 10,983.

Recoveries continued to eclipse new cases with 4,029 patients getting cured aggregating to 6,75,518 till date, a health department bulletin said. Active cases, including those in isolation, were at 27,734.

The state has reported less than 3,000 fresh infections for the fourth successive day today. On October 24, the state logged 2,886 new infections while on October 25, it was 2,869.

The state saw 2,708 people testing COVID-19 positive yesterday. Among districts, Chennai led with 695 new cases today, followed by Coimbatore 209,

Salem 146, Chengalpeta 144 and Tiruvallur 115.

Dindigul recorded the least with two patients contracting disease

Chennai accounted for 1,97,077 COVID-19 infections of the state's over 7.14 lakh cases, besides accounting for 3,607 deaths of the total 10,983 toll.

Testing of samples stood at 70,687 today, totalling to 96,60,430 getting examined till date. A private lab was accorded approval to conduct COVID-19 testing, taking the total number of facilities operating in the State to 201 of which 135 is owned by private and 66 government. Tamil Nadu does not use Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests (RADT) and all the tests are RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction based).

—PTI

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Infantry Day observed at Army centre in Wellington



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Solemn wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial at the Wellington military station marked the Infantry day commemoration on Tuesday.

B. RAVICHANDRAN |
DC
OOTHY, OCT. 27

Infantry Day was celebrated with military spirit, grandeur and patriotism at the Army centre at Wellington here on Tuesday. An impressive wreath laying ceremony held at the iconic War Memorial at the army centre in Wellington, marked the occasion.

The Infantry Day on Tuesday was commemorated by a solemn and befitting War Memorial Service at the Military Station at Wellington near here.

Lt Gen YVK Mohan, Commandant, Defence Services Staff College,

and the senior most Infantry Officer in Wellington military station along with Brig Rajeshwar Singh, Station Commander of Wellington Military Station and Commandant, Madras Regimental Centre (MRC) at Wellington, Brig Ajit Singh (retired), senior most Infantry veteran in the Nilgiris and soldiers paid obeisance to the brave infantrymen of the Indian Army, who made supreme sacrifice of their lives in service of our motherland.

October 27 is celebrated as Infantry Day by the Indian Army, as it was on this day in 1947 that the first contingent

of infantry battalion of the Indian Army landed at the Srinagar airfield and fought a courageous battle to save Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistani raiders and intruders.

The event is held in Wellington Military Station every year at the Madras Regiment War Memorial, the monolith structure which was constructed in 1950 to honour the supreme sacrifices of the 'Thambis' (jawans of Madras regiment) in all conflicts and wars since World War II till date. The event is a befitting tribute to the Infantry of Indian army for its valour, courage and sacrifice.

SHORT TAKES

SOUMITRA ON VENTILATOR AGAIN, CRITICAL

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, OCT. 27

Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee, who recovered from Covid-19, has been put on ventilator again after his condition worsened on Monday afternoon following a brief improvement in his health condition a week ago. His condition is "critical."

This is the second time the 85-year-old thespian is being treated on ventilator since he has been admitted to Belle Vue Clinic in south Kolkata on October 6, a day after he tested Covid-19 positive.

On Tuesday afternoon Dr Arindam Kar, a member of the medical board of doctors, said, "Mr Chatterjee is on ventilator. Saturation is more than 95 with the basic support of 40 per cent oxygen. His condition is definitely critical as of now."



A drop in platelet count alongwith gastrointestinal bleeding and decrease in oxygen level had forced the medical board of doctors to put the Dadasaheb Phalke awardee on endotracheal intubation, a medical procedure in which a tube is placed into the windpipe through the mouth or nose, at 3 pm on Monday.

In the evening the doctors, for the first time in last three weeks, found kidney problem in him also. Dr Kar added, "His bleeding has stopped. No fresh bleeding happened. Urine output is acceptable after fluid resuscitation. But the urea creatinine is climbing up. Our nephrologist is looking into if he would require some sort of support in the form of renal replacement therapy."

CENTRE LISTS 18 MORE AS TERRORISTS

From Page 1

There's also Abdul Rauf Asghar who was involved in setting up training camps in Pakistan for recruitment and militant training and was the key conspirator in the terrorist attack (December 13, 2001) on the Parliament House.

Ibrahim Athar has been declared a terrorist for his involvement in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 on December 24, 1999, (Kandahar hijacking case). He was also a key conspirator in the Indian Parliament terrorist attack (December 13, 2001).

Yusuf Azhar, who has also been named, was also involved in the same hijacking case.

Shahid Latif is the JeM's commander of the Sialkot sector and was involved in launching JeM terrorists into India. He is also involved in planning, facilitating and executing terror attacks in India.

Others in the list include Syed Mohammad Yusuf Shah, the main commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) and the chairman of the United Jihad Council (UJC); Ghulam Nabi Khanis, the deputy supreme of the Hizb; Zaffar Hussain Bhat, also known as Khursheed, Mohd Zafar Khan, Mouly and Khursheed Ibrahim, is the deputy chief of the Hizb and handles its financial affairs; Riyaz Ismail Shahbandri was involved in various terrorist acts in India, including German Bakery (2010), Chinnaswami Stadium, Bangalore (2010), Jama Masjid (2010), Sheetlaghat (2010) and Mumbai (2011).

Mohd Iqbal, also known as Shabandri Mohammed Iqbal and Iqbal Bhatkal, is the Pakistan based co-founder of the terrorist organisation Indian Mujahideen and was involved in Jaipur serial blasts (2008), Delhi serial blasts (2008), serial blasts of Ahmedabad and Surat (2008), German Bakery blast, Pune (2010) and Chinnaswami Stadium, Bengaluru blasts (2010).

Four close aides of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim – who was designated a global terrorist by the UN – Shaikh Shakeel alias Chhota Shakeel, Mohammad Anis Shaikh, Ibrahim Memon alias Tiger Memon and Javed Chikna have been named in the list.

Mohammad Anis Shaikh was involved in the Mumbai bomb blast 1993. Ibrahim Memon, also known as Tiger Memon, hatched the criminal conspiracy of the Mumbai bomb blast.

Javed Chikna was also involved in the same serial blasts case.



Security personnel on their way to a polling booth on the eve of first phase of Bihar Assembly Elections in Gaya district on Tuesday.

— PTI

First phase of Bihar elections today, 71 seats go to polls

Sushil Kumar Modi asks LJP supporters to vote for BJP-JD(U) coalition

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, OCT. 27

Ahead of the Assembly elections, Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi has appealed to LJP supporters to vote for JD(U)-BJP coalition and ensure the victory of NDA in the state.

In a tweet ahead of the first phase of voting which is to be held on October 28, he said, "Vote to LJP will ensure the return of jungle raj in Bihar. I appeal to all LJP supporters to ensure the victory of NDA by voting for JD(U)-BJP coalition during the elections. Prime Minister also wishes the same".

Sushil Kumar Modi's tweet is being seen as a reaction against Chirag Paswan who has been targeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, alleging major scam in "Saat Nischay" (seven resolves) scheme.

Recently while addressing his rallies Chirag had created a flutter in the state politics by saying that, if voted to power, he will get it probed and send to jail all those found guilty including the Chief Minister.

After facing regular attacks, the JD(U) has also reacted strongly and urged Chirag to maintain some "dignity" during his speeches.

Calling him "jamoora" senior JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha said that "Chirag Paswan's political career will flop like his films. Look where his co-

star Kangana Ranaut has reached and also Sushant Singh Rajput who had no backing in the film industry made his mark in Bollywood within a short span of time. He should also disclose who had sponsored his film".

Earlier during one of his rallies, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in a veiled attack on Paswan had said that "some people are acting on the command of their advisors".

In response to JD(U) leader calling him "jamoora" Chirag on Tuesday said that "term used for me is an insult to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as I have only been following him".

Chirag who broke away from the NDA citing ideological differences with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is contesting 143 out of 243 seats in Bihar. On many seats, he has fielded candidates against the JD(U). In the first phase of polls, 42 LJP candidates are in the fray against the JD(U) and NDA partner Hindustani Awam Morcha.

As many as 71 constituencies spread across 16 districts in Bihar will vote on October 28. The second and third phase of polling will take place on November 3 and 7. Results will be declared on November 10.

More than two crore voters in Bihar will decide the fate of 1,066 candidates on Wednesday across 71 assembly segments in the first phase of elections.

Guidelines have been issued by the Election

● **MORE THAN TWO crore voters in Bihar will decide the fate of 1,066 candidates on Wednesday across 71 assembly segments.**

● **OF THE 2.14 crore voters who will exercise their franchise, 1.01 crore are women and 599 belong to the third gender, according to data provided by the Election Commission.**

Commission for safe conduct of the electoral exercise, which takes place in the midst of the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

These include lowering the cap on the maximum number of voters for a polling booth from 1,600 to 1,000, staggering of polling hours and postal ballot facility for those aged above 80, or those afflicted with or suspected to be carrying the contagion.

Besides, sanitisation of electronic voting machines, wearing of masks and other protective gear by polling personnel and availability of thermal scanner, hand sanitiser, soap and water will be ensured.

Of the 2.14 crore voters who will exercise their franchise, 1.01 crore are women and 599 belong to the third gender, according to data provided by the Election Commission.

The candidates include 952 men and 114 women, the maximum number (27) being in the fray at Gaya Town and the minimum (5) at Katoria in Banka district. Among the major

political parties, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) is contesting in 35 of the 71 seats, followed by its ally BJP (29), while the opposition RJD has fielded its candidates in 42 and its coalition partner Congress is in the fray in 20 assembly segments.

Lok Janshakti Party, headed by Chirag Paswan, is in the fray in 41 seats, which include all the 35 contested by the JD(U), in keeping with the call given by the young party president, who recently pulled out of the NDA in the state, to "dislodge" the chief minister from power.

Prominent candidates include Shreyasi Singh, the Commonwealth Games gold medallist shooter who is making her debut at the age of 27 as the BJP candidate from Jamui. Chirag Paswan, who represents Jamui Lok Sabha and insists that he remains loyal to the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has assured full support of his party to the young debutant.

Shreyasi Singh is pitted against Vijay Prakash Yadav of the RJD, the sitting MLA whose elder brother Jaiprakash Narayan Yadav is a former Union minister and a close aide of party supremo Lalu Prasad.

Notably, the former Union minister's 28-year-old daughter Divya Prakash is also making her debut in the adjoining Tarapur constituency as the candidate of her father's party.

Six members of the state cabinet Prem Kumar (Gaya Town), Vijay Kumar Sinha (Lakhisarai), Ram Narayan Mandal (Banka), Krishnanandan Prasad Verma (Jehanabad), Jaikumar Singh (Dinara) and Santosh Kumar Nirala (Rajpur) are in the fray in the first phase.

Of the six, Verma, Singh and Nirala belong to the JD(U), while the remaining are from the BJP. The JD(U) ministers seek to win their seats contending with the LJP factor.

Moreover, Verma, who has held key portfolios like education and social welfare, faces the additional challenge of wresting an RJD bastion for his party, having been asked to shift base from Ghosi where the JD(U) has fielded Rahul Kumar.

Kumar's father Jagdish Sharma, disqualified upon conviction in the fodder scam, had formerly represented the Ghosi assembly seat as well as the Jehanabad Lok Sabha constituency.

The reserved Imamganj seat in Gaya district, which falls under Aurangabad Lok Sabha constituency, will see a proverbial clash of titans. Former chief minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha president Jitan Ram Manjhi, who is the NDA candidate, is the sitting MLA.

His bid to retain the seat is challenged by his predecessor Uday Narayan Chaudhary who had been associated with the JD(U) till a few years ago but is now in the fray as the RJD nominee.

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Karnataka (3,130), Tamil Nadu (2,708) and Telangana (837) too saw a marked decline in new detections. However, Kerala (4,287) and West Bengal (4,121) and Delhi (2,832) are the states that are still logging high numbers of new cases. The Central government is going to hold a meeting with these three states to re-strategise the Covid-19 fight.

The number of active cases has declined to 6.25 lakh and now comprise merely 7.88 per cent of the total cases. Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has said the current guidelines allowing various activities like opening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity will continue to be applicable till November 30 in areas outside the containment zones.

Earlier, the guidelines for reopening activities

Sonia appeals to voters to build a 'new Bihar'

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

On the eve of the first phase of Bihar Assembly polls, Congress President Sonia Gandhi asked people in the state to herald a change and build a "new Bihar".

In a four-minute video address, Mrs Gandhi accused the JD(U)-BJP government of deviating from its path and being high on power and ego.

"Drunk on power and arrogance, the government in Bihar has deviated from its path. Their words and deeds are suspect. The labourers are helpless, the farmers are upset and the youth are disappointed. People are bearing the brunt of the fragile state of the economy," she said.

The Congress President said that the Nitish Kumar government was neither "saying good nor doing good" and labourers, farmers and youth are upset and disappointed with it.

"A serious crisis has befallen the farmers of India. The lives of Dalits and Mahadalits have been destroyed and similar is the fate of the backward sections of society".

She accused the Central and the Bihar government of bringing demonetisation, lockdown, economic shutdown and job losses and called upon people of state to build a "new Bihar" for the next generation.

Observing that governments cannot be formed on fear and crime, Mrs Gandhi said, "Time has come for ushering in change in the state".

"The people of Bihar are with the Congress Mahagathbandhan and this is the call of Bihar".

Congress is fighting the elections in alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal. In 2015, the Grand Alliance or the Mahagathbandhan had also included the JD(U) which then shifted to the NDA during the 2017 Presidential polls.

Tejashwi says will nullify Centre's 'anti-farmer' laws

New Delhi/Patna, Oct. 27: Confident of the 'Mahagathbandhan' getting two-thirds majority in the Bihar polls, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday said providing jobs to unemployed youth would be top priority for him and his government will also bring a legislation in the first assembly session to nullify the "anti-farmer" laws brought by the Centre.

Yadav, who is the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial face, said he is running an issue-based campaign in the assembly polls which was resonating with the masses and come November 10, the day of the counting of votes, "Bihar will witness a new dawn".

In an interview with PTI, Yadav said for the first time in history a promise has been made to the youth of Bihar that 10 lakh jobs will be provided with the "first stroke of the pen in the very first cabinet meeting", if voted to power.

Asked how many seats he is expecting to win, the former Bihar deputy chief minister said, "I am no astrologer but the public reception during canvassing gives me confidence that we have the blessings of the great people of Bihar and they have decided to entrust us with a huge responsibility."

Yadav expressed confidence that the Mahagathbandhan will get a "thumping two-thirds majority".

"I can confidently tell you that deposits will be forfeited of NDA candidates in maximum constituencies. Come 10th November, Bihar will witness a new dawn," he asserted.

Talking about his major promises and poll plank, he said that if voted to power, providing jobs to unemployed youth would be his topmost priority.

"Ours would be a responsible government which will have a responsive administration. Employment, health, education and industries are the sectors which have been neglected in 15 years of (Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar's rule. We will revive and transform these sectors," the 30-year-old leader said.

Asked whether the grand alliance, if voted to power, will blunt the farm laws the Centre has brought in with a state level legislation like in Punjab, Yadav said, "Yes, absolutely we will bring in a legislation in the first assembly session that shall nullify these three anti-farmer bills. This is a commitment in our Mahagathbandhan manifesto."

— PTI

Any Indian can buy land in J&K

From page 1

The MHA said the new order will be called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020, and that it comes into force with immediate effect.

Before the repeal of Article 370 and Article 35-A in August last year, non-residents could not buy immovable property in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the fresh changes have paved the way for any citizen to buy land in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha told reporters that the amendments did not allow transfer of agricultural land to non-agriculturists. However, there are several exemptions in the Act which enable transfer of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, including setting up of educational or health care

facilities.

"Unacceptable amendments to the land ownership laws of J&K. Even the tokenism of domicile has been done away with when purchasing non-agricultural land and transfer of agricultural land has been made easier. J&K is now up for sale and the poorer small land holding owners will suffer," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said it was a step to disenfranchise the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Yet another step that's part of GOI's nefarious designs to disempower & disenfranchise people of J&K. From the unconstitutional scrapping of Article 370 to facilitating loot of our natural resources and finally putting land in J&K up for sale," she tweeted. "After failing on all fronts to provide roti & rozgar to people, BJP is creating such laws to whet the appetite of a gullible electorate."

5 WB YOUTHS DROWN AS BOAT CAPSIZES

PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC BHERHAMPURE, OCT. 27

Five youths including three family members drowned after two overcrowded boats, carrying a Durga idol for immersion, capsized in a large waterbody on Bijoya Dashami in Murshidabad of West Bengal. The tragedy took place at Dumnidaha lake in Beldanga.

On Monday evening the members of Hazra family placed the idol on a bamboo structure in between two parallel country boats to give few rounds in the lake before immersion in the water as per rituals.

One of the family members, Pritam Banerjee, also an eyewitness, said, "Around 50 persons boarded the two boats. Most of them were dancing. While loud music filled the air, one of the two boats suddenly tilted and capsized with its passengers and the idol in the lake."

India records over 36,000 Covid cases, the lowest since July

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

A steady decline in fresh cases of coronavirus continued in India as the number of new detections fell to 36,470 on Tuesday. This is the lowest single-day tally in the last three months – it was 34,888 on July 18.

The daily fatalities too continue to reduce as in the last 24 hours 488 new deaths were recorded.

India has so far recorded 79.46 lakh total cases of and 1.19 lakh deaths. There is a decline in cumulative positivity rate too, which is 7.61 per cent now. "Declining numbers give us the confidence that the virus is under control," said NITI Aayog member health Dr V.K. Paul. A drastic fall in fresh cases was noted in Maharashtra (3,645), which has been the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic in India.

Andhra Pradesh (1,901),

Karnataka (3,130), Tamil Nadu (2,708) and Telangana (837) too saw a marked decline in new detections. However, Kerala (4,287) and West Bengal (4,121) and Delhi (2,832) are the states that are still logging high numbers of new cases. The Central government is going to hold a meeting with these three states to re-strategise the Covid-19 fight.

The number of active cases has declined to 6.25 lakh and now comprise merely 7.88 per cent of the total cases.

Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has said the current guidelines allowing various activities like opening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity will continue to be applicable till November 30 in areas outside the containment zones.

Earlier, the guidelines for reopening activities

issued on September 30 were to be in force till October 31. The Centre has given the flexibility to the states with regard to reopening of schools and colleges in a graded manner.

K'taka reports 3,691 new cases: Karnataka on Tuesday reported 3,691 new Covid-19 cases and 44 deaths, taking the tally to 8,09,638 and toll to 10,991, the health department said.

The total infections comprise 7,27,298 discharges cumulatively including 7,740 on Tuesday and 7,330 total active cases including 944 in the ICU.

TS numbers keep falling: Telangana state recorded 837 new Covid-19 cases that took the total to 2,32,671 while the toll rose to 1,315 with four more people succumbing to the disease in the 24-hour period ending 8 pm on Monday. According to the Covid-19 bulletin said 21,099 tests were performed, out of which 9,283

were on primary contacts of those already determined as Covid-19 positive.

2,901 more test positive in AP: Andhra Pradesh registered 2,901 new Covid-19 cases taking the tally to 8,11,825 and 19 deaths taking toll to 6,625 in the last 24 hours.

Out of a total 76,96,653 samples tested so far in the state, 7,77,900 patients were discharged from the hospitals after recovery while 27,300 patients are still active with the virus.

No let up in Kerala cases: Kerala on Tuesday reported 5,457 new Covid-19 cases and 24 more deaths, taking the infection count in the state to 3,89,735 and toll to 1,376. Meanwhile, 7,015 patients recovered from the disease today, taking the total recoveries to 3,09,032. Currently, there are 92,161 people under treatment for Covid-19 in the state. Out of the new cases on Tuesday, 88 came from outside.

IN BRIEF

2 hurt as vessels collide near port

Athens: Two crew members of a Greek minesweeper were slightly hurt Tuesday after it collided with a Portuguese container ship off Piraeus, the port next to Athens, the navy said. There were 27 sailors on board the naval vessel, who were rescued by coastguard patrol boats. The two injured were taken to hospital for treatment. The minesweeper suffered serious damage to the stern and was towed back to the naval base on the nearby island of Salamina, the merchant navy ministry said. Piraeus port authorities opened an inquiry into the incident and confined to port the container ship Maerck Launceston, which flies a Portuguese flag.

Afghan attack kills three

Kabul: At least three people were killed Tuesday when Taliban militants launched a co-ordinated attack against a police base in eastern Khost province, Afghan officials said. Habib Shah Ansari, provincial health director in Khost said that so far three bodies and around 30 wounded, both military and civilian, were brought to hospital. The attack in Khost comes as the Afghan government continues to fight Taliban militants even as peace talks in Qatar between the two sides take place for the first time. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said that earlier Tuesday morning a vehicle full of explosives detonated near a base belonging to a police special force. He added that so far at least four attackers were killed and Afghan forces are fighting two others who are still resisting with forces. Aran said that a gun battle is underway between the attackers and the Afghan forces, which may increase casualties. The violence comes amid an uptick of attacks. Afghanistan claimed Sunday it killed a top al-Qaida propagandist on an FBI most-wanted list during an operation in the country's east.

Russia strikes kill 78 rebels in Syria

Beirut: Air strikes by Damascus regime ally Russia killed 78 Turkey-backed rebels in northwestern Syria on Monday, a monitor said, in the bloodiest surge in violence since a truce almost eight months ago. More than 90 others were wounded when Russian warplanes targeted a training camp of the Faylaq al-Sham faction in the Jabal Duwayli area in Idlib province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. In early March, a truce brokered between Moscow and Ankara stemmed a Russia-backed regime military offensive on the country's last major rebel stronghold in Idlib. That onslaught from December had killed more than 500 civilians and displaced almost a million people from their homes in one of the worst humanitarian crises of the nine-year civil war. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman described Monday's strikes near the Turkish border as the "deadliest since the ceasefire came into force". He also said they were the bloodiest Russian air raids against rebels in a single day since Moscow's military intervention in Syria in 2015.

\$2.4 BN U.S. ARMS SALE TO TAIWAN

Taipei, Oct. 27: Taiwan said Tuesday that proposed US sales of missiles and other arms systems will boost the island's ability to credibly defend itself, amid rising threats from China. The comments from defence ministry spokesperson Shih Shun-wen came a day after China said it would exact unspecified retaliation against companies that make the weapons systems, including Lockheed Martin Corp., Raytheon Technologies Corp. and Boeing Co.'s defence division, the lead contractor on a \$2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan. Facing a potential Chinese foe with overwhelming superiority in missiles, soldiers, ships and planes, Taiwan has struggle to assure its own people and key ally the US that it is capable of and willing to see to its own defence. The sides split amid a civil war in 1949 and China considers Taiwan its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary. The purchase of these weapons will enhance Taiwan's credible combat capabilities.

Don pick Barrett sworn in as SC justice

Republican-controlled Senate confirms her nomination, handing Prez a win a week before election

SC: No Wisconsin mail-in voting deadline extension

Washington, Oct. 27: Conservative jurist Amy Coney Barrett was sworn in as a justice of the US Supreme Court, an hour after the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed her controversial nomination, handing President Donald Trump a major victory just a week before the election. The deeply-divided Senate confirmed the nomination of Barrett as the 115th Supreme Court Judge by 52-48 votes on Monday, pushing the top court in a more conservative direction for generations to come.

Barrett, a 48-year-old religious conservative, was administered the official constitutional oath by Justice Clarence Thomas on the South Lawn of the White House alongside President Trump. "I stand here tonight, truly honoured and humbled," she said shortly after she took the constitutional oath. "This is a momentous day for America, for the United States Constitution and for the fair and impartial rule of law," said Trump in his remarks on the occasion. "She is one of our nation's most brilliant legal scholars, and she will make an outstanding justice on the highest court in our land," he said about

Washington, Oct. 27: A divided Supreme Court said Monday that mail-in ballots in Wisconsin could be counted only if they are received by Election Day.

Democrats in the state had asked the court to allow the counting of ballots that arrive up to six days after Election Day if they were postmarked by November 3.

The ruling was 5-3, coming just before the Senate voted to add Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Justice Elena Kagan, joined by her liberal colleagues, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer, dissented from the court's order. Last week, the court had

upheld a ruling by a state court in Pennsylvania extending the mail-in ballot deadline there.

Early voting began in Wisconsin last week, and the court's decision could impact the tally in a key battleground. Wisconsin was one of three Rust Belt states that gave President Donald Trump the White House in 2016, and he and Democratic nominee Joe Biden have made the state a frequent campaign stop.

Like other states, Wisconsin has seen a major influx of absentee ballots returned: As of October 19, Wisconsin voters had returned more than 863,000 absentee ballots, according to data from the state Ele-

ctions Commission.

Monday's order is the latest sign that the justices do not want federal courts to change voting rules too close to the election.

Unlike the Pennsylvania order last week, the Wisconsin order Monday concerned a ruling from a lower federal court, not a state court, and Chief Justice John Roberts said that made a difference.

A federal district court in Wisconsin had sided with the Democrats to allow mail-in ballots to be received up to six days after Election Day, but an appeals court blocked that order and the Supreme Court upheld the block.

— Agencies

his nominee.

Out of nine Supreme Court Justices, Trump, so far, has nominated three of them. In the US a Supreme Court justice is appointed for life and does not have a retirement age. Barrett is likely to serve on the court

for decades and will give conservatives a 6-3 majority on the Supreme Court, a shift in its makeup that could have dramatic implications for a range of issues that could come before it, including the future of the Affordable Care Act

and any potential disputes regarding the 2020 election. "It is highly fitting that Justice Barrett fills the seat of a true pioneer for women: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Tonight, Justice Barrett becomes not only the fifth woman to



Security officials examine the site of a blast at a religious school in Peshawar on Tuesday. At least four students were killed and dozens more wounded when a bomb exploded during a class at their religious school. — AFP

Bomb blast in Pak religious seminary kills 8, injures 120

Peshawar, Oct. 27: A powerful blast ripped through a religious seminary in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar city on Tuesday, killing at least eight people, mostly students, and wounding over 120 others, senior police officials said.

The blast occurred around 8:30 am at a local mosque, which also serves as a religious school in Dir Colony in interior Peshawar, while students were reading the Quran, Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ali Khan told reporters.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's Advisor on Information Kamran Bangash and Spokesman of the LRH Hospital Asim Khan confirmed that eight persons have died and 124 others injured in the blast.

"Those who spread terror will never succeed in their mission," Bangash said, adding that the incident would be fully probed and the perpetrators will be brought to book. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast in the city, bordering war-torn Afghanistan.

A bag filled with explosive materials was kept close to wall of the seminary by some unknown person which went off, superintendent of police in Peshawar city Waqar Azeem said. He said the bag is believed to have had an IED device that went off.

An official from the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said 4 to 5 kilogramme explosives were used in the blast. Most of the students who died and were injured in the blast

were aged between 7 and 11 years, the official said, adding that many of them were from Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the deadly blast and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. "Deeply saddened by terrorist attack on madrasah in Peshawar. My condolences go to the victims families & prayers for early recovery of the injured. I want to assure my nation we will ensure the terrorists responsible for this cowardly barbaric attack are brought to justice asap," he tweeted.

There was a general threat alert in the Peshawar district, said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Sanaullah Abbasi, who also confirmed the death toll.

According to police, around 40-50 students were

present inside the seminary when the bomb went off. The seminary's administration said around 1,100 students study at the institution. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mehmd Khan condemned the attack on children. He has convened a meeting to take stock of the security situation in the province.

The area has been cordoned off and police teams are collecting evidence. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra visited the site of the blast. Speaking to reporters, he said that the focus was on providing the injured the best possible treatment to increase their chances of recovery. Vice President Maryam Nawaz termed it a "heart-rending" incident. — PTI

Trump leads Biden by 5 points in Texas

Houston, Oct. 27: US President Donald Trump is ahead of his rival and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden by more than five points among the likely voters in the state of Texas, according to a poll conducted to understand the popularity of the two leaders.

The poll released on Monday by the Hobby School for Public Affairs at the University of Houston found that 50 per cent of the voters said they already have or will vote for President Trump while 44.7 per cent said they have or will vote for Biden. "The poll conducted between October 13 and October 20 found 50 per cent of the voters saying they already have or will vote for Trump, while 44.7 per cent said they have or will vote for Biden," said the poll outcome released after taking the opinions of over 1,000 registered voters.

Trump, a Republican is being challenged by Biden in the November 3 US presidential election. "Record

turnout in early voting clearly shows the state's Democrats are energised, but at least at the top of the ticket, that enthusiasm appears unlikely to overcome the Republican advantage among men, Anglos and older voters," said Renée Cross, senior director of the Hobby School.

"In fact, we found the Republican candidate leading by wider margins in statewide races farther down the ballot," Cross added. There are more than 257 million people in the US who are 18 or older, and nearly 240 million citizens are eligible to vote this year, according to the American daily *USA Today*. More than 58.7 million Americans have voted in the 2020 presidential election so far, surpassing all early ballots cast in the 2016 polls, but an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots has given rise to the possibility that the result could be delayed as counting of votes may stretch beyond November 3. — PTI

Oxford: Vaccine's strong immunity in all adult groups

London, Oct. 27: One of the frontrunners in the race for a vaccine against Covid-19 has been found to produce a strong immune response in all adult groups, Oxford University said on Tuesday, in reference to the ongoing clinical trials of its vaccine candidate with British pharma giant AstraZeneca. While the results from these early trials are yet to be officially released, Professor Andrew Pollard from the university discussed the promising findings at a research conference.

The ChAdOx1 nCoV-2019 vaccine, called AZD1222 by AstraZeneca, is currently undergoing worldwide trials with some reports raising hopes for a rollout within months. The latest findings, submitted for a peer-reviewed journal to be considered for publication in the coming weeks, will further boost these hopes. "Professor Pollard discussed the early findings of the Phase II safety and immunogenicity trial of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-2019 Oxford Coronavirus vac-

STUDY: COVID-19 ANTIBODIES ARE FALLING RAPIDLY

London, Oct. 27: The hope for long-term immunity from Covid-19 was thrown into doubt on Tuesday as a large UK study concluded that protective antibodies in people fall "quite rapidly" after a Coronavirus infection. Imperial College London's research, which tested more than 365,000 people in England, found that antibody response to the Coronavirus that causes Covid-19 wanes over time. — PTI

India: Don't back terrorist forces

United Nations, Oct. 27: India has called on all concerned parties to completely stop supporting terrorist forces, like the ISIL, while urging all stakeholders in the Middle East to work constructively for peace, stability and development. India underscored that it has invested considerably in the peace and stability of the region by deploying its personnel as part of UN peacekeeping forces, through humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, capacity building, and will continue contributing towards peace-building in the Middle East. "India calls on concerned parties to completely stop support to terrorist forces, like ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and others. India also urges all parties in the region to work constructively and in good faith to promote peace, stability and development for the benefit of all people in the Middle East," India said in a written statement on Monday on the Security Council's open debate on "The Situation in the Middle East".

India said the truce between Israel and the Hamas has eased the humanitarian situation in Gaza and expressed hope that the temporary truce is converted into a permanent ceasefire, which can save precious human lives on both sides and create a conducive environment for talks. "It is an unfortunate reality that the interlinked and mutually reinforcing challenges faced by the people of the Middle East have not yet been resolved. Political instability, long-festering conflicts, sectarian divides, issue of refugees and terrorism continue to plague the region. The Covid-pandemic has only exacerbated the threats posed by these challenges," India said. The statement made India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, will go as part of the official record of the Council. India said it appreciates the agreement between Fatah and Hamas for holding Parliamentary and Presidential elections and also elections for the Palestinian National Council, which will help fill the democratic aspirations of the Palestinian people. India also welcomed the agreements for normalisation of relations between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain. — PTI

FLASH | FLOOD

Hurricane Delta ravaged the Yucatan region earlier this month

Zeta winds pound Mexico, head for US

TYPHOON: VIETNAM CANCELS FLIGHTS, CLOSES SCHOOLS

Mexico City, Oct. 27: Heavy winds pounded Mexico's Caribbean coast overnight, with Hurricane Zeta set to cause havoc on the Yucatan Peninsula on Tuesday before moving towards the US Gulf Coast, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Coming only weeks after Hurricane Delta ravaged the Yucatan region earlier this month, Zeta was expected to disrupt oil installations and barrel towards southern US states on Wednesday.

Zeta lashed the eastern

Hanoi, Oct. 27: Vietnam was rushing to ensure more than half a million people were out of harm's way on Tuesday, ahead of the arrival of a powerful typhoon set to dump more heavy rain on a central region devastated by weeks of intense weather.

Hundreds of flights were cancelled and schools closed in affected areas as Typhoon Molave approached over the South China Sea, packing wind speed of up to 165 kilometres (103 miles) per hour and expected to make landfall early on Wednesday.

Molave will be the fourth storm to hit the Southeast Asian country this month that has seen 130 people killed in floods and landslides. Military was helping the elderly on to buses and directing boats to come ashore. — Reuters

coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula with winds of 80 miles (129 km) per hour late on Monday. Hurricane

conditions and a dangerous storm surge were expected to persist in the area, NHC said.

"Heavy rainfall is expected across the Yucatan Peninsula, the Cayman Islands, and western Cuba thro-

ugh Tuesday, which could lead to flash flooding in urban areas," NHC warned. A hurricane watch is in effect from Morgan City Louisiana to the Mississippi Alabama border, NHC said. Zeta is expected to affect oil production in the Gulf Coast.

Oil producer BP BPL on Monday said it has begun to shut in production at its Gulf of Mexico platforms and assets ahead of Zeta's arrival, after starting a staff evacuation on Sunday. — Reuters

DECCAN Chronicle

28 OCTOBER 2020

Bihar polls may have a wider impact on nation

No Assembly election in Bihar can be said to be imbued with deeper political meaning, especially considering the sharp political cleavage which is on view in our national politics, than the three-stage poll for which the first votes are to be cast today. Also, in no other election in recent memory in the state are the challengers being billed to be in with a chance.

This was considered quite inconceivable only a few weeks ago. It was widely believed that opponents of the NDA government of JD(U)-BJP helmed by chief minister Nitish Kumar, try as hard as they might, had no one to project who could even remotely match the CM in leadership qualities.

Governance failures — even on matters as grave as the ruling coalition's abject failure in dealing with the corona crisis, the return home of lakhs of migrant workers from cities, and the grim economic reality that was self-evident — would be quite simply be forgotten and washed away, it was thought. This derived from the faith showed in analysis that assumed that caste equations were rigid and immutable in Bihar and would favour the incumbents. An important readily accepted factor was that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the capacity to weave magic at election time, surmounting regional aspects.

It was widely assumed that the people had no agency and would be putty in the hands of the incumbents, succumbing with ease to the grand scheme of the electoral battle laid down by the ruling alliance. This was the fundamental consideration that appeared to lead to the decision that the Assembly election will be held when it became due.

The existence of the pandemic and the floods that hit many parts of Bihar were assigned no weight by decision-makers in fixing the election calendar, sweeping aside the objections advanced by the entire opposition. The Opposition camp seemed weak in every way. It appeared to lack cohesion, leadership and financial resources. This was the reason, it is widely believed, that pleas to defer the polls by a few months were dismissed out of hand.

Many of the assumptions made about the electoral landscape today appear less well grounded than before. The surging crowds that greet the campaign of the Mahagathbandhan — the platform of the RJD-Congress-Left parties, the ruling alliance's challengers — and in contrast the disarray in the ruling NDA's electoral effort is now presenting an altogether new aspect of the line-up Bihar that few had thought possible.

The split in the NDA is out in the open. Chirag Paswan's LJP attacking JD(U) is widely thought to be a game plan in which BJP's decision-makers were complicit, loud denials notwithstanding. In the last stage of the campaign, BJP posters carry only the PM's image, not the CM's.

The message is going out that BJP may aim to have its own CM in Bihar for the first time, dumping Mr Kumar. Mahagathbandhan CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav's focus on the promise of mass employment, and making no references to identity politics whatsoever, is enjoying a growing reception at the mass level.

The Amy factor in America

The Trump years have been ugly, so this may not raise eyebrows. But in confirming 48-year-old Amy Coney Barrett to the bench, after having previously declared that Presidents in their last year in office should not be able to nominate a new Justice to the United States Supreme Court, the Republican-controlled Senate has effectively reversed its own "Mitch McConnell rule" of 2016.

Yet had the "rule" not been in place, it would still have been highly presumptuous on the part of the outgoing President, who is supposed to be functioning largely in a care-taking role, to have actually chosen someone to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court bench. In so doing, Donald Trump has, in fact, exposed his own fears of not making it to office a second time. The purpose of this last-minute nomination is clearly to rig all future decisions of the judiciary in favour of the Republican Party. It is what is referred to in common parlance as "packing the court". It goes against the spirit of democratic values.

Will Ms Barrett undo the feminist legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg whose seat she now occupies? For sure, her demurrals on critical issues during her recently concluded confirmation hearings have triggered misgivings. The long-term academic and appeals court judge is known to be a great follower of "superprecedents". Ms Barrett once clerked for Antonin Scalia and, as far as personal views go, is pronouncedly conservative.

In 2006, Ms Barrett signed a newsletter criticising the 1973 landmark *Roe v Wade* judgment (it was no "superprecedent" by her definition). An appeal against stipulations for the purchase of abortion pills enforced during the coronavirus pandemic, along with 17 other restrictions, is expected to be among the first hearings to come up before the court. Ms Barrett also holds a narrow view of the commerce clause of the US Congress and embraces the non-delegation doctrine. These will prove to be challenges in the way of working out tough laws with the help of federal agencies to combat climate change. Democrats also have reason to fear that Ms Barrett's presence will impact the future of Obamacare, which the Trump Administration diluted through neglect and waivers.

Expanding the Supreme Court bench upwards of its current strength of nine

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Printer & Publisher

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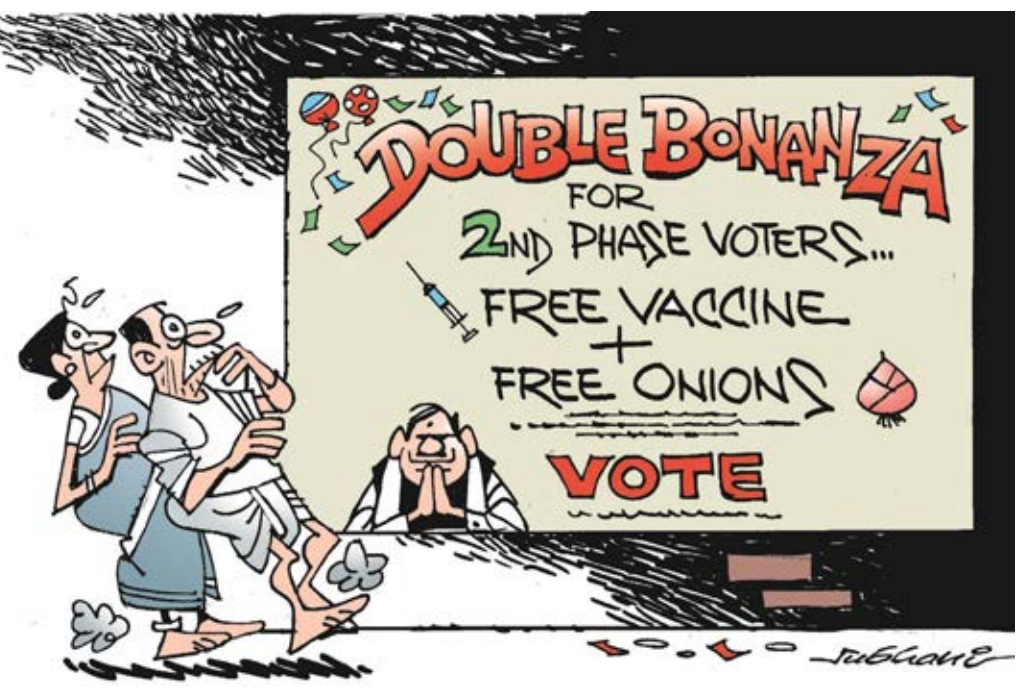
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Subhani



Biden or Trump: Who's win is better for India?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
Reflections

When Joe Biden warned India in 2000 not to take advantage of the Afghan crisis because, as he put it, the whole world, not just the United States, was looking at the Kashmir problem, Jaswant Singh, then India's external affairs minister, promptly cancelled his appointment with the Democratic senator. The snub did not however prevent Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and President George W. Bush signing a defence cooperation agreement and one American visitor following another to New Delhi to flesh out the bones of the multi-faceted cooperation.

The episode is worth remembering for several reasons as India — like the rest of the world — awaits the outcome of America's 2020 presidential contest. The 2000 election was marked by bitter partisan squabbling followed by a flawed victory. Mr Biden, the Delaware Democrat and chairman of the powerful Senate foreign relations committee, was an established friend of India's. Eight months into the new administration, he had written to Mr Bush asking him to remove the sanctions on India that President Bill Clinton had imposed after the Pokharan-2 nuclear tests, but adding that there should be no easing up for Pakistan.

The feverish excitement of President Clinton's Indian tour in early 2000 had not sparked any reciprocal goodwill in America, where righteous proliferation fundamentalists among the Democrats did not forgive India for challenging what they regarded as God's word. Mr Clinton himself saw Pokharan-2 as a personal betrayal. India expected a fairer deal from the Republicans, and amazingly, Mr Bush fulfilled that promise with the historic US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement (known as the 123 Agreement) that he and India's last Congress Prime Minister, the scholarly Dr Manmohan Singh, signed in 2006.

This time, too, it might be a mistake to go too much by appearances... or the experiences of other parties with different perspectives. However, President Donald Trump might appear in media projections and however appealing Mr Biden might seem by contrast, no Indian can afford to forget Palmerston's dictum that only a country's interests — not its allies — are eternal and perpetual. Of course, hard pragmatism can be carried too far. New Delhi's present relations with Israel might be cited as a case in point. Zionist propagandists used to argue that the then 15 Arab votes at the United Nations never supported India on crucial issues like Kashmir or the Sino-Indian border. Yet, India remained aligned with the Arabs ignoring offers of Israeli technical and agricultural assistance, security and intelligence cooperation, sophisticated weaponry and the powerful American Zionist lobby.

Only one factor modifies this persuasive argument: the world's biggest democracy whose founding fathers — Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru — were inspired by lofty beliefs cannot ever ignore the consequences of its actions. Whether or not the Arabs reciprocate, no self-respecting Indian

government can ignore the impact of its policy on Palestine's future.

Mature handling of foreign policy demands a certain balancing of objective moral judgment and national interest.

The absence of this judicious mix prompts sellout allegations, as in some South American republics or Asian client states of the US like Syngman Rhee's South Korea or the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos. That is not how Indians see their national future. Few Indians have any wish to live up to Sitaram Yechury's jibe about being the new Pakistan.

It's a different matter that Indian Americans, the second-largest immigrant group in the United States, mostly support Democratic candidates, although support for Mr Trump has reportedly grown in recent years. A YouGov poll found that 72 per cent of registered Indian American voters support Mr Biden. By comparison, 77 per cent voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and 84 per cent for Barack Obama in 2012. The poll also claims that the number of Trump-supporting Indian Americans has grown to 22 per cent, from 16 per cent in 2016.

The motivation of these people is not, however, the motivation of Indians in India. The latter are far less moved, for instance, by racism in the US, the damage done to American democratic institutions or the consequences of Mr Trump's eccentricities on climate change, Iran or the Covid-19 pandemic than US citizens, regardless of ethnic origin. Mr Trump's unsubstantiated allegation that as vice-president, Mr Biden, his son

and his brothers were "like a vacuum cleaner" getting rich, makes little difference to us. Indian Indians must look at next month's election only in terms of what matters to India.

Mr Biden's win in both Houses of Congress will mean "potentially more favourable US trade policies" for India, predicts UBS Global Research, boosting investors' sentiment and pushing up markets. A Biden victory may also replace the Fed's current chair Jerome Powell with someone more dovish in 2022. If Mr Trump wins, they assume that an unorthodox chairman could be nominated who might even look at negative rates, which would be of tremendous help to Indian markets, resulting in the continued inflow of cheap capital into Indian stock as well as debt markets.

What the financial analyses overlook is the Democratic commitment to human rights, religious freedom and minority opportunities which successive Indian governments have found irksome. While these are not traditional Republican concerns, Mr Trump's harsh rhetoric on immigration probably explains his campaign's recent "Indian Voices for Trump", a coalition of Indian Americans in government and the private sector led by Donald Trump Jr. to "honour the comprehensive global strategic partnership with India" and "build on our US-India partnership".

The younger Mr Trump toured India some years ago on a mission to promote Trump Towers, strengthening the belief that the President puts his money where his mouth is. By that token alone, a Trump victory cannot be to India's disadvantage. A businessman like the US President never ignores the profit motive.

Mr Biden's win in both Houses of Congress will mean 'potentially more favourable US trade policies' for India, predicts UBS Global Research

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

TRUE DEMOCRACY

It was painful to read that in Madhya Pradesh, leaders of various political parties have been using foul language during their electioneering for the by-polls to the 28 assembly constituencies in the state scheduled on November 3. The political leaders need not do extraordinary things. That may be a tall order! At least they can exhibit refined behaviour in public domain, as the prying eyes of the media will not fail to expose their bad demeanour leading to bad education all-round. True democracy demands political socialisation of people in general and electorate in particular, for which the political leaders are expected to play a significant role. Let them not miss the wood for the trees!

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

A GOOD SIGN

IT IS heartening to note that the pandemic that was threatening India is showing a declining tendency thanks to the concerted efforts made by the state governments. However, we cannot remain complacent due to this slowing down as the pandemic may anytime strike back with more fury and force if people fail to abide by the guidelines issued by the government of the states. Most important is the one that is concerned with social distancing and maintaining personal cleanliness. I am quite apprehensive of the dreadful aftermath of opening cinema theatres where people are bound to violate social distance rules more than in other places. While there are so many alternative ways one can enjoy films both there is practically no need for the people to converge at the theatres exposing themselves to the risk of contracting the coronavirus.

V. Girijalakshmi, Coimbatore

CSK ELIMINATION

IT PAINS to note that for the first time the Chennai Super Kings has been eliminated so early from an IPL season. CSK's greatest strength lies in its unshakeable faith in select players, carefully harnessed and fostered by the irrepresible Dhoni over the years, which resulted in three IPL titles and a place in play-offs in its last ten out of ten campaigns. But this year, Dhoni's old guards, including himself, looked a pale, sometimes pitiable, shadow of their once domineering self. However, rather than dwelling deep into the team's mediocre performance this year, one wishes the team comes back strongly next year with youngsters taking the lead. While it is doubtful if Dhoni will take part in IPL 2021, he will certainly leave behind a rich legacy on the yellow army which has been built around him over the years.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

Ashwani Kumar



Ensuring dignity for all, respect for the law, still a key challenge

As India joined the world in celebrating human dignity on Global Dignity Day earlier this month (Oct. 21), regrettably, over seven decades after Independence, we face a legitimate interrogation about our faltering record in the advancement of a defining national aspiration. India stands at number 94 out of 107 countries evaluated on the Global Hunger Index, with over 140 million undernourished children. Unabated cases of rape, encounter deaths, custodial torture, abuse of elders and children, loss of human rights and loss of dignity of the marginalised multitude, the suborning of fundamental freedoms by a muscular State and a fraying democracy mock the constitutional promise of fraternity, with individual dignity as its principal constituent. Even though the Supreme Court, as our Constitution's designated guardian, has declared that the right to life under Article 21, without dignity, is like "a sound that is not heard", a continuing loss of dignity is a painful reality.

Recent events of far-reaching importance involving the executive and judiciary have raised concerns about the institutional role and failure in advancing the Constitution's promise of digni-

ty. An unprecedented letter by the Andhra Pradesh chief minister to the Chief Justice of India, in which he complained about interference by a senior Supreme Court judge in the administration of justice by certain Andhra Pradesh high court judges, has compromised the institutional integrity and dignity of the higher judiciary. Making public his letter, on a sensitive subject under the Chief Justice's consideration, the state's chief executive hasn't done justice to his office either. While judges must defend their dignity and vindicate their oath of office, the chief minister also cannot escape the burden of constitutional discipline and the high standards of rectitude expected of him.

Whether a criminal contempt action against the CM can alone redeem the prestige and dignity of the higher judiciary is debatable. Judging from the public response to the contempt proceedings in Prashant Bhusan's case, only an unanswerable case of criminal contempt founded on clear mala fide by the CM would invest the punitive judicial remedy with credibility and a moral appeal. A credible resolution of a complex situation will indeed test the wisdom of the wise and the inter-institutional capacity to advance constitu-

tional justice. A restrained and sparing use adds to the legitimacy of the contempt jurisdiction, and till recently this was the court's preferred approach. This is because the authority and dignity of the higher judiciary as custodian of the constitutional principle rests not on the "coercive power of the judges but the deference and respect which is paid to them and their acts". Judicial dignity is clearly anchored in its moral rightness rather than a colonial heritage of enforced dignity in a republic of free men. The courts' majesty lies in the objectivity, consistency and intellectual integrity of their judgments, which must remain open to public scrutiny and fair comment. Judicial dignity, in the final analysis, is a function of the community's responsive chord to its pronouncements based upon a shared sense of justice. Judicial excess or abdication are both fatal to judicial prestige.

Unchecked media trials, especially on the electronic and social media, that repeatedly transgress constitutional boundaries with a devastating infraction of the right to privacy and reputation, mocks the promise of fair trials and judicial due process under Article 21. Despite several binding interdicts by the highest court against parallel media

trials at various stages, adversely impacting the course of justice, the brazen illegality continues unrestrained under the gaze of the highest court. The Sushant Singh Rajput and Kangana Ranaut episodes are jarring illustrations. Instances of such trials are still fresh in public memory, like Aarushi Talwar (2017), Nambi Nayaram (2018), 2G spectrum (2018) and P. Chidambaram (2019), as well as the ongoing Sunanda Pushkar and Tarun Tejpal cases, to name only a few. Relentless violation of the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial have left unanswered questions about the abuse of freedom of expression and the impossibility of a just recompense for loss of reputation and dignity of the accused. The profound and poetic pronouncements by the Supreme Court espousing human dignity as the foremost constitutional principle remains no more than a pious declaration of constitutional intent.

Questions about the Court's vacillation and seeming incapacity to enforce its judgments, without which the declaration of law is meaningless, have diminished judicial prestige. A seemingly resigned acceptance by the highest court of the routine and audacious

negation of the legal principles of proportionality, neutralisation, necessity and postponement of publication enunciated by it in relation to media coverage of cases under trial is inexplicable. The highest court needs no reminder of its own law that "the right to declare law carries with it the obligation of enforcing obedience to it". It is hoped that in the several petitions pending before the superior courts on the issue of media trials, an effective framework for enforcement of the law declared by the Court will be established.

Despite a robust dignitarian Constitution whose custody is entrusted to the joint endeavours of the three branches of government, the recent record of our liberal democracy suggests an institutional deficit in the advancement of constitutional goals. But we need not give in to despair as we know our dignity, like destiny, lies within ourselves. The failure of our representatives and democratic institutions to secure it cannot deter us from pursuing the dignitarian agenda as a purpose in perpetuity.

The writer is a former Union law minister. The views expressed here are personal.

SHORT TAKES

Fifa prez Infantino positive for Covid

Lausanne: Fifa president Gianni Infantino has contracted coronavirus, the world's governing body announced on Tuesday. The 50-year-old has mild symptoms and will remain in isolation for a further 10 days. "All people who came into contact with the Fifa President during the last few days have been informed accordingly and they are being requested to take the necessary steps," the body said. "Fifa sincerely wishes President Infantino a speedy recovery," it added. Infantino's last public appearances was at Fifa's Compliance Summit which ended on October 16 when all attendees were present via video. Cases, hospitalisations and deaths from Covid-19 in the body's base, Switzerland, have doubled from one week to the next throughout October.

— AFP

India call feels surreal: Varun

Sharjah: "It feels surreal," said the architect-turned-mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy after he got a maiden India call-up for the T20 series in Australia following his exploits for Kolkata Knight Riders in the ongoing IPL.

The 29-year-old, who only started taking his spin bowling seriously in 2018, said he was not expecting to be picked in the national team. He has played only 12 T20s and featured in a lone First-Class game. "After the match got over I got to know (of my selection into the Indian team). I keep using the same word again and again, it feels surreal," he told BCCI.tv after the game against Kings XI Punjab on Monday night.

"My basic goal was to play in the team regularly and perform and contribute to their wins. Hopefully I'll be able to do the same for India." — PTI

De Villiers set to miss Big Bash

Dubai: The versatile AB de Villiers has decided to skip the Big Bash League (BBL) this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the upcoming birth of his third child but is open to return in future due to "unfinished business" at Brisbane Heat. The two factors prompted the former South African skipper to pull out of the T20 league. The 36-year-old is currently playing in the IPL in the UAE. "We are expecting our latest child very soon and with a young, growing family, and the uncertainty around travel and conditions due to Covid-19, we reluctantly decided it wasn't going to be this season," de Villiers said in a statement.

— PTI

Biggies pull out of Lanka league

Colombo: The inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) have been dealt a severe blow with five overseas players, including Faf du Plessis, Andre Russell and David Miller, pulling out of the T20 tournament less than a week after they were drafted into various franchises. While South African trio of Miller, du Plessis and Dawid Malan are unavailable because of the limited-overs series against England, West Indian Russell has pulled out due to a knee injury.

— PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Krasnodar vs Chelsea from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Istanbul Basaksehir vs Paris Saint Germain from 11.25 pm on Sony Six; Sevilla vs Rennes from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3; Dortmund vs Zenit from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; Juventus vs Barcelona from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Manchester United vs Leipzig from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited
and Printed at
Deccan Chronicle Presses situated
at SP 3, Developed Plot, Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
RNI Registration No: TN ENG/2005/14987
Ph Nos: 22254747, 22254748, 22254750,
22254751
Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

SHAKTIMAN SAHA!

Wriddhiman scores 45-ball 87 as Sunrisers stay in play-off race

SCORECARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: D. Warner c Patel b Ashwin 66, W. Saha c Iyer b Nortje 87, M. Pandey (not out) 44, K. Williamson (not out) 11. Extras (lb-7, wd-4) 11. **Total (for 2 wkts, in 20 overs) 219.**
FoW: 1-107, 2-170.
Bowling: A. Nortje 4-0-37-1, K. Rabada 4-0-54-0, R. Ashwin 3-0-35-1, A. Patel 4-0-36-0, T. Deshpande 3-0-35-0, M. Stoinis 2-0-15-0.

Delhi Capitals: A. Rahane lbw b Rashid Khan 26, S. Dhawan c Warner b Sandeep Sharma 0, M. Stoinis c Warner b Nadeem 5, S. Hetmyer b Rashid Khan 16, R. Pant c sub (S.P. Goswami) b Sandeep Sharma 36, S. Iyer c Williamson b Shankar 7, A. Patel c sub (PK Garg) b Rashid Khan 1, K. Rabada b Natarajan 3, R. Ashwin c Abdul Samad b Holder 7, T. Deshpande (not out) 20, A. Nortje c sub (PK Garg) b Natarajan 1. Extras (lb-4, w-5) 9. **Total (in 19 overs) 131.**
FoW: 1-1, 2-14, 3-54, 4-55, 5-78, 6-83, 7-103, 8-103, 9-125, 10-131.
Bowling: Sandeep Sharma 4-0-27-2, S. Nadeem 1-0-8-1, J. Holder 4-0-46-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-7-3, T. Natarajan 4-0-26-1, V. Shankar 1.5-0-11-1, D. Warner 0.1-0-2-0.

Jason Holder, collecting 22 runs in the sixth over as Delhi reached 54 for two at the end of the Powerplay overs.

However, Rashid dealt Delhi with twin blows, getting rid of both Rahane and Hetmyer in the seventh over. Skipper Shreyas Iyer (7) was next to depart as wickets continued to tumble at regular intervals.

— PTI



Wriddhiman Saha of Sunrisers Hyderabad in action during his 87 against Delhi Capitals in an IPL match in Dubai on Tuesday. Hyderabad won by 88 runs. — BCCI

Rohit doubtful as MI run into RCB

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 27: Rohit Sharma is likely to miss his third game in a row when Mumbai Indians face Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Wednesday with both teams aiming to secure their spot in the IPL playoffs.

While Mumbai are sitting on top of the table despite their eight-wicket hammering by Rajasthan Royals with 14 points, Virat Kohli-led RCB too remain on 14 following their loss to Chennai Super Kings on Sunday.

A win for either side on Wednesday should be enough to take it to the play-offs.

Rohit's fitness has become a subject of unwanted attention ahead of the game. Having missed the last two games due to a hamstring injury, Mumbai Indians skipper returned to the nets on Monday, a day when he was not named in the India squad for the Australia series.

There is still no conclusive update on his fitness from either Mumbai Indians or the BCCI.

In Rohit's absence, Mumbai would persist with both Saurabh Tiwary and Ishan Kishan, who has



Rohit Sharma

played some scintillating knocks.

Quinton De Kock (374 runs) had a rare failure against Rajasthan and he would be keen to make an impact. Kishan (298 runs) and Suryakumar Yadav (283 runs) are among the leading run-scorers who can go on the offensive against any attack.

For RCB, Kohli (415 runs) would like to continue his splendid run in the tournament. Australian Aaron Finch (236 runs), young Devdutt Padikkal (343 runs) and AB de Villiers (324 runs) need to be more consistent and support their skipper.

De Villiers has shown time and again, why he is regarded as one of the best T20 batsmen by turning the clock back on few occasions.

— PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL: ● Matches: 26 ● Hyderabad: 16 ● Delhi: 9 ● Tied: 1 (Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Mumbai Indian in Super over after match ended in a tie)

MEETING IN 2019

- Mumbai Indians beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 runs in Bangalore.
- Mumbai Indians beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets in Mumbai.

MEETING IN 2020

- Royal Challengers beat Mumbai Indian in Super over after match ended in a tie at Dubai.

FOR THE RECORD

- Virat Kohli, who has smashed 296 sixes in 277 innings of 292 matches, needs four sixes to become fourth Indian and 24th batsman overall to complete a triple century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.
- Hardik Pandya scored an unbeaten 60 off 21 balls with seven sixes and two fours in the previous match against Rajasthan Royals in Abu Dhabi.

— S. PERVEZ QAISAR

Mandeep mental skill impresses KL

SINGH RECALLS LATE FATHER'S WISH AFTER UNBEATEN FIFTY

Sharjah, Oct. 27: Mandeep Singh scored a match-winning 66 two days after losing his father, and Kings XI Punjab skipper K.L. Rahul feels the mental toughness shown by the opener has rubbed off on the entire squad.

Mandeep made an unbeaten 66 against Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday to help KXIP record five wins in a row.

The opening batsman, playing in the absence of injured Mayank Agarwal, lost his father last week and attended his funeral via a video call.

"It's so hard when you are away from your family. With the bubble, you don't have the close ones. The kind of toughness he (Mandeep) has shown has rubbed off on other boys as well.

"The way he played today, it makes everyone emotional. He's gone through a rough time, just to put his hand up, be

there and finish the game for the team would make him proud and make his father proud," Rahul said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

With wrist-spinners Murugan Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi bowling well in tandem, Rahul

said the credit for that goes to head coach Anil Kumble.

"When you have Anil Kumble as the coach, it's not surprising that we are playing with two leg-spinners. It's something that he had in his mind even before the IPL started.

"He always kept telling me that towards the second half or at some point that two leg-spinners is always an aggressive option," he said.

KXIP have won all their games since Chris Gayle returned to the side after sitting out in the first half of the tournament.

"It was a very hard decision not to play him (Chris) because he was batting really well. This is the hungriest I have ever seen him in the last 7-8 years that I have played with him. He is running his ones and twos, so that's refreshing.

"He's always positive, always pushing the youngsters." — PTI

MANDEEP GOES GAGA OVER GAYLE

Sharjah, Oct. 27: Kings XI Punjab opener Mandeep Singh was in awe of Chris Gayle's power-hitting against Kolkata Knight Riders, and described the Jamaican as the "greatest T20 player" of the game.

Casing 150 on Monday night, Gayle, who was overlooked and was also ill in the first phase of the IPL, showed why he is called the 'Universe Boss' during his innings of 51 off 29 balls.

Gayle's and Mandeep shared 100 runs in 10.1 overs to help KXIP jump to the fourth spot by registering their fifth win on the trot. "Chris (Gayle) makes the game so easy and I told him that you should never retire. I've never seen him struggle, and he's probably the greatest T20 player ever," Mandeep said.

Gavaskar curious about Rohit's injury

Dubai, Oct. 27: Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar has called for more transparency on the status of 'limited-overs' vice-captain Rohit Sharma's hamstring injury after he was seen practising at the Mumbai Indians' nets within hours of being left out of the squad for an upcoming tour of Australia.

The BCCI did not throw much light on Rohit's fitness and just stated that it is monitoring his progress while announcing the three teams for the Australia tour on Monday. On the same day, Rohit was seen practicing at the Mumbai Indians nets.

"We are talking about the Test matches, which are a month and a half way. What actually is the problem with him will help everybody," he added.



Sunil Gavaskar

kind of injury it is," Gavaskar told IPL broadcaster Star Sports after the game between Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday.

"I think a little bit of transparency, a little bit of openness about what actually is the problem with him will help everybody," he added.

The tour of Australia comprises three T20 Internationals, as many ODIs and four Tests. The series is scheduled to start on November 27.

— PTI

Roma level 3 times in Milan stalemate

Milan, Oct. 27: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice but AC Milan dropped their first points of the Serie A season as Roma came from behind to draw 3-3 at the San Siro on Monday.

In a game played in an empty stadium after the imposition of a coronavirus curfew, Milan were without goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and young Norwegian striker Jens Petter Hauge, who the club announced earlier on Monday had tested positive for Covid-19.

Veteran Romanian goalkeeper Ciprian Tatarusanu, who joined Milan in September, made his debut in place of Donnarumma, and was twice caught on his line from corners and also spilled a shot in the build up to Roma's second-half penalty.

Ibrahimovic struck after

just two minutes, running onto a diagonal pass behind the defence from Rafael Leao and poking the ball past goalkeeper Antonio Mirante.

Milan's problems at corners were not entirely the fault of Tatarusanu. Edin Dzeko was unmarked in front of goal when he headed his team's first equaliser after 13 minutes.

Milan started the second half as they had the first. Portuguese winger Leao outpaced his fullback and laid the ball back to Belgian Alexis Saelemaekers who guided a shot in from 10 yards.

French midfielder Jordan Veretout levelled from the penalty spot after 70 minutes. Ibrahimovic completed his third double in three league appearances with a penalty after 78 minutes, but had an unwitting assist as Roma levelled for a third time.

— AFP

Son, Kane to the rescue for Spurs

Burnley, Oct. 27: Son Heung-min pounced to steal a 1-0 win for lacklustre Tottenham on Monday, linking up with Harry Kane yet again as Jose Mourinho's side climbed to fifth in the Premier League table.

All of the traditional "big six" clubs have dropped unlikely points in the early weeks of the season and Spurs looked set to leave Turf Moor frustrated.

But South Korea forward Son scored his eighth league goal of the season in the 76th minute, heading in from close range after a headed pass from Kane.

Spurs now have 11 points from six games, just two points behind leaders Everton after their third win of the season.

Mourinho hailed his attacking stars, who have now combined for 29 English Premier League goals — only Didier



Tottenham's Son Heung-min (on ground) scores against Burnley their English Premier League match at Turf Moor Stadium in Burnley on Monday.

Drogba and Frank Lampard have managed more, with 36.

"It is an understanding that comes from Mauricio (Pochettino's) time," said

Mourinho. "I don't want all the credit myself, let's share with Mauricio.

"They play together for a long time, probably a different way because Harry



is not always a nine now.

"What pleases me more about them both is that they are two top players but close friends, no jealousy, they both play for

THE RESULTS

| | |
|--|--------|
| Brighton (Livermore 40-og) | 1 |
| West Brom (Grant 83) | 1 |
| Burnley Tottenham (Son 76) | 0 1 |

the team."

RELIEF

The hard-earned three points will be a huge relief to Mourinho, whose side looked like world beaters earlier this month when they hammered Manchester United 6-1 before blowing a 3-0 lead against West Ham.

Tottenham's attacking momentum vanished at Turf Moor, where they struggled to make an impression against Sean Dyche's side, who remain in the relegation zone, without a win this season.

— AFP