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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 29 OCTOBER 2020

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**WEATHER**

**Max:** 31.8°C  
**Min:** 17.5°C  
**RH:** 48%  
**Rainfall:** Nil

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky. Max/Min temperature 31/18 °C

**COVID-19 CUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,860)	(+473)
80,31,591	1,20,496

*covid19india.org*

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+1,481)	(+4)
TS: 2,35,152	1,319
(+2,949)	(+18)
AP: 8,14,774	6,643

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

4,45,92,439

**DEATHS**

11,76,540

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

215

*worldometers.info/coronavirus*

**ASTROGUIDE**

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Nija Ashwavyuja Suddha Trayodashi till 3.16 pm  
**Star:** Uttarabhadra till 11.59 am  
**Varjyam:** 1.28 am to 3.16 am (Friday)  
**Durmuhurtam:** 10.05 am to 10.51 am; 2.39 pm to 3.25 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 1.30 pm to 3 pm  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
**Rabb-ul Awwal 11, 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 5:45 PM**  
**MOONSET 4:16 AM**  
**MOONRISE 4:38 PM**

**COUNTER POINT**

New range, tough and costs less... to throw at candidates!

**SHORT TAKES**

**Aarogya Setu app by NIC, volunteers**

**New Delhi:** The government on Wednesday said the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with volunteers from industry and academia developed the Aarogya Setu app. The statement from the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) came amid reports referring to a show cause notice issued by the Central Information Commission (CIC) to Chief Public Information Officers (CPIOs) of the Meity, NIC and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) for their failure to explain how created the app. "It was clearly mentioned that the Aarogya Setu App was developed by NIC in collaboration with volunteers from industry and academia. Aarogya Setu app has been developed in the most transparent manner," the Meity said in the statement.

## New Revenue Act comes into force

Tahsildars as joint sub-registrars to register land

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

In a significant move to enforce the new Revenue Act, 2020, enacted as Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Act (TRLPP), 2020 (Telangana Act No. 9 of 2020), the state government on Wednesday announced that the Act will come into force from October 29.

In view of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, launching the Dharani portal which will enable online land transactions on Thursday at 12.30 pm in Mudu Chintalapalli village of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, the government notified the October 29, 2020, as the date on which the Act will come into force.

Besides notifying the date of enforcement of the Act, the state government also notified the appointment of tahsildars as joint sub-registrars, authorising them to carry out non-agricultural land transactions in the state. Accordingly, the state government issued two separate GOs on Wednesday night. The state government said that in order to provide accountable and responsive revenue administration in public interest, among other things, it has enacted the TRLPP, 2020. This enactment paves the way for registration and instantaneous mutation of agricultural lands by a tahsildar.

The commissioner and inspector-general of registration and stamps has

## Slowdown: KTR blames lockdown

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

TRS working president and IT and industries minister, K.T. Rama Rao, has accused the BJP at the Centre of successfully bringing down the Indian economy from slowdown to lockdown mode.

Charging the BJP with the economic collapse, Rama Rao claimed that Telangana is emerging as a progressive state under the able leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Praising his father, he said Telangana has become the only state to have waived crop loans amounting to ₹27,718 crore, the largest waiver in the country since the formation of the state, he added.

Confident of the TRS winning in the Dubbak byelection with a thumping majority and the BJP and Congress losing their deposits, Rama Rao said that the BJP's failure in managing the economy

submitted proposals for the formation of new sub-districts with jurisdiction coterminous with those of the revenue mandals with an office of the joint sub-registrar at their respective headquarters and appointing tahsildars as joint sub-registrars.

has resulted in zero per cent projected growth rate.

Much before the Covid-19 pandemic came into picture, the Indian economy saw the slowdown since the last eight quarters. "You have hit the growing economy of India with your inability and also let down the people of India," said Rama Rao.

Replying to a question with regard to the Chief Minister's campaign in Dubbak, KTR said it was up to the CM to decide and he reminded that TRS won several elections including the Huzurnagar bypoll without KCR stepping out.

He said that finance minister T. Harish Rao and his team were doing a good job in the poll campaign at Dubbak. He said the entire TRS cadre was working under the leadership of Chandrashekhara Rao who had complete clarity on the capabilities of his party leaders

■ **Page 2: BJP leaders seen more on social media: KTR**

The government declared that the tahsildars of the revenue mandals concerned are hereby appointed as joint sub-registrars with an office at the mandal headquarters.

■ **Page 2: Tahsildars to deal with document registration**



People stand in queues to cast their votes for the first phase of Bihar Assembly election, amid the Coronavirus pandemic, at Bhabhua police station in Kaimur district on Wednesday. ■ **Page 7: Over 53% voting in first phase** — P7I

## Tejashwi yuvraj of jungle raj: PM

NAYEAR AZAD  
with agency inputs  
PATNA/DARBHANGA/  
MUZAFFARPUR, OCT 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday tore into the Opposition RJD in Bihar, calling its chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav the "yuvraj" (crown prince) of "jungle raj" and targeting him over his party's promise to provide 10 lakh government jobs if it came to power.

He warned people against the double whammy Bihar could face if those responsible for having turned the state "beemar" (sick) were voted to power amid the global Covid pandemic.



Addressing back to back rallies in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur in north Bihar, besides in Patna, the PM also set the tone for the day with a dash of Hindutva as he mentioned of Ayodhya at his first election meeting.

"Forget about government jobs. If they succeed (in winning), Bihar will

lose jobs even in the private sector. The party has copyright on kidnappings and firms will be forced to shut shop and flee as they will be under duress because of extortion calls," Mr Modi alleged.

The PM reiterated that the Opposition coalition was being led by leaders who had no roadmap or experience to run the state. In an attack on Tejashwi Yadav, Mr Modi said that the "people do not have any expectations from the 'yuvraj of jungle raj'. Everyone knows about his capabilities and track record".

"They are the ones (Opposition) responsible for jungle raj and made money through projects

which were allotted for the development of the state. They made job creation into (a) money-making industry for their development", Mr Modi said during his rallies in Bihar. "He has been brought up on a value system where public money is looted to help one's own family prosper. For such people, job creation becomes a tool to make crores of rupees."

The PM also invoked the Ayodhya issue at his meetings in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. He said: "While standing in the land of Goddess Sita, I congratulate you as the construction work of a grand Ram temple at Ayodhya has started."

### SC TELLS STATES TO GIVE DRY RATION TO SEX WORKERS

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed all the States and Union Territories to provide dry ration to sex workers — facing serious difficulties in the pandemic — in a "reasonable and uniform quantity" across the state.

Frowning upon states and Union Territories for not implementing its September 29, 2020, order advancing one pretext or the other, a bench of Justice L. Nageswara Rao, Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice Ajay Rastogi directed the states to carry out its direction within four weeks and file compliance affidavit.

## 24-yr-old gets death for killing nine

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, OCT. 28

A Warangal court Wednesday gave the death sentence to accused, Sanjay Kumar Yadav, 24, a native of Daulatpur in Bihar, for the murder of nine people in Gorrekunta of Warangal Rural district on May 20 earlier this year.

The additional sessions court judge, K. Jaya Kumar, delivered the judgement after the public prosecutor, Satyanarayana, argued strongly before him that Yadav should be hanged as it was the appropriate punishment for a person like him.

The defendant pleaded guilty to murder before the judge. The police registered the accused under several sections, including 449, 328, 364, 380, 404, 302,

● **SANJAY** WAS held guilty of killing the nine people on May 20 by mixing sleeping pills in their food and then dumped them in a well to cover up the murder of a woman with whom he was having a live-in relationship.

● **THE ORDER** was passed in a record five months and six days when the pandemic is on in the state

210 of the IPC and filed the chargesheet within 25 days. The judge tried about 100 people in the case.

During the night of May 20, Yadav sedated and drowned nine persons in an agriculture well on the premises of a warehouse.

He killed the family of Md. Maqsood who migrated to Warangal from West



Sanjay Kumar Yadav

Bengal 20 years ago. He had an extra marital affair with Maqsood's wife's sister's daughter, Rafika, who lives with her two children in Warangal.

Sanjay, who promised to marry Rafika, moved around with her teenage daughter. Rafika questioned his behaviour and forced him to marry her immediately.

On the pretext of going with her to meet her family in West Bengal, he took Rafika on a train and threw her out of it, after strangulating her near Nidadavolu in Andhra Pradesh on March 11.

When Maqsood's family questioned him about the whereabouts of Rafika, he decided to kill all of them. He mixed sleeping pills in the food during the birthday party of Maqsood's three-year-old grandson. He carried the unconscious persons to the well one by one and threw them in.

Among those dead were Maqsood's wife Nisha Alam, their children, Shadab Alam, Sohail Alam, Bushra Alam, her three-year-old son, an auto driver Shakeel and two Bihari migrant workers Shyam Kumar and Sriram.

OLD | CITY

**People close to public representatives cornering benefits, claims by other people getting rejected**

## Flood victims see discrimination in relief distribution

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Flood victims complained of discrimination in the disbursement of immediate relief granted by the government.

They alleged that people who are close to public representatives or political leaders are getting relief while many are being refused.

The residents' grievance was that officials are showing discrimination in distributing the immediate

relief of ₹10,000, which reduces their chances of their getting full relief later. They complained that the officials have selected particular families on the instance of the concerned corporator or MLA.

They apprehend that if they raise voice against the discrimination, they will be targeted by political goons and deprived further.

Residents of Shaikpet, Himathnagar, Jubilee Hills and Amberpet complained that they were provided

with a reduced relief amount.

Two and sometimes four families were asked to share the amount allocated for a single dwelling unit. They said in clusters many families reside in a single house.

In such cases, the amount was divided among the dwellers.

In Ahmed nagar, Pochamma basti, Anjuman area in Vijaynagar colony, Sabir nagar, Gosha mahal, many people complained that only selected residents

● **THE VICTIMS** said if they raise their voice, they will be targeted by political goons and deprived of further benefits

were getting benefits. Residents of Red Hills also complained that they were denied just because they were not familiar with the corporator. When they approached him, they were asked to consult the political leaders they supported in the elections. Amjedullah Khan,

spokesperson for Majlis Bachao Tehreek, demanded an inquiry into the rampant corruption and loot of the ₹550 crore relief package for flood victims. Leaders of the ruling party and its allies with the help of corrupt officials had made it a private corporate fund as it is being released from their party's exchequer.

The public fund is being looted openly and most of the amount disbursed on false claims recommended by political leaders or with-

out proper verification. He alleged that the state fund is being disbursed based on political affiliation as a campaign for the forthcoming GHMC elections which defeats the purpose of relief and the welfare scheme.

Social worker, Asif Hussain, said there is a need to carry out an independent assessment of the damages due to flood without the involvement of political leaders to ensure selection of genuinely affected families.

There are a lot of complaints from different areas about not receiving relief amounts, said Hussain. People who lost their belongings in the flood should not be denied aid being distributed by the government just because of their political affiliations or the lack of them.

He suggested establishing a grievance control room to resolve complaints of discrimination in the disbursement of the relief amount.



## IN BRIEF

## Jagan urges court to hear CBI cases

**Hyderabad:** AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday urged the CBI special court in Hyderabad to first hear cases filed by CBI against him for charges of disproportionate assets case and alleged quid pro quo investments in Jagathi Group of Companies. The CM's counsel S. Niranjan Reddy, referring to disposal of cases filed by ED in 2G scam after cases filed by CBI had failed to prove the scam, reminded the court that the ED filed cases only based on CBI charges against his client.

## KTR: BJP LEADERS SEEN MORE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM PAGE 1

Ridiculing finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman's, statement on Coronavirus as an 'act of God', K.T. Rama Rao said the BJP makes promises, mismanages and then shifts the blame onto others through their 'WhatsApp' university.

Asking where the two crore jobs promised by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and the ₹15 lakhs to be deposited in each account and the assurance of houses to all by 2020, he took a side swipe the claims of Telangana BJP leaders of a huge contribution by the Centre in various schemes implemented by the TRS government in the state. Rama Rao said, "If Goebbels would have been alive, he would certainly learn from state BJP leaders how to mislead the people."

Stating that the BJP leaders are seen more in social media than in society, Rama Rao challenged the BJP to release a white paper on the Central government's contribution to Telangana.

Taking serious exception to the BJP leaders' allegation that police were caught while placing the cash in the Dubbaka BJP candidate's relative's residence, Rama Rao pointed said that the "BJP believes in creating confusion when it cannot convince."

Maintaining that despite the economic crisis with Covid-19 pandemic, the state government has ensured implementation of development and welfare programmes in the state, Rama Rao said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its report clearly stated that the Telangana government had waived off the highest number of crop loans in the country. He said besides the crop loan waiver, the state government spent another ₹28,000 crore under Rythu Bandhu benefiting farmers directly in the last six years.

"The RBI report also stated that about 95 per cent of the beneficiaries of the crop loan waiver scheme were marginal and small farmers. Despite being the youngest state, Telangana has been progressive and has emerged as a frontrunner among top performing states in the country," waxed Rama Rao.

## TAHSILDARS TO DEAL WITH REGISTRATION

FROM PAGE 1

Tahsildars will deal with registration of documents relating to the lands to which the new Act applies and allied matters under the registration act, 1908, and the rules made thereunder.

After careful examination of the matter, the government accepted proposals for the formation of new sub-districts under section 5 of the Registration Act, 1908 (Central Act No.16 of 1908) and the establishment of offices of joint sub-registrars under section 7(1) of the registration Act, 1908, also appointing tahsildars (across the 570 mandals in the state) as joint sub-registrars in respect of agricultural lands.

The government made it clear that in the absence of a tahsildar, the naib (deputy) tahsildar of the revenue mandal or such person designated by the district collector shall discharge the functions of the joint sub-registrar.

The government also declared that the sub-registrars appointed under the registrations and stamps department are hereby stopped from registering documents relating to the lands to which the TRLPP, 2020 applies. They are hereby designated to register non-agriculture land transactions.

## Danger on the road



As a result of the recent rains, a big portion of the main road caved in at Koranti Crossroads and is in need of urgent repairs.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Working class in need of tools they lost in floods

Most people not in need of clothes being donated liberally

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The aim in Chaderghat, Malakpet, Tolichowki, Babanagar, Osman Nagar, Al-Jubail colony and other adjoining areas where flood relief work is still going on is to help them get back to their usual daily lives but it is really their working lives that they need help with.

Those who worked in flower markets, cycled to work, skilled workers from homes have lost their working tools and they want help in procuring them. Most of them state that these belongings have been carried away by the flood waters and they have not been able to find them.

Satamma P., a flower vendor, said, "I do not have the mesh on which I would weave the flowers together. It will cost me ₹3,000. If I can get that, I will be able to start work again and earn a living."

The donations are coming in the form of money to non-government organisations and clothes are being left at different points in the city by citizens. But many of them are not willing to take them as they do not require it. They want to start their working life again and want that which will help them get back on their feet. Men and women who cycled to work have lost

## Moosapet residents decry forcible felling of trees

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Residents of Moosapet are an irked lot as trees planted along the roadside have been uprooted. They claim that the roots of these trees, which provide stability to the trees, have been mutilated so that they fall on their own.

The trees along the road in Moosapet's Malaysian Township, which have severed roots, do not stand strong as they lose grip and fall down.

"The trees have been

their bicycles and they are asking for that.

Similarly, from homes, even cooking gas cylinders have gone in the water and those who could not get them back are asking for means and ways to procure them again.

Many of them state that there is a gap between what they want and what is being given to them. Aslam Sheikh, from Tolichowki, said, "A lot of people are coming with the intent to help. But the problem is that people do not

● **THE RESIDENTS** have already filed a complaint with the civic officials and the forest department as well.

there for decades. Now, it seems like there is some form of construction taking place over there. From the look of it, it seems like they are planning on setting up a gate. So, to ensure that the trees fall on their own, miscreants have dug around the tree

require what they want to give. They want something with which they can re-start their lives. The process of rehabilitation will require the government to step in and work out a solution which can bring them back on their feet. Most of them are asking for tools, machines and other things to help them restart their small means of making a living."

While the number of volunteers in the form of students, religious organisations, political

and cut all the roots," said V Gopala Rao, a resident of the area.

The residents have already filed a complaint with the civic officials and the forest department as well.

This new way of felling trees is just inhuman and cruel, he said. This is quite close to the method used to kill toddy-palms in a few areas within the city. To kill the toddy palms holes are dug around the trees and acid is poured into them, so that the roots can never grow again.

outfits and donors is huge and seen streaming on a regular basis, the need is to reach out with what will help them. For that, government agencies are required to monitor rehabilitation work. That "will go a long way stated workers of non-government organisations. They are presently collecting a lot of data and planning to give them what is required but they are not sure how much they will be able to provide and for how many.

## PANEL TO CHECK STRUCTURAL STABILITY OF HUSSAINSAGAR

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The State government on Wednesday constituted a committee to conduct comprehensive assessment of the structural effect to Hussainsagar Lake. It has also released GO 270 dated on October 28. During the recent unprecedented rain, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, a majority of the 185 lakes located in the city limits exceeded FTL (full tank level) capacities placing strain on their bunds and regulatory infrastructure. Following the instruction of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Irrigation & CAD department formed 15 teams for motoring flood situation in respect of these lakes.

After careful examination, Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar said that the government has decided to constitute a committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the status of structures at the lake. It comprises C. Muralidhar, Engineer-In-Chief (Irrigation) and Ganapathy Reddy, Engineer-In-Chief (R&B). The committee will look into the structural stability of the lake, hydrological aspects, flood routing and suggest measures to improve the structure. It has asked the government to submit a comprehensive report within 15 days duly taking stock of current scenario and future challenges. The order stated necessary expenditure will be met from GHMC funds.

● **CHIEF SECRETARY** Suresh Kumar said that the government has decided to constitute a committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the status of structures at the lake.

● **IT WAS** originally scheduled for October 23 but was postponed due to heavy rains. Director Minorities Welfare Shah Nawaz Qasim said it has decided to conduct the test at all the centres from 10 am to 12 pm on November 2.

## IN THE COLD

## Air pollution during a pandemic leads to further inflammation

## Particulate matter a big worry in winter

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

## COMMON BULWARKS AGAINST THE TWIN ATTACKS

- Masks must be worn properly and at all times when outside during the winter season.
- On main roads, riding on scooters and bikes, it is recommended that N-95 masks must be used, which are safer than surgical and fabric masks.
- Poor ventilation systems increase the risk of indoor air pollution and it becomes important to use air purifiers.
- Avoid unnecessary travel during peak traffic hours and check real-time pollution levels before stepping out.
- Strictly avoid burning of leaves, household waste and other biomass outside homes as that increases the levels of air pollutants.

particulate matter 2.5, coal combustion is 15.5 percent and agricultural residue is 6.1 per cent. This was uncovered in a study carried out by IIT Bombay and health effects institute in 2015.

Dr. K. K. Aggarwal, senior cardiologist and president of the confederation of medical organisations in Asia and Oceania, said "The household pollution of biomass, indoor pollution of

cigarette smoke, incense sticks, mosquito coils, insecticide sprays, air fresheners and outdoors of vehicles, industry and burning of trash is found to affect the blood vessels and heart more than the lungs. Particulate matter is inhaled by the body and deposited in the lungs. Every winter there is a 30 per cent increase in respiratory and allergic diseases

## TS records 1,481 new Covid-19 cases

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

In a setback of sorts, new Covid-19 cases in Telangana clambered back with the health department reporting 1,481 fresh cases on Tuesday. The rise in cases, from 837 on Monday, also reflects an increase in the number of tests that rose from 21,099 on Monday to 40,081 on Tuesday.

There were four deaths in the last 24 hours. While the total Covid-19 cases in

Telangana stand at 2,34,152, the cumulative fatalities reached 1,319. As many as 2,14,917 people have so far recovered from the disease.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 279 new cases, followed by 138 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, and 111 in Ranga Reddy districts. Khammam and Nalgonda districts each had 82 fresh cases, while Karimnagar and Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem recorded 79 cases each.

## TODAY IS WORLD STROKE DAY

## Time lost is brain lost, says doctor

What is stroke?

It is a "brain attack", an injury to the brain, which occurs when blood flow to the brain gets interrupted.

What happens when you have a stroke?

When a stroke occurs, brain cells die. They no longer receive oxygen and nutrients from the blood. Or, there will be sudden bleeding into or around the brain.

What is a "mini-stroke?"

It is a transient interruption of the blood supply to the brain, resulting in symptoms that typically last for less than an hour.

Why stroke matters?

A stroke can happen to anyone, at anytime, anywhere.

What is the age group affected by stroke?

Although a majority of strokes occur among people aged above 65 years, young people are also at risk of stroke.

How to identify strokes?

Be fast in identifying BEFAST (stroke symptoms): B – Balance off; E – Eyes have unclear vision; F – Face has facial droop; A – Arms and legs become weak; S – Speech is slurred, confused; T – Time lost is brain lost.

What should I do if one gets a stroke?

Stroke is a medical emergency. Try to shift the person immediately to the stroke centre; it can save his or her life and enhances chances of successful rehabilitation.

What are the risk factors for stroke and how can one deal with them?

All risk factors for stroke are preventable by maintaining a healthy lifestyle, exercising regularly, quitting smoking and alcohol, controlling blood sugars among diabetic patients, maintaining normal blood pressure, and keeping blood cholesterol levels within healthy limits.

How are strokes treated?

If stroke is treated with-

## DOCTOR SPEAK



Dr Suma Kandukuri  
Consultant  
Neurophysician  
SLG Hospitals  
Bachupally

● **ONE IN 4 adults** will have a stroke, but being active can help decrease your risk.

in the golden time, long-term complications and disability can be prevented. This also reduces the economic burden on families.

Who are the doctors in your team?

Stroke treatment is a teamwork involving Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychology, Physiotherapy, and Occupational and also Speech therapy.

What is the latest technology available to treat strokes at the earliest?

With advanced neuroimaging technology involving MRI of brain, emergent evaluation of stroke is done. Thus, we can salvage brain tissue.

What is the prognosis for stroke?

Stroke has good prognosis if it is treated early and within the golden time. I advise people to reach the nearest hospital at the earliest possible time, so that morbidity is prevented.

(Consultant Neurosurgeons Dr Raghavendra H. and Dr Abhinay also contributed to this article)

## MAIDEN HYDRA VALVE TEST ON SENIOR CARRIED OUT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

A heart valve replacement with Hydra Aortic Valve was performed for the first time in the city at Virinch Hospitals on a 74-year-old patient.

The indigenously developed device is especially for senior citizens as it is

flexible and helps in maneuvering through the blood vessels. Dr Sarat Chandra, senior consultant cardiologist, explained "The medical device is made in India and brings down the cost of the surgery for patients. It is designed for senior citizens. The device will help to maintain heart's stability."

Dr Ramana Prasad, senior pulmonologist at KIMS hospital, said, "We have our winter advisory for these patients as the harmful effects of air pollution increases risk of coronary artery disease, heart failure and respiratory diseases. With the prevailing pandemic, those with pre-existing conditions are a major concern. They will need to take extra and special care."



यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः ।  
स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥३-२१॥

B H A G A V A D G I T A (3-21)

"Whatever a great person does, that alone other people also do;  
whatever they set up as the standard, that the world follows."



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7<sup>th</sup> November 1934 - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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## SHORT TAKES INTACH TO HOLD ONLINE HERITAGE QUIZ FOR STUDENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) has announced its annual Heritage Quiz for school students and called for entries from Standard 8 to 10 students from schools across Telangana.

Schools from the undivided districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, Warangal, Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad, Khammam, and Nalgonda are eligible to take part in the quiz, which will be held online, Intach Telangana chapter co-convenor Anuradha Reddy said. Each school can field two teams of two students each. Entries should be sent to the Intach Telangana chapter by November 3. Further details can be had from P. Praveen on Tel No: 88850-98851

## HC: WAIVE EAMCET MARKS FOR TOSS STUDENTS

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Giving relief to Intermediate students from the Telangana State Open School Society (TOSS), the Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the Convener of Telangana State Eamcet , JNTU , TS Higher Educational Council and the state government to consider for Eamcet Counselling, those students who secured 35 to 40 percentage marks in Intermediate exams.

Eamcet authorities have made it compulsory for all Intermediate students to acquire 40 per cent marks to be able to take Eamcet. But, due to the pandemic, TOSS had not conducted the exams and passed some of students with 35 percentage of marks rendered them ineligible for Eamcet counselling. Some of them approached the court and challenged the clause which prescribing 40 percentage marks in Inr exams for allowing Counselling.

After considering the issue, Justice P. Naveen Rao directed the authorities to consider those students for allowing the Counselling.

## GRACE CANCER RUN ENTERS GUINNESS BOOK

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

City-based Grace Cancer Foundation hosted "Grace Cancer Run" — world's largest Cancer Awareness Initiative. Over one lakh participants from 115 plus countries took part in the run virtually on the 10 of this month.

As a result, the Guinness Book of World Records has recognised Grace Cancer Foundation on two counts; for accruing "Most live viewers for a female health awareness lesson on YouTube as part of Cancer Awareness Drive" and for "Most videos of people running / jogging uploaded to Facebook in one hour as part of Cancer Awareness Drive".

Incidentally, more than 5,000 videos had been uploaded in support of awareness. Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, CEO, Grace Cancer Foundation, told *Deccan Chronicle*: "This dream of creating awareness, which was conceived seven years back, has achieved unprecedented success that is well beyond our imagination. What we have accomplished with over one lakh participants in 115 plus countries is huge and overwhelming. We are enormously gratified over the fact that we could reach out and sensitise millions of people across the globe," Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli stated.

# TS to protest Central agri laws

## Harish Rao announces launching of state-wide mass movement soon

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Finance minister, T. Harish Rao, on Wednesday announced the launching of a state-wide mass movement soon against the new agriculture laws enacted by the BJP government.

Addressing a massive rally by farmers in Chegunta town of Dubbak assembly segment in support of TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha, Rao said that the new

agriculture laws will cause more damage to farmers and the farm sector in the country than being beneficial to them and they forced the state governments to protect the farmers and their produce during any crisis.

Besides enacting these harmful laws, the BJP government at the centre also brought the electricity amendment bill to swindle the farmers with electricity charges.

The centre had written to Chief Minister, K.

Chandrashekar Rao stating that it will give ₹2,500 crores to the state government if it would install metres to the agricultural pumps in the state, said Harish Rao, but the state government refused the proposal. On June 2, Harish Rao said that the CM Rao made it clear to the centre that the TRS government will not fix meters to pump sets at any cost and they don't need ₹2,500 crore.

Citing the centre's decision to allow maize

imports, Rao asked "If the centre feeds our chicken with imported maize, who will buy the maize produced by the local farmers?"

Asking the BJP government for whose benefit it has been working, Rao said farmers used to get transformers only after paying ₹30,000 during the Congress regime. Farmers suffered during the Congress rule with the burning of pump sets given the voltage problems. Asking farmers in

Dubbak to choose whether they want the BJP which will fix meters to their pump sets or the Congress which has given them burnt motors or the TRS which is giving the 24 hours uninterrupted free power to them, Rao added that they should also decide whether they want Kaleshwaram water or the liquor bottles being supplied by the BJP. Rao conducted road shows in Pedda Gundavelli and Thimmapur villages under the Dubbak segment.

## VIJAYASHANTI LIKELY TO JOIN BJP ON NOV. 5

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Congress party Telangana campaign committee chairperson Vijayashanti, former MP and well-known senior actress, may quit the grand old party. Speculations are rife in political circles that in the first week November (Nov. 5 or 6), she is quite likely to join the saffron party at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi.

Recently, Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy met Vijayashanti at her residence for more than an hour. Post that meeting, BJP leaders have been mentioning that the senior actress has decided to quit Congress and will be joining their party.

Very close associates of Vijayashanti have said that senior Congress leaders in Telangana have not been taking her into confidence when taking crucial decisions. As a result, she has been very unhappy and has stayed away from Congress party.

The veteran actress has taken many wrong decisions during her political career and never enjoyed power. She is now planning joining the BJP, which is eyeing to form the government in Telangana. The saffron party is also wooing leaders from other political parties ahead of GHMC elections.

Vijayashanti had been the general secretary of BJP's women wing in 1997. She quit BJP in 2005 and started her own party "Talli Telangana". Later, she merged her party with Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

## KAVITHA TO TAKE OATH AS MLC TODAY

NARENDER  
PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, OCT. 28

Kalvakuntla Kavitha will take oath as MLC on Thursday in Hyderabad at 12.45 pm. Kavitha swept the MLC bypoll of the Nizamabad local body constituency with a thumping majority on October 12, ending her long wait to get back into politics. Of the 823 votes Kavitha got 728 votes.

She would have taken oath immediately, but she had to quarantine herself, as she was a primary contact of the Jagtial MLA Sanjay, who tested positive for Covid-19.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi cadres are eagerly awaiting her elevation into the state Cabinet. News is that Kavitha is likely to be inducted into the state cabinet, after the Dubbak bypoll or the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

Kavitha's entry into active politics now changes the political equation in the state, especially in undivided Nizamabad district.

Party scores opined, "In united Andhra Pradesh, Nizamabad district was always represented by two ministers. Continuing this trend, Kavitha is likely to represent the district."

Speaking to the *Deccan Chronicle*, a senior TRS leader from Kamareddy district said, "Kavitha will play a key role in state politics soon."

# Uttam goes on a door to door campaign in Dubbak mandal

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The Telangana Pradesh Congress committee president and MP, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, on Wednesday organised a door-to-door campaign at Dubbak mandal and rural villages. He interacted with youth people along with candidate, Ch. Srinivas Reddy, and other senior leaders and also played volleyball with village youth. He sought their support for the Congress candidate and asked them to vote for development in Dubbak.

Reminding them that the Congress government gave several employment notifications especially Group-1 notifications when they were in power, Reddy alleged that the TRS government did not issue a single Group-1 notification from 2014 till now. He appealed to the people to support the Congress and vote for a better future for unemployed youth and farmers.

Congress working president and MP, A.Revanth Reddy, participated in a road show along with former MPs, Suresh Shetkar, Siricilla Rajaiah and party general secretary, Vinod Reddy, in Mirdoddi mandal. He appealed to people to vote for the Congress for youth to get employment and farmers to get minimum support price. Reddy alleged that the poor did not get a double bed room house from past six and half years of TRS government. He urged that people give a chance to Congress and teach a lesson to Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao and his bull-headed rule.

Former deputy chief minister, Damodara Rajanarasimha, also participated in the campaign in Togutamandal's rural villages. He sought



TPCC Cheif N. Uttam Kumar Reddy plays volleyball with the village youth during the Congress campaign in Dubbak on Wednesday. — P. ANIL KUMAR

● **PARTY TREASURER,** Gudur Narayan Reddy, said that the people of Dubbaka are ready to teach a lesson to the ruling party for their corruption practices.

support from people for the Congress candidate. He recalled the Congress party schemes implemented when they were in power.

Party treasurer, Gudur Narayan Reddy, said that the people of Dubbak are ready to teach a lesson to the ruling party. Alleging that BJP and TRS are helping each other, he said the by-election would be won by the Congress under the leadership of AICC in-charge, Manickam Tagore.

Senior leaders MLC, T. Jeevan Reddy, and MLA, D. Sridhar Babu, participated in a door-to-door campaign at villages of Raipole mandal. Both recalled the development work done during the Congress regime. They also requested the people to vote for the Congress and vote for Ch. Srinivas Reddy.

# Cong MP to join BJP soon: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday predicted mass migration of senior Congress leaders into other parties after the result of Dubbak byelection.

In an informal chat with reporters here in Telangana Bhavan, he said, "I am wondering about an MP of Congress (without naming A. Revanth Reddy) in the recent times analysing the future of other parties as a political analyst leaving his own party's future. We have information that he is also looking at the BJP."

He said that the people of Dubbak people will give a mind-blowing judgment to the Opposition parties in the byelection.

Rama Rao said that the Congress is nowhere in the country and it will also get a zero in the Dubbak byelection.

He questioned the Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy that on what basis was he accusing the state government of failing in containing the spread of Covid-19 in the state.

Reminding the claim of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar that the Centre has given ₹7,000 crores to Telangana state for tackling the Covid-19, he asked Kishan Reddy why was he maintaining silence when their state president is making such blatant lies.

He questioned the BJP MPs if they got a single penny of additional funds to the state from the Centre.

# Expedite relief, restoration works in rain-hit areas: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Municipal administration and urban development minister K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday held a review meeting with senior officials of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), and TS State Electricity Board (TSSEB) with regard to ongoing relief and restoration works in the rain-affected areas of twin cities.

He instructed officials to speed up relief and restoration works in

● **Officials said they have launched a special drive to collect 3,500 metric tonnes of waste. With this, about 18,000 metric tonnes of waste has so far been removed.**

GHMC and surrounding areas, so that normalcy could be restored immediately.

Municipal officials informed the minister that ₹10,000 financial assistance is being handed over to the rain and flood-affected families at a fast pace. Additional municipal workers have been deployed to take up sanitation works, remove

sludge accumulated due to rains, dispose of garbage and spray disinfectants. Officials said they have launched a special drive to collect 3,500 metric tonnes of waste. With this, about 18,000 metric tonnes of waste has so far been removed.

KTR asked officials to provide helpline numbers to citizens through which they can ask the municipal corporation to clear debris and flood-related trash from their areas. He wanted officials to rope in resident welfare associations and NGOs for assistance in extending relief measures to the needy. He

instructed officials to immediately start road repair works along all major roads to avoid inconvenience to citizens.

The minister ordered officials to set up retro fittings along all flyovers for ensuring that rainwater flows down easily. In this context, officials informed him that they have sought suggestions and inputs given by the irrigation department for repairing damaged lakes.

KTR also asked officials to ensure that garbage, which had accumulated in nallas during recent rains, is removed.

# Government fixes uniform mutation fee

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Municipal Administration and Urban Development department has fixed uniform mutation fee for all urban local bodies, including Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). It has fixed 0.1 % of the registration value of the property transferred or ₹1,000 in municipalities and ₹3,000 in municipal corporations, whichever

is higher.

As per GO NO184 dated 28.10.2020, the government vide Act No.8 of 2020, made certain amendments to the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019 and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955, introducing the concept of "Auto Mutation", whereby whenever there is a transaction in respect of any immovable property, the mutation of such property in municipal records will

● **AS SUCH, the rates of mutation are fixed differently in different ULBs ranging from ₹100 per transaction to 1.5% on registration value and are without any uniformity.**

take place automatically and through online mode on Dharani portal coinciding with the process of registration done by the sub-registrar concerned. The Director of Mu-

nicipal Administration, Hyderabad has reported that there is no prescribed procedure in fixation of mutations rates in Urban Local Bodies. In the current practice, the ULBs fix the mutation rates as per the council resolution.

As such, the rates of mutation are fixed differently in different ULBs ranging from ₹100 per transaction to 1.5% on registration value and are without any uniformity.

Government after careful examination of the matter hereby order that the following mutation fee will be collected in all urban local bodies including GHMC, at the time of registration of immovable properties by way of sale and gift etc: "0.1 % of the registration value of the property transferred or ₹1000 in municipalities and ₹3000 in municipal corporations, whichever is higher," the GO stated.

# Prove comment on farm meters or quit, Arvind tells Harish

IREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind of BJP challenged finance minister T. Harish Rao to provide proof that a Central Act makes current meters for farming sector mandatory. "If he proves the point, I will quit as MP. Otherwise, Harish Rao should resign from his cabinet and MLA post," the BJP Lok Sabha member said.

The MP was campaigning in Toguta of Chegunta mandal in favour of BJP candidate M. Raghunandhan Rao who is contesting the Dubbak by-elections.

Addressing a road show, Arvind slammed Harish Rao for launching a false propa-

● **HE WARNED Chandrashekar Rao and his family members that they will go to jail for their corruption practices.**

ganda against BJP out of fear that TRS will otherwise lose the by-poll. He asserted that BJP will win Dubbak, thereby teaching a strong lesson to K. Chandrashekar Rao's Nizam rule.

He called Harish Rao as 'Gumasta' of the Chief Minister in collecting commissions while implementing Kaleshwaram and other irrigation projects. He warned Chandrashekar Rao and his family members that they will go to jail for their corruption practices.

The MP asked Dubbak voters to vote for BJP, so that the constituency could develop.

**INTEGAL**  
**Lt Colonel ZH Zaka (Retd)**  
 S/o Late Colonel AFMA Muqith (Retd)  
 Passed away on Monday, 26th October 2020. A highly skilled Army Aviator, A Kargil War Veteran, and a Patriot, lived life to the fullest like a true warrior and left behind an unimaginable void for the family. He will always be cherished and missed.  
 May Allah bless his soul and grant him a special place in Heaven.

**84th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
 "I thank my God every time I remember you." Phil 1:3  
  
**Late. E. JOSHUA**  
 Retd. Lecturer DOB - 29-10-1936  
 fondly remembered by  
 Wife - Jeeva Joshua  
 Daughters & Sons - In - law  
 Son & Daughters-in-law & Grandchildren

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
  
**Late Sri S.G. PHADKE**  
 Passed away on this day  
 October 29th, 1977  
 Inserted by:  
**Family Members & Staff**  
**Sri Gajanan Cloth Stores**  
 4-2-238, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad.  
 Ph: 24756793

For this God is our God for ever and ever,  
 he will be our guide even to the end.  
 Psalms 48:14  
**In loving memory of**  
  
**Late Mrs G. SHARADA GOPAL**  
 (Retd Head Nurse)  
 W/o Late A. Gopal  
 DOB 15-6-1934 DOD 25-10-2020  
 Thanks giving service today at  
 Merlin Memorial Methodist church  
 Sanath Nagar, 6:30 pm.  
 Inserted by: Family members

**5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."  
 Psalm 23:6  
  
**JALAGAM INDIRA MOSES**  
 W/o Late J.N. Moses (Retd. Railways)  
 (D.O.B: 12.11.1937) (D.O.D: 29.10.2015)  
 Your memories are always in our Hearts forever  
 Inserted by:  
 Daughter - Sharada Sampath & Family  
 Son - Solomon & Family  
 (S/2021/D00762)

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
  
**Mrs. LEENA SAMSON**  
 Happy Birthday Dear "Ammama"  
 We miss you everyday. We will cherish every moment spent with U.  
 Love U So Much :  
 Noel, Anushka, Akshay, Amaira  
 (B/2021/D00076)

**9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 The memory of the righteous will be a blessing.  
 Prov 10:7  
  
**A. JERUSHA**  
 W/o S. Anthony  
 DOB: 01-07-1956 DOD: 29-10-2011  
 You have chesiled an indelible impression on our heart. Praise God for all that you have been to us.  
 Inserted by:  
 Husband - S. Anthony  
 & Family Members  
 (S/2021/D00764)

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
  
**Sri GONNAKUTI MADHAVA RAO**  
 You will forever remain alive in our hearts and memories.  
 We miss you a Lot  
 Inserted by: **FAMILY MEMBERS**  
 (S/2021/D00760)

**13th DAY CEREMONY**  
  
**DASARI NARSING RAO**  
 Retd. HMT, Working Section, SPM Assembly  
 DOD: 17.10.2020  
 Kindly invite you to join us on 13th Day Ceremony on 29.10.2020, at H.No. 2-101, Near Methodist Church, Way to Gandamguda, Hydershakote, Hyderabad. Landmark: Pleasant Towers Apartment.  
 Inserted by: Wife: Prem Jyothi  
 Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Sons.  
 Mob: 7680939555, 9182752036  
 (S/2021/D00763)

**11th ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**GUNIGANTI VUPENDRA (JAYA)**  
 D.O.B: 10-06-1962 D.O.D: 29-10-2009  
 We could not forget you for ever  
 for your Love & Affection Showered  
 on us throughout your life  
 Husband  
**GUNIGANTI DHANUNJAYA**  
 Sons, Daughter & Family Members  
 (S/2021/D00761)

**OBITUARY**  
 I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Ps 23:6  
  
**Mrs. Manjula John Bob**  
 W/o Late R.P.P.S. John Bob  
 DOB: 11/10/1948 - DOD: 28/10/2020  
 Funeral service on 29-10-2020 at 9 AM  
 Little Lamb Church  
 Inserted by:  
 Sons, Daughters & Grand Children  
 Ph : 9133530469



## SHORT TAKES

SI, CONSTABLE  
ARRESTED FOR  
TAKING BRIBESDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD OCT. 28

Officials of the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested a sub-inspector and a constable of Gandhinagar police station for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹30,000, on Wednesday. ACB officials said that on Wednesday morning, as per the instructions of Mellacheruvu Laxminarayana, the SI, Nimmala Nareesh, the police constable, demanded and accepted a bribe amount of ₹30,000 near the station premises of the complainant M. Santhosh Reddy.

The official was caught red-handed by the ACB officials. "The amount was demanded and accepted for doing an official favour, which was to abstain from registering similar cases against the complainant and to do a favour in the investigation of the case," said the officials.

"The accused officers performed their duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain an undue advantage. The officers were arrested and produced before the Honourable Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases, Hyderabad. The case is Under Investigation," added the ACB officials.

In case of demand for the bribe by any police officer or any other public servant, public can contact Toll-Free Number of ACB, 1064, officials said.

● **THE OFFICERS** were arrested and produced before the Honourable Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases, Hyderabad.

₹50 LAKH  
HAWALA  
CASH SEIZEDDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD OCT. 28

A North Zone team of Commissioner's Task Force, along with Saifabad police, seized ₹50 lakh of unaccounted cash which was procured by a man through hawala transfer near Fateh Maidan Club gate in LB Stadium on Wednesday.

The accused, Abbagonolla Avinash Goud, 36, was found illegally transporting the unaccountable amount without any relevant documents.

Upon receiving credible information, the officials of Task Force reached FMC out-gate and intercepted a Ford Endeavour car and found the amount being illegally transported and apprehended Goud.

"It was revealed during interrogation that the accused handles real estate businesses in and around Hyderabad and Coimbatore. He borrowed Rs 50 lakh from one Ramesh, a resident of Chittoor, who sent the money through a hawala agent by identifying with a unique code. Goud received the net cash near Karachi Bakery, MJ Market, and was heading to Tamil Nadu to invest the same in real estate business. He failed to produce relevant documents pertaining to the cash transactions," said the DCP of Commissioner's Task Force, P. Radhakrishna Rao.

● **THE ACCUSED**, Abbagonolla Avinash Goud, 36, was found illegally transporting the unaccountable amount without any relevant documents.

## BPS makes no headway

Most applicants claim they did not receive GHMC's shortfall notice

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The grand plans to process applications under the Building Penalisation Scheme (BPS) have not moved an inch. Though Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) sent SMS messages to 95,000 applicants for processing their BPS applications, very few have turned up as they did not receive the shortfall notice claiming that most architects had changed their mobile numbers.

The civic body, despite not advertising on the public domain, has scrutinised 1.39 lakh applications under BPS. It has

already rejected 2,000 BPS applications as they were not in compliance with norms. Text messages were sent to 95,000 BPS applicants in order to upload missing documents to the link sent on their mobile numbers. However, very few uploaded documents and paid the processing fee. Field level officials informed that the missing documents notice and fee intimations were sent to architects, who have changed their mobile numbers from what they had in 2015. Surprised over this, the corporation is now planning to coordinate with the revenue wing to collect the mobile numbers linked to property tax identification

numbers (PTINs) and resend the notice pertaining to documents, which were falling short. Officials said that they would complete the background work and process the BRS application after the High Court order.

The HC has directed the GHMC to scrutinise as many as 1.39 lakh BPS applications. Sources said that the HC, in its orders, stated that the GHMC was not supposed to complete the regularisation process of unauthorised constructions but identify the number of illegal structures, which do not fall in the parameters prescribed under BPS. The civic

body will process the applications but will dispose or advertise it since the HC has ordered only scrutiny of applications and not disposing them. The corporation immediately after the court orders will dispose of the eligible BPS applications.

Officials said that the HC asked them not to disclose the status of BPS applications but only scrutinise. They said that corporations have been working within the framework of law. Officials stressed that fee intimations to dispose of the applications will only be sent after HC directions.

A senior GHMC official, requesting anonymity,

said that the corporation would only validate documents attached to BPS applications and reject them if they are not compliant with the norms. He said the corporation has conducted a field-level enquiry and learnt that text messages were not delivered to the applicants.

"In order to access the online application, the applicant has to verify it with one time password (OTP) and they have been delivered to architects within the civic body limits. By coordinating with the revenue wing, the civic body would resend the messages for fee intimation and shortfall documents," he added.

## Tough ride



Motorists make their way past dangerous potholes on the road near Kendriya Vidyalaya Picket in Secunderabad on Wednesday.

S. SURENDER REDDY

Kidnapped doc rescued  
by cops in AnantapurNAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD OCT. 28

The meticulously planned kidnapping of a doctor from the city was foiled by Cyberabad police, who tracked and rescued him from Anantapur with the help of local police and the border forces of neighbouring states.

A relative of the 56-year-old doctor was the brains behind the abduction, demanding a ransom of ₹10 crore from the family.

According to the police commissioner of Cyberabad, V. C.Sajjanar, Dr. Behjath Hussain, a dental specialist from Kismatpur village, was kidnapped by his wife's relative, Mustafa, who formed two teams to carry out the abduction. "He had gathered people from different states to kidnap and send the doctor off to Karnataka via an 'escort team,' which was supposed to hold him there until the family paid up the demanded ransom," said the official, adding that the prime accused is still at large, though they arrested his posse.

The Cyberabad police



Dr Behjath Hussain

arrested seven men, seized three cars, seven phones, toy pistols, ropes, tapes and burqas used in the commission of the offence.

Explaining the case, officials said that the prime accused had incurred loss in his business while he was in Australia and is currently into real estate business in Pune and Hyderabad. "He partnered up with his former business partner, Mubashir Ahmed, alias Khaled, with whom he hatched the kidnap plan after gaining knowledge about the victim's financial status. In order to execute their plan, they joined hands with Ganesh in Pune and through him, met Sumit Chandrakanth Bhosale, Akshay Balu Vairekar and

Vicky Datta Shinde. They also approached Imran and his brother Irfan from Kukatpally and offered them a cut. The duo formed two separate teams for the execution of their plan, one for abduction of the victim and handing him over to the second 'escort team,' headed by Puneet of Udupi, Karnataka. The latter team consisted of Sanjay, Siri and Prithvi, also locals of Udupi," said the official.

The gang gained entry into the clinic in Bandlaguda where the victim and his technician were present there on Tuesday afternoon. Sumit, Akshay, Vicky and Salman, clad in burqas, pushed the victim and his technician aside and injured them with toy pistols. They tied and locked the technician inside the washroom and left the place with the victim in his car and took him to Yellamabada in Kukatpally, where they kept him till late night and sent a voice message to the family members demanding the ransom. The gang was caught while they were enroute to Karnataka.

Man sentenced for  
murdering motherDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD OCT. 28

A local court sentenced a man to life imprisonment for murdering his mother. He was arrested by Rachakonda police in 2016.

The accused, Burusu Kondaiah, 45, was living with his mother, Yadamma, 80, at Meerpet. "In the early hours of July 13, 2016, he smothered his mother to death after hitting her head against a cot

in the house when she refused to give him money to meet his personal expenses. After killing her, Kondaiah removed the bloodstains from the house and tried to pass off the murder as an accidental death," said the police, adding that, after getting the autopsy report Kondaiah admitted to the killing.

On Wednesday, the LB Nagar court sentenced Kondaiah to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹2,000 on him.

## 31-YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR CHEATING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD OCT. 28

A 31-year-old man was arrested by the Cyber Crime police of Hyderabad for allegedly cheating people to the tune of ₹50,000 through a fake Instagram account of a woman.

Police said, the accused, Elaporulu Mani Shankar of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, checked the original Instagram profile of the victim and downloaded a few pictures to mirror her social

media profile.

Explaining the modus operandi, officials said that using one of her original pictures, Shankar created a fake profile on Instagram and urged friends and followers of the victim to send money for a medical emergency. "He collected ₹50,000 from different persons," the police said, adding that following a complaint, they began investigating and tracked Shankar to Krishna district, from where a special team arrested him.

## Career Chronicle

**Walk-in Interviews**  
ON 1-11-2020  
(SUNDAY) 9:00AM

Thermal Systems (Hyd) Pvt Ltd. is a fast growing, Hyderabad based Engineering Company engaged in the Design, Manufacture and installation of Heat Recovery and Steam Generation Systems for Metallurgical, Chemical and Power Generation Plants, with a current turnover of Rs.150 Crores. We require competent and experienced personnel for the following positions to be placed at works located at Hyderabad in Telangana. REMUNERATION: NO BAR FOR THE RIGHT CANDIDATES AND WILL MATCH THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY.

**Note: Those who can't attend interview on 1-11-2020 they can forward cv to: careers6@thermalindia.com**

Apply candidates who are having right qualification in Engineering Degree / Diploma mechanical with relevant experience only. For Detailed Job Description visit www.thermalindia.com.

**Number of Vacancies:**

**1. Engineering:**

**1.1 Mgr / Dy Mgr : Exp: 7 to 10 yrs**  
Equipment : 2 Nrs  
C & I : 2 Nrs  
Piping : 1 Nr

**1.2. Sr. Engr / Engr : Exp: 2 to 5 yrs**  
Equipment : 7 Nrs  
Structural Analysis : 1 Nr  
Piping Analysis : 1 Nr  
C & I : 2 Nrs

**1.3. Drafting Engineer: Exp: 3 to 5 yrs**  
Equipment : 12 Nrs, Structures : 2 Nrs  
Piping : 2 Nrs. (Experience in Autocad is mandatory for selection)

**2.1 Projects & Purchase**  
Mgr / Dy Mgr / Sr. Engr / Engr.  
Exp: 3 to 10 yrs  
Projects : 2 Nrs  
Purchase : 2 Nrs

**Venue: Minarva Grand - Kondapur**  
Address: Survey No. 13, Door No. 2-91/4, Adjacent to Silicon Towers, Hitech City Road, Kondapur, Hyderabad, Telangana 500084.  
Contact : Ch. Satyanarayana , AGM- HR, 9391423302 / 9000020348

F. No. 38-01/2018-CCPD  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
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**FILLING UP OF TWO POSTS OF COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
Applications are invited for appointment to 2 (two) posts of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. The posts carry pay scale and allowances as admissible to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India. The present pay scale is Rs.1,82,200- 2,24,100 as per the 7th Central Pay Commission dispensation.

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II. Desirable: Preference shall be given to persons having recognized degree or diploma in social work or law or management or human rights or rehabilitation, or education of persons with disabilities.

**3. Experience:** Should have experience of at least twenty years in a Group "A" level post in the Central Government or a State Government or a public sector undertaking or a semi-Government or an autonomous body dealing with disability related matters or social sector or as a senior level functionary in registered national and international voluntary organizations in the field of disability or social development. Provided that out of total of twenty years of experience, he/she should have at least three years of experience in the field of rehabilitation or empowerment of persons with disabilities.

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**MANAGER**

6 teenagers drown in  
rivulet in VijayawadaSAMPAT G.  
SAMRITAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, OCT. 28

In a tragic case, six teenagers drowned in a rivulet trying to save one another while crossing it at Vasanthavada village, Velerupadumandal, West Godavari on Wednesday.

According to the police, a group of 40 families hailing from Bhudevipeta village of Velerupadumandal arrived at Vasanthavada village located about four kilometres away, for a garden party, a tradition among the villagers for nearly seven to 10 years after Dasara festival.

At about 10.30 am, as the women were preparing food for 'vanabhojanam', six youths crossed the rivulet called Pedavagu' where the depth is about two feet and width is 50 feet to answer nature's call.

While returning, they deviated from the earlier path and started to cross the water body where the water depth is estimated to be 10 to 15 feet and its bed slanted. Following heavy rains and floods in the last few days, the bed has deepened due to soil erosion, especially at a curve along the course of the water body.

As they started to cross the rivulet wading through the water one after another in a row, the first one slipped due to the slope in the bed and fell. To save him, another caught hold of his hand but he too slipped and fell. In just a few minutes, all the six teenagers fell in the water body and drowned. Sadly, none of them knew how to swim.

Though the family members tried to come to their rescue, it was too late.

As the local villagers alerted the police about the mishap, they plunged into

● **AS THEY** started to cross the rivulet wading through the water one after another in a row, the first one slipped due to the slope in the bed and fell. To save him, another caught hold of his hand but he too slipped and fell. In just a few minutes, all the six teenagers fell in the water body and drowned.

action and took up a search operation involving swimmers and fished out all the six bodies by noon.

The deceased were identified as Gangadhara Venkata Rao, 16, Karnataka Renjith, 15, Gottiparthi Manoj, 16, Kunarapu Radha Krishna, 15, Kolla Bhuvan, 16 and Sriramula Sivaji, 16. Some were studying in Class X, others had completed it and the remaining were school dropouts.

West Godavari SP. K. Narayan Naik, said "The villagers arranged the vanamahotsav as part of their tradition to bring good tidings to the village near the water body. The deaths brought a tragic end to the festivities. We have handed the bodies over to their family members after completion of the inquest."

The state government announced an ex gratia of ₹three lakh each for the families of all the six deceased youth.

Deputy chief minister, Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, said that the Chief Minister, Y. S.Jagan Mohan Reddy was informed about the tragic deaths of the six youths. He assured all help to the bereaved family members and instructed the district administration to take all necessary steps to avoid recurrence of such mishaps.

The family members of the deceased were inconsolable.

Stark digital divide in online  
education, says ASER reportHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

There is a stark digital divide in the school sector for online education across the country, a latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2020) has pointed out. While just 11 per cent of all the students enrolled in both private and government schools were using online classes, 21.5 per cent were using videos or recorded classes. Considering the government school children alone, only 8.1 per cent enrolled children were using online classes across the country, the report released on Wednesday said.

Another aspect that the report highlighted was that of the steady shift of students from private schools towards government schools during Covid-19 period. Comparing the data of ASER 2018 and ASER 2020 (September), the report indicated a small

## T-SAT APP ACHIEVES 1M DOWNLOADS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, OCT. 28

The T-SAT channels app has achieved a landmark one million downloads making it that much easier for students to access classes on television. Minister for information technology K.T. Rama Rao, on Wednesday, congratulating T-SAT officials on reaching this milestone, said that the app has come as a great asset to students during the current pandemic conditions even as T-SAT network has taken digital classrooms to even the remotest corners of the state.

shift towards enrolment in government schools across all grades and among both girls and boys at the all-India level. The proportion of boys enrolled in government schools rose from 62.8 per cent in 2018 to 66.4 per cent in 2020. Similarly, the

Rama Rao, who complimented T-SAT's chief executive officer R. Shailesh Reddy, state digital media director Dileep Konatham and IT department's principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan on T-SAT's latest achievement, said it was commendable that T-SAT was not only serving the education needs of students but has emerged as a platform for services offered by various other departments of the government. He said he hoped that T-SAT will go from strength to strength and offer even better and effective services in the future.

proportion of girls enrolled in government schools rose from 70 per cent to 73 per cent during the same period, the report said.

There has also been a significant jump in smartphone ownership in the

student households between 2018 and 2020, in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Tripura. "Among enrolled children, more than 60 per cent of families have at least one smartphone. This proportion has increased enormously in the last two years, from 36.5 per cent to 61.8 per cent among enrolled children. The percentage point increase is similar in households of children enrolled in government and private schools," the report said.

More than 80 per cent of children across the country also have textbooks for their current grade, however it is not clear whether the books were acquired before or after the lockdown was announced, the report has added. This proportion is higher among students enrolled in government schools (84.1 per cent) than in private schools (72.2 per cent).



# DECCAN Chronicle

29 OCTOBER 2020

## Why India must not put all eggs in the US basket

The third edition of the India-US dialogue in the “2+2” format — the annual event at which the foreign ministers and defence of the two countries take stock of the international security affairs — which was held in New Delhi last Tuesday had the obvious context of the Chinese aggression in Ladakh, and this enabled both sides to orchestrate extreme camaraderie.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, in his opening remarks, spoke of China’s “reckless aggression”, perhaps implying that our northern neighbour’s military venture in eastern Ladakh was foredoomed. This is good for national morale, and apparently rests in no small measure on assurances of US support. As if to confirm this, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, who likes to sound hawkish on China, noted in the joint press conference after the meeting that the US would do everything in support of India’s “sovereignty”.

This sounds a shade condescending, and may suggest to some that in the US reckoning India may not be altogether prepared to defend its borders entirely on its own. However, the current Indian leadership will just have to pocket the superciliousness. It has just finished signing — also on Tuesday — the Basic Cooperation and Exchange Agreement (Beca), the last of the four “foundational agreements” on which the US insists when it enters into a deep partnership with a country involving close defence relationship. The external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, pithily summed up the discussions when he informed the media that the conversations had a strong “political military” content.

An assertion of such a nature is unlikely to be tested in the severest of conditions any time soon in the event that the China’s “People’s Liberation Army” (threatening currently to ‘liberate’ Ladakh without solicitation) changes its mind in view of the growing international hostility it may sense to its militaristic designs over a large swathe of continental and maritime territory. But India will do well not to overlook history, although contexts may change from era to era. In 1962, Prime Minister Nehru had specifically sought “air support” from the Kennedy administration to ward off Chinese aggression in our northeast, but this was denied although Washington did extend support in other ways.

When President Donald Trump paid an official visit in February this year, India and the US had escalated their relationship to that of Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, the closest India can think of getting to “strategic ally” (of the Nato variety) in the age of multi-polarity, and in the just ended “2+2” conversation, it was decided, according to the joint statement that was issued, to expand this framework in order “to realise the full potential” of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Perhaps it is a foregone conclusion that greater purchase of American military platforms and equipments will ensue and greater clarity lent to the “shared vision” of India and the US for the Indo-Pacific which was first introduced into the India-US relationship during the visit of President Barack Obama in PM Narendra Modi’s first term.

## World must follow Macron

It has been a watershed moment in the over two-decade-old clash of civilisations of which the intelligentsia world over has now sat up and taken note. When a teenager beheaded a teacher about two weeks back for showing the provocative *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons to his students only as the best example of freedom of expression, all of France rallied for the country’s famous principle of *laïcité* (secularism) and celebrated culture of discourse wherein any opinion whatsoever is open to scrutiny and vigorous, non-violent debate. But what made the show of support different was the fact that during its course for the first time a head of state openly called upon immigrants rather than the existing population to integrate with French multiculturalism.

This newspaper unequivocally stands behind President Emmanuel Macron to uphold the democratic values of freedom of expression, an activity at the heart of knowledge, freedom of conscience, human dignity and equality between men and women. It also applauds Mr Macron’s plan weeks before to draft a law to fight “Islamist separatism” which will counter the favouring of personal laws over France’s republican values that adversely affect women’s rights. So far, these have been compromised by putative liberals and in the very name of multiculturalism. And that is ironical, as human rights are a universal declaration (Paris, 1948).

Mr Macron’s drawing of distinction between “French Islam” and other forms is also significant in the light of his country’s intensifying brushes with Islamism culminating in the Nice attack of 2016 killing 87. Close on the heels of that attack, families were beaten up in Toulon by Muslim youth purportedly offended at the sight of women cycling on a holiday wearing shorts. It was the inevitable fallout of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism as a reaction to insecurities caused by globalisation, a phenomenon first identified by Dutch sociologist-politician Pim Fortuyn in 1997. Fortuyn was assassinated in 2002.

As a politician himself, Mr Macron should know best how to keep his distance from far right forces. These forces have been trying to hijack this essentially humanitarian cause right since after the agnostic left first brought it to public domain. Nevertheless, it is imperative upon other nations in the world to confront this ever-growing global malaise and see through the power play of leaders like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan whose aim it is to challenge Saudi Arabia’s leadership of the Sunni world and his supporters, Imran Khan among them. Few indeed spare a thought for the worst sufferers — women in regressive societies who risk torture and opprobrium for routine freedoms but lack a political voice.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Subhani



## As US embrace deepens, watch for pitfalls ahead



K.C. Singh

The foreign and defence ministers of India and the United States met, in the “2+2” format, in New Delhi on October 26-27. They first engaged their counterparts and then met in the 2+2 format, progressively favoured by many countries as national security, defence and diplomacy are in today’s complex and interconnected world quite seamless.

Significantly, they were meeting just a week before Americans go to the polls to elect the President, one-third of the Senate and a new Congress on November 3, and against the backdrop of the six-month old India-China military standoff in Ladakh. In a choreographed press interaction, with only two journalists on either side allowed one question each, external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar unconvincingly explained the event as normally due. Perhaps both sides had unrelated compulsions for the scheduling. Unlike recent US presidential elections, many traditionally pro-Republican states are now swing states, including Texas and Georgia. The former was last won by a Democratic candidate (Jimmy Carter) in 1976. In both states, non-white immigrants are tilting the demographic balance towards Democrats. Joe Biden is, in the last week of electioneering, swinging through them sensing change. Thus, was the meeting really sought to allow the projection of Mr Trump as pro-India and resurrect the “Howdy Modi” Houston rally’s euphoria for the diaspora vote?

India, on the other hand, would have weighed the advantage of signing the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (Beca) now. If Mr Biden were to win, he would only assume office in January. A new secretary of state may not have India on his to-do list till

well into 2021. With the India-China confrontation now likely to linger, India needs to optimise the use of American equipment like Apache helicopters, or new armed drones, if acquired, or other US transport and reconnaissance platforms already deployed. India’s access to the US geo-spatial network will have a multiplier effect on the targeting accuracy and lethality of these weapons, thus influencing the Chinese tactical calculus.

The joint statement expectedly details myriad themes such as the India-US relationship being raised to a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership during the February 2020 visit of President Donald Trump. But the scope has been limited by the context. Covid-19 and its handling gets prominence as the Democrats are using it in the presidential election. Also related is the new Indo-Pacific alliance sought to be built around resilient supply chains. Trade, on the other hand, finds cursory mention in the statement despite it being Mr Trump’s principal preoccupation before the pandemic. The impending election has focused minds on the immediately relevant ideas. US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, in his remarks, recalled the New Age Vision finalised during his earlier visit. With a flourish, he announced that India and US stood against “all manner of threats”, not just from China. It is the language normally used among treaty allies. The US, he added, would stand with India to “protect its sovereignty and integrity”. His hyperbole hardly reflects the views of his government, as Mr Trump is by instinct an isolationist. Was he auditioning for a presidential run in 2024?

Two other important themes, although mentioned in the joint statement, are left undressed. One, Mr Trump’s tightened immi-

gration controls, in the mistaken belief that it would help ameliorate job losses due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Two, the traditional flow of Indian students to US universities. Again, there is a misguided move to cancel student visas if university courses have gone online. This has left many students stranded, both unable to repay borrowed money or complete their education and seek employment. The joint statement simply skips over these problems while restating past formulations on students as a people-to-people bridge.

The focus is basically on defence cooperation and sales as that plays well back home, particularly during an election. There is an interesting decision to exchange liaison officers, with an Indian officer to be embedded at Navent, Bahrain, which is the naval element of the US Central Command. Similarly, a US officer will be received by India’s Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). The Quad is lauded, as too India’s invitation to the Australian Navy to join Japan, the US and India in the Malabar naval exercises.

Some of the benefits of the growing strategic clinch with the United States have been recounted above. What can be the pitfalls? Firstly, while the overall trajectory of India-US relations would not materially alter under a Joe Biden administration, some elements may. Mr Biden’s priority will be to rebuild US alliances, particularly with Nato, shore up the US economy and try reducing Trumpian unpredictability. He may cautiously attempt to reengage China. Mr Pompeo’s belligerence

may be replaced by a more nuanced containment strategy for China. A Biden administration may also bring greater focus on human rights, civil society protection and freedom of speech and media. All that may require a fresh rebalancing among the major powers, including in Asia.

Second, the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent’s query is important as he sought to know the status of India’s defence relationship with Russia after the signing of Beca now and the other three foundational agreements that were signed earlier. The defence minister parried it in Hindi, but the message was that India was unlikely to change its policy of buying weapons from multiple sources. But is this sustainable, with the closer integration of US communications, logistics and geo-spatial systems with Indian weapons systems?

India may acquire more US weapons systems to narrow the strategic gap with China during the coming months. M.K. Rasgotra, a former foreign secretary and doyen of Indian diplomacy, now in his late 90s like Henry Kissinger, recently wrote that the US needs to devise a concessional buy-lease programme for India to boost quickly its defence capability to deter China. Mr Trump has been too erratic and transactional to think that big. The next US President would inherit a destabilised West Asia, a fractious South Asia and a China-intimidated East Asia. He would require vision and leadership to peacefully contain China, curb the worst instincts of the Narendra Modi government and the BJP while helping India to rise and heal the fractures of the Islamic world? He can regain global leadership by reimagining a post-Covid world with new and flexible global alliances and reformed institutions of global governance. Covid-19 has created a historic inflexion point for change, which the brave and the wise must shape. Otherwise, rising revisionist powers like China will fill the vacuum.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

**If Mr Biden were to win, he would only assume office in January. A new secretary of state may not have India on his to-do list till well into 2021. India needs to optimise the use of American equipment like Apache helicopters...**

### LETTERS

#### LAKE LAND-GRAB

Successive governments in Hyderabad have allowed land-grab on Musi River bed since decades for Inter-State Bus Depot and now a massive garbage dump at Shivaji Bridge Afzalgunj again on Musi River (GSI had pointed to lake land-grab in 2000, DC, Oct. 28). Why grab land on rivers and lakes?

Inayat Husain  
Hyderabad

#### BARBER IN DUBBAK

Amid the hustle and bustle of high voltage campaign, a person eking out of his living through haircuts under a tree, promising only an uncompromising fight against corruption and irregularities and ensuring socio-economic justice to all. It is a welcome move and a good number of prominent people have expressed their solidarity with him. With such simple and committed people in the fray, we must be able to purify politics.

M.G. Sai Baba  
Hyderabad

#### HOMEGUARDS 2BHK

Homeguards should be given double bedrooms and health cards. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had announced this in the Assembly in 2018. However, two years have passed. From among 85,000 2BHK houses to be provided to poor people, the CM must provide 10 per cent quota for homeguards. At present, half of their salary goes for rent. If they fall ill, they become financially distressed. Therefore, they should also be provided health cards. Hopefully this will definitely get attention.

Malik Muhammad Ali Khan  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

### More funds to States with less birth rate mooted

NEW DELHI, Oct. 28. The Union Cabinet today discussed the question of modification of the criteria of Plan assistance to the States in such a way that those States which did well in family planning and reduced the birth-rate could get more.

Union Health Minister K.K. Shah, who had raised the discussion, had proposed that the population in 1966 should be the basis for allotment of funds to States and any additional births should not be reckoned. At the Cabinet, Mr. Shah had argued that since the bulk of Plan assistance was being determined on the strength of population, under the present dispensation, States that lagged behind in family planning and had a higher birth-rate could get more funds.

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



## Dhesi, Khattar’s favourite, gets a second innings

Politicians are sometimes loath to let a favourite babu go off into retirement. They find ways to bring them back into the administration. In 2017, Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh had appointed retired chief secretary Suresh Kumar as his chief principal secretary, even though the state had a regular principal secretary, another IAS officer, because Mr Kumar enjoyed his full trust.

Now taking a cue from the neighbouring state, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar has sprung a similar surprise on his administration, and one which is likely to alter power equations in the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO). He has appointed retired IAS officer D.S. Dhesi as the chief principal secretary in the CMO.

According to sources, Mr Dhesi

was Haryana’s chief secretary for four years and retired last year. He was then appointed chairman of the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC), which he has now left to join his new assignment. Though his duties have not been spelt out, it is quite likely that Mr Dhesi will become another power centre in the CMO, with all important files meant for Mr Khattar being routed through him.

**THE ‘SPECTRUM SECRETARY’** Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba will head a panel of secretaries to streamline the spectrum allocation process. The other members of the panel are home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, defence secretary Ajay Kumar, telecom secretary Anshu Prakash, I&B secretary Amit Khare and secretary,

department of space, K. Sivan. Those in the know say that the committee’s ambit may eventually be widened to also include spectrum pricing issues, always contentious, as we have seen in the past.

According to sources, the high-powered panel will examine the possibility of drawing up an annual calendar for auction of the spectrum that will give telecom companies a clear road map of the quantum as well as the frequency of spectrum being offered for commercial use. It will also sort out the various spectrum-related issues between ministries — as seen in the composition of the panel.

This may meet a long-standing demand of telecom companies who have been asking the government to clear the air for auctioning spec-

trum, which will help them plan and allocate resources efficiently, optimise their networks and roll out new technologies.

### TOO BUSY TO CLEAN AIR

It is that time of the year, Covid or not, when the air quality in north India deteriorates rapidly. Stubble burning by farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi is a major contributor to this. Every year several steps are announced, media raises a big stink, but nothing much has happened.

This year, stubble burning has begun already and urgent steps would be required to prevent Delhi from turning into a gas chamber. The Supreme Court has now taken a serious note of the failure of these states to stop stubble burning which poses a serious threat to pub-

lic health in the region. It directed the respective chief ministers of these states to remain present when the court takes up the matter of combating air pollution at the next hearing. Hopefully, some meaningful action will emerge from the apex court’s intervention.

Meanwhile, the state administration in Punjab and Haryana especially are busy dealing with angry farmers agitating against the Centre’s controversial farm bills, the chief secretaries have their hands full already. This year could see a repeat of our previous trysts with polluted air at the onset of winter with babus issuing the usual warnings and threats to fine farmers who are burning stubble.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let’s multiply the effect.



## IN BRIEF

2 JEM MILITANTS  
KILLED IN  
ENCOUNTERDC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, OCT. 28

Two Jaish-e-Muhammad militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Mochu area on the outskirts of Srinagar overnight, the officials said on Wednesday.

The slain militants have been identified as Javid Ahmad Ganaie, a resident of southern Pulwama district and his Pakistani associate Khalid alias Ilyas. The J&K police in a statement said that the duo was given the opportunity to surrender. "However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter," it said.

IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar told reporters here that, so far, this year eight militants have surrendered during "live encounters" across the Valley of which five surrenders took place in the October alone.

Meanwhile, one soldier each from the Army and the BSF were injured in a mine blast at a forward area along Line of Control in Balakote sector in J&K's Poonch district on Wednesday afternoon.

The officials said that two jawans — Inayat Hussain of BSF's 59th Battalion attached with Army's 14 Punjab and Sahil Kumar of Army's 14 Punjab — were injured in a mine blast in Manjakote area of the Balakote sector.

KERALA CM'S  
EX-AIDE TAKEN  
INTO ED CUSTODYGILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT. 28

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday took Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's former principal secretary M. Sivasankar into custody.

The ED officials took the officer into custody from Ayurveda hospital in Thiruvananthapuram where he was undergoing treatment. The ED team which was camping in the capital, swung into action soon after the Kerala High Court rejected Sivasankar's anticipatory bail plea. The ED officials then took the official to Kochi by road to Kochi.

Sivasankar's alleged links with the accused in the gold smuggling case are under the scanner.

The officer's WhatsApp chats with his chartered accountant Venugopal which came out in the public domain recently, had given some hints that he was overseeing the financial transaction of Swapna, a key accused in the gold smuggling case. However, there is no concrete evidence yet to connect Sivasankar with the gold smuggling case.

The National Investigation Agency, Customs, Enforcement Directorate are conducting separate probes into the seizure of 30 kg of gold worth ₹15 crore which was smuggled in using "diplomatic baggage" at the Thiruvananthapuram International airport on July 5.

SMRITI IRANI  
TESTS POSITIVE  
FOR COVID-19

New Delhi, Oct. 28: Union minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday said she has tested positive for Covid-19.

The women and child development and textiles minister asked the people who came in contact with her to get themselves tested for the disease at the earliest.

"It is rare for me to search for words while making an announcement; hence here's me keeping it simple — I've tested positive for #COVID and would request those who came in contact with me to get themselves tested at the earliest," she said in a tweet.

Irani campaigned for the BJP on Tuesday for the Bihar Assembly polls. Soon after the minister made the announcement, wishes poured in for her on Twitter. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri said she will emerge stronger from this fight against Covid.

"You have always displayed resolute determination in fighting for the people of the nation, @Smritiirani ji. I am sure you will use the same determination to fight against Covid-19 and recover soon. My best wishes," Railway Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted. Ministers Prahlad Joshi and Jitendra Singh, BJP leaders Tejashvi Surya and Poonam Mahajan were among those who wished her a speedy recovery.



RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav during an election campaign rally ahead of the second phase of Bihar assembly polls at Hajipur in Vaishali district on Wednesday. — PTI

Over 53% vote in 1st  
phase of Bihar polls

Highest turnout recorded in Jamui district at 57.41%

NAYEER AZAD | DC  
PATNA, OCT. 28

Around 53.53 per cent of voting was recorded during the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections on Wednesday.

According to reports, the highest turnout was recorded in Jamui district at 57.41 per cent followed by Kaimur at 55.95 per cent and Lakhisarai at 55.44 per cent.

The NDA was locked in a tough fight with RJD led grand alliance on at least 41 of 71 seats that went to polls in the first phase.

The elections were held in 71 constituencies spread across 16 districts of Bihar amid tight security and Covid-19 guidelines. A total of 1,066 candidates were in the fray in the first phase of the elections.

As many as 33 constituencies were declared as "sensitive or hypersensitive" by the state administration.

Among the prominent political leaders who were in the fray during the first phase of polls were HAM chief Jitan Ram Manjhi and eight ministers of Nitish Kumar cabinet.

Another key candidate whose fate is at stake in the first phase is ace shooter Shreyasi Singh from Jamui seat. She is making her debut at the age of 27. She is contesting on BJP ticket and pitted against RJD sitting MLA Vijay Prakash, who is the brother of former Union Minister Jai Prakash Yadav, a close aide of Lalu Yadav.

Reports suggest that Chirag Paswan's party LJP has extended support to Miss Singh on Jamui seat.

Among the political parties, the ruling JD(U) had fielded 35 and its partner BJP 29 candidates. The opposition RJD and Congress had fielded 42

and 20 candidates during the first phase of polls.

Chirag Paswan's LJP which broke away from the NDA citing ideological differences with Nitish Kumar had fielded 41 candidates in the first phase.

In a statement after the first phase of polls, HAM spokesperson Danish Rizwan said, "Seeing the turnout of people our party is confident that Nitish Kumar led NDA is going to form a government in Bihar".

Most of the seats were declared as sensitive by the administrative officials and special security arrangements were made for the Naxal affected areas. Officials said that most of the state's Naxal-hit areas went to polls in the first phase.

Voting for the second and third phase is to be held on November 3 and 7. Results for 243 seats will be declared on November 10.

CONG COMPARES  
NITISH WITH  
GENERAL DYER

New Delhi, Oct. 28: Hitting out at the Bihar government over the Munger firing incident in which a devotee was killed, the Congress compared Chief minister Nitish Kumar with General Dyer on Wednesday and demanded that he should apologise.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said human beings were treated as animals and worms by the police in Munger, when they beat up devotees taking out Durga idols "cruelly and mercilessly".

One person was killed in firing and stone-pelting during the immersion of Durga idols in Munger, on Tuesday. — PTI

Par panel raps Twitter for  
showing Ladakh in China

New Delhi, Oct. 28: A parliamentary committee on Wednesday came down heavily on Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, saying it amounted to treason and an explanation must be tendered by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit, sources in the panel said.

Appearing before the joint committee of parliament on Data Protection Bill, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India, sources added.

They were questioned for more than two hours by the panel members, mainly on Ladakh being shown as part of China on the Twitter app.

"The committee was of the unanimous opinion that Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China was inadequate," Lekhi said after the meeting.

The Twitter representatives told the panel that the social media company respects the sensitivities of India, she said.

"But, it is not only a question of the sensitivity of India or Indians. It is a question about national integrity and sovereignty of the country, and not respecting that is a criminal offence. And displaying Indian map improperly and incorrectly is an offence of treason and attracts imprisonment of seven years, she said.

Lekhi said Twitter was also asked about its banning policy.

"Shadow banning, banning policy there is no clarity about it. Such actions are very subjective... Twitter is becoming a law unto themselves and under these circumstances, they are violating Article 19 of the Constitution about the freedom of expression," she said.

Sources said some members also raised questions about Twitter's transparency policy and its actions during elections,

CHINA MAY USE  
MILITANTS TO  
FOMENT  
TROUBLE IN N-EMANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, OCT. 28

Even after significant improvement in law and order scenario, the unified command of security forces has decided not to scale down counter-insurgency operations in Assam and adjoining states as there is apprehension of China trying to extend direct or indirect help to armed rebel groups of India to create unrest in the north-eastern states.

The apprehension about China instigating insurgent groups of northeast was based on a report of China's *Global Times* where it was stated that if India plays Taiwan card, China should also help militant groups of India to retaliate.

Admitting that Chinese agencies have been directly or indirectly helping the militant groups of north-east and under the present circumstances, the Chinese agencies would definitely like to provide help to revive insurgency in the region, security sources present in the unified command meeting, however, told this newspaper that GOC 4 Corps of Indian Army Lt. Gen. Shantanu Dayal who chaired the unified command, assured that there was no need to worry on China front. He asserted that Indian army in the north-east was fully prepared and capable of responding to any kind of threat emanating from across the border.

Asked for their comments, a Twitter spokesperson said in an emailed statement, "The recent geotagging issue was swiftly resolved by our teams. We are committed to openness, transparency around our work and will remain in regular touch with the

especially vis-a-vis their policies in other countries. Asked for their comments, a Twitter spokesperson said in an emailed statement, "The recent geotagging issue was swiftly resolved by our teams. We are committed to openness, transparency around our work and will remain in regular touch with the

Government to share timely updates."

Multiple sources in the panel said Twitter officials "begged apology" for Ladakh being shown as part of China on its app, but they were told by members that whatever they wanted to say on the issue should be given in writing in form of an affidavit by Twitter Inc, the parent company of the social media platform.

They said Twitter India is "just a marketing arm" of US-based parent Twitter Inc, and therefore a written reply should come from them.

Twitter Asia, based in Singapore, mainly deals with advertisement revenues and takes all major decisions related to the region, some members opined.

Officials who deposed before the panel on behalf of Twitter India included Shagufta Kamran, senior manager, public policy; Ayushi Kapoor, legal counsel; Pallavi Walia, policy communications; and Manvinder Bali, corporate security.

Officials from the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology, and the Ministry of Law and Justice also deposed before the panel.

The Indian government on October 22 had warned Twitter about its location setting that showed Leh in China, saying any disrespect towards the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter, Ajay Sawhney, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), asked Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to respect the country's sensitivities, sources in the ministry had said.

Twitter also came under heavy criticism and faced a backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, the People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

At that time, Twitter had called it a technical issue that had been swiftly resolved. — PTI

There are no budgetary  
constraints, says RajnathPAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that while troops are standing firm at the Northern borders with China, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution of crisis will continue.

He was addressing the Army Commanders' Conference, an apex level biannual event, which is being held here from October 26 to 29.

The eight round of Corps Commanders level talks between India and China to resolve the six month military stand off in

Eastern Ladakh is expected soon. The minister said that there are no budgetary constraints for capability development and meeting other requirements of the Army.

With initial snowfall reported in Ladakh sector, he said best weapons and winter clothing will be provided to troops standing guard at the borders. "It is our responsibility to ensure availability of best weapons, equipment and clothing to our troops braving extreme weather and hostile forces to defend our territorial integrity," he said

Referring to the situation along the Western borders, he complimented the Indian Army's response to cross border terrorism and ceasefire violations. "I compliment the excellent synergy between the Central Armed Police Forces, police forces and the Army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It is due to the synergised operations in the Valley that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is moving to a stable and peaceful environment conducive for overall growth and development," said Mr Singh.

Delhi may be reeling  
under 2nd Covid waveVINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 28

The national capital Delhi seems to be reeling under a major second wave of coronavirus as substantially high number of cases were reported on Wednesday.

Delhi saw 5,673 fresh cases due to which Delhi government has decided to keep schools closed for some more time.

Delhi had on Tuesday recorded its all-time high cases when it detected 4,853 fresh cases. Last time the city had crossed 4,000-mark was on September 9 when 4,473 cases were detected in a single day.

Concerned over the sudden spurt in cases, Union Health Ministry

is expected to hold a meeting with top Delhi government officials on Thursday to re-strategise containment measures.

Among other states which are reporting a spurt in cases are Kerala, West Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

In fact, Kerala has overtaken Maharashtra with the highest number of fresh cases even though both states, however, are still contributing more than 5,000 new cases.

Union health ministry officials said 79 per cent of the new infections are still coming from 10 states and UTs.

Union Health Ministry officials said the festive

season, opening up of public places and the onset of winter has possibly led to the spurt in these states.

However, laxity on part of the people who are now shunning distancing and mask rules due to pandemic fatigue too is a contributing factor.

At the national level, the coronavirus cases on Wednesday were close to 80 lakh even though the detection of new cases have slowed down a bit. The new cases reported in India in a span of 24 hours were 43,893 even as the total number of cases were 79,90,322 as per early morning data of the Union Health Ministry. The death toll has climbed to 1,20,010 with 508 new fatalities.

## An Opportunity to Develop Fuel Cell Powered Train for Indian Railways

**INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS (IROAF) INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL CELL/BATTERY BASED HYBRID POWER TRAIN**

**In order to develop Technical specifications** for development of fuel cell/battery based hybrid power train along with associated control and suitably designed Energy Management Strategy (EMS) and storage module for retrofitment on 700 HP Narrow Gauge ZDM3 Diesel- Hydraulic Locomotives running on Kalka- Shimla section **EOI (IROAF/CME/BD/FUEL CELL POWERED LOCO) is invited.**

**OCTOBER 2020**

Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF), Government of India, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi invites **Expression of Interest (EOI) for development of fuel cell/battery based hybrid power train** along with associated control and suitably designed Energy Management Strategy (EMS) and storage module for retrofitment on 700 HP Narrow Gauge ZDM3 Diesel- Hydraulic Locomotives running on Kalka- Shimla section.

The **Functional Requirement Specifications No. FRS/ED/2020/90** of **October 2020** issued by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) of the desired product and **Format for Letter of Response** have been uploaded on the website of IROAF <https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/> —> **IROAF Tenders** —> **Expression of Interest**. Alternatively EOI form can be collected in person from the office of IROAF, New Delhi. Interested Firms/Organizations who have experience and capability to meet with such requirements are requested to submit technical and other details in the prescribed Format attached herewith **on or before 31.12.2020** to the address mentioned below.

Firms willing to participate in EOI shall be required to make a presentation/video conferencing on **03.12.2020** before sending their response.

**Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD, Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF), Government of India, Ministry of Railways 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 Telephone no.:- 011-23379107, Fax no.:- 011-23379083 Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com**

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## IN BRIEF

## Examination at airport: Probe on

**Dubai:** Qatar apologised Wednesday after authorities forcibly examined female passengers from a Qatar Airways flight to Australia to try to identify who might have given birth to a newborn baby found abandoned at the airport earlier this month. Under pressure after Australia condemned the searches, Qatar's government said it had begun an investigation into the treatment of the women who were taking Qatar Airways Flight 908 to Sydney on Oct. 2. Qatar offered no immediate explanation of how officials decided to perform invasive vaginal examinations on the women. HR activists describe such examinations as equivalent to sexual assault.

## Guru gets 120 years in jail

**New York:** Disgraced self-improvement guru Keith Raniere, whose NXIVM followers included millionaires and Hollywood actors, was sentenced to 120 years for turning some adherents into sex slaves branded with his initials and sexually abusing a 15-year-old. US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Tuesday called Raniere "ruthless and unyielding" in crimes that were "particularly egregious" because he targeted girls and young women in the sex-trafficking conspiracy that resulted in Raniere's conviction last year. He handed down the unusually stiff sentence in Brooklyn federal court after hearing 15 victims call for a long prison term to reflect the nightmares and anguish they'll confront the rest of their lives. As he announced the sentence, Garaufis noted that Raniere labelled some of the victims' claims lies. The judge told a woman who Raniere ordered to be kept in a room for two years when she was 18: "What happened to you is not your fault." He said that went for the other victims too. Raniere, who looked at victims, maintained his defiant tone.

## Local address of expats in passport

**Dubai:** Indian expats in the UAE and elsewhere can now provide their local address abroad in their passports, an official at the Indian Consulate in Dubai has said. The Indian government has decided to allow its overseas citizens to add their local address in their country of residence mainly to aid those who do not have permanent or valid addresses in India, Siddhartha Kumar Barailly, consul, Passport and Attestation, at the Indian Consulate in Dubai told the *Gulf News*. "We understand that many people who have been staying for a long time in the UAE don't have a valid address in India. They may add their local UAE address in their passports," he said. Change in address cannot be made in existing passports, the official clarified. Indian passport holders have to apply for a new passport in which the change in address can be made. The facility can be availed by Indian expats living in both rented or self-owned accommodations, the report said. Those wishing to give their UAE address should provide certain documents as proof of residence.

## HEATHROW NOT BUSIEST IN EUROPE

**London, Oct. 28:** London's Heathrow Airport says it has lost its place as Europe's busiest air hub to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris after the Covid-19 pandemic grounded flights and Britain failed to approve passenger testing that could scale back quarantine requirements. Heathrow said Wednesday that it expects passenger numbers to fall more than previously forecast this year and rebound more slowly in 2021.

The airport now expects to serve 22.6 million passengers this year and 37.1 million in 2021, down from a June forecast of 29.2 million and 62.8 million. The forecast for this year represents at 72% drop from 2019. Commercial aviation plunged this year as governments implemented travel restrictions and passengers cancelled flights amid efforts to control the spread of Covid-19. "The UK's hub airport is no longer the busiest airport in Europe, competitors such as Charles de Gaulle have exceeded us in terms of passenger numbers," Heathrow said in a statement.



President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he walks off stage after speaking during a campaign rally at MotorSports Management Company, in West Salem, Wisconsin on Tuesday. — AP

## Don slams media for Joe graft case censor

Biden got \$3.5 million from Russia, alleges Trump

**Milwaukee (US), Oct. 28:** US President Donald Trump has slammed the mainstream American media and big tech companies for blocking the alleged corruption charges against his opponent Democratic challenger Joe Biden. They have accused each other of serious corruption charges during the election campaign, with the president alleging that Biden got \$3.5 million from Russia and it came through Russian President Vladimir Putin because he was very friendly with the former mayor of Moscow. Biden has denied the allegations.

Trump, before leaving for a campaign trail on Tuesday, told reporters at the White House that the mainstream media was not showing corruption against Biden. "Nobody has ever seen anything like we're witnessing right now. I think it's a very sad time and it'll go down as a very sad era for the media and certainly for big tech (companies). I think what is going on with all of those compa-

## Choice of super recovery or Biden depression: Prez

**Milwaukee (US), Oct. 28:** US President Donald Trump has said that the 2020 presidential election is a choice between a "super" economic recovery led by his administration or a "Biden depression" as he targeted his Democratic challenger Joe Biden. With just seven days left for the most crucial American presidential election in recent memory, Trump intensified his campaign by having as many as three rallies on Tuesday, with one of them being in rain and

freezing cold. "Seven days from now, we are going to win this state and we are going for more incredible years in the White House," Trump said in identical speeches in three battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska. "This election is a choice between a Trump super recovery or a Biden depression. That's what you are going to have with the raise of taxes, the biggest tax increase in our history. It's ri-

diculous. It's a choice between a Trump boom or a Biden lockdown. Let's lock it all down and by the way speaking of lockdowns, let's get your governor to open it up. Let's get them to open it up," Trump said.

Seeking his second four-year term, Trump is currently trailing in latest polls against Biden. However, Trump looked confident of his electoral victory on November 3, asserting that he is experiencing a wave-like situation across the country. — PTI

nies — I think they've hurt themselves very badly because they've been so restrictive... when they don't want to show corruption, like you have with Biden — that's totally corruption and everybody knows it — and they're trying to protect, because he can

make them wealthier, whereas they understand me," Trump said. "They understand where I'm coming from. It's very unfair. Nobody has ever seen anything like it. It's not freedom of the press... it's the opposite. And, of course, the media is in the same

bag," said the president. At a separate election rally in the battleground State of Wisconsin, his eldest son Donald Trump Jr alleged that the media and the big tech companies are now campaigning on behalf of Biden and the Democratic Party. — PTI

## Republican senators grill tech giant CEOs over bias

**Washington, Oct. 28:** The CEOs of Twitter, Facebook and Google are facing a grilling by Republican senators making unfounded allegations that the tech giants show anti-conservative bias. The Senate Commerce Committee has summoned Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sundar Pichai to testify for a hearing Wednesday.

The executives agreed to appear remotely after being threatened with subpoenas. With the presidential election looming, Republicans led by President Donald Trump have thrown a barrage of grievances at Big Tech's social media platforms, which they accuse without evidence of deliberately suppressing conservative, religious and anti-abortion views. The chorus of protest rose

**FOR TOO long, social media platforms have hidden behind Section 230 protections to censor content that deviates from their beliefs.**

**ROGER WICKER, Senate Commerce Committee chairman**

this month after Facebook and Twitter acted to limit dissemination of an unverified political story from the conservative-leaning *New York Post* about Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, an unprecedented action against a major media outlet. The story, which was not confirmed by other publications, cited unverified emails from Biden's son Hunter that were reportedly disclosed by Trump allies. Beyond questioning the CEOs, senators are

expected to examine proposals to revise long-held legal protections for online speech, an immunity that critics in both parties say enables the companies to abdicate their responsibility to impartially moderate content. The Justice Department has asked Congress to strip some of the bedrock protections that have generally shielded the tech companies from legal responsibility for what people post on their platforms. Trump signed an executive order challenging the protections under the 1996 telecommunications law.

"For too long, social media platforms have hidden behind Section 230 protections to censor content that deviates from their beliefs," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., the Commerce Committee chairman, said. — AP

## US' LANKA VISION DIFFERENT FROM CHINA: POMPEO

**Colombo, Oct. 28:** America's vision on Sri Lanka is "very different" from that of "predator" China, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said here on Tuesday as he met the leadership here and reaffirmed US commitment to the island nation's sovereignty and security.

Addressing a joint press conference with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena after bilateral talks, the top US diplomat said that the US and Sri Lanka shared a democratic vision.

"Indeed, a strong sovereign Sri Lanka is a positive partner on the world stage. It can be a beacon for a free Indo-Pacific."

"The Chinese Communist Party is a predator. The US comes in a different way, we come as a friend," Pompeo said in response to a question. — PTI

## Border stand-off bilateral issue with India, says China

**Beijing, Oct. 28:** China on Wednesday said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue, and asked the US to "stop" its Indo-Pacific strategy, terming it as an attempt to impose American hegemony in the region. The remarks by the Chinese Foreign Ministry came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it to confront threats to its sovereignty.

Pompeo's remarks came after the third edition of the Indo-US dialogue in New Delhi during which the two sides deliberated prominently upon the Sino-India border row and situation in the Indo-Pacific region. Reacting to the US push for

**CHINESE FOREIGN Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin sharply criticised the US' Indo-Pacific concept, saying "the Indo-Pacific strategy proposed by the US is preaching outdated Cold War mentality and preaching confrontation and geopolitical game.**

closer defence ties with India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Wednesday that "the border affairs between China and India are matters between the two countries". "Now the situation across the border is generally sta-

ble and the two sides are in resolving relevant issues through consultations and negotiations," he said, in apparent reference to the military and diplomatic level talks between India and China to resolve the standoff. In a blunt criticism of China, Pompeo cited the killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in a clash with the Chinese military and said the US stands firmly with India in confronting threats to its sovereignty.

"Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity that the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is no friend to democracy, the rule of law transparency," Pompeo said. — PTI

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 06SEEE20-21**  
The DRM (Engg.)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 13.11.2020 up to 13:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

**SI.No. 1, Name of Work with Item no.:** At Hajipur : Supply and fixing of fire extinguisher, hydrant and Underground RCC tank for GM Office at Hajipur (HQ).  
**Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 67,58,926.97.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 1,35,200/-

**SI.No. 2, Name of Work with Item no.:** Rain Water Harvesting (Rooftop Rain water harvesting) for recharging ground water through recharge pit at Sonpur, Hajipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi and Naugachia station of Sonpur Division.  
**Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 01,54,67,641.09.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 2,27,300/-

**SI.No. 3, Name of Work with Item no.:** Dismantling and vacation of site of abandoned Panel Room, Service building and quarter at Sonpur. (Dismantling work to be borne by Agency).  
**Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 46,03,312.00.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 92,100/-

**SI.No. 4, Name of Work with Item no.:** Repair of colony road by released/unserviceable PSC sleepers under jurisdiction of Sr. DENII/SEE. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 20,99,402.92.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 42,000/-

**SI.No. 5, Name of Work with Item no.:** At Hajipur : Repairs to damaged boundary wall and power house floor 35 KVA & 11KVA near GM Office. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 27,66,175.38.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 55,300/-

**SI.No. 6, Name of Work with Item no.:** Sarnasipur-Muzaffarpur Section: TBR (Deep Screening) required to provide 300 mm clear cushion in track on UP mail line from Km. - 41.24 - 48.28 (Total = 7.04 kms.).  
**Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 56,81,532.62.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 1,13,600/-

**SI.No. 7, Name of Work with Item no.:** Provision of side pathway of Br. No. 77A UP & DN, 78A UP & DN, 06 UP & DN, 10 UP & DN, 13 UP & DN, 15 UP & DN, 16 UP & DN, 19 UP & DN, 20 UP & DN and 36 UP & DN in Hajipur-Chhapra Kachehri Section of Sonpur division under Dy. CE/BRL/HJP. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 2,96,26,643.87.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 2,98,100/-

**SI.No. 8, Name of Work with Item no.:** Provision of side pathway of Br. No. 02 UP & DN, 06 UP & DN, 07 UP & DN, 08 UP & DN and 16 UP in Kathbar-Barauni Section of Sonpur division under Dy. CE/BRL/HJP. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 2,68,48,835.33.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 2,84,300/-

**SI.No. 9, Name of Work with Item no.:** Supplying & stacking of 3,00,000 cum of machine crushed track ballast 50 mm size conforming RDSO's specification of track ballast (June-2016 edition with up to date correction slips) at Sakarigali and loading the same into any type of Railway Wagon, F.O.R. Sakarigali, for E.C. Railway. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 39,21,00,000.00.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 21,10,500/-

**SI.No. 10, Name of Work with Item no.:** Construction of Track work in connection with junction arrangement work within the Railway boundary at Dinkar Gram Simariya Station of the proposed extension of Barauni Thermal Power Station on deposit basis. **Approx Cost (In Rs.):** 01,66,43,158.04.  
**Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 2,33,200/-

The above tender notice is available on website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in). **RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER:** Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone / modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.  
**Divisional Railway Manager/Engg./Sonpur PR/0831/SEE/Engg./T/20-21/120**  
**Stay protected from Corona**  
**Wear your mask properly**  
**Frequently wash your hands with soap**  
**Maintain safe distance**  
**NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE**

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
KAPRA DIVISION NO. 1					
NIT No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Start Date & Time	Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids	Name & Address of Officer Cell No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
G/HMCC/KC/ E/1034/ 2020-21	1. Civil Work - 24	576.80	02.11.2020@ 03:30 PM	05.11.2020@ 4:00 PM	Sri. D. Koteswara Rao, E.E. Kapra Div-1, GHMC Cell: 9989904468
28.10.2020	24 Work				

Further details can be seen at E-Procurement [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)  
H.O. No: 6346-PP/CL/Adv/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kapra Div-1, GHMC

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
KAPRA DIVISION NO. 1					
NIT No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Start Date & Time	Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids	Name & Address of Officer Cell No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
G/HMCC/KC/ E/1034/ 2020-21	1. Civil Work - 3	29.40	28.10.2020@ 03:30 PM	29.10.2020@ 4:00 PM	Sri. D. Koteswara Rao, E.E. Kapra Div-1, GHMC Cell: 9989904468
27.10.2020	3 Work				

Further details can be seen at E-Procurement [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)  
H.O. No: 6357-PP/CL/Adv/1/2020-21 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kapra Div-1, GHMC

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation					
EE-Div. 15, Sec-bad zone, GHMC					
'E' Procurement NIT No: 34/EE/Div-15/SBZ/GHMC/2020-21 Dt: 27.10.2020					
Name of the work: Laying of CC Roads in Mushheerabad Circle-15, SBZ, GHMC, Events 1 to 66 (Total Amount Rs. 1337.39 Lakh) Start Date: 31.10.2020 From 3:00 PM; Last Date & Time of Bid: 07.11.2020 at 3:00 PM; Sri S. Sreenivas, Executive Engineer, Division-15, Circle-15 Mushheerabad, Sec-bad Zone, GHMC, Cell: 9704456422; Address of the Concerned: Executive Engineer, Div-15, SBZ, GHMC Abids, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. The last date of receipt of tenders may be read as 02.11.2020 against 28.10.2020					
Further details can be seen at E-Procurement <a href="http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in">www.tender.telangana.gov.in</a> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Div-15, SBZ, GHMC					
H.O. No: 6361-PP/CL/Adv/1/2020-21					

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA					
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT					
e-PROCUREMENT AMENDMENT NOTICE					
"e"-NIT No. 19/Corenet Plan work/ EnC(SR&CRN)/ DCE(R)/EE(CRN)/ DEE10/ AEE10/2020-21 Dt:05.10.2020.					
Corrigendum					
1. Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for One (1) works in Khammam District under Plan, vide E-In-C(R&B), SR&CRN, "e"-NIT No. 19/Corenet Plan work/ EnC(SR&CRN)/ DCE(R)/EE(CRN)/ DEE10/ AEE10/2020-21 Dt: 05.10.2020. 2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from e-market place i.e., Procurement market place at <a href="http://www.eprocurement.gov.in">www.eprocurement.gov.in</a> . The last date of receipt of tenders may be read as 02.11.2020 against 28.10.2020					
Sd/- For Engineer-In-Chief, DIPR R.O.No.: 635-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 (R&B) of State Roads & CRN.					

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY					
7th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.					
Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008					
(G.O.Ms.No.157, dated 29.09.2020)					
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the Notified MDP-2031 vide G.O.Ms.33 MA & UD, dt:24.01.2013 as required in the sub section (1) of the said section. The site in Sy.No.294/A, situated at Kallakal (V), Manoharabad (M), Medak Dist to an extent of 608.6659 Hmts. which is presently earmarked for peri-urban use zone in the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 issued vide G.O.Ms.No.33 MA & UD is now designated as manufacturing use zone for setting up of Nuts and Bolts unit under "Orange" category. The details of the above are available in Web sites <a href="http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/">http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/</a> and <a href="http://hmda.gov.in/">http://hmda.gov.in/</a> .					
R.O.No.1066-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Dt: 28-10-2020 Sd/- for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA					

भारत सरकार / Government of India					
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग / Department of Atomic Energy					
इंदिरा गांधी परमाणु अनुसंधान केंद्र					
/ Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research					
कलपक्कम / Kalpakkam - 603 102.					

**e-Tender Notice Number : IGC/ESG/ESD/T-1447/2020**

**Chief Engineer (E), ESG, IGCAR, invites item rate e-Tender for Laying of 33 kV cables to NCSS-3 Substation and associated works at IGCAR, Kalpakkam.** at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,95,00,000/- with a completion period of **12 [Twelve] months.** Tender details will be available for view & download from **03.11.2020 to 17.11.2020.** Last date of submission of e-bid through e-portal is up to **15:00 hours on 01.12.2020.**

For further details, please visit IGCAR website: [www.igcar.gov.in/tenders](http://www.igcar.gov.in/tenders) or e-portal [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE). Contact no: 044-27480500-22257.

**Chief Engineer (E), ESG, IGCAR**

## RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following item:-

S. Tender No./ No.	Description	Qty.	Earnest Money (₹)
1. 01201157 23/11/2020	SET OF CONTROL ARMS (FINISHED)	1161 Sets	20,00,000/-
2. 01201200 25/11/2020	SET OF METAL STOP LH & RH	608 Sets	N.A.
3. 01201204 25/11/2020	UPPER STOP PLATE SAFETY STOP PLATE LONGITUDINAL STOP END PLATE	3045 Nos. 7770 Nos. 4211 Nos.	N.A.
4. 01201235 25/11/2020	CURVE ROLL	4838 Nos.	N.A.
5. 05201389 25/11/2020	SET OF CARLINE 03 TYPES	280 Set	4,80,360/-
6. 05201459 19/11/2020	HORIZONTAL MEMBERS 06 TYPES	11070 Nos.	1,20,530/-
7. 05201445 20/11/2020	SET OF CROSS MEMBER FOR PARCEL VAN COACHES	131 Set	86,560/-
8. 05201450 25/11/2020	CROSS MEMBERS 03 TYPES	7053 Nos.	2,44,720/-
9. 05201420 27/11/2020	ROOF ARCH (2 Types)	9203 Nos.	2,60,540/-

1. For details and making on-line tenders, visit website <http://irops.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIB digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. Tenders will close at 14:25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14:30 hrs. Tenders will be opened at RCF, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi: 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

**Note:** GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. "All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at <https://www.irops.gov.in>. For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website."

**PCMM**  
Tender No. G-122-01/STORES/082/2020-21 Dated 28.10.2020

# Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal

Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal-462 066

## NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Institute works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites **online percentage rate** tenders for the following works from eligible firms/ contractors in two envelope system.

Sl. No.	NIT No. & Date	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Period
1.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2020-21/26 dt.26.10.2020	SITC of VRF/VRF air-conditioning work in Academic Block-4 (Therm.) (G+5 storeyed) at IISER Bhopal.	₹ 2,75,41,095	₹5,50,822	04 Months
2.	IWD/SE/NIT/ 2020-21/27 dt.26.10.2020	SITC of water dispenser (warm+cold) with inbuilt RO for Hostel-5 at IISER Bhopal.	₹ 8,77,500	₹17,550	01 Month
3.	IWD/PE(E)/NIT/ 2020-21/24 dt.26.10.2020	SITC of floor standing tower AC of 4.6 TR & 2TR capacity in lab. No. 05 in AB-3A, ground floor at IISER Bhopal.	₹ 2,87,663	₹5,753	01 Month

The bid forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB). The press notice is also available in Institute website [www.iiserb.ac.in](http://www.iiserb.ac.in) and website [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,922.46	-1.48
Nifty 50	11,729.60	-1.34
S&P 500*	3,283.56	-3.16
Dollar (₹)	73.86	-0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.08	-0.20
Euro (₹)	86.81	0.21
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,279.682	1.34
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	38.95	-2.25
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.859	0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.761	-0.017

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

15th Finance Commission set to finalise report

The 15th Finance Commission is on course to finalise its report by October 30, an official statement said on Wednesday. The Commission's Chairman N.K. Singh along with its members on Wednesday held a virtual meeting with the Chairmen of two previous Finance Commissions respectively. "The Chairmen of the previous Finance Commissions appreciated the tough challenge faced by the 15th Finance Commission," the statement said.

HPE Covid Test Labs facilitate 1L patient visits



Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) today announced that its Covid-19 Test Labs and Outpatient Department (OPD) Centers have collectively facilitated over 100 thousand patient visits across India. These facilities provide additional authorised Covid-19 testing facilities and isolation beds, thereby assisting the government of India and state governments in their efforts to contain the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Micromax ties up with MediaTek for smartphones

Homegrown phone vendor Micromax on Wednesday said it has partnered with Taiwanese chipset maker MediaTek to design and develop smartphones for its new "in" brand. Earlier this month, Micromax announced its new "in" sub-brand and said it was looking at investing ₹500 crore over next 12-18 months towards R&D, marketing and sprucing up manufacturing as it looks to make a comeback in the Indian market.

Bharti Airtel's shares jump by nearly 13 per cent

Shares of Bharti Airtel jumped nearly 13 per cent on Wednesday after the company reported its highest-ever quarterly consolidated revenue on the back of a rise in data usage and higher realisations. The stock gained 12.65 per cent to ₹487.80 on the BSE. On the NSE, it zoomed 12.61 per cent to Rs 488. The telecom operator has reported its highest-ever quarterly consolidated revenue on the back of a rise in data usage and higher realisations.

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Gold loans double as Covid-hit people pledge family jewellery

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Gold loan disbursements by NBFCs have more than doubled in September quarter over the previous quarter. They are expected to clock 15 to 18 per cent growth this year on increased demand and higher gold price.

Preliminary estimates indicate that gold loan disbursements, including repledge with NBFCs, have more than doubled sequentially in the second quarter of this fiscal, finds Crisil.

Growth was flat in the first quarter of this fiscal because of low disbursements in April and May due to the country-wide lock down. Manappuram Finance saw its gold loan portfolio growing by 2 to 3 per cent in April-May as customers have been availing gold loan using online products. Muthoot Finance too had seen a flatish growth during the



lock down.

With the Covid-19 pandemic-driven lockdowns being lifted slowly and economic activity clawing back, demand for gold loans has risen, especially from individuals meeting urgent personal requirements and from micro enterprises for working to restart businesses. Gold loans would be preferred also because non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and banks have tightened their underwriting norms for other loans, leading to cautious lending

to micro and small enterprises, traders and the self-employed.

Crisil expects assets under management of NBFCs to grow 15-18 per cent this fiscal. Motilal Oswal too expects gold loan NBFCs to deliver 15 per cent CAGR over FY20-23.

"In the current scenario, we believe gold financiers would benefit as customers would look to raise cash by leveraging their gold holdings and increase in gold prices would give a modest impetus

to growth. Inability of customers to get personal loans due to lack of formal documentation, higher share of rural business and flexi-lending terms will support gold loan business," finds Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Unlike other asset classes, gold loan has not faced major issues in collection and disbursement, or re-pledge of loans, barring in the stringent lock down phase in April and May," said Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director, CRISIL Ratings.

In order to provide a smooth re-pledging process in times of pandemic, larger NBFCs are offering online renewal since the underlying collateral is already in their possession. Large gold-loan financiers have also consistently raised funds through bonds, under the targeted long-term repo operations and partial credit guarantee schemes at a competitive cost.

Hospitality sector sees signs of revival

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, OCT. 28

Hospitality has started seeing early signs of month-on-month recovery in occupancy with gradual revival in domestic leisure travel. However, occupancies are still down 60 per cent compared to last year levels.

Average occupancies in hotels across India moved up 10 to 12 per cent from the August levels to 24 to

26 per cent in September. Average daily rates too have improved 2 to 4 per cent to ₹3400- ₹3600 per night. Revenue per available rooms grew 12 to 14 per cent month-on-month to ₹815 - ₹935, as per HVS and Anarock.

Leisure destinations such as Goa and Jaipur have been witnessing a noticeable improvement in occupancy as people have started travelling for a change of pace, albeit to

destinations closer to their cities. Domestic air passenger traffic also has improved by 39 per cent in September compared to August. However, corporate travel continues to remain subdued.

On a year-on-year basis, hospitality remains one of the worst affected by Covid-19. Occupancies were down 60 per cent last month compared to September 2019. Revenue per available rooms was

down 72 per cent and average daily rates by 30 per cent.

Going ahead, festive season is likely to boost demand for travel and hotel stay. Long vacations and international trips are off the table for the rest of 2020.

Booking.com finds that almost 62 per cent Indian travelers favour a trip they could afford in the short-term rather than saving for a dream trip.

Lockdown changed consumer buying behaviour: Report

New Delhi, Oct 28: Coronavirus-induced lockdowns across the country have transformed consumers' buying behaviour and hyper-local distribution model, and distribution alliances and an omni-channel strategy will be key to business growth, according to a joint report by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India and FICCI.

As per the report, called REBOOT, while the pandemic brought massive disruptions across the value chain of the consumer sector, most companies adapted by building agile business models and innovative marketing strategies, along with expanding their presence through the online platforms to reach their consumers.

"The prolonged lockdowns have also dramatically transformed consumer buying behaviour while making them more health and socially conscious," Deloitte India Partner Rajat Wahi said.

He added that this has created new opportunities for businesses to develop hyperlocal delivery models, use conversational AI (artificial intelligence) and build omni-channel retail to acquire and serve customers.

"As brands adapt to the 'new normal', the key to sustenance and growth is likely to be an agile business model that minimises disruptions in the future," Wahi said.

The report said demand for consumer goods in rural markets has increased due to the return of the migrant workers to their states due to the pandemic.

"Covid-19 has led to massive reverse migration, which in turn has driven up rural demand, favouring companies with strong rural distribution," it said.

The report also said health concerns and the need to build immunity have led consumers to buy home sanitation and immunity-boosting products. —PTI

Bankers barred from sharing of bidding data, says Sebi

New Delhi, Oct. 28: Merchant bankers will not share bidding details of initial share sales and rights issues with investors during the bidding period as it may create information asymmetry, markets regulator Sebi said.

The clarifications have been given as part of an informal guidance sought by Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd regarding provisions of Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, et al.

Citigroup had sought informal guidance whether a book running lead manager can share standalone or aggregate bidding data available on the websites of stock exchanges for initial public offer, follow-on public offer and rights issue of specified securities and units with investors during the bidding process.

Responding to this, Sebi said standalone and aggregate bidding data is displayed on the websites of stock exchanges in the standard form specified by the regulator and is publicly available information.

FOOD MINISTRY WORRIED OVER LESS INTAKE OF SWEETNER

New Delhi, Oct. 28: The government on Wednesday said there is a need to address "myths and misgivings" about sugar consumption in India, as the per capita consumption of the sweetener has remained stagnant for the last three years at 19 kilogram.

Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, after launching industry body ISMA's portal 'http://meetha.org' said India is one of the world's largest consumers of sugar but per capita consumption has remained stagnant at 19 kg, much lower than the world's average per capita consumption of 23.50 kg.

The country's annual sugar consumption stood at 25-26 million tonnes, while production reached 27.5 million tonnes in the 2019-20 season ending September.

"There are a lot of myths going around about sugar and sugar consumption without scientific basis. This misinformation multiplies much faster than the truth multiplies," the official said.

"Therefore, it is very important to come up with scientific information so that people can make very informed decisions," Pandey said.

Food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey also said that there is also "misunderstanding" about Indian sugar abroad. —PTI

Covid rebound in US, Europe turns markets volatile

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 28

Weak global cues led to a fresh round of selling in the Indian market as the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in Europe and the United States, uncertainty over who would be the next US President worried investors.

Sensex fell 600 points or 1.48 per cent to close at 39,922.46 while Nifty-50 settled at 11,729.60 down 159.80 points or 1.34 per cent.

Rising Covid-19 cases globally specifically in Europe and the United States are worrying investors as strict lockdown could be imposed and the economy's recovery, which is still at a nascent stage could once again get hit, said analysts.

Among the global peers United Kingdom's FTSE 100 index fell to its lowest level in six months on Wednesday on investors' worries of more virus curbs and uncertainty over a coronavirus vaccine.

Volatility in the domestic market arose ahead of equity derivative contracts expiry on Thursday as the Sensex fell 778 points intra-day taking the index to day's low of 39,774.60 before the final close at 39,922.46. Volatility index India VIX rose 4.88 per cent to 23.28.

Keshav Lahoti, equity analyst, Angel Broking said, "We expect volatility to continue in the market on the eve of key events of



the US election, ongoing result season and how coronavirus cases are being reported around the world."

Broader market suffered lesser damages with BSE Mid-cap index down 0.93 per cent and BSE Small-cap index down by 0.76 per cent.

All sectoral indices on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) barring telecom and capital goods closed in the red led by the financials. BSE Bankex index closed 2.28 per down cent and Nifty Bank fell 2.17 per cent.

The top losers in the Sensex basket included IndusInd Bank(-3.45 per cent), HDFC(-3.44 ), ICICI Bank(-3.34), HDFC Bank(-2.27), Bajaj Finance(-2.41) and Tech Mahindra(-3.00 per cent).

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net sellers by ₹1130.98 crore on Wednesday after aggressive buying on Tuesday of equities worth ₹3,590 crore.

13% homes still have no grid power, says survey

New Delhi, Oct. 28: A majority of households (87 per cent) in India have access to grid-connect electricity, while the remaining 13 per cent are either using non-grid sources for power or "do not use any electricity at all", according to a survey.

The finding is part of the joint survey conducted by government think-tank NITI Aayog and the United States-based philanthropic organisation Rockefeller Foundation on "Electricity Access and Benchmarking of Distribution Utilities".

"Overall 87 per cent respondents said they have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13 per cent either use non-grid sources for electricity and lighting or don't use any electricity at all," the survey said.

The study further showed that of all customers using non-grid sources, the majority 62 per cent of them are agricultural customers. Only four per cent of households today do not have access to grid-based electricity.

The survey was released by Smart Power India (SPI), a subsidiary of Rockefeller Foundation, on Wednesday.

It was conducted across 10 states with a sample size of over 25,000 respondents consisting of different consumer categories such as households, agriculture, commercial enterprises and institutions both from rural and urban areas.

It mainly focused on key areas such as grid connectivity, electricity access, customer satisfaction, utilities' capacity to delivery and drivers of sustainability for utilities. —PTI



West Bengal capital city beats Hyderabad city Kolkata is most affordable for house purchase in India

New Delhi, Oct. 28: Kolkata has emerged as the most affordable market this year for home purchase among India's seven major cities, according to property consultant JLL India.

As per JLL's annual Home Purchase Affordability Index (HPAI), the affordability has improved in 2020 across all seven major cities despite a fall in average household income. The consultant attributed this to decline in both housing prices as well as interest rates on home loans.

HPAI — the ratio of the average household income to the eligible household income — of Kolkata is highest at 203,



followed by Hyderabad at 195, Pune 188, Chennai 178, Bengaluru 175, Delhi-NCR 136 and Mumbai 95 during this calendar year.

"HPAI until 2019 indicates that Hyderabad had been the most affordable residential market. In 2020, Kolkata has overtaken Hyderabad to become the best market in terms

of home purchase affordability," the report said.

Eligible household income is defined as the minimum income that a household should earn to qualify for a home loan on a 1,000 sq ft flat at the prevailing market price.

A value of 100 means that a household has exactly enough income to

qualify for the loan. Below 100 implies that an average household does not have enough income to qualify for a home loan, while more than 100 means that an average household has more than enough income to qualify for the home loan.

According to the report, Mumbai is moving towards the affordability threshold.

"In 2020, Mumbai continues to be the only market below the affordability threshold of 100," it said.

However, the consultant said Mumbai is the fastest moving city, showing a significant improvement in HPAI in 2020.

"Our analysis suggests that despite a fall in

household income in 2020, home purchase affordability has increased in 2020 across all the markets under consideration," said Ramesh Nair, CEO, JLL India.

He projected home purchase affordability to either remain at similar levels or improve during 2021. Nair noted that the broader recovery of the housing market would depend largely upon the economic environment and the prevailing consumer sentiments.

JLL said that property values in a majority of India's prime residential markets have been stagnant over the past few years, forcing most of the developers to work on very low margins. —PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Djoker closer to Sampras record

**Vienna:** Novak Djokovic defeated Filip Krajinovic in the first round in Vienna on Tuesday to edge closer to Pete Sampras's all-time record of ending the year as world number one on six occasions.

Djokovic beat compatriot Krajinovic 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 and needs to win his next match in Austria against Borna Coric to ensure he equals the achievement of his childhood idol. The 33-year-old Serb has been the top-ranked player at the end of a season five times: in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. He shares that mark with career rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Sampras achieved the feat six years in succession between 1993 and 1998. "First set, I think he was the better player. He was serving for the first set and I was lucky. He missed a smash at 6/6 in the tie-break," said Djokovic. On Monday, Djokovic began his 292nd week in total as world number one. — *AFP*

## Coleman banned for doping breach

**Paris:** World champion sprinter Christian Coleman is set to miss next year's Tokyo Olympics after being banned from athletics for two years for anti-doping violations, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Tuesday.

The American, who won the men's 100 metres at last year's World Championships in Doha, was provisionally suspended for three 'whereabouts failures' in June. World Athletics' Disciplinary Tribunal upheld the charge and banned Coleman for two years, backdated to 14 May, 2020. The 24-year-old has 30 days to appeal against the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He is set to miss next year's Olympic Games in Japan. The AIU charged Coleman for missed tests in January and December 2019, as well as for a "filing failure" last April. — *AFP*

## Sen pulls out as dad catches virus

**Saarbrücken, Germany:** Defending champion Lakshya Sen on Wednesday pulled out of the SaarLorLux Open Super 100 tournament after his father-cum-coach D K Sen tested positive for Covid-19 here. Lakshya was aiming to recover from an early exit in Denmark Open recently before his campaign in Germany came to an abrupt end. "We had gone for the mandatory Covid-19 test on Monday. The result came last evening. I tested positive. It is unfortunate that Lakshya had to withdraw. He had worked hard for the tournament," D. K. Sen said. Lakshya, who claimed five titles in the senior circuit last year including two BWF World Tour Super 100 top honours SaarLorLux Open and Dutch Open, received a bye in the opening round. — *PTI*

## Jakhar on Asian volleyball board

**Hyderabad:** Volleyball Federation of India secretary general Ramavtar Singh Jakhar has been elected Zonal Executive Vice-president and Member, Board of Administration of the Asian Volleyball Confederation at their 23rd General Assembly held virtually on Monday. Mrs Rita Subowo of Indonesia was unanimously elected president. She is the first woman to lead the AVC. Other members from the Asian Central Zone who were elected to the AVC Board of Administration include Md Atiqul Islam from Bangladesh, Yermek Syrylbayev of Kazakhstan and Mohammed Reza Davarzani of Iran. The AVC General Assembly Meeting was attended by Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) president Dr Ary S. Graca.



**Ramavtar Singh Jakhar**

## Live on TV

**CRICKET**  
IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**FOOTBALL**  
**Europe League:** AEK vs Leicester from 11.25 pm on Sony Six; AC Milan vs Sparta Praha from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1; Antwerp vs Tottenham from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Roma vs CSKA-Sofia from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Arsenal vs Dundalk from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Rangers vs Lech from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3; Real Sociedad vs Napoli from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six

## Surya burns bright

## Yadav turns on heat as Mumbai bust Bangalore

**Abu Dhabi, Oct. 28:** Mumbai Indians defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by five wickets in an IPL game here on Wednesday to all but qualify for the playoffs.

Put in to bat, Royal Challengers Bangalore scored 164 for 6 in the allotted 20 overs.

In reply, MI chased down the target of 165 with five balls to spare. Suryakumar Yadav led the charge with an unbeaten 79 off 43 balls that included 10 fours and three sixes.

Earlier, young Devdutt Padikkal pummelled the Mumbai Indians attack into submission with a 45-ball 74 before Jasprit Bumrah stopped Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Put in to bat, Padikkal, who plundered 12 fours and a six, added 71 runs for the opening wicket with Josh Philippe (33).

However, the RCB then suffered a middle-order collapse as Mumbai roared back into the game with lead pacer Bumrah (3/14) doing the bulk of damage.

Padikkal began with a boundary over deep extra cover and then struck successive fours off Krunal Pandya, as RCB fetched 12 runs in the third over.

The two openers continued playing their shots, the highlight being Philippe's six over Trent Boult's head in the fifth over.

Padikkal then went on the offensive against James Pattinson. — *PTI*



Suryakumar Yadav of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore during their IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. — *BCCI*

## SCORECARD

**Royal Challengers Bangalore:** Josh Philippe st de Kock b Chahar 33, Devdutt Padikkal c Boult b Bumrah 74, Virat Kohli c Tiwary b Bumrah 9, AB de Villiers c Chahar b Pollard 15, Shivam Dube c Yadav b Bumrah 2, Chris Morris c Pattinson b Boult 4, Gurkeerat Singh Mann not out 14, Washington Sundar not out 10. Extras (W-3) 3. **Total (for 6 wickets in 20 overs) 164.**  
**FoW:** 1-71, 2-95, 3-131, 4-134, 5-134, 6-138.  
**Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-40-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-1-14-3, Krunal Pandya 4-0-27-0, James Pattinson 3-0-35-0, Rahul Chahar

4-0-43-1, Kieron Pollard 1-0-5-1.  
**Mumbai Indians:** Q de Kock c Gurkeerat b Siraj 18, Ishan Kishan c Morris b Chahal 25, Suryakumar Yadav not out 79, S. Tiwary c Padikkal b Siraj 5, K. Pandya c Morris b Chahal 10, H. Pandya c Siraj b Morris 17, Pollard not out 4. Extras (LB-2, W-6) 8. **Total (for 5 wickets in 19.1 overs) 166.**  
**FoW:** 1-37, 2-52, 3-72, 4-107, 5-158.  
**Bowling:** Chris Morris 4-0-36-1, Dale Steyn 4-0-43-0, Washington Sundar 4-0-20-0, Mohammed Siraj 3.1-0-28-2, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-37-2.

## IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	12	8	4	0	16	+1.186
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	0	14	+0.048
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

## Tendulkar, Shastri heap praises on Wriddhiman

**New Delhi, Oct. 28:** The legendary Sachin Tendulkar lauded Wriddhiman Saha's "under-rated" shot-making while the national team's head coach Ravi Shastri found his 45-ball-87 simply "outstanding" as they lavished praise on the Test specialist's IPL performance for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Saha smashed 12 fours and two sixes for SRH in their 88-run victory over DC, showing his hitting skills which have largely gone unnoticed over the years.

"Very smart batting. I also feel that @Wriddhipops quick scoring ability is invariably underrated," Tendulkar tweeted.

He loved the manner in



**Wriddhiman Saha**

which Saha was able to improvise his shots. "Improvise his shots after picking the line and length of the ball. There was no slogging at all. Played a fantastic innings which I thoroughly enjoyed watching," he added.

Shastri, on his part, once again termed him as the world's best wicketkeeper and praised his Tuesday's batting effort.

"To the best Glove Man in the world. Outstanding performance tonight," Shastri said. Meanwhile, Wriddhiman Saha's groin injury is "not serious" but his IPL franchise SRH is expected to adopt a cautious approach after consultation with the BCCI's medical team as the senior wicketkeeper-batsman is Australia-bound after the T20 event.

Saha had picked up the niggles during his match-winning innings against DC on Tuesday. — *PTI*

## Clear mind is my strength: Rashid

**Dubai, Oct. 28:** Sunrisers Hyderabad leg-spinner Rashid Khan says a clear mind is his biggest strength and he reaped the rewards for focussing on bowling more dot balls against DC in their IPL match here.

Going into Tuesday's do-or-die contest against DC, SRH registered a comfortable 88-run win to stay alive in the race for the play-offs. Rashid returned with incredible figures of 4-0-7-3 to make a significant contribution in Sunrisers' win.

"I just go with a clear mind, that's my biggest strength. I want to bowl a good line and length, no matter the situation. You have to mix up and play with the batsman's mind, and see the weak zone and strong zone...So I keep



**Rashid Khan**

those things in mind," Rashid said.

The Afghan bowled 17 dot balls in his four-over quota.

"Winning the game was the most important. The wicket was helping a lot. What I'm mainly focusing on is to bowl economically," Rashid added. — *PTI*

## Ousted CSK look to halt Knights

**Dubai, Oct. 28:** Already out of play-offs reckoning, a relaxed CSK are ready to play party-poopers with an aim to foil KKR's desperate bid for a victory in an IPL game on Thursday.

KKR with 12 points from 12 games would like to win the next two encounters to ensure a smooth passage while CSK, currently at the bottom of the eight-team table, are only playing for pride.

A possibility remains that multiple teams will end up on either 16 or 14 points and a comprehensive victory at this stage of the tournament, will bring the superior net run-rate into equation when the play-off spots are decided.

It won't get too easy for KKR against CSK, who handed an eight-wicket thrashing to RCB in their previous outing.

KKR's unsettled batting order is a point of concern for Eoin Morgan, who would hope that Dinesh Karthik produces his A game when it matters most. They need to be at the top of their game against the CSK batting unit that has been frustratingly inconsistent but is more than capable of being destructive on its day.

CSK will be aiming to build on the win over RCB and end the season on a high, apart from hurting the chances of play-off

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 21
- Chennai: 13
- Kolkata: 8

## MEETING IN 2019

- Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 7 wickets at Chennai
- Chennai Super Kings defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 5 wickets at Kolkata

## MEETING IN 2020

- Kolkata Knight Riders beat Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs at Abu Dhabi

## FOR THE RECORD

- Rahul Tripathi scored 81 off 51 balls with eighth fours and three sixes against Chennai Super Kings in the first meeting at Dubai.
- Faf du Plessis with 401 runs in 12 innings of as many matches, is the fifth highest run-getter in this IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

hopefuls.

The batting showed some spark with the young Ruturaj Gaikwad coming up with an enterprising knock and skipper Dhoni will be hoping he keeps the good form going.

The CSK bowlers choked a strong RCB batting unit with a performance that reminded CSK of yore and that should be a worry for the KKR batsmen short on consistency. — *PTI*

## Another warm-up tie for India in Oz

**Melbourne, Oct. 28:** The Indian cricket team will get an additional Day/Night warm-up game in Sydney as a tune-up to the series-opening Pink Ball Test against Australia in Adelaide from December 17, the host board announced on Wednesday unveiling the full schedule of the 69-day engagement.

The tour will include a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period in Sydney starting November 12 for the Indians who will fly in after the IPL final on November 10.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy will begin with a day-night encounter at the Adelaide Oval on December 17, followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the Sydney Cricket Ground (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

As per BCCI's demands, there is a week's gap between the Boxing Day Test at the MCG and the New Year's Test at the SCG.

"India's squad will arrive in Sydney on November 12 subject to Australian Border Force travel authorisation and the appropriate departure approvals. The team will quarantine in Sydney prior to the first match of the series on November 27," Cricket Australia stated in a media release.

According to the release, the three-match ODI Series will have matches at the Sydney Cricket Ground (November 27, 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2).

That will be followed by the three-match T20 Series at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the Sydney Cricket Ground (December 6, 8). — *PTI*

## SAMUELS CRITICISED FOR APPALLING TRADE AT BEN

**New Delhi, Oct. 28:** West Indies cricketer Marlon Samuels has been criticised for aiming an expetive-laden tirade at old rival Ben Stokes after a seemingly innocuous comment from the England all-rounder.

Samuels made racial remarks and a derogatory comment about Stokes's wife in an *Instagram* post that former England captain Michael Vaughan called "appalling".

"This is appalling @marlonsamuels... we are trying to stamp out racism," Vaughan wrote on *Instagram*, calling Stokes's original comments "a bit of banter".

After Samuels' post, and others by him targeting Stokes, Stokes responded by adding more than a dozen pictures of Samuels to his *Instagram* story, without making any comment. Their rivalry dates back to 2015, when Samuels mocked Stokes with a send-off salute in a Test match in Grenada. — *AFP*

## Barca president Bartomeu resigns

**Madrid, Oct. 28:** Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu resigned amid the fallout of his feud with Lionel Messi, and on his way out revealed the Spanish club wants to join a potential new super league of European teams. After one of the club's worst seasons, Bartomeu announced that his entire board of directors also resigned, effectively avoiding a motion of censure vote. "We have to act responsibly. For that reason we cannot hold the vote of censure in the current

circumstances. It was necessary to do so in conditions that guaranteed everybody's health. For that reason we have taken the decision to not call the vote and resign forthwith," Bartomeu said. Bartomeu added that the club had given its initial approval to a new competition. "I can announce that we approved the requirements to be part of a European Super League. The decision to play the competition now must be ratified by the next (club) assembly," he added. — *AP*

## City trounce Marseille, Reds rock

**Paris, Oct. 28:** Holders Bayern Munich continued their perfect start to their Champions League title defence on Tuesday as Real Madrid had Casemiro's late goal to thank for scrambling a 2-2 draw away to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Liverpool and Manchester City also made it six points out of a possible six in Europe this season, after Bayern needed a late Joshua Kimmich pass and volleyed home low from outside the box 11 minutes from time.

Leon Goretzka put the Germans ahead early on in front of a limited crowd in the Russian capital, but Anton Miranchuk tucked in an equaliser for Lokomotiv in the second half — Miranchuk's twin brother Aleksei scored for Atalanta in the Champions League last



Mohamed Salah (right) of Liverpool in action against FC Midtjylland during their Champions League match at Anfield stadium in Liverpool on Tuesday. — *AFP*

week. But Bayern were not to be denied a record 13th straight win in the competition as Kimmich controlled a Javi Martinez pass and volleyed home low from outside the box 11 minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Pep Guardiola's City eased to a second straight win in Group C with Kevin De Bruyne setting up Ferran Torres for the early opener against Marseille after the hosts had carelessly

THE RESULTS			
<b>Manchester City</b> (Torres 18, Gundogan 76, Sterling 81)	<b>3</b>	<b>Atletico Madrid</b> (Marcos Llorente 29, Joao Felix 52, 85)	<b>3</b>
<b>Marseille</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Salzburg</b> (Dominik Szoboszlai 40, Felipe 47-OG)	<b>2</b>
<b>Liverpool</b> (Jota 55, Salah 90+2-pen)	<b>2</b>	<b>Bayern Munich</b> (Leon Goretzka 13, Joshua Kimmich 79)	<b>2</b>
<b>Midtjylland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Lokomotiv Moscow</b> (Anton Miranchuk 70)	<b>1</b>
<b>Real Madrid</b> (Benzema 87, Casemiro 90+3)	<b>2</b>	<b>Inter Milan</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Borussia Moenchengladbach</b> (Thuram 33, 58)	<b>2</b>	<b>Shakhtar Donetsk</b>	<b>0</b>

ceded possession.

Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling added late goals to make it 3-0, leaving Marseille without a point. In another match Liverpool defeated Danish champions Midtjylland 2-0

at Anfield in Group D.

Diogo Jota finished off a fine move to give Jurgen Klopp's team the lead early in the second half, before Mohamed Salah made sure of the points with a late penalty. — *AFP*