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All Indians can buy land in J&K

'Permanent resident of the state' omitted in tweaked Act

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, more than a year after the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution.

In a gazette notification in Hindi and English, the ministry of home affairs has made several changes to the 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.

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 non-residents 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.

Former advocate general Mohammad Ishaq Qadri said the amendments have opened 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 People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) condemned the changes in the land laws and vowed to fight these on all fronts.

■ Another report on Page 6

Pharma majors endorse Brand Hyderabad City 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

● Granules India said it will be investing ₹400 crore to set up a manufacturing facility. The proposed unit will generate employment to about 1,600 people.

● Laurus Labs said it will be setting up a formulation facility and plans to invest ₹300 crore in two phases, with the first phase expected to generate 150 new jobs.

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 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.

Telangana state already accounts for almost one-third of India's pharmaceutical production and one-fifth of pharma exports. The state is also home to a third of all USFDA approved facilities in India and accounts for 10 per cent of all medicines exported from India to the United States of America.

Hyderabad itself is often referred to as the 'Bulk Drug Capital of India', and accounts for 40 per cent of India's bulk drug manufacture and half of exports in this sector. The city is home to more than 2,400 pharma units including industry majors such as Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo, Nicholas Piramal, Mylan, Novartis, Divi Labs, Gland and Natco.

■ Page 2: Chiefs of pharma companies discuss plans with KTR

BANDI: SUSPEND SIDDIPET POLICE COMMISSIONER

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27

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

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 TRS leaders at several places across the erstwhile Karimnagar district.

■ Full report on Page 4

DC IMPACT: SAUDI FREES TS PRISONERS

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.

■ Full report, photograph on Page 2

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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 BRIEFS OFFICIALS ON DHARANI PORTAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
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.

He 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 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.

U.S. POLLS: PANEL DISCUSSION TO BE HELD ON OCT. 29

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

With the US presidential elections scheduled for November 3 and Indian Americans being considered a key voting block by the Republican and Democratic parties, a virtual panel discussion titled 'The Role of Indian Americans in the US Presidential elections', has been scheduled for October 29, by the US Consulate General in Hyderabad.

Taking part in the discussion will be Dave Moyer, public affairs officer at the US Consulate General, Shashank Bengali, the South Asia correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, Swapna Sundari, Editor at 10TV, and Karri Sriram of *Deccan Chronicle*.

Those interested in attending the event, scheduled to begin at noon on Thursday, can pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/y6sh5x79>.

NIPER ADDS NEW COURSE IN MEDICAL DEVICES

DC CORRESPONDENT
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 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.niperhyd.ac.in>.

THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON 'NEW NORMAL'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

A three-day Hybrid Exhibition on 'Infection Control and Decontamination in the New Normal' will be held in Hyderabad from November 19. At the exhibition, Infection Control Academy of India (ICAI), Hyderabad Software Exporters Association and Telangana Facilities Management Council will offer technology, technological products and best practices to adapt during the new normal in Covid-19 scenario.

ICFAI president Dr. Ranga Reddy Burri said, "Infection prevention and control is a scientific approach and practical solution designed to prevent harm caused by an infection to patients and healthcare providers. It is the most sought after subject now." Industry leaders, exhibitors, buyers — both online and offline — are coming together to address public health concerns post-pandemic.

Locked at home, many face Vit-D deficiency

Virus protocols to remain indoors aggravates 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."

Sanitiser sale plunges but price rises post lockdown

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 Mudasar 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, Mudasar 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, Mudasar 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."

STATE RECORDS LESS THAN 1,000 COVID-19 CASES

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 determination tests continued to be much lower than the recent highs of 50,000 plus a day, with the health department saying that 21,099 tests were performed, out of which 9,283 were on primary contacts of those already determined as Covid-19 positive.

Only the GHMC area recorded new Covid-19 cases in three figures, at 185 for the day with the second highest number of 76 being reported from Khammam district. Adilabad, Jangaon, Jayashankar-Bhupalapally, Jogulamba-Gadwal, Kumrambheem-Asifabad, Mulugu, Nirmal, Peddapalli, Vikarabad, and Warangal Rural districts reporting cases in single digits. The day's lowest, one case, was reported from 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.

● **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.**

Festive Fervour



As part of the Durgastami celebrations, members of the Nava Durga Navaratri Utsav Samithi take out a procession ahead of immersing the idol of the goddess, at Esamia Bazaar in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. SURENDRA

Intel chief Naveen Chand likely to get tenure 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 Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for some more time. He was appointed to the key post after the abrupt transfer of the then Intelligence chief B. Shivadhar 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 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.

ICFAI FOUNDATION TO HOST 9TH NJ YASASWY MEMORIAL LECTURE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

The ICAFI 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.

Pharma chiefs discuss plans with KTR

From Page 1

Granules India, a Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company, said it will be investing ₹400 crore to set up a manufacturing facility to manufacture 10 billion units of finished dosages. The unit will generate employment to

about 1,600 people. Laurus Labs, a leading research driven pharmaceutical 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.

INMATES | FREED

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

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

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



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

about their safe return. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Bhukya Man Singh, 39, (Passport No. K9204159) said that they had faced a hell-like situa-

tion in Saudi jails for four months. "Jail authorities ignored us, refused to give us kubos (bread) regularly and we experienced starvation," he lamented.

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.

After news items were published 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 char-

ges 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.

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

44,071,979
DEATHS
 1,168,562
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
HJRI 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



IN BRIEF

20 gms of hashish seized from duo

Hyderabad: Officials of the Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone, apprehended two men from Mangalhat for possession of 20 grams of hashish on Tuesday. The accused, identified as T. Suraj Singh, 27, and G. Lalith Kumar, 24, were looking to sell the narcotic when they were nabbed, police said. P. Radhakrishna Rao, DCP, Task Force, said the duo had procured the hashish from Dhoolpet and Mangalhat. "Thakur Vijay Singh, Suraj's uncle, was instructing them to organise trade of the drug. They were quoting ₹1,800 per 10 grams as the price," the DCP said. The duo was handed over to Mangalhat police for further investigation.

Plaint filed for stolen gold, cash

Hyderabad: Unidentified persons broke into a house at Shamshabad and decamped with gold ornaments and cash while the owner was away. According to the police, a complaint was received from one Srinivas Reddy, who claimed that he went out on some work for the weekend and returned on Monday night to find the valuables missing. "The burglars made away with gold ornaments and cash kept in the almirah after gaining entry into the house by breaking the front door locks using tools," said the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport police adding that the value of the stolen goods is being assessed. Police said CCTV camera footage is being checked for clues.

GSI had pointed to lake land-grab in 2000

It has become easy for encroachers to usurp land within lakes, apply for its regularisation, say experts

T.S.S SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

Rampant encroachment and construction and opportunities to legalise illegal structures have turned the city more flood-prone. This was evidenced in the deluge the city went through in the last two weeks. The absence of a natural drainage system has left the rainwater with no pathway to flow out.

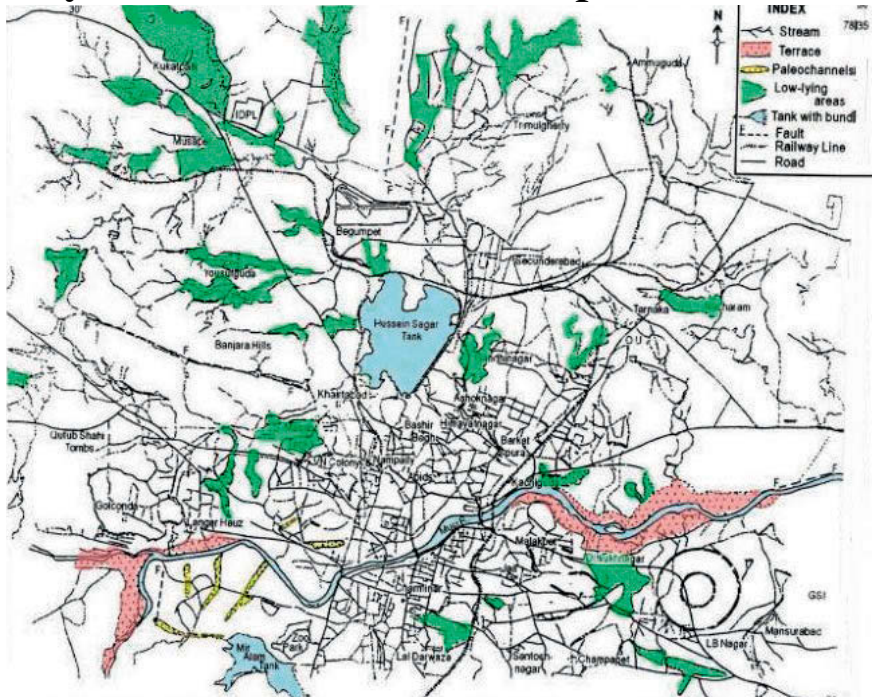
A report compiled by the Geological Survey of India, after the floods that struck the city in August 2000 said: "The peripheries of many water tanks that existed in Hyderabad in the mid-1960s were converted into residential areas. As the necessity of land suitable for the residential purposes kept mounting during the population boom period in Hyderabad, the basic norms to be followed during the urban development have been violated."

Experts from the Institute of Town Planners' India (ITPI), Hyderabad chapter, say that it has now become easy for encroachers to usurp land within lakes and then apply for its regularisation.

"The construction boom is on par with the rise in the population in the area. As the opportunity for employment rises and offices are set up in the city the need for housing rises. This makes for a lucrative business for real-estate companies," said a member of the ITPI.

It is not just illegal constructions that are being named as the cause of the floods, the report also lays blame on the improper disposal of construction and demolition debris.

"Most of the streams, canals and artificial drainage systems which are provided in the cities and metropolises in India are totally choked during flood times causing inundation of vast areas. The materials that choke the surface drainage are construction wastes (mortar, sand, and brick-pieces) and residential wastes. The municipal authorities should enforce strict laws prohibiting the builders from dumping construction wastes in public



Geoenvironmental map of Hyderabad metropolis interpreted from aerial photographs.

Covid, loss of income leaves flood-hit families in despair

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

The triple whammy of Covid-19, income-loss during lockdown and possessions lost in the post-lockdown rains has rendered people of flood-affected areas utterly helpless. Yet, commendable are attempts of affected people, particularly women, to literally stitch back their lives in the wake of these triple disasters.

Volunteers, mostly belonging to social and non-government organisations who are surveying who need what, indicate that things most in demand are sewing machines, gas stoves, cycles, fans, almirahs, mixer grinders and utensils. This is because the affected people, returning to their once-flooded houses, have found that most of their utilities have got destroyed in water and muck that accumulated in their house.

places," it said.

Not to forget plastic. The report says that the cal-

● **AL JUBAIL COLONY** remains the worst affected. GHMC vehicles are unable to reach the colony as cars washed away during the floods elsewhere have blocked the bigger roads. There are many small lanes, which can be approached only by walk. Lining the small lanes is the debris from houses. Corporation is yet to pick up the accumulated waste.

Most of the women want sewing machines, so that they could start their contractual jobs of tailoring, which would help them eke some income at least buy food for their families. The ₹10,000 aid extended by the state government is going into buying the basics that will help people run their lives. Amid the devastation, school children have lost their books. Thinking of attending online classes is beyond

their imagination.

Those who have returned to their houses had basically left carrying what was most valuable to them. Non-government organisations, volunteers, and other people are noting down the necessities of families that have returned, so that they could coordinate among themselves and provide relief to those who need them the most.

Most people, who have been devastated, are small businesspersons, daily wage workers, employees of small establishments and home-based workers. Women are requesting female volunteers seeking items of daily living, like utensils and groceries. Over 150 women have requested for gas stoves, so that they can start their kitchens again. Volunteers have approached private schools to help students with new books, so that the kids can get back to their studies.

This, in turn, is choking the waste-water channels.

Netas force officials to pay their cadres

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 meddlesome 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 compen-

sation 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 corporation, 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.

A senior GHMC official told *Deccan Chronicle* that data pertaining to number of beneficiaries, types of damage caused, compensation paid and yet to be paid are still under compilation. The data will be put on public domain through a website in a couple of days. "As per instructions of higher authorities, compensation will be handed over to all beneficiaries mentioned on the website the next day," he said.

GHMC COLLECTS 17,958 TONNES OF GARBAGE AFTER FLOODS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

17,958 tonnes. That is the total weight of garbage picked up by the GHMC, much of it comprising materials that were part of the lives of tens of thousands of families that lost nearly everything they had in terms of possessions, valuable documents and even food, during the recent floods in several parts of the city.

What was picked up as 'garbage' since October 18, comprised mattresses, furniture, clothes, carpets, books, and household goods destroyed by the flood waters. The GHMC said that in all, people threw out their now useless belongings into 14,581 piles of garbage dotting different localities in the six GHMC zones.

Of this, 9,539 tonnes were picked up from the GHMC's Charminar zone, indicating the severity of floods there. Another 3,379.5 tonnes were picked up from LB Nagar zone, 2,353 tonnes from Khairatabad zone, 1,433 tonnes from Kukatpally zone, 1,266 from Serilingampally zone and 988 tonnes from Secunderabad zone, according to GHMC officials.



A GHMC vehicle removes garbage piled up after the recent floods, on the main road near DRDL, Santoshnagar, Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

— P. SURENDRA

E-boarding now for international fliers from Shamshabad airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

The Shamshabad airport has started e-boarding for international passengers, making it the first airport in the country to roll out an indigenously developed digital solution for international flights. This is in line with Centre's Digital India Campaign.

MAN HELD FOR DUPING WOMEN HEALTH STAFF

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT 27

An alleged fraudster, K. Srinivasa Rao, was arrested by the cyber-crime police for offering permanent jobs to women employees in the medical and health department and collecting money from them.

Srinivasa Rao had called contract and outsourced employees in Utnoor zone in Adilabad district with the fake job offers. Police said Srinivasa Rao used to mainly target women employees.

After a few women in the department were duped by the alleged fraudster, it was brought to the notice of health minister Etela Rajendar who directed the department to lodge a complaint.

Cybercrime officials investigated the calls and arrested Srinivasa Rao. Police said five cases were found to have been registered against him earlier. The minister has asked the department employees to be alert and not fall into the trap of fraudsters.

The service offered by the GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), which runs the airport, ramps safe travel options for international passengers flying out of Hyderabad. E-boarding for domestic passengers started in December 2015.

Currently, the service, launched after the Centre's nod based on a

rigorous pilot project, is available for international flights of IndiGo.

Passengers will be free to choose between using conventional paper boarding passes or electronic boarding passes on their mobile phones. IndiGo's Sharjah-bound passengers e-boarded themselves on Flight 6E 1405 recently.

Other scheduled inter-

national carriers operating out of Hyderabad are in the process of integrating with GHIAL's e-boarding system.

"Implementation of successful e-boarding is the outcome of collaboration between cross-functional teams and all stakeholders," according to GHIAL chief executive officer Pradeep Panicker.

Tour operators ask Centre to allow Umrah pilgrimage

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

Private tour operators are eagerly waiting for the Centre's nod to resume travel for the Umrah pilgrimage as Saudi Arabia has announced that it will allow people from outside the country to enter from November 1.

Saudi authorities suspended the Umrah in March and significantly downsized July's Haj pilgrimage following the outbreak of Covid-19. Saudi Arabia has now announced allowing domestic and foreign pilgrims, totalling 20,000 pilgrims and 60,000 worshippers a day, subject to certain conditions.

Private tour operators (PTOs) here welcomed the decision of the Saudi authorities and requested the Centre to allow them to offer Umrah tour packages. Mohammed Tayyab Wasif of Supreme Air Travels said, "We will not be able to start Umrah operations unless our government makes necessary arrangements like

MILAD PROCESSION ON OCT. 30

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

The Sunni United Forum of India (SUFI) said it will organise the Central Milad procession to mark the birthday celebrations of Prophet Mohammed on October 30.

Moulana Syed Mohammed Auliya Hussaini Murtuza Pasha, president, SUFI, told the media that as it will be a

allowing direct flights to Saudi Arabia. Although we are eager to resume operations, we need at least two weeks to arrange a tour package."

Wasif said the cost of the Umrah pilgrimage package in the post-Covid era will be higher due to the various conditions laid down by the Saudi authorities and hike in the charges of different services. "Earlier we used to accommodate four pilgrims in a room, now only two pilgrims

will be allowed. Pilgrims have to undergo three days in quarantine on reaching the holy place," he pointed out. Wasif said that apart from this the pilgrims should have a reservation for the performance of the Umrah as well as to the visit of the two holy mosques and offer prayer at Rawdah Sharif, the abode of the Prophet, by registering through the 'Eatmarna' application. They should also have confirmed return reservations.

SECURITY STAFF HELD FOR LOOT OF ₹15L GOODS

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

Two security personnel of a company and their associate were arrested for stealing goods worth ₹15.40 lakh by the Pahadishareef police.

XL Energy Ltd., located at Fab City, was shut eight years ago due to financial constraints. The owner, Gaddam Prakash Reddy, had deployed security personnel at the place who stole equipment from the building, the police said.

The arrests were made following a complaint from the company's manager, who told the police that he found the goods missing during his surprise check on October 21. He suspected the security staff who were employed there eight years ago.

The accused were identified as Barkam James, 30, security supervisor, Pasham Lingam, 32, security guard, and their associate, Narayankhed Sripad Reddy, 28, who colluded with them to sell the stolen goods, the police said. "Copper materials, motors, pipes, electrical items and air conditioners were reported stolen. During investigation, James confessed that they hatched a plan to steal company property," the police said.

1 KILLED, 3 FEARED DEAD IN WARANGAL MISHAP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

A driver was killed and three persons including two children were feared drowned when a vehicle in which they were travelling plunged into an agricultural well on the roadside near the Government Model School of Gavicherla village, Sangam mandal, on Tuesday.

According to the Sangam

police, the vehicle, carrying at least 14 persons, fell into the well when the driver reportedly lost control.

While 10 of them including five women were rescued by the police with the help of local people and passers-by, the vehicle was fished out by the police and fire brigade in the night. The body of the driver, identified as D. Satish of Enugallu of Parvathagiri mandal, was found in the

vehicle. The injured were shifted to MGM Hospital in Warangal.

The police said that the vehicle was proceeding to Nekkonda from Warangal city and the accident took place about 13 km from Warangal city.

Panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao visited the accident spot and assured the survivors of government support and medicare.

ADHOC HIRING:
CIVIL HIRED TRANSPORT (BUSES)
 Tender Notice for Fixing of Rates for Adhoc Hiring of Civil Hired Transport (Buses) for the quarter ending Dec 2020.
 Sealed quotations are invited from dealers/firms for fixation of rates for Civil Hired Transport (Buses). Format for quotations can be obtained from 0900 hrs, 29 Oct 2020 onwards.
 Tender box will be kept at supply Depot, ASC, PO Trimulgherry, Secunderabad from 0900 hrs to 1159 hrs on 04 Nov 2020. The Tender box will be removed at 1200 hrs, and will be opened at 1230 hrs on 04 Nov 2020 onwards.
 Competent authority reserves the right for any amendment/cancellation and changes to the call notice in whole or in part without assigning any reason. The firms quoting rates will have to abide by the terms and conditions as laid down for hiring of the vehicles.
 For further details, please call on +91-7080789661

ICAR-CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR DRYLAND AGRICULTURE
 Santoshnagar, Saidabad Post, Hyderabad-500059
ADVERTISEMENT No. 2020/05/MM-II
 Applications are invited by e-mail for filling up temporary positions of Senior Research Fellow (01 no.) & Young Professional-I (01 no.) so as to reach on or before 11.11.2020. For details, please visit <http://www.icar-crida.res.in>. Chief Administrative Officer

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
 Office of the Director, Heritage Department, (Formerly Archaeology and Museums Dept.), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
File No. B1/160/2015-K
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) and Call
 1) Name of the Work: Conservation works to Main Structure of Makka Masjid (Phase - I) at Charminar, Hyderabad. Estimate Contract value of work put. to Tender: Rs. 1,08,73,190/- Bid document download Start Date & Time: 23-10-2020, 01.00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 02-11-2020, 02.00 PM. 2) Restoration of the structure behind Magbara (Phase - II) at Makka Masjid, Hyderabad. Estimate Contract value of work put. to Tender: Rs. 5,95,468/- Bid document download Start Date & Time: 23-10-2020, 01.00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 02-11-2020, 02.00 PM. For further details Please visit: tender.telangana.gov.in
 DIPR R.O. No. 3631-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Director

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
 O/o Chief Engineer - II, MB, Hyderabad
TENDER No. 37-38/CE-I/MB/2019-20. TENDER No. TICE DL 07.09.2020.
 No. of works (02) Name of the work: Providing drinking water facility to schools and 2 BHK houses in Jangam District. Repairs of old WTPs in PDajali and Pendipalka schemes in AKGR Segment in Nalgonda District in undersigned. Total ECV: 12.91 Crores. Tender documents are available & accepted D1.31.10.2020 to 07.11.2020. Opening of Technical Bid 07.11.2020 at 4.00 PM. Financial Bid Opening D1.31.10.2020 at 11.30 AM. Further details can be obtained from e-Procurement market place on <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Ph.No.9100120084
 DIPR R.O. No. 3633-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Chief Engineer - II, Mission Bhagirathi, Hyd.

SHORT TAKES

BJP PLAYING
VICTIM CARD FOR
VOTES: TALASANIDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 27

Animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday charged the BJP 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. He said the police had released videos where the accused had admitted to have received the amount.

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.

He reminded that the byelection was being conducted by the Election Commission and the police as well as other authorities were acting on its directions including money seizures.

CONG ASKS EC
TO TAKE ACTION
ON TRS, BJPDC 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 byelection to the Dubbak Assembly constituency. TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Congress Legislative Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Marri Shashidhar Reddy, chairman of the 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 byelection 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 central forces to stop the use of money power and distribution of liquor to create an atmosphere for free and fair elections."

Bandi: TRS trying to
put off Dubbak poll

National BC panel asks for report on assault on Sanjay

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27

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

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. Chandrasekhar Rao and ministers K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao, raising slogans against the state government at several places across the erstwhile Karimnagar district.

The police officials of the four districts — 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 to prevent any untoward incidents.

BJP leaders from various parts of the state visited the deeksha



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.

camp which included former MPs Jithendar Reddy and Vivekananda, former ministers Peddireddy, Babu Mohan and former MLAs Bodiga Shoba, Katakam Mruthyunjay, all of whom consoled Kumar. Alleging that the TRS was misusing the police to harass the BJP by lodging false cases against its cadre, Kumar alleged that the ruling party was planning to postpone the Dubbak Assembly bypoll by hook or crook, because it knew it was going to lose "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," he 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 Jithendar 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. Mahendar 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.

BJP LEADERS
PLACED UNDER
HOUSE ARRESTDC 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. Chandrasekhar 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 byelection.

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.

TRS playing 'cheap tricks' to
win byelection, says ArunaPULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, OCT. 27

After learning from surveys that it will be defeated in the Dubbak bypoll by the 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, 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 gov-

ernment machinery and the police department.


Even though there is no election code in Siddipet, the government got the 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 Dubbak 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 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 playing mind games and encouraging TRS leaders to spread lies and blackmail voters, said Aruna.

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

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


OBITUARY
In our Hearts forever



Dr. Suresh Kumar Medikonda
DOB: 30/06/1967 | Date of Demise: 19/10/2020
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED
A Perfect Gentleman, Accomplished Surgeon and Great Human being.

AOMSI
Telangana state chapter


Kedarnath Udiyavar
24.11.1958 to 26.10.2020



You will be missed and remembered forever, not just by your family & friends, but by the thousands of people you left a positive imprint upon.

Inserted by:
Udiyavar Family +91-77986-28460


OBITUARY



OMKAR PRASAD DUBEY
Expired on 25th Oct 2020
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words, missed beyond measures.

Inserted by: **Dubey Family, Jubilee Hills Hyderabad**
Ph: 9849020031

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



VUDAYAGIRI VAMSHI MOHAN
DOB: 14/01/1980 DOD: 10-10-2019
Your memories are fresh in our hearts and will be remembrance every day.


Inserted by: **Dr V Ashok Kumar - Father, V Saryu Latha - Mother, V Nishanth - Brother, A Abhishek - Brother in law, A Sumitha - Sister, A Harshita - Niece**
Ph: 91779 01122

16th ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of Lord forever Ps: 23:6



Mrs. G. ANNAMMA
Exp. on: 28-10-2004
Inserted by: **Gnana Chandar Rao - Husband, Children & Grand Children**

13th ANNIVERSARY



Sri DUNDUO VIJAY KUMAR
Expired on: 28-10-2007
WE MISS YOUR AFFECTIONATE PRESENCE. STILL YOU ARE ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS.

With Deep Respect: **FAMILY MEMBERS**

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
"For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" - 1 Thessalonians 4:14 NIV



Mrs. JOYCE DIVAKER
DOB: 04-10-1946 DOD: 28-10-2012
We miss you and Love you, but we believe you are in better place.


Inserted by: **Family Members**

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
"For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" - 1 Thessalonians 4:14



In loving memory of Mrs. ANGELINA SHANTU KUMAR PARMAR
(Wife of Late Bishop S K Parmar)
22nd February, 1931 - 28th October, 2019
Inserted by: **Children & Grand Children**
Contact: **Sunil Parmar 98490-25433**

OBITUARY
I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25



Madhavaram Jayanandam Krupavaram
DOB: 03-05-1957 DOD: 25-10-2020
Funeral service will be held on Today @ 11.00 AM
at MB Zion Church, Devankonda of Naigonda Dist.
Mother, Sister, Brothers, Wife, Son, Daughter, Son in law, Grand Daughter and their Families

93916 94790, 84650 37607


BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev 21:4)




A. ADELINE DASS
(W/o A. Anthony Dass)
DOB: 28-10-1956 DOD: 18-08-2020
May the winds of heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear, how much we love and miss you, dear MOM and wish that you were here amongst us.

By: **LOVED AND MISSED FAMILY MEMBERS**

ANNIVERSARIES
Missing our Dearest Boujee and Maa on their Anniversaries



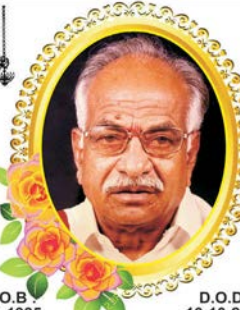
Late. C. Kundanlal Gambhir
D.O.B: 19-10-1995 D.O.D: 30-10-2006



Late. Kanta Kumari Gambhir
D.O.B: 19-10-1995 D.O.D: 30-10-2006

Inserted by: **Anil Kumar Gambhir (Son), Anita Gambhir (Daughter-in-Law), Purna Gambhir and Gaurav Gambhir (Grand Children)**


1st ANNIVERSARY



Sri SALLANGULA LALAHARU Garu
FOUNDER OF S.LALAHARU & Co. LLP INFRA
We miss you very much. Your vision and leadership will continue to motivate us forever.


Inserted by: **Brothers & Sisters**
Cell: 9849724858/7702152981

23rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever - Psalms 23:6



THADAMALLA SUDHAKAR
D.O.B: 19-09-1945 D.O.D: 28-10-1997
Inserted by: **Wife, Children & Relatives**
Ph: 24552394, Cell: 8886111449


10th DAY CEREMONY
"For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" - 1 Thessalonians 4:14



NAGULA PARASHURAM
Kindly invite you to join us 10th Day Ceremony on 28.10.2020
From: Sons: Shivakumar, Sravan Kumar, Satish Kumar, Sampath Kumar & Sanjay Kumar & Daughters-in-law, Grand Sons, Grand-Daughters & Great Grand Daughter Nagula Maya Laxmi

(S/2021/D00758)


BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Ps: 23:6



Late Mr. N. RAJARATNAM
(..PAPA)
Retired Teacher
The Kellet High School (Madras)
Inserted by: **Loving Son: T.C. Jayaker and Family 9550407882**

(S/2021/D00757)


1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



GUDURU PARABRAHMA CHARY
DOB: 01-07-1948 DOD: 28-10-2019
We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us as you are always in our hearts....


By: **Family Members**

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



In everlasting memory of my beloved Mother
Late Smt. P. K. Kamalam
(W/o Late Shri P.P. Nair)
DOD: 28.10.2018
Mohan (Son)
Mob: 96525 93580


13th ANNIVERSARY



B.V. SUBBARAYUDU, Advocate
(S/o. Late Sri B.V. Narasimham, Dt. Judge)
DOB: 02.10.1963 DOD: 28.10.2007
We are missing you. Your loving smile, your lovely face and caring nature are there forever in our hearts.

Inserted by: **Brothers & Sisters**
Cell: 9849724858/7702152981

21st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
27th October 2020
In Loving Memory of



SUNNY SOLOMON RAJ
Born on 23-3-1973
Died on 27-10-1999
Inserted by: **Parents, Brother, Relatives & Friends.**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
HYDERABAD BENCH
AT HYDERABAD
CP(B)/17/233/HYD/2020

Between:
Goldstone Power Private Limited and Another
... Financial Creditors
AND
Axiom EV Products Private Limited and Another
... Corporate Debtor/Respondent

NOTICE OF HEARING

To,
AXIOM EV PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
403, Meridian Plaza Beside Lal Bungalow, Ameerpet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500016.
Also at Plot No 188/A, Phase II, I.D.A., Charlapally, Hyderabad-500061.
Telangana, India, Phone: +91 9959055200.

AXIOM ENERGY CONVERSION LIMITED
403, Meridian Plaza
Beside Lal Bungalow, Ameerpet
Hyderabad-500016, Telangana, India.
Phone: +91 9100033894.
Email: corporate@axiomenergy.co.in

Please take notice that the present CP(B)/17/233/HYD/2020 is directed to be listed for hearing before admission on 12.11.2020 before the Court of the Hon'ble NCLT, Hyderabad Bench, Hyderabad (VIRTUAL MODE) and therefore arrange to present in person or through Advocate at 10.30 AM failing which the Hon'ble bench matter hear and admit the matter ex parte.

P. PRATAP
Counsel for the Financial Creditors
303, III Floor, G K Times Plaza,
Road No.2, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad-500034

SHORT TAKES

SOUMITRA ON VENTILATOR AGAIN, CRITICAL

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, OCT. 27

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

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

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

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

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

TEEN FROM J'KHAND GOES MISSING IN PURI

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 27

A 16-year-old teenager who came to Puri on a tourism trip was on Tuesday morning swept away while taking a bath here in the sea.

The boy, a +2 student, was identified as Ganesh Binay from Jharkhand.

According to eyewitnesses, Ganesh was swept away by the strong currents of the sea while he was bathing in the designated bathing zone of the beach — the area earmarked between Digabarini Khunti and Chaitan Chhak.

Till the last reports came in, life guards and rescuers had launched a search operation in the sea.

The incident comes a few weeks after the iconic beach was accorded the prestigious 'Blue Flag Beach' tag by C o p e n h a g e n - b a s e d Foundation for Environmental Education, based on 33 parameters. According to experts, safe bathing is one of the parameters for the honour and the incident has now put a question mark over the safety standards at the Golden beach.

SHIV SENA PRAISES RSS' HINDUTVA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, OCT. 27

The Shiv Sena has continued to praise the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but attacked its political wing the BJP over the Hindutva issue. The political contractors of Hindutva should learn from RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat about the actual Hindutva is, the party said.

Commenting on the RSS chief's speech made during the Dusshera rally at Nagpur, the Sena said that he clarified the definition of Hindutva.

"Mr Bhagwat made it clear that Hindutva is the essence of country's identity. The RSS' Hindutva is all inclusive and he has given a befitting reply to those who feel that Hindutva is their monopoly and anyone not with the BJP is not Hindu," it said in the party mouthpiece *Saamana* on Tuesday. In his Dussehra rally speech, Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray had lauded Mr Bhagwat, who had said Sangh's concept of Hindu Rashtra is not political.

The party took a dig at the BJP saying those who are seeking reopening of temples should take Hindutva lessons from the RSS chief. "Mr Bhagwat would never demand reopening of temples during coronavirus pandemic as his approach is scientific."



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

— PTI

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

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

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 27

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

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

Sushil Kumar Modi's tweet is being seen as a reaction against Chirag Paswan who has been targeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, alleging major scam in "Saat Nischay" (seven resolves) scheme. Recently while addressing his rallies Chirag had created a flutter in the state politics by saying that, if voted to power, he will get it probed and send to jail all those found guilty including the Chief Minister.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guidelines have been issued by the Election

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lok Janshakti Party, headed by Chirag Paswan, is in the fray in 41 seats, which include all the 35 contested by the JD(U), in keeping with the call given by the young party president, who recently pulled out of the NDA in the state, to "dislodge" the chief minister from power. Prominent candidates include Shreyasi Singh, the Commonwealth Games gold medalist shooter who is making her debut at the age of 27 as the BJP candidate from Jamui. Chirag Paswan, who represents Jamui Lok Sabha and insists that he remains loyal to the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has assured full support of his party to the young debutant.

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

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

Six members of the state

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

Of the six, Verma, Singh and Nirala belong to the JD(U), while the remaining are from the BJP. The JD(U) ministers seek to win their seats contending with the LJP factor. Moreover, Verma, who has held key portfolios like education and social welfare, faces the additional challenge of wrestling an RJD bastion for his party, having been asked to shift base from Ghosi where the JD(U) has fielded Rahul Kumar.

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

The reserved Imamganj seat in Gaya district, which falls under Aurangabad Lok Sabha constituency, will see a proverbial clash of titans.

Former chief minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha president Jitan Ram Manjhi, who is the NDA candidate, is the sitting MLA.

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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

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

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

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

Andhra Pradesh (1,901), Karnataka (3,130), Tamil

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

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

"The slide in active cases is supplemented by an exponential rise in the recoveries. The total recovered cases have crossed 72 lakhs. This has widened the gap between active cases and recovered cases and stands at 65.75 lakh now," union health ministry officials said.

As many as 63,842 patients have recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours taking the national Recovery Rate to

Sonia appeals to voters to build a 'new Bihar'

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

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

In a four-minute video address, Mrs Gandhi accused the JD(U)-BJP government of deviating from its path and being high on power and ego. "Drunk on power and arrogance, the government in Bihar has deviated from its path. Their words and deeds are suspect. The labourers are helpless, the farmers are upset and the youth are disappointed. People are bearing the brunt of the fragile state of the economy," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Delhi/Patna, Oct. 27:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

Clash in Munger leaves one dead

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, OCT. 27

One person was killed and many injured after a clash broke out in Bihar's Munger during the immersion of Goddess Durga Monday night.

The police blamed anti-social elements for the incident.

However sources from Munger said that crowd went berserk after police asked them to speed up the immersion 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.

Clarifying its stand on the incident, the police said that during the Durga Puja immersion procession, a group from the crowd started pelting stones which left many policemen injured. Later a person was also killed when someone from the crowd fired.

"Around 20 policemen were injured after a group started pelting stones. Later on, someone from the crowd fired which led to the killing of a person. The situation has been brought under control and the matter is being investigated", Munger SP Lipi Singh said.

The deceased was identified as Anurag Kumar.

Reports suggest that the policemen injured during the stone-pelting include SHO of the local police station.

The incident has sparked anger in Bihar a day ahead of the first phase of polls. Targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the Munger police over the incident, LJP Chief Chirag Paswan said that "incident shows Talibani rule in Bihar".

He also demanded "FIR against the police under section 302 and compensation of ₹50 lakh for the family members of the person who died in the incident".

5 WB YOUTHS DROWN AS BOAT CAPSIZES

PRANMOY
BRAHMACHARI | DC
BERHAMPORE, OCT. 27

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

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

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



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 MANUSMRTI 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

multi-polar world must have a multi-polar Asia as its basis." Earlier, in his opening statement, Jaishankar said, "At a time when it is particularly important to uphold a rules-based international order, the ability of India and the US to work closely in defence and foreign policy has a larger resonance. Together, we can make a real difference when it comes to regional and global challenges, whether it is in respecting territorial integrity, promoting maritime domain awareness, countering terrorism or ensuring prosperity."

The joint statement issued after the dialogue said, "The ministers reiterated their commitment to maintaining a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific built on a rules-based international order ... Highlighting the importance of securing the economic and security interests of all stakeholders having a legitimate interest in the region, the Ministers welcomed the growing understanding on the Indo-Pacific among like-minded countries.

On the Indo-US defence partnership, it said, "The ministers commended what has become a comprehensive, resilient, and multi-faceted Major Defense Partnership (MDP) between India and the United States."

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.



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 Geo-spatial 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.

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 a 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*

serve on our nation's highest court, but the very first mother of school-aged children to become a Supreme Court justice. Very important," Trump said. The opposition Democratic Party slammed the Senate for confirming her nomination. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden had said that the new judge should have been selected by the winner of the November 3 elections. Trump, however, defended his decision. "I want every American child watching to understand that this is a very special and important ceremony. We are fulfilling the duty that passes to each new generation to sustain the national traditions and virtues that make possible everything we have achieved before that we will do tomorrow," Trump asserted at the White House event. Grateful for the confidence of the Senate in her, Justice Barrett in her remarks pledged to the American people that she will discharge her duties to the very best of her ability. "A judge declares independence not only from Congress and the President, but also from the private beliefs that might otherwise move her," she said. — *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*

US: END TARIFF ON IMPORT OF INDIAN PECANS

Washington, Oct. 27: A bipartisan group of five influential senators has urged the Trump administration to seek removal of high tariffs on import of pecans by India, asserting that it is impacting a large number of American farmers. The growing middle class in India has demonstrated its desire for consumer-oriented agricultural products, like tree nuts, and the Indian market represents one of the most dynamic and fastest growing in the world, the senators wrote in a letter to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. "Unfortunately, the current high tariff (36 per cent) that India charges on pecan imports makes it difficult for American producers to compete in this important market," said the letter written by Senators Kelly Loeffler, David Perdue, Doug Jones, John Boozman and Tom Cotton. — *PTI*

MACRON REMARK: IRAN SUMMONS FRENCH DIPLOMAT

Tehran, Oct. 27: Iran summoned a French diplomat in protest at what it says is France's support for the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, in the latest fallout over France's response to the beheading of a teacher. An Iranian official told the French diplomat that Paris' response to the killing was "unwise". He said it was regrettable that France was permitting hatred against Islam under the guise of support for freedom of expression. Countries have been outraged by French President Emmanuel Macron's remarks in which he refused to condemn the publication or showing of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. — *AP*



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*

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*

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

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

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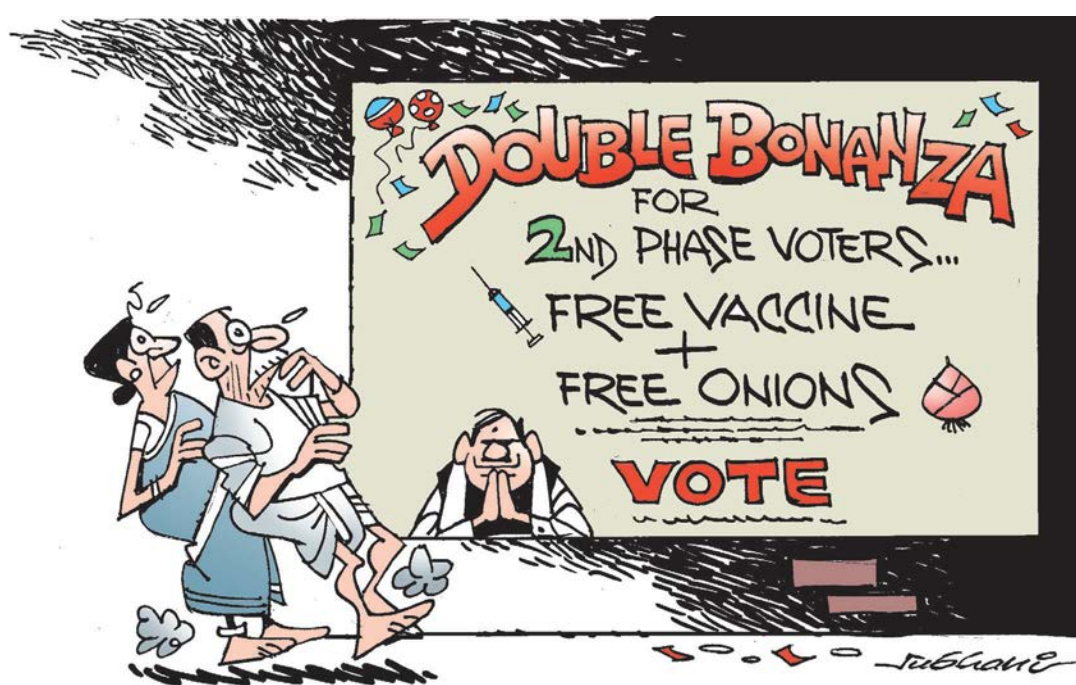
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Subhani



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 righteously proliferation fundamentalists among the Democrats did not forgive India for challenging what they regarded as God's word. Mr Clinton himself saw Pokharan-2

as a personal betrayal. India expected a fairer deal from the Republicans, and amazingly, Mr Bush fulfilled that promise with the historic US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement (known as the 123 Agreement) that he and India's last Congress Prime Minister, the scholarly Dr Manmohan Singh, signed in 2006.

This time, too, it might be a mistake to go too much by appearances... or the experiences of other parties with different perspectives. However, President Donald Trump might appear in media projections and however appealing Mr Biden might seem by contrast, no Indian can afford to forget Palmerston's dictum that only a country's interests — not its allies — are eternal and perpetual.

Of course, hard pragmatism can be carried too far. New Delhi's present relations with Israel might be cited as a case in point. Zionist propagandists used to argue that the then 15 Arab votes at the United Nations never supported India on crucial issues like Kashmir or the Sino-Indian border. Yet, India remained aligned with the Arabs ignoring offers of Israeli technical and agricultural assistance, security and intelligence cooperation, sophisticated weaponry and the powerful American Zionist lobby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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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 B56 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) 151. 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 play-offs.

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

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