

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 28 OCTOBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 31.6°C  
**Min:** 18.0°C  
**RH:** 48%  
**Rainfall:** Nil  
**Forecast:** Cloudy sky.  
Haze, mist likely.  
Max/Min temp. 32/19 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,603)	(+532)
79,87,731	1,20,023
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+837)	(+4)
TS: 2,33,671	1,315
(+2,901)	(+19)
AP: 8,11,825	6,625

### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,40,71,979
DEATHS
11,68,562
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Nija Ashwayuja Shuddha  
Dwadasi till 12.55 pm

**Star:** Poorvabhadra till 9.11 am

**Variyam:** 7.54 pm to 9.41 pm

**Durmuhurtam:** 11.37 am to 12.22 pm

**Rahukalam:** 12 noon to 1.30 pm

**HURJI CALENDAR**

**Rabbi-ul Awwal 10,** 1442 AH

**PRAYERS**

**Fajar:** 5.12 am

**Zohar:** 12.10 pm

**Asar:** 4.11 pm

**Maghrib:** 5.53 pm

**Isha:** 7.01 pm

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.13 AM**

**SUNSET TODAY 5.58 PM**

**MOONSET 3.28 AM**

**MOONRISE 4.04 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



## Students killed in Pak explosion

**Peshawar:** A powerful blast ripped through a religious seminary in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar city on Tuesday, killing at least eight people, mostly students, and wounding over 120 others. The blast occurred around 8.30 am at a mosque, which also serves as a religious school in Dir Colony in interior Peshawar, while students were reading the Quran, Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ali Khan said. Police said the incident would be fully probed and the perpetrators will be brought to book. There was no claim of responsibility for the blast in the city, bordering war-torn Afghanistan.

■ Full report on Page 5

## 1 dies, many hurt in Bihar clash

**Patna:** One person was killed and many injured after a clash broke out in Bihar's Munger during the immersion of Goddess Durga on Monday night. The police blamed anti-social elements but sources said that crowd went berserk after police asked them to speed up the process. Sources said that the administration had asked the Puja committees to conduct the immersion within the deadline due to restrictions imposed in view of the Assembly elections. The police said a group started pelting stones. Later a person was killed when someone opened fire.

## NATION | 4

**Khushbu Sundar detained over Manusmriti row**



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

## WORLD | 5

**Don pick Barrett sworn in as SC justice**



## SPORTS | 8

**Gavaskar curious about Rohit's injury**



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## All set for Bihar polls



Security personnel on their way to a polling booth on the eve of first phase of Bihar Assembly elections. in Gaya district on Tuesday. Seventy one seats will go to the polls on Wednesday. Of the 2.14 crore voters who will exercise their franchise, 1.01 crore are women and 599 belong to the third gender.

— PTI

# Centre tweaks law, outsiders can purchase land in J&K

**Srinagar, Oct. 27:** The Centre on Tuesday cleared the decks for people from across the country to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir by amending several laws, a move which mainstream political parties in the union territory said was akin to putting the erstwhile state up "for sale".

The BJP said the amendments, which came over a year after the Centre nullified Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution, will open the "floodgates of development" and mark the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity in the union territory.

In a 111-page notification in Hindi and English, the

Union ministry of home affairs made several changes to the land laws, including one that allows use of agricultural land for setting up facilities of public purpose.

The most important amendment has been made in the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act that deals with disposal of land with the Centre omitting the phrase "permanent resident of the state" from Section 17 of the law.

Before the repeal of Article 370 and Article 35-A in August last year, non-residents could not buy any immovable property in Jammu and Kashmir. The latest changes have paved the way for non-res-

idents to buy land in the union territory.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha told reporters that the amendments do not allow transfer of agricultural land to non-agriculturists.

However, there are several exemptions given in the Act which enable transfer of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, including setting up of educational and healthcare facilities.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Advocate General Mohammad Ishaq Qadri said the amendments have opened the floodgates for people from outside Jammu and

Kashmir to buy land. "Now there is no legal bar on purchase of land here by outsiders," he said.

The notification has replaced Section 30 and Part VII of the State Land Acquisition Act, 1990 with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Advocate Monika Kohli, who practises in the J&K High Court, said the notification was issued with the intent to harmoniously construe the laws with the laws applicable to the rest of India.

— PTI

■ Another report on Pg 4

# Netas force GHMC to pay cadre

**MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Nodal officers deputed to supervise relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected victims in the GHMC limits have the difficult task of dealing with middle-some public representatives belonging to all political parties.

These leaders are mounting pressure on civic authorities to grant compensation amounts to their henchmen, whom they are naming as flood victims. Threats are

issued to officials if relief is not paid to those favoured by them.

This has led to nodal officers taking up the issue with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, principal secretary Arvind Kumar and GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar.

The three top officials have asked nodal officers not to succumb to political pressure. They underlined that compensation amounts must be handed over to only true beneficiaries after physical inspections by revenue officials.

Moreover, the government has decided to put up on website details of all flood victims, along with names of those who will be paid compensation on a daily basis.

The compensation will be paid to beneficiaries the next day. If there are any discrepancies, beneficiaries can complain by calling GHMC call centre number, through MyGHMC app or by meeting the deputy commissioner concerned.

According to highly placed sources in the cor-

poration, the recent floods have hit over 3.5 lakh families. Since past one week, compensation amounts have been distributed to over one lakh families. However, intervention by political leaders in all 150 divisions of the GHMC is jeopardising payment of relief to genuine victims.

There is intense lobbying and sometimes even threats of severe consequences are issued to field-level officers by political leaders to include names of their supporters in the beneficiaries' list.

## Pharma majors endorse Brand Hyderabad

# Hyd gets booster dose from Granules, Laurus

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Hyderabad, the pharma industry capital of India, is all set to add further muscle to this status and 'Brand Hyderabad' with renowned pharmaceutical companies Granules India, and Laurus Labs announcing their decision to make major investments in Genome Valley in the city.

Speaking after the executives of the companies announced their investment decisions at a meeting with him, industries minister K.T. Rama Rao said investments to be made by Granules India and Laurus Labs demonstrated how the proactive policies of the Telangana state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrababhai Rao, were attracting global leaders from various sectors to invest in Hyderabad.

The city, Rama Rao said, along with other parts of Telangana state, was attracting industry leaders in the world in various fields including IT, pharma, textiles, aerospace and defence. "These investments into the manufacturing sector will provide much-needed employment to youth of

### PHARMA POWER

Granules India, a Hyderabad based Pharmaceutical company, said it will be investing ₹400cr to set up a manufacturing facility with a capacity to manufacture 10 billion units of finished dosages. The proposed unit will generate employment to about 1,600 people.

Laurus Labs, a research driven pharma company, said it will set up a formulation facility with a unit capacity of 5 billion finished dosages. It plans to invest ₹300 crores.

Krishna Prasad Chigurupati, CMD of Granules India and Satyanarayana Chava, CEO, Laurus Labs, met K.T. Rama Rao to discuss their investment plans.



Telangana state," he said.

Rama Rao thanked the leadership of Granules India and Laurus Labs for choosing to invest in the state. He said the state government will provide all possible support to these companies.

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Laurus Labs, a leading

research driven pharma

company, said it will be setting up a formulation facility with a unit capacity of 5 billion finished dosages. The company plans to invest ₹300 crore in two phases of ₹150 crore each, with the first phase expected to generate 150 new jobs.

Krishna Prasad Chigurupati, chairman and managing director of Granules India Ltd and Satyanarayana Chava, CEO, Laurus Labs, on Tuesday met Rama Rao to discuss their investment plans.

# Bandi: TRS trying to put off byelection in Dubbak

## BC panel asks for report on assault on Sanjay

**PULI SHARAT KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27**

TS BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar continued his sit-in protest at the party office on Tuesday, demanding that the government suspend Siddipet police commissioner Joel Davis for manhandling him on Monday, and the unconditionally release BJP partymen who were "wrongfully" arrested.

A heated atmosphere prevailed from Monday night with Kumar's announcement of the deeksha. The partymen held dharnas and blocked roads and some of them burnt effigies of Chief Minister K. Chandrababhai Rao and ministers K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao, raising slogans against the government at several places across the erstwhile Karimnagar district.

The police officials of



Former MPs A.P. Jithendar Reddy and Vivekananda give lime juice to TS BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar to end his deeksha at Karimnagar on Tuesday.

Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Rajanna Sircilla and Jagtial — struggled to keep the situation under control. They intensified checks, placed barricades and stopped the BJP cadres from reaching the deeksha camp.

BJP leaders from various parts of the state met Sanjay, including former MPs Jithendar Reddy and Vivekananda, former ministers Peddi-reddy, Babu

Mohan and former MLAs Bodiga Shoba and Katakam Mruthyunjaya.

Alleging that the TRS was misusing the police to harass the BJP by lodging false cases, Sanjay alleged that it was planning to postpone the Dubbak Assembly bypoll by hook or crook, because it knew it was going to lose.

■ Page 2: Sanjay rushed to hospital

### INMATES | FREED

## Most of the workers landed in jail due to petty crimes as they did not understand local laws

# 362 Indian workers released from Saudi jails

**NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, OCT. 27**

As many as 362 Indian migrants to the Gulf region were released from jails in Saudi Arabia and reached India a couple of days ago.

The workers belong to various states, including Telangana state. News reports carried in *Deccan Chronicle* on August 30 and September 16 highlighted the plight of Indian workers in Saudi Arabian jails. Reacting quickly on this, the external affairs ministry, the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia and various state governments took initiatives for the safe return of the workers.

As many as 150 Indian workers from Jeddah and 212 from Riyadh prison were released and brought

to India. Most of the workers landed in jail due to petty crimes like signal breaking, illegal vegetable/ water sales, lockdown violations. These occurred mainly due to ignorance of local laws. Migrant workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia were also facing the same situation.

Inmates from Jeddah jail sent a video clip to *Deccan Chronicle* and explained their problems. The family members of Gulf guest workers worried over their safe return. They pleaded with the Centre and respective state governments for the release of the workers. In view of Covid-19 pandemic, both Gulf guest workers and their families worried a lot about their safe return.



Bukya Man Singh and Bukya Ravi of School Thanda in Ramareddy mandal of Kamareddy district, who returned from Saudi Arabian prisons.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Bhukya Man Singh, 39, (Passport No. K9204159) said that they had faced a hell-like situation in Saudi jails for four

months. "Jail authorities ignored us, refused to give us kuboos (bread) regularly and we experienced starvation," he lamented. After news items were published

### DC Impact

● **INMATES FROM** Jeddah jail sent a video clip to *Deccan Chronicle* and explained their problems. The family members of Gulf guest workers worried over their safe return.

in *Deccan Chronicle*, both Indian and Saudi Arabian responded positively and released us from the jails, he said. "We and our family members are indebted to *Deccan Chronicle*," he added.

Man Singh said that and his elder brother Bukya Ravi went Saudi Arabia in search of livelihood. Due to lack of awareness on local laws, we committed petty

crimes and landed in jail, he said. "We went Saudi Arabia to improve our family financial position, but unfortunately we incurred heavy losses", he said. Our family members felt happy about the safe return of me and my brother, he explained.

Gulf guest workers belonging to Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other states were brought to New Delhi in the first week of October. After an eight-day quarantine period, they were shifted to their native places. The authorities also issued Coronavirus negative certificates to the migrant workers. The flight charges and accommodation were provided

free of cost to the migrant workers.

Telangana Gulf Workers Welfare and Cultural Association president P. Basanth Reddy said that around 400 Indian workers landed in Saudi Arabian jails and their safe return had turned difficult.

Based on the *Deccan Chronicle* report, Union minister of state for external affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, responded positively on the safe return of the Indian workers, he said. The news clippings brought to the notice of the ministry and Saudi Arabian authorities the need to release the Indian workers during the pandemic, he said.



## IN BRIEF

**KCR to inaugurate Dharani portal**

**Hyderabad:** Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will inaugurate the much-awaited Dharani portal on Thursday at 12.30 pm in Mudu Chintalapalli village of Medchal-Malkajgiri district. It is expected that the CM will take a decision on the day with regard to vacating the holiday on land registrations.

**SOMESH ASKS TO EXTEND REGISTRATIONS**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Tuesday asked revenue officials to extend hassle-free registration and mutation services through Dharani to the citizens as envisioned by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Mr Somesh Kumar was addressing a training programme of officials and staff of the revenue and registration departments. He appealed to the revenue staff to live up to the expectations of the Chief Minister in the successful implementation of the portal by providing services in a simple, transparent, and speedy manner without using discretionary powers.

He was confident that Dharani would become a trend-setter in the country. The Chief Secretary explained the processes to the revenue staff through a power-point presentation.

He said that a state-level control room will be set up to address technical issues and district-level technical support teams would be formed to resolve any issues that arise.

**NIPER ADDS NEW COURSE IN MEDICAL DEVICES**

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Niper) has introduced an MTech programme in medical devices at its campuses in Hyderabad, SAS Nagar (Mohali) and Guwahati. The course contains topics related to biology, chemistry, mathematics, clinical science and engineering.

The course will contain a one-year project work aimed at developing prototypes of medical devices, and offer students access to career options such as research and development in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical device industry and initiating start-up companies in the sector.

The minimum eligibility for candidates will be a degree in BPharma, Pharm D, MSc, BTech, BE, MBBS, BDS or BVSc. The batch size will be 10 students per year at each campus.

The last date for online registration is November 15 and an online NIPER Joint Entrance Examination will be held on December 4.

More details are available on the website <http://www.niper-hyd.ac.in>.

**BJP PLAYING VICTIM CARD FOR VOTES: TALASANI**

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday charged the Bharatiya Janata Party leadership with trying to enact a political drama and claiming to be victims of political vendetta to mislead the voters in Dubbak.

Speaking to the media, he ridiculed the claims of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar that party candidate M. Raghunandan Rao was being framed by the police who had planted the money at the house of the latter's relative.

Mr Srinivas Yadav said the police had released videos where the accused had admitted to have received the amount.

Mr Srinivas Yadav said that Kishan Reddy as Union minister of state was empowered to seek an explanation from the Siddipet police commissioner by summoning the latter, instead he is doing politics.

Mr Srinivas Yadav reminded that the by-election was being conducted by the Election Commission and the police as well as other authorities were acting on its directions including money seizures.

# Covid impact leaves in dire need of Vit D

## Virus Protocols to remain indoors aggravates the situation

**KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Vitamin D deficiency is mostly seen in winters as people stay indoors but this year due to the isolation and Covid-19 protocols, many people have remained indoors aggravating the situation.

The last six months have seen many of them remain indoors and senior citizens have not ventured out even for their morning walks.

Children too have been out very little given parental fear of the virus.

With winters approaching, there is again fear that they will not be able to move out and their vitamin D levels will be compromised. Sunlight is a major source of vitamin D for the body.

In winters, there is less and weaker sunlight and the exposure levels are reduced as people do not venture out much due to

the cold.

For this reason, there is a concern as the standard bone diseases like osteoporosis, fragility and others will see a rise due to prolonged staying inside homes.

Before the lockdown, it was estimated that 80 per cent of the Indian population suffered from vitamin D deficiency. Post-lockdown and with Covid-19 protocols, it is estimated that the percentage has further increased.

Vitamin D deficiency results from one or more factors like inadequate sunlight exposure, inadequate nutrition or malabsorption.

Those who are obese, require anti-epilepsy medication and steroids require vitamin D supplements as their body absorption is a challenge.

With Covid-19, the situation in all these categories has aggravated and they are being recommended a

**SIGNS OF VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY INCLUDE:**

- Fatigue or tiredness
- Bone pain
- Joint pain
- Muscle pain
- Sour mood
- Low energy
- More frequent illness
- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Weight gain
- Hair loss

daily dose of vitamin D.

Dr Aditi Gupta, senior consultant, said, "Due to the pandemic, people are not able to understand that symptoms like fatigue, bone pain, muscle pain, irritation and sour

moods are also related to less vitamin D in the body. While exposure to sunlight is an issue, they must opt for vitamin D-rich foods."

Vitamin D supplements are important as they also help in reducing viral loads. With the onset of winter and the prevalence of influenza, old Coronavirus and SARS-Cov-2 increase and it is recommended that people take supplements and vitamin D-rich foods. Nutritionist Ali Mohammed said, "For vitamin D to be metabolised in the body, magnesium is also important. Avocado, nuts, fatty fish, black beans, pumpkin seeds, tofu are rich in magnesium. This acts as a translation of vitamin D3 to active vitamin D hormone. This helps to improve absorption in the body. Other foods like cod-liver oil, eggs, mushrooms and meat are also rich in vitamin D."

## BJP LEADERS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Several BJP leaders were placed under house arrest across the state on Tuesday to prevent them from responding to the party's call to march to Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad in protest of alleged police assault on BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar at Siddipet on Monday and the alleged illegal seizure of cash in Siddipet.

The police restricted the movement of Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind in Nizamabad and former MP G. Vivek and MLC N. Ramachander Rao, and city leaders of the party in Hyderabad.

The police tightened security at the state BJP office.

Security at Pragathi Bhavan was also tightened following the call given by the BJP.

BJP workers staged protests in several parts of the state and attempted for burning effigies of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Meanwhile the Telangana BJP unit on Tuesday demanded that Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shashank Goel direct the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct an inquiry into the incidents that occurred in Siddipet on Monday and appoint a police observer to oversee the Dubbak by-election.

The BJP also demanded the suspension of Siddipet commissioner of Police, D. Joel Davis.

A delegation led by BJP national executive member N. Indrasena Reddy and MLC Ramachander Rao met the CEO and submitted a memorandum to him. They demanded the deployment of central forces for the conduct of a free and fair election in Dubbak. BJP leaders alleged that the state government had totally misused the police machinery and revenue officials to raid the house of a relative of the BJP candidate. They pointed out that the party's star campaigner and state unit president, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, was prevented from entering Siddipet and he was pushed into a car before being shifted to Karimnagar.

While attaching a video clip pertaining to police preventing Kumar from entering Siddipet, they alleged that a clear attempt was made to kill him.

● **The BJP leaders met the Chief Electoral Officer and demanded the deployment of central forces for the conduct of a free and fair election in Dubbak.**

● **BJP leaders alleged that the state government had totally misused the police machinery**

## Festive Fervour



As part of the Durga Ashtami celebrations, members of the Nava Durga Navaratri Utsav Samithi carry out procession at Esamia Bazar in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. SURENDRA

## COLD CHAIN SPACE CREATED TO OUTREACH VACCINE

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

To ensure that the Covid-19 vaccine has a proper outreach and effective movement with cold chain facilities, walk-in cold rooms and other facilities are being created by pharmaceutical companies.

They are willing to provide their infrastructure

as and when the Covid 19 vaccine is ready for use for the public.

Grish Bhat, managing director of Medihauxe Pharma, said, "We have a temperature sensitive medicine cooling facility of 2° to 8°C at the distribution level which will help in the transport and storage of vaccines."

There will be adequate

manpower required with the pharmaceutical companies for the back end jobs and they are also being readied for the same.

Most of the companies that are into the processing and distribution of critical care drugs are opting for extending their support for vaccine distribution too.

## Drop in sanitiser sale, prices hike

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Demand for disinfectants and sanitisers which boomed after the ease of lockdown has gone down from mid-August.

Khaja Abdul Mudasir of Chemical and Equipment Centre at Ramkoti, dealing in chemical and medical equipment, said, "The demand mounted three times the regular level soon after lockdown. At one point of time, we fell short of products. After the lockdown, the demand for hand sanitisers, liquids and gels, disinfectant chemicals such as sodium hypochloride and bleach were crazy."

Describing the sales, Mudasir said "From April to mid-August, the sales at each shop used to be around 1,000 kgs of bleach, 1,000 litres of sodium hypochloride and 1,000 litres of sanitiser."

However, Mudasir added, "The sales went down from mid-August.

We assume people have forgotten about the Coronavirus. Sales are now at the same level as it was before the lockdown and before the virus entered India."

A shop owner, under condition of anonymity, said, "Most of the shops have hiked the rates. The cost of sodium hypochloride which cost ₹15-₹25 has been raised up to ₹50 a litre. Bleach has shot up from ₹40 to ₹80 a kg, a litre of sanitiser which costs ₹100-₹120 has become ₹100 for 100ml, which is 10 times the original retail price.

Pathuri Srikanth, administrative manager at a television channel, said "We can easily make out that people have discontinued following the creed of safe environment and clean environment which was adopted during the initial period. We hardly see people using sanitisers now. Presently it seems like virus has been taken casually."

## ICFAI FOUNDATION TO HOST 9TH NJ YASASWY MEMORIAL LECTURE TODAY

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, a deemed to be university, is organising the 9th NJ Yasaswy Memorial Lecture on the subject 'India in the New World Order' on Wednesday. The online lecture will be delivered by Prof Jagdish

Sheth, the Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at the Goizueta School of Business of Emory University, Atlanta, USA. The virtual event, will begin at 7.30 pm and will be presided over by Dr C. Rangarajan, Chancellor and former chairman of the Reserve Bank of India.

● **THE RAJENDRANAGAR police have formed 10 special teams to trace and rescue the doctor, said Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar.**

## Congres asks EC to take action on TRS, BJP

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) on Tuesday again complained to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora against the TRS and the BJP for allegedly using rampant money power and liquor in the by-election to the Dubbak Assembly constituency. TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Congress Legislative Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Marri Shashidhar Reddy, chairman of TPCC election commission coordination committee, complained to Arora.

In the complaint, the TPCC cited the seizure of cash of ₹18.67 lakh by the

Siddipet police on Monday from the house of a close relative of BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao and also the seizure of ₹40 lakh intended to be used for the by-election from four persons on October 5 at Shamirpet, who admitted to be the followers of the BJP candidate.

TPCC leaders told Arora: "We have already drawn the attention of the EC vide our letter dated October 22 about the offer of bribe by the state finance minister T. Harish Rao and the campaign in charge on behalf of the ruling party to a Congress mandal president, Laxman Goud, to join the TRS." They said that they had also submitted the

YouTube link to the relevant report on a TV channel.

They also said: "We had also brought to the notice of the EC that the TRS would resort to influence voters with money and liquor and that the local police would not be in a position to check their movement as they are totally under the influence of the state government and are under threat by the TRS leadership."

TPCC leaders demanded that Arora direct the concerned to book cases against those who are indulging in bribery, corrupt practices and violation of the model code of conduct and immediately deploy forces to stop the use of money power.

## Siddipet top cop denies police assault on Sanjay

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Siddipet police commissioner Joel Davis on Tuesday said that the police had followed the due process of law while conducting searches in the house of BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao and his relatives.

He refuted the allegation that the Siddipet police assaulted BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday while he was entering Siddipet.

Addressing the media at One Town police station in Siddipet, Davis refuted allegations of police high-handedness during the searches.

He has released footage showing that the cash that was snatched by BJP activists was in fact confiscated from the residence of Surabhi Anjan Rao.

Maintaining that the reports appearing in certain sections of the media and social media networks

were absolutely wrong and fictitious, he said that the police searched the house of Anjan Rao after duly serving the search warrant signed by the executive officer and the search team obtained the signature of the persons in front of Anjan Rao.

The police commissioner said that all the proceedings inside the residence have been video-recorded which clearly showed that the cash was handed over to the officers by Anjan Rao's wife and Anjan Rao's explanation was also recorded.

The BJP cadre attacked the police and snatched part of the money while they were coming out of the house and all five people who have snatched the case were identified on Monday and cases booked against them and also another 20 persons, Davis said.

Clarifying that the police raided four places on Monday but found cash at

only one, Davis said that snatching the confiscated cash from the authorities is a crime and action will be taken in accordance with the law.

Narrating the incidents that led to the shifting of Sanjay to Karimnagar, the police commissioner said that they restricted his entry into Siddipet to avert a law and order problem. Stating that they sent the MP back to Karimnagar with a police escort, Davis added that no BJP leader was prevented from entering Dubbak for electioneering.

While appealing to the people and political parties to cooperate for a trouble-free election in Dubbak, Davis said that additional forces were kept ready for the peaceful conduct of the by-elections.

The Siddipet police commissioner said that the election teams are working impartially and effectively, without any bias.

## BJP frustrated, plays games, claims Harish

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 27**

Finance minister T. Harish Rao on Tuesday demanded that Union MoS for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy must answer why the BJP government at the Centre failed to deposit ₹15 lakh in every poor person's bank account as promised and why the Centre failed to offer one crore jobs every year.

Claiming that the TRS government had provided more than 1.25 lakh jobs to unemployed in the state in its six years of rule, Rao listed the recruitments in various departments through the Telangana state public service commission and also in the police department.

Addressing the "TRS Yuva Garjana" cycle rally at Thoguta, Rao exuded confidence that TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha would emerge victorious in the November 3 byelection to the Dubbak Assembly constituency.

Referring to the seizure

● **ADDRESSING THE 'TRS Yuva Garjana' cycle rally at Thoguta, Rao exuded confidence that TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha would emerge victorious in the November 3 byelection to the Dubbak Assembly constituency.**

tion to the Dubbak Assembly constituency.

Stating that the BJP candidate was bound to lose his deposit for the third consecutive time, Rao alleged that the frustrated BJP leaders were playing all kinds of games to attract the attention of the voters. "As people's representatives, we are all bound by certain rules. The police checked my vehicle when I was on my way to Thoguta, even the car of party candidate Sujatha has been checked and we have cooperated with them," said Rao.

Referring to the seizure

of cash from the house of a relative of a BJP candidate by the police on Monday, Rao pointed out that the person from whom the cash was confiscated in Siddipet had clearly said that the money was meant for distribution.

"The BJP local cadre created a ruckus when the officials were discharging their duties. I suspect that they are planning to do more such activities in the days to come," Rao rued.

Responding to the criticism by Congress leaders of the TRS denying a ticket to Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, son of former minister Cheruku Mutyam Reddy, Rao pointed out that the same Congress which had denied a ticket to Cheruku Mutyam Reddy in the 2018 elections was now shedding crocodile tears on his behalf.

He asked Srinivas Reddy, the Congress candidate, how he could join a party that had ditched his father.

## Sanjay rushed to hospital

**From Page 1**

"How the police can stop a star campaigner for the bypoll even after getting permission from the Election Commission? Is this a police raj and TRS Raj," TS BJP president Bandi Sanjay said about being stopped while entering Siddipet on Monday. Claiming that the police official did not show minimum courtesy towards a Member of Parliament and state chief of a national party along with other senior leaders of the BJP, Kumar asked: "How

can he manhandle a MP who was going to the town?"

Meanwhile, as his sugar levels went down due to the deeksha, BJP leaders admitted Kumar to a private hospital. Former MPs Jithender Reddy and Vivekananda gave him lime juice and made him withdraw the deeksha.

The National Commission for Backward Classes suo motu took up the arrest of Sanjay Kumar and issued showcause notices to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Director General of Police

M. Mahender Reddy.

In a statement released here, it said that with the regard to the manhandling and arrest of Sanjay, who belongs to the Backward Classes community, the commission was empowered to enquire into the facts of the case to safeguard the rights of OBCs.

The Commission asked the officials to reply before November 5, and submit supporting documents with regard to the incident that took place on Monday night without fail.



## OTHER STORIES

### 2 BURGLARS HELD, GOLD AND SILVER RECOVERED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, OCT. 27

Two burglars were taken into custody at Gandhi Chowk in Khammam on Tuesday. The police recovered gold and silver jewellery, and other valuables worth of ₹13.06 lakh from them.

The two persons were identified as Amaraneni Vamsi, Srinagar Colony, Khammam and Kala Manikanta, Vijayawada. The police in patrolling suspected the movements of two persons on a two-wheeler in Gandhi Chowk. The cops kept a vigil on them and the duo wandering before a jewellery shop at Gandhi Chowk. They were taken into custody and searched.

Jewellery and other valuables were recovered from their possession.

The duo told the police that they resorted to several crimes at various places. Police recovered 130 grams gold, 1,100 grams silver, a canon printer, a hair blower, a digital clock, hard disc, charger and binocular worth ₹13.06 lakh from their possession. The cops have also seized Suzuki Access from them.

## REMARKS ON ISLAM: FRENCH PREZ EFFIGY BURNT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 27

Muslims staged protest in Nizamabad on Tuesday and burnt an effigy of France President Macron for his alleged comments against Islam.

Muslims, under the aegis of Jamiat Ulama Hind, Nizamabad district unit, staged a protest at Nehru Park. The protestors said that comments of France President will polarize the people in the society on religion basis. They said that Indian government should stop relations with the French government and also send back France Ambassador from India.

Jamiat Ulama Hind leaders sent a memorandum to the President of India through the district collector here on Tuesday.

## GDSF CRUCIAL IN FORMING GOVT IN BIHAR: AIMIM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27

The Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) which was formed under All India Muslim League e-Ittehadul Majlis (AIMIM) will play a key role in the formation of the government after Assembly elections in the Bihar state, said the Karimnagar unit city president, Syed Gulam Ahmed Hussain on Tuesday.

The Bihar state united president of the AIMIM party, Akhtarul Emaan is contesting from Amour Assembly segment of Kishanganj district in Assembly elections.

In support to him, Mr Ahmed Hussain along with the director of the Telangana Haj Committee, Amjad Abu Talaha participated in the election campaigning as in-charges to the Amour Assembly segment.

In a statement released here, Mr Ahmed Hussain alleged that the previous and present government which is in the ruling had transformed the rich Bihar state into a poor state.

People are facing a lot of hardships without any basic facilities in many areas across the state, it stated.

The Nitish Kumar government has failed in providing quality education, medical facilities and employment opportunities to the unemployed youth. The education system has turned into a blessing for the children of the rich and a curse for the poor during his reign. Many Biharis are migrating to Northern and Southern states in search of jobs in a helpless condition, he pointed out.

There is no good response from the public to the RJD and Congress party alliance while the GDSF is receiving a huge response which was evident with the large number of people turning for the public meetings held by the AIMIM party president Asaduddin Owaisi and are showing faith towards GDSF formed under AIMIM party, he informed.

Mr Ahmed Hussain said that with the development as the main agenda the GDSF is conducting a wide campaign and would play a key role in the formation of a new government after elections.

# TRS losing in Dubbaka, getting desperate: Aruna

TRS playing 'cheap tricks' to win byolls says BJP leader

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27

After learning from surveys that it will be defeated in the Dubbaka bypoll by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the TRS government is playing cheap tricks to win the byelection, alleged BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna, on Tuesday.

Visiting Karimnagar, Aruna and former minister Babu Mohan extended support to BJP state chief and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who has locked himself in the BJP office to protest his arrest and assault on Monday, and staged a dharna in protest against the TRS government here. Speaking to the media, Ms Aruna condemned the attack on Sanjay. She alleged that sensing defeat with reports obtained from surveys, the TRS is trying to win the bypolls at any cost using government machinery and the police department.

Even though there is no election code in Siddipet, the government got the



D.K.Aruna

police to search the houses of relatives of the BJP candidate. The TRS leaders are trying to harass the BJP candidate and implicate him in false cases. For the past six years, the TRS did not take up developmental activities in Dubbaka Assembly constituency and now they are offering false promises to the people they would develop it in all sectors if they elect their party candidate, claimed Ms Aruna. Sensing that they would lose power if they lose the bypoll, the TRS government is misusing its power.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is

● **MS ARUNA** condemned the attack on Bandi Sanjay. She alleged that sensing defeat with reports obtained from surveys, the TRS is trying to win the bypolls at any cost using government machinery and the police department.

playing mind games and encouraging TRS leaders to spread lies and blackmail voters, said Ms Aruna.

State finance minister T. Harish Rao is deceiving voters by misleading them. He never thought of developing Dubbaka on par with Siddipet, she said.

Harish Rao and Chandrashekar Rao should be given doctorates for telling lies to the people. They are even threatening the voters saying that they will not receive pensions and benefits from the government if they do not elect the TRS candidate, the BJP leader-alleged.

Appealing to the BJP to participate in the election campaigning in Dubbaka and create awareness among the people about how the TRS had betrayed them for the past six years, Ms Aruna demanded that the government should suspend Siddipet commissioner of police Joel Davis for manhandling the BJP state chief and change all the officials for conducting the byelection transparently.

Ms Aruna demanded the release of BJP cadres who were arrested illegally by the police immediately.

Mr Babu Mohan alleged that both Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and minister Harish Rao are not able to digest the response the BJP is receiving from the public in Dubbaka.

Fearing defeat, they are making cruel plots and Davis is following their directions to make them happy, he said.

The dream of being in power until their death will not come true. People are ready to teach a befitting lesson to TRS, Mr Babu Mohan warned.

## COPS REGISTER CASE AGAINST COUNCILOR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, OCT. 27

The Kagaznagar town police registered a case against councilor P. Jaichander of 6th ward following the complaint lodged by a young girl of the same colony. The issue came to light two days ago.

In the complaint, the young girl stated that that councilor P. Jaichander cheated her by promising to marry her.

Town CI D. Mohan told the reporters that they have registered a case against the councilor and investigating the case.

● **Police registered a case against councilor P. Jaichander of 6th ward following the complaint lodged by a girl of same place stating that he cheated her by promising to marry her and not keeping his promise**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
Hyderabad, Oct. 27

Telangana state recorded 837 new Covid-19 cases that took the total to 2,32,671 while the toll rose to 1,315 with four more people succumbing to the disease in the 24-hour period ending 8 pm on Monday.

According to the Covid-19 bulletin released on Tuesday, 2,13,466 people have recovered from the disease while another 17,890 were listed as active cases.

The number of Covid-19



Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar inspecting the construction of the new bus stand at Bypass Road in Khammam on Tuesday. Collector R.V. Karnan and Mayor Papalal are also seen. — DC

# Khammam new bus stand to function from Dec: Ajay

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, OCT. 27

Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar said that the new bus stand being built at Bypass Road would be in operation from December.

The minister, who visited the site and inspected the ongoing works there on Tuesday, said that the new bus stand being built at a cost of ₹17.5 crore would be convenient to the passengers as well as the buses coming from various destinations.

He said that the new bus stand is a modern bus stand. It will have a lot of space and nearly 32 buses can be placed on the platforms at a time. He asked the engineers to speed up the works and complete it within the time-bound.

"Khammam is a centre for four states including Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra

● **THE NEW BUS stand** being built at a cost of ₹17.5 crore would be convenient to the passengers as well as the buses coming from various destinations

● **Khammam is a centre** for four states including Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh and hundreds of buses used to ply to these states via Khammam every day

Pradesh and hundreds of buses used to ply to these states via Khammam every day," he said, adding that the 1,200 buses will touch the bus stand in a day.

Referring to the vegetable and non-vegetable market in 26th division, he said that farmers would be given 400 shops

complex there. Modern toilet system will be coming up in the new complex and the garbage will be cleared every day.

"There will be a complex to the street vendors and rithu bazaar in the new project. The location is adjacent to the new bus stand and the farmers as well as people will have an advantage with it. The farmers can bring their produce through Palke Velugu and people can buy and board the buses immediately after buying goods there," he said.

On Gollapadu channel, he said that the development of Gollapadu channel is taken up as part of the beautification of Khammam town. Greenery will be raised in every inch and the people of other towns in Telangana should feel jealous after noticing the development taking place in Khammam.

# BJP leaders burn effigy of KCR to protest Bandi arrest

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, OCT. 27

The BJP leaders on Tuesday burnt an effigy of CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao, ministers K.T. Ramarao and Harish Rao for arresting BJP party president Bandi Sanjay and harassing the party candidate contesting in Dubbaka seat Raghunandan Rao in front of the Adilabad bus stand on Tuesday.

BJP leaders and activists led by the party district president Payal Sha-

● **BJP state executive committee member Suhasini Reddy demanded suspension of the cop who assaulted MP Bandi Sanjay.**

nkhar burnt the effigies of the above leaders while police tried to obstruct them. BJP leaders and activists raised slogans against KCR and TRS party for suppressing the BJP leaders and activists fearing

that the party may lose the seat in the elections.

Meanwhile, BJP state executive committee member Suhasini Reddy criticised the state government for assaulting the elected public representative and party president Bandi Sanjay with the sole motive to win the election by hook or crook.

She said the TRS party resorting to all fraudulent means to win the elections and demanded the suspension of the police officer who assaulted Mr Sanjay.

# State records less than 1,000 cases

## VIRUS TESTING SET UP TO STOP 2ND WAVE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

District administrations and officials of various departments at the field level were on Tuesday

lly, Jogulamba-Gadwal, Kurnambheem-Asifabad, Mulugu, Nirmal, Peddapalli, Vikarabad, and Warangal Rural districts reporting cases in single digits.

The day's lowest, one case, was reported from

directed to step up Covid-19 testing and take steps to prevent a second wave of Covid-19 infections in the state, at a conference in the city, organised by the health department.

Narayanpet district. A total of 3,039 patients were admitted to various hospitals for Covid-19 treatment from whom 1,301 were in government hospitals and 1,738 were in private hospitals, the bulletin stated.

# Intel Chief Naveen Chand likely to get an extension

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

TS Intelligence chief V. Naveen Chand is likely to get an extension, enabling him to continue to serve as the "eyes and ears" of CM K. Chandrashekar Rao for some more time. He was appointed to the key post after the abrupt transfer of the then Intelligence chief B. Shivdhar Reddy in September 2016 post the encounter of renegade naxal and gangster Nayeemuddin.

A 1996 batch officer of the state police services, Naveen Chand is due for retirement on October 31. Sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that during the

● **A 1996 batch officer of the state police services, Naveen Chand is due for retirement on October 31.**

last four years as IG, Intelligence, Naveen Chand, a native of Karimnagar district, has worked to the satisfaction of the powers-that-be, especially when it comes to political intelligence.

Known to keep a very low profile, it is learnt that Naveen Chand had carried out surveys on many aspects and issues concerning governance and the elections, which was relied upon heavily

by top government functionaries to further strengthen the party across the state.

"The decision to grant extension to Naveen Chand was taken long ago," a colleague of Naveen Chand said.

Though the duration of the extension is not known, sources said that the powers-that-be would want him to be around for some more time. With or without the extension, Naveen Chand has been the longest serving Intelligence chief ever since Telangana state was formed in 2014. In case he gets an extension, he will be the first state Intelligence chief to do so.

LITERARY JOURNAL Released during Bathukamma celebrations

# Kavitha is editor of Thangedu

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, OCT. 27

After being elected MLC, Kalvakuntla Kavitha has become Editor of 'Thangedu', the bi-monthly literary magazine of Telangana Jagruthi. This makes probably the first woman politician to become Editor of a magazine in the state. Dr Kanchanavalli is the associate editor.

The first issue of the magazine was released on the occasion of the Bathukamma festival and has been priced at ₹2. The low price has drawn appreciation. Kavitha is also the admin for a Whatsapp group called

● **IN THE** editorial of the first issue, Kavitha said, "literature is a social need."

● **THE MAGAZINE** was aimed at popularising Telangana culture and traditions through literature.

● **THE MAGAZINE** is priced at ₹2 and has drawn appreciation.

Thangedu. Thangedu is the state flower which is used in making Bathukamma. The magazine has poetry and short story sections and literature on Telangana culture and has picture of Bathukamma paintings of renowned

painter Laxman Aelay. The 14-year-old Telangana Jagruthi led by Kavitha had organised Bathukamma events at various places during the statehood agitation and has now taken up charity work.

In the editorial of the first issue, Kavitha said, "literature is a social need." She said the magazine was aimed at popularising Telangana culture and traditions through literature.

In the introduction to the magazine, it was stated that the magazine was inspired by the vision of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Telangana ideologue Prof A. Jayashankar.



తెలంగాణ జాగృతి  
తెలుగు సాహిత్య పత్రిక  
16 అక్టోబర్, 2020  
సంపుట 01 సంచిక 01



కవిత్వంపై పరిచయం  
ఎడిటర్



SHORT TAKES  
ALLAHABAD HC  
TO MONITOR  
HATHRAS PROBE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Supreme Court on Tuesday left it to the Allahabad High Court to look after all aspects of Hathras Dalit girl's gangrape and death case including monitoring of investigation by the CBI, protection of the victim's family and that of the witnesses.

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

The court entrusted the security of the victim's family and that of the witnesses to the Central Reserve Police Force which will take over within one week.

Having noted that the incident has occurred within the jurisdiction of Allahabad High Court and Lucknow bench of the High Court has already taken the cognizance of the incident, the top court said that "in these circumstances it is not necessary to divest the High Court of the charge of the case and take upon itself the task of monitoring the proceedings investigations."

"It would be appropriate for the High Court to proceed to monitor the investigation in the manner in which it would desire", the top court said, entrusting it the monitoring of investigation by the CBI.

Referring to the affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government detailing the steps taken to provide security to the victim's family and the witnesses, the court on Tuesday said, "We are convinced that steps have been taken by the State Government to make adequate arrangement for security to the victim's family and witnesses." Having expressed satisfaction over the security provided by the Uttar Pradesh government for protecting the family and the witnesses, the court, however, directed that the security be handed over to the Central Reserve Police Force. The court said it was "necessary" to address the "normal perception and pessimism" in a "matter of present nature" to allay all apprehensions and as a confidence building measure.

KHUSHBU SUNDAR  
DETAINED OVER  
MANUSMIRTI ROW

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

Actor-politician Khushbu Sundar, who recently joined the BJP, was detained along with a few cadres in Muttukadu on ECR, while they were on their way to Chidambaram on Tuesday morning to participate in a protest against Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi Chief, Thol Thirumavalavan.

The protest was organised by BJP's women's wing in Chidambaram, condemning the Lok Sabha MP's alleged statement on women quoting Manusmriti.

She was released in the evening. According to police sources, the arrest was made as Khushbu had violated prohibitory orders to conduct unlawful assembly, owing to lockdown rules prevailing in the state.

The police had denied permission for the agitation at Chidambaram on Monday night. However, Khushbu, former Rajya Sabha MP Sasikala Pushpa and other BJP cadres were planning to attend the protest even after restrictions.

On Tuesday morning, Khushbu and her supporters were on their way to Chidambaram via the East Coast Road (ECR) when a team of police from Chengalpet district stopped their vehicles and took them into preventive custody.

The preventive detention by the special police team ended a 12-hour inspection on East Coast Road.

Just after the arrest of Khushbu, BJP state general secretary K.T. Raghavan was arrested near Melmaruvathur. They were taken to a resort in Kelambakkam, police sources said. Just after her arrest, Khushbu tweeted: "Arrested.. been taken in a police van. we will fight till our last breath for the dignity of women. Hon'ble PM @narendramodi Ji has always spoken about the safety of women and we walk on his path. We will never bow down to the atrocities of a few elements out there. BHARAT MATA KI JAI! (sic)

# Amidst China crisis, US stands with India

In blunt criticism of China, Pompeo cited killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan Valley

SRIDHAR  
KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

China's military belligerence in eastern Ladakh and Indo-Pacific region figured prominently during the third edition of the 2+2 strategic dialogue between India and the US with Washington strongly affirming that it stands firmly with New Delhi in its efforts to defend sovereignty as the two sides vowed to ramp up their security ties, and inked the strategic defence pact, BECA.

In a strong message to Beijing at the conclusion of the third edition of the 2+2 dialogue between both countries at the Foreign and Defence Ministerial level in New Delhi on Tuesday, United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo said his country and India are taking steps to address all manner of security threats including those posed by China, adding that the US "would stand with India".

The two nations "shared assessment of the security situation across the Indo Pacific" and decided to boost bilateral cooperation between their navies and strengthening overall defence ties as part of their existing Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership during the 2+2 talks on Tuesday.

Hinting at China, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also made it clear that the basis for a multipolar world has to be a "multipolar Asia", adding in his statement that "the Indo-Pacific region was a particular focus of our talks".

Speaking later in the presence of the other three participants of the dialogue, Mr. Pompeo, Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, at a post-dialogue briefing, US Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper pointed to the "aggression and destabilising activities by China" in Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.

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

The US Secretary of State also paid tributes to the memory of the 20 Indian troops killed in a clash with the Chinese PLA at the Galwan valley in the Ladakh sector in mid-June.

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

Jaishankar said, "We reiterated the importance of peace, stability and prosperity for all countries in this region. As Raksha Mantri stated, this is possible only by upholding the rules based international order, ensuring the freedom of navigation in the international seas, promoting open connectivity and respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states. A



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, second right, gestures towards U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, second left, and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper, left, with Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, right, standing beside him, ahead of their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday.

## RAMPING UP DEFENCE AND SECURITY TIES

The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing in the last few years.

### MAJOR DEFENCE PARTNER

In June 2016, the US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner" intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.

### LEMOA

The two countries inked the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provide for deeper cooperation.

### COMCASA

The two countries signed another pact called COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018 that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high end technology from the US to India.

### TIMING CRUCIAL

This year, the in-person talks are taking place at a time when India is locked in a tense standoff with China in eastern Ladakh and the Trump administration's growing friction with Beijing over a host of issues including trade tariff and the Chinese military's offensive manoeuvres in the South China Sea.

### 2+2 DIALOGUE

The first edition of the 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018 after the mechanism was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump. The second edition of the dialogue took place in Washington in December last year. The new framework of the ministerial dialogue was initiated in order to provide a forward-looking vision for the strategic partnership between the two countries.

## SHAKEEL, 17 OTHERS NAMED TERRORISTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday declared 18 more Pakistan-based individuals as designated terrorists under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

The list includes the names of militants like Sajid Mir, one of the key conspirators in the Mumbai 26/11 attack, and a top commander of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba. The list also includes names of Dawood Ibrahim's close associate Chhota Shakeel, and the Bhatkal brothers of the Indian Mujahideen.

The others include Sajid Iris, the top LeT commander and one of the main planners of the 26/11 attack and Yusuf Muzammil, the commander of LeT operations in Jammu & Kashmir and an accused in the 26/11 terror attack.

Similarly, Abdur Rehman, the brother-in-law of Hafiz Saeed, chief LeT commander and head of LeT political affairs, also figures on the home ministry list.

## Beijing says stop sowing discord between China, regional countries

Beijing, Oct. 27: China on Tuesday urged US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to stop sowing discord between Beijing and countries in the region, undermining the regional peace and stability, amidst his visit to India for a high-level dialogue aimed at further ramping up their overall defence and security ties, and boost strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Pompeo arrived in India on Monday along with Defence Secretary Mark T. Esper for the third edition of the US-India 2+2 dialogue with their counterparts, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

After his India visit, Pompeo is due to visit Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Asked about Pompeo's visit to India and other South Asian countries during which the top US diplomat's focus would be on China's threats, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that Pompeo's attacks and accusations against China are nothing new.

These are groundless

● CHINESE FOREIGN Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that Pompeo's allegations against China are groundless accusations which reflect that he is clinging to the Cold War mentality and ideological biases. "We urge him to abandon the Cold War and the zero-sum game mentality and stop sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining the regional peace and stability," Wang said.

accusations which reflect that he is clinging to the Cold War mentality and ideological biases. We urge him to abandon the Cold War and the zero-sum game mentality and stop sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining the regional peace and stability, Wang said.

In August, Pompeo said that China poses a threat to the West that is in some

ways worse than that posed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

What's happening now isn't Cold War 2.0. The challenge of resisting the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) threat is in some ways worse. The CCP is already enmeshed in our economies, in our politics, in our societies in ways the Soviet Union never was, he had said in a speech to the Czech Senate.

In July, Pompeo criticised China for its aggressive moves against its neighbours, including "instigating" a deadly confrontation with India in eastern Ladakh, saying Beijing cannot threaten countries and bully them in the Himalayas.

The recent clashes initiated by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) are just the latest examples of the Chinese Communist Party's unacceptable behaviour. It's important that democracies like ours work together, especially as we see more clear than ever the true scope of the challenge posed by the Chinese Communist Party, he said.

— PTI

## NOW BECA WILL ALLOW INDIA TO BUY ARMED DRONES FROM U.S.

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

With the country involved in a six month military stand-off with China, Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday told the US that India is "challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders." "In the area of defense we are challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders," Mr Singh said in his opening remarks during the 2+2 dialogue with the US, as per the transcript released by the US State department.

Mr Singh along with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper held the 2+2 dialogue.

India and the US on Tuesday signed the Basic Exchange and Co-operation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA) which takes the military cooperation between the two countries to the next level.

The BECA will allow sharing of military grade geo-spatial data in real time with India by the US which will help Indian military to launch precise missiles and drone strikes.

The signing of the agreement is also a strategic signal to China.

As per the experts, the BECA will also allow India to buy armed drones from US which will be fed with the data. The current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has underlined the importance of armed drones during a war.

Later on during a joint press conference, Mr Singh said that India and US military-to-military cooperation is progressing well.

Mr Singh said that signing of BECA by India and US is a significant achievement.

He said that during the meeting both sides shared assessment of the security situation across the Indo Pacific.

"In that process, we reaffirmed our commitment to peace, stability and prosperity of all countries in this region. We also agreed that upholding the rules based international order, respecting the rule of law and freedom of navigation in the international seas and upholding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states are essential," said Mr Singh.

He said India and US defence cooperation is intended to further these objectives. Mr Singh said that both sides welcomed Australia joining the forthcoming trilateral (India, US, and Japan) naval exercise Malabar.

"During the meeting, we have had comprehensive discussions on key aspects of our bilateral and multilateral cooperation," said Mr Singh. He said that liaison officers at each other's establishments could be leveraged to enhance our information sharing architecture.

"We also explored probable capacity building and other joint cooperation activities in third countries, including our neighbourhood and beyond," said Mr Singh.

## TV ACTRESS STABBED IN MUMBAI

SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, OCT. 27

A man stabbed a television actress in Andheri over her discontinuing talking with him. The accused stopped the actress, Tanvi Malhotra, and after confronting her, stabbed her and fled from the spot.

The actress is undergoing treatment and told police that she turned down his marriage proposal. The attack took place on Monday when Malhotra was returning home from a café.

### LAW OF THE LAND

J&K is now up for sale, small land holding owners will suffer, says Omar

# New land fiat leaves J&K parties fuming

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

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

usurp the rights of the people of the erstwhile state.

More than a year after the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution, the Union ministry of home affairs on Monday evening in a gazette notification in Hindi and English announced that several changes have been made to land laws, including allowing use of agricultural land for setting up facilities of public purpose.

The most important tweak has been made in the Jammu and Kashmir

Development Act that deals with disposal of land in the Union Territory as the Centre has omitted the phrase "permanent resident of the state" from Section 17 of the law.

The PAGD condemned the repeal of J&K Land Laws saying that it strips the permanent residents of J&K and Ladakh of their exclusive right to acquire and hold immovable property and vowed to fight these on all fronts.

"Unacceptable amendments to the land ownership laws of J&K. Even the tokenism of domicile has

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

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said it was a step to "disenfranchise" the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Yet another step that's part of GOI's nefarious designs to disempower & disenfranchise people of J&K. From the unconstitutional scrap-

ping of Article 370 to facilitating loot of our natural resources and finally putting land in J&K up for sale," she tweeted.

"After failing on all fronts to provide roti & rozgar to people, BJP is creating such laws to whet the appetite of a gullible electorate. Such brazen measures reinforce the need of people of all three provinces of J&K to fight unitedly," she alleged.

Before the repeal of Article 370 and Article 35-A in August last year, non-residents could not buy any immovable property

in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the fresh changes have paved the way for any citizen to buy land in the Union Territory.

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



## IN BRIEF

**2 hurt as vessels collide near port**

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

**Afghan attack kills three**

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

**Russia strikes kill 78 rebels in Syria**

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

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

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

# Don pick Barrett sworn in as SC justice

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

## SC: No Wisconsin mail-in voting deadline extension

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

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

**Washington, Oct. 27:** A divided Supreme Court said Monday that mail-in ballots in Wisconsin could be counted only if they are received by Election Day. Democrats in the state had asked the court to allow the counting of ballots that arrive up to six days after Election Day if they were postmarked by November 3. The ruling was 5-3, coming just before the Senate voted to add Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Justice Elena Kagan, joined by her liberal colleagues, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer, dissented from the court's order. Last week, the court had

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

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

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

ctions Commission.

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

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

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

— Agencies

his nominee.

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

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

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



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

## Bomb blast in Pak religious seminary kills 8, injures 120

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to police, around 40-50 students were

present inside the seminary when the bomb went off. The seminary's administration said around 1,100 students study at the institution.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mehmod Khan condemned the attack on children. He has convened a meeting to take stock of the security situation in the province.

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

## Trump leads Biden by 5 points in Texas

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

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

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

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

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

## Oxford: Vaccine's strong immunity in all adult groups

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

The ChAdOx1 nCov-2019 vaccine, called AZD1222 by AstraZeneca, is currently undergoing worldwide trials with some reports raising hopes for a rollout within months. The latest findings, submitted for a peer-reviewed journal to be considered for publication in the coming weeks, will further boost these hopes.

"Professor Pollard discussed the early findings of the Phase II safety and immunogenicity trial of the ChAdOx1 nCov-2019 Oxford Coronavirus vac-

### STUDY: COVID-19 ANTIBODIES ARE FALLING RAPIDLY

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

cine at a research conference," an Oxford University statement said. "These early results covering trial volunteers from the UK in the 56-69 and 70+ age groups have been submitted to a peer-review journal, and we hope to see their publication in the coming weeks. — PTI

## India: Don't back terrorist forces

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

India said the truce between Israel and the Hamas has eased the humanitarian situation in Gaza

and expressed hope that the temporary truce is converted into a permanent ceasefire, which can save precious human lives on both sides and create a conducive environment for talks.

"It is an unfortunate reality that the interlinked and mutually reinforcing challenges faced by the people of the Middle East have not yet been resolved. Political instability, long-festering conflicts, sectarian divides, issue of refugees and terrorism continue to plague the region. The Covid-pandemic has only exacerbated the threats posed by these challenges," India said.

The statement made India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, will go as part of the official record of the Council. India said it appreciates the agreement between Fatah and Hamas for holding Parliamentary and Presidential elections and also elections for the Palestinian National Council, which will help fulfill the democratic aspirations of the Palestinian people. India also welcomed the agreements for normalisation of relations between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain. — PTI

### FLASH | FLOOD Hurricane Delta ravaged the Yucatan region earlier this month

## Zeta winds pound Mexico, head for US

### TYPHOON: VIETNAM CANCELS FLIGHTS, CLOSES SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# DECCAN Chronicle

28 OCTOBER 2020

## Bihar polls may have a wider impact on nation

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

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

Governance failures — even on matters as grave as the ruling coalition's abject failure in dealing with the corona crisis, the return home of lakhs of migrant workers from cities, and the grim economic reality that was self-evident — would be quite simply be forgotten and washed away, it was thought. This derived from the faith showed in analysis that assumed that caste equations were rigid and immutable in Bihar and would favour the incumbents. An important readily accepted factor was that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the capacity to weave magic at election time, surmounting regional aspects. It was widely assumed that the people had no agency and would be putty in the hands of the incumbents, succumbing with ease to the grand scheme of the electoral battle laid down by the ruling alliance. This was the fundamental consideration that appeared to lead to the decision that the Assembly election will be held when it became due.

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

Many of the assumptions made about the electoral landscape today appear less well grounded than before. The surging crowds that greet the campaign of the Mahagathbandhan — the platform of the RJD-Congress-Left parties, the ruling alliance's challengers — and in contrast the disarray in the ruling NDA's electoral effort is now presenting an altogether new aspect of the line-up Bihar that few had thought possible. The split in the NDA is out in the open. Chirag Paswan's LJP attacking JD(U) is widely thought to be a game plan in which BJP's decision-makers were complicit, loud denials notwithstanding. In the last stage of the campaign, BJP posters carry only the PM's image, not the CM's. The message is going out that BJP may aim to have its own CM in Bihar for the first time, dumping Mr Kumar. Mahagathbandhan CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav's focus on the promise of mass employment, and making no references to identity politics whatsoever, is enjoying a growing reception at the mass level.

## The Amy factor in America

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

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

Will Ms Barrett undo the feminist legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg whose seat she now occupies? For sure, her demurals on critical issues during her recently concluded confirmation hearings have triggered misgivings. The long-term academic and appeals court judge is known to be a great follower of "superprecedents". Ms Barrett once clerked for Antonin Scalia and, as far as personal views go, is pronouncedly conservative. In 2006, Ms Barrett signed a newsletter criticising the 1973 landmark *Roe v Wade* judgment (it was no "superprecedent" by her definition). An appeal against stipulations for the purchase of abortion pills enforced during the coronavirus pandemic, along with 17 other restrictions, is expected to be among the first hearings to come up before the court. Ms Barrett also holds a narrow view of the commerce clause of the US Congress and embraces the non-delegation doctrine. These will prove to be challenges in the way of working out tough laws with the help of federal agencies to combat climate change. Democrats also have reason to fear that Ms Barrett's presence will impact the future of Obamacare, which the Trump Administration diluted through neglect and waivers.

Expanding the Supreme Court bench upwards of its current strength of nine judges may be a way out of this crisis but is not the ideal solution.

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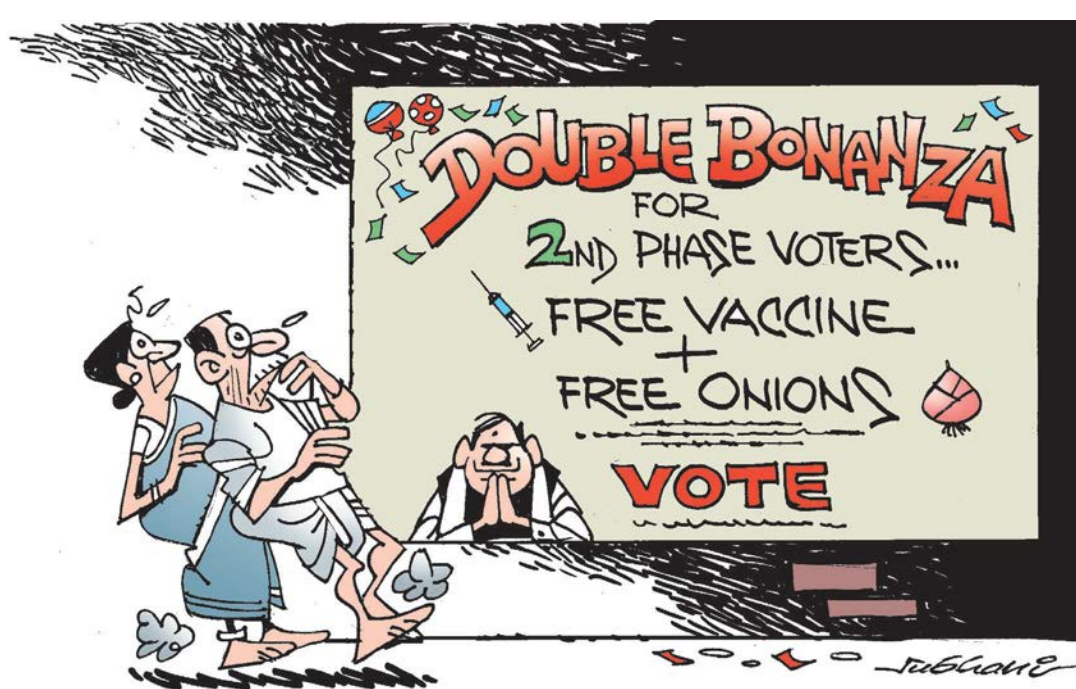
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Subhani



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



**Sunanda K. Datta-Ray**  
Reflections

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

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

The feverish excitement of President Clinton's Indian tour in early 2000 had not sparked any reciprocal goodwill in America, where righteous proliferation fundamentalists among the Democrats did not forgive India for challenging what they regarded as God's word. Mr Clinton himself saw Pokharan-2

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Biden's win in both Houses of Congress will mean "potentially more favourable US trade policies" for India, predicts UBS Global Research, boosting investors' sentiment and pushing up markets. A Biden victory may also replace the Fed's current chair Jerome Powell with someone more dovish in 2022.

If Mr Trump wins, they assume that an unorthodox chairman could be nominated who might even look at negative rates, which would be of tremendous help to Indian markets, resulting in the continued inflow of cheap capital into Indian stock as well as debt markets.

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

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

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

### LETTERS

#### COVID-19 TESTS

Another unvetted and unwarranted statement has been made the Telangana state medical official (*TS wants everyone to get tested every week, DC, Oct. 27*). Looks like there is a medical scam in the offing by supporting private hospital managements wanting to fleece money from everyone in the name of tests. Also, did the director of health service weigh the availability of infrastructure, health workers, manpower, people's and state's financial conditions, to cater to such huge number of tests to poor without cost?

**Dilip Kumar Malkajgiri**

#### CURE CONFUSION

The progress of Covid-19 treatment is causing utter confusion among the medical fraternity all over the world. The global advisory body like WHO has ruled out the effectiveness of remdesivir in curing Covid-19. But the FDA which is regarded as the 'highly respected US drug regulatory body' is recommending remdesivir as the first line of treatment. Countries like India are more confused because our top medical advisory institutions like the Indian Medical Association, Central and state health departments are completely silent on this.

**Arnold K.G.J. Hyderabad**

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

### PM sees change in China's stand

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said here today she did not know whether an exchange of ambassadors between India and China would "solve anything".

Mrs. Gandhi, told newsmen at Delhi airport that the fact that Chinese ambassadors were meeting Indian ambassadors at certain receptions "is itself a change". "It is a good thing if they met", she added in reply to questions. Mrs. Gandhi, who returned from New York after attending the silver jubilee celebrations of the United Nations, said she had discussed the Soviet map issue with Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, whom she met on her way to New York.

Ashwani Kumar



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40522.10	0.94
Nifty 50	11889.40	1.03
S&P 500*	3,404.01	0.09
Dollar (₹)	73.71	0.20
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.88	0.26
Euro (₹)	87.00	0.31
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,853.77	0.15
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.24	0.78
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.846	0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.788	-0.015

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

Kinetic Green launches electric cargo three-wheeler

Pune-based Kinetic Green, the electric three-wheeler manufacturer, on Tuesday launched a high-performance electric cargo three-wheeler, the Kinetic Safar Jumbo. The company says the Safar Jumbo is a distinct Electric Vehicle, which is designed ground up at Kinetic's DSIR recognised Electric Vehicle Research and Development lab, packed with advanced technology features and boasts of 100 per cent indigenous parts.

Reconsider names for Lakshmi Vilas Bank MD, CEO: RBI



The Reserve Bank of India has asked Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), which is in the midst of a merger process with Clix group, to reconsider the names proposed for the post of new MD & CEO, a senior official said on Tuesday. In September, shareholders of the cash-strapped private sector lender had voted out seven board members, including MD & CEO S Sundar, at the annual general meeting. Subsequently, RBI appointed a three-member Committee of Directors (CoD) comprising independent directors Meeta Mahan, Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra.

Spinny to launch Spinny 360 for inside view of cars

Spinny, a full-stack used car platform, is gearing up to launch Spinny 360, a detailed, inside-out 360° view of each of its cars. Spinny360 allows the buyers to view the interior and exterior of each vehicle in the inventory online exactly as it is, giving them a clear idea about its condition and helping them make an informed decision.

FreshToHome raises \$121 m in Series C funding

FreshToHome, the online retailer of fish and meat products, has raised \$121 million in Series C funding led by Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), Investcorp, Ascent Capital, US Government's development finance institution DFC, the Allana Group and other investors. Iron Pillar, the lead investor from Series B participated in this round with an investment of \$19 million.



Future Retail sees liquidation if Reliance deal fails

New Delhi, Oct. 27: Future Retail Ltd (FRL) will go into liquidation if its deal to sell assets to Reliance Industries fails, the group told a Singapore arbitrator while arguing against Amazon Inc's bid to scupper the deal, a legal order seen by Reuters showed.

Amazon on Sunday won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to

halt FRL's deal to sell assets to Reliance. Amazon alleged FRL had breached certain contract provisions it entered into last year in a separate deal with the U.S. firm.

The dispute centres around FRL's decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and some other businesses to Reliance for \$3.38 billion, including debt.

Amazon argues that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list including any firms from Reliance chief Mukesh Ambani's group. The deal specified any disputes would be arbitrated under Singapore International Arbitration Centre rules.

Both companies reacted to the arbitrator's decision by saying they want to complete the deal "without any delay", setting the stage for a showdown between Reliance and Amazon.

An order by the arbitrator reveals how Jeff Bezos-led Amazon argued that Future breached agreements which barred it from selling retail assets to

entities including Reliance. It also shows the level of concern at Future if the deal breaks.

Future's retail unit will need to pack up if the transaction with Reliance doesn't go through, hitting the livelihoods of thousands of employees and workers at its vendor firms, the Indian group argued before the arbitrator, according to the order

which is not public.

"If the disputed transaction falls through, FRL will go into liquidation. That will mean that the livelihoods of more than 29,000 employees of FRL will be lost," the Indian group's representatives told the arbitrator V.K. Rajah.

COVID-19 pandemic has hit many Indian businesses, and the FRL-Reliance deal was aimed at protect-

ing the interests of all stakeholders through a large infusion of funds and the acquisition of liabilities, Future argued.

But Rajah ruled that "economic hardship alone is not a legal ground for disregarding legal obligations".

Amazon, FRL and Reliance didn't respond to a request for comment.

— Reuters

Growth begins to pick up, yet fiscal 2021 to remain wasted

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

With certain positive economic indicators, suggesting several green shoots that have started emerging, the Narendra Modi-led government is hopeful that the GDP growth may be in either negative zone or near zero in the current fiscal. However, it further said that the growth would continue to remain in the negative category for the full year.

Speaking at the India Energy Forum of CERAWeek, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Tuesday, said, "There were visible signs of revival in the economy but the GDP growth may be in negative zone or near zero in the current fiscal. For the full year, the growth will continue to remain in the negative category."

This is the first statement that has been received from the finance minister talking about a proper number for the full

APPAREL SALES DOWN BY 45-55%

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 27

Sales of apparel retailers were 45 to 55 per cent down in the September quarter. But October has seen a recovery to 75 per cent of last year levels.

Apparel retail is far weaker than other sectors with September quarter average revenues down 45-55 per cent, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services. ICRA too finds that domestic retail sales were estimated to be at 40-50 per cent of last year's levels in the September quarter.

However, the segment is

witnessing month-on-month recovery and in October sales were around 75 per cent of the year ago month.

Neighborhood stores are performing better than high street stores and both are seeing better sales than the stores in malls. Record rains in some areas have disrupted supply chains and customer demand.

Customers are down-trading and purchasing low value products as most are staying at home.

Hence, value retailers like Zudio and Max among others are performing well. Further,

categories like footwear and athleisure have been selling much better. Men are purchasing more than women and kids as they are going out for work-related purposes.

As per the Festive Shopping Index, more than half of the responding customers are looking forward to buy apparels and fashion during the festivals.

However, there have been closures of stores that were unprofitable or which saw limited rental reduction. Malls have a higher proportion of store closures compared to stores in high streets.

year. In line with the government, the Reserve Bank of India Governor recently also stated how the full year's growth has showed signs of revival.

The finance minister further said that there was a very firm lockdown

imposed beginning March 25 as the government put lives before livelihood. This is primarily because of a huge 23.9 per cent contraction in the economy in the first quarter of current fiscal (April-June).

"The lockdown also gave

time to do preparatory work to deal with the pandemic. But now, macroeconomic indicators have shown signs of revival," she said, adding that festive season will further spur the Indian economy in the next quarters.

FDI inflows dropped 33% to \$17b: UN body

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 27

While the government had claimed that the country received \$35 billion Foreign Direct Investment in the first five months of the fiscal, United Conference of Trade and Development finds that India has received only \$17 billion in the first half of the calendar year.

As per UNCTAD's Global Investment Trends Monitor, FDI inflow into India dropped 33 per cent to \$17 billion in the first half of 2020 or between January and June this year, with the country struggling to contain Covid-19.

India being the largest recipient of FDI in South Asia, the contraction also pulled down the total inflow into the region by 31 per cent to \$20 billion.

However, investment growth in India's digital economy continued, especially through cross-border merger and acquisition sales, which doubled in value. Deals included the acquisition of stake in Jio Platforms by

● AS PER UNCTAD's Global Investment Trends Monitor, FDI inflow into India dropped 33 per cent to \$17 billion in the first half of 2020.

● ACCORDING to the government, it was the highest ever FDI for the first five months of a financial year.

● DEVELOPED ECONOMIES saw the biggest fall of 75 per cent, to an estimated \$98 billion.

Jaadhu, owned by Facebook, for \$5.6 billion. Several cross-border deals in infrastructure and energy also propped up M&A values in India, including the acquisition of Tower Infrastructure Trust and fuel business of Reliance Industries, found UNCTAD.

A few days back, the government had released data on FDI inflow. For the first five months of the fiscal or between April and August this

year, the country had received FDI of \$35.73 billion. According to the government, it was the highest ever FDI for the first five months of a financial year. The inflow in the first five months of this year was 13 per cent higher than \$31.60 billion invested in the same period last year.

Of this, FDI equity inflow accounted for \$27.10 billion. It was also the highest ever for the first five months of a financial year and 16 per cent more compared to \$23.35 billion in the first five months of 2019-20.

As per UNCTAD's report, global FDI flows fell 49 per cent in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period of 2019.

Developed economies saw the biggest fall of 75 per cent, to an estimated \$98 billion. Meanwhile, developing economies witnessed 16 per cent decrease in FDI flows mainly due to resilient investment in China. Flows decreased by just 12 per cent in Asia and developing countries in Asia accounted for half of the global FDI.

Harley's exit paves way for another US bike co



MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 27

With the exit of American bike maker Harley-Davidson from India, it has opened up an opportunity of sorts for another iconic American motorcycle manufacturer Indian Motorcycle.

The company has announced its 2021 model line-up which includes all variants of the Scout, Chief, Chieftain, FTR

1200, Challenger, Roadmaster and Springfield for the Indian market.

Although the company has not given a concrete timeline for the launch of these motorcycles, it would start retailing the BS6 compliant models before December.

"We are excited to bring the new and improved lineup of Indian Motorcycle in India," Lalit Sharma, Country

Manager at Polaris India, said.

"Our 2021 line-up will incorporate several new additions and upgraded features which will definitely add the charm and get the attraction of the riders," he said.

Indian Motorcycle also said that it will open up the order books for the new model line-up shortly, which means one could expect bookings to begin during Diwali.

HIRING | POLICY

46 per cent of employers are keener to increase their apprentice pool

Firms look at hiring apprentice to offset staff shortage

New Delhi, Oct. 27: An increasing number of employers are looking at apprenticeship to offset the workforce scarcity that they have been facing following the coronavirus-induced reverse migration, says a report.

According to Team-Lease's Apprenticeship Outlook Report, 46 per cent of employers are keener to increase their apprentice pool in the period July to December 2020. The net apprenticeship outlook for this half year stands at 33 per cent.

The report contains insights on employer sentiment in relation to apprentice hiring for the period July 2020 to December 2020. Analysis is based on the historical data of apprentice hiring and findings from a survey of 600 employers across 18 sectors and 14 cities.

"One of the primary drivers for this positive momentum is



that more employers, about 32 per cent, have been looking at apprenticeship to offset the workforce scarcity that they have been facing due to reverse

migration that has happened because of Covid-19," the report said.

Additionally, about 25 per cent companies have also been hir-

ing apprentices to meet the increased demand for products and services due to the pandemic, it added.

"Despite the predicament that the current pandemic has brought, the overall sentiment amongst companies to hire apprentices has been very positive. While in the initial months of the lockdown, we witnessed a dip, the hiring intent has bounced back quite aggressively, especially since June/July," said Sumit Kumar, Vice President - NETAP, TeamLease Skill University.

Kumar further said that more employers are continuing to accept apprenticeship as a solution to create a skilled productive workforce. Nearly 78 per cent employers find their apprentices to be productive.

"... the current pandemic has made many realise the potential

of investing in apprentices and building a talent pool, especially local talent to mitigate workforce scarcity in such situations. Close to 24 per cent organisations have increased their apprentice hiring during the pandemic," Kumar added.

The top sectors where apprentices will be in demand are healthcare & pharmaceuticals (42 per cent), manufacturing & engineering (40 per cent), retail (38 per cent) and ecommerce (38 per cent).

The report analysed the gender parity in hiring apprentices. Around 34 per cent of the companies interviewed have expressed a gender neutral approach and openness to include even the LGBTQ+ community as well; 43 per cent companies prefer male candidates and 23 per cent prefer females.

— PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Fifa prez Infantino positive for Covid

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

## India call feels surreal: Varun

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

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

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

## De Villiers set to miss Big Bash

**Dubai:** The versatile AB de Villiers has decided to skip the Big Bash League (BBL) this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the upcoming birth of his third child but is open to return in future due to "unfinished business" at Brisbane Heat.

The two factors prompted the former South African skipper to pull out of the T20 league. The 36-year-old is currently playing in the IPL in the UAE. "We are expecting our latest child very soon and with a young, growing family, and the uncertainty around travel and conditions due to Covid-19, we reluctantly decided it wasn't going to be this season," de Villiers said in a statement. "The Heat were great to us last season and I am very open to returning to the club in future." — PTI

## Biggies pull out of Lanka league

**Colombo:** The inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) have been dealt a severe blow with five overseas players, including Faf du Plessis, Andre Russell and David Miller, pulling out of the T20 tournament less than a week after they were drafted into various franchises. While South African trio of Miller, du Plessis and Dawid Malan are unavailable because of the limited-overs series against England, West Indian Russell has pulled out due to a knee injury. Indian wicket-keeper batsman Manvinder Bisla, who played 35 IPL matches, is the fifth player to withdraw from the tournament, scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 13. "The franchises that had these players will have to negotiate with other players to take their place," LPL director Ravin Wickramaratne told ESPNcricinfo. — PTI

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

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

## FOOTBALL

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

## WWE NXT

Bouts from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

## SHAKTIMAN SAHA!

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

## SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** D. Warner c Patel b Ashwin 66, W. Saha c Iyer b Nortje 87, M. Pandey (not out) 44, K. Williamson (not out) 11. Extras (lb-7, wd-4) 11. Total (for 2 wkts, in 20 overs) 219. FoW: 1-107, 2-170.

**Bowling:** A. Nortje 4-0-37-1, K. Rabada 4-0-54-0, R. Ashwin 3-0-35-1, A. Patel 4-0-36-0, T. Deshpande 3-0-35-0, M. Stoinis 2-0-15-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** A. Rahane lbw b Rashid Khan 26, S. Dhawan c Warner b Sandeep Sharma 0, M. Stoinis c Warner b Nadeem 5, S. Hetmyer b Rashid Khan 16, R. Pant c sub (S.P. Goswami) b Sandeep Sharma 36, S. Iyer c Williamson b Shankar 7, A. Patel c sub (PK Garg) b Rashid Khan 1, K. Rabada b Natarajan 3, R. Ashwin c Abdul Samad b Holder 7, T. Deshpande (not out) 20, A. Nortje c sub (PK Garg) b Natarajan 1. Extras (lb-4, w-5) 9. Total (in 19 overs) 131.

**FoW:** 1-1, 2-14, 3-54, 4-55, 5-78, 6-83, 7-103, 8-103, 9-125, 10-131. **Bowling:** Sandeep Sharma 4-0-27-2, S. Nadeem 1-0-8-1, J. Holder 4-0-46-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-7-3, T. Natarajan 4-0-26-1, V. Shankar 1.5-0-11-1, D. Warner 0.1-0-2-0.

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

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

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	11	7	4	0	14	+1.252
Royal Challengers Bangalore	11	7	4	0	14	+0.092
Delhi Capitals	12	7	5	0	14	+0.030
Kings XI Punjab	12	6	6	0	12	-0.049
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	6	6	0	12	-0.479
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	5	7	0	10	+0.396
Rajasthan Royals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.505
Chennai Super Kings	12	4	8	0	6	-0.602

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



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

## Rohit doubtful as MI run into RCB

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rohit Sharma

played some scintillating knocks.

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

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

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

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

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

## MEETING IN 2019

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

## MEETING IN 2020

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

## FOR THE RECORD

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

— S. PERVEZ QAISAR

## Mandeep mental skill impresses KL

## SINGH RECALLS LATE FATHER'S WISH AFTER UNBEATEN FIFTY

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

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

The opening batsman, playing in the absence of injured Mayank Agarwal, lost his father last week and attended his funeral via a video call. "It's so hard when you are away from your family. With the bubble, you don't have the close ones. The kind of toughness he (Mandeep) has shown has rubbed off on other boys as well."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MANDEEP GOES GAGA OVER GAYLE

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

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

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

## Gavaskar curious about Rohit's injury

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

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

"We are talking about the Test matches, which are a month and a half way. What actually is the problem with him will help everybody," he added. The tour of Australia comprises three T20 Internationals, as many ODIs and four Tests. The series is scheduled to start on November 27. — PTI



Sunil Gavaskar

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

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

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

## Roma level 3 times in Milan stalemate

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

Milan were without goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and young Norwegian striker Jens Petter Hauge, who the club announced earlier on Monday had tested positive for Covid-19.

Veteran Romanian goalkeeper Ciprian Tatarusanu was twice caught on his line from corners and also spilled a shot in the build up to Roma's second-half penalty.

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

In the second half, Milan's Alexis Saelemaekers guided a shot in from 10 yards. French midfielder Jordan Veretout levelled from the penalty spot after 70 minutes. Ibrahimovic completed his third double in three league appearances with a penalty after 78 minutes, but had an unwitting assist as Roma levelled for a third time. — AFP

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

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

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

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

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



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

Drogba and Frank Lampard have managed more, with 36.

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

Mourinho, adding, "I don't want all the credit myself, let's share with Mauricio. They play together for a long time, probably a different way

because Harry is not always a nine now." "What pleases me more about them both is that they are two top players but close friends, no jeal-

## THE RESULTS

<b>Brighton</b> (Liverpool 40-og)	1
<b>West Brom</b> (Grant 83)	1
<b>Burnley</b>	0
<b>Tottenham</b> (Son 76)	1

ousy, they both play for the team," he said.

## RELIEF

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

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