


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
NELLORE | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021

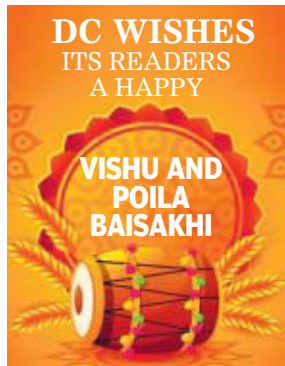
WEATHER

 **Max:** 36.5°C
Min: 27.2°C
RH: 64%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 41/20 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Shuddha Chaturdasi till 3.57 pm
Star: Pushyami till 10 pm
Varjyam: 7.17 am to 8.46 am
Durmuhurtam: 6.49 am to 8.20 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Ramzan 1,1442 AH
PRAYERS (SHAHI MASJID)
Fajar: 4.45 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.34 pm
Maghrib: 6.24 pm
Isha: 7.37 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.23 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.56 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.21 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9.05 PM



RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR: 6.24 pm (Wed)
SEHRI: 4.35 am (Thurs)

COUNTER POINT



It's a free and fear elections!

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon to remain normal this year

New Delhi: The Southwest monsoon, which brings more than 75 per cent of the country's rainfall during June-September, will be normal this year, Skymet Weather said on Tuesday. The north India plains, along with a few parts of the northeast region, are likely to be at risk of being rain deficient through the season, said G.P. Sharma, the president (Meteorology) of Skymet. He said the rainfall will be 103 per cent with a five per cent error.

Sushil Chandra takes over as CEC

New Delhi: Sushil Chandra assumed charge as the 24th Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday. He was appointed as the CEC on Monday, the day Sunil Arora demitted office. Chandra was appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He would demit office on May 14, 2022. Under him, the EC will hold assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Kerala minister quits after indiction

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala's higher education minister K.T. Jaleel resigned on Tuesday, days after the Lokayukta indicted him for nepotism, abuse of power and breach of oath of office. Jaleel has sent his resignation to the Chief Minister and it has been forwarded to the Governor, CMO sources said. The resignation has been accepted by Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, Raj Bhavan said.



NATION | 4

Didi calls off dharna as EC acts on 3 BJP leaders

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

Atchannaidu's video clip blames Lokesh for mess

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

A video of Telugu Desam sate president K. Atchannaidu predicting doomsday to the party and ridiculing the leadership of TD general secretary Nara Lokesh went viral in social media on Tuesday. The veteran TD leader was seen saying: "17th tarvata (Tirupati bypoll day) andaru khaleeye.. party ledu bokka ledu (everyone in the party will be free after April 17 as party will have no future). We are carrying on with the party as we are associated with it from the very beginning."

The video has surfaced as a major embarrassment to the principal Opposition party, which is facing shock after shock in the series of elections — the 2019 assembly poll defeat, followed by the worst drubbing in the civic polls.

The party is seen losing its confidence as is also evident from the decision by party chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu to



Nara Lokesh



K. Atchannaidu

keep the TD out of the Zilla and Mandal Parishad polls. The poll boycott has further demoralised the party cadre and raised doubts over the future of the party.

Notably, the present video got leaked a few days before the Tirupati bypoll.

The video, apparently

17TH TARVATA (Tirupati bypoll day) andaru khaleeye.. party ledu bokka ledu (everyone in the party will be free after April 17 as party will have no future). We are carrying on with the party as we are associated with it from the very beginning

— K. ATCHANNAIDU
Telugu Desam state president

shot with a secret camera, carried a conversation between Atchannaidu and a TD leader Venkat Rao. Their chat began over a land deal in Hyderabad and payment thereof, but went on to other matters and the party president making sensational observations about the party and Lokesh's leadership. Atchannaidu told *Deccan Chronicle* dismissively, "Too many people are indulging in mischievous things and this could be one of it."

■ **Page 2: No one can spoil my relations with Lokesh**

Panchangam predicts good days for AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

The Telugu New Year Panchangam (almanac) predicts an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and good days for Andhra Pradesh this year.

During Panchanga Sravanam (almanac reading) programme conducted on Ugadi festival to mark the beginning to Plava nama samvatsara at the Chief Minister's camp office at Tadepalli on Tuesday, priest predicted that Andhra Pradesh would emerge prosperous with abundant rainfall and a surge in business due to the containment of Covid-19 this year.

Government siddanthi Kappaganthula Subbaraju Somayajulu recited the new panchangam in the presence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, ministers and eminent persons.

Observing that the meaning of Plava is a ship, the Chief Minister wished for abundant rainfall, good luck to farmers, and every sister would be happy.

Extending his Ugadi greetings to people, the Chief Minister wished prosperity for every house in the state and that everyone would win the war against Covid.

The siddanthi said the state economy would improve this year due to

● **OBSERVING THAT** the meaning of Plava is a ship, the Chief Minister wished for abundant rainfall, good luck to farmers, and every sister would be happy.

the planetary movements of Guru and Shukra grahas. He also observed that the Chief Minister's personal horoscope also augurs well for the state. He said Guru's stay in the Kumbha rashi for nine months, which would usher in copious rains, increase milk production, education, agriculture and finance sectors, which would give best results with all-round development.

After the programme, the siddanthi blessed the Chief Minister and presented Ugadi Pachadi. Priests of the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams (TTD) blessed the Chief Minister with vedic hymns and presented him the TTD Panchangam and Prasadam.

The Chief Minister felicitated the siddanthi, Durga Malleswara Swamy temple chief priest Lingambatla Durga Prasad, Markapuram-based priest A.V.K. Narasimhacharyulu, Tenali-based priest Mamillapalli Mruthunujaya Prasad and deputy chief priest Kota Ravi Kumar and Vedic scholar R.V.S. Yajulu.

SPORTS | 6

Sunrisers to meet RCB today

TABLOID

Covid widens gender divide in companies



Centre fast-tracks nod for foreign Covid jabs

Russia's Sputnik V will be available by the end of April

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

In a major step to improve vaccine coverage in India, the government on Tuesday announced its decision to fast-track emergency approval for all foreign-produced Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved for use in certain other countries, like the United States and European Union member states.

The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before these are rolled out for further immunisation programmes within the country.

The Union health ministry said the plan is to add these jabs to the existing basket of vaccines for domestic use and increase the pace and coverage of vaccination.

India as of now is using Covishield (which is known in other countries as the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine) and the locally made Covaxin for vaccinations, while Russian shots of Sputnik V were given a formal approval on Tuesday morning after recommendation from the subject experts committee of the Drugs Controller General of India.

The SEC noted that the

THINK OF HUMANITY AND NOT JUST OUR CITIZENS, SAYS MODI

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us an opportunity to reshape the global order by thinking about the entire humanity and not merely of those who are on our side of the borders, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. "We, in India, have tried to walk the talk (and) have tried to protect our 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic" and also "supplied vaccine to over 80 countries", he said in his address at the sixth edition of the four-day Raisina Dialogue conference, which began in the national capital in virtual format on Tuesday.

He also admitted that the supplies have been modest but the demand was huge".

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■ **Full report on Page 4**

safety and immunogenicity data presented by applicant Dr Reddy's from the Indian study was comparable with that of the Phase III clinical trial interim data from Russia.

The vaccine is indicated for active immunisation to prevent Covid-19 disease in individuals of over 18 years of age. The vaccine should be administered intramuscularly in two doses of 0.5 ml each with an interval of 21 days. The pricing of the vaccine is yet to finalised.

The first doses of Sputnik V are expected to be available through

direct import by the end of April.

"The NEGVAC recommended that vaccines for Covid-19, which have been developed and are being manufactured in foreign countries and which have been granted emergency approval for restricted use by US FDA, EMA, United Kingdom MHRA, PMDA Japan or which are listed in WHO (Emergency Use Listing) may be granted emergency use approval in India, mandating the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial in place of conduct of local clinical

U.S. SUSPENDS USE OF J&J SHOT AFTER CLOTS

Washington, April 13: The US is recommending a pause in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US FDA said Tuesday they were investigating unusual clots that occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

■ **Full report on Page 4**

trial as per the provisions prescribed under Second Schedule of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019," the health ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Officials said this move will facilitate quicker access to foreign vaccines by India and would encourage imports, including import of bulk drug material, optimal utilisation of domestic fill and finish capacity etc, which will in turn provide a fillip to vaccine manufacturing capacity and total vaccine availability for domestic consumption.

Festive mode



Devotees visit the Golden Temple on the occasion of Baisakhi festival, in Amritsar, on Tuesday.

— PTI

2 Al-Badr ultras among 5 held in J&K

Srinagar, April 13: Police arrested two militants and three militant associates of terror outfit Al-Badr and seized arms and ammunition from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Tuesday.

"Police in Handwara busted a terror module of

proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr and arrested two active terrorists and three terrorist associates. Incriminating material, including arms and ammunition, have been recovered," a police spokesperson said.

He said acting on a specific information regarding the movement of mili-

tants on Baramulla-Handwara highway in the north Kashmir district, a special checkpoint was established near Kachloo Crossing by security forces. During checking of vehicles, three people riding a motorcycle tried to escape from the spot but were apprehended by the alert forces, he said.

— PTI

COVID-19 | CARE

Health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vaccination centres

State plans to vaccinate 4 lakh people today

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh will take up a massive Covid-19 vaccination drive on Wednesday with a target to vaccinate four lakh beneficiaries. Though the centre announced Tika Utsav from April 11 to 14 and AP targeted to administer vaccine to 24 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of six lakh doses per day, there was no vaccination on April 12 and 13 as doses were not available. On the first day

of Tika Utsav too on April 11, AP vaccinated only 2.38 lakh beneficiaries.

However, as the state government has received from the centre 6.40 lakh doses including 4.40 lakh doses of Covishield and two lakh doses of Covaxin on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon, the state government has come up with plans to take up a massive vaccination programme on the last day of Tika Utsav.

Accordingly, state health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vacci-

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nation centres by deploying additional health personnel. 500 persons on an average will be administered the vaccine at each centre from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Wednesday, with the main target of covering people aged over 45 and 60

years, apart with healthcare and frontline workers.

Authorities have directed all district medical and health officers and also district immunisation officers to gear up for the occasion by making all necessary arrangements, including

mobilisation of beneficiaries. So far, 82-83 percent of healthcare workers and 50 percent frontline workers have been administered the dose. Remaining have been advised to take their dose on Wednesday.

State health director Dr. T. Geetha Prasadini said, "We are taking up a special Covid-19 vaccination programme to administer the vaccine to nearly four lakh targeted beneficiaries on the last day of Tika Utsav on Wednesday. People who cannot take it on the day

can take their jab on Thursday. After that, based on the available stock, we will continue the vaccination programme in the state."

State health authorities say the centre is insisting on exhausting existing stocks of vaccine doses before releasing the fresh stocks. This is the reason why the state government is taking up a massive drive to exhaust the existing stocks and place fresh indents for additional doses.

Staying the proceedings before the green tribunal, the court has posted the matter for further hearing next week. Appearing for the NGO, senior lawyer Nikhil Nayyar told the court that earlier the Supreme Court had in the Sterlite case said that the green tribunal can't strike down rules or regulations... Therefore, it would be fallacious to state that the tribunal has powers of judicial review akin to that of a high court exercising constitutional powers under Article 226 of the Constitution... We must never forget the distinction between a superior court of record and courts of limited jurisdiction."



IN BRIEF

'NOBODY CAN SPOIL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH LOKESH'

From page 1

He tweeted that the video was the handiwork of chief minister Jagan who, he said, was resorting to "stone throwing and circulating a distorted version of my conversation," out of fear of the YSRC losing the Tirupati bypoll. "Nobody can spoil my relationship with Lokesh," he said.

Taking potshots at Atchannaidu, municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayanaya said he could have openly announced that TD would be shut very soon, but "he being the president of the AP unit, he may have limitations and could share his anguish only with his own party leaders."

The conversation begins with Venkat Rao complaining to Naidu that Lokesh was neglecting his repeated request to help him get Rs 3 crore from builder K.L. Narayana, though Chandrababu Naidu and film actor Balakrishna had promised to help him out.

When Rao said Lokesh did not receive him properly when he went to meet him,

the TD state president was seen saying, "ippudu andariki ante. Yevvariki vinadam ledi, Evari badhalu vallavi" (Lokesh is not listening to anyone. We are all having issues).

Reacting to Rao repeatedly complaining against Lokesh, the TD state president said, "aa manishulu baagunte party ki ee paristhithi enduku vuntundi"

It was an open secret in political circles that Atchannaidu and Lokesh have strained relations and the latter tried to halt the appointment of the several-time MLA from Srikakulam district as party president for AP.

Atchannaidu had been arrested by the Jagan-led state government in a corruption case a few months ago.

NOTICES SERVED TO GOVT FOR FAILING TO IMPLEMENT RTEDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

A notice under Section 166 of IPC was served to the state government for failing to implement the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, resulting in deprivation of access to quality education to nearly one lakh children belonging to the poor and vulnerable sections in private schools every academic year in AP.

Advocate Thandava Yogesh served the notices under Section 166 of IPC recently, dealing with a public servant disobeying the law with an intent to cause injury to any person and shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year with or without fine. The notices were served to the Chief Minister, minister for education, school education principal secretary, commissioner of school education and to all the district education officers in the state.

Earlier, the advocate filed a PIL in 2017 in the High Court seeking direction for implementation of section 12 (1)(C) of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, read with AP RTE Rules, 2010, Rule 14, 15 and 16.

The act deals with provision of reservation for admission in private schools for children belonging to the poor and vulnerable sections in Class I at least 25 per cent in an academic year.

However, in 2010, a private school management obtained a stay order from the High Court on implementation of RTE, 2009 Section 12 (1)(C). In 2012, the Supreme Court adjudicated the RTE, 2009 Section 12 (1)(C) as valid.

In 2014 also, the Supreme Court Constitution Bench declared the same Act as valid. The SC also issued direction in a case that any stay order issued by a court to be valid for six months only.

Despite such an order, the AP government has been maintaining that a stay order has been there on implementation of the Act and is failing to ensure implementation of the Act by the private educational institutions for several years.

Advocate Yogesh said, "As the state government failed to ensure the Act to be implemented by the private schools for several years, I served notices to the government under Section 166 of IPC.

My objective is to ensure social justice to the children by enabling them to get quality education in private schools under the Act."

Naidu is politicising hurling of stones: Suresh

Minister says TD supremo was trying to damage healthy relations between people and government

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

Education minister Adimulapu Suresh accused TD national president N. Chandrababu Naidu of trying damage the healthy relations between people and the state government.

Addressing a public meeting at Manubolu on Tuesday as part of his campaign in favour of YSRC Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection candidate M. Gurumoorthy, the minister said the former CM is playing politics by raising a hue and cry over hurling of stones on his road-show at Tirupati on Monday night.

He charged that the stones were hurled by TD people themselves to gain sympathy. Maintaining that TD will be forgotten soon, he called upon people to ensure a thumping majority for Gurumoorthy.

Stressing that Naidu was trying to do politics with stones, Suresh sarcastically said that the TD supremo got patent rights for the culture of throwing chappals and stones on own party leaders.

"Chandrababu Naidu is yearning for public sympathy through shortcuts. Women are certain to reprimand him if he continues to blabber about Amma Vodi benefits are going for Ayya buddi (father liquor)," the minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkatagiri legislator Anam Ramanarayana Reddy took pot shots against nominees of BJP, Congress and TD contesting the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat. He said they had supported the TD nominee for 15 years but she shifted to Telugu Desam.

He pointed out that the BJP nominee lives in Karnataka and speaks only Kannada. Congress nominee Dr. Chinta Mohan used to stay in Kerala. But it is only YSRC nominee Gurumoorthy who is the most accessible among all others, he said while appealing to people to vote for Gurumoorthy.

Government whip Prabhakar Reddy, legislators Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Silpa Chakrapani and K. Parthasarathy also spoke.

Meanwhile, the YSRC leaders under the supervision Anam Ramanarayana Reddy making arrangements for a huge rally at Venkatagiri town on Wednesday at 8 am.

The rally will commence at Kasi Viswanadha Swamy temple after offering prayers to the presiding deity. It will pass through Kasipeta Centre, Dwaraka Hotel Centre, Rajavari Veedhi, Vinayaka temple, Poleramma temple and conclude at MRO Office Centre.

Ramanarayana Reddy appealed to all the party cadres and supporters to take part in the rally and bless the party nominee for Tirupati byelection Dr Gurumoorthy.

Tirupati YSRC nominee must be disqualified, says BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

BJP national secretary and AP in-charge Sunil Deodhar demanded that YSR Congress nominee from Tirupati Lok Sabha seat should be disqualified as he is contesting a seat reserved for SCs though he is a Christian.

THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES TAKE PART IN SRISAILAM RATHOTSAVAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL APRIL 13

Ugadi festival was celebrated at Srisailem with thousands of devotees participating in the Rathotsavam. Around 90 per cent of devotees were from the neighbouring Karnataka state.

Every street in Srisailem witnessed traditional dances by Kannadigas to their spiritual tune. Chants of "Om Namah Shivaya" rent the air though many pilgrims seemed exhausted after their long trek. Temple officials organised special progra-



Venkatagiri legislator Anam Ramanarayana Reddy pays tributes to the bust of former chief minister late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy at Manubolu on Tuesday. Education minister Adimulapu Suresh and other leaders are also seen. — DC

CHINTA VOWS TO MAKE VENKATAGIRI AS AP'S CAPITAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

Former MP and Congress nominee for Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll Dr Chinta Mohan surprised the residents of Venkatagiri town with a peculiar promise that he would put all his efforts to make Venkatagiri as capital of Andhra Pradesh if they vote for the Congress.

Addressing the gathering during a public meeting at Venkatagiri on Tuesday, he accused TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu of taking away the capital to Thullur (Amaravati) even when 1 lakh acres of government land was available between Venkatagiri and Yerpedu.

He maintained that Venkatagiri has all the qualities necessary for a state capital while hinting that a major part of AP was under Venkatagiri when it was ruled by kings.

Referring to the popularity of handloom saris produced at Venkatagiri all over the country, he said it should have been considered as the capital city of AP, but unfortunately TD supremo Chandrababu Naidu opted for Tulluru, probably due to its proximity to Guntur and Krishna districts.

He lamented over disregarding the availability of a huge chunk of government lands near Venkatagiri and the potential of the region.

"Besides one lakh acres of land, the area is close to Kandaleru reservoir, national highway, and the international airport at Tirupati. The area is also safe from earthquakes and floods, yet the region has been neglected. If Congress is supported, I will try to make Venkatagiri the Capital city of the state," said Chinta Mohan.

He said they would be approaching the Election Commission of India to disqualify the YSRC candidate Gurumoorthy. He maintained that any SC who has converted to Christianity cannot contest from a seat reserved for SCs.

He was speaking to media persons after taking part in a programme

mmes including cultural events from morning till late in the night.

An interesting feature was that most people of Karnataka and some parts of Maharashtra presented their yearly offerings like tamarind, kumkum, sari, mangala sutra, and flowers to Goddess Bramarambha Devi.

Devotees from Karnataka prefer to celebrate their Ugadi (New Year) at Srisailem, the abode of Mallikarjuna Swamy.

They consider Mallikarjuna Swamy as their son-in-law and Bramarambha Devi as their daughter.

No one can do anything to me as long as Lord is with me, says Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

Opposition leader and former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that he is being targeted by "hawala ministers and gambler ministers" of the YSR Congress.

Naidu stated this on Tuesday as he addressed a roadshow in Gudur as part of the campaign for TD nominee Panabaka Lakshmi in the Tirupati by-election.

Referring to the stone-pelting incident while he held a roadshow in Tirupati a day ago, Naidu alleged that the police were seeking evidence rather than arresting the culprits.

Stressing that the state of affairs in AP was often shocking him, Naidu said, "Stones were hitting us. There were those who were injured, there was blood too. After all these, the police are unmoved and simply seeking evidence from us."

The former chief minister said, "Am I afraid of being stoned after being Chief Minister for 14 years? Militants used 24 claymore explosives to kill me. Nothing happens to me as long as Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara is with me. No one can do anything on me."

Naidu assured the people that there would not be any corruption, threats, false cases, and exploitation of natural resources if the Telugu Desam Party candidate is elected for the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat.

Naidu said the ruling party, out to win the election, is trying to misuse the police at times of attacks on the opposition leaders.

"The government has failed to control Covid-19 spread in the state and the people have to live with the infection for the rest of

their lives. Yet, the Jagan virus is more dangerous than the Covid-19 virus and the people should prefer their voting right to change the scenario for the better," the TD leader said. Naidu said the interests of the students are being ignored.

He asked whether any-

are a Christian, you can fight from any other seat, not from schedule caste seat," he remarked.

He pointed out that he had posted a photograph of Gurumoorthy taking blessings from a bishop in Gudur church before filing his nomination. "When I tweeted the photograph, it was immediately

deleted from Facebook by Rev. Abhishla, a pastor at the Holy Prayer Church, Gudur. It means they understood that their fraud has been exposed. I request people of Tirupati to elect BJP nominee Ratna Prabha, who is Hindu Madiga and highly qualified," the BJP leader maintained.

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight

other hand, people of Kairuppalash in Asapari mandal take part in the traditional 'pidakala samaram' (fighting with dung cakes) when a procession of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy was taken out.

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight



TD chief and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addresses a road show in Gudur on Tuesday. — DC

FORMER CM CLAIMS THAT TELUGU NEW YEAR BELONGS TO DESAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

TD national president N. Chandrababu Naidu turned philosophical while taking part in the Ugadi celebrations at the TD office in Tirupati. He said positive results are certain if everyone does their duty religiously. The New Year belonged to the TD, he said.

"Panchanga Sravanam is very important even from the angle of science as it gives us the guidance to overcome difficult times. Darkness is certainly replaced by light, and vice versa; and the clock never stops. Positivity and self-confidence in all our deeds are the key to success," the former CM observed.

Naidu greeted the Telugu people living in

one from the Gudur region got government employment in the recent past.

The TD chief said the Nadu-Nedu programme is not for improving the education sector but for swallowing the funds.

"MLAs and others are making big bucks through the programme."

Asserting that the party

candidate would win the election hands down, Satyanaryana said Gurumoorthy will get 80 per cent of the votes while the BJP and TD candidates would lose their deposits.

"Fearing losses, Pawan Kalyan went into quarantine and Chandrababu is playing his own tricks," the minister said.

evidence related to hurling of stones or commotion at Naidu's meeting, whether in the CCTV footage, media footage, or video footage on mobile phones.

The DIG said yet they have formed special teams to probe the incident.

He expressed displeasure over comments of Chandrababu Naidu against police.

but none lodged a complaint, Veerabhadra Swamy temple EO G Ramprasada has said. This fight of hitting cow dung cakes and throwing them like missiles take place when the Lord was taken out of the village on a pleasure trip and while being brought into the village, a group of villagers obstructed it. Soon another group of villagers intervenes and both the groups hurl dung cakes at each other. Veerabhadra Swamy was taken into the temple even while the dispute goes on, the villagers said.

It is believed that Lord Veerabhadra Swamy and goddess Bhadrakali got separated for some time after an affair. Taking sides of gods, villagers also get divided into groups and fight with each other in the same way every Ugadi.

Aspari sub-inspector Giribabu said about 30,000 people attend the event and it is a big social gathering in this part of the district.

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight

other hand, people of Kairuppalash in Asapari mandal take part in the traditional 'pidakala samaram' (fighting with dung cakes) when a procession of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy was taken out.

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TD seeks protection to Naidu, punish guilty

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Telugu Desam senior leader and former minister K Kala Venkatrao has alleged that the incident of "stone-pelting" on former chief minister and TD national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu is proof of the anarchic "Raja Reddy Rajyngam" prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

He said here on Tuesday that the YSRC is realising that defeat is inevitable. "Its rowdy mob pelted stones at Naidu at the instigation of chief minister Jagan Reddy. The culprits must be arrested and adequate protection provided to the TD chief," he said.

The stone-pelting allegedly took place during the road show of

Botsa: Naidu enacting a 'stone-age' drama

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

TD supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu is trying to make a mountain out of a pebble, said municipal minister Botsa Satyanarayana while talking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. He said Chandrababu Naidu knows very well that his party is facing another debacle at Tirupati and hence he was enacting different kinds of dramas.

Satyanarayana said the police and his friendly TV channel made it clear that there was no trace of attack on Naidu with stones during his public meeting in Tirupati. Yet, he abused the police and the Chief Minister. Later, he staged a dharna.

"He called out a party worker and told him to bring the stone and the worker brought a small pebble. Naidu is still resorting to stone-age gimmicks," the minister said and added that such gimmicks were common to Naidu.

When Mallela Babji attacked N.T. Rama Rao, he enacted a big drama to draw the attention of the people, he said.

He said that victory and defeat were common in politics and Naidu should accept the defeat with dignity.

Asserting that the party

DIG condemns TD chief's comments

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

Anantapur DIG Kranti Rana Tata condemned allegations that police pelted stones on the road-show of TD chief Chandrababu Naidu at Tirupati on Monday night.

Speaking to media persons at Tirupati on Tuesday, the DIG said they have not found any

candidate would win the election hands down, Satyanaryana said Gurumoorthy will get 80 per cent of the votes while the BJP and TD candidates would lose their deposits.

"Fearing losses, Pawan Kalyan went into quarantine and Chandrababu is playing his own tricks," the minister said.

evidence related to hurling of stones or commotion at Naidu's meeting, whether in the CCTV footage, media footage, or video footage on mobile phones.

The DIG said yet they have formed special teams to probe the incident.

He expressed displeasure over comments of Chandrababu Naidu against police.

but none lodged a complaint, Veerabhadra Swamy temple EO G Ramprasada has said. This fight of hitting cow dung cakes and throwing them like missiles take place when the Lord was taken out of the village on a pleasure trip and while being brought into the village, a group of villagers obstructed it. Soon another group of villagers intervenes and both the groups hurl dung cakes at each other. Veerabhadra Swamy was taken into the temple even while the dispute goes on, the villagers said.

It is believed that Lord Veerabhadra Swamy and goddess Bhadrakali got separated for some time after an affair. Taking sides of gods, villagers also get divided into groups and fight with each other in the same way every Ugadi.

Aspari sub-inspector Giribabu said about 30,000 people attend the event and it is a big social gathering in this part of the district.

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight

other hand, people of Kairuppalash in Asapari mandal take part in the traditional 'pidakala samaram' (fighting with dung cakes) when a procession of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy was taken out.

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight

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IN BRIEF

Big rally against VSP privatisation

Visakhapatnam: Students and youth organisations have decided to take out a “Youth March” on April 16 to protest against the privatisation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. A poster in this regard was launched at the Gandhi statue near RTC Complex in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. Visakhapatnam district secretary of DYFI L.J. Naidu, who was present at the poster launch, said the youth would be ready to sacrifice their lives to protect the steel plant. He said the youth and students have been fighting along with the trade unions since the agitation started two months ago.

KGGH HEADLESS AS COVID-19 CASES SURGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, APRIL 13

The Kurnool Government General Hospital (KGGH), with 300 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment, is directionless as the Superintendent of the Hospital Dr G. Narendranath Reddy has been tested positive. He is not attending the hospital, and neither he had assigned the duties to the Deputy Superintendent Dr C. Prabhakar Reddy. Patients face problems as no one is taking any responsibility to guide them on patient administration and treatment management. A few house surgeons and an assistant professor in the gynaecology department were also tested positive, said a source. When contacted, the deputy superintendent said he had not been assigned any responsibility.

Meanwhile, The District Medical and Health Officer, Dr Ram Giddaiah said Covid-19 Tika Utsav would resume on Wednesday as the district got 35,000 doses on Tuesday. He said the replenishment of stocks resumed after we exhausted the entire supply and placed reorders to continue the inoculation in the district. The inventory management of the vaccination is imperative as the government has taken it up as a drive to vaccinate all the people above 45 years of age.

He said there are about 8 lakh people in the age group of above 45 years out of which 2 lakhs have been inoculated. Our main focus is frontline workers and medical staff followed by the cases having comorbidities.

5 ARRESTED FOR TRANSPORTING GANJA

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, APRIL 13

Maredumilli police arrested five persons in different cases on the charges of transporting ganja and seized 460 kg of ganja.

According to Maredumilli Circle Inspector Mr Ravi Kumar, when the police conducted vehicle inspections, two accused Balaji of Karnataka and Chinnna Rathod Govind of Telangana State were found carrying 400 kg of ganja in 20 plastic bags worth ₹8 lakh by a van. In another case, 54 kg of Ganja was seized from Jeeram Ramireddy of Y. Ramavaram mandal in East Godavari at Madduluru junction. In this case, Marigela Tata Rao and Marigela Narayana absconded from the spot. Gopiseti Kumar and Bejjipuram Srinivasa Rao of Vijayawada were arrested.

₹8.30 CRORE SANCTIONED TO AKNU

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, APRIL 13

The Central Government sanctioned ₹8.30 crore for the establishment of a swimming pool and indoor stadium in Adikavi Nannayya University. Rajamahendravaram MP Margani Bharat said that the central team visited the University previously and sent proposals of ₹20.85 crore for setting up the international stadium in the University and Khel India sanctioned ₹8.30 crore in the first phase. He said that a film institute would come up to the University soon, and Nannayya Museum will be established at a cost of ₹12 crore and set up a Human Resources Centre in the University. He also said that educational institutions run by Hithakarini Samajam would be merged with the education department soon.

Ugadi celebrations were celebrated at the MP camp office on Tuesday.

Vaccine made mandatory for frontline people

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

Health officials said 1.2 lakh doses arrived in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, and of them 80,000 were dispatched to Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. They said Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam received 40,000 each and Vizianagaram 38,000. Health officials of the three districts said it has been mandatory for frontline workers left over to get inoculated, after which others who have crossed 45 will get the dose.

“All the doses will be given on a single day on Wednesday,” said Visakhapatnam district immunisation officer Dr Jeevan Rani. Officials of

● Health officials of the three districts said it has been mandatory for frontline workers left over to get inoculated, after which others who have crossed 45 will get the dose.

Srikakulam and Vizianagaram also said they would wind off the process in a day.

All the village and ward secretariats have been asked to be ready to complete the process. In Visakhapatnam, all the 27 urban health centres, government hospitals and PHCs in the agency will conduct the process.

There has been a demand for the vaccine as the districts have shown a sudden spike in cases during the last week.

AP records 4,228 +ve cases, 10 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh continues to register a surge in fresh cases of Coronavirus infections day by day, almost from April 1 onwards in the second wave of the pandemic and it recorded 4,228 cases and 10 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities reported here that out of 35,582 samples tested, 4,228 persons were found infected with confirmed Covid-19. Out of a total number of 1,54,98,728 persons tested for Covid-19 so far in the state, 9,32,892 were found infected with the virus and of them, 8,99,721 recovered while undergoing treatment while 25,850 are still active with the virus.

Chittoor district found to be the worst hit by continuing to register the highest number of Covid-19 infections daily and on Tuesday, it registered 842, followed by 622 in Guntur; 538 in East Godavari, 414 in Visakhapatnam, 334 in Kadapa, 284 in Prakasam,

271 in Srikakulam, 268 in Nellore, 261 in Krishna, 130 in Vizianagaram, 128 in Anantapur, 88 in Kurnool and 48 in West Godavari.

Among Coronavirus cumulative active cases, Chittoor recorded the highest at 4,947 followed by 3,246 in Guntur, 3,043 in Visakhapatnam, 2,876 in Krishna, 1,939 in Nellore, 1,743 in Srikakulam, 1,558 in East Godavari, 1,531 in Prakasam, 1,480 in Kurnool, 1,323 in Kadapa, 1,157 in Anantapur, 710 in Vizianagaram and 297 in West Godavari.

With regard to the Covid-19 deaths, Chittoor district registered four, followed by two in Nellore and one each in Guntur, Krishna, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam, raising the death toll to 7,321.

The state health authorities discharged 1,483 Covid-19 infected patients after recovery in the last 24 hours.

AP conducted Covid-19 tests on 2,90,238 samples per one million population and registered the a positive rate of 6.02.

Araku tourism hit for second year

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

Summer tourism of Araku valley draws blank for the second consecutive year with a handful of locals visiting attractive places like Borra caves, Ananthagiri, Araku Valley and Chaprai.

“Only a few hundreds of local people are visiting the valley, and they are not staying overnight. The second wave surge has scared many outsiders, and for the second consecutive year, no tourist from West Bengal visited the Agency,” said the divisional manager of AP Tourism Development Corporation, Giri Prasad Reddy.

Talking to DC on Tuesday, Reddy said APTDC hotels and resorts were booked till Ugadi as three holidays preceded the festival, but no fresh enquiries were received. Rajdhani Hotel, the best

and famous hotel in Araku Valley, has no visitors, and the management is not hoping to get any customers in the immediate future due to the surge in the second wave of Covid-19.

“By this time, all our 33 rooms were getting filled and till the onset of southwest moons, the rush remained. Many stayed in tents due to lack of accommodation. But after the virus outbreak last March, things have changed for the worse for agency hotels,” said a hotel representative.

He said though the agency, is free from the virus since last November, only young couples visit the valley and return by 4 pm. He added that this would hit hard on the people who depended on tourism for gainful employment.

Last year the government opened up hotels after June 10.

COVID | PANDEMIC

Prayers will be performed amid Coronavirus restrictions

Ramzan month starts today

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

The Ramzan prayers would be performed once again amidst restrictions imposed by the government in the wake of a surge in Coronavirus cases. The Muslims had observed Ramzan fast under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic last year also.

The Islamic month of Ramzan, which is considered a holy month by the Muslims, will begin on

Wednesday. The government has issued a set of Corona guidelines for the prayers to be conducted in mosques.

The AP State Waqf Board (APSWB) issued a circular on the commencement of Ramzan instructing all managing bodies of Waqf institutions to make necessary arrangements at mosques and Idgah grounds to avoid inconvenience to the namazis following the Covid-19 protocol.

According to APSWB’s



A priest offers prasadam to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy after Panchanga Sravanam on the occasion of Ugadi celebrations on Tuesday. — DC

Plava Nama begins on fruitful note in Tirumala

Navadhanya art and Janur art steals the show on Ugadi

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 13

On the auspicious occasion of Plavanama Ugadi, the Garden wing of TTD made spectacular floral decorations that caught the attention of the devotees on Tuesday.

Starting from the temple entrance to Golden Threshold, the dioramas made of fruits and flowers brought an aesthetic feel of Bhooloka Vaikuntha to the pilgrims.

Matching the occasion, splendid decorations were made in a big way with tonnes of varieties of traditional flowers and thousands of cut flowers. Florists, cutlery artists from Karnataka, and AP did decorations with innovative concepts.

On the whole, eight tonnes of traditional flowers, 70,000 cut flowers were donated by donors from Hyderabad, Salem, while decorations were done by artists from Vijayawada and Bengaluru.

This year unique dioramas using Janur art for the first time were displayed, which stood as a special attraction. Janur art is one where the floral decorations are made using Coconut leaves as the supportive background over a steel mesh.

The roof of Dhawja Mandapam was decked with Tooti-Frooti sky with varieties of fruits, flowers hanging colourfully. Another special attraction was Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, made of Navadhanayas.

The Dasavatara in watermelon also remained a cynosure inside the temple while the elephants, Sri Krishna Leela, outside the temple caught the attention of pilgrims.

Garden Superintendent of TTD Srinivasulu supervised the arrangements.

FROM PAGE 1

The first page of the calendar contains details of all the schemes and the second page contains details of the number of people benefited from the different schemes including financial details for the last 22 months — from June 2019 to March 2021.

He stated that on the third page, the details of YSR Aasara and Pension Kanuka are published. Next to it, the details of implementation of various schemes are published.

May -2021

YSR Free Crop Insurance (Kharif -2020), the first phase of the YSR Rytu Bharosa, the Matyakara Bharosa (Diesel Subsidy) and the Matyakara Bharosa (subsidy on fishing prohibition) and other regular

schemes to be implemented.

June 2021

YSR Cheyutha, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka and other regular schemes to be taken up.

July 2021

The second phase of the Jagananna Vidya Devena, the YSR Kapu Nestham, the YSR Vahana Mitra and other regular schemes to be implemented.

August 2021

Zero Interest loans to farmers (Kharif-2020), Industrial subsidies to MSMEs and spinning mills, the YSR Nethanna Nestham, the payments to Agrigold victims and other regular schemes.

September 2021

YSR Aasara and other regular schemes.

October -2021

Second phase of the YSR

Rytu Bharosa, the Jagananna Chedodu, the Jagananna Thodu and other regular schemes.

November -2021

YSR EBC Nestham and other regular schemes.

December -2022

Second phase of the Jagananna Vasati Devena and third phase of the Jagananna Vidya Devena, the YSR Law Nestham and other regular schemes.

January -2022

The third phase of YSR Rytu Bharosa, the Jagananna Amma Vodi, the increase of YSR Pension amount to ₹2,500 and other regular schemes.

February -2022

The fourth phase of the Jagananna Vidya Devena and other regular schemes.

Covid hits Ugadi celebrations

● The tilling of the lands with bullocks have almost disappeared and also traditional forms of entertainment are also gradually vanishing from the villages.

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, APRIL 13

The traditional Ugadi celebrations remained muted in Godavari districts because of the surging cases of Covid-19 disease.

The state government used to celebrate Ugadi as an official festival by arranging Panchanga Sravanam programme, recitation of poetry and other cultural activities.

The government could not celebrate the festival officially due to Covid-19 lockdown last year. This year also the Ugadi celebrations were low-profile and officials did not take

up any culture programmes due to the second wave of Covid scare.

Though there was no lockdown this year, the state culture department has not given permission or issued any instructions to the district administrations to hold the festival. Many poets and artists who were eagerly waiting for the fete to prove their

talent and also receive awards, were disappointed. Sources, however, said the shortage of funds at the culture department is another reason for the muted celebrations.

“We welcome the government’s decision to suspend the official celebration of traditional festivals like “Ugadi” to prevent gathering at one place. But the government did not ban other programmes which led to overcrowding. For example, the government has held felicitation functions to volunteers, which was attended by thousands of people”, said Chinta Gopi Sarma Siddanti.

SPIRITUAL BOOKS RELEASED

A series of spiritual books released on the auspicious day of Plavanama Samvatsara Telugu Ugadi on Tuesday in Tirumala.

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retribution for what he considered Germany's refusal to spend more on its own defence. Austin suspected that move shortly after taking office. He said decisions on troop levels would be made as part of a comprehensive review of the US military presence around the world, including in Europe. — *AP*

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	48,544.06	1.38
Nifty 50	14,504.80	1.36
S&P 500*	4,133.82	0.14
Dollar (₹)	75.06	-0.40
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.11	-0.69
Euro (₹)	89.33	-0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,093	130 0.28
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.99	1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.011	0.00
US 10-Yr T-Bill yield*	1.661	-0.015

China's March exports rise 30.6% as demand revives

China's exports rose 30.6 per cent over a year ago in March as global consumer demand strengthened and traders watched for signs of what President Joe Biden might do about reviving tariff war talks with Beijing. Exports rose to 241.1 billion, decelerating from the dramatic 60.6 per cent rebound in the first two months of 2021, customs data showed. Imports rose 38.1 per cent over a year ago to 227.3 billion in a sign of reviving Chinese activity.



GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Bhuvneshwar is Player of Month

Dubai: Experienced India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Tuesday won the ICC Player of the Month award for his superlative show in the limited overs series against England in March. The 31-year-old Indian took six wickets at an economy rate of 4.65 in the three ODIs, while capturing four wickets at a fantastic economy rate of 6.38 in the five T20Is to emerge as the standout bowler on either side in the white ball series. Bhuvneshwar became the third successive Indian recipient of the award since its inception early this year. — PTI

Kane wins Hadlee medal for 4th time

Wellington: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won his fourth Sir Richard Hadlee medal for excelling across formats and was also adjudged the 'Test Player of the Year' in the country's annual cricket awards on Tuesday. Devon Conway won the men's ODI and T20 Player of the Year during the 2020-21 awards season which was conducted digitally for a second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Williamson's incredible home Test summer helped him clinch the two awards alongside the Redpath Cup for first-class batting, after he amassed a whopping 639 runs in just four innings at an average of 159. — PTI

Wizards snap Jazz winning home run

Los Angeles: Bradley Beal scored 34 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Washington Wizards ended the Utah Jazz's 24-game home winning streak with a 125-121 victory in Salt Lake City on Monday. Donovan Mitchell delivered a 42-point gem for Utah but could not prevent the under-strength Western Conference leaders from sliding to a surprise defeat against a Wizards team struggling near the foot of the East. Utah, with Mike Conley and Jordan Clarkson absent from the line-up, looked to be racing towards a 25th straight home victory after a dazzling opening quarter saw them put up 42 points. — AFP

Dues to Centre, states, staff extinguish with plan passage SC: Dues not payable if not part of IBC resolution plan

New Delhi, April 13: In an important judgement, the Supreme Court on Tuesday held that all dues, including statutory ones, payable by ailing companies to the Centre, states and their tax authorities shall stand extinguished if they are not part of approved resolution plan to revive firms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The apex court said the principal objects of IBC is to provide for revival of the Corporate Debtor and to make it a going concern and remedied the mischief by which tax and other authorities used to keep pursuing such companies to pay their dues leading to a situation which made resolution plans for their revival unworkable.

A bench comprising justices R. F. Nariman, B. R. Gavai and Hrishikesh Roy, deciding a batch of pleas against several orders of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, held



that the 2019 amendment made to a provision of the IBC is clarificatory and declaratory in nature and so will be effective from the date on which IBC has come into effect in 2016.

As per the amendment made in 2019 in section 31 of IBC, any debt in respect of the payment of dues arising under any law for the time being in force, including the ones owed to the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, which does not form a part of the approved resolution plan, shall stand extinguished.

Once a resolution plan is duly approved by the adju-

dicating authority, the claims as provided in the resolution plan shall stand frozen and will be binding on the Corporate Debtor and its employees, members, creditors, including the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, guarantors and other stakeholders, Justice Gavai, who wrote the 139-page judgment, said.

It said on the date of approval of the resolution plan, all claims, which are not a part of the resolution plan, shall stand extinguished and no person will be entitled to initiate or continue any proceedings

in respect to a claim which is not part of the revival package. Consequently all the dues, including the statutory dues owed to the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, if not part of the resolution plan, shall stand extinguished and no proceedings in respect of such dues for the period prior to the date on which the Adjudicating Authority grants its approval under Section 31 could be continued, the bench held.

The top court was faced with the question whether any creditor, including central or state governments, was bound by the Resolution Plan once it is approved by an adjudicating authority under IBC.

The other issue was as to whether after approval of the resolution plan a creditor is entitled to initiate any proceedings for recovery of any of the dues from the corporate debtor, which are not a part of the Resolution Plan. — PTI

FB, Instagram users can now appeal to Oversight Board

New Delhi, April 13: An independent board set up by Facebook to look into hate speech and other undesirable content on the platform on Tuesday said it will now accept cases from Facebook and Instagram users who believe the company wrongfully allowed such content to remain on these

social media platforms. Facebook, which has faced flak in many parts of the world over various issues, including data breaches and handling of hate speech, had set up the Oversight Board last year. The board includes former judges, journalists and human rights activists, who review

appeals from users on material that has been taken down from Facebook and Instagram, and make binding content decisions for the social networking platforms. "Enabling users to appeal content they want to see removed from Facebook is a significant expansion of the Oversight Board's

capabilities," Thomas Hughes, director of the Oversight Board Administration, said in a statement. The Oversight Board said this new capability represents an important step toward delivering a more principled and transparent model of content moderation. — PTI

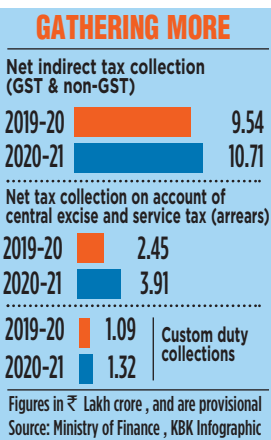
Indirect taxes up 12% in FY21

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Helped by a 59 per cent increase in excise duties, the country's indirect tax collections went up 12.3 per cent in the pandemic-hit FY21.

Indirect tax collections—which include GST, customs, central excise and service tax arrears—for FY21 stood at Rs 10.71 lakh crore against the actual collections of Rs 9.54 lakh crore in FY20, as per the provisional figures published by the Ministry of Finance. The collections are 8.29 per cent higher than the revised estimates of Rs 9.89 lakh crore.

Central excise and service tax arrears in FY21 grew 59 per cent to Rs 3.91 lakh crore compared to Rs 2.45 lakh crore in the previous fiscal. Diesel and petrol



are the biggest contributors to excise duties and the multiple hikes in petrol and diesel prices throughout the fiscal supported the increase in excise duties despite lower consumption. Net customs duty collec-

tions too registered a growth of 21 per cent to Rs 1.32 lakh crore compared to Rs 1.09 lakh crore in the previous fiscal.

However, net tax collection on account of GST of the Centre, which includes CGST, IGST and compensation cess, was down 8 per cent to Rs 5.48 lakh crore against Rs 5.99 lakh crore in the previous financial year. Considering the subdued economy, the revised estimates of net GST collection was kept at Rs 5.15 lakh crore.

The GST collections were severely affected in the first half of the financial year on account of the Covid-led disruptions. However, in the second half, the GST collections registered a good growth and collections exceeded Rs 1 lakh crore in each of the last six months.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NON-LIFE GROSS DIRECT PREMIUM UP 5% IN FY21

New Delhi, April 13: The gross direct premium written by the non-life insurance companies saw a 5.2 per cent rise in 2020-21 to Rs 1,98,734.68 crore, Irdai data showed. All the non-life insurance companies had written gross direct premium of Rs 1,88,916.61 crore in 2019-20. In March 2021, the total premium by all the players stood at Rs 19,298.85 crore, up by over 17 per cent from Rs 15,635.42 crore a year ago. Among the 25 general insurers, the total premium in FY21 rose by 3.35 per cent to Rs 1,69,840.05 crore. — PTI

BIS LICENCE FEE CUT FOR STARTUPS

New Delhi, April 13: The Centre slashed the annual marking fee to get a new BIS licence and certification by 50 per cent for micro-industry, startups and women entrepreneurs. It also said the services of BIS are now made available free of cost to everyone and can be down-

loaded from e-BIS port. The Bureau of Indian Standards issues licences with a standard mark to help identify the unit which has made the product at a specific location. "The government has given 50 per cent rebate on (new) BIS certification of products for start-up, micro-industry and women entrepreneurs," minister Piyush Goyal tweeted. — PTI

INDIA-EU TRADE TALKS TO RESUME



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said resumption of formal negotiations on India-EU trade deal during the leadership summit next month in Porto, Portugal, would help further strengthen ties with the European Union. The negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement have been stalled since May 2013, when both sides failed to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues, including data security status for the IT sector. The negotiations with the 27-nation grouping were launched in June 2007. — PTI

Star-studded field for India Open Marin, Momota among top entries as badminton action returns to India

New Delhi, April 13: Olympic champion Carolina Marin and World No. 1 Kento Momota will headline a star-studded field of international shuttlers when the India Open Super 500 event is held here from May 11 to 16, albeit behind closed doors due to the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

The \$400,000 tournament, one of the last few qualification events for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, has attracted 228 (114 men and 114 women) entries from 33 different national associations, including China.

However, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said "due to the rapidly rising Covid-19 cases in the country, the tournament will be contested in a bio-secure bubble without spectators and media while implementing strict Covid-19 safety protocols." "All the players and officials coming from South Africa, Brazil, Middle East and European countries including UK will be serving a 7-day quarantine period and have to report in the capital city



on May 3," BAI said in a release. "... Players and officials from rest of the world can arrive on May 6 and undergo a 4-day quarantine period."

On the court, three-time world champion Marin will lead the women's singles category along with other Top-10 shuttlers such as Akane Yamaguchi, 2019 world

champion P.V. Sindhu, Korea's An Se-Young and Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong. India boasts of the largest contingent with 48 players (27 women and 21

men), while Malaysia has fielded the second biggest squad with 26 shuttlers, which includes 10 women and 16 men.

A total of 10 shuttlers (4 women and 6 men) from China are also part of the participants list.

Among the men, two-time world champion Momota, defending champion Viktor Axelsen, Anders Antonsen and reigning All England Open champion Zii Jia Lee will be in the fray. Srikanth Kidambi will lead the Indian charge along with B. Sai Praneeth, H.S. Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap.

The last date for withdrawal of entry is April 19 while the draw will be announced on April 20.

The governing body said "Delhi Government will conduct RT-PCR test on arrival on May 3 and 6 as well as on May 9 and 14."

"We are really happy to finally be able resume badminton action. But with the recent spike in cases, we have to be more cautious," BAI general secretary Ajay Singhania said. — PTI

SA WOMEN CRICKETERS STUCK IN BANGLADESH AFTER POSITIVE TEST

Dhaka, April 13: Five members of a South African women's cricket team have become stranded in Bangladesh after testing positive for Covid-19, officials said Tuesday. Seventeen other members of the South Africa Emerging team left Bangladesh late Monday, before the country imposed a ban on international flights over a surge in new cases there.

The five remaining have been put into isolation in Dhaka, said Shafiu Alam Nadel of the Bangladesh Cricket Board. "All members of the South African team gave Covid-19 test samples before their departure from Sylhet. Five of them tested positive," said Himangshu Lal Roy, deputy director of the

Osmani Medical College in the northeastern city.

The team's fifth match was due to start on Tuesday in Sylhet.

But they cut short the tour because of the flight ban, which will last from Wednesday until April 14, as part of efforts to combat the new spread of infections in the South Asian nation.

The five in isolation will be tested again and if the results are negative "we will send them back home at the earliest possible time," said Nadel.

Documents seen by AFP indicated that team manager Matshipi Marcia Letsoalo and players Sinalo Jaftha, Leah Jones, Nobulumko Baneti and Robyn Searle had been left behind. — AFP

Indian women to tour England in June-July

London, April 13: The Indian women's cricket team will play a historic one-off Test against England in Bristol as part of a multi-format series that will also feature three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals across June-July.

The Test will be played at the Bristol County Ground from June 16-19, kicking off the England team's summer. The match was first confirmed by BCCI secretary Jay Shah earlier this year but the exact date and venue were unveiled by the host board on Tuesday.

While the Indian women's team will take part in a Test for the first time since 2014, England

THE FIXTURES

June 16-19:	Test match - Bristol County Ground
June 27:	1st ODI - Bristol County Ground
June 30:	2nd ODI - The Cooper Associates County Ground, Taunton
July 3:	3rd ODI - New Road, Worcester
July 9:	1st T20I - County Ground, Northampton
July 11:	2nd T20I - Central County Ground, Hove
July 15:	3rd T20I - The Cloudfm County Ground, Chelmsford

last played a red-ball game during the 2019 Ashes.

The one-off Test will be followed by three ODIs and T20Is each with the tour concluding on July 15

in Chelmsford.

After announcing its home fixtures, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive officer Tom Harrison, said: "We're really looking forward to a busy summer in what is a huge year for our England Women's team, and we're very excited about hosting India and New Zealand."

"The two international series will sit either side of The Hundred, and with the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy and the new Regional Twenty20 competition running throughout the summer, it's a fixture list that offers a lot for both our players and our fans," Harrison added. — PTI

TOKYO | OLYMPICS

No fans at torch relay in Osaka

Tokyo, April 13: The torch relay for the Tokyo Olympics ran through a mostly empty Osaka city park on Tuesday, showing the risks of trying to hold the postponed games during a pandemic.

It came on the same day that the government said new coronavirus cases in Osaka hit 1,099, a single-day record for Japan's second largest metropolitan area.

The torch relay began three weeks ago in north-eastern Japan, attempting to navigate around the pandemic with a total of 10,000 runners crisscrossing the country and bound for the opening ceremony on July 23 in Tokyo.

Osaka, which announced plans last week to take the relay off city streets and bar the public, became the first detour since the relay began. Organizers warned beforehand there may be more.

Wednesday's second leg in Osaka — the day the Tokyo countdown clock hits 100 day to go — will be in the same park under the same closed-doors conditions.

New Covid-19 cases are rising across Japan, where fewer than 1% of

● **Osaka, which announced plans last week to take the relay off city streets and bar the public, became the first detour since the relay began.**

residents have been vaccinated in very slow rollout. Japan has attributed about 9,500 deaths to Covid-19, far fewer than many countries but higher than most neighbours in Asia.

Osaka, Tokyo and other parts of Japan have declared "quasi-emergency" conditions until early May with bars and restaurants being asked to close by 8 pm.

Many runners arrived in Osaka's Expo '70 Commemorative Park by bus and ran short legs carrying the torch alongside metal barriers or in empty park space.

They were accompanied by security officials who jogged or walked alongside, and followed by an "escort" or "promotional" vehicle festooned with logos of major Olympic sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota. — AP

EX-INDIA HOCKEY PLAYER BALBIR SINGH JR NO MORE

Chandigarh, April 13: Balbir Singh Junior, who was a member of the silver medal-winning 1958 Asian Games Indian hockey team, died here at the age of 88, his daughter Mandeep Samra said on Tuesday. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son. "My father passed away in sleep on Sunday morning due to heart failure," his daughter said.

His son is settled in Canada and could not attend the last rites of his father because of the pandemic. Born on May 2, 1932, at Sansarpur in Jalandhar, also known as the nursery of Indian hockey, Balbir Singh Junior had played alongside legends like Balbir Singh Senior, Leslie Claudius, Prithpal Singh, Balkishan and Charles Stephen among others.

Singh took to hockey when he was six years old. He studied at Lyallpur Khalsa College in Jalandhar and was first selected to play for the Indian hockey team in 1951 during the tour of Afghanistan.

He was part of the Punjab state hockey team and also captained Panjab University team. — PTI



● CHENNAI SUPER KINGS ● DELHI CAPITALS ● KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS ● MUMBAI INDIANS ● PUNJAB KINGS
● RAJASTHAN ROYALS ● ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE ● SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

DECCAN CHRONICLE, NELLORE, WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021

pg 6

ORANGE		
Nitish Rana, KKR	137	
Sanju Samson, RR	119	
KL Rahul, PBKS	91	
PURPLE		
Andre Russell, KKR	6	
Harshal Patel, RCB	5	
Rahul Chahar, MI	4	

Off the field



DC opener Shikhar Dhawan works out at the team hotel.

Archer's IPL return remains uncertain

England fast bowler Jofra Archer has been cleared to return to training, it was announced Tuesday, after he had surgery to remove a fragment of glass from his finger last month. But just how much of a part the Sussex quick will play in this year's edition of the Indian Premier League remains uncertain. An England and Wales Cricket Board statement said: Kumar Sangakkara, the Royals' director of cricket and a former Sri Lanka captain, said recently the franchise would not risk Archer's fitness in a year where England will want him playing in both the T20 World Cup and the Ashes. "We are always guided by the experts in English cricket."

Rohit wants to maintain fitness

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma says he has to do "a lot of maintenance work" to ensure he remains in peak physical condition ever since the hamstring injury he suffered during the last IPL. The stylish right-handed batsman missed some part of the IPL last year and the initial portion of the Australia tour, including the white-ball leg, due to the injury. "Maintaining what I have built up in the last three or four months. Obviously I was injured during the last IPL. So there's a lot of maintenance work that I have to keep doing just to maintain my lower body, hamstring and stuff like that," Sharma said.

When Harshal felt insulted

Royal Challengers Bangalore medium pacer Harshal Patel on Tuesday revealed that he felt "insulted" after being overlooked by franchises during the 2018 IPL auctions, which motivated him to work on his batting and become a worthy all-rounder. The 30-year-old was bought by Delhi Capitals for his base price of ₹20 Lakh in 2018. However, he did not get many opportunities to play. "In 2018 IPL, a lot of people didn't show interest in me and that struck me, I took it as an insult within myself because I wanted to become a player who was a match-winner and had a lot of value," Patel said.

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Phones: 2348581, 82 & 83, Fax:2348580, Grams: CHRONICLE, Editor: **Kaushik Mitter**

RUSS HOUR CHAOS

Knights crash to 10-run defeat after Russell's mixed fortunes

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Jamaican Andre Russell turned a villain from a hero in a matter of a few hours as Kolkata Knight Riders crashed a 10-run defeat at the hands of their nemesis Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday. Russell stood tall with a career-best 5/15 to restrict Mumbai to 152, but misfired with the bat when it mattered the most.

Kolkata were expected to make short work the chase when opener Nitish Rana (57) slammed his second consecutive half-century. The opening stand of 72 runs between Rana and Shubman Gill (33) had set the ideal platform.

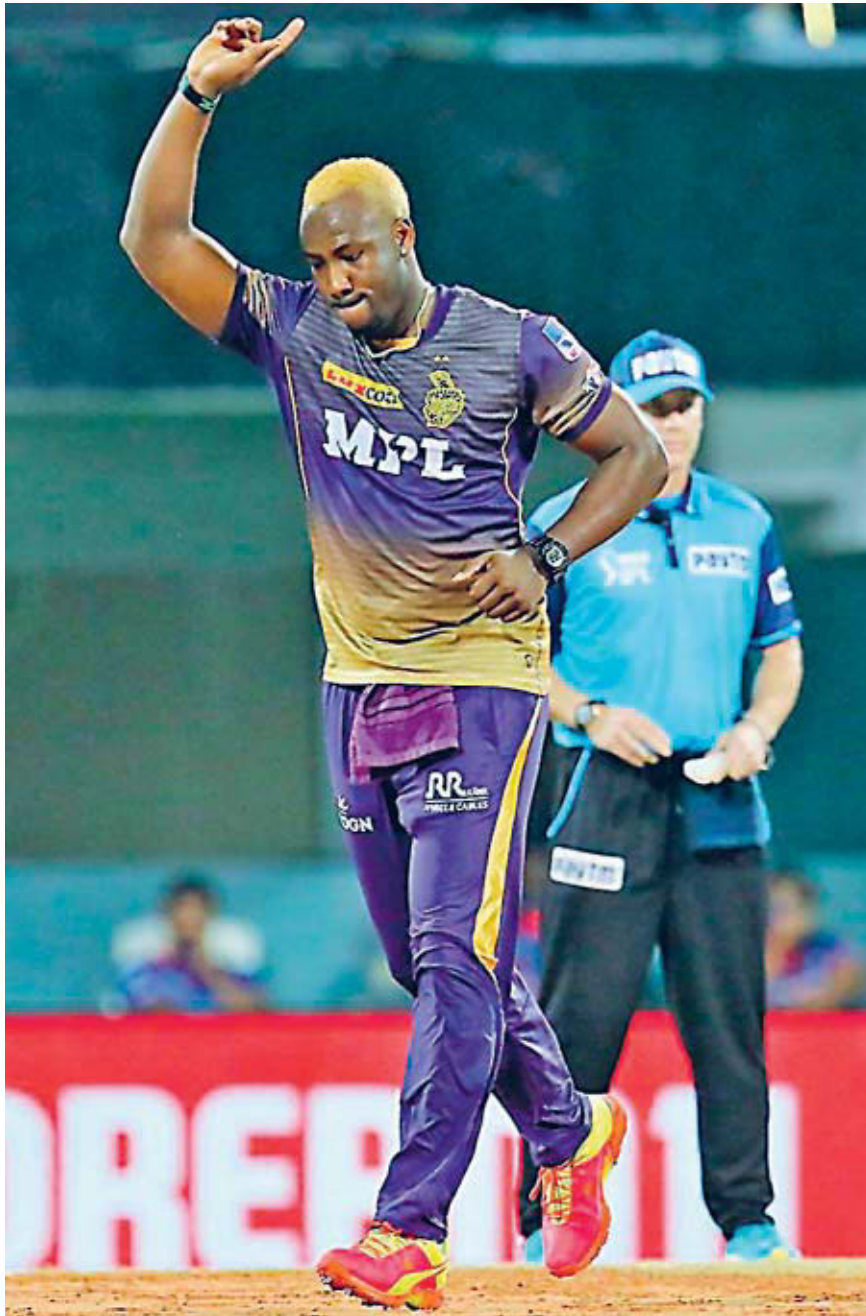
But what followed was a mini collapse. The game turned on its head as Kolkata lost wickets in a heap.

From 103 for two, KKR slumped to 122 for five with Eoin Morgan, Nitish Rana and Shakib Al Hasan making their way back to the pavilion.

Krunal Pandya bowled a superb spell of 4-0-13-1. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar took four wickets. Jasprit Bumrah who was guilty of dropping Russell bowled a brilliant penultimate over to bring the equation to 15 off six balls.

KKR skipper Morgan said it was a disappointing defeat. "A lot of the time we played good cricket, certainly the first half and a majority of the chase. We made mistakes, hopefully we can iron them out. Mumbai are a very good side. I think the perfect game is to be able to do both (all-out attack and otherwise) and we've managed to do neither in the end."

"It works for us a majority of the time, but we need to be better. The games that have been played here, it would suggest that there's a trend (of runscoring getting tough at the end). Mumbai have been performing like this for a long time, that would be something we need to assess," he added.



KKR's Andre Russell celebrates a Mumbai Indians wicket.

— IPL

Earlier, Russell who was brought into the attack as late as in the 18th over wiped out the bottom half of the Mumbai line-up in just 12 deliveries. His West Indies team-mate Kieron Pollard was his first victim. Pollard nicked a full and wide delivery to be caught behind.

KKR skipper Eoin Morgan deserved praise for using his bowlers dili-

gently. Morgan unleashed a three-pronged spin attack with Harbhajan Singh, Varun Chakravathy and Shakib Al Hasan operating in the powerplay.

As the slow Chepauk pitch had something for the spinners, Mumbai had to play out with caution. They made 42 runs having lost Quinton de Kock early.

De Kock who replaced Mumbai's previous match top-scorer Chris Lynn was out for two.

After a slow start, Mumbai stepped on the gas with Suryakumar Yadav taking over the control. His fifty came off 33 balls and reached the landmark in style with a big six over off Pat Cummins. The ball sailed over the deep square-leg

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma b Cummins 43, Quinton de Kock c Tripathi b Varun 2, Suryakumar Yadav c Shubman Gill b Shakib Al Hasan 56, Ishan Kishan c Prasidh Krishna b Cummins 1, Hardik Pandya c Russell b Prasidh Krishna 15, Kieron Pollard c Karthik b Russell 5, Krunal Pandya c Prasidh Krishna b Russell 15, Marco Jansen c Cummins b Russell 0, Rahul Chahar c Shubman Gill b Russell 8, Jasprit Bumrah c Shakib Al Hasan b Russell 0, Trent Boult (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7. Total (in 20 overs) 152.**

FoW: 1-10, 2-86, 3-88, 4-115, 5-123, 6-125, 7-126, 8-150, 9-150.

Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 2-0-17-0, Varun Chakravathy 4-0-27-1, Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-23-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-24-2, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Andre Russell 2-0-15-5.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana st de Kock b Chahar 57, Shubman Gill c Pollard b Chahar 33, Rahul Tripathi c de Kock b Chahar 5, Eoin Morgan c Jansen b Chahar 7, Shakib Al Hasan c Yadav b KH Pandya 9, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8, Andre Russell c & b Boult 9, Pat Cummins b Boult 0, Harbhajan Singh (not out) 2. **Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 1, w 2) 12. Total (in 20 overs) 142/7.**

FoW: 1-72, 2-84, 3-104, 4-122, 5-122, 6-140, 7-140.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-27-2, Marco Jansen 2-0-17-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-28-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-13-1, Kieron Pollard 1-0-12-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-4, Rohit Sharma 1-0-9-0.

and landed on the canopy. Suryakumar, however, had to depart soon after being caught at long on. The partnership between Suryakumar and Rohit — 76 — was the highest of Mumbai's innings.

As Pat Cummins dealt a double blow by removing Ishan Kishan and Rohit (43 off 32 balls), Mumbai were reduced to 115 for four.

Live on TV

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Matches

SRH 10 RCB 7

FOR THE RECORD

● Virat Kohli who has scored 5,911 runs at an average of 38.13 in 185 innings needs 89 more to become the first batsman to score 6,000 runs in IPL history.

● Rashid Khan who has taken 77 wickets at an average of 20.27 in 63 innings is the second highest wicket taker for Sunrisers after Bhuvneshwar Kumar (113).

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

● RCB defeated Sunrisers by 10 runs at Dubai.

● Sunrisers beat RCB by 5 wickets at Sharjah.

● Sunrisers beat RCB by 6 wickets at Abu Dhabi (Eliminator).

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

RCB challenge for Sunrisers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Sunrisers Hyderabad would be keen to plug a big hole in their batting line-up when they take on buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

David Warner & co's biggest worry has been an inexperienced middle-order who once again failed to take them past the finish line in their opener against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Jammu Kashmir youngster Abdul Samad showed glimpses of his big hitting talent when he smashed KKR's premier pacer Pat Cummins for a couple of sixes. With West Indies all-rounder Jason Holder out of quarantine, Sunrisers might draft him in ahead of



Sunrisers pacer T. Natarajan during a training session in Chennai.

— Sunrisers Hyderabad

Afghan Mohammed Nabi. As Sunrisers are heavily dependent on overseas batsmen, skipper David Warner and Englishman Jonny Bairstow hold the key.

The battle between leg-spinner Rashid Khan and RCB's swashbuckling duo of AB de Villiers and Glenn Maxwell would be an exciting affair.

Washington Sundar who had struggled his way to a 16-ball 10 against Mumbai will make way for a fit-again Devdutt Padikkal at the top. Padikkal was rested from the previous game following his recovery from Covid-19. Rajat Patidar, who batted at one-drop, is expected to be benched to accommodate Padikkal in the XI.

Their new recruit from New Zealand, Kyle Jamieson has added venom to RCB's bowling attack. Along with the lanky Jamieson, Harshal Patel, who took a five-for in the season opener, and Mohammed Siraj RCB now have a settled pace bowling unit. Harshal is expected to continue as Kohli's death bowling option.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal had a poor outing in the opener. He went wicketless and conceded 41 runs in four overs.

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Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal had a poor outing in the opener. He went wicketless and conceded 41 runs in four overs.

maiden title.

Sanju Samson hit the first century this season, arguably among the best in the history of the IPL, taking his team to within a stroke of victory chasing a mammoth 222.

Whether Samson should have taken a single (possibly two) off the penultimate delivery is still being hotly debated. At that point in time, Samson was in full flow, and backed himself. However, a single would have shortened the odds on a tie and a possible Super Over. Take your position, but the knock was stupendous.

In the action that took place in the first week, let's not ignore the competition for places in the India team for the T20 World Cup, which is also taking place currently among many claimants.

For instance, Kohli as opener obviously impacts the prospects of Dhawan, Rahul and Shaw considering that Rohit Sharma will certainly hold on to his place at the top. There is enormous pressure on these three without doubt. The good thing so far is, such pressure has seen them pep up their performance.

With Pant, Iyer, Surya Yadav, Hardik, Jadeja, Krunal, Washington also in the fray, places in the top seven in the side are at a premium. At least a couple of these players will get squeezed out for the T20 World Cup. It is also likely that a couple of new names might gain prominence.

As in the batting, there is tremendous competition for places in the bowling too for places in the national side. In spin bowling alone, there are 9-10 bowlers vying for 2-3 places in the squad.

Yuzvendra Chahal and

Kuldeep Yadav haven't had a good start. The former leaked runs aplenty against Mumbai, while Yadav didn't even make it to the playing XI for Kolkata Knight Riders' first match.

These are ominous signs which these two spinners, frontliners not too long back, must pay heed to. A similar situation exists even among fast bowlers looking to get into the India squad.

Much as the IPL fast tracks careers in the Indian context, it can finish them off as quickly, players are forewarned.

Sanju rues failure to cross finish line

Mumbai, April 13: Sanju Samson's magnificent 119 on his captaincy debut for Rajasthan Royals came in a losing cause but he said the second part of his innings was the best he ever played.

Samson hit 12 fours and seven sixes in his astonishing 63-ball innings but in the end failed to send Arshdeep Singh's final ball for the maximum runs as RR lost the match to Punjab Kings by four runs.

"The second part of the innings was the best I ever played. In the first part, I was not timing it very well. I took my time, respected the bowlers, took singles and got into a rhythm and then I started to play my shots in the second half," he said at the post-match presentation.

"I enjoy my shots but I come back to the present after I play those shots. It automatically happens, when I focus on my skills and watch the ball and react. Sometimes I lose my wicket also, so I just play the same way."

He said it was about trusting his processes and being honest to his abilities. "I did that, and it came off tonight."

"The coin (at the toss) looked really nice so I pocketed it, asked the referee if I can have it, but he said no."

Samson also said he could not have done better than that though he rues failing to clear the ropes on the final ball. "I don't have words to tell, very close game, came close but unfortunately, I don't think I could have done anything more."

"I timed it well, but unfortunately couldn't clear the man in the deep. It's all part of the game. We thought the wicket was getting better and we could chase the target down. Despite the loss, I think the team played really well."

Punjab Kings captain KL Rahul said he didn't stop believing in the team and knew that a couple of wickets will give his side the win.

"The game went deep only because me included, we dropped some sitters. We bowled well until about 11-12 overs. We're used to this, and it's not something new for us, but a win like this brings the team together."

"We batted really well and bowled well in patches. We weren't consistent with the lengths but the bowlers will learn. A lot of talented, skilful players, and it's important that we back them," said Rahul who scored 91 in his team's 221 for 6 after being asked to bat.

— PTI



Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson (left) and coach Kumar Sangakkara.

— RR

STOKES RULED OUT OF IPL WITH A FINGER FRACTURE

Mumbai, April 13: Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes' IPL campaign came to an abrupt end after sustaining a finger fracture during Rajasthan Royals' opening game against Punjab Kings, the franchise confirmed on Tuesday.

Stokes will, however, remain in India for a week before flying back to United Kingdom.

"Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Ben Stokes injured a finger on his left hand while fielding during the team's match against Punjab Kings on 12 April 2021 in Mumbai," Royals said in a statement after reports emerged in British media about his injury.

"Subsequent investiga-

tions revealed that he sustained a broken finger, which will unfortunately rule him out of the remainder of IPL 2021 season."

This is another telling blow for the Royals after the franchise missed the services of Jofra Archer due to a hand surgery.

"Everyone at Rajasthan Royals absolutely admires Ben for being such a huge asset and a valuable member of the Royals family, both on and off the field, and wishes him a speedy recovery. We are delighted that Ben would like to stay with the group to provide his valued support and inputs off the field," the statement further said.

— PTI

Competition for India's T20 Cup places heats up



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

If two pulsating, last-ball finishes, fantastic individual performances and unexpected results is any indication, IPL2021 promises to be a roller-coaster ride again with non-stop excitement.

Royal Challengers versus Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals versus Punjab Kings had all the

ingredients that make for a gripping T20 match — power and panache in batting, skill and guile in bowling, grit and determination in daunting situation. Also mistakes galore as tension mounted in the thrilling see-saw contests. Imagine Rajasthan and Punjab putting down seven catches between

them!

Apart from IPL journeyman Haashral Patel who picked up five wickets for RCB against MI, the eye-catchers have been largely batsmen in the first week. Among these, the best were AB de Villiers and Sanju Samson.

De Villiers hasn't played any cricket since IPL2020. But for some lack of speed in running between the wickets, he does not appear to have lost zest for the game or the dazzling brilliance of his batsmanship. He is an ageless genius and the pivot of RCB's aspirations to win a

