nicle

KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 26 APRIL 2021

WEATHER



Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rains likely. Max/Min temp. 38/25 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava; Uttarayana Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.42 pm Star: Chitta till 11.03 pm Varjyam: 8.56 am to 10.20 am; 8 am to 5.23 am (Tuesday) Durmuhurtam: 12.39 pm to 1.29 pm; 3.10 pm to 4 pm Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Ramzan 13,1442 AH **PRAYERS**

Fajar: 4.50 am **Zohar:** 12.24 pm Asar: 4.39 pm Maghrib: 6.40 pm Isha: 7.50 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.53 AM SUNSET TODAY 6.34 PM MOONSET 4.29 AM MOONRISE 4.53 PM





We will give 2 oxygen cylinders to each family if voted to power!

Apex court judge

passes away

New Delhi: Supreme Court judge Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar died at a private hospital in Gurgaon, sources said on Sunday. He of the judge will be taken to his Rajaji Nagar residence in Bengaluru, where last rites will be conducted.

CoWIN registration

must for vaccine

New Delhi: Getting registered on the CoWIN portal and taking an appointment to get a Covid vaccine jab will be mandatory for those aged between 18 and 45 years as walk-ins will not be allowed initially, official sources said. Those above 45 years can avail the facility of on-site registration.

Schools, colleges vacations start

Hyderabad: The Telangana state government on Sunday announced that summer vacations for schools and colleges in the state will start from Tuesday, April 27, and continue till May 31 Report on Page 2



WORLD 5

Saudi to ship 80 MT of oxygen to India



SPORTS 8

Jadeja's all-round show puts CSK on top

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Sunday ordered

the swift installation of 551

dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption Medical

Oxygen Generation Plants

inside public health facili-

ties in the country that will

be financed by the PM Cares Fund in the war

against the deadly second "storm" of Covid-19 batter-

ing the country. Directing

that these PSA oxygen plants should be made

functional as soon as possi-

ble, Mr Modi said they would serve as a major

boost to oxygen availabili-

In his monthly Mann ki

Baat radio address on Sunday, Mr Modi admitted that the second coron-

avirus "storm has shaken the country" when the nation had been full of

enthusiasm and self-confi-

dence after "successfully confronting the first wave

Urging people not to get

'swayed by any rumour

about the vaccine", Mr

Modi pointed out that from

May 1 onwards, the vac-

cine would be made avail-

of corona"

ty at the district level.

Adsorption

TABLOID

Finally, talent gets its due

PM says second wave shook country, but will beat it

Modi orders installation

of oxygen plants swiftly

US set to resume

vax raw material

clock

DC CORRESPONDENT

In a major announcement,

the United States National

Security Adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan told his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval late on Sunday evening that the US has

"identified sources of spe-

cific raw material urgently

required for Indian manu-

facture of the Covishield

vaccine that will immedi-

ately be made available for

India" and that the US has also "identified sup-

plies of therapeutics, rapid diagnostic test kits, venti-

lators, and Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE) that will immediate-

able for every person above

This comes amid a severe

oxygen crunch for hospi-

tals in several parts of the

country due to the sharp

and deadly spike in Covid

18 in the country.

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

ly be made available for India".

The US also is pursuing

options to provide oxygen

generation and related sup-

plies on an urgent basis, he said, adding that his country is "working around the

available resources and

supplies".

The American NSA also said the U.S. Development

Finance Corporation (DFC)

is funding a substantial expansion of manufactur-

ing capability for BioE, the

vaccine manufacturer in

India, "enabling BioE to

ramp up to produce at least

1 billion doses of COVID-19

vaccines by the end of

cases that has already

claimed thousands of lives

Assuring that the Centre

is "applying its entire might to give a fillip to the

endeavours of state govern-

in the past few days.

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NSA AGAINST

MISINFORMATION

New Delhi: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to invoke

the National Security Act

and the "Gangsters Act" against those spreading

"rumours" on shortage of oxygen cylinders.

Delhi: India on

Mr Modi also

Sunday reported 3,52,541

new Covid-19 cases, 2,688

deaths and 2,14,712 dis-

charges in the last 24 hours. The active cases

rose to 28,09,308, which is

'appealed to the states to

extend the benefit of this

free vaccine campaign of

the Government of India to

the maximum number of

the people of their state".

15.82 % of infections.

REPORT ON PAGE 7

ments,"

REPORT ON PAGE 7

TS to hire 755 health staff to fight Covid

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

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD. APRIL 25

The Telangana state government will appoint 755 health personnel including 144 doctors within five days to provide better medicare to people.

Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday directed the district collectors to issue a notification for special



recruitment, conduct interviews and appoint the staff in five days in

114 state hospitals. According to a CMO press release, Rao took the decision due to the unexpected surge in the Covid-19

As per the government orders, posts for 144 doctors, 527 nurses and 84 lab technicians were sanctioned. This will have a financial burden of ₹9.02 crore on the state's exche-

Kishan: TS must give true picture

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

The Centre is taking all steps to ensure oxygen at hospitals across the country, Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said on Sunday. At the same time, he

urged the Telangana state government to give cor-rect figures on the daily Covid deaths and cases. Speaking to the media after visiting Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (Tims) — the 1,000-bed Covid hospital at Gachibowli — the Union minister said that the Centre has provided 200 ventilators exclusively to TIMS. "There is no problem with ventilators in

TIMS," he said. Kishan Reddy had been advised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit government hospitals in Telangana state and check the Covid-relat-

ed situations there. The minister said about 600 Covid-19 patients are being treated Tims and 100 patients are in ICU while 50 people are in general wards. NRB equipment for oxygen is also available, but there is a

FATHER, SON LOOTING STATE, ALLEGES BANDI

Khammam: BJP state president Bandi San-jay alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandr-Chandrashekar Rao and his son and minister K.T. Rama Rao are looting TS with kickbacks from government projects.

shortage of masks, he said and noted that states have an emergency fund to rely on during natural disas-

The minister of state said Tims has 700 vials of remdesivir and the Centre has given fresh permis sion to several companies produce oxygen. Oxygen is also being imported from Singapore and Germany.

"Telangana state should keep revealing the actual number of Covid19 cases and deaths in the state. If the true picture is given, people will be aware of the seriousness of the situa tion and take more care,

> ■ Page 2: Second wave more serious: Kishan

TRIGGER CRISIS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

The number of people Telangana is rising with no let-up in fresh cases being reported.

bers for Saturday released by the state health department, Telangana state had a total of 62,929 active cases, more than 10 times the number of active cases — 6,159 on April 1. On Saturday, April 24, one out of every 12 persons tested for the disease in

■ Page 2: 38 more die due to Covid

Adilabad: Over 100 villagers from Sundarashala tested positive for Coronavirus after they sat through a tra-Chirathalacalled Ramayanam — without wearing masks.

62,000 ACTIVE CASES COULD

suffering from Covid in As per the latest num-

100 VILLAGERS TEST POSITIVE AFTER DRAMA

REPORT ON PAGE 3

Long wait for oxygen refill



Relatives of Covid patients wait to refill cylinders with medical oxygen at Badarpur in New Delhi on Sunday during the second wave of pandemic.

NTV founder booked for Jubilee Hills land scam

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

The Jubilee Hills police on Saturday registered a case against T. Narendra Chowdary, former Jubilee Hills Cooperative Hou-sing Society president and founder of Telugu news channel NTV, and several others in connection with a plot scam in the upmarket

Deccan Chronicle had carried a report titled 1,500 sq yd plot for ₹2 lakh" in these columns on April 23 revealing the reg-



T. Narendra Chowdary

istration of a plot in Jubilee Hills worth at least ₹50 crore in the name of a person who allegedly impersonated a Non Resident Indian. The present secretary of the society B. Ravindranath approached the High

Court seeking direction to the police to register a case against Mr Chowdary and former secretary T. Hanumantha

According to the FIR, Mr Chowdary and eight others including sub registrar of Banjara Hills zone got a plot registered in the name of B. Sirisha for a sale consideration of ₹1.91 lakh and subsequently created a gift deed in the name of B.

Page 2: Fake papers for plot allotted 30 yrs ago

COVID | CARE | Staff on long shifts, slim meals, controlled fluid intake ICU docs work with few breaks

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD. APRIL 25

The air inside is cool, but thick with Coronavirus. Among the 13 patients in a Covid-19 ICU, some are on ventilators as their bodies wracked by the virus try and fight back the disease.

The sight is pathetic. The tube inside the throat adds to their cough. Each time a patient coughs, countless virus particles are spewed into the air.

Inside the blue full body protection kits, doctors, nurses and other support staff go about their tasks methodically. At stake are the lives of infected patients who, along with their fami-

THE SIGHT is pathetic. The tube inside the throat adds to their cough. Each time a patient coughs, countless virus particles are spewed into the air. In the PPE kits, the health staff go about their tasks methodically

lies, have placed their faith in god the almighty and the hospital staff.

The staff in attendance is practising a new regimen of long shifts on slim meals and controlled fluid intake. "If anyone wants to take a break, they will take off the PPE kits and spend 20 minutes in the restroom and spend another 20 minutes

putting on a fresh kit. In the meanwhile, we need to find a replacement for that person for a similar duration,' explained Dr K. Subba Reddy, chief intensivist at Apollo Hospital.

Last year, when patients began streaming into the ICU at Apollo in Jubilee Hills, there was fear and apprehension among the staff. Everyone was worried scared. It was Annapurna, a senior housekeeping staffer, who gave the medics the confidence

to carry on. "I had attended to the requirements of TB, AIDS and Chicken Pox patients. We overcame those situacan overcome this too," she had told them. "That gave us a lot of motivation and strength. Then there was one of our nurses Pyun Su Klin, who lost her sister and brother in the first wave. Yet, she said she will not take a break or go home, but continued to work, saying there were so many patients around to be taken care of," Dr Subba Reddy recalled. While the stress of working to save lives every minute is itself a challenging experience, so is it that an ICU staffer cannot mingle with own family as a matter of precaution.

> ■ Page 2: Doctors see kin from a distance

DIDI CONFIDENT OF RETURNING TO POWER IN WB

RAJIB CHOWDHURI & PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC KOLKATA/BERHAMPORE,

A day before the seventh phase of the Assembly election in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared that there was "no alternative" to the Trinamul Congress in the state, and that it would return to power.

"There is no reason to feel scared. There is no alternative to the TMC in view of the way the previous phases recorded voting and the remaining ones that are going to the polls. The TMC will retain power here," she declared at Berhampore in

Murshidabad on Sunday.
The TMC supremo sounded confident of her third term in power as 34 seats, spread over four districts, will go to the polls in the seventh round on Monday. Among these, four — Bhowanipore, Rashbehari, Ballygunge and Kolkata Port — are in Kolkata.

to track Gaganyaan New Delhi, April 25: The • SATELLITES IN orbit Indian Space Research cannot pass along their Organisation will launch information to the a data relay satellite that will help maintain contact with the Gaganyaan mission throughout after the

launch, sources said. The satellite will be launched before the final leg of the Gaganyaan mission, which will send astronauts to the Lower Earth Orbit (LEO). The first leg — the unmanned mission

launched in December. "We're planning to launch our own satellite, which will act as a data relay satellite before going for the first human space flight," the sources said.

The ₹800-crore project has been approved and

work has been going on, they added. Satellites in orbit cannot pass along their information to the ground stations on Earth if the satellite does not have a clear view of the ground station. A data

ground stations on Earth if the satellite does not have a clear view of the ground station. A data relay satellite serves as

Isro to launch satellite

relay satellite serves as a way to pass along the satellite's information. The NASA, with a robust human space mission programme, also has its own

a way to pass along the

satellite's information.

data relay satellite. Its Tracking and Data Relay Satellite allows it to have global coverage of all the satellites round the clock without having to build extra ground stations on Earth. The Isro uses several ground stations spread across the – Mauritius, and Biak, globe Brunei Indonesia. Last month,

Isro chairperson K. Sivan

was also in talks with the Australian counterpart to have a ground station at the Coco islands for the Gaganyaan mission. However, there are blind spots, due to which there is a possibility of not receiving signals, sources added. The data relay satellite will help address the issues.

Earlier this month, the ISRO signed an agreement with French space agency CNES for cooperation for the Gaganyaan, a move that will enable training of Indian flight physicians in French space agency's facilities. Under this agreement, CNES-developed French equipment, tested and still operating aboard the International Space Station, will be made available to Indian crews. The CNES will also be supplying fireproof carry bags made in France to shield equipment from shocks and radiation, it said. — PTI

OTHER STORIES

GO 73 receives strong resistance

Hyderabad: There is strong opposition from civil society seeking withdrawal of Government Order (GO 73), with Prof. G Haragopal writing a letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on the issue. "Telangana government declaring organisations unlawful in a democratic country without valid reason curbs voice of people's organisation," they said.

TWO HELD WITH 22 KGS OF GANJA **IN HYDERABAD**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

The Mangalhat police of Hyderabad arrested two men who were found in possession of 22 kilos of marijuana on Sunday. The contraband was seized 11 bags with each con-

taining 2 kilos, officials said. The accused were identified as Thakur Ashish Singh, 24, and Adarsh Singh, 27, both residents of Mangalhat. We also seized a basic model mobile phone with contacts of buyers from their possession,

police said Based on credible information about the regular supply of ganja in Mangalhat area, police teams kept watch on the habitual offenders and area locals, following which they apprehended two accused per-

"The duo, both childhood friends and degree dropouts, got into the illegal business in the year 2019 and started procuring ganja villagers unknown

Visakhapatnam agency areas who used to come to Dhoolpet to sell the contraband. They used to purchase it for ₹5,000 per kilo from them and also used to smuggle the same from Visakhapatnam after buying it for ₹3,000 per kilo by travelling in private buses. They then sell it to needy customers for a wholesale explained the police.

On Saturday evening, they went to Jummerat Bazar area and purchased 22 kilos of marijuana from an unknown villager of the agency area for ₹1.10 lakh. After they came back to Mangalhat and were heading back home, police teams apprehended them and seized the ganja from them. A case was registered against the accused men and an investigation was taken up further.

"The duo, both childhood friends and degree dropouts, got into the illegal business in the year 2019 and started procuring ganja from unknown villagers of Visakhapatnam agency areas who used to come to Dhoolpet to sell the contraband."

CHUGH CAMPAIGNS IN SIDDIPET **MUNICIPALITY**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

BJP Telangana affairs incharge Tarun Chugh accused ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi of looting people's money in the name of irrigation projects. He alleged that Kalvakuntla family has received commissions in projects that were redesigned in the state.

Chugh was campaigning in Siddipet on Sunday in favour of BJP candidates fighting municipal elections in the town. Ĥe was accompanied by Dubbaka MLA M. Raghunandan Rao and dispresident Doodi Srikanth Reddy. On the occasion, BJP released a chargesheet against TRS leaders in the Siddipet municipality.
The BJP TS in-charge said

TRS leaders of Siddipet, who were riding bicycles before 2014 elections, are now roaming around in cars after making money in the name of developing Komati Cheruvu. He asked finance minister T. Harish Rao how many industries he had brought to Siddipet and the number of people provided employ-

Chugh charged that the state government is being run like a private company, saying it distributed only 2,000 double bedroom houses when 12,000 beneficiaries

had applied for these houses. The BJP leader said roads had been laid overnight in view of municipal elections and funds misappropriated under the Amrut scheme. He asserted that with TRS losing its popularity, BJP will come to power in Telangana in the 2023 assembly elections.

Hyd lacks crematorium 1 out of 61 test +ve, 38 deaths in 24 hrs to burn Covid victims

GHMC drags feet, families waiting time reaches 24 hours

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC **HYDERABAD APRIL 25**

Lack of seriousness on the part of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in providing facilities for cremation of the dead is emerging as a more serious problem during the Covid-19 season here. The waiting time for families reaching crematoria is as high as 24 hours, straining their nerves.

The corporation had promised to lay out five modern crematoria aside of or in place of the existing seven. The works on these are dragging. While the numbers of deaths increased every passing day here, two of the seven facilities are defunct.

GHMC had installed electric furnaces long ago at Amberpet and Bansilalpet

• THE CORPORATION had ies in their areas. promised to lay out five modern crematoria aside of or in place of the existing seven. The works on these are dragging. While the numbers of deaths increased every passing day here, two of the seven facilities are defunct

cremation grounds and modern electric crematoria were launched at SR Nagar and Panjagutta graveyards a decade ago. Larger numbers Coronavirus-affected

deaths are occurring every day. The civic authorities are facing severe pressure in disposing of the bodies in the conventional way as residents surrounding the cremation grounds are vociferously protesting against burning of the Coronavirus-infected bod-

There are 960 graveyards in the city limits and, by now, these hardly have space to bury more bodies. Of them, the grave-yards at Bansilalpet, Panjagutta, Amberpet and SR Nagar have electric crematoria and modern facili-

The one at SR Nagar was defunct for six months as its management did not clear the electricity bills. Of the two crematoriums in Bansilalpet, one is functional. In Amberpet, both are functional. However, their management has not allowed cremation of bodies of the Covid-19 victims. GHMC sources said they

have been cremating more bodies than what the health bulletins issued by the state government stated. For instance, in Wednesday's health bul-

declared 23 Corona-linked but in the Panjagutta crematorium alone, 40 bodies were disposed of

During July last year, the GHMC had invited tenders for construction of LPGbased crematoriums at five locations, each costing ₹70

the

deaths, the authorities said they would construct them on a priority basis and make them available soon. All the five crematoria are to be readied in the core city areas including Charminar, Khairatabad, Secunderabad, Uppal and Kukatpally zones. The civic apathy has been troubling the families of the dead. When contacted for comment, senior officials at GHMC refused

to respond.

From Page 1

state.

On April 1, one out of every 61 persons tested, was found to be Covid-19 posi-

Meanwhile, the state witnessed yet another record of 38 deaths, as per the official data released by the department, the highest yet during this pandemic. The new cases too rose to a whopping 8,126 on Saturday. these, the total deaths rose to 1,961 and cumulative cases to 3,87,106 in the

The GHMC area report-

ed 1,259 new cases, fol-

lowed by 676 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 591 in Ranga Reddy, 497 in Nizamabad, 346 in Nalgonda, 339 in Khammam, 334 in Khammam, 334 in Warangal Urban, and 306 each in Siddipet and Mahbubnagar districts. Except seven other districts — Bhupalapally, Gadwal, Asifabad, Mulugu, Nagarkurnool, Narayanpet, and Nirmal which reported cases in **VACCINATION** CONTINUES

st doses given on April 24 -1,75,718

nd doses **2** given on April 24 – 25,082

TOTAL 1ST DOSES 35,14,673

TOTAL 2ND DOSES 4,91,678

double figures, all the other districts reported cases between a 100 and

The health department said 3,307 persons were declared as cured from Covid-19 on Saturday, taking to 3,30,304, the total recovered cases.

up. Other accused include

Sources said apart from the criminal aspect involved and likely action against the accused, the property registered in the name of Sirisha which was subsequently transferred to Srihari will also land in trouble with police registering

Sirisha and Srihari have to account for at tion and levy the tax

2ND WAVE MORE SERIOUS: KISHAN

From Page 1

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said the second wave is far more serious and deadly than the first. The state government should not hold back information relating to the pandemic. "I urge the state to

mend its ways and start speaking the truth." Notably, the Telangana High Court here had pulled up the state government on its "fudged" Covid-19 data and many doctors across hospitals stated in confidence that that the numbers of Coronavirus cases and deaths are far higher than what were being released by the government through its daily bulletins.

"Without wasting time criticising the central government, states should focus on preventive steps. Some people are seen roaming freely without wearing masks even after they tested positive for Coronavirus. The state government should take strict action, said the minister. He also warned that strict action would be taken if the remdesivir vials are sold at prices higher than what was fixed by the govern ment. He reviewed the progress on the upcoming oxygen plant at Tims sanctioned by the Central government that will generate 1,000 litre of oxygen per minute.

The minister later visited the ESI Hospital at Sanathnagar. He said one lakh tests were done so far in ESI hospitals.

There are 100 beds, 470 general beds, 300 Covid beds and 150 super special-ty beds available for all types of services here," he

A study of contrasts



The dead jostle for space with the living in an ICU ward at the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences in the city on Sunday. The bodies of three Covid-19 patients who passed away are packed and awart the arrival or patient care workers and crematorium staff to come and pick them up, a -DCprocess that sometimes takes a few hours.



Doctors and healthcare workers attend on a Covid-19 patient at

Doctors see relatives from a distance

FROM PAGE 1

The air in a Covid-19 ICU is thick with the virus. Intubated patients are coughing, generating carrying the aerosols virus particles.

Subba Reddy, over the past one year, has only been seeing his 11-year-old daughter from a distance, in a different apartment where she lives with her grandparents. Going nearer meant a risk to the

Coming off a prolonged 72-hour shift, Dr K. Swarna Deepak, also of Apollo, told *Deccan Chronicle* on Sunday,
"Sometimes you just cannot take a break. Over the last couple of days, we opened more ICUs for Covid patients.'



And if a hospital runs stamina, drawing every out of ventilators, the doctors and nurses would ounce of strength they

– BY ARRANGEMENT resort to sheer physical

of what the scene was just a few weeks ago. "We barely had three patients in the Covid-19 ICU. Then it hit

us like a storm. All of a sudden, it was 50 patients; and by the time we realised what was happening, we had a 100 of them in these ICUs," he said.

Unlike last year, Covid-19 was a novel disease and

have to keep a patient

Using a bag ventilator,

they keep pumping, squeezing the bag to push

oxygen into a patient's

lungs. "And when one

ust switch arms and con-

Elsewhere, at KIMS hos-

pital, Dr Sambit Sahu, a

critical and intensive care

specialist, talks wistfully

tinue. As long as it takes,'

Dr Deepak said.

tired, you

what everyone heard about it came from other parts of the world. The second wave is different. There was a sense of mental fatigue, of coming out of a stressful year. "We just got out of a traumatic year. And the feeling as the patients began pouring in was Oh God! Not Again!, Dr Sahu said.

As the virus keeps flying around in the ICUs, the doctors have just one prayer on their lips; that they be able to save the life every patient large followed the safety measures and helped medical professionals by keeping the case loads low. "If that does not MADDY DEEKSHITH DC happen soon, we are in disaster," Dr Subba Reddy.

have

off even after two weeks.

non-stop

DOWN REVANTH

Complying with cengovernment's request, Twitter has Malkajgiri removed MP Anumula Revanth Reddy's post related to Covid-19, apart from posts of 52 others. Majority of these tweets had been critical of how centre is handling the second wave of Coronavirus and health infrastructure in the country is

Tagore said on his twitter handle, "Dear Twitter, is what my Parliament colleague The company is not giving Revanth Anumula saythe 21-day mandatory iso- ing wrong? Are there no lation to those who are 2,00,000 new cases in tested positive. It is india? Has not health system collapsed in the ambulance associa- hypocrisy @Twitter? It's tion said, "In most ambu- India's shame we have lances, there is no assisministers like R.S. tant to attend to patients. Prasad and Dr Hars-

the virus. Yet, if we ving Telangana MP's ask for a salary hike or post, also deleted from allowance, we will be the micro-blogging site sacked. We are helpless. A tweets including those of Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, West Ghatak, ABP news edi-Vineet Kumar Singh, and former journalist Vinod Kapri.

ODISHA DESPATCHES 500 MT OXYGEN, TELANGANA TO BENEFIT

Bhubaneswar, April 25: Odisha has despatched at least 29 tankers carrying about 510 MT of medical oxygen under police escort to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other needy states in the last 48 hours, an official said.

This apart, 15 more tankers are leaving from Dhenkanal, Rourkela and Angul by Saturday, an official statement released by Odisha Police said, adding that the state police has

formed a dedicated corridor for speedy movement so as to serve thousands of needy patients in various states without delay.

The Special Cell formed under ADGP (Law and Order), Y.K. Jethwais is coordinating various actions for prompt loading and transportation of medical oxygen by Odisha to states facing deficit. states facing deficit.
District SPs/DCPs and
Range DIG/IG/CP are supervising the movement personally within their jurisdictions, it said.

Meanwhile, Health and Family Welfare department has set up modalities to meet the demands of oxygen cylinders in the Dedicated COVID Hospital, Covid Care Centres and others where the corona patients are admitted in the state.

In a letter to all district authorities, chief secretary, health and family welfare, Mohapatra said drug inspectors will ensure drug timely despatch of empty

50% OF EXCISE STAFF FACING HEAT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC **HYDERABAD APRIL 25**

Some 50 per cent of the staff with the state Excise department was infected by Covid-19 over the last one year. One or two staffers from each station got infected in the last few

Unlike the law and order department, Excise teams rely on human intelligence and are constantly in the field conducting vehicle-

"The primary duty of an excise official is to check the availability of government-tested liquor the market and curb the of illicit liquor. The start of the lockdown season last year helped

those making selling illicit brew, but they are being taken care of via continuous raids," excise officials said.

They said, "Apart from this, we deal with cases under the narcotic drugs and psychotropic sub-stances act, by sharing the turf with the narcotics control bureau the directorate of revenue intelligence. All these have a lot of subsections involving drugs and contrabands. Tracking these involves moving around.

Mohan Kumar, inspector in Medak, was among the excise officials who got infected with Covid-19 and tested positive on March 22. "I visited the high court and was active

in vehicle checking duty. Following high fever, I got a test done and it came positive. Staying with my wife and 11-year-old daughter, I had put them also at risk. They were infected as well. We opted for home quarantine and followed the protocols. My sister, who is a doctor in Bengaluru, guided us through the process. Fortunately, all of us tested negative earlier this month and I returned to work. I had a high fever of 101 for at least 5 to 7 days with heavy body pain.

In general, Sangareddy a area full with positive cases and there are several cases in the department as well,

Ambulance drivers struggle due to poor salary, Covid

• THE DRIVERS are

stressed out and are sad-

dled with heavy workload,

plying patients to hospital

unendingly in view of the pandemic's long stay and

spread. During the trou-

bled months last year,

they used to get an

were provided with

DURGAPRASAD SUNKU | DC

HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

Several of the 108 Ambulance staff have been infected with Covid-19. The drivers are stressed out and are sad-dled with heavy workload, plying patients to hospital unendingly in view of the pandemic's long stay and spread.

During the troubled last months they used to get an allowance of ₹3,000 and provided medical kits.

Now, they are not even getting proper gloves and sanitizers. "We are living in fear and if we die of this virus, there is no one to take care of our family," stated a 108 driver, expressing his agony.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, a 46-year-old ambulance driver who tested Covid-positive and is under isolation said. "Earlier, when an ambulance driver tested positive, the GVK's EMRI (Emergency Management and Research Institute) used to provide us medical kits and consider the isolation period as leave. Now, they are con-

medical kits. Now, they are not even getting proper gloves and sanitizers. sidering this as loss of pay. With meagre wages, we are already struggling to eke out a living. On top of it, this agony; neither the government

nor the company is helping us.' "We are the first to reach out to patients in emergency, especially to take Covid-19 patients to hospi-We are called the frontline warriors. Yet, when the government hiked pay to employees in the state, we

ignored," he said. Expressing his helplessness, the driver said, "I have to take care of my mother, wife and two daughters. It is impossible feed them with the ₹10,000 salary I get. We,

every allowance of ₹3,000 and However, since 2015 there be an off every three days. Now, we are not getting an ter

> loss of pay." An ex-union member of Delhi?

In this round, several hvardhan. drivers were infected with strike is likely."

Ambulance drivers seek a hike in their salaries by Bengal minister Moloy 60 per cent, saying the pay remained the same in the tor Pankaj Jha, actor last six years. They also seek better support and filmmaker Avinash Das, facilities to drivers who tested positive.

FAKE PAPERS OF JUBILEE HILLS PLOT ALLOTTED 30 YEARS AGO FROM PAGE 1 The complainant, Ravindranath, alleged that the accused created

forged and fabricated documents to ensure registration of the plot 30 years after it was allotted to one Sirisha who is now settled in United States. "The registration was done by then office bearers in collusion with the sub registrar without any representation from the NRI and verifying the identity of the person," he alleged.

According to Jubilee
Hills inspector S.
Rajasekhar Reddy a
case was registered based on the contents of the complaint with crime number 237/2021 under sections 120-B. 406, 408, 409, 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 477A of Indian Penal Code and investigation was taken

A. Suresh Reddy, former treasurer of the society, employees of society Krishnamurthy, D. Srinivas Reddy, Md Javeeduddin, B. Sirisha and P. Srihari.

Stamps and Registration depart-ment, based on the FIR, will make an entry of fraudulent property against the said plot making it difficult for the owner to resell or mortgage it. The registration can also be cancelled if the real NRI established the impersonation and seeks for cancellation of the sale

Meanwhile, least ₹6.5 crore to the Income-Tax department. Irrespective of the sale consideration claimed by the buyer and seller, the IT department will take the market value fixed by the government as deemed sale considera-

TWITTER TAKES

HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

fewer options."
Another driver said, "Each and every minute breaking down. we are fearful about con-Revanth Reddy tweettracting this disease. ed the picture of a mass As per the agreement cremation, pointing out between the government that with healthcare sys and GVK, EMRI should tem collapsing, India give a 10 per cent hike in has been reporting over year. 2,00,000 new cases daily. AICC in-charge for is no hike. There used to Telangana Manickam

Twitter, besides remo-

OTHER STORIES

BODY FOUND IN KHAMMAM

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, APRIL 25

An identified body is found at the new bus stand in Khammam on Sunday.

The persons, who identified the body while street dogs were plucking out the body, informed the officials. The news was heard by Annam Srinivasa Rao, who is running the Annam Seva Foundation to the destitute. He rushed to the spot and shifted the body to the mortuary room in Khammam district headquar-ters hospital. It is noticed that the deceased was a beggar.

COPS ARREST THREE IN FORGERY CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, APRIL 25

Mancherial police on Sunday arrested three persons on the charges of indulging in forgery of the signature of col-lector Bharati Holli Kheri and Ramawath Balu, assistant director of Mines and Geology and for stealing the checkbook of Sand manage-ment of Mancherial. Police said the accused tried

to withdraw ₹1.97 crore cash through check with the forged signature from the bank.

Police registered a case following the complaint lodged by the assistant director of mines on April 22.

as per police the accused were identified as Thallapalli Raju (28), Medipalli Jeevan (32), and Thallapalli Srinivas (34) of Ramnagar colony in Mancherial.

Accused Thallapali Raju used to book slots for lorries in TSMCD and his brother Thallapalli Srinivas used to work as outsourcing employee in AD mining office, Mancherial

Police seized ICICI bank checkbook of AD Mining office, Axis bank book, and stamp pad, copies of signa-tures of Mancherial collector and Assistant Director of Mining and the accused cell

EXCISE MUDDLE DENIES SALARIES TO 87 SINCE JANUARY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

The issue of 280 excise subinspectors recruited in Group 2 by state government through a notification in 2015 is still hanging in balance. Many are yet to receive posting orders and some are not even getting their salaries.

State government had issued through Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) notification in 2015 for filling 1,032 Group-2 posts in all departments, including 280 SI posts in Excise Department. Examination was held in 2016 and verification of certificates belonging to successful candidates completed in 2017. But in 2018, some candidates went to court in 2018 over mistakes in exam sheets. Thus, interviews had to be held again in 2019 and appointment letters were issued in

the interim, Excise Department had given ad-hoc promotions to junior assistants and appointed them as sub-inspectors. As 193 posts had already been filled, SIs recruited by TSPSC ended up being referred to as being under training period in respective police stations. For the remaining 87 candidates, state government issued a G O. creating supernumerary posts and they were assigned to various police stations in

With this, 193 people started getting salaries through various police stations and 87 recruited under supernumerary posts were paid through Excise Department. However, the period of G. O. has ended on January 23, 2021. As a result, these employees have not got their salaries

since past three months. They are requesting chief secretary Somesh Kumar, who is also principal secretary (Excise), and excise minister Srinivas Goud to immediately intervene into the matter and resolve their predicament.

 193 PEOPLE started getting salaries through various police stations and 87 recruited under supernumerary posts were paid through the Excise Department. However, the period of G. O. has ended on January 23, 2021.





(1) BJP state president Bandi Sanjay participates in a campaign ahead of KMC polls in Khammam on Sunday.

KCR, KTR duo looting state, alleges Sanjay

Injustice is done to the tribals of Gurrapodu thanda: MP

DC CORRESPONDENT

Bharatiya Janata Party state president Bandi Sanjay said that Chief

Chandrasekhara Rao and his son, Minister for M u n i c i p a l Administration and IT, K.T. Rama Rao are looting the state by getting kick-backs in each and every project in Telangana.

Sanjay, who made whirlwind tours in ten divisions of Khammam Municipal Corporation, said that they father and son(KCR, KTR) are not leaving sand, soil and granite and mining illegally through benamis. He said that BJP government at Centre released ₹106 cr to Khammam under AMRUT scheme but, the TRS government diverted them to the Mission Bhagiratha and following the same in Aasara scheme too.

The government is not serious in solving prob-lems of the people. He recalled that the police hand-cuffed the farmers of Khammam when they asked remunerative prices for the cotton.

He said that no section in the state including unemployed

MEDAK EXCISE

280 KG GANJA

Hyderabad: The Excise

and Enforcement team

of the Medak division

seized 280 kilos of mari-

juana from an SUV pass-

ing through Patancheru

toll plaza on Sunday and

arrested two smugglers.

The arrested were iden-

tified as Tulasiram, 32, a

resident of Zaheerabad,

and B. Tukaram, 21, a

resident of Sangareddy,

The Excise and Enfor-

cement team, led by D.

Gayatri, Assistant Pro-

hibition and Excise Sup-

erintendent, on reliable

information, conducted

a vehicle checking at

Patancheru Toll Plaza

near Mutangi village in Sangareddy. "During the vehicle checking, we stopped a suv bearing

number AP 11 AC 1301,

and seized 140 packets of

marijuana, each weigh-

ing 2 kilos, from the duo.

We also seized their

mobile phones and

efforts are on to identify

the supplier and buyer

of the seized contra-band," officials said.

officials said.

DEPT SEIZE

youth, dalits and farm labourers are happy in

"KCR and KTR are doing injustice to the tribals and filing illegal cases against tribals in Gurrapodu thanda", he said, adding that TRS government is not consistent with its policies being implemented in the

Referring to the gestures of Minister for Transport P. Ajay Kumar, he said that Ajay is doing all contracts through his benami company and earning crores of rupees. Each and every work going in Khammam is being executed by Minister's benami company. He said that Ajay had no guts to face BJP in Khammam so, the Minister and his followers are using police to threaten the candidates of opposition parties. Illegal cases are being filed against political opponents. Sanjay said that he is ready to go to jail on behalf of vic-

He said that BJP will win majority seats in Khammam. People started knowing the corrup-tion of the TRS government and are ready to

DC CORRESPONDENT

The task force and

Wardhanapet police in a

joint operation, arrested three members of a gang,

including a woman, for

Police seized a car, a twowheeler and three cell-

phones used for transport

ing cannabis along with

one hundred kilos of cannabis worth about

₹10 lakh from the gang. Kondi Shetty

Satyanarayana, Islawat

Vinod Kumar, Ajmeera

Ramadevi were among

Warangal, commission-er of police, Tarun Joshi, disclosed the details of

the arrest and said due to

financial difficulties, the

accused took to smug-

gling cannabis. The prime

accused Satyanarayana, a

car driver, with his commlices Raju,

Praveen (both of whom

are currently on the run),

bought cannabis at a low

those arrested.

smuggling marijuana.

WARANGAL, APRIL 25

Choose TRS for development: MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, APRIL 25

The Khila Warangal area would soon be developed as a tourist hub boosting the business employment chances of the locals, said Warangal East MLA Nannapuneni Narender.

Campaigning for party candidates ahead GWMC Narender assured the locals that the land issues of the farmers will be solved.

'We are also develop the Qila Warangal ground for the convenience of the local walkers. We are going to set up a market worth ₹5 crores in the area. Shelters for those who sell vegetables in the market will also be provided. We will facilitate micro farmers to sell their produce in the market. Apart from these, a Skill Development Center would also be set up with ₹200 crore,'

Narender promised. The MLA also said with the of efforts of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao who

Police arrest smuggling

gang, 100 kg ganja seized

Commissioner of police, Tarun Joshi, inspects the

police.

The cannabis is stored

in five kg packets in the

car and were transported

to Hyderabad, Mumbai,

After receiving informa-

tion regarding the car

transporting ganja, the

task force police were con-

ducting vehicle checks

along with the Wardhanapet police at the

Rajarajeshwari temple on

the outskirts of Illanda

village when they got hold

Surat and Pune

of the accused.

seized vehicle used in smuggling.

THE ACCUSED made a

the back of his car to hide

the ganja and avoid being

price from unidentified

persons in the Kunta area

of Odisha and smuggled

it to various areas in the

country. The accused

made a special arrange-

ment at the back of his

car to hid the ganja and

avoid being caught by the

special arrangement at

caught by the police.

is allocating sufficient funds for Warangal and in the guidance of Minister K.T. Rama Rao, Khila Warangal area will be He appealed to the citi-

fare, Satyavathi Rathod, said that Chief Minister KCR is developing Warangal wonderfully after the formation of Telangana. Pensions of ₹2,000 are being offered like never before. Kalyana Lakshmi helps the girl's marriage and stands by the poor. Mission Bhagiratha provides clean water to every household in the city of

"The BJP which is in power at the Centre has done nothing for Telangana. The Congress

turned into a tourism hub. zens to choose the TRS over the parties which create rift between religions. Minister for Tribal wel

pletely. The BJP does not have a proper leader here. To keep this development going the TRS must remain in power," she

Tests, vaccination process picks pace in Khammam

KHAMMAM, APRIL 25

Amidst a rise in Covid-19 cases, RT-PCR tests and vaccination process was sped up in Khammam Bhadradri-Kothagudem.

Both districts witnessed a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, and hundreds of symptomatic patients were visiting hospitals, including the headquarters hospitals in Khammam

and Kothagudem.
About 255 people have died in Khammam district while 154 have succumbed to the virus in Bhadradri district, as per records. In Kamepalli mandal, eight people died in a single day.

Long queues were seen at RT-PCR test and vacci-

nation centres. In Khammam district, nearly 1,82,275 people have been administered with the first dose of the vaccine, while 35,255 people have received the second dose. About 83,556 people received the first dose, while 20,833 persons have received their second dose in Bhadradri district.

People, who were disinterested in the initial stage of vaccination, are now rushing to receive

Meanwhile, the health staff had conducted RT-PCR tests on 3.61 lakh persons in Khammam district after the spread of Covid-19 last year, of which 25,559 persons had tested positive. 24,300 people have recovered thus

over 3.83 people had been tested, with 26,698 of them testing positive. Around 22,922 people have recovered. Ten journalists were

In Bhadradri district,

100 test +ve after attending a drama

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, APRIL 25

More than a hundred villagers of Sundarashala got who attended a tradi-tional drama called 'Chirathala Ramayanam' which was performed by an artist's troupe who came from Nalgonda, in the Chennur mandal of Mancherial district tested positive for Covid-19.

It is also learnt that three or four people fromsurrounding villages who attended the event also tested positive for Covid.

The issue came to light late as many villagers got tested positive for Covid at a time. Generally, these traditional dramas are organised during the summer for the entertainment in the night time and community elders or village elders arrange such traditional programmes on special occasions. It is found that the many

villagers attended the drama without wearing mask, not maintaining physical distance and the the drama got affected in the initial days and speard the virus to their family members, unknow-

Actually, the drama has been played for five days from April 10 and concluded on April 14 night people started complaining Covid symptoms.

Village elders say that 22 people out of 30 who attended the drama got

tested positive. As these 22 persons contracted with their family members thus nearly 100 villagers were affected with the virus and tested positive for covid till now. Meanwhile, two elderly

persons died of covid positive in the village.
The same is the case with the marriage functions that are being conducted at various places. People are attending marriage functions without wearing mask and not maintain physical distances. People's negli-

gence is quite visible at the mass gatherings in the old Adilabad district. Villagers of Sundarashala have imposed selflockdown to prevent from spreading others in the village and the gram pan-chayat has asked the villagers not to venture out from their homes and be stay at their homes by taking all home quarantine

measures.

News is making rounds that two members of drama troop also got tested positive for covid but it was not traced who contracted the covid virus to the villagers.

also found to be Covid-19 positive in both the dis-

With hundred thronging primary health centres and a delay in testing,

district hospitals. Many patients are also

unable to get beds at private hospitals, and are trying to approach politicians to get a bed via con-

MLA accuses RIMS, director for poor Covid-19 treatment REFUTING THE charges

DC CORRESPONDENT

An argument took place at a review meeting between the Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna and director RIMS Bhanoth Balram Naik over poor treatment and facilities in the covid ward on Sunday.

Jogu Ramanna find fault with director Bhanoth Balram Naik for the mismanagement of things at the RIMS and poor administration and lack of coordination between the doctors and himself.

made by the MLA, Jogu Ramanna, RIMS, director, Balram Naik said the charges against him are nothing but a conspiracy by a section of doctors and political leaders.

RIMS authorities have failed to keep the oxygen cylinders ready to use them in emergency.
Refuting the charges made by the MLA, Balram

Jogu Ramanna said he had information that

against him are nothing but a conspiracy by a sec tion of doctors and political leaders. The state gov-ernment is making efforts to supply the oxygen to meet the demand of the Covid patients at RIMS,

Adilabad.

On the otherhand, Adilabad DCC incharge president Sajid Khan distributed nearly 30 oxygen cylinders free of cost in memory of his father late Siraj Khan, to the Covid patients in need of oxy-

MEDARAM JATARA

INCLUDE COVID-19 INTO AAROGYASRI OR ADMIT KCR IN GANDHI: ACTIVIST

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, APRIL 25

A social activist who is the resident Karimnagar district, Kota Shyam Kumar holding a staged a protest demanding the government either include Covid-19 into Aarogyasri scheme or admit Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao into Gandhi Hospital in front the hospital in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Why, KCR and IT minister, K.T. Rama Rao are not admitted in the Gandhi hospital when they tested positive for Covid-19, he questioned.

With the pandemic spreading at an alarming rate in the state and thousands of people testing positive to Covid-19 day-today, taking this as an advantage many private hospitals are looting the innocent patients in the name of treatment and are driving them into poverty, he alleged.

Shyam Kumar said that due to lack of facilities in the government hospitals. many middle class patients are not interested to risk their lives by joining in the government hospitals.

apart from his team, for

receiving three awards

ESCI Medical College

and Hospital also accounts for the highest

clinical workload deliv-

ered by any medical col-

lege hospital in the coun-

try during the pandemic

period from April 2020 to March 2021.

TO BE HELD FROM **FEBRUARY 16 TO 19** DC CORRESPONDENT

WARANGAL, APRIL 25 The biennial Samakka-

Saralamma jatara, held at the Medaram shrine in Tadvai, Mulugu district, will take place between February 16 and 19, 2020. dates announced after conven-

ing a meeting with the tribal priests, on Sunday. Samakka-Saralamma iatara is the biggest tribal congregation in Asia, and has visitors not only from Telangana state, but also from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Falling on Magha Shudda Pournami, the fair would begin on February 16 with the arrival of the tribal deity Saralamma, from Kannepally, about six km from Medaram village. On February 17, deity Samakka would arrive from the Chilakalagutta hillock, located at a distance of 2 km from the

altar at Medaram. day after, February 18, devotees flock in large numbers to get blessings of both the deities. The jatara concludes on February 19 when the deities would be taken back to their respective ab- odes by the

MEDARAM JATARA is the biggest tribal congregation in Asia, and has visitors not only from Telangana state, but also from Maharashtra and

COVID I BATTLE Min. congratulated the dean, staff for receiving 3 awards

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES SHUT FOR VACATIONS being exposed to the

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC **HYDERABAD, APRIL 25**

The Telangana state government on Sunday announced that summer vacations for schools and colleges in the state will start from Tuesday, April 27, and continue till May

In other words, Monday will be the last working day for these institut-The government decid-

ed to close down educational institutions after reviewing the Covid-19 situation in the and across the state country.

The decision comes associations of teachers across the state submitted representa-tions to the education

department that they are

Covid-19 threat because they have to attend schools and colleges every day, despite hardly any students coming to attend classes. Many of the teachers have contracted Covid-19 as a result.

While vacations have been declared until May 31, there has been no word from state government on commencement of the new academic ses-

In an earlier conversation with this correspondent, education department authorities had however hinted that session could begin in June second week. The same was reported by Deccan Chronicle on

Mobile lab hit 1L Covid tests

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

DRDO-developed Mobile Virology Research and Development Laboratory (MVRDL) Medical College Hospital has completed one year and conducted more than one lakh RT-PCR tests for diagnosing cases. Sunday marked MVRDL completing 1,00,300 tests.

Union minister of state for home Kishan Reddy visited the ESIC Medical College Hospital to mark the occasion and take stock of Coronavirus services at the hospital. He lauded that ESIC is



the ESI Medical College in Hyderabad on Sunday,

the only hospital with more than 1,000 beds (470 beneficiaries general + 88 ICU + 300 Covid + 150 super speciality + 34 special ICU); providing both Covid and The minister congratunon-Coronavirus services

Telangana every since the pandemic started in

lated hospital dean and

exclusively to 70 lakh ESI

from

Corporation.

Dr. Srinivas thanked DRDO chairman Sateesh Reddy and DRDO DG M. S. R. Prasad, in addition to all senior scientists for their contribution in building the mobile lab within a record time of 15

Chhattisgarh.

tribal priests.

SHORT TAKES PT RAJAN MISHRA **DIES OF COVID IN DELHI HOSPITAL**

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Pt Rajan Mishra died due to Covid-19 complications at a hospital here on Sunday evening, his nephew said. He was 70.

Mishra, who along with his brother Sajan Mishra was one of the foremost exponents of *khayal gayaki*, had a heart attack in the afternoon and then another in the evening, his nephew Amit said.

"Pandit Rajan Mishra ji passed away at around 6.30 in Delhi's St Stephen hospital. He had Covid-19 and was admitted to the hospital. He had taken the first dose of the vaccine about 15-20 days ago. He had a heart attack in the afternoon and he had another attack at around 5.30 pm," Amit said.

Mishra was a Padma Bhushan awardee. The brothers belonged to the Banaras

ODISHA SEES UNRELENTED **SURGE IN CASES**

SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 25

The Covid-19 surge in Odisha continued unabated on Sunday as the state recorded 6,116 new cases while seven patients succumbed to the dis-

The fresh surge pushed the state's Coronavirus positive tally to 4,07,457 while the death toll climbed to 1,988. The active cases in the state stood at 45,949 while 3,59,467 patients have recovered so far.

According to state health and family welfare department data, of the fresh cases spread across 30 districts, 3,546 were detected among people in quarantine and 2,570 were local infections.

Two fatalities were reported from Rayagada. One death each was reported from Ganjam, Kalahandi, Khordha, Puri and Sundargarh districts

TMC CANDIDATE **KAJAL SINHA PASSES AWAY**

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, APRIL 25

The fresh wave of Covid-19 claimed the life of the third Assembly election candidate: Kajal Sinha of the Trinamu Congress while infected another: Babul Supriyo of the BJP in West Bengal as the daily spike in cases crossed 15,000 mark in the state with 57 fresh deaths in the last 24 hours.

According to the state health department, 15,889 persons have contracted Covid-19 in an all-time high during the second spell of the pandemic since Saturday when the figure of fresh infection stood at

Out of 15,889 new cases, 3,774 alone are in Kolkata.

Sinha who contested from Khardah in North 24 Parganas was admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital Beliaghata on April 21 after he tested positive for the deadly virus.

Two days later he was put on a ventilator as his condition worsened. At around 9.45 am the 58-year-old died there.

BHOPAL: MAXIMUM BODIES CREMATED ON SINGLE DAY

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, APRIL 25

crematorium here on Saturday witnessed cremation of a record number of bodies of Covid victims amid a spike in Coronavirus cases in Madhya Pradesh. A record number of 118 bodies were cremated in the Bhadbada Ghat crematorium on the outskirts of Bhopal on Saturday. Of them, 100 bodies were cremated with corona guidelines, according to the records of the crematorium.

"So many bodies have never been cremated in a single day in the history of Bhadbhada Ghat crematorium", Mamtesh Sharma, secretary of the crematorium told this newspaper

on Sunday. He described how pyres were lighted in both the phase one and phase two sections of the crematorium literally roundthe-clock since six in the morning till past might on

'The horrific sight will shake even a hard soul. I have never seen such a mass funeral of bodies going almost round-the-clock in a crematorium", Sharma said.



Connaught Place street wears a deserted look during the Covid-induced lockdown in New Delhi on Sunday. With the positivity rate as high as 36 per cent in the past few days, the lockdown in the national capital was extended.

Delhi extends lockdown till May 3 as cases rise rapidly

Services of courier outlets, electricians, shops selling books permitted

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA & SUNIL THAPLIYAL | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced the extension of the ongoing lockdown in the national capital for another week, saying that the severity of Covid-19 was unabated, and the positivity rate has been as high as 36 per cent in the past few days. The lockdown imposed

on April 19 night will now Monday, May 3. Before the extension, it was due to end at 5 am on April 26. 'We will have to watch the situation for a few more days on whether the cases decrease or increase," he

Delhi Disaster The Management Authority, in an order for extension of the lockdown, has allowed the services of courier outlets, electricians and plumbers, repair of water purifiers, and shops selling books and electric

The Chief Minister said the onslaught of the Coronavirus has not subsided even as the govern-

RAHUL ALLEGES

UNDERREPORTED

New Delhi, April 25: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the truth

about the pandemic is

shrouded and deaths are

being under-reported. "Shroud the truth.

Deny oxygen shortage.

Underreport deaths. Go-

vernment of India (GOI)

is doing everything.....to save his fake image," he

He shared the front

page of 'The New York

Times' showing a pictu-

re of cremations being conducted and headlin-

ed, "As Covid ravages In-

dia, true toll is underco-

unted". Gandhi earlier

alleged that the "system

has failed" and it is the

duty of the party to pro-vide help to fellow citi-

zens suffering due to the sudden spurt in Covid-19

His comments came on a day PM Narendra

Modi in his 'Mann ki

Baat' radio programme

said the second wave of

the Covid-19 pandemic

has shaken the country

and assured the people that the Centre was

working with all its power to help the states.

important to do Jan ki baat," Gandhi said on

Twitter. "In this crisis,

responsible citizens. I

request my Congress

colleagues to leave all

political work — just

provide all help and ease

the pain of our country-

men," he added. -PTI

country needs

"System failed, so it's

cases in the country.

said on Twitter.

DEATHS BEING

3.52 lakh more cases added as 2,688 die, 28 lakh active

15.82 per cent of the total

infections. The national

Covid-19 recovery rate has

further dropped to 83.05

per cent. The number of people who have recuper-

ated from the disease has

surged to 1,42,92,791, while

the case fatality rate has

further dropped to 1.13 per

cent, the data said. West Bengal registers

highest single-day spike of

15,889 Covid-19 cases, 57 more fatalities. Kolkata

alone accounted for 2,970.

One of two persons undergoing RT-PCR tests in Kolkata and its suburbs is

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

India on Sunday reported 3,52,541 new Covid-19 cases, 2,688 deaths and 2,14,712 discharges in the last 24 hours, as per Union health ministry. India's total tally of Covid-19 cases has climbed to 1,73,04,308, while active cases have crossed the 28lakh mark, according to the Union health ministry. The death toll has increased to 1.94.998. The active cases have increased to 28,09,308, this comprises

ment imposed a six-day lockdown as the last weapon in its arsenal. "Public opinion is in favour of an extension of lockdown. The positivity rate reached up to 36-37

per cent in past few days

although it has slightly dipped now. It is around 29

New Delhi, April 25: Twitter and other social media platforms have

removed about 100 posts

and URLs after the gov-

ernment asked them to

remove content that was

critical of the handling of

the current medical crisis

or spreading fake news

Twitter said it has noti-

fied the impacted account

holders of its action taken

in response to a legal

request from the Indian

Facebook did not com-

Sources said the compa-

nies have complied with the order. However, it was-

around the pandemic.

government,

ment on the issue.

per cent today," he said.

To keep a close watch on oxygen availability, the Delhi government has decided that manufacturers, suppliers and hospitals will update the supply and consumption data every two hours on a portal set up by it.

n't immediately known

what the removed posts

were. Meanwhile, govern-

ment sources said the IT

ministry, on the recom-

mendation of the ministry

of home affairs, asked the

social media platforms to

remove the posts and

URLs (uniform resource

locators) to "prevent obstructions in the fight

against the pandemic and

disruption of public order

due to the said posts.
They added that the ord-

er was issued in view of

the misuse of social media

platforms by certain users

to spread fake or misleadi-

ng information and create panic about the pandemic

This is to ensure the Delhi government knows where a shortage might be felt and is able to divert

positive. In the rest of the

report is Covid positive. That is a five-fold jump from the beginning of the month, when only one of

Maharashtra reports 66,191 new Covid-19 cases, 61,450 discharges, and 832 deaths in the last 24 hours

Active cases-6,98,354, Total

discharges-35,30,060, Dea-

th toll-64,760. Mumbai rec-

orded 5,542 new cases, its

lowest single-day rise in

infections so far this mo-

20 tests was positive.

state, one of four RT-PCR

in time," he said. He said the Centre had further increased Delhi's oxygen quota by 10 MT per day and hoped the chaotic

in the society by using

unrelated, old and out of

the context images or vis-

uals, communally sensiti-

ve posts and misinformat-

ion about Covid-19 norms.

gested that the posts criti-

cal of government handli-

ng of the medical crisis

were asked to be removed,

sources said the governm-

ent is open to criticism an-

d suggestions in the collec-

tive fight against Covid-19.

However, they said it is

necessary to take action

against those users who

are misusing social media

during this grave humani-

tarian crisis for unethical

Although reports sug-

Twitter, FB take down 100 posts

nth, the civic body said.

resources in that direction

situation due to the oxygen crisis in Delhi will end

in a few days.

'The Centre has increased Delhi's quota from 480 MT to 490 MT per day. But we are yet to receive the full quota. Currently only 330-335 tonnes per day supply is being received by The Chief Minister said

his government is getting a lot of support from the Centre and both are properly coordinating to solve the oxygen supply problem. Kejriwal, who had written letters to the Chief Ministers of several states for helping Delhi with spare oxygen and tankers, added, "Negotiations have begun with some states and I will update you about any positive results

as and when they come.' Noting that the ministers and officers of his government were working overnight to ensure steady oxygen supplies to hospi-tals, he said: "I do not claim all our efforts have reaped successful results. some cases, we have failed, and in others we have managed to ensure oxygen supply to their des-

Twitter removed or rest-

ricted access to more than

50 posts in the past one

month at the behest of the

government, including tw-

dling of the pandemic. Ot-

her posts removed showed

pictures and videos of a

recent Maoist attack in

Earlier this year, more

than 500 accounts were

suspended and access to

hundreds of others in

India blocked after the

government ordered the

microblogging platform to

restrain the spread of mis-

information and inflam-

matory content related to

farmers' protests. — PTI

Chhattisgarh.

Yogi threatens to slap NSA on oxygen rumours

SANJAY BASAK | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

At a time when Uttar Pradesh has recorded over 35,000 new Covid cases and over 200 deaths in just 24 hours, the highest since the pandemic broke out a year ago, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asserted that there was "no shortage of oxygen" in the state and asked officials to invoke the National Security Act and the "Gangsters Act" against all those spreading "rumours" on the social media and attempting to "spoil the atmos-

For the Chief Minister, who announced this at a virtual press conference with select journalists on Saturday, the actual prob-lem is "black marketing and hoarding" of oxygen cylinders.

Claiming that there was "no shortage of oxygen at any Covid hospital, be it any covid nospital, be it private or government", he said the "main prob-lem is black marketing and hoarding, and stern action will be taken against the culprits". It was reported in a regional paper that the Chief Minister had said the "state government will pay for the treatment of those Covid patients who could not get hospital admission"

According to the local daily, the Chief Minister said those who failed to get admission into hospi YOGI SAID main prob-lem is black marketing and hoarding, and stern action will be taken against the culprits.

OFFICIALS TOLD to invoke the NSA, Gangsters Act against all those spreading "rumours".

selves "treated on their own and the state government would bear the medical expenses'

The Chief Minister said it would be a "huge mis-take to take Covid as a normal viral fever. I am also in its grip. I have been following all Covid protocols since April 13

while in isolation".

As the UP Chief Minister planned to tackle the oxygen crisis, reports indicated the country during the last 24 hours recorded 3,49,391 new Covid-19 cases and 2,767 deaths. Reports of oxygen crisis

in Delhi's hospitals continued to pour in. A private hospital indicated it had "barely an hour's supply A TV channel reported

that New Delhi's Fortis Escort Heart Institute, "which has at least 100 patients on oxygen support, said it would not patients".

The oxygen situation remained grim at Lok Nayak Hospital, the largest Covid-19 facility



Relatives of a Covid-19 patient pleading to media for their support in providing oxygen for their relative admitted in the hospital in New Delhi on Sunday. -PTI

C'garh: Lockdown extended in 20 dists

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, APRIL 25

The Bhupesh government on Sunday announced to extend lockdown in 20 districts amid surge in Coronavirus cases in Chhattisgarh.

While lockdown has been extended from April 26 to May 5 in the districts Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Kanker, Jashpur, Kondagaon, Surajpur, Bemetra, Balrampur, Ambikapur and Narayanpur, total shutdown has been extended from April 26 to May six in the districts of Raipur, Durg, Mahasamund, Balod, Jagdalpur, Bilashpur,

Raigarh, Kawardha and Sukma. Meanwhile,

ttisgarh has reported

more than 16,000 positive cases for the second day. While the state reported 16,731 Coronavirus positive cases on Saturday, 16,750 positive cases were reported on April 22. The state recorded 203

deaths on Saturday and 219 deaths on Friday.

"The infection rate has increased by four times in the last four weeks in Chhattisgarh", health minister T.S. Singhdeo said. The tally of positive cases in the state has reached 6,396,96 and the tally of toll due to the virus increased to 7.111.

while

CSIR I SURVEYS 10.14% sero-positivity suggests India had large pool of recovered immune subjects

Recurrence of virus due to lack of antibodies: Report

New Delhi, April 25: The recurrence of Coronavirus outbreak in March could have been due to lack of "meaningful antibodies" in seropositive people after a peak in September last year, suggests a survey by the Council for Scientific and Industrial

Research (CSIR). The CSIR conducted a sero-survey on 10,427 people comprising the staff members of its 40 laboratories, including contractual employees, and their family members from 17 states and two union terri-

In 10,427 people, the average sero positivity was 10.14 per cent. The survey

suggested that the neutralising antibodies declined significantly after five-six months, making people prone to reinfections.

The cases in the country peaked in September 2020 and there was a nationwide decline of new cases starting in October, said Shantanu Sengupta, one of the lead authors of the paper. "Our data shows that while anti-NC (nucleocapsid) antibodies provide long-lasting evidence of viral exposure or infection, about 20 per cent of seropositive individuals lack meaningful neutralisation activity after 5-6 months. "Using more stringent

measures (more than 30

per cent inhibition of sur-rogate receptor-spike protein binding), the loss of neutralisation may be even higher. We speculate that this may be related to recurrence of outbreaks in March 2021 after the

the paper said. India is currently witnessing a massive surge in infections with logging a daily case count of over

peak in September 2020,"

3,00,000 on four consecu-According to the paper, the aggregate sero-positivity of 10.14 per cent in its multi-centre study sug-gests India had a large

pool of recovered immune

subjects by September

2020, especially amongst its high contact workers and people using public transport, leading to a decline in new infections.

"However, the duration of such immunity may not be sufficient to prevent future outbreaks, even in highly affected regions, the paper said.

States like Maharashtra have witnessed an explosion of cases since March. The present study, which recruited subjects from 24

cities in India, provides an important and timely snapshot of the spread of SARS CoV2 pandemic across India shortly before the peak of new cases, the

SERO-POSITIVITY 'LOWER' IN SMOKERS, **VEGETARIANS; O BLOOD GROUP 'SAFER'**

New Delhi, April 25: Smokers and vegetarians were found to have lower sero-positivity, while those with blood group 'O' may be less susceptible to Coronavirus, according to a survey by an top research

The pan-India serosurvey, conducted by the CSIR, studied the presence of antibodies against SA-RS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the Coronavirus, and their neutralisation capability to infer possible risk factors for infection.

The study, done by a team of 140 doctors and scientists, assessed 10,427 adult individuals working in more than 40 CSIR laboratories and centres in urban and semi-urban settings, and their family members. These people voluntarily participated in the study.

The survey suggested that despite Covid-19 being a respiratory disease, smoking might be acting as first line of defence due to its role in increasing the mucous production.

Five held over France attack

Paris, April 25: French authorities detained a fifth person on Sunday in an anti-terrorism investigation seeking to identify potential accomplices and motives after a police official was fatally stabbed

French police killed the 37year-old Tunisian attacker shortly after he stabbed the unar-med employee on Friday at the entrance of her police station in Rambouillet. Anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said police are questioning a cousin of the suspect. The suspect's father, a couple who had provided him with an address for mail and administration, and another cousin were also being questioned, Ricard said.

China: 3 ships commissioned

Beijing, April 25: China has commissioned three main battle warships, including a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, a large destroyer and the country's largest amphibious assault ship that can carry around 30 helicopters and hundreds of troops.

The ships were commissioned at a ceremony on Saturday attended by President Xi Jinping at Sanya, China's main naval base in the disputed South China Sea in Hainan province.

The vessels commissioned included the Type 075 amphibious assault ships, which can carry an estimated 30 helicopters and hundreds of troops. It is China's largest amphibious

European gear on China moon probe

Beijing, April 25: China will launch its next robot lunar lander in 2024, and it will carry equipment from France, Sweden, Russia and Italy, the

official news agency reported. Plans call for Chang'e 6 to land near the lunar south pole and collect samples for return to Earth, the programme's chief designer, Hu Hao, said at a conference Saturday, according to the Xinhua News Agency. The Chang'e landers are part of Chinese space exploration efforts that also include a probe that is preparing to land a robot rover on Mars. There are also plans for a crewed orbital station, landing a human on the moon and retrieving soil from an asteroid.

Fashion designer Elbaz dies at 59

ion designer Alber Elbaz, best known for being at the helm of Lanvin from 2001 to 2015, has died at the age of 59, luxury conglomerate Richemont said. In a statement released on Sunday, Richemont's chairm an Johann Rupert said "it was with shock and enormous sadness that I heard of Alber's su-

Alber had a richly deserved reputation as one of the industry's brightest and most beloved figures.

'I was always taken by his intelligence, sensitivity, generosity and unbridled creativity. He was a man of exceptional warmth and talent, and his singular vision, sense of beauty and empathy leave an indelible impression," Rupert said.

PRO-TRUMP FILM 'ABSOLUTE PROOF' **WORST AT RAZZIES**

Los Angeles, April 25: The election-fraud film "Absolute Proof", singer Sia's heavily panned directorial debut "Music" and Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor, were the top winners at the 2021 Razzie Awards, given to the worst movies and performances of the year. The Golden Raspberry Awards, popularly known as the Razzies, were held a day before the Oscars night, as is the tradition.

"Absolute Proof", directed by My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell, which claimed that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from former President Donald Trump, was named the worst picture at the ceremony, reported Entertainment Weekly. The pro-Donald Trump film also bagged the worst acting title for Lindell for his appear-

ance in the film as himself. Sia's "Music", which was heavily criticised for its depiction of autism, took home three awards, including worst director, worst actress for Kate Hudson, and worst supporting act

ress for Maddie Ziegler. Actor-filmmaker Sacha Bar-on Cohen starrer "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" won two Razzie awards, both for Giuliani for his infamous cameo in the film. The film is nominated in two categories at the Oscars.

82 killed in Baghdad hospital fire

Initial reports suggest oxygen cylinder blast caused death of the Coronavirus patients

Baghdad, April 25: Iraq's Interior Ministry said Sunday that 82 people died and 110 were injured in a catastrophic fire that broke out in the intensive care unit of a Baghdad hospital tending to severe Coronavirus patients.

Negligence on the part of hospital authorities has been blamed for the Saturday night fire, which initial reports suggest was caused when an oxygen cylinder exploded in the ward of Ibn al-Khatib hospital.

Iraq's prime minister fired key hospital officials hours after the catastrophic incident. Among the dead were at least 28 patients on ventilators battling severe symptoms of the virus, tweeted Ali al-Bayati, a spokesman of the country's independent Human Rights Commission.

The commission is a semi-official body. Firefighters rushed to battle the flames that raged across the second floor of the hospital. Civil defence teams put out flames until the early hours of the morning. Ambulances transported dozens of wounded.

The Health Ministry said at least 200 people were rescued from the scene. Doctors at the scene were frazzled by the chaos unfolding around them. They said numerous burned bodies were carried out by paramedics from the hospital floor. The fire came as Īraq grapples with a severe second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. Daily virus cases now average around 8,000, the highest since Iraq began recording infection rates early last year. At least 15,200 people have died of Coronavirus in Iraq among a total of at least 100,000 confirmed cases. In response to the fire, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi fired the director-general of the Baghdad Health Department in the al-Rusafa area, where the hospital is located. He also fired the director

of Ibh al-Khatib Hospital and its director of engineering and maintenance, according to a statement from the Health Ministry and his office. After the fire first broke out, Al-Khadhimi held an emergency meeting at the headquarters of the Baghdad Opercoordinates Iraqi security forces, according to a statement on his Twitter account. In the meeting he said the incident amounted to

negligence. "Negligence in such matters is not a mistake, but a crime for which all negligent parties must bear responsibility," he said. He gave Iraqi authorities 24 hours to present the results of an investigation.



Iraqis wait for their relatives who are patients with Covid-19 in front of the Al-Khatib Hospital in Baghdad, on

UK, EU respond to India's call for help to fight Covid

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

Both Britain and the European Union (EU) on Sunday responded to India's urgent calls for help against the Covid storm ravaging the country, with Britain saying that "ventilators and oxygen concentrator devices due to leave UK today" for India and that the "first package is due to arrive in Delhi

BANGLADESH

DHAKA SHUTS LAND BORDERS WITH INDIA

Dhaka, April 25: Bangladesh will close its land borders with India for the next 14 days due to the unprecedented surge of Coronavirus cases in the neighbouring nation, Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul on Sunday.

India logged a record of 3.49.691 new Coronavirus infections in a day on Sunday, taking its total tally Covid-19 cases to 1.69.60,172. The death toll increased to 1.92.311 with a record 2,767 daily new fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data. Passenger travel from India to Bangladesh via land will remain closed from Monday.

early on Tuesday, with fur-ther shipments later this

Britain said "nine airline container loads of supplies, including 495 oxygen concentrators, 120 non-invasive ventilators and 20 manual ventilators" are being sent to India this week and that "the support follows a request from

British PM Boris Johnson said, "We stand side by and partner during what is a deeply concerning time in the fight against

Covid-19." The EU too said that India had requested it for assistance, adding that it is "pooling resources to respond rapidly to India's request for assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism", including Oxygen and medicines. The EU also said it including "stands in full solidarity

Merkel: Preparing 'support' for India

Berlin, April 25: German Chancellor Angela Merkel ment was preparing emergency aid for India as the country struggles to cope with an explosion in Coronavirus in-

want to express my sympathy on the terrible suffering that Covid-19 has again brought over your communities," Merkel said in a message shared on Twitter by her spokesman Steffen Seibert.

"The fight against the pandemic is our common fight. Germany stands in solidarity with India and is urgently preparing a

mission of support. There were no immediate details about the kind of aid Germany would offer. But Der Spiegel weekly, citing unnamed sources, on Saturday said Germany's armed forces had received a

request to help organi-

Cronavirus variant spreading through its 1.3 billion people, India has become the world's top Coronavirus hotspot in recent days, reporting 349,691 new cases on Sunday alone.

Germany will from Monday impose new travel restrictions on passengers coming from India in a bid to curb in the spread of the new variant.

SAUDI ARABIA **RIYADH TO SHIP**

80MT OF OXYGEN

TO NEW DELHI Dubai, April 25: Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India as the country

is running low on suppl ies due to an unprecedented spike in Covid cases. It is being undertaken in cooperation with the Adani group and Linde company. "Embassy of India is proud to partner with Adani group and M/s Linde in shipping muchneeded 80MT liquid oxygen to India. Our heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Health," the Indian missi-

PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD'S RELIEF OFFER TO NEW DELHI

Islamabad, April 25: Pa kistan has offered to proto help the country fight the deadly wave of Covid-19 and said the two countries can explore possible ways of further cooperation to mitigate the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The Foreign Office in a statement late Saturday night said Pakistan was ready to send specific items quickly once the modalities were worked out.

8 police officers injured in London anti-curb protest DEMONSTRATORSMARCHED along Oxford

London, April 25: Eight police officers were injured and five people arrested during an anti-lockdown protest that involved clashes in small pockets in central London, the Metropolitan Police said.

Demonstrators marched along Oxford Street and other central areas of the UK capital city before gathering at Hyde Park on Saturday, where some hurled bottles and other items at the police when they tried to disperse the large crowds.

Protesters, holding placards calling for an end to lockdown rules, could be heard sloganeering against curbs such as masks. "Eight officers were

injured as they worked to disperse crowds in Hyde Park," the Met Police said. "Two officers were taken to hospital. Thankfully, they are not believed to be seriously injured. Five

tles and other items at the police when they tried to disperse the large crowds.

Street and other central

areas of the UK capital

city before gathering at

Hyde Park on Saturday,

where some hurled bot-

people were arrested for offences, including assault on police, and are now in custody," it said.

Home Secretary Priti Patel took to Twitter to condemn the "criminal minority" behind the unrest and pledged tougher sentences for such attacks on police officers. "Our brave police are the best of us and should not be the target of senseless violence by a criminal minority for just doing their job," said Patel. — *PTI*

Nepal issues record permits for Everest

Nepal has issued a record 394 permits so far this year for expeditions to Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, despite the surging Coronavirus pandemic.

"We have issued permission to those expedition teams, which applied for the same with due procedures," Meera Acharya, director at the Departm-

ent of Tourism, said. The Ministry of Tourism and civil aviation issued a record 394 permits for the expeditions to Everest till Friday, breaking the earlier record of 381 permits issued in 2019, she said.

The Nepali government's move has come amid intense scrutiny over a Everest, whose revised height is 8848.86 metres. Nepal relies heavily on income generated from

"I have no information about the traffic jam on the Everest." Acharya said in response to a question. A foreign climber needs to pay \$11,000 per person for getting permission to climb Mount Everest.

Everest expeditions.

'The enthusiasm shown by the international clim-

An underwater robot eq-

uipped with cameras fou-

nd the lost submarine was

lying in at least three pie-

ITALY TO BAN ARRIVALS FROM HOTSPOT INDIA

Rome, April 25: Italy is to ban arrivals from Coronavirus hotspot India, apart from Italian residents, Health Minister Roberto Speranza said Sunday.

"I have signed a new decree banning people from entering Italy who have been in India within the

past 14 days," Speranza wrote on Facebook. "We can't let our guard down" ahead of a limited reopening set to begin across Italy on Monday,' he added.

return but must take a (Coronavirus) test before departure and on arrival and remain in quarantine" once on Italian soil Speranza said.

bers to Mt. Everest shows, their growing passion and Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Seven Summit Treks of Kathmandu.

Genocide: Turkey summons US envoy

Istanbul, April 25: Turkey's foreign ministry has summoned the US Ambassador in Ankara to protest the US decision to mark the deportation and killing of Armenians during the Ottoman Empire

as "genocide" Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal met with David Satterfield Saturday to express Ankara's condemnation. "The statement does not have legal ground in terms of international law and has hurt the Turkish people, opening a wound that's hard to fix in our relations," the ministry said. On Saturday, US President Joe Biden followed through on a

THE STATEMENT was carefully crafted to say the deportations, massacres and death marches took place in the Ottoman Empire.

campaign promise to recognise the events that began in 1915 and killed an estimated 1.5 million Ott oman Armenians as genocide. The statement was carefully crafted to say the deportations, massac res and death marches took place in the Ottoman Empire. "We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated," it said.

FM: CHINA, US **DIFFERENCES CONTINUING**

is "playing with fire". China hoped that the

Indonesia: Sub wreckage found

Beijing, April 25: The differences between the US and China are continuing as Washington is yet to find the right way to deal with Beijing whi le holding on to misunderstandings, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, warning that playing the "Taiwan card"

administration would view its development objectively and rationally, and explore with China a new path of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, Wang, also the State Councillor, said in a video conference.

Banyuwangi (Indonesia), April 25: Indonesia's military on Sunday officially said all 53 crew members from a submarine that sank and broke apart last week are dead, and

that search teams had located the vessel's wreckage on the ocean floor. The grim announcement

comes a day after Indonesia said the submarine was considered sunk, not merely missing, but did not explicitly say whether the crew was dead. Officials had also said the KRI Nanggala 402's oxygen supply would have run out early Saturday, three days after vessel went missing off the resort island of "We received underwater pictures that are confirmed as the parts of the AN UNDERWATER robot equipped with cameras found the lost submarine was lying in at least three pieces on the ocean floor at a depth of 838 metres (2,750 feet), said Adm. Yudo Margono, the navy's chief of staff.

submarine, including its rear vertical rudder, anchors, outer pressure body, embossed dive rudder and other ship parts," military chief Hadi Tjahjanto told reporters in Bali on Sund-"With this authentic evidence, we can declare that KRI Nanggala 402 has sunk and all the crew members are dead," Tjahjan-

ces on the ocean floor at a depth of 838 metres (2,750 feet), said Adm. Yudo Margono, the navy's chief of staff. That's much deeper than the KRI Nanggala 402's collapse depth of 200 metres (655 feet), at which point water pressure would be greater than the hull could withstand, according to earlier navy statements. The wreckage is located 1,500 metres (yards) to the south of the site where the submarine last dove Wednesday, off Bali's northern coast, Margono said.

The underwater robot was deployed by Singaporean vessel MV Swift Rescue provided the images,

while the Indonesian vessel KRI Rigel had scanned the area where the submarine was believed to have sank using multibeam sonar and a magnetometre, Tjahjanto said. The cause of the disappearance was

still uncertain. The navy had previously said an electrical failure could have left the submarine unable to execute emergency procedures to resurface. An American reco nnaissance plane, a P-8 Poseidon, landed Saturday and had been set to join the search, along with 20 Indonesian ships, four aircraft and a sonar-equipped Australian warship. The German-built diesel-powhad been in service in Indonesia since 1981.

INTENSE | BIDDING | Pattern forgotten as Mint continued creating silver dollars

1st \$ coins prototype auctioned for \$8.4L

Washington, April 25: A piece of copper that was struck by the US Mint in Philadelphia in 1794 and was a prototype for the fledgling nation's money was auctioned off for \$840,000,

considerably more than expected, an official said. Heritage auctions spokesman Eric Bradley said "No Stars Flowing Hair Dollar" opened at

\$312,000 when it was put

up Friday evening but "in

bidding quickly pushed the coin to its final auction price of \$840.000

The coin, formerly owned by businessman and Texas Rangers co-chairman Bob Simpson, was expected to sell for \$350,000 to \$500,000, Bradley said. While it closely resembles silver dollars that were later minted in Philadelphia, it gets its name because it is missing stars.

Auctions said earlier that starless coins are considetutions as "one-of-a-kind prototypes for the silver examples that would fol-

red by collectors and instilow." Known as a pattern, the front features the flowing hair portrait of Liberty and the date 1794, while the reverse side shows a small eagle on a rock within a wreath.

Jacob Lipson of Heritage es are part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection.

The pattern was forgotten as the Mint continued the process of creating the nation's first silver dollars. "Coin collecting lore states the unique rarity was excavated from the site of the first Philadelphia Mint before 1876," Lipson said.

That was how the coin's first owner described its Similar starless examplhistory at its first auction large collection.

appearance in 1890. The pattern is corroded and not in perfect condition, Lipson said, likely because it was buried at the site

of the original Mint.

There are some scratches and other marks on its brown surfaces. It has traded hands eight times, according to the auction house. Simpson, 73, purchased it along with other pa tterns in 2008 to add to his

Putin-Biden meet may be held in June

Moscow, April 25: A top aide to Vladimir Putin said Sunday that a possible summit between the Russian leader and his US counterpart Joe Biden

could take place in June. Biden earlier this month offered a meeting between the two leaders in a neutral country, as tensions between Russia and the West escalated sharply over the conflict in on Moscow and the health of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

The Kremlin has said it is still considering the offer, but on Sunday, Putin's top foreign policy aide, Yury Ushakov, said that planning is under-

way.

"June is being named, there are even concrete dates," Ushakov said on state-run television chan-Ukraine, new sanctions nel Rossiya-1.



Chronicle

26 APRIL 2021

CJI should make judiciary kinder, faster, transparent

new chapter in Indian judiciary starts with Justice N.V. Ramana having taken oath as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on April 24, which can and should be glorious. Till his tenure ends on August 26, 2022, CJI Ramana must focus on addressing three crucial issues — humaneness of judicial processes and systems, especially in the criminal side of law and justice, with great stress on speed and efficiency, and openness and transparency.

The absolutely first area to priority is administrative. The CJI must ensure all

the pending vacancies in the judiciary, especially in the higher echelons of the Supreme Court and the various high courts, must be filled within the first 90 days of his term on a war footing. This numbers-led priority is to ensure the judiciary is operating at maximum mandated capacity and to a full strength to focus on the next area of priority — speedy delivery.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Time gap has been an underlying weakness and area of concern with our judicial system for a long while now. Systems need to be created to ensure timely dismissal of cases and the recent suggestive directive

The expectation from CJI Ramana is that he will strive hard to humanise criminal iustice and focus on ensuring higher regard for law and human rights amongst the law enforcement agencies

empowering high courts to hire retired justices to dispose pending cases is welcome and must be taken to a logical conclusion under stern supervision. There can be suggestions made to the government, a mandated litigator, to withdraw a large number of cases through a matrix of stake involved versus the time since the case has stretched. Automatic disposal of petty and routine cases can also go a long way in unburdening the judicial load.

The CJI will hearten the citizenry by ensuring the implementation of faster and timely disposal of criminal cases against politicians and bureau-

cracy and give them punishment.

A lesson that no one is too mighty to get away from the clutches of the law is an expectation that has waited long enough to be delivered with urgency, and who better than the author of this extraordinary hope-giving judgment to ensure its implementation? The highest expectation from CJI Ramana is that he will strive hard to humanise criminal justice systems and focus on ensuring higher regard for law and human rights amongst the law enforcement agencies, particularly the

Fake encounters too can and will likely become a thing of the past, if his record is anything to go by — with strongest action likely in custodial death cases. Ensuring police respond to sensitise their departments and officers regarding human rights would be a great achievement.

A larger effort is needed to make it clear to the government and officials that they cannot ignore judicial pronouncements, which could be one of the most significant contributions of this tenure.

Finally, the judiciary must make itself even more open and transparent in coming out with unambiguous guidelines to dealing with grievances and complaints

against itself. A judicial ombudsman is needed, comprising members of the bar, and of different states in composition at state-level and representatives of the government. Brothers and sisters of the judiciary must be able to handle all such instances in a

way as to raise the respect for the blindfolded lady with a balance even higher. At the start of CJI Ramana's tenure, history might well ask — if not here where: if not now — when: if not you — who?

We're safe when all are safe

t is in the DNA of every pandemic that it is global, all the more so in a truly glob alised world. It hardly makes sense for a nation to think that it can fight the pandemic all alone and be safe; it will not be long before it realises that the microorganism that causes the pandemic has reached its shores by means it can hardly block. Eliminating the virus from the face of the earth is an economic priority, too, as it would bring productive people back in action and the global economy back into black; not to forget the humanitarian angle as a pandemic devastates lives and

often extinguishes them on a mass scale.

The US government's fight against pandemic Covid-19 has entered a decisive phase with close to 70 per cent of its population having been vaccinated. The country has the capacity to manufacture more as the vaccination programme advances and hence the demand in the country to help countries such as India where people have started dying in their thousands every day.

The US has spare vaccines which are part of the Indian vaccination programme and hence can be put in the logistics chain on arrival. There are also redundant quantities of anti-viral drugs such as Remdisivir, as well as oxygen, which could save lives in India.

It's not just in the case of the ready-to-serve products that Indian wants the US to take a global view. The Serum Institute of India which makes the Covishield vaccine had recently appealed to US President Joe Biden to relax the ban on the export of the raw materials for the vaccine but to no avail.

One cannot fault the US administration's policy that "it is not only in the US's interest to see Americans vaccinated; but it is in the interests of the rest of the world to see Americans vaccinated". The point of difference is that we will all be safe when we all are vaccinated; nationality hardly counts.

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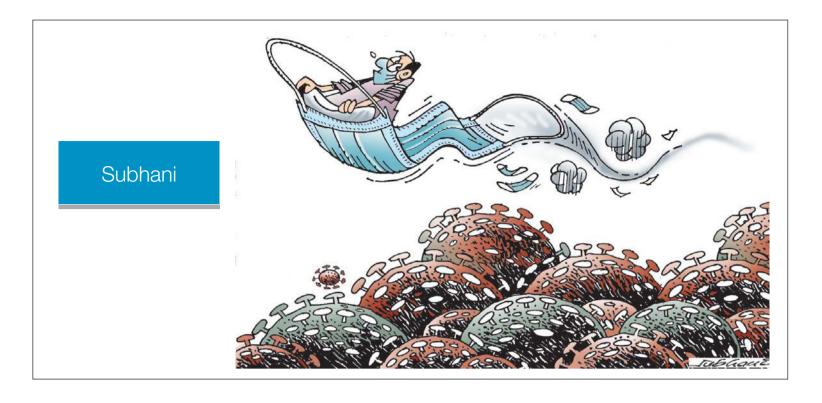
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Mishandling elections in the time of a pandemic



Shikha Mukerjee

voters and contestants, every election is necessarily dif-ferent, because the ways in which the thousands of acts of omission, commission, violation and bad faith by the incumbent government or the challenger are in a constant state of change. For the Election Commission, tasked with conducting the process through which the voter chooses a representative who is adequate to fulfil the aspirations and expectations he or she has, every election is both different and the same.

The context in which an election is held is certainly material to the way the Election Commission undertakes the exercise of holding free and fair polls so that the people's sovereign will is exercised without obstruction or violation. If the EC fails to comprehend the context, then what follows is a super-spreader event of terrifying proportions in the state that has been victim of the whims of the poll panel in its refusal to recognise that the Covid-19 crisis could turn into a catastrophe.

Dismissive of the pleas of West Bengal's ruling party and the state government, of all other Opposition par-ties barring the BJP that the eight-phase six-week poll schedule would be seriously risky at a time when new mutant strains of the coronavirus were detected and whose impact had pushed Britain and Europe to declare new lockdowns, new protocols and manage a new crisis, the EC maintained it had no power to alter the schedule after it was announced or notified. It insisted it was entirely capable of ensuring its strict guidelines on how campaigning and voting should be done in Covid times were followed by all candidates and of course

their parties.

Having announced its guidelines, mobilised the largest force of security personnel drawn from every Central paramilitary force imaginable, adding up to over 1.5 lakh jawans and officers and innumerable support personnel, brought in over 200 general observers, added to the original 54 appointed as police observers, the EC flooded West Bengal with the paraphernalia necessary to do two things simultaneously — hold peaceful, free and fair polls over eight phases and ensure adherence to its Covid guidelines. It failed on both counts at an incredibly high cost to the

public exchequer.
Citizens exposed to the virus through superspreader events and shoddy observance of Covid protocols are paying twice over for the EC's failures and its outrageously unrealistic assessment of its own capacity to deliver a flawless election process. The death of two candidates from the virus, a large number of candidates ill or critically ill because of the infection and the final humiliating confirmation of its inade quacy as the order from the Calcutta high court lashed out that the role of the EC cannot be just "issuing circulars" and

"holding meetings" It took a searing indictment from the high court to get the commission to implement its own guidelines. It took a threat from the high court to ensure that big rallies were

banned. The Calcutta high court last week said the judiciary would step in and "act like T.N. Seshan", the legendary tough chief election commissioner, who had postponed and threatened to cancel elections in Bihar and West Bengal if political parties failed to follow the rules.

disastrous mismanagement by the EC that has cost lives and skyrocketing state public health expenditure to cope with the outfall of the speed of the spread of the deadly virus, the then chief election commissioner Sunil Arora and current CEC Sushil Chandra said they were powerless to listen to reason and heed the context of this election in West Bengal, namely the danger of an even greater surge of the evolving virus.

Through the weeks of

The Commission dismissed the plea by Mamata Banerjee that the eightphase election was very risky. It seemed to pay more attention to the BJP's jeers that the eightphase election was necessary to ensure peaceful, free and fair elections. The Election Commission rejected the April 16 appeal by all political par-ties in the fray in West Bengal, besides the BJP, that the remaining three phases should be clubbed together. Defending the eight-phase polls, BJP candidate Swapan Dasgupta said anything else would affect the "democratic spirit" of the process. His assurance and that of his party that all Covid proto-cols would be maintained cut no ice with the Calcutta high court, as its indictment reveals.

In declaring that it couldn't change the schedule once it as notified, the Election Commission forgot that it has the power to do so and there is a precedent. In 1984, the Lok Sabha elections were held in all states, except Punjab and Assam. Elections there were held in 1985 because the circumstances called for it. In 1991, the EC decided that the Lok Sabha elections would be

Can it be a mere coincidence that **Prime Minister** Modi cancelled his final four rallies, out of a total of 18, minutes before the commission announced the ban on rallies?

rescheduled with new dates because after some states had voted, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated and there was turmoil. The Representation of the People Act is rigid, but the law isn't stupid. It does admit there can be an obstruction to the polling process after a natural calamity or any other sufficient cause As a result, West Bengal

saw an unprecedented number of public rallies and meetings organised on a mega scale for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, at least a dozen or more star campaigners from the BJP's very large and varied pool of leaders, including defence minister Rajnath Singh and UP minister Adityanath. A comparison of one day of campaigning by the BJP and Ms Banerjee is revealing; the BJP held at least nine major rallies, roadshows and meetings on one day while Mamata Banerjee managed only four.
As the challenger in

West Bengal, the BJP's capacity to spread havoc without being restrained by the EC, outdid all other political parties on a daily basis. Can it be a mere coincidence that Prime Minister Modi cancelled his final four rallies, out of a total of 18, minutes before the commission announced the ban on ral-

A pandemic on the scale of Covid-19 is unprecedented. If the EC failed to grasp this simple fact, so did the Prime Minister. Not till the nationwide oxygen shortage began killing patients in hospitals across India, ICU beds ran short and private hospitals went to court did the magnitude of the calamity impress itself on Mr Modi, whose office had earlier reportedly turned away Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's desperate SOS for help. Can the democratic spirit freely exercise its franchise if disease and death stalk the voter? The EC will eventually have to answer this

> Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

LETTERS

LISTEN TO DOCTORS

The state government must pay heed to whatever advice is given by the doctors (Docs give 20point action plan to KCR, DC, April 25). It must be followed strictly as only doctors can save us in this pandemic.

> Shobhan S. Hyderabad

POSTPONE POLLS

It is shocking that the government opted for municipal elections when the EC sought its opinion. It shows how insensitive our leaders are towards the health and lives of people. Even after seeing the virus spreading fact after the recent bypoll, we have not learnt any lessons. If there is a war will there be elections? We are in a war like situation. If the governments fail to safeguard people, the courts should step in

K.A. Raju Secunderabad

Are we in our right senses to even think of holding municipal elections now when people are dying all around us? Is there no one in the government to think if the decision was right or wrong, or does the desire to gain more power override all other considerations? The High Court should step in and negate the executive decision.
Shashi Karan

Hvderabad

ELDERS HELPLESS

When the state government is taking action to contain Covid, senior citizens and people with health problems are going through tough times. Many of them got first dose of vaccine in private hospitals and have no clue when they will get second dose as the vaccine stocks appear to have run out. From May 1 when there will be a huge rush what will aged citizens do? What if someone got a heart attack or stroke as hospitals are full. A.R.R. Datta

Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN Chronicle

1 dead, 55 hurt in rail mishap

HYDERABAD, April. 25 A nine-year-old girl was killed and 55 other passengers were injured, five of them seriously, when a passenger train collided with a goods train this evening between the Asifabad Road and Ralapet stations in the Kazipet-Balharshah section of Secunderabad Division of the South Central Railway.

Kishwar **London Diary**



A fitting farewell for Prince Philip; Cameron, Carrie graft entertains

India, have been worrying. Many of them are about the Indian Covid crisis, and it is sad to see the terrifying predictions that are doing the rounds. While Boris Johnson thinks about sending respirators to India, many are wondering what happened to the great advantage India had last year. Now all we see are the burning pyres, and an ever-expanding body count. The question everyone asks is how could this have happened when India was doing so well? Yes, there had been a harsh lockdown earli- ${
m er}$ — but then that was the only way to deal with the enemy, who was unknown at the time. But now the bonds between the two countries are being sealed, ironically, by the "Indian" strain in the UK, and "British" mutant in India. The alarming difference is that while the UK is slowly opening up, India seems to be in the midst of a severe medical tsunami. Could it be also because the UK had vaccinated such a large proportion of its population?

he headlines here lately, about

The big event of the past fortnight has, of course, been the Royal funeral. The Monarchy is perfect-

ly adept at staging the most spectacular coronation (not seen, happily, since 1952), weddings (the most recent, of Harry and Meghan, was beautiful but is proving unforgettable for other reasons) and, of course, funerals. There has not been a Royal funeral since Elizabeth the Queen Mother died at the ripe old age of 101 a while ago. The funeral for the Duke was planned well in advance and indeed he had par-

ticipated in its arrangements, choosing the carriage specially designed by himself for the occasion. But as luck would have it, the Duke's funeral became unique because of Covid. And this brought to the fore the discipline maintained by the Royalty as it abides by the laws it is formally responsible for promulgating through it is the civilian government which thinks them up. For example, even through the Second World War, the Royal Family ate only the rations permitted to their subjects.

he sparseness of numbers at the funeral, the lack of street crowds, the location at Windsor rather than London gave the occasion its own special magic. He was after all 99, just one week short of his centenary. The Queen is, more or

less, universally respected and much loved by all but a few diehard Republicans. The Duke had to earn t given to him. delighted in his respect Press more acerbic and "politically incorrect" views. He himself had joked about his "foot in the mouth" problem. But the sheer length of his presence on the public platform, discreetly walking a few steps behind his wife, won people

ost watched the ceremony on TV where the BBC yet V again turned up trumps as it does on such occasions. It was a sombre but a beautifully staged occasion. Even so, it was the Queen sitting by herself in the chapel, which was the most dramatic sight. She had already placed her own written farewell into the coffin and then she sat quietly, the picture of dignity in grief. While the media wanted to make a fuss about Harry and William, the Palace managed to make them all behave themselves. And the emotion of the moment almost made everyone forget THAT

vides the entertainment. Not a week goes by without another corruption scandal. David Cameron, the former Prime Minister, has been caught lobbying for a company Greensill where he is the director. His text messages to Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor, asking for financial help, have been revealed. (When will these "leaders" learn what every teenager knows — that if you use your smartphone, there is no secrecy?) The Prime Minister himself is under attack by his former chosen Special Adviser Dominic Cummings (who had to be let go after he had antagonised everyone including Carrie Symonds, the PM's fiancée). He has now leaked more ammunition against his old friend alleging that Boris stopped a public inquiry when government rules were broken. Par for the course. But the target, more and more, seems to be the Prime Minister's fiancée - about whom stories are churned out every week. And now, under media scrutiny Boris has had to pay 58,000 pounds for the redecoration of his residence at Downing Street, already undertaken by the young Ms Symonds. Yes,

question.

n a mundane world, politics pro-

the Prime Minister in the UK cannot use taxpayers' money to re-do the official home in London. Can such a rule ever work in India, hmmm?

ut Boris has retained his amazing luck. While he has presided over the shambles of Covid mismanagement, he is doing very well thanks to the widely successful vaccination programme. The UK has become the envy of EU, if not the world, for its vaccination performance. Even Brexit has been forgotten for the while.

Actually Boris was supposed to be in Delhi today, on April 26. His earli-er trip to Delhi for the Republic Day on January 26 had to be postponed due to Covid. But the two Prime Ministers seem to be fated never to meet in India (especially not if the date is the 26th) and the British PM has once again cancelled his trip. Call

Kishwar Desai's latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life And Times of Devika Rani, has just been published and she is the Chair of the Trust that set up the world's first Partition Museum in Amritsar

FINANCIAL

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	47,878.45	-0.42
Nifty 50	14,341.40	-0.45
S&P 500*	4,180.17	1.09
Dollar (₹)	75.02	-0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	104.13	0.07
Euro (₹)	90.46	-0.24
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,273▼24	0.05
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.76	0.55
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.035	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.574	0.018
* As of Friday/Saturday		

Steel companies produce 3,474 t medi-oxygen/day

The steel industry produced 3,474 tonne of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) on Saturday, higher than its daily production capacity to meet the shortage of the life-saving gas. A steel ministry statement said on Sunday, there are 33 oxygen plants in the steel sector, of which 29 are tapped regularly. The total daily oxygen production capacity of steel plants is 2,834 tonne. The production of LMO was 3,474tonne on April 24



GAMES

Amit settles for

bronze in Russia

medal at the Governor's Cup in

down to world champion and

in the semifinals.

Olympic champion.

July-August.

familiar foe Shakhobidin Zoirov

Amit, a world championships sil-

Uzbek, who is also the reigning

This was the Indian's second loss

championships. In that event, he

had lost to Zoirov in the finals.

Both the boxers are bound for

the Tokyo Games, to be held in

Amit was the lone Indian to

scare to win title

make the medal round. -PTI

Barty survives early

Stuttgart, Germany: World num-

ber one Ashleigh Barty earned

her third WTA title this year by

beating Arvna Sabalenka in the

After winning in Miami and a pre-

added the Stuttgart title, her first

Melbourne on hard court, Barty

tournament on clay this season.

A day after her 25th birthday, the

Australian rallied from losing the

first set to claim a 3-6, 6-0, 6-3

ond set for an adductor injury.

win over Sabalenka, who needed a medical time-out after the sec-

Nadal sets up final

date with Tsitsipas

Barcelona: Rafael Nadal will face

the 11-time champion eased past

fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreño 6-

a red-hot Stefanos Tsitsipas in

the Barcelona Open final after

Nadal roared out to a 5-1 lead

before Carreno pulled back a

break. Carreno then had three

break chances on Nadal's next

service game, but the latter

saved them all and closed out

the set. The top-seeded Nadal

improved to an 8-0 career record

3, 6-2 on Saturday.

final of Stuttgart's clay-court

tournament on Sunday.

Australian Open event in

to Zoirov after the 2019 world

ver-medallist, lost 5-0 to the

St Petersburg, Russia after going

New Delhi: Olympic-bound

Indian boxer Amit Panghal

■ Indian ops boost US giant's profit Flipkart to get \$1 bn more from Walmart

2021 primarily due to Flipkart's improved mar-

gin mix and reduced fuel

against a 136-points reduc-

tion in gross profit in FY20 primarily due to Flipkart, as well as a change in merchandise

Walmart finalised the

valuation of assets and liabilities of Flipkart in

the second quarter of

FY20. As per this, Flipkart

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, APRIL 25

Walmart has decided to pump in around \$1 billion more to support the operations of Flipkart.

Walmart said its international segment's cash and cash equivalents of \$2.8 billion may not be freely transferable to the US due to local laws or other restrictions. Of this, approximately \$1 billion can only be accessed through dividends or inter-company financing arrangements, subject to approval of the Flipkart minority shareholders.
This cash is expected to be utilised to fund the operations of Flipkart, Walmart said in its annual

report. Walmart's gross profit rate increased 50 basis points in financial year has assets of \$24.1 billion which comprise primarily of \$2.2 billion in cash and cash equivalents, \$2.8 bil-lion in other current assets, \$5 billion in intangible assets and \$13.5 billion in goodwill.

Of the intangible assets. \$4.7 billion represents the fair value of trade names. The remaining \$0.3 billion of intangible assets pri marily relate to acquired technology with a life of three vears.

Flipkart has liabilities of \$3.7 billion, which comprise primarily of \$1.8 billion of current liabilities and \$1.7 billion of deferred income taxes and non-controlling interest of \$4.3 billion. The company began consolidating the financial statements of Flipkart in the third quarter of FY19, using a one-

BHARAT BIOTECH SEEKS NOD TO EXTEND SHELF LIFE OF COVAXIN

New Delhi, April 25: Bharat Biotech has written to the drug regulator, seeking extension of the shelf life of its indigenously developed vaccine, Covaxin, from six to 24 months, sources said on Sunday.

Bharat Biotech was given permission for sale and distribution of Covaxin with a shelf life of six months when stored at two to eight degrees Celsius.

Now, we are herewith applying for the extension of shelf life from six months to 24 months when stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius," the firm said in its applica-tion to the Drugs Controller General of

Bharat Biotech has submitted updated accelerated and real-time stability data of Coaxin, in support of its claim. — *PTI*

Mkt momentum to be tested in event-heavy week

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

The equity market is lacking foreign and domestic institutional investors support, as the Covid-19 cases saw almost a vertical rise to above 3 lakh infections daily, leading to caution. The Indian currency has also weakened against the US dollar to the levels seen during the market crash last year.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers of equities worth Rs 8,674 crore in April so far. The previous six months have been good for the market, as after September 2020 FPIs had turned net buy-

ers in a big way.

Mutual funds also reduced equity buying in April so far to just Rs 1,251.72 crore against Rs 2,476.45 crore net buying in March. But domestic institutional investors, including mutual funds, insurance, banks and pension funds, were net buy-ers by Rs 7,960.71 crore.

With the rupee expected to weaken further this year, FPIs may not resume buying in a big way unless

the currency stabilises. "The Indian rupee, Asia's best-performing currency in March, is going to slide right back to levels last seen in the depths of the pandemic meltdown; the currency will drop toward 76.5 to a dollar by the end of the year," according to Parul Mittal Sinha, head of macro trading, India and South Asia financial markets, Standard Chartered.

"We do not see the volatility easing out in the



coming week too, thanks to scheduled data and events," said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare

Broking.
"The monthly expiry of April month derivatives contracts will keep the traders on their toes. On the data front, core sector data will be unveiled on April 30. The recent pro-posal by the US president to raise capital gains tax has started showing its impact in US markets which may cascade to others in the coming week Needless to say, the Covidrelated updates will remain on the partici-pants' radar," Mishra said. "Details of US President

Joe Biden's proposed wealth tax will start emerging next week. Biden wants to raise the federal capital gains tax to 43.4 per cent for the richest of individuals, bringing combined state and federal rates in places such as New York and California to well above 50 per cent—the highest ever in US history. Expect volatility whenever these details emerge," said an analyst tracking Indian market.

The market will also react to earnings of many blue chips this week.

CHIP SHORTAGE: VW WARNS OF WORSENING SITUATION

April 25: Volkswagen AG has warned managers to prepare for a bigger production hit in the second quarter than the first due to a global chip shortage, the Financial Times reported. We are being told from

the suppliers and within Volkswagen Group that we need to face considerable challenges in the second quarter, proba-bly more challenging than the first quarter, Wayne Griffiths, president of Volkswagen's Spanish brand Seat, said. Griffiths called the shortage the "biggest challenge" the company

faces at the moment. He said production at

Seat's Martorell plant outside Barcelona was currently "hand to mouth". with the brand deciding what cars to build only after it receives chips from suppliers, the report Volkswagen has said it

expects chip supply to remain tight in the coming months, adding it could not provide visibility for the full year.

The company has been

unable to build 100,000 cars due to the shortage, CEO Herbert Diess said last month, adding the group would not be able to make up for the shortfall in 2021.

The situation has been exacerbated i.e. by the blizzards that have occurred in Texas, as the large chip manufacturers based there had to stop or reduce their production. For that reason further adjustments to produc tion cannot be ruled out". Volkswagen said in an emailed statement.

– Reuters

Govt has to keep up fiscal support to poor: IMF SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, APRIL 25

The government will have to keep up its fiscal support to those who have been adversely affected by the pandemic, as the country runs the risk of pushing a large number of people into extreme poverty.
The International

Monetary Fund fears that the pandemic might have resulted in some 100 million more people falling into dire poverty globally, with India accounting for a significant portion of that. According to Alfred Schipke, IMF mission chief for India, "The inequality and poverty has increased globally due to the pandemic. We estimate that globally people who have been pushed into extreme poverty or those surviving on \$1.90 a day have gone up by 100 mil-lion. A large part of that, 50 per cent or 50 million, are estimated to be in India. Around 22 million sub-Saharan

Hence, the government will have to continue its

fiscal support to those who have been adversely affected. India responded with fiscal support, which was 8.4 per cent of the GDP, of which 5 per cent was below-the-line support in the form of government guarantees.

However, due to the economic impact of the pandemic, the fiscal space has been limited. While the fiscal position of most countries has deteriorated, India's debt to GDP ratio has gone up to 90 per cent last fiscal, he said in a

Gaspar, director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, there are many areas where the country will have to improve its medium-term fiscal framework to avoid scarring. Even before the pandemic, there was a strong case for an upgrade in the mediumterm fiscal framework. The case has been made stronger by the pandemic. The framework needs sound forecasting of revenues. India has a track record of substantial forecast errors, he said

Andhra skaters on a roll

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

Andhra Pradesh skaters did very well at the 58th National Roller Skating Championship held Punjab, recently, returning with a clutch of medals from the tournament

Rayudu Arun Kumar and Farheen Shaik won the gold in the Above 17 years pair skating as well as couple dance skating events while Preetam and Laasva took silver in the couple dance category. Arun also won a bronze

in the boys above 17 free dance skating, in which Harikamal took gold. Harikamal also took sil-

ver in the above 17 figure event and was part of the Above 17 quartet team (Venu, Farheen, Anmisha, Harikamal) that won gold. Anmisha. Samhitha. Siddi Vinayak were among the skaters who won multi-

ple medals. **MEDAL WINNERS** Above 17 age group, figure event: Boys — Harikamal (silver), Sahith (bronze). Girls — Lasya (bronze). ■ 14-17 age group figure:

Girls — Tanvi Vinayak (gold). Boys — Mohan Kiran (silver), Rishab (bronze). ■ Above 17, freestyle: Girls

Rayudu Arun Kumar (right) and Farheen Shaik perform on way to winning the Above 17 years pair skating event at the National Roller Skating Championship held in Chandigarh, Punjab.

Anmisha (gold). Boys — Venu (silver), Rayudu Arun Kumar (bronze).

■ 14-17 freestyle: Girls — Samhitha (gold), Meghana (silver). Boys — Mohan Kiran (gold), Vaishnav (silver). Above 17 inline: Girls — Anmisha (gold). Boys -Venu (bronze).

14-17 inline: Girls Meghana (gold), Samhitha (silver), Swetha (bronze).

MAN UNITED HELD GOAL-LESS

Boys - Vaishnav (gold), Rishab (silver). Above 17 pair skating: Rayudu Arun Kumar &

Farheen Shaik (gold). ■ 14-17 pair skating: Vaishnav & Grishma (gold). Above 17 free dance skating: Boys - Harikamal (gold), Rayudu Arun Kumar (bronze).

Above 17 couple dance skating: Rayudu Arun Kumar

Farheen Shaik (gold), Preetam & Laasya (silver). Above 17 quartet team: Venu, Farheen, Anmisha,

Harikamal (gold). 14-17 quartet team: Vaishnav, Vishal, Samhitha, Swetha (gold).

■ 11-14 boys freestyle: T. Nihal (gold), Sowrya Nathani (silver)

■ 11-14 girls freestyle: Siddhi Vinayak (gold), Greesham

(silver). Saheera Pondala

(bronze) ■ 11-14 boys inline: Sowrya Nathani (gold), Kyvalya (sil-

■ 11-14 girls inline: Siddhi

Vinayak (gold), Saheera Pondala (silver), Greeshma ■ 11-14 boys figure: Tej Nihal

■ 11-14 girls figure: Siddhi Vinavak (bronze).

(silver)

Bess hated game after bubble pain **London, April 25:** England off-spinner Dom Bess has revealed that he had started "hating cricket" after his prolonged during the Test tour of India earlier this year. Bess got just five wickets from two Tests in the fourth-match series which India won 3-1. He was

Dom Bess

puppy they have adopted. "It was nice to see them and get away from it

bubble, everything was when you're going well going well it is very tough," he said.

his form with Yorkshire. "After India I had a good break away from it. because I really did start hating cricket," Bess was quoted as saying ESPNCricinfo. "It got too much at times.

dropped after helping

England to victory in the

first Test in Chennai, only

to return for the final

match in Ahmedabad,

where he went wicket-less

After spending around

seven weeks inside the

bio-bubble in India, the 23-

year-old Bess is currently

involved in the county sea-

son, looking to rediscover

during an innings defeat.

certainly in that bubble in India, there's a lot of pressure going on and it was really important for me to come back and get away from it." he said.

On returning from India, Bess had "two or three weeks off", getting to know his new home in Leeds and spending time with his girlfriend and the

because in India, in the about cricket. And it's fine but when things aren't "But I only see what I had in India as a great positive. It's been a tough time really, but one hell of a learning curve for me.

And it terms of where I see my game, I know what I've got to do. That's so exciting, knowing that I've still got so much work to do, when I'm so close as well, at times. Bess said he learnt some

really tough lessons in India and felt that should improve his chances of achieving success with England in the long run.

— PTI

Zidane's men slip in title BY LEEDS; BURNLEY WIN BIG race after draw at home spots in the Premier League but just seven points separate Leicester

Manchester United drew 0-0 with Leeds on Sunday to stay on track for a second-place finish in the Premier League after Burnley took a giant step towards survival

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men beat their bitter rivals 6-2 at Old Trafford in December but both sides looked short of energy and imagination in a lacklustre encounter at Elland Road.

The result takes United to 67 points after 33 games, 10 points behind champions-elect Manchester City but eight points clear of third-placed Leicester.

Manchester United

eighth-placed from Everton.

Most of the teams have just five games to play. Earlier, Chris Wood scored a first-half hat-

trick as Burnley pum-melled Wolves 4-0 to lift themselves nine points clear of the Premier League relegation zone. Chelsea took control of the battle to secure

Champions League football next season as Timo Werner's goal earned a 1-0 win over West Ham on Saturday, while Liverpool conceded a stoppage time equaliser to draw 1-1 with Newcastle. Liverpool are now four points adrift of

Madrid handed the initiative back to Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday by drawing at home to Real Betis, a result that raises doubts about the team's condition

Madrid, April 25: Real

ahead of Tuesday's Champions League semi-final against Chelsea. Eden Hazard was thrown on for the last 15 minutes of the 0-0 draw at Valdebebas in what was only the Belgian's second appearance in three months but Madrid could

not find a way through.

that advantage to five by winning away at Athletic Bilbao on Sunday. Barcelona could pull

level on points with Real Madrid if they overcome Villarreal

Real Madrid struggled for chances and the concern will be that numerous injuries and fatigue are catching up with Zinedine Zidane's side at a crucial moment in the sea-

"It's two points dropped. that's obvious, we lacked a lot going forward, especially at the start of the game," said Zidane.

"We weren't sharp but

home on Tuesday in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals and it is possible none of Toni Kroos, Sergio Ramos, Mendy, Fede or Lucas Ferland Valverde Vazquez, all absent due to injury, will return.

to go again on Tuesday."

They play Chelsea at

Hazard could feature against his former club after coming on for the final quarter of an hour but the fact Zidane waited so long to introduce him suggests he is still not considered match fit, having now played 30 minutes since the end of January.

— AFP

AZAM FASTEST TO REACH

Harare, April 25: Pakistan captain Babar Azam became the fastest batsman to reach 2,000 Twenty20 international runs Sunday, achieving the feat in 52 innings, four fewer than India skipper Virat Kohli. Azam lifted his T20 total to 2,035 runs by making 52 as Pakistan defeated Zimbabwe by 24 runs to win a

T20 series 2-1 at Harare Sports Club. Kohli has scored 3,159 runs in the 20-over format, but it took him 56 innings to pass the 2,000-run land-

Azam won the toss, opted to bat and the tourists made 165-3 in 20 overs as they sought redemption after a shock 19-run loss two days ago.

The batting of Mohammad Rizwan (91 not out) and Azam (52) and career-best bowling from Hasan Ali (4-18) ultimately ensured Pakistan would not suffer the humiliation of losing the series.

Brief scores: Pakistan 163/3 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 91 not out, Babar Azam 52; L. Jongwe 3-37) bt Zimbabwe 141/7 in 20 overs (Madhevere 59, Marumani 35, Hasan 4-18, Rauf 2-34).

against Carreño. The second-seeded Tsitsipas advanced after beating Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-3 for his eighth consecutive straight-set victory including last week's title run at Monte Carlo. — AP

Leicester and Chelsea currently occupy the top-four

the top four.

Atletico are now two points clear at the top of La Liga and can extend

that can happen. We have

DECCAN CHRONICLE, KARIMNAGAR, MONDAY, 26 APRIL 2021

ORANGE

Shikhar

Dhawan, DC KL Rahul,

> Faf du Plessis, CSK

PURPLE

Harshal

Patel, RCB **Avesh** Khan, DC

Rahul Chahar, MI

Off the field



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma arrives in New Delhi with

Tye pulls out due to personal reason

Rajasthan Royals' Andrew Tye on Sunday flew back home due to "personal rea-sons" making him the fourth overseas recruit of the franchise to pull out of the ongoing Indian Premier League. Earlier, Englishmen Jofra Archer (hand surgery), Ben Stokes (finger fracture) and Liam Livingstone (bubble fatigue) had opted out. "AJ Tye flew back to Australia earlier today due to personal reasons. We will continue to offer any support he may Royals tweeted on

The 34-year-old Tye hasn't yet got a game in this edition of the tournament.

Kohli fined ₹12L for slow over-rate

 ${
m R}^{
m oyal}$ Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli was fined ₹12 lakh for against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL game on Sunday. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Mr Kohli was fined ₹12 lakh,' a press release said.

Hussey backs Gill to fire again for KKR

Backing the out-of form Shubman Gill, Kolkata Knight Riders team mentor David Hussey said the opener is a "class act" who will be among the highest-scoring batsmen by the end of the IPL. The highly talented 21vear-old has not been at his best this season, managing 80 runs from five matches.

'He is a star player, he took the Test match arena by storm in Australia. He is very specific and he has a great work ethic," said Hussey.

'All I can say is that form will come and go, class is always permanent. He is one class individual, both on and off the field. Mark my words, he will be one of the highest scoring batsmen by the end of the tournament. He is an absolute class act," Hussey

Asked why Kiwi speedster Lockie Ferguson has not got a game yet, Hussey said the team management will be going back to the drawing board in terms of strategies.

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Editor: Kaushik Mitte

SUPER DELHIVERY

Axar does star turn as Capitals edge Sunrisers in Super Over

Chennai, April 25: Delhi Capitals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in a thrilling Super Over contest in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Batting first, Delhi Capitals managed to score 159 for 4 with opener Prithvi Shaw back in form Skipper Rishabh Pant scored 37 off 27 balls. Steve Smith remained not out on 34 off 25 balls. For SRH, pacer Siddarth Kaul took 2 for 31 in 4 overs.

In reply, SRH scored 159 for 7 with Kane Williamson contributing 66 nt out off 51 balls as the match went into Super

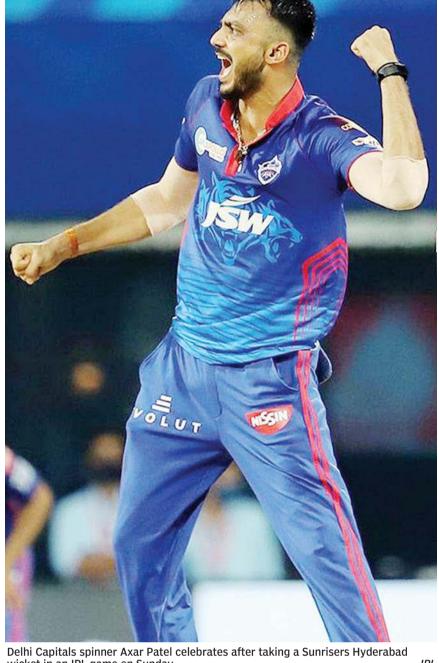
In the Super Over, SRH managed only 7 off Axar Patel while DC scored the runs of the last delivery. SRH skipper David Warner said: "I thought the way the bowlers came back after the powerplay was fantastic. Vijay is not one of our strike bowlers, but he was fantastic. Johnny at the top and Kane batted deep but we couldn't make it. They bowled fantastically in the middle and brought it back. If you hit the ball to a world-class fielder, you get run-out nine times out

Earlier, Prithvi Shaw hit a sparkling fifty but Delhi Capitals frittered away a bright start to settle for 159 for four.

81-run stand between openers Shaw (53) and Shikhar Dhawan (28) had set a perfect platform for DC for a huge total but Hyderabad spinners Rashid Khan (1/31 in 4 overs) and Jagadeesha Suchith changed the course of the innings with their tight spells.

Skipper Rishabh Pant (37) and Steve Smith (34 not out) raised a 58-run stand for the fourth wicket to ensure a fighting total after electing to bat. Shaw began with a hat-Khaleel Ahmed. Those were breathtaking strokes, straight out of

text book. There was sheer elegance in his cover drives, both along the ground and the ones played over the



wicket in an IPL game on Sunday.

timing with precision and

on and the ramp shot over short third-man off the same bowler bore testimony to his supreme touch.

Dhawan was happy playing the second fiddle as the Capitals put on board without loss

field as Shaw backed his Powerplay overs.

spinner Left-arm Suchith, playing his first through when he found six off pacer game for SRH, did a stumps of Dhawan, endonly 21 runs in his four-over quota. He consistently troubled Dhawan.

Suchith bowled in tandem with Khan, SRH's best spinner over the years, as the two bowlers in put brakes on the run flow.

Rashid also provided his side with first breakstand.

Shaw's splendid knock ended in a run out after a mix-up with skipper Pant. and Australia captain Steve Smith were now two new batsmen at the crease.

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw run out (Ahmed/Suchith) 53, Shikhar Dhawan b Rashid Khan 28, Rishabh Pant c Suchith b Kaul 37, Steven Smith (not out) 34, Shimron Hetmyer c Williamson b Kaul 1, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 2. Extras (b 1, nb 1, w 2) 4. Total (for four wickets in 20

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner run out (Rabada/Pant) 6,

seven wickets in 20 overs) 159.

136.

Bowling: Amit Mishra 4-0-31-1.

Delhi Capitals won the

They kept the scoreboard

Smith was dropped on 14 by Kaul off Vijay Shankar.

Rashid. The duo managed to get a few boundaries but SRH bowlers largely controlled

— Agencies

RCB

overs) 159. FoW: 1-81, 2-84, 3-142,

Bowling: Khaleel 4-0-42-0, Ahmed Abhishek Sharma 1-0-14-0, Siddarth Kaul 4-O-31-2, Jagadeesha Suchith 4-0-21-0, Vijay Shankar 3-0-19-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-1.

Jonny Bairstow c Dhawan b Avesh Khan 38, Kane Williamson (not out) 66, Virat

Singh c Stoinis b Avesh Khan 4, Kedar Jadhav st Pant b Mishra 9, Abhishek Sharma Ibw b Patel 5, Rashid Khan lbw b Patel O, Vijay Shankar b Avesh Khan 8, Jagadeesha Suchith (not out) 15. Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 5) 8. Total (for

FoW: 1-28, 2-56, 3-84, 4-104, 5-117, 6-117, 7-

Kagiso Rabada 3-0-26-0, R. 4-0-27-0, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-12-0, Axar Patel 4-0-26-2. Avesh Khan 4-0-34-3,

moving.

out on a chance offered by Pant a few balls ago off

Young Arshdeep Singh has been a consistent bowler with six wickets from five matches. On the other hand, KKR, the proceedings.

led by England's World Cup

- 0.032 0 4 - 0.428 0 4 - 0.681 - 0.180

POINTS TABLE

0

0

0

8

8

+1.612

+0.334

+0.096

Can Knights end miserable slump? Ahmedabad, April 25: Their three-match losing Live on TV streak finally over, Punjab Kings would seek to build a Punjab Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders winning momentum when they face the struggling Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL match here on

Monday. Punjab made a

winning start but then

slumped to three straight

losses before producing a

clinical show to beat defending champions Mumbai by nine wickets

on Friday, and they would

look to notch up another

triumph against KKR which have suffered four defeats on the trot.

Captain KL Rahul has been one of the few consis-

tent performers in the for-

midable-looking Punjab batting unit and he once again led by example against MI with an unbeat-

en 60, his third fifty in five

Mayank Agarwal has been the other main per-former and the return to

form of 'Universe Boss'

Chris Gayle against MI

with a 43 not out should be

But Deepak Hooda, who

has not done much after

one impressive innings,

Punjab want to perform

The place of Nicholas Pooran, who has scored 0,

0, 9, 0, in the playing XI is

expected to be under

review though his turn did

not come in the last match.

have been pedestrian in

earlier matches, came good

in their last match with the

talented Ravi Bishnoi

pacer Mohammad Shami

(2/21) leading the charge.

The Puniab bowlers, who

have to step up if

good news for Punjab.

consistently.

HEAD to HEAD

Star Sports 1, HD1

Matches

KKR 18 PBKS 9

FOR THE RECORD

• Eoin Morgan with 6,957 runs at an average of 27.07 in 300 innings needs 43 runs to become the fourth Englishman and 23rd batsman overall to complete 7,000 runs in

 Chris Gayle has scored 700 runs at an average of 46.66 in 18 innings against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES • KKR beat Punjab by two runs at

Punjab beat KKR by 8 wickets at

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER winning skipper Eoin

Morgan, continued to slide after losing to Rajasthan Royals by six wickets in their last match. Their batting unit need a

complete turnaround in form if KKR has to snap their losing streak.

The top-five batsmen continued to struggle with only Nitish Rana — two half centuries Dinesh Karthik doing anything of worth.

Pat Cummins Pacer incredible plaved an innings — 66 not out — for losing cause against Chennai Super Kings but KKR would like their specialist batsmen to deliver consistently instead of relying on the lower order. Gill and Morgan have been in woeful form and they desperately need big scores to make themselves count. -PTI

High sir! Jadeja puts CSK on top

Mumbai, April 25: The irrepressible Ravindra Jadeja blasted an IPL record-equalling 37 runs in one over and then grabbed three big wickets in an outstanding allround display as Chennai Super Kings crushed Royal Challengers Bangalore by 69 runs here

on Sunday. Jadeja pummelled 62 off 28 balls and lifted CSK to 191 for four after skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni opted to bat in a top-ofthe-table clash. Then, with his slow-left

arm spin bowling, the star all-rounder picked up the important wickets of AB de Villiers and Glenn Maxwell to derail RCB's run chase on a sluggish Wankhede pitch. After a cracking start

that saw them cross 50 in five overs, RCB were stopped at 122 for nine in 20 overs. The immensely-Padikkal top-scored with a blazing 34 off just 15

Veteran South African leg-spinner Imran Tahir (2/16) picked up two wickets for CSK while giving away very few runs.

Jadeja began the final over of CSK innings by clobbering four consecutive sixes off Harshal Patel before adding another off the fifth ball. He smashed the last ball over square leg for four as Harshal, who had figures of 3 for 14 going into the final over, finished with 4-

Jadeja, batting at No.5, was yet to open his account when he was dropped by Dan Christian Washington Sundar. Playing for RCB, Chris

Gayle had also scored 37



Ravindra Jadeja celebrates an RCB wicket.

SCORECARD

Chennal Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Jamieson b Chahal 33, Faf du Plessis c Christian b Patel 50, Suresh Raina c Padikkal b Patel 24, Ambati Rayudu c Jamieson b Patel 14, Rayindra Jadeja (not out) 62, MS Dhoni (not out) 2. Extras (lb 1, nb 2, w 3) 6. Total (for four wickets in FoW: 1-74, 2-111, 3-111, 4-142.

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-32-0, Kyle Jamieson 3-0-31-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-0-24-1, Navdeep Saini 2-0-27-0, Harshal Patel 4-0-51-3, Dan Christian 2-0-12-0, Washington Sundar 2-0-13-0.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli c Dhoni b Curran 8, Devdutt Padikkal c Raina b Thakur 34, Washington Sundar c Gaikwad b Jadeia 7, Glenn Maxwell b Jadeja 22, AB de Villiers b Jadeja 4, Dan Christian run out (Jadeja) 1, Kyle Jamieson run out (Imran Tahir) 16, Harshal Patel b Imran Tahir 0, Navdeep Saini c Raina b Imran Tahir 2, Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 8, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 12. Extras (lb 3, w 5) 8. Total (for nine wickets in 20 overs) 122.

FoW: 1-44, 2-54, 3-65, 4-79, 5-81, 6-83, 7-89, 8-94, 9-103 Bowling: Deepak Chahar 2-0-25-0, Sam Curran 4-0-35-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-11-1, Ravindra Jadeja 4-1-13-3, Imran Tahir 4-0-16-2, Dwayne Bravo 2-0-19-0.

Tuskers Kerala in the 2011 edition, the bowler being Prasanth Parameswaran on that

occasion. The left-handed Jadeja made full use of the reprieve to ruin what was turning out to be an excellent outing for purple cap holder Harshal, Patel, with his brutal last over

onslaught. With CSK placed at 154/4 when Harshal was handed the ball, Jadeja hit the first four balls for towering sixes and followed them with another maximum and a boundary in the seven-ball final

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni remained not out on 2.

Jadeja's assault came after the RCB bowlers — Patel and Mohd Siraj — had kept CSK in (0/32)check

Earlier, second straight half-century for Faf du Plessis (50 off 41 balls) propelled CSK before Harshal delivered a double blow for RCB in the 14th over, getting rid of Suresh Raina (24) and the former South African captain off successive deliveries.

Raina belted three sixes during his 18-ball knock which gave CSK the move-on after the openers had set up a good plat-form with a 74-run partnership.

Ambati Rayudu, who came in at No.4, hit a huge six in his 14 and looked good for more before he holed out off Harshal's bowling a few deliveries after appearing to have hurt himself while stretching to get back to the crease. — *PTI*

RAVINDRA CAN TURN MATCH ON HIS OWN: DHON

Mumbai, April 25: All-Ravindra rounder Jadeja's significant improvement in batting convinced Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni to give him "those extra deliveries" that can change the complexion of a game. "Jaddū is somebody who can change the game on his own. In the last few years, we've seen significant change in batting and it's worth it to give him that extra bit of time, extra deliveries, Dhoni said.

"The bowlers have found it difficult to contain left-handers, and that helps as well," Dhoni

KOHLI HAPPY TO SEE JADDU FIRE AHEAD OF T20 CUP

April 25: Mumbai, Premier all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's brilliance may have ruined the Virat Kohli-led Royal Challengers Bangalore's plans in the IPL here on Sunday but with one eye on this year's T20 World Cup, the India captain was not complaining.In fact, Kohli seemed delighted to see his India teammate make an excellent return after a long injury layoff.

'His (Jadeja) ability has been there for everyone to see. I am very happy to see him perform with the bat, ball and on the field," Kohli said at the postmatch presentation cere-



KKR players leave for Ahmedabad where the next leg of IPL begins from Monday.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP PEOPLE HAPPY, SAYS MORRIS

Mumbai, **April 25**: Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Chris Morris says the COVID-19 catastrophe in India has been discussed in his team multiple times and the players can feel the pain that the pandemic is causing

in its deadly second wave here. India is reeling under the second wave of the pandemic with cases rising by over 3 lakh everyday, a crisis compounded by shortage of some crucial medicines and oxygen supplies. Morris said it is "difficult

to comprehend" what is happening. "As a team, we have been talking about it quite a lot over the last couple of days. We have seen how badly this pandemic has taken over the specific parts, if not all of India," Morris said at the post-match press conference after his side defeated Kolkata Knight Riders

by six wickets here on Saturday. "It is quite difficult to comprehend what is happening. It is a responsibility for us to play with smiles on our faces because we have a reason to smile and that

we are healthy and get to play cricket. "We hopefully get to keep people happy on the other side of the screen. Whether we winning or losing, it is an opportunity to keep people smiling, if that gives people a reason to smile, then we are doing well as a sport," he added.