THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021

WFATHFR

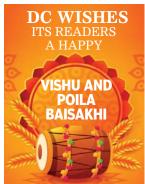


Max: 35.2°C Min: 24.8°C **RH:** 34% Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Light rain likely Max/Min temp. 36/25ºC

ASTROGUIDEI

Plava; Uttarayana Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Vidiya till 12.48 pm Star: Bharani till 5.22 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 11.51 am to 12.41 pm Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Ramzan 1,1442 AH **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.49 am **Zohar:** 12.26 pm Asar: 4.38 pm Maghrib: 6.37 pm Isha: 7.47 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM** SUNRISE TOMORROW 6 AM **MOONRISE** TODAY 7.24 AM **MOONSET** TODAY 8.26 PM







It's a free and fear elections!

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon to remain normal this year

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

Sushil Chandra

takes over as CEC

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

Kerala min quits

after indictment

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

NATION 4

Didi calls off dharna as **EC** acts on 3 BJP leaders



SPORTS 6

Sunrisers to meet RCB today

In a major step to improve

vaccine coverage in India,

the government on Tues-

day announced its deci-

sion to fast-track emer-

gency approval for all for-

eign-produced Covid-19

vaccines that have been

approved for use in certain other countries, like the United States and

European Union member

The first 100 beneficia-

ries of such foreign vac-cines shall be assessed for

seven days for safety out-

comes before these are

rolled out for further

immunisation program-

The Union health min-

istry said the plan is to add

these jabs to the existing

basket of vaccines for

domestic use and increase

the pace and coverage of

India as of now is using

Covishield (which is

known in other countries

as the Oxford-AstraZeneca

vaccine) and the locally

made Covaxin for vaccinations, while Russian shots

of Sputnik V were given a formal approval on

Tuesday morning after

of the Drugs Controller

General of India.

vaccination.

mes within the country.

TABLOID

Covid widens gender divide in companies

Centre fast-tracks nod



KCR meet to give big boost to TRS in bypoll

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

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

All eyes are on Chief Minister K. Chandra-shekar Rao's high-stakes public meeting in Halia on Wednesday. The TRS has pinned all its hopes on the CM's rally to boost the ruling party's chances of a win in the Nagarjunasagar assembly bypoll scheduled for April 17. Rao will give the final,

decisive push for the TRS poll campaign by addressing an estimated turnout of one lakh people, mostly of beneficiaries of the state government's welfare schemes.

This is the second public meeting to be addressed by the Chief Minister in the poll-bound constituency. On February 10, Rao kick-started the campaign by addressing a public meeting in Halia, in which he showered sops worth several thousands of crores, and promised implementation of lift irri-



This is the second public meeting to be addressed by the Chief Minister in the poll-bound constituency. On February 10, he kick-started the campaign by addressing a public meeting in Halia

gation projects, laying of roads and provision for other facilities to the people in the region.

Arrangements for the grand finale of the TRS campaign were made over a plot of 50 acres with adequate space to ensure the Covid norms on social dislic meeting will be held over a space of 20 acres and the remaining 30 acres will be left for the parking of vehicles.

Circles were drawn on the ground to ensure a mandatory six-feet distance between participants

EC officials have warned people and the organisers that cases will be booked and penalties imposed if they flouted Covid norms on the mandatory wearing of masks, sanitation and social distancing. Special observers were deployed to examine whether the Covid regulations were followed or not at the

Ministers G. Jagadish Reddy, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Mohd Mahmood Ali, V. Srinivas Goud and dozens of TRS MLAs, MLCs, MPs and other local leaders have camped in Nagarjunasagar for the past two weeks to make arrangements fool-proof

for foreign Covid jabs Russia's Sputnik V will be available by the end of April VINEETA PANDEY | DC **EVERYTHING BUT ESSENTIALS SHUT** NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

IN MAHARASHTRA FOR 15 DAYS Mumbai, April 13: As Maharashtra under a severe Covid-19 wave, the MVA government on Tuesday announced over a 15-day-long statewide curfew from April 14, entailing stricter curbs on public activities, to stem the infection spread and flagged a

"shortage" of medical oxygen and beds. Stopping short of announcing a full-scale lockdown, as was being speculated, Chief Minister Uddhay Thackeray, in his address to the state via social media, said the curfew, which excludes essential services, will come into effect at 8 pm on April 14 and remain in force till 7 am on May 1. Section 144 of the CrPC, dealing with gatherings and assembly of people, will be in force till the "lockdown-like" restrictions are in place,

More reports on Page 4

AFTER CLOTS Washington, April 13: The US is recommending a pause in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prev-

Full report on Page 4

unusual

ention and the US FDA said Tuesday they were

clots that occurred 6 to 13

days after vaccination.

investigating

U.S. SUSPENDS

USE OF J&J SHOT

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

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

recommendation from the subject experts committee first doses Sputnik V are expected to The SEC noted that the available through

direct import by the end of April.

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

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

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

NGT CANNOT

STRIKE OFF A

LAW, SAYS SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the National Green Tribunal

(NGT) was not vested

with the powers to exam-

ine the validity of any

"Prima facie we are of

law or to strike it down.

the view the National Green Tribunal can't strike down a law," said

Chief Justice Sharad A.

Bobde, heading a bench that also comprised Just-

ices A.S. Bopanna and V.

The court's observation

on the limits of the pow-

ers of the green tribunal came in the course of the

hearing of a petition by NGO Environment

It had challenged the

Karnataka High Court order transferring a case

to NGT and asking it to

adjudicate a challenge to

Biodiversity Act that

Section 40 of

Support Group.

Ramasubramanian.

ALMANAC SAYS TS TS may move SC **WILL PROSPER** to block Centre's THIS NEW YEAR DC CORRESPONDENT plan on Krishna HYDERABAD, APRIL 13 Telangana state will

taken on the Covid-19 DC CORRESPONDENT

pandemic and prosper further in the new Telugu new year, predicted vedic scholars. Reading out the pan-

changam (almanac) for Plava Nama Samvatsar Bachampalli Santosh Kumar Sastry of Sringeri Sarada Peetham said the state will prosper as the Plava nama samvatsara (Telugu New Year) signifies one traversing from darkness to light.

"Monsoon will be slightly delayed but there will be bountiful rains. There is a danger of land scams surfacing in the state and the property buyers should take utmost precautions during realty transactions. The relations between the state government and the Centre will be cordial," he said, at official Ugadi celebrations held on behalf of the state gov-ernment at the head office of the endowments department in Boggulakunta here on Tuesday. He said the state gov-

ernment would implement various welfare schemes this year. Sastry predicted that bumper crop this year because of abundant

rains. Sastry however, cautioned people about flash floods at few places as was witnessed in Hyderabad in October

■ Page 2: People will have wasteful expenses this year

If notified, all the HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

The state government is seriously exploring legal options with the Supreme Court to stall the Centre's move to notify diction of Krishna River Management

Stating this, sources in the irrigation department said this is in view of reports from Delhi that the Union Jal Shakti ministry has completed all the modalities and the Centre is all set to notify the jurisdiction of KRMB. If notified, all the com-

mon projects on River Krishna that serve both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana would come under the administrative and operational control of the board. The KRMB will be the supreme authority and both the states have to seek KRMB approval to take up any new projects.

The states will also have to seek approval for continuation of the works on irrigation projects that were already started without seeking approvals from the apex council and also for any redesigning of the existing projects on

River Krishna.

As per the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, both KRMB and GRMB (the Godavari river management board) were to be constituted and their jurisdiction notified with in 60 davs from the date of bifurcation of AP in June However,

common projects on River Krishna that serve both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana would come under the administrative and operational control of the board.

The KRMB will be the supreme authority and both the states have to seek KRMB approval to take up any new projects.

remained pending for nearly seven years due to lack of a consensus between TS and AP.

Official sources said the Telangana government wants the Centre to notify the KRMB jurisdiction only after the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II finalised the allocation of Krishna water to TS.

The AP government on the other hand wants the Centre to notify the jurisdiction at the earliest so that the project management would be in the hands of the board, thus ensuring transparency in allocation and usage.

TS government The fears that its projects on River Krishna, namely the Palamur-Rangareddy, Dindi, will be in trouble if the Centre notifies the KRMB jurisdiction without making water alloca-

■ Page 2: TS, AP continue to fight against each other



Muslims perform Taraweeh prayers at Macca Masjid on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the holy month of Razman.

Mosques hold Taraweeh prayers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

The Ramzan fasting began on Tuesday night Hyderabad Taraweeh prayers. The duration of first day's fast will be 14 hours while on the last day, it will be for 14 hours 39 minutes.

Muslim worshippers performed the Taraweeh prayers in almost all mosques while maintaining physical distance. Elderly people voluntarily

refrained from attending the Taraweeh prayers, while children were not allowed into many mosques.

These mosques had earlier been washed and cleaned. In several of them, disinfectant material was used to sterilise all surfaces and floors to ensure a healthy environment. Masks were distributed among worshippers.

Managements of many mosques shortened the duration of Taraweeh prayers. Unlike previous years, there is no interpre-tation of the Quran amidst the Taraweeh prayers.

Moulana Hafiz Rizwan Qureshi and Moulana Ahsan bin Mohammed Alhamoomi will recite the three chapters of the Holy Quran daily till 9th Ramzan in Mecca Masjid and Shahi Masjid respectively.

In both these masjids women performed the night prayers in separated empowers the Central government to exempt certain biological resources. Staying the proceedings before the green tribunal, the court has post-ed the matter for further hearing next week.

Appearing for the NGO, senior lawyer Nikhil Nayyar told the court that earlier the Supreme Court had in the Sterlite case said that the green tribunal can't strike down rules or regulations.

The court had in its February 18, 2019, order said: "It is clear, therefore, that under the NGT Act, the tribunal exercising appellate jurisdiction cannot strike down rules or regulations... Therefore, it would be fallacious to state that the tribunal has powers of judicial review akin to that of a high court exercising constitutional powers under Article 226 of the Constitution... We must never forget the distinction between a superior court of record and courts of limited jurisdiction.'

HYDERABADI | HABIT | Experts warn spitting in public could risk cause Covid, but cops remain silent

Public spitting goes unabated despite a ban

SAMUEL PAUL | DC

One of the prohibited actions, to prevent the spread of Covid-19, is spitting in public places. However, despite the wellknown fact that the the virus spreads through spit, or particles ejected while coughing or sneezing by people who do not cover their mouth or nose at such times, people in Hyderabad, are chomping

their way through an esti-

mated 10 lakh paans (some spices, lime, and many times tobacco, wrapped in betel leaves) every day and spitting anywhere and everywhere without anyone attempting to put a stop to this unhygienic, and now during the pandemic, a dangerous habit.

And when someone objects to such acts, the person objecting is viewed as a nuisance and asked to go his or her way instead of bothering about such acts. And at worse, as in the incident on April 11 at the

When someone objects to such acts, the person objecting is viewed as a nuisance and asked to go his or her way. At worse, a 64-year-old was beaten up when he objected to their spitting in the open

Urban Primary Health Centre in Malakpet, gets thrashed. It may be recalled that a 64-year-old man was beaten up three others at the UPHC when he objected to their spit-ting in the open. This case

was with the Malakpet police, who on Tuesday said the complainant and the attackers 'compromised' and that was the end of the matter. Incidentally, the respon-

sibility to catch people spitting in the open and penalising or punishing them under the provisions of various laws pressed into force to control the Covid-19 pandemic, lies with the police. At least according to officials in the Greater Hvderabad Municipal Corporation, who other-

responsibility of keeping the city clean and hygienic. On their part, police officials say that they have no data on if anyone has been caught or punished for spitting and violating

Covid-19 prevention norms in and around the city. Health officials say that more than 80 per cent of all Covid-19 cases that are being discovered are people who are completely asymptomatic, and are the main cause for the current fast spread of the virus

Inquiries at Paan Mandi revealed that the betel leaves that arrive in the city every day, are enough to make more than 17 lakh pans. Betel leaves that are enough to make about 10 lakh paans are consumed in the city each day, while the rest are transported to different districts. At least half of the paans consumed are laced with chewing

among the population.

■ Page 2: Paan Mandi sees no effect on its business

tobacco, traders say.

STATE

OTHER STORIES **CM PAYS TRIBUTES** TO AMBEDKAR ON

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his 130th birth anniversary on Wednesday. In his message on the occasion, he pointed out that efforts put in by Dr. Ambedkar had made the country secular with no caste or

The CM said it was due to Dr. Ambedkar's foresight that Telangana could be formed constitutionally. He said taking inspiration from Dr Ambedkar, the state government is implementing several schemes and programmes for welfare and development of oppressed classes.

Chandrashekar Rao recalled that TS Pride programmes for

entrepreneurs among
Dalits have yielded good
results. He pointed out that the state government is providing funds at 25 paisa interest rate to Dalit industrialists for setting up food processing units. Dalits are also being given reservation in works taken up

in market yards.
The Chief Minister recalled good results being produced residential educational institution exclusively set up for SCs and STs. Besides quali-ty education, these institu-tions provide SCs and STs speskills and training. He said it is a matter of pride for him that students of these residential institutions are not only showing their merit in academics, but also in various sports and co-curricular events both nationally and internationally. He pointed out that under Videsh Vidya Nidhi, students from these communities are provided financial support to pursue their studies abroad.

AP WILL VACCINATE FOUR LAKH PEOPLE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh will take up a massive Covid-19 vaccination drive on Wednesday with a target to vaccinate four lakh ben-

Though the centre announced Tika Utsav from April 11 to 14 and AP targeted to administer vaccine to 24 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of six lakh doses per day, there was no vaccination on April 12 and 13 as doses were not available. On the first day of Tika Utsav too on April 11, AP vaccinated only 2.38 lakh benefici-

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

Accordingly, state health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vaccination deploying centres additional health personnel. 500 persons on an average will be administered the vaccine at each centre from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, with the main target of covering people aged over 45 and apart years, healthcare and frontline work-

Authorities have directed all district medical and health officers and also district immunisation officers to gear up for the occasion by making all necessary arrangements, including mobilisation of ben-eficiaries. So far, 82–83 percent of healthcare workers and 50 percent frontline workers have been administered the dose. Remaining have been advised to take their dose Wednesday.

State health director Dr. T. Geetha Prasadini said, "We are taking up a special Covid-19 vaccination programme to administer the vac-cine to nearly four lakh targeted beneficiaries on the last day Utsav

Wednesday. People who cannot take it on the day can take their jab on Thursday. After that, based on the available stock, we will continue the vaccination pro-

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

After a dip, Covid-19 cases see 3K a day

GHMC area reports 406 cases, highest in the state

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

After the weekend testing slump that saw a dip in fresh Covid-19 cases in the state on Sunday, fresh Coronavirus infections were back in their 3,000 plus a day category on Monday.

The state health department reported 3,052 new cases for the day compared to 2,251 on Sunday. The number of tests were up from 79,027 on Sunday, to 1,13,007 on Monday.

Meanwhile, seven more people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the state on Monday, taking the total deaths from the disease in Telangana to 1.772 even as the total cases rose to

The number of people who are currently suffering from Covid-19 in Telangana state, according to the department's Covid-19 bulletin, as on Monday, was 24,131, of whom 8,013 were in various government and private hospitals. Of the

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA |

As the contempt cases against state machinery and related appeals by

officers are very many, the Telangana High Court

has decided to check the

antecedents of each and

every officer who comes up with contempt appeals. Chief Justice Hima

Kohli passed an order to

the Registry of the high

court, directing it to not

entertain contempt appeals filed by officers until they filed a separate affidavit furnishing the

under-mentioned infor-

mation: (i) Whether he or

she has faced any con-

tempt proceedings in the

past; if so, the details the-

re of to be furnished

along with copies of the

orders passed in the con-

tempt petition
(ii) If the officer has

been held guilty for vio-

found to have breached

HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

State receives additional 4.6 lakh doses of vaccine state received 4.6 lakh additional doses of the

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13 workers' vaccination, as many as 1,22,712 people above 45 years received their first dose of the shot, Covid-19 vaccination in the health department has

• THE DIVISION bench comprising CJ Kohli and Justice

B. Vijaysen Reddy were dealing with the four contempt

appeals filed by the superintendent engineer and exec-

utive engineer of Kaleshwaram project, the SI of police

at Thoguta police station and the project manager of

M/s Raghava Constructions Pvt Ltd.

the order passed by the

court in the contempt pro-

ceedings; whether such

officer has preferred an

appeal against the order

and the interim orders

obtained, if any (iii) whether the officer hav-

ing held guilty for breach of the order of the court and has suffered an

adverse order of the court, and if so, the

details thereof. The divi-

sion bench comprising CJ

Kohli and Justice B.

Vijaysen Reddy were deal-

ing with the four con-

tempt appeals filed by the

superintendent engineer

and executive engineer of

Kaleshwaram project, the

SI of police at Thoguta

police station and the

project manager of M/s

Raghava Constructions

Telangana state is continuing at a fairly rapid pace with more than 1.2 lakh people above 45 years, lining up to take their first dose in the state on Monday. Even as the health authorities, in a focused drive, are mopping up the leftover healthcare and frontline

THE DEPARTMENT

said that on Monday, 778

Covid-19 patients were

declared as recovered,

taking the total in this

3,06,678 in the state.

HC to check history of babus

filing appeals of contempt

category so far to

healthcare workers, and 19,096 front line workers too got their first dose of the vaccine on Monday, the department said.

Along with them, 772

Director of health services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said that on Monday, the

16,118 persons are current-

ly in isolation at their

homes, or in institutions, according to the bulletin.
The most cases on
Monday — 406 — were
reported from the GHMC area, followed by 301 cases in Medchal-Malkajgiri, bulk of them, 5,767 were in private hospitals. Another in Medchal-Malkajgiri, 279 in Nizamabad 248 in Ranga Reddy, 135 in

Pvt Ltd. The single bench

had held that all the offi-

cers were guilty and they

were sentenced to pay a

fine for not adhering to

the orders passed —i.e,

not to take away the lands

of the agriculturists/

land owners for the pur-

pose of construction of

the Kaleshwaram irriga-

tion project. Challenging

these orders, the appeal

The division bench directed all the contem-

nors to pay a fine of ₹2.000

each, as had been directed

by the single judge bench

and stayed the operation

of the punishment from

the date of payment of the fine. If the fine is not

paid, it would entail a

simple imprisonment of

was filed.

Jagitial, 123 in Sangareddy, 113 in Nirmal, 111 in Kamareddy, and 109 in Nalgonda dis-

vaccine which would be

sufficient, along with the

pre-existing stock for about a week. "We expect

to keep receiving regular supplies of the vaccines,"

As on Monday evening,

a total of 19,79,534 people

in the state got their

first vaccine dose, while

3,09,834 also got their sec-

he said.

ond dose.

The department said that on Monday, 778 Covid-19 patients were declared as recovered, taking the total in this category so far to 3,06,678 in the state.

PAAN MANDI SEES NO EFFECT ON ITS BUSINESS

From Page 1

The Paan Mandi in Darussalam, the only one of its kind market for Betel leaves in Telangana, stays open three days a week. "We get the leaves from Kadapa and West Bengal," says P. Murli, of P.V.S Paan Company, which has been in this business for more than 50 years. He said: "There are around 25 shops in this market and it is from here that the leaves go everywhere in the state." Shek Rasheed, a paan maker at a premi-um paan shop said, "Ten people work in my shop, in two shifts, paan prices start at ₹4 and go up to ₹65 each. We sell anywhere between a thousand and 1,200 paans a day." Some of his customers, he says, are habitual zarda (tobacco flavoured with spices) pan eaters. "There are

some who eat as many as

Campaigns add to spike in cases

Covid-19 cases Nalgonda district, in which the Nagar-junasagar Assembly constituency that has been witnessing a high decibel election campaign over the past couple of weeks, on Monday reported that the number of new Covid-19 cases have topped the one hundred mark.

health department, the district reported 109 new cases, almost four times the 28 cases reported from Nalgonda on

Covid-19 cases in the district have been steadily rising over the past 10 days with dips only on two days that coincided with drop in testing numbers, that appears regularly

COVID-19 **CASES** 28 16

NALGONDA

According to the state

DATE CASES April 3 April 4 April 5 45 April 6 40 April 7 54 April 8 88 April 9 89

during the weekends in

83

31

109

April 10

April 11

April 12

Deaths surpass March total toll

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Deaths from Covid-19 in Telangana this month, in the first 12 days of April, have surpassed those reported during the entire March.

The number of people who died in Telangana after getting infected with the Coronavirus and being declared Covid-19 positive this month till April 12 on Monday stood at 71. Compared to this, the month of March saw 67 people losing their lives in the state after contracting Covid-19.

The deaths from Covid-19 this month now stand at more than double the 33 fatalities reported in February in the state.

BE ON GUARD ALWAYS, CAUTIONS DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

BALU PULIPAKA | DC

The government alone can no longer guarantee the safety of people from Covid-19 and if people want to keep themselves safe from the Coronavirus, then they have to take protective action and not let their guard down, even for a minute, director of health services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao has said. It may be a tough message but people have to understand that they cannot take it easy because they think that Čovid-19 is not something that can be dangerous. "During this wave, the morbidity is very high. Those who haven't been infected in the first wave are more vulnerable and are getting infected now,"

he said. Worryingly, it is not just the number of cases that are going up rapidly this time round, but also the fact that more people than last year, are losing their lives to the disease. Unlike the initial experi-

ence of how Covid-19 spread when the disease made its way into India and into Telangana state last year, during the current second wave, the majority of the people who are falling prey to Coronavirus are from the middle, upper-middle, and the wealthy, he went to explain. "These are the people who understood the importance to stay safe last year. But they have become lax now and the distribution of cases among people is clearly pointing to this,'

CHECK POWER ABUSE IN N'SAGAR, **EC URGED**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

State Congress chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has sought immediate intervention of the Election Commission for smooth and fair conduct of the Nagarjunasagar assembly bypoll. There is rampant abuse of power and distribution of money by the ruling TRS party, he alleged here on Tuesday.

Reddy spoke Election Commissioner Kumar from Kodada via a video conference and submitted a written representation to the EC. He said the entire election atmosphere would be vitiated by the alleged "misuse of power, money and liquor" by the ruling

party.
The Congress leader said, "Unless Covid guidelines are implemented, there is every chance of a spread of the pandemic. Thousands of people from local and other places would be mobilised for the public meeting of chief minister Chandrashekar Rao there on Wednesday. All outsiders should be asked to leave the constituency immediately." "EC officials should seize thousands of vehicles being used for the campaign of TRS that are not included in the candidate's election expenditure register. Urgent action should be taken against violation of Covid guidelines. Central forces must be deployed at the check posts and vehicles checked for cash and

liquor," he pleaded.

The TPCC president urged the EC to deploy central forces at all polling booths. It must be ensured that Covid-19 guidelines are followed in the CM's public meeting on April 14. He wondered how EC could put the lives of the people at risk with the huge spike in Covid-19 cases in Telangana. He pleaded that the borders of the constituency be sealed to restrict outsiders from entering the constituen-

cy.
The TPCC chief told the EC that the TRS party had distributed cash and liquor on a large scale during the MLC elections from the Graduates constituency last month. TRS workers have publicly distributed ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 per vote and liquor even on the polling day, he alleged.

TS, AP continue to fight against each other

The state government has started these projects without seeking approvals for water allocations.

The AP government had already lodged a complaint with the Union Jal Shakti ministry as well as the KRMB against the Telangana government taking up the Palamur-RR and Dindi projects without obtaining any water allocation approvals. The TS government too

lodged a complaint against AP government for taking up the Raya-laseema lift irrigation scheme (RLIS), diverting Krishna water from Srisailam without seek-

ing necessary approvals. The second apex council meeting was held in October 2020 — which was attended by the CMs of TS and AP through video conference mode. At this, the Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra

TS GOVERNMENT too lodged a complaint against AP government for taking up the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme, diverting Krishna water from Srisailam without seeking necessary approvals.

Singh Shekhawat announced that the ministry had decided to notify the jurisdiction of both KRMB and GRMB. Following this, the KRMB has sent the draft working manual to the min-The draft manual was

also circulated between both the states several times, but no consensus could be reached. However, as the TS government continued to raise objections, Centre had in the last apex council meeting said the states' consensus was not needed and that it would go ahead with the jurisdiction notification.



20 paans a day," he said.

Minister of state for endowments A. Indrakaran Reddy felicitates vedic scholar Bachampalli Santosh Kumar Sastry of Sringeri Sarada Peetham during the reading of the almanac on Ugadi in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

People will have wasteful expenses: Almanac

The income of the state government, as well as the endowments department, will increase, he predict-

ed.
There will be wasteful expenditure from the government and even people insignificant things. The

real estate sector in the state will witness further growth, he predicted. But he said, overall, people will lead a happy and peaceful life in the New

Due to Covid-related restrictions, the event was organised without much by endowments minister

A. Indrakaran keuuy, advisor to the government Indrakaran Reddy, Ramanachary, Brahmin Sankshema Parishad member and former union minister S. Venugopala Chary. The minister released

the panchangam of Yadadri Lakshmi the Narasimha Swamy on the

Bandi spreading rumours on Jana Reddy: Bhatti

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Legislature Congress Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday took strong objection to a remark from BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar that Congress candidate K. Jana Reddy would join the TRS after winning the Nagarjunasagar bypoll.

Vikramarka said that BJP has been spreading rumours on Congress during successive elec-tions and misleading voters. The saffron party used similar tactics during the Dubbaka by-poll, he said.

The CLP leader said Jana Reddy has always been loyal to the Congress. "In fact, the TRS and the BJP has colluded to defeat the Congress in the bypoll. The TRS took a U-turn

after Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao meeting Prime Minister Modi in Delhi. After the Delhi tour, the TRS party did not make a single state-ment opposing the farms

He criticised TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao for the "unparliamentary" language he used against TPCC president Uttam Kumar. "It was the TRS party that began using foul language in Telangana politics" he solid tics." he said.

Congress working president A Revanth Reddy

working president K.T. Rama Rao for the "unparliamentary" language he used against Uttam.

wondered how will chief minister Chandrashekar Rao hold a mammoth public meeting on Wednesday as it would mean a violation of the Covid19 guidelines. "KCR foresaw Nomula Bhagat's defeat and has offered a ticket to him. Why did KCR offer a ticket to him when multiple surveys claimed that the Congress candidate's victory there would be inevitable," he asked.

Reddy said KCR had been messing up with the political career of late . Nomula Narsimhaiah. "KCR did not give a single opportunity to Narsimhaiah to address his constituency-related

issues in the legislative assembly. KCR, Narsimhaiah's death, did

not directly offer the ticket to his family members. After conducting surveys and exploring multiple options, he as a matter of strategy offered the ticket to his son to insult Nomula's family through an eventual defeat.' "I urge voters to use

their discretion and vote for Jana Reddy who has been instrumental in developing the con-stituency since decades," he added.

Goods worth ₹20 lakh gutted in fire mishap "The shop owner is Salar

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Fire broke out in a clothes godown in Dewan Dewdi opposite to Madina building in Old City on Tuesday afternoon. Approximately 20 lakhs

goods were gutted fire in a accident. receiving the

information fire officials reached the spot and doused the fire. According to fire offi-

ACCORDING TO the fire officials it took almost two hours to douse the fire which occurred in the first floor of the shopping complex.

fire engines from Gowliguda,

High Jung Court, Museum and 20 firefighters into action and it took almost two hours to douse the fire which occurred in the first floor of the shopping

suspecting play in the fire accident after investigation ascertain the cause of fire accident," said district fire officer officer Srinivsas Reddy.

DECCAN CHRONICLE | KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021

OTHER STORIES

HOME GUARD ENDS LIFE DUE TO HEALTH REASONS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A Home Guard working in Hyderabad Commissionerate ended his life by suicide at his residence under Narsingi police station limits owning to health issues on Monday

The Home Guard, identified as Rajender Prasad, 41, deployed at Tappachabutra police station of Hyderabad Commissionerate and is a resident of Narsingi village.

According to the family Prasad was addicted to drink-ing and was suffering from high BP, diabetes and other other health issues.

"For three years he ahs been suffering with health issues. He tried to end is life by dousing himself with kerosene and setting himself Although he sustained severe injuries, he recovered after treatment," said the family.

WOMAN **CHEATS PEOPLE** OF ₹50 LAKH

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A woman running a chit fund duped several people and absconded along with family under the Uppal police station

The accused cheated several people to the tune of around ₹50 lakh. Based on the complaint from one of the victims Mohammad Mannan, the Uppal police booked a case.

According to the complainant Mannan, he invested ₹1.50 lakh lakh in the chit fund run by K. Rama Devi her family members. Thirteen others also invested around ₹50 lakh. Rama Devi of Beerappagadda has been running the chit fund along with her family.

However, she Rama Devi stopped payment to customers and even tried to avoid them.

RAIN BRINGS RELIEF FROM HEAT IN ADILABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, APRIL 13

A spell of rain that struck at various places brought the sigh of relief to people from the high temperatures comwere experiencing for some days in the Adilabad district on Tuesday.

After prolonged dry weather conditions, people experienced a breeze with drizzling for some time in the evening and many people enjoyed the unexpected rain that struck at various places in the Adilabad district. Especially children were seen enjoying the raining.

'DRDO JOB' **ASPIRANTS DUPED OF ₹10L**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A person duped job aspirants to the tune of ₹10 lakh under the pretext of providing jobs in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The issue came to light after a 37-year-old job aspirant approached the Vanasthalipuram police station and lodged a complaint.

The complainant said that he had met the accused, Rayabagi Sainath, a neighbor, who informed him that he was an employee of DRDO.

'The complainant believed Satinath who assured him a job in DRDO. Further, Sainath said due to lockdown job notification has been delayed and promised that he will provide Job in DRDO and asked for ₹5 lakh. Sainath also assured to provide job to the complaint's wife and demanded another ₹5 lakh," said Vanasthalipuram police inspector K. Murali Mohan. Since November 2020 the complainant paid ₹10 lakh

on different occasions to accused Sainath. The accused also handed over appointment letters to them, stating it as an official letter from DRDO. Upon inquiry the complaint realised that letters are fake, and created by Sainath, added

the police. After realising that they got cheated the complaint approached Vanasthalipuram police and lodged a complaint. The police booked a cheating case and started investigation to nab the accused Sainath who is absconding.

With shutdowns in Maha, many labourers migrating to Adilabad

Every crop season they come as agriculture labour for picking cotton

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, APRIL 13

Many labourers and daily wage workers from Maharashtra are temporarily migrating into the old Adilabad district since the past few days in search of work. This follows unavailability of work in that state, where enormous cases of Coronavirus have brought day-to-day life, business and construc-

tion to a standstill. The affected districts of the neighbouring state include Nanded, Yavathmal, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli, which share their borders with

Adilabad district. Old Adilabad district is a natural choice for many labourers from Maharashtra, since many of them have relatives or known persons in Adilabad and other

However, trends show that most of the labourers from neighbouring state have been coming to

Adilabad town.
Thousands of them anyway come to Adilabad district as agriculture labour for picking cotton every season, as there is labour shortage in the district.

These labourers are provided shelter by landowners in their agriculture fields or adjacent areas. Considerable labour are also employed in the construction sec-

Bharath of Adilabad town said many labourers from Maharashtra are being seen coming with limited luggage in trains coming from Maharashtra.

He said medical and



MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar makes a man wear face mask in Choppadandi of

MLA urges people to wear mask, prevent 2nd wave

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, APRIL 13

number of Covid-19 cases and to keep a check on the second wave of the Coronavirus, the state government issued orders making it mandatory to wear face masks, and it is the responsibility of the people to follow it without fail when they come out, said the Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar on Tuesday.

Ravi Shankar stopped people on the road without wearing face masks and gave them masks here

district should keep a

health authorities of the migrants

close watch on these must be conducted on

Choppadandi Karimnagar district. When the government is

In view of increasing taking several steps to prevent the spread of the second wave Coronavirus which is spreading at an alarming rate, it is not good on the part of people to behave negligently without following Covid-19 rules, he The virus is spreading

from one to another with-out any symptoms unlike the first strain which showed symptoms of cold, fever and cough, he cautioned.

Personal hygiene, wash-

migrants coming to Adilabad. Basic tests

of ing of wands thoroughly, applying sanitisers, maintaining physical distance along with wearing face masks are the only precautionary steps people should follow to protect themselves from being contracted with deadly Coronavirus new strain, he suggested.

The MLA appealed to the people who crossed 45 years of age to take the Covid-19 vaccination by enrolling themselves in the nearest hospital as the process of vaccination is going on at brisk pace across the Telangana

them to check whether they have been affected by Covid-19.

MORE SEVERE, SAYS COLLECTOR DC CORRESPONDENT KOTHAGUDEM, APRIL 13

SECOND WAVE IS

Bhadradri-Kothagudem district collector M.V.
Reddy said that the
research reports on
Coronavirus are saying
that the virus is shaped in
various strains and
spreading fast. Reddy said
that the severity of the that the severity of the disease is high and the people should take all measures to check it. He said that the people of Kothagudem district stood as ideal in checking the virus in the first phase and should show the same spirit in the second wave also. "Many people after recovering from COvid think that there no need to fear anymore. But there is no guarantee of not getting infected for the second time. Wearing a mask and sanitising is very important to check the virus. The severity is more in the second wave than the first one", he

REDDY SAID that the severity of the disease is high and the people should take all measures to check it. He said that the people of Kothagudem district stood as ideal in checking the virus in the first phase and should show the same spirit in the second wave also. "Many people after recovering from COvid think that there no need to fear anymore. But there is no guarantee of not getting infected for the sec-



BJP leaders welcome the Kisan rail at Lingampalli railway station in Jagtial district on Tuesday.

—BY ARRANGEMENT

BJP men welcome Kisan rail in Jagtial

DC CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of BJP Kisan Morcha welcomed the Kisan rail at Lingampalli Railway Station in Jagtial district with a shower of flowers. They also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pro-viding special Kisan Rail from the station to New Delhi for mango growers of the district. The train later left with 420 tonnes of mangoes in 20 wagons. There will be two more Kisan rail specials coming to Lingampalli on Wednesday and on April 19.

Speaking on the occasion, state vice president Morcha Kisan Singireddy

Krishna Reddy pointed out that keeping in view farmers' welfare, the central government is pro-viding Kisan rail services with 50 percent subsidy on transport charges.

The trains save a lot of time in transport and prevent the fruit from getting damaged. To transport mangoes by road to Delhi, it takes more than 72 hours. But introduction of Kisan rail services ensures that the product sion.

reaches Delhi within one

Mangoes grown in Jagtial are in great demand in northern and eastern states of India, including Haryana, Punjab, Jammu, Kashmir and

Jammu, Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, Krishna Reddy pointed out. BJP district president Kodipally Gopal Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposes to launch around 1,000 Kisan rails across the country this year in the interests of farmers. Several food grains, fruits and flowerswill be transported through these trains.

This rail service not only gives an economic boost to farmers but also helps agriculture manufacturing units, big markets and metro cities in getting farm produce, Gopal Reddy pointed out.

BJP leaders V. Anil Kumar, M. Ramu, K. Narasimha Reddy, Shekar Reddy, N. Thirupathi, L. Rajanna, A. Uttam, M. Rajesh, Ch. Prem Sagar, Rajalingam, Gangaram, were among

those present on the occa-

Devotional spirit



Devotees perform puja at Sri Mahashakti devastanam on the occasion Ugadi festival at Chitanyapuri colony in Karimnagar on Tuesday.

BJP may give ticket to TRS rejected candidates

KHAMMAM, APRIL 13

Bharatiya Janata Party district president G. Satyanarayana said his partywill contest all the 60 divisions within the Khammam Municipal Corporationand is evolving different strategies to win the corporation.

BJP also proposes to give tickets to corporators of ruling TRS who are denied the party ticket. Satyanarayana said some TRS corporators have already expressed their wish to join the BJP.

DC CORRESPONDENT

Minister

Chandrasekhar Rao said

many schemes and pro-

grammes of TRS govern-

ment for welfare of

Muslims over the last six

years are now bearing fruits, bringing a qualita-

tive change within the

HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Chief

He said they are organising padayatra in all divisions as part of their cam-Thousands of party youth have been given the task of getting in touch with at least 50 voters and mobilise them on the polling day.

said Satyanarayana state leader party Yadagiri Reddy has been appointed as in-charge of the KMC election. "Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy and BJP state president Bandi Sanjay will be our star campaigners," he said, adding that Sanjay

will stay for three days in Khammam and participate in the campaign.

Further, expecting including D. Arvind, and other leaders to campaign in KMC.

"We are making all efforts to unfurl the saffron flag on KMC. People of Khammam are tired of corruption in the TRS government.

We will also expose the misdeeds of transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar in the corporation elections," Satyanaraya-

THUNDERSTORMS LIKELY IN SATE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

The Indian Meteorolo gical Department has issued a 'Level Orange' state for Wednesday saying that some places in the state can expect to experience thunderstoraccompanied by lightning, gusty winds with speeds between 30 and 40 kilometres per hour along with some hail.

Such weather, it said, is likely to occur over Ranga Reddy, Yadadri-Bhongir, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam, B h a d r a d r i Kothagudem, Jangaon, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Medak and Medchal-Malkajirji districts on Malkajgiri districts on Wednesday. While similar weather has been predicted for isolated places over the state for Thursday, the following two days can see thun-derstorms with light-ning at isolated places in Telangana, it said.

'Level Orange' warning means there is a 'medium' threat of such predicted weather and calls for preparation to meet any eventuality arising from such weather, a red warning means a high probability of predicted weather playing out and is also a call for i m m e d i a t e

Special children hit as online classes are back

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDFRABAD, APRIL 13

Over a year after school closure, students of the impaired continue to face difficulties due to the switch from classrooms to online schooling. This, though they are betterplaced and equipped with proper infrastructure

Help was on the way. For instance, the state government's Disabled Welfare Department has provided smartphones to students of Classes 8-10 in the four government-run blind schools in the state in Mahbubnagar, Hyderabad and Karimnagar.

O Ramulu, principal of the Mahbubnagar school, said students who have returned home are hardpressed over the online style of education. "For



our students in Classes 8-10, the government provided over 30 smartphones to help them take lessons over voice notes and calls. But this process is easy for them.

"Students in junior classes have been provided with Braille books. Yet, the absence of an environment they were used to is missing for them," said another teacher. Access to internet and

getting used to online

learning still remain a challenge for these students as also their parents. We have been trying to help our kid with his lessons on phone with support from his teachers. At school, someone is always around to help him with each and every doubt. But, overall, these are not of much help to the stu-dent,"said Srinivas, a parent from the Darulshifa

government school for the

2,200 KG **GANJA SEIZED** IN COAL TOWN

DC CORRESPONDENT KOTHAGUDEM, APRIL 13

Ganja, worth ₹3.31 crore, was seized in Kothagudem Tuesday. police team led by sub-inspector Mahesh of Chunchupalli police station found 2,200 kilograms ganja packed was shifting to Hyderabad from Chintoor in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh on the Icher van bearing no-AP28-W8974. Shaik Mehaboob, resident of Toli Chowk in Hyderabad, driver of vehicle was taken into custody. Case under sections of NDPS (Narcotics Drugs and Psychotrophic Substances Act) was filed against the driver and others. Efforts are on for

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In his message to mark the beginning of Ramzan month, he wished that "Ganga Jamuna tehjeeb"

• IN CM'S message to mark the beginning of Ramzan month, he wished that "Ganga Jamuna tehjeeb" within TS would increase manifold, strengthening the spirit of brotherhood amongCM recalled several schemes implemented by the state government for welfare of economically backward classes among Muslims

MUSLIM | WELFARE CM urges Muslim brethren to follow all Covid guidelines

'TRS schemes paying off for Muslims'

within TS would increase religions and ensure harmanifold, strengthening mony among people of all the spirit of brotherhood among people He pointed out that the state government has been officially

communities. On the occasion, the CM recalled several schemes implemented by the state governobserving Ramzan as part ment for welfare of eco-of its plan to celebrate all ment for welfare of eco-nomically backward class-

a qualitative change in lives of young Muslim women. Programmes implemented for educating Muslim students have also been successful and residential schools for them are yielding good results.

In view of the second

es among Muslims. He

said schemes like Shaadi

Mubarak have brought in

wave of Coronavirus the Minister urged Muslim brethren to follow all Covid guidelines while offering their prayers.

the arrest of other

persons in the case.

SHORT TAKES

K.J. JALEEL QUITS AFTER LOKAYUKTA INDICTMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 13

Kerala higher education minister K.T. Jaleel who was indicted by Lokayukta for nepotism, abuse of power and breach of oath of office, resigned here on Tuesday.

Jaleel sent his resignation to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the latter forward ed it to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

In an emotional Facebook post Jaleel said that those who were baying for his blood could find some relief now. The minister's resignation came hours before the Kerala High Court was scheduled to hear his plea challenging Lokayukta damning

In his petition Jaleel had contended that the Lokayukta findings were not based on evidence or proper investigations, hence the ruling should be set aside by the high court The Lokayukta had indicted him of appointing his close relative K.T. Adeeb by altering the educational qualifications needed for the post of general manager, state minori-ties development finance corporation.

The division bench of Lokayukta had ruled that the charge of abuse of power, favouritism and nepotism against Jaleel had been proved

It was the Muslim Youth League leadership which had firsť alleged tĥat Jaleel's cousin Adeeb, was appointed general manager, flouting

At the time of appointment, Adeeb was working as manager of a private bank.

This forum is satisfied that the allegation of abuse of power, favouritism, nepotism and violation of oath of office is substantiated against Dr K.T. Jaleel, minister for Higher education and minority welfare," the Lokayukta had observed.

Mistakes of past need not constrain our thinking: PM

Says experiences, expertise, resources must in the fight against pandemic

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us an opportunity to reshape the world order and we must think of the entire humanity and not merely of those who are on our side of the borders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, adding that "we in India have tried to walk the talk (and) have tried to protect our own 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic" but that despite many constraints, despite many constraints, India had still "supplied vaccine to over 80 countries". Acknowledging that "the supplies have been modest" and the "demands huge", he said it would "be a long time before the entire humanibefore the entire humanity can be vaccinated'

Advocating that that "humanity as a whole must be at the centre of our thinking and action" PM Modi promised that India would continue to share its "experiences, expertise and resources with the entire humanity in the fight against the pandemic", adding that the "mistakes and misdeeds of the past seven decades need not contrain our thinking for strain our thinking for

the future".
PM Modi further pointed out that "while humanity has not faced the Thirď World War, the threat of violence has not reduced in people's lives" and that "with a number of proxy wars and unending terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present"

The Prime Minister was delivering an address at



Guest workers arriving from Maharashtra rest outside Patna junction on Tuesday, as Coronavirus cases spike across the country.

haps because in the race

the four-day sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogue conference in the Capital that began in Virtual format on Tuesday. Calling upon the participants "to emerge as a powerful voice for a human centric approach", he reminded them that "while we may be used to having Plan A and plan B, there is no Planet B, only planet Earth" and that "we must remember that we hold this planet merely as trustees for our future Generations".

The Raisina Dialogue is "India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016" and is 'jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the (thinktank) Observer Research Foundation (ORF). PM Modi said, "Is it per-

of economic development the concern for welfare of humanity has been left behind. Is it perhaps because in the age of competition, the spirit of cooperation has been forgotten. After the end of the second world war, over the next few decades many structures and institutions were created but under the shadow of the two wars they were aimed at answering only one question, how to prevent the Third World War? Today, I submit to you that this was the wrong question, as a result all the steps taken were like treating a patient symptoms without addressing

the underlying causes. Or

to put it differently, all the

steps taken were to pre-

vent the last war not the

be potential carriers of Covid.

MAHA IMPOSES STERN CURBS TILL MAY 1

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, APRIL 13

Chief Maharashtra Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday announced imposition of prohibitory orders — the section 144 of CrPC (sanchar-bandhi) from 8.00 pm on Wednesday to 7.00 am May 1 in order to break the chain of the Coronavirus.

Public transport will continue to function only for essential workers and for essential activities for general public.

"Nobody would be allowed to use the public transport without a valid reason excluding the people notified under essential services in an order

issued by the disaster management unit of the Relief and Rehabilitation department," Thackeray said in his video address to people.

CONG: KUMBH

RETURNEES MAY

WORSEN CRISIS

Congress leader and Maharashtra Cabinet

Maharashtra Cabinet minister Asalam Shaikh

criticised the BJP led-

ment for not enforcing

the Covid related norms in Kumbh Mela. Shaikh stated that these were the

same people who alleged

that Tablighi Jamaat had

spread the virus. Shiv

Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut also expressed apprehension that the people returning from Kumbh mela in

Haridwar will turn out to

Mumbai:

Uttarakhand

Stating that the situation is very grim in Maharashtra, Thackeray said that the government would use this 15 days period to scale up its health infrastructure.

The Maharashtra on Tuesday reported 60,212 new cases taking total positive cases to 5,93,042. The state also reported 281 deaths on Tuesday.

Underlining the shortage of oxygen and Remd-esivir injection among other things, Thackeray said, "at present, 1,200 MT oxygen is being pro-

Didi calls off Dharna as EC acts against three BJP leaders

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, APRIL 13

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday wrapped up her dharna in protest against the Election Commission's "undemocratic and unconstitutional" ban on her campaign for 24 hours in the Assembly election within few hours after the Election Commission ordered similar steps, in a balancing act, against three Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Rahul Sinha, state chief and Midnapore MP Dilip Ghosh and Nandigram candidate Suvendu Adhikari — over their controversial remarks.

Though the Trinamul Congress supremo had announced she would sit on dharna from 12 noon, she reached the Gandhi Statue at the Maidan, which falls under the authority of the Army's Eastern Command as it is defence land, quite early.

From 11.45 am Banerjee, in her wheelchair, began her silent protest, also a rare scene, sitting there alone.

As she was seen talking on her mobile before getting busy at painting, it came to light that her party's application to the defence ministry for permission for her demonstration at the venue was yet to be cleared.

Eastern Command spokesman Commander Mandeep Huda said: "We have received the application from the Trinamul Congress for a no objection certificate for the Gandhi statue protest. It was received at 9.40 am today. It is under process. We have not yet issued the NOC for that. We are processing it as per laid down procedures

and guidelines. Meanwhile the EC, in wake of the TMC's questions on its impartiality, ordered a 48-hour campaign ban, starting from 12 noon on Tuesday, on Habra Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Rahul Sinha for his inflammatory remarks on the killings of four persons by the Central paramilitary forces at Shitalkuchi in Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of the polls.

"Not four, eight people should have been shot dead by the Central forces there! The Central forces should be issued a showcause notice asking why they killed only four and not eight. Goons are trying to deprive people of their dem-ocratic rights. Central forces responded appropriately. If it happens again, they will answer again," the former state Bharatiya Janata Party president had claimed at a campaign rally on Monday.

After the order, he however said: "I hold the EC in high respect. But it is a severe punishment to me.

The EC also served a showcause notice to Ghosh directing him to explain his recent threat to "repeat the Shitalkuchi-style killings at many places" during the polls by 10 am on Wednesday.

The poll panel also warned and advised Adhikari, after getting his reply to its notice on his "begum" remark, in a veiled reference to Banerjee, and his assertion that voting for his political opponent would imply voting for a "mini-Pakistan", "to desist from using such statements while making public utterances during the period when the Model Code of Conduct is in force"

Five hours before the end of the ban on her campaign, Banerjee cut short her dharna at around 3 pm and headfor home at Harish Chatterjee Street

Vatican probe: U.S. Bishop quits

Rome, April 13: A Minnesota bishop who was investigated interfering with past investi gations into clergy sexual abuse has resigned.

The Vatican said Tuesday that Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Michael Hoeppner and named a temporary replacement to run the Crookston diocese. The Vatican did not say why Francis accepted the resignation, but the Vatican in 2019 authorised an investigation into claims that Hoeppner had engaged in "acts or omissions intended to interfere with or avoid civil or canonical investigations of clerical sexual misconduct.'

HK's LEGISLATIVE POLL TO TAKE PLACE IN DEC.

Hong Kong, April 13: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday that the semiautonomous Chinese territory's legislative elections will take pla-ce in December, more than a year after they were postponed by authorities citing public health risks from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Lam also said that laws will be amended so that inciting voters not to vote or to cast blank or invalid votes will be made illegal, although voters themselves are free to boycott voting or cast votes as they wish. "When a person willfully obstructs or prevents any person from voting at an election, we will consider it corrupt conduct," said Lam.

Lam said that the elections will take place on Dec. 19. The elections were initially slated to be held last September. Lam was speaking a day ahead of the first reading of draft amendments to various laws in the city's legislature, to accommodate Beijing's planned changes to the city's electoral system. Beijing in March announced changes to Hong Kong's electoral system, expanding the number of seats in the legislature while reducing the number of directly-elected seats from 35

The move is part of a two-phase effort to rein in political protest and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a more liberal political system.

Iran to enrich uranium to highest level

Dubai, April 13: Iran will begin enriching uranium to 60 per cent purity, higher than the programme ever has before though still short of weapons grade, after an attack on its Natanz nuclear facility, an Iranian negotiator said Tuesday. The announcement marks a significant escalation after the sabotage, suspected to have been carried out by Israel. It could result in further action by Israel, whose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and further raise tensions across the Mideast. Nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi's comment, quoted by the state-run *IRNA* news agency, came after Iran's foreign minister warned that the weekend assault could hurt ongoing negotiations over its tattered atomic deal with world powers.

Those talks are aimed at finding a way for the United States to re-enter the agreement, the goal of which is to limit Iran's enrichment of uranium in exchange relief on san-

Iran had been enriching up to 20 per cent. That is a short technical step to weapons-grade levels of

The International Atomic Energy Agency said it was aware of the media reports but had no comment at the time. *Press TV*, the Iranian state televi-

JAPAN'S MOVE N-PLANT WATER: CHINA OBJECTS

Beijing, April 13: China on Tuesday objected to Japan's move to release treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant into the sea warning Tokyo that "it reserves the right to make further reactions". decided Japan

Tuesday to release treated radioactive water from crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant into the sea, having assessed there will be no negative impact on human health or the environment despite concerns from local fishermen and neighbouring countries, *Japan Times* reported. Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga met with members of his Cabinet to formalise the decision

sion's English-language arm, separately said that the IAEA had been informed of the move.

It said the enrichment would begin as of Wednesday. The broadcaster also quoted the negotiator as saying Iran would introduce another 1,000 centrifuges Natanz,

US suggests 'pause' in use of J&J vax over blood clot fears

Recommendations by health authorities is blow to immunisation campaign

Washington, April 13: US health authorities recommended a "pause" Tuesday in the use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine "out of an abundance of caution" over potential links to a rare type of blood clot, in a blow to the country's

immunisation campaign. The disorder appears similar to that observed in rare cases of people received AstraZeneca vaccine in Europe — and the shots by both companies are based on adenovirus vec-

tor technology.

The US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control are assessing the "pot-ential significance" of six reported cases of a type of clot in the brain called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All the cases involved

women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred six to 14 days after vaccination.

As of Monday more than 6.8 million doses of the single-shot J&J vaccine had been administered in the US — meaning that the rare effect appears to have been detected in around one in a million

"People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath



Demonstrators argue with police in riot gear during a protest against restriction measures to curb the spread of Covid-19, at the Circus Maximus in Rome, on

vaccination should contact their health care provider," the FDA said. The CDC will convene a meeting of a top expert committee on Wednesday to further assess these cases and their significa-

nce, and the FDA will also carry out its own investigation. "Until that process is complete, we are recommending this pause out of abundance of caution," it said, to ensure the medical community was aware of the development and could develop

within three weeks after plans.

The pause deals a hit to the United States' Covid vaccination campaign, which has so far adminis-tered 45 percent of the adult population at least one dose — among the most rapid rates in the world.

The J&J vaccine was celebrated for the fact it can be stored at fridge temperature and requires just one dose — unlike Pfizer and Moderna that need two and require freezing.

But even before the pause, the company was affected by supply problems after a contractor spoiled 15

million doses that never ended up shipping.

Nonetheless, with Pfizer and Moderna continuing to deliver their hundreds of millions of promised doses on time, the US is likely to maintain a high vaccination pace.

The FDA said that normally, an anticoagulant drug called heparin is used to treat these blood clots, but in this case administering heparin

might be dangerous. That might be because the disorder resembles a rare reaction to heparin, in which the body forms

EUROPE VAX ROLLOUT

J&J DELAYS

Berlin, April 13: Johnson & Johnson said Tuesday it is delaying the rollout of its Coronavirus vaccine in Europe amid a US probe into reports of rare blood

clots in some recipients. The announcement came after regulators in the United States said they were recommending a "pause' in administration of the single-dose shot to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots. "We have been reviewing these cases with European health authorities," Johnson & Johnson said.

"We have made the decision to proactively delay the rollout of our vaccine in Europe." The delay is a further blow to vaccination drives in European nations, plagued by supply shortages, logistical problems and concerns over unusual blood clots in a small number of people who received the AstraZeneca vaccine. The blood clot reports prompted several countries to limit the vaccine to older age groups, which are more at risk from serious illness when infected with Covid-19. The European Medicines Agency, the EU's equivalent to the FDA, said last Friday that it was reviewing cases reported in the US of

500 troops to be added by US in Germany: Austin

Berlin, April 13: Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced on Tuesday that he is expanding the US military presence in Germany by 500 troops, suggesting he will not carry out a Trump admin-istration order to withdraw thousands of them. "This planned increase

in US personnel under-

Germany and the entire NATO alliance," Austin said in a notable counterpoint to the Trump administration's repeated complaints that Germany is a weak partner on defence and security. Austin made the anno-

uncement after talks with

German Defence Minister

scores our commitment to Germany and the entire enbauer on his first tour of Europe since becoming Pentagon chief in January. Kramp-Karrenbauer welcomed the announcement as a "strong signal" of a healthy US-German relationship. They also discussed a pending decision by President Joe Biden on

pletely from Afghanistan by May 1, a deadline the administration Trump pledged to the Taliban mil-

Germany is a key part of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan. Austin said at a joint news conference with Kramp-Karrenbauer that the extra 500 US whether to withdraw com- troops will be stationed

permanently in German-y's Wiesbaden area as early as this fall.

"These forces will strengthen deterrence and defence in Europe. They will augment our existing abilities to prevent conflict, and, if necessary, fight and win," Austin said in prepared remarks. "This move will also create more space, more cyber, and more electronic warfare capabilities in Europe," he added, and he said it will 'greatly improve our ability to surge forces at a moment's notice to defend our allies."

Last year, President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of 12,000 troops from Germany as

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

FINANCIAL

KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021

INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	48,544.06	1.38
Nifty 50	14,504.80	1.36
S&P 500*	4,133.82	0.14
Dollar (₹)	75.06	-0.40
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.11	-0.69
Euro (₹)	89.33	-0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,093▼130	0.28
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.99	1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.011	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.661	-0.015
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

China's March exports rise 30.6% as demand revives

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



■ Dues to Centre, states, staff extinguish with plan passage

SC: Dues not payable if not part of IBC resolution plan

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

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

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



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

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

Once a resolution plan is duly approved by the adju-

the dues, including the statutory dues owed to the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, if not part of the resolution plan, shall stand extinguished and no proceedings in respect of such dues for the period prior to the date on which the Adjudicating Authority claims as provided in the resolution plan shall stand grants its approval under frozen and will be binding Section 31 could be continued, the bench held. on the Corporate Debtor and its employees, mem-The top court was faced bers, creditors, including

is not part of the revival

package. Consequently all

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

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

Indirect taxes up 12% in FY21

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, APRIL 13

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

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

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

GATHERING MORE Net indirect tax collection (GST & non-GST) 2019-20 10.71

2020-21 Net tax collection on account of central excise and service tax (arrears) 2019-20 2.45 2020-21 3.91 2019-20 1.09 | Custom duty collections

2020-21 1.32 Figures in ₹ Lakh crore , and are provisional Source: Ministry of Finance . KBK Infographic

are the biggest contributors to excise duties and the multiple hikes in petrol and diesel prices throughout the fiscal supported the increase in excise duties despite lower consump-

Net customs duty collec-

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

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

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

BUSINESS

NON-LIFE GROSS DIRECT PREMIUM UP 5% IN FY21

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

BIS LICENCE FEE CUT FOR STARTUPS

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

loaded from e-BIS port. The Bureau of

Indian Standards issues licences with a

standard mark to help identify the unit

which has made the product at a specif-

ic location. "The government has given

50 per cent rebate on (new) BIS certifica-

tion of products for start-up, micro-

INDIA-EU TRADE TALKS TO RESUME



Finance Nirmala Sitharaman said resumption of formal negotiations on India-EU trade deal during the leadership summit next month in Porto, Portugal, would

help further strengthen ties with the European Union. The negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement have been stalled since May 2013, when both sides failed to bridge substantial gaps on crucial issues, including data security status for the IT sector. The negotiations with the 27-nation grouping were launched in June 2007.

FB, Instagram users can now appeal to Oversight Board

New Delhi, April 13: An independent board set up by Facebook to look into hate speech and other undesirable content on the platform on Tuesday said it will now accept cases Facebook and users the company wrongfully allowed such content to remain on these social media platforms. Facebook, which has faced flak in many parts of the world over various issues, including data breaches and handling of hate speech, had set up the Oversight Board last year. The board includes former judges, journalists human rights

who review

activists,

appeals from users on material that has been down Facebook and Instagram, and make binding content decisions for the social networking platforms.

the Central Government,

any State Government or

any local authority, guaran-

tors and other stakehold-

ers, Justice Gavai, who

wrote the 139-page judg-

It said on the date of

approval of the resolution

plan, all claims, which are

not a part of the resolution

plan, shall stand extin-

guished and no person will

be entitled to initiate or

continue any proceedings

ment, said.

"Enabling users to appeal content they want to see removed from Facebook is a significant expansion of the Oversight Board's capabilities," Hughes, director of the Administration, said in a statement.

The Oversight Board said this new capability represents an important step toward delivering a more principled and transparent model of content moderation.

Bhuvneshwar is Player of Month

Dubai: Experienced India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Tuesday won the ICC Player of the Month award for his superlative show in the limited overs series against England in March The 31-year-old Indian took six wickets at an economy rate of 4.65 in the three ODIs, while

capturing four wickets at a fantastic economy rate of 6.38 in the five T20Is to emerge as the standout bowler on either side in the white ball series. Bhuvneshwar became the third

successive Indian recipient of the award since its inception early this year. — PTI

Kane wins Hadlee medal for 4th time

Wellington: New Zealand skipper

Kane Williamson won his fourth Sir Richard Hadlee medal for excelling across formats and was also adjudged the 'Test Player of the Year' in the country's annual cricket awards on Tuesday. Devon Conway won the men's ODI and T20 Player of the Year during the 2020-21 awards season which was conducted digitally for a second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Williamson's incredible home Test summer helped him clinch the two awards alongside the Redpath Cup for first-class batting, after he amassed a whonping 639 runs in just four innings at an average of 159. - PTI

Wizards snap Jazz winning home run

Los Angeles: Bradley Bkeal scored 34 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Washington Wizards ended the Utah Jazz's 24-game home winning streak with a 125-121 victory in Salt Lake City on Monday. Donovan Mitchell delivered a 42-point gem for Utah but could not prevent the understrength Western Conference leaders from sliding to a surprise defeat against a Wizards team struggling near the foot of the

Star-studded field for India Open

Marin, Momota among top entries as badminton action returns to India

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

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

Association of India (BAI) said "due to the rapidly rising Covid-19 cases in the country, the tournament will be contested in a bio-secure bubble without spectators and media while implementing strict Covid-19 safety protocols.' "All the players and offi-

cials coming from South Africa, Brazil, Middle East and European countries including UK will be serving a 7-day quarantine period and have to report in the capital city

Dhaka, April 13: Five

African women's cricket

team have become strand-

ed in Bangladesh after

testing positive for Covid-

SA WOMEN CRICKETERS STUCK IN

BANGLADESH AFTER POSITIVE TEST



on May 3," BAI said in a release.

... Players and officials from rest of the world can arrive on May 6 and undergo a 4-day quaran-

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

London, April 13: The

Indian women's cricket team will play a historic one-off Test against

England in Bristol as part

of a multi-format series

that will also feature three

ODIs and as many T20

The Test will be played

at the Bristol County

Ground from June 16-19,

kicking off the England

team's summer. The match was first confirmed

by BCCI secretary Jay

Shah earlier this year but

the exact date and venue

across

Internationals

June-July.

champion P.V. Sindhu. Korea's An Se-Young and Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Indian women to tour

India boasts of the largest contingent with 48 players (27 women and 21

fielded the second biggest which includes 10 women and 16 men.

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

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

and Parupalli Kashyap.

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

"Delhi Government will conduct RT-PCR test on arrival on May 3 and 6 as well as on May 9 and 14. "We are really happy to finally be able resume badminton action. But

with the recent spike in cases, we have to be more cautious," BAI general secretary Ajay Singhania

began. may be more.

hits 100 day to go — will be in the same park under the same closed-doors con-

New Covid-19 cases are

relay in Osaka Tokyo, April 13: The Osaka, which announced plans last week to take

No fans at torch

torch relay for the Tokyo Olympics ran through a mostly empty Osaka city park on Tuesday, showing the risks of trying to hold the postponed games during a pandemic. It came on the same day

TOKYO OLYMPICS

that the government said new coronavirus cases in Osaka hit 1,099, a singleday record for Japan's second largest metropolitan area

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

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

Wednesday's second leg in Osaka — the day the Tokyo countdown clock

rising across Japan, where fewer than 1% of

first detour since the relay began. residents have been vacci nated in very slow rollout Japan has attributed about 9,500 deaths to Covid-19, far fewer than

many countries but high

the relay off city

streets and bar the

public, became the

er than most neighbours in Asia. Osaka, Tokyo and other parts of Japan have declared "quasi-emer-gency" conditions until early May with bars and restaurants being asked to

close by 8 pm. Many runners arrived in Expo Osaka's Commemorative Park by bus and ran short legs carrving the torch alongside metal barriers or in

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

EX-INDIA HOCKEY PLAYER BALBIR SINGH JR NO MORE

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

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

studied at Lyallpur Khalsa College in Jalandhar and was first selected to play for the Indian hockey team in 1951 during the tour of Afghanistan. He was part of the Punjab state hockey team and also captained Panjab University team.

tour concluding on July 15

England in June-July

- June 16-19: Test match -**Bristol County Ground** June 27: 1st ODI - Bristol County Ground
- **Cooper Associates County** Ground, Taunton July 3: 3rd ODI - New
- July 9: 1st T201 County Ground, Northampton July 11: 2nd T201 - Central
- County Ground, Hove July 15: 3rd T201 - The Cloudfm County Ground, Chelmsford.

during the 2019 Ashes. The one-off Test will be followed by three ODIs and T20Is each with the

in Chelmsford. After announcing its

"The two international



quarter saw them put up 42 points. - AFP

East. Utah, with Mike Conley and Jordan Clarkson absent from the line-up, looked to be racing towards a 25th straight home victory after a dazzling opening

19, officials said Tuesday. Seventeen other members of the South Africa Emerging team left Bangladesh late Monday, before the country imposed a ban on interna-

tional flights over a surge in new cases there. The five remaining have been put into isolation in Dhaka, said Shafiul Alam Nadel of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

"All members of the South African team gave Covid-19 test samples

before their departure

from Sylhet. Five of them

deputy director of the

Himangshu Lal

positive,"

said

Osmani Medical College in the northeastern city. The team's fifth match was due to start on Tuesday in Sylhet.

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

The five in isolation will be tested again and if the results are negative "we will send them back home at the earliest possible time," said Nadel. Documents seen by AFP indicated that team man-

ager Matshipi Marcia

Letsoalo and players were unveiled by the host Sinalo Jafta, Leah Jones, Nobulumko Baneti and board on Tuesday. the women's team will take Robyn Searle had been left part in a Test for the first time since 2014, England

THE FIXTURES

June 30: 2nd ODI - The

last played a red-ball game

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

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

RUSS HOUR CHAOS

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

DC CORRESPONDENT

turned on its head as Kolkata lost wickets in a

From 103 for two, KKR slumped to 122 for five with Eoin Morgan, Nitish

Rana and Shakib Al

Hasan making their way

Krunal Pandya bowled a

superb spell of 4-0-13-1. Leg-spinner Rahul

Chahar took four wickets.

Jasprit Bumrah who

was guilty of dropping Russell bowled a brilliant

penultimate over to bring the equation to 15 off six

said it was a disappointing defeat. "A lot of the

time we played good crick-et, certainly the first half

and a majority of the

chase. We made mistakes,

hopefully we can iron them out. Mumbai are a

very good side. I think the perfect game is to be able

to do both (all-out attack

and otherwise) and we've

managed to do neither in

" It works for us a major-

ity of the time, but we

need to be better. The

games that have been

played here, it would sug-

(of runscoring getting tough at the end). Mumbai

have been performing like

this for a long time, that

would be something we

need to assess," he added.

Hyderabad

Royal

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

would be keen to plug a big hole in their batting

line-up when they take on

Challengers Bangalore

at the

Chidambaram Stadium

on Tuesday. David Warner & co's biggest

worry has been an inex-

perienced middle-order

who once again failed to

take them past the finish

line in their opener against Kolkata Knight

Jammu Kashmir young-

ster Abdul Samad showed

glimpses of his big hit-

ting talent when he smashed KKR's premier

pacer Pat Cummins for a

couple of sixes. With

West Indies all-rounder

Jason Holder out of quar-

antine, Sunrisers might

Sunrisers

buoyant

the end.

KKR skipper

back to the pavilion.

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Nitish Rana,

KKR

Saniu Samson, RR

> KL Rahul, **PBKS**

PURPLE

Andre Russell, KKR

Harshal Patel, RCB

Rahul Chahar, MI

Off the field



DC opener Shikhar Dhawan works out at the team hotel.

Archer's IPL return remains uncertain

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

Rohit wants to maintain fitness

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

When Harshal felt insulted

Royal Challengers
Bangalore medium pacer Harshal Patel on Tuesday revealed that he felt "insulted" after being overlooked by franchises during the 2018 IPL 2018. However, he did not get "In 2018 ÎPL, a lot of people didn't show interest in me and that struck me, I took it as an insult within myself because I wanted to become a player who was a match-winner and had a lot of value," Patel said.

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draft him in ahead of auctions, which motivated him to work on his batting and become a worthy allrounder. The 30-year-old was bought by Delhi Capitals for his base price of ₹20 Lakh in many opportunities to play.

> of two pulsating, last-ball finishes, fantastic Lindividual performances and unexpected results is any indication, IPL2021 promises to be a roller-

non-stop excitement

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Jamaican Andre Russell Sharma b Cummins 43, turned a villain from a Quinton de Kock c Tripathi b Varun 2, Suryakumar Yadav c Shubman Gill b Shakib Al hero in a matter of a few hours as Kolkata Knight Riders crashed a 10-run defeat at the hands of their nemesis Mumbai Hasan 56, Ishan Kishan c Prasidh Krishna b Cummins 1, Hardik Pandya c Russell b Indians here on Tuesday. Russell stood tall with a Prasidh Krishna 15, Kieron Pollard c Karthik b Russell 5, Krunal Pandya c Prasidh Krishna career-best 5/15 to restrict Mumbai to 152, but misfired with the bat when it mattered the most. b Russell 15, Marco Jansen c Cummins b Kolkata were expected to make short work the chase when opener Nitish Russell O, Rahul Chahar c Shubman Gill b Russell 8, Rana (57) slammmed his Jasprit Bumrah c Shakib second consecutive half-century. The opening Al Hasan b Russell O, Trent Boult (not out) O. Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7. Total stand of 72 runs between (in 20 overs) 152. FoW: 1-10, 2-86, 3-88, 4-115, 5-123, 6-125, 7-126, 8-Rana and Shubman Gill (33) had set the ideal plat-But what followed was a mini collapse. The game

KKR's Andre Russell celebrates a Mumbai Indians wicket.

RCB challenge for Sunrisers

Sunrisers pacer T. Natarajan during a training session

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

skipper Morgan deserved praise for using his bowlers diligently. Morgan unleashed a three-pronged spin attack with Harbhajan Singh, Chakravarthy and Shakib Al Hasan operating in the

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

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

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

had struggled his way to a 16-ball 10 against Mumbai

will make way for a fit-again Devdutt Padikkal

at the top. Padikkal was

rested from the previous game following his recov-

ery from Covid-19 Rajat

Patidar, who batted at

one-drop, is expected to

be benched to accommo-

Their new recruit from

New Zealand, Kyle Jamieson has added venom to RCB's bowling

attack. Along with the

lanky Jamieson, Harshal

Pateľ, who took a five-for

in the season opener, and

Mohammed Siraj RCB

now have a settled pace

bowling unit. Harshal is

expected to continue as Kohli's death bowling

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra

Chahal had a poor outing

in the opener. He went

wicketless and conceded

41 runs in four overs.

option.

date Padikkal in the XI.

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

over the deep square-leg

Live on TV

As Pat Cummins dealt a double blow by removing

Ishan Kishan and Rohit

(43 off 32 balls), Mumbai

were reduced to 115 for

SCORECARD

150, 9-150.

Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 2-0-17-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-27-1,

Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-23-

1, Pat Cummins 4-0-24-2,

Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1,

Kolkata Knight Riders:

Nitish Rana st de Kock b Chahar 57, Shubman Gill

c Pollard b Chahar 33,

Rahul Tripathi c de Kock

b Chahar 5, Eoin Morgan c Jansen b Chahar 7,

Shakib Al Hasan c Yadav

b KH Pandya 9, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8,

Andre Russell c & b Boult

9, Pat Cummins b Boult 0, Harbhajan Singh (not

out) 2. Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 1, w 2) 12. Total (in 20 overs) 142/7. FoW: 1-72, 2-84, 3-104, 4-122, 5-122, 6-140, 7-140

Bowling: Trent Boult

4-0-27-2, Marco Jansen 2-0-17-0, Jasprit

Krunal Pandya 4-0-13-1, Kieron Pollard 1-0-12-0,

Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-4,

Rohit Sharma 1-0-9-0.

Mumbai'e innii

Jasprit

Andre Russell 2-0-15-5.

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Matches

SRH 10 RCB

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

Rashid Khan who has taken 77 wickets at an average of 20.27 in 63 innings is the second highest wicket taker for Sunrisers after

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

RCB defeated Sunrisers by 10 runs

Sunrisers beat RCB by 5 wickets

Sunrisers beat RCB by 6 wickets

at Abu Dhabi (Eliminator). **STATS:** S. PERVEZ QAISER

Net RR +0.779 +0.225 -0.2000.500

Sanju rues failure to cross finish line

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

STOKES RULED OUT OF IPL

season.'

Royals

Mumbai, April 13: Star tions revealed that he sus-England all-rounder Ben Stokes' IPL campaign came to an abrupt end after sustaining a finger fracture during Rajasthan Royals' open-

ing game against Punjab Kings, the franchise confirmed on Tuesday.Stokes will, however, remain in India for a week before flying back to United Kingdom.

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

such a huge asset and a valuable member of the Royals family, both on and off the field, and wishes him a speedy recovery. We are delighted that Ben would like to stay with the group to provide his valued support and inputs off the field," the statement fur-'Subsequent investiga- ther said.

tained a broken finger,

which will unfortunately

rule him out of the

remainder of IPL 2021

blow for the Royals after

the franchise missed the

services of Jofra Archer

due to a hand surgery. "Everyone at Rajasthan

admires Ben for being

absolutely

This is another telling

Competition for India's T20 Cup places hots up



Ayaz Memon **Over The Top**

in Chennai.

Afghan Mohammed Nabi.

As Sunrisers are heavily

dependent on overseas

batsmen, skipper David

Warner and Englishman

Jonny Bairstow hold the

coaster ride again with

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

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

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

Sunrisers Hyderabad

The battle between leg-

spinner Rashid Khan and

RCB's swashbuckling duo

of AB de Villiers and

Glenn Maxwell would be

an exciting affair. Washington Sundar who

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

places in the squad. Yuzvendra Chahal and

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

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

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