

SHORT TAKES

GOLCONDA FORT SURVIVES RAIN BUT DAMAGED

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Though the historic Golconda Fort has survived relentless rains since the previous week, it has suffered immense damage. A portion of the wall near 18 Seedhi graves collapsed, which happens to be the third incident in the past seven days.

Cracks had been noticed along different retaining walls and ramparts, both inside and around the fort. Stone edifices have got loose at many places. And corrective measures are taken, there is threat of more damage to Golconda and its environs in the near future. ASI officials are keeping a watch on the edifice and taking precaution to avoid any causality.

Elsewhere in the city on Wednesday, a rock slid down the hillock of Falaknuma Palace and fell on to the road. According to locals, another boulder had loosened and fallen on the road nine days ago.

In the Old City, an ancient Kaman at Bela near Surajbhan Kaman, apart from a house near Noor Khan Bazaar, collapsed. There have been no casualties though.

CENTRE GIVES 75% OF THE DISASTER FUNDS

From page 1

The Centre contributes 75 per cent of the disaster management funds whereas the remaining 25 per cent has to be pitched in by the respect state or UT. He said that every state should use funds from the state disaster response fund.

"Telangana should also utilise the SDRF on emergency situations immediately. The Centre will reimburse the fund," he said. The Central government will help states after estimating losses after a detailed field visit by Central officers, Mr Reddy said.

He criticised TRS ministers, saying funds which are allocated by the Centre as well as state government is all entirely public money, not some personal money coming from packets of any party or leader. He said that the Telangana government was neglecting encroachments, despite repeated complaints, in and around the Musi river area.

Chiding Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Mr Reddy said CM Rao should check satellite maps of 2014 and compare it with now to realise the extent of encroachments of the Musi river, and demanded demolition of such encroachments.

LOW-LYING AREAS TO BE EVACUATED FIRST

From page 1

The restoration and repair works would be taken up after evacuating residents in low lying areas. In the long run, all 185 lakes, which have already reached full-tank level, will be repaired and restored at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore. Repairs are being taken up at all breached water bodies on a war footing, Rajat Kumar claimed.

Kumar said the department was currently not focussing on lake's encroachments since most of them in FTL had completed their mutation process as per official records. He said action will be initiated against encroachers after the emergency situation ends.

Commenting on incidents of lake breaches, the irrigation secretary claimed that breach of Appa Cheruvu was not a human error, he claimed. He conceded that three persons lost their lives near Palle Cheruvu. People were not allowed to visit tanks and lakes until water levels receded, he said.

Meanwhile, after efforts of over 48 hours, irrigation department finally found sluice gates in the Fox Sagar lake in Jeedimetla. They were opened and water released after evacuation of people in low lying areas.

The twin reservoirs under Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar were at full reservoir level.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board officials have released 1,372 cusecs of water from Himayat Sagar by lifting gates. Inflows at Osman Sagar were also reduced to 800 cusecs.

Waterlogged houses raise unbearable stink

Dip in night temp is also one of the factors aggravating stench

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

The stench emanating from waterlogged homes is nauseating and people cleaning them are having a tough time as they simply cannot work continuously. For the last two days, volunteers and family members cleaning the homes state that the smell is unbearable.

During the night, the stench gets worse as the continuously flowing water from lakes, sewage and storm water drains worsens it. The dip in night temperatures is also one of the factors aggravating the stench.

People have dumped sofas, mattresses, clothes,

utensils and wooden furniture outside their homes. Along with the water in the floods, there came jute bags, helmets, wooden toys and also sanitary materials which are now being removed from homes. Many items are stuck to the walls, furniture and along the steps as water flowed in.

Mansoor Ahmed, from Baba nagar, says "It is difficult to work continuously. Despite wrapping cloths around our noses, we are still not able to work continuously. Women started crying and we had to keep them back at relatives' homes as it was not possible to get them to do the cleaning."

Emotionally drained seeing

the state of their homes, many have been unable to come to terms with the devastation. The Greater Hyderabad municipal corporation has deployed machines to remove the silt and collect garbage from outside homes. Packets of bleach are being distributed for spraying and cleaning. With electricity yet to be restored and no fresh water, cleaning has been difficult.

Many are cleaning during the day time but the night is being spent at relatives' homes. Till the situation improves, the families have decided not to shift back.

Non-government organisations state that the help

in terms of food, water packets and other household requirements is abundantly pouring in. There is a dearth of medical camps and that is strongly required. A non-governmental organisation has set up a team of paramedical staff to go from house to house with a testing kit.

A few doctors have been stationed outside and they are checking those with fever and fungal infections. They have limitations as only 30 homes can be covered due to the muck and filth around. With more than 30,000 people affected and many others still in waterlogged colonies, there is a need for more focused outreach.

A helping hand for the marooned



Relief material being supplied to a household which was marooned at Ramanthapur on Wednesday as the floodwaters are yet to recede. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE



Visitor at Osmansagar in Gandipet on Wednesday. The reservoir has not reached its full level due to encroachments. — R.PAVAN



A resident shows rice that got wet due to floods in Ramanthapur. — DC



Residents of Padma colony in Nallakunta protest against the illegal encroachment of a Nala. Due to this, the colony was flooded and water had entered into the houses the residents said. — DC

Uttam seeks higher compensation for floods

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said that the state government should increase the amount for flood relief from ₹500 crore to ₹5,000 crore.

Uttam Kumar Reddy was discussing the issue while addressing the members of the TPCC core committee, which met at Pragnapur in Gajwel constituency on Tuesday night in the presence of AICC in-charge of Telangana affairs, Manickam Tagore. The committee discussed various issues including the flood situation in Telangana, distress in the agriculture sector and the

Kalwakurthy lift irrigation scheme. "A number of issues such as huge misery and loss of life, property and agricultural crops and the inadequate response of state and Central governments were discussed. The committee passed resolutions on various issues unanimously," said Uttam Kumar Reddy. It was decided to write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand that the present situation in Telangana be declared a national calamity, he said.

The Congress party condemned the negligent attitude of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao who did not even once tour flood affected areas of Hyderabad and neighbouring districts. Congress demanded that

the amount sanctioned by the state government for flood relief be increased from ₹500 to ₹5,000 crore while an ex-gratia of ₹25 lakh be given to families which had lost a member due to rains and floods. For houses damaged fully due to floods, a compensation of ₹5 lakh must be given while ₹2 lakh must be provided as compensation for partially damaged houses. The Congress also demanded that all houses in areas where flood water had entered be provided with a compensation of ₹50,000.

Mr Reddy said that the state government must immediately take up enumeration of crop damages due to rains and floods. "For all farmers whose crops were damaged extensively, ₹20,000 per acre

must be released immediately, including tenant farmers," he demanded.

A PCC sub-committee was formed to review all aspects of the Kalwakurthy lift irrigation scheme and recommend future course of action. It comprises CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, MP A. Revanth Reddy, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, MLC D. Sreedhar Babu, former ministers Ponnala Lakshmaiah and P. Sudarshan Reddy, AICC secretaries Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, S.A. Sampath Kumar and Ch. Vamshichand Reddy and former MP Dr. Mallu Ravi. AICC secretary Madhu Yashki Goud will oversee relief measures on behalf of the Congress, Mr Uttam Reddy added.

KTR inspects flood-hit areas, distributes relief

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) minister K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday visited flood-affected areas and also distributed ₹10,000 compensation to the victims. Rao visited relief camps and flood-affected areas in Secunderabad, Amberpet and Uppal Assembly constituencies apart from Boduppal municipal corporation areas.

The MA&UD minister assured the residents that the government will come up with permanent solutions to avoid flood-like situations in the city. Along with Minister Malla Reddy, T. Padma Rao, Bethi Subash Reddy and others, he handed over the compensation amount to families in Boduppal, Amberpet, Nallakunta, Lalapet and other areas.

In the colonies in Boduppal Municipal Corporation, he inspected facilities provided in shelter homes and interacted with victims to learn about their grievances. He instructed officials to provide proper food and medical facilities in the medical camps.



MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao visits flood-affected areas in Secunderabad, Amberpet and Uppal Assembly constituencies apart from Boduppal municipal corporation areas on Wednesday

The minister asked officials to provide a special dining hall.

Rama Rao also inspected Nalla Cheruvu restoration works and asked the officials to expedite them. He said "As a temporary relief, the government is

handing over ₹10,000 to families affected by rains."

He said that the officials will soon inspect the damaged houses and submit a report to the government, which will provide additional financial support to families whose houses were fully or partially damaged.

Aparna Group donates ₹6 crore

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

In response to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's call to people to come forward and extend help while tackling the prevailing unprecedented flood situation, Aparna Group has come forward with a ₹6 crore donation to the CM Relief Fund (CMRF).

Aparna Group managing director, S.S. Reddy said: "Aparna Group has always aligned efforts towards the larger well-being of the society. We strongly believe in helping the community in its hour of grief and this donation is an extension of this belief. Through

this endeavor, we want to assist the state government in its efforts to manage and mitigate the ongoing crisis. We will continue to consciously help the government in their efforts to enable people to overcome the calamity."

Over the years, the Aparna Group has worked persistently in the areas of social welfare and healthcare. Their CSR arm, Aparna Novel Society for Education and Research (ANSWER) has taken up many community-driven initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of underprivileged children as well as senior citizens.

5-man Central team for Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

A five-member team of central officials is scheduled to visit Hyderabad and districts of Telangana for assessing damage caused by floods to properties, roads and crops.

The inter-ministerial team, led by Praveen Vashista, joint secretary with the ministry of home affairs, will arrive on Thursday. Other officials of the team will be from ministries of agriculture, finance, water resources and transport, apart from National Highways Authority.

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy

● THEY WILL check the flood relief measures being taken up in Hyderabad and various parts of the state

said the central team will interact with flood-affected people and farmers. They will check the flood relief measures being taken up in Hyderabad and various parts of the state, apart from hold a meeting in Hyderabad with state officials to discuss the overall situation.

Subsequently, the team will submit a detailed report to the centre on damage to properties, roads and loss of standing crops in various areas.

BJYM LEADER STOPPED FROM VISITING VICTIMS

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

BJYM leader PM Sai Prasad was arrested at his old Alwal residence around 4.30 am on Wednesday to prevent him from visiting flood-affected areas of Malkajgiri.

According to Sai Prasad, he and his party workers were to visit the inundated areas and extend relief aid to those who were impacted.

"We have been conducting flood relief programmes in other areas too, so why is that I have been stopped from entering Malkajgiri. When I asked what charges I was being detained, the police personnel had no answer," he said.

He told Deccan Chronicle that the ruling party MLA of Malkajgiri did not want to see that the aid was being extended by him and his supporters. "He influenced the police to take me into custody," he said.

BJP leader and MLC Ramchander Rao said, "Ruling party leaders are not allowing other parties to carry on with relief activities in the flooded areas. TRS members are doing so because of the upcoming GHMC elections."

He said that the arrest of Sai Prasad was 'undemocratic'.

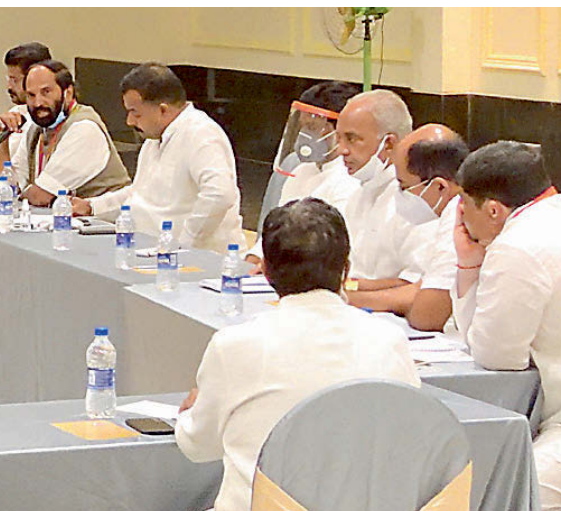
According to Alwal Sub-Inspector, M. Parsuram, the arrest was made around 6:30 am 'after we received information from the Malkajgiri police station that the person, along with his party members, was to take out a rally protesting against the government.

LANDSLIDE AHEAD OF JAGAN TEMPLE VISIT

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 21

Big boulders fell from the hill beside a Durga temple on the hilltop Indrakeeladri minutes before the scheduled visit of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the temple on Wednesday in Vijayawada. Three persons were injured and officials started a rescue operation to see if anyone was stuck beneath the boulders.

The CM was scheduled to visit the Durga temple at 3.45 pm to present silk robes to the goddess. However, due to the mishap he decided to visit the temple at 4.45 pm.



Telangana Congress core committee holds a meeting at Pragnapur. Excess rains, flood situation and agricultural losses in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana were discussed — P. ANIL KUMAR

SHORT TAKES

F2, RAVIPUDI
WIN IFFI-2019
AWARDSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Tollywood multi-starrer *F2*, and its director Anil Ravipudi, have won the Indian Panorama Award-2019. The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) selected 26 films from different languages and *F2* is the only Telugu film in the category, according to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Wednesday. The film stars Venkatesh, Varun Tej, Tamannah and Mehreen and is produced by Dil Raju.

In his immediate reaction, Ravipudi said, "I am delighted that our film *F2* and I have won the coveted award."

He thanked SVC, Dil Raju, Shirish, Venkatesh garu and all those who helped make the laugh-riot, which achieved box-office success.

TS RECORDS
1,579 NEW COVID
CASES, 5 DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

There were 1,579 new Covid-19 positive cases and five deaths in the last 24 hours in Telangana State. Approximately 41,475 persons were tested during the period. The number is declining as fewer people are reporting with symptoms. The total active cases are presently at 20,449.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits recorded 256 new cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 135 and Ranga Reddy 102.

Khammam district registered a slight increase with 106 and Nalgonda 90 cases.

Wearing a mask is important and experts are urging that decline in cases must not make people complacent as the threat remains and following the protocol is the best safeguard against falling victim.

Durga in full splendour



The idol of goddess Durga in full glow at a pandal in Esamia Bazaar, Hyderabad, on Wednesday. The pandal saw steady flow of devotees. — R. PAVAN

Low mutation of Covid to
boost vaccine longevity

Unlike influenza, SARS Cov-2 won't need vaccine every year

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

The low mutation of SARS Cov-2 virus allows for antibodies and vaccines to provide longer immunity when compared with influenza virus according to a study collated in the World Health Organization database.

The study has evaluated the influenza virus and SARS Cov-2 and it is found that while the for-

mer requires a vaccine every year, it will not be the same for SARS Cov-2 virus.

Due to the lower rate of mutation, the different strains will have one vaccine which will be effective, say researchers. The researchers had isolated

the first strain that emerged from Wuhan and found that the vaccine candidates that have adenovirus have worked in animals.

With the phase three trials going on around the world of the eight vaccine candidates,

researchers state that low mutation rate means that the most safe and effective vaccine will work for all the strains.

Earlier it was opined that like influenza virus, Coronavirus will also require a new combination every year. But researchers across the globe who have been studying the virus state that they find that one vaccine will provide longer immunity.

TWO GET LIFER
FOR MURDER OF
SHEEP OWNERDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Two youth, part of a five-member gang of youngsters stealing sheep, were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder.

Police said accused Mohd Aizaz, Mohd Hasmath, Mohd Dastagiri, Mohd Habeeb and Syed Khaja Samdani hatched a plan to steal sheep. Accordingly, they hired a vehicle, carried a sword and cricket wickets, and broke open the lock of a shed on the intervening night of March 30-31, 2013. While they managed to steal four sheep, their owners Mekala Mallaiah and his son woke up and alerted their neighbours. While fleeing Aizaz and Hasmath hit Mallaiah with the sword and wicket. He suffered grievous injuries and died at the hospital. Police arrested all the five the accused and pursued the case in court.

The XIV Additional District Judge Court at LB Nagar sentenced Aizaz and Hasmath to life imprisonment. Habeeb died while the case was on trial. Dastagiri and Khaja have been acquitted.

TS TO GIVE AID
TO LAWYERS,
CLERKS

Hyderabad: Needy lawyers and their clerks affected by lockdown in Telangana state, would get a second round of financial assistance on Thursday with the state government sanctioning ₹10 crore toward it.

HC: What's wrong in
asking for caste info?VUJJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday asked petitioners what was wrong in asking for caste information while entering the agriculture and non-agriculture property details in the Dharani portal.

The division bench, comprising chief justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy, observed "What is wrong if the information on your caste is asked. Right from the time you get into kindergarten, your caste details are asked and entered in your records. The government says it will protect your personal details and ensure that it will not be accessed by others."

The bench was dealing with a PIL filed by I. Gopal Sharma, who raised objections on being forced to indicate his caste while give property details. He informed the court that except for publication in the daily newspapers, the decision of the Telangana government is not backed by a statute, rules or regulations. It is only an oral instruction to the people of Telangana to part with their personal as well as their property details.

D. Prakash Reddy, senior counsel representing the petitioner, submitted that the government intends to keep the information pertaining to its citizens (property and personal details) on the website, where there is no security for such information.

Aadhaar details and caste details are sought from the citizens and will be kept in the public domain which can

be accessed by anyone and the decision was not even backed by an executive instruction.

Further, Reddy informed the bench that the Supreme Court, in Puttuswamy said that any government can elicit personal information viz., caste details etc. from its citizens only when some welfare schemes are being doled out by it, and not otherwise.

He also raised the time specified by the state government to enter all the property details.

The government is saying that no property will be transferred or get registered if the property was not entered in the Dharani portal in the time period specified. It is a clear violation of the law, Reddy said.

Advocate general B.S. Prasad informed the court that the data feeding was a continuous process and there is no time frame.

He further sought a short adjournment to file a detailed counter affidavit.

The court adjourned the PIL to November 3, 2020, recorded the statement made by Prasad that there was no timeframe to enter the data into the Dharani portal and the data will be protected and issued notices to the chief secretary, special chief secretary of the registration and stamps department, principal secretary, municipal administration, secretary panchayat raj and rural development, commissioner and inspector general of registrations and stamps and the commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, directing them to file their replies to the contentions raised by the petitioner.

NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

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File No. AC2/146/2020/PGD Notification Dated: 21-10-2020

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R.O. No. : 609-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADV71/11/2020-21 Dated 21-10-2020

Sd/- I/c Dean

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COVID-19
COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|----------------------------|----------|
| (+56,149) | (+701) |
| 77,04,399 | 1,16,639 |
| covid19india.org | |
| STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS | |
| (+1,579) | (+5) |
| TS: 2,26,124 | 1,287 |
| (+3,746) | (+27) |
| AP: 793,299 | 6,508 |

| CASES AROUND THE WORLD | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 4,13,01,999 | |
| DEATHS | |
| 11,32,951 | |
| COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES | |
| 213 | |

worldometers.info/
coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwauja Shuddha Shashti till 7.41 am
Star: Poorvashada till 1.01 am (Friday)
Varjyam: 10.46 am to 12.21 pm
Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to 10.51 am; 2.41 pm to 3.28 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 4, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.10 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.55 pm
Isha: 7.04 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.11 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.49 PM
MOONSET 11.44 PM
MOONRISE 11.03 AM

COUNTER POINT



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SHORT TAKES

LTHMRHL MD & CEO RECEIVES GLOBAL HONOUR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited (LTHMRHL) managing director and CEO, K.V.B. Reddy, has been conferred with 'Construction World Person of the Year 2020 - Private Sector', by Construction World Global Awards.

The award is presented to professionals for their achievements in their respective careers that helped take the industry forward.

In his thanksgiving after receiving the award virtually, Reddy stated "I thank Construction World for conferring this prestigious award to me. I also congratulate all this year's award winners. When I look back at my three-and-a-half decade professional journey, what brings me utmost joy is the learning that I could gain in the process. I dedicate the success to each member of my team. The award reiterates the fact that more hard work lies ahead for all of us."

● **THE AWARD** is presented to professionals for their achievements in their respective careers that helped take the industry forward.

Dubbaka byelection turns prestige issue

Congress trying to ensure it gets more votes than BJP

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

The byelection to the Dubbaka constituency has become an issue of prestige as well as a key to the fate of many leaders. For the Congress, the byelection is of greater significance than the Karimnagar Lok Sabha byelection years ago, which was to fill in K. Chandrashekar Rao's seat in the then undivided Andhra Pradesh. At the time of the Karimnagar bypolls, then Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy deployed ministers as in-charges for each Assembly constituency and MLAs as in-charges for each mandal. It is a strategy that the Congress is repeating for the Dubbaka byelection.

The Congress is fighting to not only try to inflict an unlikely vic-

● **POLITICAL LOBBIES** speculate that this election could also become a matter of importance for Tagore. This is the first electoral tussle for the party after he took charge and people wonder if beginner's luck would be working for him.

tory against the TRS but at the very least ensure it gets more votes than the BJP. In order to ensure they at least come a fighting second, Telangana Congress state in-charge Manickam Tagore has appointed state-level leaders as booth in-charges.

The importance of the byelection to Congress became undeniably clear when MPs like Komatireddy Venkat Reddy took charge of Daulatabad mandal and A. Revanth Reddy of Mirdoddi mandal. Venkat Reddy

declared publicly that he would get at least 100 votes more from his mandal than the TRS. Revanth Reddy is striving hard to ensure his party gains an upper hand over the pink party in Mirdoddi. Similarly, former deputy CM Damodar Rajanarsinh is trying to ensure a Congress victory in Thoguta mandal. TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy is leading the overall campaign and aggressively attacking both the TRS and BJP in his addresses, which have been getting good response from the people.

Political lobbies speculate that this election could also become a matter of importance for Tagore. This is the first electoral tussle for the party after he took charge and people wonder if beginner's luck would be working for him. A victory could spur the party further.

Tagore's political approach has led to many good changes for the party. With the support of Uttam Kumar Reddy, Tagore has brought great cohesiveness to the Congress. Both of them are personally monitoring and reviewing every development in Dubbaka. Some political watchers observe that the Dubbaka byelection might be the flagging off of the Congress' official launch of the 2023 Assembly election campaign.

Despite serious efforts, scuttled in the party corridors is saying that the party is not too optimistic of a positive result. The TRS' aggressive campaign, with its unmatched money power and tacit to blatant support from officials, besides an active campaign by the BJP, is giving the Congress a tough time.



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao visits the ailing former home minister Nayani Narasimha Reddy at the Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday.

Nayani in critical condition

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday visited former home minister Nayani Narasimha Reddy, who has been undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospitals in Jubilee Hills area of the city.

KCR was quite moved on witnessing

the condition of his long-time associate, who has been with him since the launch of TRS party. He enquired from senior doctors the health status of Narasimha Reddy. Doctors gave the CM a detailed briefing on treatment being given to the former home minister.

The Chief Minister also met family mem-

bers of Narasimha Reddy and made inquiries from them.

The former minister had recovered from Covid-19 a few weeks ago. He was admitted to the hospital once again after his health deteriorated.

Doctors say Narasimha Reddy's condition remains critical. He has been on a ventilator as well as dialysis.

Cops pay tribute to martyrs on Commemoration Day

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Cyberabad police conducted a police commemoration day parade at the police martyrs' memorial, Cyberabad CP office lawns, Gachibowli, on Wednesday.

The commissioner, V.C. Sajjanar, received the guard of honour from police personnel and paid tribute to the martyrs. According to the police, 264 police personnel have laid down their lives this year. The brass band parade was witnessed by all present. The commissionerate, with the help of IT companies, has taken the initiative to see that the children of the martyrs get jobs.

Speaking at the occasion, Sajjanar said, "We remember the



Home minister Md Mahmood Ali (partly seen) along with top police officials pay tribute to martyrs on Police Flag Day at the police martyrs' memorial in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

supreme sacrifice of our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation for our better tomorrow. Today all the citizens are safe and secured because of those who sacrificed their lives. For a better tomorrow, these sacri-

fices have given hope and security." The other officers present at the flag day parade were Shamsabad DCP, Prakesh Reddy, traffic, DCP, S.M. Vijay Kumar and Madhapur DCP, M. Venketeshwarlu.

UoH ANNOUNCES 9 PM'S RESEARCH FELLOWS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

University of Hyderabad (UoH) has announced selection of its first set of PhD scholars for fellowships under the lateral entry channel of Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme, under which nine of 13 fellowships were announced.

The remaining four lateral entry channel fellowships will be carried forward for the succeeding cycle. In addition to this, UoH can offer five direct entry channel fellowships under PMRF scheme in the current cycle. Each fellow under PMRF scheme will receive a monthly fellowship of ₹70,000, which may increase to a maximum monthly fellowship of ₹80,000, towards the end of PhD, provided the performance during the initial years is satisfactory.

AIMES plea on scholarship forms

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

All India Muslim Educational Society (AIMES) has requested Ministry for Minority Affairs to extend by two months the date for submitting Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship forms. The last date for submission of these forms is October 31.

● **FAROOQ REQUESTED** the Union minister to extend the date for submission of forms

AIMES state general secretary M. S. Farooq wrote a letter to Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi pointed out that following heavy rains and floods

during past one week, people in Telangana have suffered a lot. Many of them have lost their belongings including certificates.

Farooq requested the Union minister to extend the date for submission of forms, so that students will have sufficient time to collect their duplicate certificates and file applications.

TOP COP INVOKES PD ACT AGAINST DRUG PEDDLER

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21.

The PD Act was invoked against a drug peddler B. Bharath Singh, 39, of Langer House by the Hyderabad city police commissioner on Wednesday. Police said Bharath Singh was involved in 10 cases under the NDPS Act adding that he was arrested and released from jail earlier for selling of ganja under the Mangalhat PS limits.

As he was continuously committing offences affecting people's health and his activities beyond the control of ordinary law it was necessary to keep him under detention, they said.

● **POLICE SAID** Bharath Singh was involved in 10 cases under the NDPS Act.

In Loving Memory

Children & Grandchildren
Remembering the Legend
Pt. Amba Prasad Ji
Renowned Harmonist
(DOB: 27.03.1905 - DOD 22.10.1999)
on his
21st Death Anniversary
Biography Release
as
Shradanjali
(S/2021/D00726)

OBITUARY

RAMESH MEHTA
DOD: 21st October 2020
Inserted by: MEHTA FAMILY
(CA-3445)

BHOG

KAWALJEET KAUR NARULA
W/o Late Mokham Singh Narula
M/o. Jasvinder Singh & Amandeep Singh
Samapti of Sri Akand Path Sahabji today
22.10.2020 at 12 PM, Kiran & Antim
Ardas 1 PM, At Gurudwara Shri Guru
Singh Sabha, Ashok Bazar, Hyderabad.
In Grief: NARULA FAMILY
Narula & Co.
9505300555, 9505300666
(S/2021/D00736)

OBITUARY

M. JALALUDDIN BABA
S/o. Late. M. MOHIBUDDIN.
(RETD) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
A.P. GENCO, HYDERABAD.
We regret to inform the sad demise of
the most loving and caring husband,
father, grandfather, friend and
colleague on 15.10.2020.
From: Family, Near & Dear.
Ph:9004740190

10th DAY CEREMONY

Mrs. MANDAL KALAVATHI
W/o M.V.N. Goud, Yapral
You will always remain in our
hearts forever.
Inserted by: Sons, Daughters,
Daughters-in-law and
Grand Daughters.
(S/2021/D00727)

OBITUARY

This is to inform you all about the
sad demise of Zahera Siddiqua (35)
Adhaar No.57752051465, R/o. Rajiv
Gandhi Nagar Pahadi Shareef, Hyd.,
D/o. Late Mr. Siddiq Ahmed, She
Passed away on 20-10-2020. Her
brother Mr. Farhan Ahmed Siddique
expresses deep and heartfelt
condolences May the Allah Almighty
take the departed soul to her Heavenly.
The funeral services had been
completed on Tuesday 20-10-2020
at 7.30 pm. In Grave Yard Majid e
Huda Kattalguda Azampura, Hyd.
Yours Sincerely Farhan Ahmed
Siddique. Ph:+91-9989441397.

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. C.G. DEIVADHEENAM
B.Sc., B.E.
Retired Divisional Engineer (DPE)
AP Transco
"You remain with us every moment,
guiding us in spirit & in action."
Inserted by:
M.M. CLARA SUSEELA (Wife) & Sons, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children
Ph: 8639833035

IN LOVING MEMORY

KAWALJEET KAUR NARULA
W/o Late Mokham Singh Narula
Inserted by:
Amrit Soma Parivaar
(S/2021/D00737)

2nd ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. M. SWARNALATHA
D.O.D: 22-10-2018
Days are passing into years,
We remember you in silent Tears
Inserted By : FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9440401054

IN MEMORIAM

PUSHPAVATI MEHAN
DOB: 15.04.1914
DOD: 21.10.2002
(W/o Late Mr Ramnath Mehan
(Sole Prop. Signal Sports Co, Abids)
Deeply mourn a lot both Mother &
Sister. Daughter joins Parents
Inserted by:
Gianeshwar Kumar Mehan (Puppy)
CEO & MD OF SIGNAL SPORTS CO.,
ABIDS
(S/2021/D00732)

6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**OUR DEAREST APPA
DASS ELIAS**
Everloving Wife, Children,
Grand Children &
Great Grand Child, MIA
(B/2021/D0074)

PRARTHANA

RAMESH MEHTA
DOB: 28th April 1953 DOD: 21st October 2020
Date: 23rd October, 2020,
Time: 3.00 pm to 3.30 p.m.
Venue: Residence, Plot No. 67, Road
No. 2, West Marredpally-26.
Inserted by: MEHTA FAMILY
Contact No. 9966522277, 9505354227
(CA-3445)

IN LOVING MEMORY

KAWALJEET KAUR NARULA
W/o Late Mokham Singh Narula
Inserted by:
Sdn. & S. Dilip Singh Saluja
Chitranjan Singh Saluja
(S/2021/D00735)

IN EVERLOVING MEMORY

SHRI CM THOMAS
D.O.D.: 22.10.2011
Dear Dad, Your memories are an
inspiration for us to carry on with
the value you imbibed in us.
Missed dearly and remembered by:
**Saramma and Family
C T Mathew and Family
C T Jesudas and Family**
(B/2021/D0074)

15th ANNIVERSARY

Smt. Kolluru Nagaveni Mudiraj
Ever Loving Memory of Your Love and
Samskars You have given to Us.
Husband: K.Sadanand Mudiraj
Son: Smt&Sri: K.Pawan Kumar & Usha Sree
Daughters: Smt.Meenakshi Ramesh
kum.Divya & Kum.Anjani & Grand Children
Smt. Kolluru Nagaveni Mudiraj Charitable
& Memorial Trust, Agapur, Hyd Ph:9346256087

14th ANNIVERSARY
He will swallow up death forever...
Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces (IS 25:8)

OLIVE PRIYANATH
DOB: 05-08-1973 - DOD: 22-10-2006
Husband: Kirubakaran
Son: Joey, Parents: Priyanath, Sarala
Sisters: Keren Samson, Junia Moses,
Brother-in-law: Moses, Samson & Children
Contact : 9440915468

16th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDER V TOLANI
DOD : 20-10-2004
Those we love don't go away.
They walk besides us everyday.
Unseen unheard but always near.
Still loved, still missed you dear.
Inserted by:
TOLANI FAMILY

IN LOVING MEMORY

KAWALJEET KAUR NARULA
W/o Late Mokham Singh Narula
Inserted by: Sdn. Amrit Pal Kaur
Amandeep Singh & Harpreet Kaur
Gagandeep Singh &
Taranpreet Kaur
Sachdeva Family
(S/2021/D00738)

Over 52K students switch to govt schools

HARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

As many as 52,201 students, out of the total admissions to government schools till date, (approximately 1.81 lakh), have reportedly switched from private schools, as per government data.

At a time when online education is being provided to government school students via T-SAT and other media, students in private budget schools by

contrast are suffering due to closure caused by the pandemic-induced lockdown. Most private budget schools in the state are on the verge of closing down due to non-payment of fees and have even asked the state government to rescue them.

Another reason, as TRSMA general secretary, S. Madhusudhan, points out, is the reluctance of parents, especially from the low-income families, to pay the pending fees of pri-

ate schools. "Most private budget schools have not received last year's fees as well as this year's fees so far. To have their children continue in private schools, parents would need to pay up a huge amount," said Madhusudhan.

Rejecting state government data, Madhusudhan said, "To be able to take admission into a government school, students need to get a transfer certificate, and we have so far not issued any TCs during the

pandemic, leading to a possible duplication of numbers of enrollments in private as well as government schools."

Teachers of government schools moreover are on an enrolment drive. "They go from door-to-door asking if the kids are attending classes and enrol the student on the basis of Aadhar card identification. The records are then given to concerned mandaleducation officers or mandal-resource persons who

delete the records from any school. Sometimes, students don't even know what school they are in, private or government," Madhusudhan explained.

This practice has led to private budget schools not being able to collect any fees and further having to bear the brunt of the financial troubles in the pandemic. So far there has been no response from the government to TRSMA's representation asking for help through a takeover.

SHORT TAKES

INDO-US 2+2
TALKS CONFIRMED
ON OCT. 26, 27DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

United States secretary of state Michael R. Pompeo and secretary of defense Mark T. Esper will indeed visit New Delhi on October 26 and 27 and will hold talks with their Indian counterparts S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh on October 27 as part of the Indo-US 2+2 talks at the foreign and defence ministerial level, New Delhi finally announced on Wednesday, adding that the agenda would "cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest".

In a separate late evening statement, the US said the talks were "to advance the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and expand cooperation to promote stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and the world".

Pompeo, meanwhile, will separately visit Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia after his visit to India.

The tense situation on the Sino-Indian border in the Ladakh sector and Chinese military brinkmanship in Asia are bound to figure during the talks, observers point out.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH
INTERROGATED
AGAIN BY EDYUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, OCT. 21

Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was on Wednesday again summoned by the Srinagar wing of Enforcement Directorate (ED) where he was grilled by its officials in connection with an alleged multi-crore scam in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

This was the second time in three days that the octogenarian politician and three-time chief minister of J&K had to face the cross-examination by the ED officials, termed by the NC as "part of a coercive plot." His son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah lamented, "This on a day when my father turns 84!"

On Monday, Senior Abdullah was interrogated by the ED for seven hours over his alleged role in misappropriation of ₹113.66 crore (including bank interest) received by J&KCA from the BCCI between April 2002 and December 2011.

NOTICE TO MP GOVT
OVER INDUCTION OF
NON-LEGISLATORSRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOVAL, OCT. 21

Madhya Pradesh high court on Wednesday issued notice to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state Assembly speaker Rameswar Sharma over induction of 14 non-MLAs as ministers in the state government. 14 Congress MLAs had resigned from Assembly in March leading to the fall of 15-month-old Kamal Nath government. They later quit Congress and joined BJP.

They were inducted in the Shivraj ministry later. The court has set December 14 this year as the next date of hearing in the case. The court was responding to a petition filed by one Aradhana Bhargav seeking suspension of the ministers from their posts.

INDIA RECORDS
STEADY DIP IN
COVID-19 CASESDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

As several European countries have started witnessing resurgence of a second wave of Coronavirus, India seems to be slowly coming out of its first wave as the fresh Covid-19 cases and deaths in the country continue to decline. On Wednesday, India's overall Covid-19 tally crossed 76.51 lakh with 54,044 new cases and 717 fatalities in a day. Total deaths in India so far due to the virus has been 1.16 lakh.

"India has sustained its trend of maintaining the active cases below the 7.5 lakh mark for the 2nd successive day. With a high number of Covid-19 patients recovering every day, India's steady trend of posting high levels of daily recoveries also continues. 61,775 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours in the country compared to 54,044 new confirmed cases," said the officials of Union health ministry.

HC relief



Dhakis, traditional drummers, wait to be booked by members of community puja pandals for performance during the Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata on Wednesday. The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday partly modified its order on community Durga Pujas, allowing drummers to perform within the no-entry zones of the marquees. — PTI

PLA soldiers find it difficult
to adapt to high altitudes

Soldiers confused, completely disoriented due to hypothermia in cold

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

Extreme climatic conditions in the high altitude areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh — which has been witnessing massive build-up of troops both by Indian Army and the People's Liberation of Army (PLA) since the last few months — has started to take a toll on the PLA soldiers.

Corporal Wang Ya Long of the PLA, who was apprehended by the Indian Army when he strayed across the LAC in Demchok sector on Monday — was heavily disoriented due to the extreme weather, which led him to cross over the LAC, hardly realising that he had walked over to the Indian side.

After more than 36 hours in custody of the Indian Army who interrogated him, the Corporal of the PLA was handed over to the Chinese military at the Chushul-Moldo border point on Tuesday night.

Sources in the know of the developments disclosed to *Deccan Chronicle* that Wang Ya Long was heavily disoriented and gasping for breath when he was caught by the Indian troops at Demchok on Monday. This was precisely why the Indian Army provided medical assistance including oxygen besides warm clothes

Indian Army hands over
captured Chinese corporalDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

The Indian Army late on Tuesday night handed over the Chinese soldier who had strayed across the Line of Actual Control to the People's Liberation Army at the Chushul Moldo meeting point in Ladakh.

The Chinese soldier,

and food. "But for the timely medical assistance, the Chinese soldier could have died," they said. Discounting the theory that the Chinese Corporal was on an espionage mission, they said there is nothing to suggest that it was a deliberate act by the Chinese side. However, all standard procedures of interrogating a Prisoner of War was followed by the Indian Army and it was only after making it extremely clear that there was nothing suspicious about the Chinese soldier that he was handed back to his military.

While China claimed that their soldier "went missing while helping the local herdsman find lost yak near the India-

China border," there could also be a possibility of Corporal Wang Ya Long making an attempt to desert his Army, unable to bear the extreme climatic condition, but inadvertently ended up on the Indian side. "He appears to have genuinely lost his way and we do not rule out the possibility of him being a deserter or at least making an attempt at that," sources said adding that the Yak theory by the Chinese was not convincing.

Over the last one month, ever since massive mobilisation of men and material began taking place on both sides, multiple obstacles and barbed wire fences have been put in place by both the armies, making it impossible for anyone to cross over from those points. But the Corporal in PLA is said to have strayed across the LAC from the mountainous terrain, away from the points where obstacles have been put up.

Deployment on the high altitude regions can have a tremendous impact on the mental health of the soldiers. "Confusion or disorientation which is a symptom of advanced hypothermia is the main problem in the extreme cold. In such a condition, the individuals do not realise what is happening to them. It has a dysfunctional impact on the personality and psychological integrity of an individual which leaves little or no control over the situation they are in," sources explained.

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

The Election Commission of India has ticked off political parties in Bihar for violating social distancing norms during their poll campaigns and addressing public meetings without wearing masks.

In an advisory to the presidents and general secretaries of the recognised national and state political parties, the ECI expressed unhappiness over the complete disregard of its guidelines issued earlier and said chief electoral officers and the district machinery would be expected to invoke appropriate and relevant penal provisions against candidates concerned as well as organisers responsible for such violations.

In its advisory on October 9, the ECI had asked political parties to follow instructions related to pandemic Covid-19 at all stages, especially wherever public interface in physical form is involved.

Commission of Women chairperson saying Nath has used the derogatory remark for a woman minister and has "strongly condemned such irresponsible and disparaging statement by a person holding responsible office.

PAK INCREASES
FORCES ALONG
BORDER: INTELDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

Intelligence agencies have cautioned that Pakistan Army has increased its presence both along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) over the last few weeks.

Basis specific intelligence inputs, sources say Pakistan Army has deployed special units of Border Action Teams (BATs) close to the LoC, primarily to push more militants into the Kashmir Valley. It is a known fact that Pak Army deploys BATs to help militants sneak into the Valley.

Sudden increase in presence of Pakistan Army near the LoC and the IB is being linked to a major infiltration being planned before the onset of winter in Kashmir, when most mountain passes get blocked due to inclement weather.

Both intelligence agencies and Army have concrete inputs that at least 250 to 300 militants are waiting at their launch pads close to the border areas, waiting for an opportunity to sneak into India.

LJP releases party's
vision documentNAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 21

LJP Chief Chirag Paswan on Wednesday released his party's manifesto for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

During the event, Chirag Paswan said that the manifesto was based on his party's vision of "Bihar first Bihari first" which will resolve many serious

"Observance of the preventive measures including wearing a mask, use of sanitiser, observance of social distancing is a duty cast upon all the stakeholders in the larger interest of public health," the ECI had said.

However, visuals of huge gatherings at campaign rallies in Bihar have left ECI miffed.

problems being faced by the people of the state.

The manifesto promises to create job opportunities, better policies for education, health and industrial growth in the state. The vision document also emphasises on constructing a grand Sita temple in Sitamarhi on the lines of Ram Temple in Ayodhya to promote religious tourism in Bihar.

"Instances of such public meetings have come to notice of the ECI, where large number of crowds have assembled in utter violation of social distancing and the political leaders/campaigners are addressing the gathering without wearing masks in complete disregard of the guidelines/instructions issued by ECI", it said.

Cabinet approves
amendments to
J&K panchayat ActDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 21

In a significant decision, the Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the amendments made by the home ministry in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989, that enables setting up of a directly-elected 14-member district development council (DDC), which has led to fears that this will curb the powers of MLAs and members of legislative bodies. The amendments were made by the home ministry on October 16.

In another major decision, the Cabinet also approved the payment of bonus for 2019-2020 to 30.67 lakh Central government employees, which will cost ₹3,737 crore, and it is hoped will encourage spending during the festival season and add to demand in the economy. The government hopes that the bonus, ahead of Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali, will encourage the middle class to go out and spend, and thus add to demand in the economy, Union minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. The bonus will be disbursed in a week's time.

The Productivity-Linked Bonus (PLB) for 2019-2020,

with a financial implication of ₹2,791 crore, will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like the Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC, among others. The non-PLB, or ad-hoc bonus, which is given to non-gazetted Central employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer ₹946 crore.

In Kashmir, meanwhile, after the changes made in the panchayati raj law, the DDCs will replace the district development boards, which were chaired by a Cabinet minister or a minister of state, and included MPs, MLAs and MLCs.

The decision to accept the amendments to the legislation was taken at the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Javadekar said the decision was people friendly and another step towards assimilation of the region's people with the mainstream after Article 370 was abolished in August last year and J&K was made a Union Territory, separating it from Ladakh, which too was made a Union Territory.

There are no legislative bodies in the region as they were abolished when Jammu and Kashmir was carved up into two Union Territories.

GJM quits NDA,
to support TMCRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 21

In a dramatic move, absconding Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) founder Bimal Gurung on Wednesday took a U-turn and dealt a heavy blow to the BJP ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal next year. Accusing the saffron party of not fulfilling its "commitment" towards the separate statehood demand of "Gorkhaland", he quit the NDA, leaving the BJP stumped.

With talk of an alliance with Trinamul Congress, Gurung also offered full support to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to help her return to power for the third consecutive time. His announcement came after he surfaced in Kolkata in the afternoon for the first time in three years,

when he was on the run with more than 150 cases, including under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, against him for spearheading a violent movement in Darjeeling for "Gorkhaland" in the middle of 2017.

Travelling by car, Gurung went to Gorkha Bhavan in Salt Lake first.

However, he could not enter as the police personnel were guarding the building.

Later, at a hotel, he alleged, "Though we were a constituent of the NDA 2009 onwards, the Central government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not fulfil its commitment of finding 'Gorkhaland' as a permanent political solution for the hills. It has not included 11 Gorkha communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. We were cheated. So we are quitting the NDA."

Career Chronicle

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| Hony. Secretary | |

DECCAN Chronicle

22 OCTOBER 2020

Punjab makes a point, will other states follow?

The passage of four bills and a resolution by the Punjab Assembly seeking to undo the impact of the three recently passed Central laws to regulate farming could trigger a political war between the Opposition-ruled states and the Centre on agriculture, a state subject as per the seventh schedule of the Constitution.

While the unanimous resolution passed by the Assembly in the Congress-ruled state has asked the Centre to annul the Central laws and promulgate an ordinance making procurement of food grains on minimum support price (MSP) a statutory right of the farmers, the three state laws seek to address the grievances of the farmers who have been protesting against the Central laws. According to the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, no sale of paddy and wheat will be valid in the state unless the rate of payment is equal to or above the MSP and its violation could attract imprisonment of not less than three years and a fine. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, provides for a fee to be levied on traders or electronic trading and transaction platforms for trade outside the mandis run by the Agricultural Produce Market Committees. The Bill amending the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, seeks to protect the farmers from attachment of land below 2.5 acres in recovery proceedings, insulating small farmers from the provisions of the Central law that facilitates contract farming. The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, empowers the state to set stock limits under extraordinary circumstances, a power the Central law had reserved for the Union government.

While the Central laws concerned made the mandis redundant by allowing farmers to sell outside them, the state law makes such trade unviable by making it a costly deal.

That these laws followed the exhortation of Congress president Sonia Gandhi to the states her party rules to take legislative route to checkmate the Centre's move makes their fate uncertain as governors can sit on them or consult the President, as per the constitutional provisions. It is highly likely that courts will be called upon to decide on the constitutionality or otherwise of the bills and the farmers will have to wait to benefit from them, if there is any.

It's pretty clear that the Capt. Amarinder Singh government is making a political point by moving the bills. The BJP had claimed that the Modi government was doing what the Congress had promised in its manifesto—to free up the mandis from all controls. The Congress, however, had explained that the party was aiming at reforms of the markets that were long overdue. It may be noted that the Punjab bills offer pretty little in terms of reforming them. If it really wants to support the farmers and win the argument on the issue of farm bills, the Congress government should make the functioning of the mandis transparent and non-exploitative. Whether it will walk the talk is the moot question.

'Rapist' trolls: Shame them

The cyber wing of the Chennai police should not stop with registering the case against the Twitter user who issued a rape threat to the daughter of award-winning film actor Vijay Sethupathi. The police should pursue the pervert, going by the Twitter handle @tsirithikrajh, in all earnestness and arrest him. Earlier, the five-year-old daughter of cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni was threatened similarly by a 16-year-old boy from Gujarat on Instagram. Though the police cracked down quickly and caught the boy, it is not clear what action was taken under the law, which would serve as a deterrent to every other pervert lurking in the shadows of social media.

Traditionally, rape threat has been used as a weapon by roguish men to establish their gender supremacy and to intimidate women they disliked. That it is now used freely in social media to silence women who have a mind of their own is one of the banes of modern society. It is a tragedy that not much has been done by the enforcing agencies so far to put an end to this cheap tactic employed by men running short of ideas and words to counter women intellectually.

Now that the trend has degenerated further, touching such an abysmal level wherein men threaten children just because they do not agree with their fathers' behavior, whatever it is, the crime has to be seen in a new light. Rape threat should be treated as a felony and dealt with accordingly by the police. Also, such persons need to be exposed to society with a view to telling all men that as a civilised society we have zero tolerance to rape and rape threat. Above all, we need to enlighten young men that such threats come out of men's impotence in dealing with themselves and their problems.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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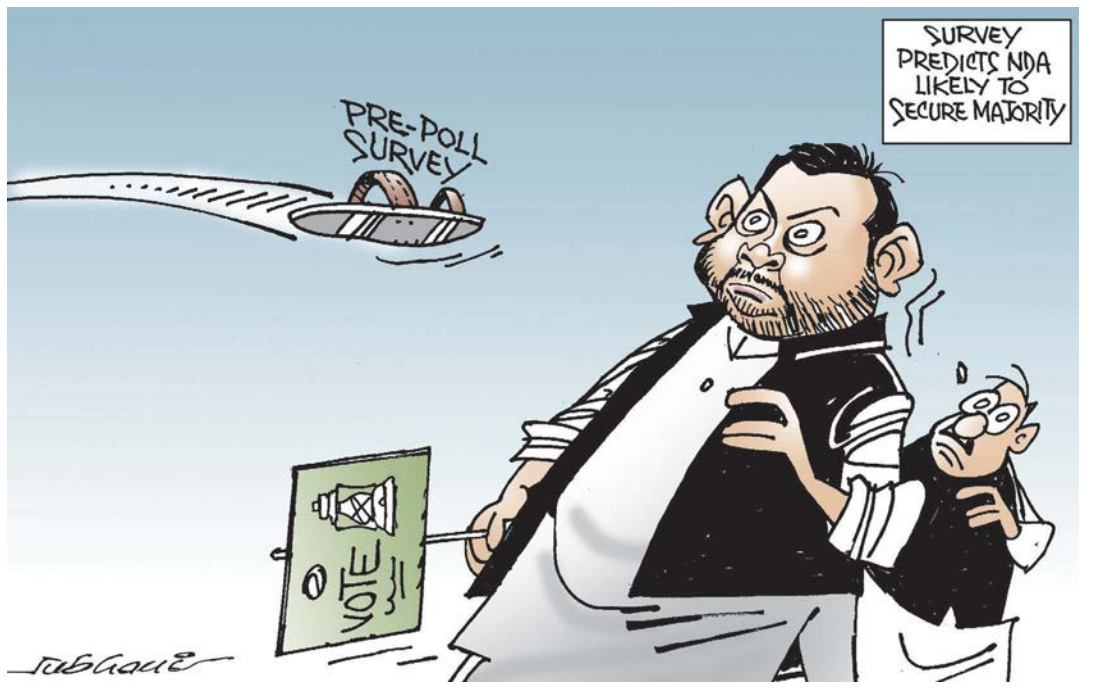
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Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No HSD-348/2006-08

Subhani



Step up pressure on Xi; bring France into Quad



Claude Arpi

Since five months now, Indian and Chinese troops have stood face-to-face in the high Himalayas; in all probability, the standoff will continue during the cold winter months ahead in Ladakh.

It has consequences at many levels, not just militarily.

The first: what has President Xi Jinping achieved by trying to advance a few hundred metres in Galwan, Gogra or Pangong Tso?

Different motives have been attributed to the Chinese chess moves.

To cite a few, Beijing wanted to stop the Darbuk-Shyok-DBO Road, protect China's projects in Gilgit Baltistan (and Shaksam valley occupied by China); gain strategic advantages on the ground; enhance Chairman Xi's prestige; boost the standing of the People's Liberation Army; humiliate an arrogant competitor (India) in a period of weakness; it was even rumoured that Gen. Zhao Zongqi, the Western Theatre Command chief, thought he would get a seat in the powerful Central Military Commission after Ladakh.

China is today the loser: infrastructure development will continue, India will not renounce its legitimate claims on Gilgit-Baktistan, and so on.

Further, Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong or Xinjiang may come up for discussion in the not-too-far future and the "One-China" policy may be questioned in many quarters.

This didn't stop Zhao Lijian, the Chinese foreign ministry's "wolf warrior" spokesman, to continue with his anti-India tirades: "China does not recognise the so-called 'Ladakh Central Territory' and 'Arunachal Pradesh' illegally established by India, and opposes development of infrastructure construction in border dispute areas for the purpose of

military control."

This diplomat had the cheek to add: "Neither party should take any actions in the border area that would complicate the situation in order to avoid affecting the efforts of both parties to ease the situation." This was the day Beijing announced a new strategic road leading up to Metok, north of the McMahon Line.

A Chinese TV report said the Pai-Metok Highway will be completed by the end of September 2022: "After completion, the length of the road from Nyingchi City to Metok County [North of Upper Siang of Arunachal Pradesh] through Bomi County will be shortened from 346 km to 180 km, and the driving time will be shortened from 11 hours to 4.5 hours."

At the same time, the world is fast becoming aware of the constant double standards in Chinese propaganda, and for the first time it is taking steps to counter Beijing's moves.

Take France for example. In the past, Paris was often reluctant to offend China as it was "doing business" with Beijing. But things are changing; realising the danger of Chinese hegemony for the planet, French President Emmanuel Macron recently appointed Christophe Penot, his ambassador to Australia, to the new post of ambassador for the Indo-Pacific.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported: "The coronavirus has catalysed European concern over Chinese government actions in Hong Kong, the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang, military incursions into the South China Sea and political interference." In June, Mr Penot had already warned that international standards were increasingly called into question, adding that the current Covid crisis was likely accelerate the process: "France and Australia have a particular

responsibility here to ensure that the post-Covid world does not get worse and, if possible, that it becomes better than the world before."

The Australian newspaper commented: "France is the last European power to change its vision of China and the region. In September, Germany, Europe's largest economy, which has long enjoyed close ties with Beijing, released its first Indo-Pacific strategy focused on increasing diplomatic pressure on China."

FRANCE IN THE QUAD?

A couple of years ago, I had asked an Indian observer why France was not included as a participant in the Quad. "Nobody thought of it", he had told me. This has changed after President Macron's visit to India in March 2018. Addressing a French gathering in New Delhi, the young President reminded his countrymen: "France is a power of the Indian and Pacific Oceans; we are present at Reunion, we are also there in French Polynesia and New Caledonia. And we are a maritime power, it is often forgotten but France is the second maritime power in the world. We have a strong navy, we have nuclear submarines equipped like few other powers in the world; a maritime surveillance capability through our own satellites and technologies; it is obvious we are a military and intelligence power ranking us among the first nations in the world."

France is ready to work with India on the oceans.

A few months earlier, C. Raja Mohan and Darshana Baruah had written for Carnegie India about *Deepening the India-France Maritime Partnership*: "As maritime security acquires greater salience in India's foreign policy, New Delhi is increasingly looking to

In the past, Paris was often reluctant to offend China as it was 'doing business' with Beijing. But things are changing...

leverage its strategic partnerships, particularly with Paris. Although India and France have joined forces on a number of issues since 1998, regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific has never risen to the top of the agenda. However, this may be about to change."

After the Quad's last meeting in Tokyo last week, US spokesperson Cale Brown said the foreign ministers of the US, Japan, Australia and India had reaffirmed their collective efforts towards a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific: "they pledged to continue regular consultations to implement their vision of a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

US deputy secretary of state Stephen Biegun more recently explained: "The Quad is a partnership driven by shared interests, not binding obligations, and is not intended to be an exclusive grouping. Any country that seeks a free and open Indo-Pacific and is willing to take steps to ensure that should be welcome to work with us."

It seems that Paris's vision could perfectly fit into this scheme. So why can't France join the four founding nations?

Emmanuel Lenain, French ambassador to India, answered the question in an interview with *India Today*: "Indo-Pacific is a priority. Both the leaders [Modi and Macron] have been working on that at least for the past four or five years. It is about values. We want an open, transparent Indo-Pacific. Now, what would be the framework. I don't think anything is exclusive... All like-minded countries should join efforts towards an open, transparent Indo-Pacific."

It sounds like the US secretary of state's definition.

Whether France joins or not, there is no doubt all these new collaborative efforts should be credited to President Xi and his reckless foreign policies. One more "loss" in his balance sheet.

The writer is based in South India for the past 42 years. He writes on India, China, Tibet and Indo-French relations.

LETTERS

PUNCHY CARTOON

Today's cartoon on Trump was one of the best from Subhani. Surely the punch line is for US only. May God give more power to his pen.

G. Navyaleela
Hyderabad

CORPORATOR MISSING

No corporator helped us in clearing our cellar or restoring power (*Building watchmen the worst hit, DC, Oct. 20*). It was all done by a few residents who also followed up with the electricity department on their own by going there personally. The electricity department people also did not tell us about any intervention from the corporator and neither the quoted resident informed us about her appeal to the corporator. The watchman and his family are being taken care of by the residents.

Madhuvanti Nene
Hyderabad

HISTORY LESSON

The much hyped 6pm speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi felt like my history teacher extolling the past values and culture to tackle the present situation. He has patiently reminded the nation that war is still on against Covid and not to be negligent till we have the victory. To sum it up it was a 13-minute history class advising caution and seasonal greetings.

Chodagam Sai Ganesh
Hyderabad

The PM spoke without addressing serious issues. The government must help the poor. Lower middle classes are slipping into poverty line due to lack of jobs. There is no mention about air pollution in capital, hunger index, growth, or jobs, or attack on women.

Vikas Panchareddy
Hyderabad

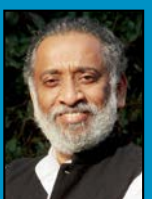
U.S. officials ignore arrival of Mrs. Gandhi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 21 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and party arrived here last night on a four-day visit for the 25th anniversary commemorative session of the United Nations General Assembly, now in progress.

Mrs. Gandhi is due to speak in the Assembly on

October 23. As already indicated by her during her stopover in London, Mrs. Gandhi has passed up President Richard Nixon's invitation to her to attend the mass dinner he is giving in Washington on October 24 for all visiting heads of State and Government.

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



CIC sans chief, only 10 of 28 panels worked during lockdown

Fifteen years after the Right to Information (RTI) Act came into force, does the nation have more transparency or less? The story is quite sombre. More than 2.2 lakh cases are pending at the Central and State Information Commissions. Nine out of 29 information commissions are functioning without a chief, one-fourth of information commissioner posts are vacant and the state commissions in Jharkhand and Tripura are defunct. No new commissioners have been appointed.

Even the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has refused to disclose details on the PM-Cares Fund stating that the fund is "not a public authority" within the ambit of the RTI Act!

The absence of a commissioner has serious ramifications for the effective functioning of the information commissions. But even the Central Information Commission, which hears second appeals against all central government departments and UTs, has been without a chief since August this year. Bimal

Julka, who headed the CIC for barely six months, demitted office in August, upon reaching the age limit stipulated in the Act.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, only 10 of the 28 information commissions worked and even these hardly heard any appeals.

Yet, it is not just the transparency law that has suffered. There are other vacancies in key organisations that indicate a drift not usually associated with the Modi sarkar. Sources say that the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) has been headless for more than a month after Rajiv Kumar, a former finance secretary, demitted office at the end of August and was appointed Election Commissioner in place of Ashok Lavasa. Similarly, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has been headless for more than seven months, among others.

Apparently, as many as six ministries and departments are awaiting regular secretaries. Some estimate that dozens of board-level positions in several central PSUs are lying vacant with no sign of

when these will be filled.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

The 360-degree method of empanelment of officers has been a major administrative "reform" introduced by the Modi sarkar to judge the performance of officers. However, not all officials have been happy with it, since it allows retired officers to influence their careers. Many careers have been marred as a result, say sources.

But that may have changed, with the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) deciding not necessarily to act on the advice of the 360-degree committees, and even rejecting their recommendations as and when required. The case of UT cadre IAS officer G. Narendra Kumar is often cited as an example of the subjectivity often behind recommendations of these committees.

In September 2017, Mr Kumar was posted in Puducherry was booked by the CBI for alleged irregularities in admission to postgraduate medical courses in private colleges. Though the allegations turned out to be false, Mr Kumar's

career was damaged. It is only now that his name has finally put on the list of the review empanelment order issued last month, after missing the opportunity for empanelment in 2018 due to the case against him. The consensus among babus is that Mr Kumar is among the best officials but suffers from the "disability" to network. Mr Kumar had got caught in the political battle between the chief minister and then lieutenant governor of Puducherry and has paid a price. Some retired senior officers are said to have played a part in this episode and their advice proved costly to Mr Kumar, in career terms.

The damage may have been done, but observers say that the government's belated move does send out a message that fair dealings may be delayed for a while, but not forever.

NEW PORTFOLIOS FOR RBI DEPUTY GOVERNORS

The recent appointment of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s senior-most executive director M. Rajeshwar Rao as the deputy governor of the bank, has now led to a reallocation

of portfolios of the four deputy governors. Mr Rao replaced N.S. Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of the end of his tenure on health grounds. Mr Rao will oversee the department of regulations and also the departments of communication, enforcement, inspection, legal and risk monitoring.

The RBI's other three deputy governors are B.P. Kanungo, M.K. Jain and Michael Debabrata Patra. While Mr Patra will continue to look after the monetary policy department, Mr Jain will be in charge of central security cell, corporate strategy and budget departments, while Mr Kanungo will oversee coordination, currency management and external investments and operations. In April this year, the government had extended Mr Kanungo's tenure by a year.

Deputy governors of RBI are appointed for an initial period of three years and can be reappointed.

Share a babu experience! Follow diliphecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

IN BRIEF

Houston club shooting: 3 dead

Houston: Three people were killed in a shooting at a Houston nightclub where about 30 people had gathered for an open mic night and authorities were searching early Wednesday for suspects, police said. Police had been called to the DD Sky Club at about 9:45 p.m. Tuesday on reports of multiple people dead inside, Houston Police Commander Caroleta Johnson said. Once there, officers found three people dead at the scene and a fourth person in critical condition, Johnson said. Investigators believe two men opened fire after a fight broke out, but officers don't yet have a clear description of the shooters. Kade Trammell, who was inside the club attending the open mic show, said he heard seven to 10 gunshots before he and his friends dropped to the floor and then fled. "We got really scared, we ran for our ... lives," he said. "Everybody starting running for their lives after the gunshots," he said.

Five killed in Pak explosion

Islamabad/Karachi: A powerful explosion ripped through a four-storey building in Pakistan's Sindh province, killing at least five people and injuring 20 others, police said. At least two floors of the building near Maskan Chowranghi in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi were severely damaged, leading authorities to fear that the toll may rise. The death toll in the incident has increased to five, Faisal Edhi of the Edhi Ambulance Service said. Seven of the injured are said to be in critical condition. The security forces have cordoned off the area after the explosion. Police chief Mushtaq Mahar said the bomb disposal squad and anti-terrorism officials are yet to determine the cause of the explosion. A police official said that initial investigations suggested that the explosion could have been caused due to a gas leak. The official said that no trace of an improvised explosive device (IED) was found at the scene. The incident happened a day after five people were injured when an IED bomb exploded.

UK navy seizes 450 kg meth

Dubai: A British royal navy vessel seized 450 kilograms (990 pounds) of methamphetamine in the northern Arabian Sea in the largest-ever bust by a joint maritime operation in the region, officials said Wednesday. The HMS Montrose seized the drugs hidden aboard a stateless dhow, a traditional cargo ship that plies the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters, the joint task force said in a statement. The seizure took place last Wednesday. The task force said it was unable to say where the drugs came from, who manufactured them or their ultimate destination. However, Iran over the last decade has seen an explosion in the use of methamphetamine, known locally as "shishah" or "glass" in Farsi. That's bled into neighbouring Iraq as well. While drug lab busts have dropped in recent years in Iran, there appears to be an uptick in meth drug labs in Afghanistan.

NASA CRAFT LANDS ON ASTEROID

Washington, Oct. 21: After a four-year-long journey, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft successfully touched down on the rugged surface of asteroid Bennu on Tuesday, and unfurled its robotic arm to collect a sample of rocks dating back to the birth of our solar system to bring back to Earth, the US space agency said. The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft briefly touched the near-Earth asteroid to collect dust and pebbles from its surface for delivery to Earth in 2023.

Asteroid Bennu is currently more than 321 million kilometres from the Earth. It offers scientists a window into the early solar system as it was first taking shape billions of years ago and flinging ingredients that could have helped seed life on Earth, NASA said. If Tuesday's sample collection event provided enough of a sample, mission teams will command the spacecraft to begin stowing the precious primordial cargo to begin its journey back to Earth in March 2021.

Pope nod for same-sex civil unions in interview

Says homosexual people have the right to be in a family

Rome, Oct. 21: Pope Francis endorsed same-sex civil unions for the first time as Pope while being interviewed for the feature-length documentary *Francesco*, which premiered on Wednesday at the Rome Film Festival.

The papal thumbs-up came midway through the film that delves into issues Francis cares about most, including the environment, poverty, migration, racial and income inequality, and the people most affected by discrimination. "Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God," Francis said in one of his sit-down interviews for the film.

"What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered." While serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis endorsed civil unions for gay couples as an alternative to same-sex marriages. However, he had never come out publicly in favour of civil unions as pope. The Jesuit priest who has been at the forefront in seeking to build bridges with gays in the church, the Rev. James Martin, praised the pope's comments as "a major step forward in the church's support for LGBT people."

"The Pope's speaking positively about civil unions also sends a strong message to places where



Pope Francis arrives for his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Wednesday. — AFP

the church has opposed such laws," Martin said in a statement. One of the main characters in the documentary is Juan Carlos Cruz, the Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse whom Francis initially discredited during a 2018 visit to Chile.

Cruz, who is gay, said that during his first meetings with the Pope in May 2018, Francis assured him that God made Cruz gay. Cruz tells his own story in snippets throughout the film, chronicling both Francis' evolution on understanding sexual abuse as well as to document the Pope's views on gay people. Director Evgeny Afineevsky had remarkable access to cardinals, the Vatican television archives and the Pope

himself. He said he negotiated his way in through persistence, and deliveries of Argentine mate tea and Alfajores cookies that he got to the pope via some well-connected Argentines in Rome.

"Listen, when you are in the Vatican, the only way to achieve something is to break the rule and then to say, 'I'm sorry,'" Afineevsky said in an interview ahead of the premiere. The director worked official and unofficial channels starting in early 2018, and ended up so close to Francis by the end of the project that he showed the pope the movie on his iPad in August. The two recently exchanged Yom Kippur greetings; Afineevsky is a Russian-born Jew who lives in Los Angeles. But

"Francesco" is more than a biopic about the Pope.

Wim Wenders did that in the 2018 film *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

"Francesco," is more a visual survey of the world's crises and tragedies, with audio from the pope providing possible ways to solve them. Afineevsky travelled the world to film it: the settings include Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh where Myanmar's Rohingya sought refuge; the US-Mexico border and Francis' native Argentina. "The film tells the story of the Pope by reversing the cameras," said Vatican communications director Paolo Ruffini, who was one of Afineevsky's closest Vatican-based collaborators on the film.

Ruffini said that when Afineevsky first approached him with the idea of a documentary, he tried to tamp down his hopes for interviewing the Pope. "I told him it wasn't going to be easy," he said. But Ruffini gave him some advice: Names of people who had been impacted by the Pope, even after just a brief meeting. "I told him that many of those encounters had certainly been filmed by the Vatican cameras, and that there he would find a veritable gold mine of stories that told a story," Ruffini said.

— AP

Trump paid \$1.8L tax in China for licensing deals

Washington, Oct. 21: President Donald Trump spent a decade unsuccessfully pursuing projects in China, operating an office there during his first run for president and forging a partnership with a major government-controlled company, *The New York Times* reported Tuesday.

China is one of only three foreign nations — the others are Britain and Ireland — where Trump maintains a bank account, according to a *Times* analysis of the president's tax records. The foreign accounts do not show up on Trump's public financial disclosures, where he must list personal assets, because they are held under corporate names.

The Chinese account is controlled by Trump International Hotels Management LLC, which the tax records show paid \$188,561 in taxes in China while pursuing licensing deals there from 2013 to 2015. In response to questions from *The Times*, Alan Garten, a lawyer for the Trump Organisation, said the company had "opened an account with a Chinese bank having offices in the United States in order to pay the local taxes" associated with efforts to do business there.

He said the company had opened the account after establishing an office in China "to explore the potential for hotel deals in Asia." "No deals, transactions or other business activities ever materialised and, since 2015, the office has remained inactive,"

Garten said. "Though the bank account remains open, it has never been used for any other purpose." Garten would not identify the bank in China where the account is held. China continues to be an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign.

THE COMPANY (Trump International Hotels Management LLC) had opened an account with a Chinese bank having offices in the US in order to pay the local taxes associated with efforts to do business there

ALAN GARTEN, lawyer for the Trump Organisation

Don says will win by 'bigger' margin

Erie (US), Oct. 21: US President Donald Trump has exuded confidence that he will win the November 3 election by a bigger margin than that of 2016 and urged his supporters to deliver a "thundering" defeat to his Democratic challenger Joe Biden. In his hour-long speech at an election rally here, Trump reiterated that his challenger Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris, if elected, would convert the

US into a socialist country. "It's time to send a message to these wealthy liberal hypocrites by delivering Joe Biden, sleepy Joe, a thundering defeat on November 3rd. Got to get out and vote," Trump told his supporters in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. Trump asserted that his victory on November 3 is going to be bigger than that of 2016. "This is going to be bigger than four years ago."

— PTI



Qamar Javed Bajwa

PROBE INTO ARREST OF NAWAZ KIN

Karachi, Oct. 21: Pakistan's Sindh Police chief has deferred his leave and asked his officers to set aside their leave applications for 10 days "in the larger national interest" after Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa ordered an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of former premier Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, an issue that brought the paramilitary forces and police in direct conflict in the country's largest city.

In a series of tweets, Sindh Police said on Tuesday that the "unfortunate incident" that occurred on the night of 18/19 October caused "great heartache and resentment" within its ranks, referring to the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Sharif's son-in-law Capt (retd) Muhammad Safdar.

Opposition parties have alleged that the Sindh police chief was reportedly forcibly taken away by paramilitary Frontier Corps from his home in Karachi in the wee hours of Monday and pressurised to order for the arrest of Safdar. "As a result, IG Sindh decided to proceed on leave and subsequently all ranks decided that they would also apply for leave to protest the humiliation meted out to Sindh police," it said.

It added, "This was a spontaneous and heartfelt reaction and made on an individual rather than a collective basis, because every single member of the department felt an acute sense of disrespect."

— PTI

PAK MAY NOT EXIT FATF GREY LIST: REPORT

Islamabad, Oct. 21: Pakistan may remain on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as it has been unable to comply with six of the 27 points in the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog's action plan, a media report said on Wednesday.

The Paris-based global watchdog will hold its virtual plenary session from October 21 to 23. It will review Pakistan's progress on the 27-point action plan. The FATF had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019, but the deadline was extended later on due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

— PTI

Support for Thai royals



Royalist supporters take part in a rally to show support for the Thai royal establishment in Su-ngai Kolok District in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat on Wednesday. — AFP

Europe records weekly high of 927K cases

Geneva, Oct. 21: The World Health Organisation says Europe again reported a new high in the weekly number of Coronavirus cases during the pandemic last week, recording more than 927,000 cases.

The UN health agency said in its latest global report on the deadly Coronavirus pandemic that the continent saw a 25 per cent spike in confirmed cases last week and was responsible for 38 per cent of all new cases reported worldwide.

Russia, the Czech

Republic and Italy accounted for more than half of new Coronavirus cases in Europe.

The WHO report says the number of deaths in Europe also "continues to climb," and increased by one-third from the previous week.

The health agency says Slovenia reported a 150 per cent increase in cases in a week with a record 4,890 cases.

Slovenia also reported 1,924 Coronavirus deaths, compared to one week before.

— AP

CDC: 300K more deaths in US

New York, Oct. 21: A new government report shows that since the Coronavirus pandemic began, the US has seen 300,000 more deaths than it usually would. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has been tracking how many deaths have been reported and comparing them with counts seen in other years. Usually, between the beginning of February and the end of September, about 1.9 million deaths are reported. This year, it's closer to 2.2 million — a 14.5 per cent increase. The CDC says the Coronavirus was involved in about two-thirds of the excess deaths. CDC officials say it's likely the virus was a factor in many other deaths too.

For example, someone with heart attack symptoms may have hesitated to go to a hospital that was

busy with Coronavirus patients. The largest segment of the excess deaths, about 95,000, were in elderly people ages 75 to 84. That was 21.5 per cent more than in a normal year. But the biggest relative increase, 26.5 per cent, was in people ages 25 to 44. Deaths in people younger than 25 actually dropped slightly. Deaths were up for different racial and ethnic groups.

— AP

Sub-Saharan Africa has households that struggle to survive on \$1.90 a day

One in six children live in extreme poverty: UN

United Nations, Oct. 21: An estimated one in six children — or 356 million globally — were living in extreme poverty before the Covid-19 pandemic began, and this is set to worsen significantly, according to a new World Bank Group and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) analysis. Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update', notes that sub-Saharan

aran Africa, with its limited social safety nets, accounts for two-thirds of children living in households that struggle to survive on an average of \$ 1.90 a day or less per person — the international measure for extreme poverty, while South Asia accounts for nearly a fifth of these children. The analysis shows that the number of children living in extreme poverty

decreased moderately, by 29 million, between 2013 and 2017.

However, UNICEF and the World Bank Group warn that any progress made in recent years, has been "slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk" due to the economic impact of the pandemic. "One in six children living in extreme poverty is one in six children struggling to

● **UNICEF AND the World Bank Group warn that any progress made in recent years, has been "slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk" due to the economic impact of the pandemic.**

survive," UNICEF Director of Programmes Sanjay Wijesekera said.

"These numbers alone should shock anyone. And the scale and depth of what we know about the financial hardships brought on by the pandemic, are only set to make matters far worse. Governments urgently need a children's recovery plan to prevent countless more children and their families from reaching levels of poverty unseen for many, many

years," Wijesekera said. Although children make up around a third of the global population, around half of the extreme poor are children. The youngest children are the worst off — nearly 20 per cent of all of them below the age of 5 in the developing world live in extremely poor households, the report highlights.

— PTI

IN BRIEF

Pollution: Valero to pay \$2.85 mn

Washington: Valero Energy Corp will pay a \$2.85 million civil penalty to settle allegations that the company and its affiliates violated Clear Air Act fuel requirements, the US Environmental Protection Agency said. The agency, in a statement, said Valero also agreed to install pollution controls at its Port Arthur, Texas, facility to resolve the allegations of violations at 12 of its facilities.

Act against climate change, Italy told

Rome: A group of European climate activists, including Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, on Monday urged Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to take stronger action against climate change. Italy, the EU's third largest economy, will chair the 2021 G20 and will assume in partnership with Britain the presidency of the United Nations COP26 climate change conference. They spoke for a long time but I feel like I didn't hear anything to our fight unfortunately," Italian activist Martina Comporelli told reporters after a virtual meeting with the Italian prime minister and Environment Minister Sergio Costa. "They told us that they are doing things but they are worried because people will lose their jobs," Comporelli said, adding she was instead convinced the ecological transition would help governments increase employment. Thunberg, who was unable to participate in the press conference, met the Italian government representatives together with fellow members of the Fridays for Future campaign group.

Fuel spill: Arctic ex-mayor guilty

Moscow: A Russian court on Monday sentenced the former mayor of the Arctic city of Norilsk to six months of community service after finding him guilty of negligence over a major fuel spill in the region. Rinat Akhmetchin, who resigned as mayor in July, was charged with negligence after a fuel tank at a power station in the remote, industrial region lost pressure and collapsed in late May, leaking more than 20,000 tonnes of fuel into rivers and subsoil. Greenpeace has compared the incident to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska. The Krasnoyarsk Regional Court said in a statement that in addition to his community service, Akhmetchin would have his salary cut by 15% during that period. It did not specify the capacity in which he would carry out his community service. Russia's Investigative Committee, the body that probes serious crimes, charged Akhmetchin with criminal negligence in June, saying he had failed to coordinate and organise emergency measures.

DROUGHT-STRUCK COLORADO HIT BY WILDFIRES

Denver, Oct. 21: Colorado firefighters were struggling on Monday to get ahead of the state's largest wildfire on record, which grew markedly over the last few days, and smoke drifted over the population corridor of the drought-stricken state. New fires continue to erupt, including an 8,800-acre blaze that ignited in the mountains above Boulder that incinerated at least 26 homes, according to the sheriff's office.

The latest figures from the US Drought Monitor showed that the entire state of Colorado was at some level of drought, and officials said this was contributing to the outbreak of wildfires. "It's extremely late; it should be snowing by now," said Larry Helmerick, spokesman for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center, a federal interagency wildfire task force with dispatching resources across the region. There have been few lightning strikes in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, so it is believed most of the wildfires are human caused, Helmerick said. Tinder-dry fuels and high winds are causing flames to spread rapidly. "It's so dry that it's hard to get a handle on them," he said. Of the 12,000 wildland firefighters in the United States, more than 3,000 are battling blazes.

Storm Saudel scares Vietnam

Hanoi/Manila, Oct. 21: Vietnam scrambled to evacuate thousands of people from their homes as tropical storm Saudel approached on Wednesday, bringing more misery for a country that has endured weeks of heavy rains and floods that have killed over 100 people.

Having already battered the Philippines, the storm was grinding its way across the South China Sea and was expected to hit Vietnam on Sunday, making landfall in central areas that are suffering from their worst flooding in two decades.

"The damage will be immense if we are not well prepared as the projected impact area has already suffered from floods and landslides," Mai Van Khim, chief of Vietnam's weather agency said in a statement.

The region has been hit by particularly heavy rainfall amid the onset of a La Niña weather system, which is characterised by unusually cold temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

In the Philippines, photographs showed widespread flooding and boats used to ferry

Hurricane Epsilon nears Bermuda

Miami, Oct. 21: Hurricane Epsilon, the 10th of this very busy Atlantic season, was moving toward Bermuda on Wednesday.

Epsilon is expected to make its closest approach to the island on Thursday night, and there is a risk of a direct impact, according to the US National Hurricane Centre.

A tropical storm watch is in effect for Bermuda and residents have been urged to closely monitor the storm. Large swells generated by Epsilon are already affecting Bermuda, the

residents to dry ground in Quezon province, southeast of the capital Manila. Humanitarian groups have warned that the floods in Vietnam will exacerbate the hardships already being suffered by some of the country's poorest communities due to Covid-19.

Delivering food to some of the most badly affected areas has be-

come difficult, and photographs and television images of floodwaters almost completely submerging rural homesteads has unleashed an outpouring of donations for aid. Volunteers have been making highly calorific "banh chung", a dish made from parcels of sticky rice stuffed with pork and wrapped in tropical leaves.

— AP

ome difficult, and photographs and television images of floodwaters almost completely submerging rural homesteads has unleashed an outpouring of donations for aid. Volunteers have been making highly calorific "banh chung", a dish made from parcels of sticky rice stuffed with pork and wrapped in tropical leaves.

— Reuters

Bali sisters: Raise climate action bar

Badung, Indonesia, Oct. 21: Dismayed by the plastic waste strewn over their home island of Bali, sisters Melati and Isabel Wijsen have channelled Ted Talks and international conferences in raising global awareness through a youth-led movement to try to eliminate the scourge.

"It was not "rocket sci-

ence," said Melati, 19, of the plastic waste problem that prompted the sisters to set up their "Bye Bye Plastic Bags" initiative seven years ago. The campaign has grown internationally, with Bali leading the way in Indonesia banning single-use plastic bags.

The sisters aren't resting on their laurels, however:

Tackling climate change is now among the world's most pressing issues, they say.

"We know the urgency, we have to take action now," said Melati, speaking from their home surrounded by paddy fields.

"We need to see the bar set a lot higher and a lot sooner," she said, calling on policymakers to take swift action.

Melati's activism started when she was only 12 years old and her sister even younger at 10. They have since garnered global attention, speaking at international conferences. The sisters say they were inspired by figures such as Nelson Mandela, Princess Diana, and Mahatma Gandhi when at school.

— Reuters

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM
E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. S&T/SEE/E-OT/20-21/13 Date: 13.10.2020. 1. **E-OPEN TENDER NO. S&T/SEE/E-OT/20-21/13**
Name of the work: Provision of Solid State Interlocking within the Railway Boundary at Simaria Station for the proposed extension of project of Baruni Thermal Power Station on deposit basis.
The tender invited vide Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/E.C. Railway, Sonpur's **Open E-Tender Notice No. S&T/SEE/E-OT/20-21/13** dated 13.10.2020, **Open E-Tender No. S&T/SEE/E-OT/20-21/13** scheduled to be opened on 06-11-2020 as per decided time is corrected as follows:
The schedule of receipt of tender documents and opening of tender has been revised as: Decided Last date and time for the receipt of the tender document: Last date and time for the receipt of the tender document: 06.11.2020 upto 12.00 hrs. Date & time of opening of the tender document: 09.11.2020 at 12.30 hrs.
Other terms & condition mentioned in original tender notice will remain same.
NOTE: This corrigendum notice is also available on website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager/Sig. & Telecom, Sonpur **PR/0799/SEE/S&T/C/20-21/44**
Stay protected from Corona
Wear your mask properly
Frequently wash your hands with soap
Maintain safe distance
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice
No. DNR/S&T/Sig/2020/16
Danapur, dtd. 19.10.2020
Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal www.ireps.gov.in for the following work:-
1. **Name of work with its location:** Provision of Class "A" protection system and ring earthing for S&T installation at 37 stations in Kuchaman - Jhajha, Patna-Gaya & Bakhtiyarpur-Tilaiya sections in Danapur division. 2. **Approximate cost of work:** Rs. 25055426.67 3. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 275300.00 4. **Last Date & Time of Submission:** Up to 15.00 hrs. on 13.11.2020 5. **Opening of tender:** 15.30 hrs. on 13.11.2020 6. **Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen:** www.ireps.gov.in 7. **Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained:** Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur **Note:** Any Corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days. **DSTE**
ECR/DNR
PR/800/DNR/S&T/T/20-21/48
Stay Protected from Corona
Wear your mask properly
Frequently wash your hands with soap
Maintain safe distance
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
B-14/A, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016
25th September 2020
PUBLIC NOTICE
Caution against fraudulent offers in the name of PFRDA/ NPS
It has come to notice that some unscrupulous elements are making phone calls in the name of PFRDA promising to release large sum of money lying with NPS/ PFRDA and these unidentifiable callers also provide deceitful explanations to extort money for release of payments.
This is to inform that PFRDA is a statutory body which regulates National Pension System (NPS) and the general public is hereby cautioned not to fall prey to the designs of such unscrupulous elements who are trying to dupe the unsuspecting citizens in the name of NPS/ PFRDA.
PFRDA NEVER MAKES CALLS TO INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING THEM TO DEPOSIT MONEY FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM NPS/ PFRDA. ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION RECEIVED TO DEFRAUD MAY BE INFORMED TO POLICE IMMEDIATELY.
Sd/- PFRDA
Davp 15102/11/0007/2021

For zero carbon emissions, Asda targets 2040

Leeds, Oct. 21: British supermarket group Asda on Tuesday committed itself to generating zero carbon emissions by 2040, joining rival Sainsbury's SBRYL in making the pledge.

Asda also committed to reducing waste by 50% and having a net "regenerative impact on nature" no later than 2050. It said its customers will not pay more for greener options.

The retailer's move responds to growing consumer demands for less waste and more action on the environment.

Britons have become increasingly aware of the urgency of addressing climate change, spurred on by campaigners, including veteran naturalist and broadcaster David

Attenborough and Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg.

"This is an issue that matters greatly to our customers. Our own insight tells us that more than 80% believe that supermarkets have a responsibility to reduce the amount of single use plastics in stores," said Asda CEO Roger Burnley.

In January, Sainsbury's committed to having net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, a decade ahead of the UK government's own target which it said "isn't soon enough".

Earlier this month, American parent Walmart WMTN agreed to sell a majority stake in Asda to the Issa brothers and private equity group TDR Capital in a deal.

— Reuters

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2020-21 **Dated 19.10.2020**
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. DECEMBER/20
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Including Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Auction programme is as under.
e-AUCTION Schedule for December, 2020.

| SN | Depot/Division conducting auction | 1 st round | 2 nd round | 3 rd round | 4 th round | 5 th round |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | DY.CMM/AM/VLKO 0522-2451257 | 01.12.2020 | 08.12.2020 | 15.12.2020 | 22.12.2020 | 29.12.2020 |
| 2 | DY.CMM/SSB 011-27015387 | 02.12.2020 | 09.12.2020 | 16.12.2020 | 23.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 |
| 3 | DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388 | 07.12.2020 | 14.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 | 28.12.2020 | -- |
| 4 | Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756 | 07.12.2020 | 14.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 | 28.12.2020 | -- |
| 5 | Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154 | 02.12.2020 | 09.12.2020 | 16.12.2020 | 23.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 |
| 6 | Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203 | 03.12.2020 | 10.12.2020 | 17.12.2020 | 24.12.2020 | 31.12.2020 |
| 7 | Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141 | 03.12.2020 | 10.12.2020 | 17.12.2020 | 24.12.2020 | 31.12.2020 |
| 8 | Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311 | 01.12.2020 | 08.12.2020 | 15.12.2020 | 22.12.2020 | 29.12.2020 |

1. E-Auction will be held from 12.00 AM on wards as per above programme.
2. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in
3. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. In this regard details are available at ireps.
4. To register for in e-auction, purchasers need to visit website www.ireps.gov.in. In case any difficulty in registering purchasers may contact Dy. CMM/S&P
(Perhad Singh)
Dy. CMM/S&P
For Principal Chief Material Manager
2313/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OFFICE OF Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No. 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21 **Date: 21.10.2020**
Corrigendum in Auction Program of Northern Railway
Following extra/amended dates of the auction program for the month of October, November 2020 will be as under:

| SNo. | Depots | Existing | Extra/amended date for e-auction |
|------|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388 | -- | 30.10.2020 |
| 2. | DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388 | 02.11.2020 | 28.11.2020 |

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in.'
(Amir Chand)
Dy. CMM/Sig
For Principal Chief Materials Manager
2318/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com
No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2020-21 **Dated 19.10.2020**
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. NOVEMBER/20
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Including Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Auction programme is as under.
e-AUCTION Schedule for November, 2020.

| S. No | Depot/Division conducting auction | 1 st round | 2 nd round | 3 rd round | 4 th round | 5 th round |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | DY.CMM/AM/VLKO 0522-2451257 | 03.11.20 | 10.11.20 | 17.11.20 | 24.11.20 | -- |
| 2 | DY.CMM/SSB 011-27015387 | 04.11.20 | 11.11.20 | 18.11.20 | 25.11.20 | -- |
| 3 | DY.CMM/JUDW 01732-252388 | 02.11.20 | 09.11.20 | 16.11.20 | 23.11.20 | -- |
| 4 | Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756 | 02.11.20 | 09.11.20 | 16.11.20 | 23.11.20 | -- |
| 5 | Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154 | 04.11.20 | 11.11.20 | 18.11.20 | 25.11.20 | -- |
| 6 | Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203 | 05.11.20 | 12.11.20 | 19.11.20 | 26.11.20 | -- |
| 7 | Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141 | 05.11.20 | 12.11.20 | 19.11.20 | 26.11.20 | -- |
| 8 | Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311 | 03.11.20 | 10.11.20 | 17.11.20 | 24.11.20 | -- |

1. E-Auction will be held from 12.00 AM on wards as per above programme
2. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
3. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. In this regard details are available at ireps.
4. To register for in e-auction, purchasers need to visit website 'www.ireps.gov.in'. In case any difficulty in registering purchasers may contact Dy. CMM/S&P
(Perhad Singh)
Dy. CMM/S&P
For Principal Chief Materials Manager
2290/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
Hyderabad - 500062
TENDER REF NO: NFC/MZF&CCF/STD.INST/NIT/56/2020/02
Subject: Calibration of standard instruments of CCF at NABL Accredited or equivalent labs. On behalf of the President of India, sealed tenders are invited from competitive and well experienced contractors by Sr. Manager, MZFP & CCF, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Department of Atomic Energy, ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062. **Estimated Cost: ₹ 4.79,670/- EMD - ₹ 9,593/- Period of contract - 12 Months. Note:** The Tender Documents will be issued, in person only, to the prospective bidders, or their representatives, on all working days from 22-10-2020 to 30-10-2020 between 10:00 hours to 15:30 hours on submission of Demand draft or banker's cheque which is nonreturnable, payable at Hyderabad drawn in favour of "Pay & Accounts Officer, NFC" for ₹ 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only). Office of the Manager, Sr. Manager (M-ZFP & CCF), ZFP Building, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad - 500062 (Telephone No.: 040-2718-3470/3246/4412) may be contacted for the any query and for further details please login to our website: <http://www.nfc.gov.in/open-tenders.html>.
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHARMINAR ZONE
Tender Notice
SI No: 1, NIT No: 26/SE-CRZ/GHMC/2020-21, Date: 20.10.2020, Name of the Works: 3 Sanitation Works, Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2571.20, Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Download Start Date: 21/10/2020 @ 03:00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 26/10/2020 @ 03:15 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No: Sr. B. Narsing Rao, Superintending Engineer, Charminar Zone, GHMC, Sardar Mahal, Charminar, Ph: 9704405314. Further details can be seen at <https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in> R.O. No.: 6185-PP/CLADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (M) Charminar Zone, GHMC Dated 21-10-2020
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Uo Executive Engineer, PR Division, Armour.
Tender Notice
CTN No.DB/T202/Tenders/2020-21, Dated: 19-10-2020
No. of Works (21) Name of the works: C/o SC Community Hall at Yergatta (V&M), C/o SC Community Hall at Nagapur (V) of Balkonda (M) and other all civil works in undersigned. TOTAL ECV:1.77 Crores. Last Date of applications 03.11.2020 upto 3.00 PM. Issue of Tender Schedule 03.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Last date of Receipt of Tenders 04.11.2020 upto 3.00 PM. Date of Opening of Tenders 04.11.2020 at 5.00 PM. Further details can be obtained from the office Sd/- Executive Engineer, PR Division, Armour Dated 21-10-2020
NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st Corrigendum
Against Tender Notice No. Sig/P/ZEI/SNX-KTW/MB/04-2020 dated 17.10.2020
The start of bidding date is being changed as below in the Tender Notice No. **Sig/P/ZEI/SNX-KTW/MB/04-2020 dated 17.10.2020** for the following work:
Name of Work: "Provision of EI at 2 stations (SANEHROAD & KOTDWAR) in place of Rudimentary interlocking in signalling system on Najibabad (EXCL.)-Kotdwar section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway."
1. Start of submission of offer on www.ireps.gov.in is: 30.10.2020 instead of 29.10.2020
Other particulars of the Tender Notice will remain the same.
No.: Sig/P/ZEI/SNX-KTW/MB/04-2020 Dated: 21.10.2020 **2316/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
E-Tender Notice No. 26-2020 Dt. 21-10-2020
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works. Closing Date & Time: 19-11-2020 at 15:00 hrs
SI.No. 1. Tender No.: Engg-GTL-North-0915. Description of work: Guntakal Division : DEN North Section : PWP 2020-21 Works & LSWP 2019-20 Works : SW(1) GTL-WD Section : Through Fitting Renewal of existing 60 Kg Rails PSC & sleeper of 1660 density with new 60 Kg Rails on PSC 6 sleeper fitting for a length of 109.060 Km. SW(2) GTL-WD and BAY-GTL Section : proposed laying of Re Railing Ramps for Bridge No 292 UP&DN (Hargi Bridge) in BAY-GTL section and Bridge No 1017 UP&DN (Tungabhadra) and Bridge No 1123 UP&DN (Krishna Bridge) Total 6 bridges. Advertised Value in Rs.: 2,15,75,036.94/- Earnest money Deposit in Rs.: 2,57,900.00/-
SI.No. 2. Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-0917. Description of work: RU-GTL Section (UP/DN):1) Through Ballasting of track along with deep screening of ballast by BCM for a length of 23.188Kms. 2) Through Turnout Rail Renewal-32 No(CS+CMSC-05, TWS-13, WCMSC-04, TWS+WCMSC-10) 3) Ancillary work in connection with TWR with Mobile Flash Butt Welding-2.90km (Locations as per annexure) 4) Through Renewal of Glued Joints-110Nos (60Kg). (Locations as per annexure). 5) Proposed Re-railing Ramp on Bridge No.393 (UP & DN). (Pertains to AEN/RJP Jurisdiction) (PWP 2020-21). Advertised Value in Rs.: 2,41,26,421.41/- Earnest money Deposit in Rs.: 2,70,900.00/-
SI.No.3. Tender No.: Engg-GTL-South-0912. Description of work: Renigunta-Gooty section : Construction of Running room at Yerraguntla. Advertised Value in Rs.: 1,74,13,625.19/- Earnest money Deposit in Rs.: 2,37,100.00/-
SI.No. 4. Tender No. Engg-GTL-North-913. Description of work: Guntakal Division : DEN North Section : PWP 2020-21 Works SW(1) BAY-GTL, GY-GTL & GTL-WD Section : Through Rail Renewal (Primary) of existing 60 Kg/52Kg/90TS rails on PSC 6 sleeper 1540/1660 density with new 60 Kg Rails on PSC 6 sleeper 1540/1660 density including recouping of ballast cushion and deep screening for a length of 1.868 Km SW(3) PDL-GTL & GTL-WD Section : Through Turnout Rail Renewals of existing 52/60 Kg switches, lead rails and crossings on running lines with new 60 Kg curved/thick web switches, lead rails and CIMS/WCMSC of 23 points SW(4) Through renewal of 60 Kg SEJ of 23 sets SW(5) Through renewal of Glued joints of 332 Nos (60 Kg-306 & 52 Kg-26) 238 Nos(60 Kg-213 & 52 Kg-25). Advertised Value in Rs.: 2,08,70,120.64/- Earnest money Deposit in Rs.: 2,54,400.00/-
SI.No. 5. Tender No. Engg-GTL-North-914. Description of work: Guntakal Division : DEN North Section : PWP 2020-21 Works : Through Ballasting of track along with deep screening of ballast by BCM for a length of 22.470 Km and manual 2.258 Kms. Total of 24.728Km.
For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 hours and the date mentioned against each.
SI.No. 1. Tender No.: E-26-South-2020. Name of work: Proposed to Facilitate Accommodation for women RPF, which includes Furniture, Toilets etc at Gudur & Ongole stations. Period of completion: 9 (Nine) months. Tender value : Rs.1,19,04,198/- E.M.D.: Rs. 2,09,500/- Date of closing: 03-11-2020
SI.No. 2. Tender No.: E-27-South-2020. Name of work: Nellore-Proposed construction of RPF office accommodation at Nellore station in SSE/Works/Nellore section. Period of completion: 9 (Nine) months. Tender value: Rs.59,12,230/- E.M.D.: Rs.1,18,300/- Date of closing: 11-11-2020
The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website 'www.ireps.gov.in', before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), A1190 Vijayawada.
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| Sensex | 40,707.31 | 0.40 |
| Nifty 50 | 11,937.70 | 0.34 |
| S&P 500* | 3,448.44 | 0.15 |
| Dollar (₹) | 0.87 | -0.15 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 96.02 | -0.96 |
| Euro (₹) | 87.25 | -0.82 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 51,354,444 | 0.87 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 41.93 | -1.23 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.912 | -0.019 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.817 | 0.021 |

* As of 9:30 PM IST

AirAsia India starts flights on 6 new local routes

Budget carrier AirAsia India on Wednesday launched flights on six new routes, connecting Chennai with Ahmedabad, Goa, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, Mumbai with Goa, and Jaipur with Kolkata as it expects an increase in demand during the festive season. All new routes are now open for bookings. It also offered 'Flex Fares' allowing customers the flexibility to change their travel dates unlimited number of times.

Fire breaks out at Royal Enfield's Jaipur stockyard



Eicher Motors on Wednesday said a fire broke out at Royal Enfield's Jaipur-based transit stockyard facility. Royal Enfield is a part of Eicher Motors. At around 12.30 pm on Wednesday, a fire incident occurred at Royal Enfield's transit stockyard facility at Kukas, Jaipur. "All manpower and personnel have been evacuated. There has been no harm or injury to personnel working at the facility," Eicher Motors said.

L&T Infotech shares zoom 5% on Q2 earnings

Shares of IT company L&T Infotech, the tech arm of L&T, gained nearly 5 per cent on Wednesday after the company reported a 26.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended September 2020. The stock jumped 4.73 per cent to close at ₹3,105 on the BSE. During the day, it rose by 5.88 per cent to ₹3,139. On the NSE, it gained 4.73 per cent to close at ₹3,105.

Bajaj Finance Q2 net profit drops 36% to ₹965 cr

Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) on Wednesday reported a 36 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit at Rs 965 crore for the second quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year. The NBFC had posted a net profit of ₹1,506 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income grew 3 per cent to Rs 6,523 crore during Q2FY21 as against ₹6,323 crore in the same quarter a year earlier.

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Centre plans sops for industry

More sectors likely to get production-linked incentives to boost manufacturing

New Delhi, Oct. 21: Enthused by initial response of industry with regard to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj on Wednesday said that the government is considering an extension of the scheme to 7-8 more sectors to promote domestic manufacturing. With the view to make India a manufacturing hub, the government recently announced the PLI scheme for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment sectors.

"I have a lot of confidence and hope on the PLI scheme that we have brought out for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment, and in the office are about 7-8 sectors where the PLI scheme would be extended," Bajaj said while addressing a virtual CII conference.

The PLI scheme, unlike other schemes, is an outcome- and output-oriented programme where manufacturers get cash incentives over 5-7 years for production, he said.

Focus on investments, jobs, reskilling: Report

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 21

The government should focus on increasing investments, creating jobs and skilling workforce for the next 10 years, else it may be on the path to a breakdown nation.

Since the 1990 reforms, six per cent real GDP growth in India was a given. It no longer is and the potential growth is estimated to be below 6 per cent from FY22-FY25, according to a report by Quantum India Advisors.

India's labour force participation rate and the demand in the world now, to have a diversification of supply chains, and India can definitely take advantage," he said.

employment rate have fallen consistently over the last five years. The employment situation has become worse. The Indian economy and its informal workforce suffered a major blow post the shocks of demonetisation, GST and the credit crisis.

Distress in rural India was ignited by demonetisation of November 2016. While rural areas haven't been hit as hard in the Covid-19 related lockdown, demand is yet to recover fully from past shocks. Lower aggregate demand in urban and rural India as a result of

the demonetisation suppressed corporate profits and gave little incentive to industry to invest in new capacity. This resulted in lower job creation.

Further, the government's self-imposed fiscal constraints have not helped in stimulating the flagging demand.

The report wants the country to focus on more investment and exports to drive growth and incomes. Emerging economies which have grown and broken out of the low income have all done it by investing, producing at large scale and exporting.

tant sectors are proposed to be covered in these areas," Bajaj said.

He added that "so, I think that with all these efforts and as finance minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) said we are seeing what all other things can we do (to boost manufacturing and economy)."

Speaking about raising infrastructure spending, Bajaj said the government is trying to cajole chairmen and managing directors of public sector enterprises to meeting their capital expenditure (capex) plan for the current financial year.

The government has been doing review meetings at all levels to push infrastructure spending, he said, adding that the finance minister recently announced another tranche of ₹37,000 crore going into the infrastructure spend. "While we are in the process of making our budget for the next year, we are also looking at what has been the expenditure this year and what is the extra requirement that is required by various sectors," he said. — PTI

1 in 2 adults worried about jobs, 2 in 3 expect reskilling

New Delhi, Oct. 21: More than half of the working adults globally are concerned about losing their job in the next 12 months, including 57 per cent in India, but more than two-thirds are hopeful that their employers will help them retrain for new employment opportunities, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The survey, released at the World Economic Forum's *Jobs Reset Summit* being held online, showed wide variations between countries, while an average of three in four workers in Russia feared job losses, it was just one in four in Germany.

In India, nearly 57 per cent of respondents said they are 'concerned' about their jobs — over 25 per cent are 'very concerned' and 31 per cent are 'somewhat concerned'.

Globally, 54 per cent concerned about job losses in the next 12 months, the WEF-Ipsos global survey of more than 12,000 working adults in 27 countries showed.

The prevalence of job-loss concern was highest at 75 per cent in Russia, followed by 73 per cent in Spain and and 71 per cent in Malaysia. Germany

JOB WORRIES

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The prevalence of job-loss concern was highest at 75 per cent among people in Russia, followed by 73 per cent in Spain and and 71 per cent in Malaysia.

scored the best with 26 per cent, while it was 30 per cent in Sweden, and 36 per cent in the Netherlands and the US.

However, 67 per cent of workers worldwide said they can learn skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer. Nearly nine in 10 workers in Spain think they can gain essential new skills on the job, whereas fewer than half in Japan, Sweden and Russia.

Across the 27 countries, perceived ability to learn and develop those skills on the job was found to be the most widespread in Spain (86 per cent), Peru (84 per cent), and Mexico

(83 per cent) and the least common in Japan (45 per cent), Sweden (46 per cent), and Russia (48 per cent). India also scored very high at 80 per cent.

World Economic Forum managing director Saadia Zahidi said, "The current crisis means that the job creation rate has gone significantly down compared to two years ago but there is an optimistic scenario overall compared to the rate of job destruction."

The countries where those who can gain new skills on the job outnumber those who are concerned about losing their job by the largest margins are the US and Germany (by 40 points). — PTI

India needs bond market: Sebi

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 21

Development of bond market is necessary to help the government to achieve its target of investment in infrastructure and there is an urgent need to diversify funding requirements from the banking sector," the Sebi chairman said.

The Sebi chairman also acknowledged that illiquidity in the bond markets was an issue and that it needed a long-term solution. "It would be a challenging task to achieve the government's target of achieving ₹100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure by 2024-25 unless the bond market is adequately developed," said the Sebi chief, while addressing

the CII Financial Markets Summit.

"The corporate bond market needs to become more robust because there is an urgent need to diversify funding requirements from the banking sector," the Sebi chairman said.

The Sebi chairman also acknowledged that illiquidity in the bond markets was an issue and that it needed a long-term solution.

The Sebi chief further mentioned that the recovery in capital markets after the initial hit by the pandemic in March 2020 has been broad-based.

"Retail participation has gone up with 63 lakh new

IT WOULD be a challenging task to achieve the government's target of achieving ₹100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure by 2024-25 unless the bond market is adequately developed

AJAY TYAGI, Sebi chief

demat accounts opened between April-September 2020 compared to 27 lakh demat accounts opened during the same period last year, marking 130 per cent rise. Also the Indian market has seen inflows

Small cities drive e-tail, sales up 48% in festive season

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 21

The e-commerce sector has clocked ₹22,000-crore or \$3.1 billion worth business during the first four days of the initial festive season sales event, according to the data of RedSeer Consulting. The seven-day festive sales event began on October 15.

E-commerce players have achieved 77 per cent of the predicted sales of \$4 billion or around ₹28,000 crore for the first festive sales event.

While RedSeer expects that the festive month from October 15 to November 15 will see total sales of \$7 billion, Forrester has predicted the total sales to be around \$6.5 billion. Of this, 75 per cent of \$4.8 billion sales could happen in the first seven-day event.

Going by RedSeer's estimation of \$4 billion, the e-commerce sector has seen a 48 per cent growth at \$4 billion in sales during the first event compared to the last year's \$2.7 billion.

"Sharper sales growth against the last year, especially in the first three days, indicates that the industry is on track to reach or even surpass our forecasts of \$4 billion," said a researcher at RedSeer.

Some of the factors that have helped the growth are the demand growth in tier-2 cities driven by reverse migration, digital adoption and value offers post Covid-19.

Flipkart saw over 666

● GOING BY RedSeer's estimation of \$4 billion, the e-commerce sector has seen a 48 per cent growth at \$4 billion in sales during the first event compared to the last year's \$2.7 billion.

● SOME OF the factors that have helped the growth are the demand growth in smaller cities driven by reverse migration to hinterland, digital adoption and value offers post Covid-19 pandemic.

million visits with over 52 per cent of these visits recording from tier-3 cities and beyond. It has seen 51 per cent growth in customers from tier 2+ markets in fashion.

Tier-3 customers drove the sale of large appliances with nearly 50 per cent demand coming from these cities. Of the 35 per cent new seller base this time, around 60 per cent were from tier-2 and tier-3 towns.

"Over 1.1 lakh sellers receiving orders, 66 per cent sellers, 91 per cent of new customers, and 66 per cent of new Prime sign-ups from small towns, shopping in five Indian languages and orders from over 98.4 per cent of India's pin-codes in just 48 hours — it's truly Bharat's biggest celebration on Amazon ever," said Manish Tiwary, Vice President, Amazon India after two days of the event.

SBI slashes home loan rate by 0.25%

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 21

State Bank of India on Wednesday announced up to 25 basis points (bps) concession on home loan rates as part of its festival offers.

SBI home loan customers would get an interest concession of 25 bps for buying their dream homes of above ₹75 lakh based on CIBIL score and through YONO app.

"In an extension of its festive offers announced recently, SBI offers a credit score based concessions of up to 20 bps from 10 bps earlier, for a home loan of above ₹30 lakh to ₹2 crore across India. The same concession would also be

applicable for home loan customers for a loan amount of up to ₹3 crore in eight metro cities. An additional 5 bps concession for all home loans is given if applied through YONO," said the lender.

SBI now offers interest rates starting at 6.90 per cent for a home loan of up to ₹30 lakh and 7 per cent for above ₹30 lakh.

SBI commands nearly 34 per cent market share in home loans and nearly 33 per cent in the auto loans segment.

SBI has already announced a slew of special offers for its retail customers with 100 per cent processing fee waiver on car, gold, personal loans.

StanChart to lease biggest campus in TN

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 21

In one of the largest commercial realty deals in recent times, Standard Chartered GBS is leasing 7.7 lakh square feet of office space in Chennai for its largest office globally.

The office space is located at DLF Downtown at Taramani in Chennai's IT corridor. DLF has inked an anchor deal with Standard Chartered GBS for their office building.

DLF and GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, had entered into a strategic partnership to develop a rental assets portfolio with GIC as one-third partner, under the consolidated portfolio of DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL), a subsidiary of DLF.

DLF Cyber City Developers, the joint venture of DLF-GIC and TIDCO, announced the launch of DLF Downtown, Chennai with an investment of ₹5,000 crore earlier this year.

According to reports, Standard Chartered could pay around ₹100 crore (\$14 million) each year for leasing the space.

Australia may file anti-trust suit against Google

ROD MCGUIRK CANBERRA, OCT. 21

Australia's competition watchdog will consider its own antitrust case against Google, the commission chairman said on Wednesday after the US Justice Department sued the company for abusing its dominance in online search and advertising.

Competition and Consumer Commission chairman Rod Sims described the US case filed on

Tuesday as one of the world's biggest antitrust cases in the past 20 years.

"I'm delighted the Department of Justice's taking it on and we'll follow it really closely," Sims told the National Press Club, referring to the US Department of Justice.

"We're going to look at it and see whether there's any value in what we might do," Sims added.

Separately, Sims is drafting legislation to address the imbalance in bargaining

● AUSTRALIAN regulator is also drafting legislation to address the imbalance in bargaining power between Google and the Australian media businesses that want the tech giant to pay for journalism.

ing power between Google and the Australian media businesses that want the tech giant to pay for journalism.

The bills, that will be

ready to be introduced to Parliament by December, would empower an arbitrator to make binding decisions on how much Google and Facebook must pay media companies for news content.

Sims said his commission "had a lot of talk" with the US Justice Department before he released a report in July last year that recommended more government regulation on the market power of Google and Facebook that

would ensure fair deals for other media businesses and more control for individuals on how their data was used.

Sim's commission launched Australian court action against Google in July alleging the company misled account holders about its use of their personal data.

The commission alleges the Google misled millions of Australians to obtain their consent and expand the scope of personal information that

SHORT TAKES

Anju vice-prez of athletics body

New Delhi: Incumbent Adille Sumariwalla is set to be elected unopposed as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president for his third term while former long jumper Anju Bobby George will be made senior vice-president in the national governing body's polls on October 31. Sumariwalla and Anju were the only candidates who filed their nomination papers for their respective posts till the deadline of 4 pm on Wednesday. Returning officer Vijayalakshmy K. Gupta issued the list of nominated candidates after the deadline.

The deadline for withdrawal of nominations is 6 pm on Friday. For Anju, the lone Indian to win a medal in the World Championships (a bronze in 2003), it will be her highest post in the AFI executive committee. She was in the executive committee of last term by virtue of being a member of the Athletes' Commission.

The AFI constitution mandates at least one woman among five vice-presidents, five joint secretaries and eight executive committee members. — PTI

Three U-19 Bangla players Covid +ve

Dhaka: Three Bangladesh U-19 national team cricketers have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus, while 15 others are symptomatic.

In a report published in Dhaka-based *The Business Standard*, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) game development manager AEM Kawser was quoted as saying that all the players were part of the training camp being held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) as a part of Junior Asia Cup preparations, a tournament which now stands cancelled. "According to our protocol, we have to isolate everyone who has come into contact with symptomatic persons," Kawser said. The BCB has shut down the camp. — PTI

Covid-recovered F1 racer returns

Silverstone, England: Formula One driver Lance Stroll said he intends to race at the Portuguese Grand Prix this week after finishing a period of self-isolation following a positive test for the Coronavirus. Stroll, who drives for Racing Point, pulled out of the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nürburgring a day before the October 11 race because he felt unwell and said Wednesday he later tested positive for Covid-19.

In a post on Instagram, Stroll said he spent 10 days at home in self-isolation with mild symptoms and returned a negative test on Monday. "I feel in great shape," the Canadian driver wrote, "and I can't wait to be back with the team and to race in Portugal." — AP

Coco in second round at Ostrava

Prague: American teenage sensation Coco Gauff beat Czech doubles specialist Katerina Siniakova in straight sets to clinch a second-round spot at the Ostrava Open WTA tournament on Tuesday.

Gauff squandered her first three match points but the Czech hit the net on the fourth to bow out.

Gauff will face third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, the world number 12, in the second round.

Daria Kasatkina of Russia saw off sixth seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, while her compatriot Veronika Kudermetova upset Croatia's Donna Vekic 6-2, 6-4. — AP

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Young Boys vs Roma from 10.25 pm on Sony Six; Rapid Wien vs Arsenal from 10.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Leicester vs Zorya Luhansk from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3; Celtic vs AC Milan from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Tottenham Hotspur vs LASK from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Hoffenheim vs Crevna Zvezda from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press, situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

SUPER SIRAJ SHOW

Seamer wrecks KKR as RCB win big

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 21: Pacer Mohammed Siraj's fiery opening spell, accentuated by two rare wicket- maiden overs, set up Royal Challengers Bangalore's dominant eight-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders, here on Wednesday.

Siraj virtually killed the contest, running through the KKR top order in a stunning display of swing bowling.

He ended with enviable figures of 4-28-3 and in the process emerged as the first bowler in the history of IPL to bowl two wicket- maiden overs.

After Siraj's furious display, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/15) stymied KKR's revival hopes as RCB restricted them to their second lowest total of 84 for eight.

In reply, RCB completed the formalities in 13.3 overs, securing their seventh win from 10 matches and moved up a place to second in the table with 14 points.

RCB lost their opener Aaron Finch (16) after the Powerplay overs with Lockie Ferguson striking in his first over. Devdutt Padikkal (25) was run out as RCB lost two wickets in the same over. But Virat Kohli (18 not out) and Gurkeerat Singh (21 not out) ensured there were no more hiccups as RCB won with 39 balls to spare.

It was a forgettable day for KKR who capped a slew of dubious records that included registering the lowest score in a 20-over IPL innings without a team getting bowled out.

It was for the first time a team played four maiden overs in a T20 innings. They also scored their lowest Powerplay score of 17/4.

— PTI



Mohammed Siraj (right) of Royal Challengers Bangalore celebrates taking the wicket of Tom Banton of Kolkata Knight Riders during their IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. — BCCI

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: S. Gill c Morris b N. Saini 1, R. Tripathi c de Villiers b M. Siraj 1, N. Rana b M. Siraj 0, T. Banton c de Villiers b M. Siraj 10, D. Karthik lbw b Y. Chahal 4, E. Morgan c Gurkeerat b Sundar 30, P. Cummins c Padikkal b Y. Chahal 4, K. Yadav run out 12, L. Ferguson not out 19. **Extras:** (LB-2, WD-1) 3. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 84.** **FoW:** 1-3, 2-3, 3-3, 4-14, 5-32, 6-40, 7-57, 8-84.

Bowling: C. Morris 4-1-16-1, M. Siraj 4-2-8-3, N. Saini 3-0-23-1, I. Udana 1-0-6-0,

Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-15-2, Washington Sundar 4-1-14-1.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: D. Padikkal run out 25, A. Finch c Karthik b Lockie Ferguson 16, Gurkeerat Singh not out 21, Virat Kohli not out 18. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-3) 5. **Total (for 2 wickets in 13.3 overs) 85.** **FoW:** 1-46, 2-46.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 3-0-18-0, M. Prasidh Krishna 2-3-0-20-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-28-0, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-17-1

IPL POINTS TABLE

| Teams | P | W | L | N/R | Pts | NR |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Delhi Capitals | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 14 | +0.774 |
| Royal Challengers Bangalore | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 14 | +0.182 |
| Mumbai Indians | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 12 | +1.201 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | -0.828 |
| Kings XI Punjab | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | -0.177 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | -0.591 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 9 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 6 | +0.008 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 6 | -0.463 |

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

Must-win game for SRH & RR

Dubai, Oct. 21: The inexperienced young guns of both RR and SRH would like to put their hands up in testing times when both teams square off in a must-win IPL game on Thursday.

Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Riyan Parag of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

SRH are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over CSK in the previous game.

While SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit with five games remaining, RR would be hoping to continue the winning momentum. — PTI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

- Matches: 12
- Rajasthan: 6
- Hyderabad: 6

MEETING IN 2019

- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets at Hyderabad
- Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets at Jaipur

MEETING IN 2020

- Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 5 wickets at Dubai
- David Warner who scored 331 runs at an average of 41.37 in nine innings of as many matches, is the highest run-getter for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL.
- Steven Smith who hit 99 sixes in 178 innings of 202 matches, needs just one six to complete a century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

Bravo out of IPL with groin injury

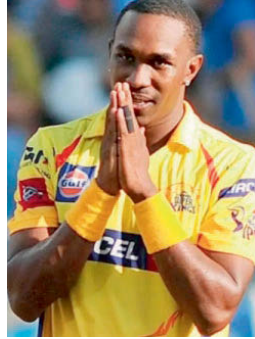
Dubai, Oct. 21: Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a groin injury, dealing a massive blow to the already struggling side which has very slim chances of advancing to the play-offs.

The 37-year-old Bravo, an integral part of the CSK team for years now, couldn't bowl the final over against Delhi Capitals in a match in Sharjah on October 17.

Skipper MS Dhoni was forced to bowl Ravindra Jadeja, who conceded three sixes.

"Dwayne Bravo is ruled out of the IPL due to a groin injury," CSK CEO Kashi Viswanathan said.

Bravo played six games and scored only seven runs in two innings. However, he got six wickets in as many



Dwayne Bravo

games with an economy rate of 8.57.

CSK's campaign has already been derailed after seven losses from 10 games. They are currently currently lying at the bottom of the league table. CSK were already hamstrung by absence of senior players Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh, both of whom pulled out citing personal reasons. — PTI

Holder sad with no BLM in IPL

Dubai, Oct. 21: West Indies captain Jason Holder has expressed his disappointment over none of the IPL teams taking a knee in solidarity with the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which, he feels, has gone unnoticed in the world's most glamorous cricket league.

Holder, who is member of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, made the statement while receiving the prestigious Peter Smith Award on behalf of the West Indies cricket team in a virtual ceremony organised by the Cricket Writers' Club.

The Peter Smith Award is an annual honour which recognises outstanding contribution to the presentation of cricket to the public.

"To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies website.

"Cricket West Indies has



Jason Holder

done an excellent job in continuing awareness of it. The women had a series in England where they wore the Black Lives Matter logo and continued to push the movement as well," he added.

Taking a knee as a gesture of support to BLM started in the West Indies' Test series in England this summer. It followed the global furor over African American George Floyd's death at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis.

But it was later discontinued for the subsequent tours of Pakistan and Australia. — PTI

All set for Andhra T20 League today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 21

With an objective to give players a competitive platform to showcase their skills, the Andhra T20 League, conducted by the Andhra Cricket Association, begins on Thursday at RDT Sports Complex in Anantapur.

Six teams — Titans, Champions, Chargers, Warriors, Legends and Kings — will play 33 matches over 18 days with the final scheduled for November 8.

Teams will play each other twice before the top four contest the semifinals, winners of which will play the title match.

Matches will start at 9.30 am and 1.30 pm. Spectators are not allowed at the games. However, the entire tournament will be streamed live on FanCode app.

K. S. Bharat (India cricketer), Ricky Bhui (former IPL player, Sunrisers Hyderabad), B. Ayyappa

● **Six teams — Titans, Champions, Chargers, Warriors, Legends and Kings — will play 33 matches over 18 days with the final on November 8.**

● **Spectators are not allowed at the ground. The event will be streamed live on FanCode app.**

(former IPL player, Delhi Capitals), B. Sumanth (former IPL player, Sunrisers) and other Ranji Trophy cricketers will participate in the event.

"The tournament is planned in a bio bubble environment in view of the Covid 19 pandemic situation. The Andhra Cricket Association is following prescribed precautionary measures for the smooth conduct of the tournament," M. V. Siva Reddy, ACA CEO, said.

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