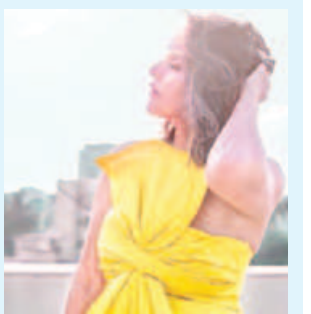


he said. The IYC president demanded that strict action be taken against those who are using the pandemic for their vested interests. "This will also help improve the situation," Srinivas said. Sources said Srinivas has been praised in crucial meetings by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Srinivas said that during a meeting in March in the presence of Rahul Gandhi a six-month roadmap was prepared and it stressed on providing all help to those affected by COVID-19. IYC volunteers reportedly also supplied medical oxygen to two foreign embassies for COVID-19 patients recently. Srinivas had posted a video on Twitter that showed a mini-pickup van entering the embassy of the Philippines carrying oxygen cylinders. He had also shared a video of supplying oxygen cylinders by his team to the New Zealand high commission and thanked the IYC team for the quick relief.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL


NEHA DHUPIA
@NEHADHUPIA

 Stay strong,
 stay positive,
 stay home ,
 stay safe


FASHIONISTA

Go for chic and comfy looks while WFH

DRISHTI SWAPAN GHOSH

Everyone wants to keep their looks on point and stay fashionably forward at all hours. The past one year was all about working remotely. Which gave a rise of chic comfy clothing while working from home or trendy face masks to match your mood for the day when you're stepping out to run some errands. We also that what a challenge it is to feel energised and productive starting your workday from your living room. And the fact that most of us are working from home and have to take care of our family, do our daily chores and work at the same time.

So chance are very less that you have hours in the morning to spend on your OTTD a.k.a outfit of the day.

That's why it's better to go with pieces that allows you to be at ease and makes you feel most comfortable while you're acing that presentation with your team or trying to convert more leads into sales. And if someone truly wants to experience the joy of fashion, they must look out for clothes that keep them comfy yet make them look chic and stylish.

Here's a few tried and tested tricks that will make you appear as chic as

possible in your never-ending zoom calls while still being effortlessly comfy.

Get yourself a pair of joggers

We all need a good pair of joggers in our lives. Also, make sure you get your hands on a piece which is made out of breathable fabric and has an elastic waist band, so that there's adequate amount of stretch in it.

Wear a loose shirt

To keep it casual, but cool go for button-down shirts, which reflect rather than absorb the sun rays. My personal preference here is a linen shirt.

Jumpsuits for the win

Jumpsuit is a one piece wonder that's perfect for days when you are way too lazy to decide what to pair up with what. Jumpsuits can really elongate your frame and be one of the most flattering options for that meeting you are gonna lead from your couch.

Wear a cotton dress

Ladies, there's no second guessing that dresses are our favourite piece to throw on. Just roomy enough to make you feel comfortable and allow movement. The fabric should be any breathable fabric, my personal preference would be a cotton dress because it allows heat to escape from the body.

Go for leggings instead of a trouser

Yes you read that right, leggings can indeed be worn as trouser pants. Infact, your favourite workout leggings can also become a part of your Work from home OTTD.

Bottom line is dress well enough to feel confident and professional yet comfortable. It just sets the tone for the day and contribute to your overall productivity. And wear what makes you feel confident.

How dance can lift spirits during tough times

This time of crisis in itself is teaching us to live in a moment and dance is all about that

SANGITA CHATTERJEE

Passion is something that is performed not only with our body but with our spirit, with our highest possible state of being. When we dance we feel that our spirits have been lifted. We enjoy every moment and the reason behind this is because dance is not only about your body moving rather about the spirit feeling free and lifted.

In these tough times, if we can devote our time to anything that we do with passion, not only dance, it can be music for someone, painting for another but any activity that helps you release your negative emotions, it can fill you with a lot of joy that will come from your own spirit and your high life condition.

Just remember that this too shall pass, and by that time, we can keep our passion alive and dance our hearts out to face these tough times.

Right now what we have been facing is an unprecedented situation, a crisis that humanity has never faced before. The time in itself is teaching us to live in a moment and dance is all about that. That is what we artists and dancers have been doing through our training in dance. With everybody sitting at their home, it is okay to feel anxious at times, but it is not okay to let our mental health suffer. Dance can be an important source of feeling better, whether physically, emotionally, or mentally.

ing better, whether physically, emotionally, or mentally.

As dancers, we have been trained to live in the moments, and maybe that is why dance lets us be a little more equipped where we can be present at the moment. Rather than focusing on the past or future, it is always about the moment which is important, which has to be cherished, celebrated, and lived. The Pink Lotus Academia is an online and offline tutorial platform, a creative organisation playing on the benefits of Indian classical arts and culture so that they help in boosting artistic faculties beyond the realm of performance to health and well-being. The idea is to incorporate their benefits and wholeness into any activity of our personal and social lives. Our lessons happen through video tutorials, personal coaching, group classes, skill development, advice, mentoring, workshops and concerts.

BEAUTY FUNDA

Get your skin work from home ready



YAMINI SAINI

A perfect skincare regime may not be a confirmed ticket to perfect skin but a supple of water and few health consciousness activities can help you out. Your skin reflects a true image of your health on your healthy skin. Being an essential sense organ of our body, skin protects us from not only external weather but also harmful radiations of your laptop and mobile phones. Our skin plays a vital role in protecting your body, so it's important to take steps to promote skin health. Caring for your skin doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming, and can quickly become second nature, like eating your favourite food anytime anywhere.

Role of warm water
 Warm water plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy shining skin. Use

lukewarm water for drinking as it will help you in preventing yourself in this pandemic area as well as washing your face with lukewarm water, rejuvenises your skin cells and pores. Drink plenty of water.

Moisturising mild soap

Use mild soap which not too acidic or basic in nature can help your skin cells to heal from damage. Use soaps that include ingredients such as glycerine and lanolin.

Opt for soap instead of hand sanitizer

Sanitizers, not doubt are effective germs but simultaneously they are affecting your skin as well.

Get ease with exfoliating
 Exfoliate your skin within few minutes, apply a good moisturizer and give gentle caress to your face. Exfoliating process sheds the dead skin cells of your skin and makes room for new

cells in a month or so. Avoid using chemicals and opt for herbal moisturisers and products.

Prevent your skin from premature wrinkle

Constantly staring at the small screens of mobile phones and squinting to read the small font text can lead to wrinkles around the tech-neck area (tech-neck area includes area underneath the chin and around the neck) and vertical furrows between the brows. The quick solution to it is simple just close your after an hour or so for five minutes give them rest and space to breathe in. Apply dark circle removing cream underneath your eyes.

Sound sleep

Having sound sleep is a cure for many skin problems. Don't skip sleep and never forget to apply soft cream on your face before sleeping.

To conclude, take care of yourself holistically. Reduce screen-time as much as you can and just a few tips and tricks and you are glowing up with your happy and healthy skin.

Teacher appreciation day

Teachers play a critical role in educating and shaping children's lives: the future leaders of countries all over the world. While there can be teachers that are notably not so good, good teachers are generally kind, patient, hard-working, dedicated, and understanding professionals that mold children's lives in a positive direction.

Many people entrust their children to the teachers, and they affect their lives on a daily basis. That's why there's such a day called Teacher Appreciation Day. Read more to learn about how Teacher Appreciation Day came to be and how you can celebrate it.

Teacher Appreciation has a long history in the United States. Political and educational leaders began discussions for a day to honour teachers in 1944. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim Teachers' Day.

Congress declared March 7, 1980, as Teacher Day. The National Education Association continued to observe Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March until 1985 when the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week Teacher Day.

Teacher Appreciation Day, also known as Teacher Day, is observed on the Tuesday of the first full week in May. This day is part of Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the first full week in May of each year.

The National Education Association describes Teacher Day "as a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives." The NEA yearly hosts contests for students and adults in thanking the teachers that have inspired them to be the best person they can be.

People in the community have understood the need for Teacher Appreciation Day for some time. Teaching is a challenging profession, and those who decide to be brave and go into it need all the support that they can get. Data from the Education Association, for instance, found that more than 45 percent of teachers leave the profession within the first five years because of the high levels of stress and the demands on their time. Teachers have a long list of things that they want on Teacher Appreciation Day. Right at the top is recognition from parents and former students. Many teachers go through periods where they doubt their abilities to teach because of things that people say at parent's evenings. So, when a teacher receives positive affirmation from a parent, it can make a world of difference to their attitude on the job. They suddenly feel like masters of the universe!

When it comes to celebrating Teacher Appreciation Day, in this pandemic we can celebrate online while your teachers are taking online classes. You can be as creative as you like and do something uniquely special for the teacher you want to appreciate. Or make a card for your teacher. If you're looking for a great way to appreciate your favourite teacher, then make a "thank you" video. You create a simple video of you saying thank you to your teacher, explain why they have inspired you, and post it either on your social media or your school website and use the hashtag #teacherappreciationday to let everyone know what day it is today.

 THIS DAY IN HISTORY
 with
 HANS INDIA


NEWS ROUNDUP

Pooja Hegde is keeping a positive frame of mind during her quarantine

Pooja Hegde had announced that she had tested positive for Covid-19 a few days ago and had isolated herself immediately. The actress is keeping herself busy with activities to keep a positive frame of mind. A source close to the actress shares, "Pooja is completely isolated due to Covid and that can get really stressful for a person so Pooja is doing motivational activities daily to keep a positive frame of mind. She has been doing yoga and meditation and is also reading more of positive books to stay calm and energised during this time."

Pooja Hegde had also done a live session with a yoga coach some days back on breathing exercises and pranayama to help build lung capacity urging all her fans to share the same with their friends and family as it is very helpful during the current situation.

The actress has been keeping everyone updated on her health through her social media regularly where she first announced that she had tested positive and later told her fans there was nothing to worry as she had mild symptoms and was recuperating well.

The Pan-India actress has been having a super busy year working on her huge lineup of films across industries including Rohit Shetty's Cirkus with Ranveer Singh, her next with Salman Khan, Pan-India film Radhe Shyam with Prabhas, Acharyaa with Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan, Most Eligible Bachelor as well as Thalapathy 65 with Thalapathy Vijay.



With 15 deaths, Gurugram hospitals stop operations amid O2 shortage

GURUGRAM

NEARLY 15 critical Covid-19 patients have lost their lives due to acute shortage of oxygen in smaller hospitals of Gurugram during the last week. These hospitals regularly demand from the district administration through Twitter or other social media platforms to provide liquid oxygen to them. According to the hospital management, several of them have discharged all patients and shut down operations,

claiming the administration and the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) have not paid attention to their repeated requests for liquid oxygen. Ashok Kathuria, Director of Kathuria hospital in Old Gurugram, said, "Due to shortage of oxygen four Covid-19 patients had died in the hospital. Now we have stopped admission of new Covid patients as we cannot risk someone's life and why should we face the families' anger without any mistake on our part." Park Group of hospitals

tweeted on Sunday that liquid oxygen allocated to it in Gurugram was hijacked by some other hospital. "More than 140 patients' lives are in danger," it tweeted. Later, the hospital tweeted that it has received less than one tonne of oxygen. Meanwhile, the administration officials claimed that there was no shortage of liquid oxygen in Gurugram. Aryan Hospital located on Old Railway Road, Gurugram, tweeted that it has sought officials' intervention to provide



oxygen at the hospital but to no avail. Bharat, Medical Superintendent, SPES hospital, said the hospital has stopped fresh admissions of Covid patients as they have not received a single oxygen cylinder. In the absence of continuous oxygen supply, we ask families of indoor patients to arrange for oxygen cylinders to continue their treatment. "Without oxygen how can we run operations? Why should we face people's anger without any mistake on our part. The district management

and the MCG are responsible for allocation of oxygen supply in Gurugram," said a senior doctor of a leading hospital requesting anonymity. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar chaired a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Sudhir Rajpal, Nodal officer for Covid management in Gurugram, and the MCG Commissioner late Sunday evening to discuss oxygen allocation for Gurugram hospitals. Khattar assured smooth oxygen supply to all hospitals in the district.

Curfew extended by 2 days in UP

Yogi govt to launch mega testing drive in villages

LUCKNOW

AMID a surge in coronavirus cases, the Uttar Pradesh government on Monday decided to increase the duration of the weekend lockdown by 48 hours to cover Tuesday and Wednesday also. "The corona curfew from Friday 8 pm to Tuesday 7 am has been extended for 48 hours. Now it will continue till May 6 till 7 am," Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal told PTI. All shops and establishments will now remain closed till Thursday 7 am. This arrangement is for this week only, he said adding that decision has been taken for breaking the chain of coronavirus. During this period, all essential services will be allowed and vaccination drive will continue, a senior official said, but refused to term it as a "lockdown", preferring "closure" instead. On April 29, the state government had announced that weekend lockdowns will now cover Mondays too. In order to prevent Covid



surge in the rural areas in UP, the Yogi government is going to launch a mega testing campaign for Covid infection in all the revenue villages of the state from

May 5. The Chief Minister, while presiding over a high-level Covid review meeting, said that the rural areas have been a mat-

ter of huge concern and we have to protect the villages from the Covid spread. To curb the Covid numbers in rural areas, the government has

decided to ramp up testing in around 97,409 revenue villages of 75 districts. The focus is to contain the spread of the infections in rural areas. "We have to protect villages from Covid infection at any cost. There is a need for special vigilance in the villages. In such a situation, a massive campaign of Covid testing should be conducted in all the 97,409 revenue villages of the state," he directed. The initiative starting from May 4, aims to drive down Covid-19 rates and transmission in the rural areas by identifying positive cases. The Chief Minister has asked the officials to make all the necessary preparations. The number of RRTs (Rapid Response Teams) should be increased to check Covid spread in the villages of each district. Members of RRTs should make door-to-door visits and check body temperatures, record oxygen level and check for other symptoms in people who are into home isolation. The Chief Minister also ordered the health department to complete preparations for the successful implementation of this large testing drive which will begin from Tuesday.

Hema provides O2 enhancer devices to Mathura hospitals

AGRA



MATHURA MP Hema Malini has provided oxygen enhancer devices to all the hospitals of the city. "The device priced at Rs 2 lakh provides oxygen to ten sick people simultaneously. The MP has placed an order for more such devices as she would pay for the devices," said Janaardan Sharma, Hema Malini's representative in Mathura. Meanwhile, river activist and heritage conservationist Shrawan Kumar Singh succumbed to Covid on Sunday after his relatives failed to find an oxygen bed for him in Agra, amid the spike in the infections count. "The number of bodies lined up at the four crematorium grounds in the city shows the crumbling medical infrastructure," said Hemant Gaud, a social activist, who had also failed to find an oxygen bed for Singh, who had long been crusading for a pollution free Agra and a cleaner Yamuna. The medical industry is booming and beds are allegedly being offered to the highest bidder. The Medical Colleges Covid wards and the district hospitals are overflowing with patients. Though there has been a slight improvement in the availability of oxygen in the past two days,

reports of black marketing and over-charging continue to flood the district administrative offices. "Helplessness is writ large. This is one time when even bags full of money can not guarantee the safety of life," said senior hotelier of Agra Surendra Sharma. Thousands of villagers are lining up at unregistered doctors in smaller towns, called the "Jhola Chaaps," in local parlance. Activist Jagan Prasad Teheriya said "these people have saved thousands of lives in the last fortnight in the villages, because the treatment is fast and affordable. "People are afraid to go to the city because they fear there they would not only lose money but life too at the hundreds of nursing homes that have mushroomed all over without any regulation or monitoring." Each day the number of victims has been surging. "Actually there is a total mismatch between government data and the ground realities," said a retired doctor of the city.

Not in favour of total lockdown: Punjab CM



CHANDIGARH

EVEN as he made it clear that he was not in favour of a complete and harsh lockdown, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday warned people against laxity in adherence to the curbs imposed in the state, and said if the situation did not improve, he would be forced to consider a total lockdown. The Chief Minister said he had so far refrained from ordering a sweeping lockdown in the state because it will hurt the poor the most and would lead to exodus of migrant labourers, plunging industries into chaos again. However, if the people do not stringently comply with the restrictions in place, harsher steps might have to be taken, he added. The state is currently in a soft lockdown situation, with strong curbs in place, with additional restrictions imposed by the government on Sunday. DGP Dinkar Gupta told the meeting that all measures were being taken to enforce the current curbs strictly. Chairing a high-level virtual

meeting to review the Covid situation, the Chief Minister on Monday also ordered a stop on all take-away deliveries from restaurants, which was being used by youngsters as a pretext to move out of their homes. Only home deliveries of food should be allowed, he directed the officials. He, however, gave permission for shops selling fertilisers to be open. Asserting that he will not allow Punjab to go the way of some other states, where patients could be seen lying out on the roads, the Chief Minister said that industry should be encouraged to use their CSR funds for vaccination and treatment of their labour suffering from mild or moderate illness, so that they can stay at home, thus reducing pressure on hospitals. Underlining the need to step up preparedness amid projections of a peak in the coming days, he ordered 20 per cent increase in bed capacity in the next 10 days. He directed the Health and Medical Education Departments to get stadiums, gymnasiums and other such places ready to house patients.

Delhi Airport sets up dedicated facility for medical material



NEW DELHI

THE Delhi airport on Monday said it has set up a dedicated logistic facility - Jeevodaya - to ensure swift distribution of imported relief materials. The airport has set up a 3,500 square metre dedicated logistic facility for interim storage and distribution of Covid-19 relief materials. "The facility was commissioned in less than a day on April 28," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a GMR Group-led consortium which manages and operates the Delhi Airport, said in a statement. "All the Covid-19 relief material are brought to 'JEEVODAYA' warehouse after customs clearance, where they are sorted and further distributed to other parts of the country by GOI Agency M/s. HLL as per distribution plan. Distribution is done immediately after it is brought to the warehouse." As per the statement, in a span of just five days - April 28 to May 2, the Delhi airport has handled around 25 Covid relief flights totaling around 300 tonnes cargo, originating from various countries like the US, the UK, the UAE, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Germany,

Qatar, Hong Kong, China amongst others. "Most of the relief flights were supported by Air Force aircraft which included IL76s, C-130s, C-5s, C-17s. These flights brought in over 5,500 oxygen concentrators, approx 3,200 oxygen cylinders, over 9,28,000 masks, 1,36,000 Remdesivir injections, which are required in view of huge surge in Covid-19 cases in the country." "The handling and distribution of the medical aid is continuing in an efficient manner with the support from all stakeholders." According to DIAL, dedicated teams from cargo terminal Operators, clearing agents, and distribution warehouse centres have been assigned to ensure that the entire process of handling of such relief aid materials is done on an expedited manner. "Delhi Airport has also ensured that priority in landing is given to flights carrying Covid relief aid, and such aircrafts get parking at cargo bays near the cargo terminals, just like the aircraft bringing vaccine consignments are handled on priority, to make sure that consignments are processed and cleared in least possible time after landing."

UP Panchayat poll results: Death before win for many candidates

LUCKNOW

MORE than half a dozen candidates in the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat polls have died before they were declared elected. Repoll will now be held on these seats. Pinky, who contested the village head's post in Kurawali in Mainpuri district, won the election on Sunday. However, she died before the counting could take place. In Rasoolpur village in Firozabad, Babul was declared elected but he passed away on April 25. Savita won the Gram Panchayat election in Naura village in Amroha on Sunday but lost the battle for life two days ago. In Bhogala village in Unnao, Shivkali also won the elections but died two days before she could be declared elected. In Jaunpur's Ramnagar block, Ram Chandra died before he was declared elected as village head. Vimla Devi in Kapuri Ekauna village in Deoria district died an hour before counting began on Sunday. She was declared elected, hours after her cremation took place. In Barhalganj in Gorakhpur, Pawn Sahni won the election from Jaitpur village but did not live to see himself being elected. In some other districts, the winning candidates have also died though their details were not immediately available. According to reports, most of the



candidates died following Covid like symptoms but none of them had got themselves tested or

treated because they did not wish to be barred from the counting process.

Hospital declares woman dead, family claims she was alive

LUCKNOW

IN a shocking incident, a 53-year-old woman, who was declared dead by a reputed medical institute in the state capital, was later found breathing when her 'body' was taken home. The incident took place on Sunday when the doctors prematurely pronounced her dead and withdrew the life support system. A video shot by the family, which lives in Indiranagar, went viral in which the patient was seen on an oxygen concentrator at home and kin frantically trying to help her breathe. The kin can also be seen showing a pulse oximeter on the patient's finger with normal readings and

claiming that she was still alive. The patient's son, Sunil Kumar, told reporters "My mother, who was under treatment in the hospital for the past three days, was declared dead on Sunday. We brought her home, but upon noticing that her heart was still beating, we put her on oxygen support but by the time we could reach a private hospital, she died." Denying the allegation, the hospital spokesperson presented the patient's ECG report showing a cardiac flatline as evidence that she died in the hospital and subsequently discharged. "All necessary treatment was given, but she died of cardiac arrest," he said.

Prisoners to be released on parole to decongest Uttar Pradesh jails

LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh government has decided to consider the release of prisoners across the state in order to decongest the jails in the second wave of the pandemic. Prisoners, except those convicted or undergoing trial for serious offences like murder, rape etc., will be forthwith considered for release on parole for 60 days after furnishing a personal bond with the undertaking that they shall surrender after the expiry of parole period.

This decision was approved by the High-Powered Committee (HPC) in compliance of the directions issued by the Supreme Court. The committee consists of acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Sanjay Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Avansh Kumar Awasthi and Director General (Prisons), Anand Kumar. All male inmates above 65 years of age, all female inmates above 50 years, pregnant women prisoners, all male or female inmates suffering from

cancer or other serious, critical illness shall also be entitled to parole for a period of 60 days. The HPC has directed the secretary home, Uttar Pradesh government, to file a compliance report as well as a statement of cases with specified reasons to the committee for re-evaluation, reconsideration wherein the state government, in its recorded opinion, has held that the release of prisoners, inmates is detrimental to public peace, safety and security and interest of administration of justice. The HCP further directed



that undertrials facing criminal cases in which maximum sentence is seven years may be released on interim bail on examination of cases on case-to-case basis. They will be released for 60 days by the appropriate court on furnishing personal bonds with undertaking written on personal bond itself that he/she shall surrender before the court after expiry of interim bail period. Recently, the chairman of Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, Rohitashwa Kumar Agarwal had written a letter to the acting

Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Sanjay Yadav, seeking interim bail, parole for undertrial prisoners, convicts in view of reports indicating doubling of Covid-19 cases during the last two weeks in jails across the state due to overcrowding. "Scores of inmates have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, majorly due to flouting of social distancing norms on account of congestion in jails," the chairman had said in his letter. The Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh is the apex body of the lawyers of the state.

The Tibetan resistance continues

AFTER the worldwide condemnation of China's refusal to reveal the whereabouts of the real Panchen Lama, the Chinese Communist Party, opens up to say that the Panchen Lama "is now a college grad with a stable job". No Tibetan could be fooled into believing this lie. The real Panchen Lama is simply missing. Even after six plus decades of atrocious rule and totalitarian control over Tibet by the Chinese Communist Party, their attempts to win fully over Tibetans both politically and spiritually have failed. Tibetans feel that the covert stratagem of kidnapping the Dalai Lama appointed Panchen Lama has failed completely and the Chinese Communist Party could never win over the Tibetans. There is no way the Tibetans could accept a fake in place of a Panchem Lama. Mao Zedong once said to the young Dalai Lama that religion was poison.

Yet, ironically in a campaign to totally win over Tibet and interfere in the religious affairs of Tibet, Beijing's handpicked Panchen Lama continues to make public appearances, forcing and compelling dehumanised Ti-

betans under the barrel of the gun to welcome him and even listen to his phony teachings. The CCP has stolen everything belonging to the Tibetans by the occupation of its land and in the Panchen Lama, the party has stolen Tibet's very religion and its basis forever. A fake Panchen Lama could only continue the legacy of a lie forever.

To hammer on China's narrative that Tibetans were liberated from serfdom and feudalistic society, Gyalsten Norbu, the fake Panchen Lama appointed by the Chinese Communist Party, while on his visit to a township under the jurisdiction of the Yadong county last year for a socioeconomic research, said he was happy and relieved to see Tibetan families earning much incomes with subsidies. He is also reported to have said "life is better and your children can attend school now" directly contradicting the reality that in Tibet, Tibetans are forced into learning Chinese and Tibetan language, that defines a thousand of years old civilisation and culture is scraped off and completely denied.

It is well known fact that Tibetan language right activist, Tashi Wangchuk, who wanted to fight for the right to learn Tibetan language playing by the rule of the framework of the Chinese Constitution was arbitrarily imprisoned and sentenced to prison on the charges of inciting separatism. Tibet has always been an independent country, with distinct language, culture, heritage and script, united by a single faith in the Dalai Lamas and Tibetan Buddhism. Tibet was and continues to remain a laboratory to test all kinds of atrocities mankind can endure. The ruthless and systematic oppression of Tibet has been relentless since 1959 and is now replicated in places like East Turkestan and Inner Mongolia.

China can destroy the Tibetan people, but it will never be able to break the indomitable Tibetan spirit. Despite sixty plus years of dehumanisation and systematic destruction of their civilisation, despite forced indoctrination, despite the death of many older generations of Tibetans who lived through the occupation, Tibetan children seem to be rising from the ashes. This is a testament that no matter what China does Tibetan spirit remains deeply rooted.



Vietnam to aid India's fight against Covid

RAHUL KUMAR

AMIDST India's burgeoning coronavirus crisis, Vietnam and other countries from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are stepping up aid to support India against the pandemic. In a meeting with the Indian Ambassador Pranay Kumar Verma earlier this week in Hanoi, the deputy foreign minister of Vietnam pledged to provide medical support in the form of oxygen, medicines and drugs. The Indian ambassador and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Quoc Dung also discussed India's engagement with ASEAN countries, particularly in the maritime domain.

The Vietnamese foreign office tweeted: "DFM #NguyenQuocDung received Mr Pranay Kumar Verma, #India Ambassador to #VietNam, expressed sympathy for the difficulties & damages caused by the #Covid19 in India. The DFM also expressed his belief that India will soon overcome this difficult & challenging time."

A number of ASEAN countries are providing help to India. Supplies of cryogenic tanks as well as oxygen-related medical equipment arrived in India from Thailand on Saturday. Bangkok sent 15 oxygen concentrators while the Indian community in Thailand contributed another 15 oxygen concentrators.

Thanking Thailand, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar said: "Discussed the Covid-19 challenge and international cooperation with Thai DPM and FM Don Pramudwinai. Appreciated the supplies of cryogenic tanks and other oxygen-related equipment. Confident that we can continue to count on our partnership with Thailand."

Singapore too had provided oxygen cylinders to India. It sent the cylinders through two air force planes after a small ceremony at the Paya Lebar Air Base earlier this week. Singapore's Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman said: "The fighting spirit of the Indian people will prevail. We have witnessed India's immense capabilities in mobilising her people and resources when challenges arise. While our contribution is modest, we hope that it will bring comfort and relief to those in need and encourage those on the front-line in India, who are working tirelessly, to fight on".

Over the past few years, India is strengthening its relations with its eastern and south-eastern neighbours. Under its Act East Policy (AEP), it is not only improving diplomatic connectivity but also physical connectivity with countries like Myanmar and onwards. India is also trying to improve its economic and trade relations with the ASEAN block.

With Vietnam, India has a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, under which the two nations are cooperating in defence industries, the development sector as well as boosting trade and economy. India is also strengthening Vietnam's information technology sector. The two countries are closely cooperating over China-related strategic developments in the Indo-Pacific region as well.

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EPS to become undisputed leader in AIADMK

EDAPPADY K. Palaniswami, the outgoing Chief minister of Tamil Nadu, even though beaten in the electoral battle, was not battered or bruised as he could hold on to his turf in Western Tamil Nadu providing more MLAs to the party. EPS himself won the Edappadi seat with a thumping majority of 93,802 votes, the highest by a sitting Chief minister in the history of Tamil Nadu.

Also 10 of the 11 seats of Salem district - EPS' home turf was won by the AIADMK, and this has also made him become the undisputed leader of the party in the state.

On the other hand, the family of V.K. Sasikala who was bent on taking control of the AIADMK if the party faces a crushing defeat, is in tatters as their political party Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), which contested 161 seats drew a blank, with the party leader and Sasikala's nephew, TTV Dhinakaran himself losing from Kovilpatti seat.

EPS will also have to decide on the leader of the opposition and in all likelihood the newly elected MLAs will support him as the next leader of opposition as most of them are owing allegiance to the outgoing Chief Minister.

On the other hand, O. Panneerselvam who was the deputy to EPS in the outgoing cabinet, is also the coordinator of AIADMK but is unlikely to throw any challenge to Palaniswami as the power of the party has waned among the Thevar community in South Tamil Nadu. Even O. Panneerselvam had to sweat it out to win his home turf of Bodinayakanur and ultimately won by a slender margin of 7,676 votes against his DMK rival, Thanga Tamil Selvan. In the 2016 elections OPS had won the seat by a margin of 15,608 votes.

Edappadi Karuppa Palaniswami had fought bitter battles to climb his way up the ladder and after becoming Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu following the passing away of Jayalalithaa, the Gounder leader never looked back. Always accessible to the general public, party cadres and local leaders, EPS promoted several welfare schemes and development of the state was his motto. He endeared himself to the masses and did not lose the elections with a huge margin. During the four year stint as Chief minister, EPS, according to his associates and bureaucrats, was a quick learner and adapted himself to the conditions.

It is now to be seen how he will take control of the AIADMK by putting an end to the "dual leadership" - sharing power with O Panneerselvam, that was throughout the party's regime after the passing away of Jayalalithaa. (ANS)

SC's significant order on World Press Freedom Day

Clampdown on social media is contempt of court



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

THE Supreme Court gave a welcome direction on social media freedom. It ordered: "The Central Government and State Governments shall notify all Chief Secretaries/Directors General of Police/Commissioners of Police that any clampdown on information on social media or harassment caused to individuals seeking/delivering help on any platform will attract a coercive exercise of jurisdiction by this Court. The Registrar (Judicial) is also directed to place a copy of this order before all District Magistrates in the country".

Justices DY Chandrachud, L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat of SC Bench considered the continuing surge of infections in the second wave of the pandemic on its own. The SC has directed the Central and State Governments to put on the record the efforts taken to curb the spread of virus and the measures that they are planning to take in the future. The direction on assault on social media is significant as that came on World Press Freedom Day.

Mainstream media is ignoring the real suffering of people reeling under Covid virus, rising number of deaths, long queues of ambulance vehicles with bodies before crematorium, thousands waiting for vaccine dose, failed supplies of oxygen cylinders all over the country. Miserable administration and miseries of people is no subject of debate for TV channels. Except some of the print media, the administrative failure is not being questioned at all. Inevitably, patients and their relatives are resorting to Facebook and WhatsApp platforms to ventilate grievances and locate the help for Covid related issues like a bed or ICU bed or medicine or doctor. The IT teams of the rulers are working overtime to remove the photos, postings for help or disclosure of actual condition, which indirectly expose the pathetic failures of administration.

As the truthful picture of Covid sufferings is visible mainly or only in social media, netizen's media freedom is coming under threat, not only from the 'state' authorities, but also from some wings of political parties in power. Their associates are attacking critical postings, which are being heavily trolled, threatened, removed and then false cases are slapped against the persons for those posting, forwarding, commenting, or drawing a picture or making a video. Even liking them is also not tolerated.

Unruly attack

The Supreme Court had rightly taken suo moto cognisance on 30th April of unruly attack on social media freedom from pro-ruling party forces. The SC Bench has warned State governments and police against clamping down on the spread of information or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19. Justice Chandrachud was more vocal against such politics, saying: "We will treat it as a contempt of court if such grievances are considered for action. Let a strong message go to all the States and DGPs of States. Clampdown of information is contrary to basic precepts".

A Special Bench of Justices DY. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat said any move by any State to punish citizens who take to the social media to seek help for oxygen cylinders, COVID-19 drugs, beds, hospitalisation, etc, amid a rampaging second wave would attract contempt of court action. This is the right order and suffering masses want the leaders and police officers to be jailed for contempt of court, contempt of humanity and impunity for their power drunk criminality. The stern warning that came from Court is: "We will treat it as contempt of court if such grievances are considered for action. Let a strong message go to all the states and DGP of states that clampdown of info is contrary to basic precepts." He further said, "We want to make it very clear that if citizens communicate their grievance on social media and the internet, it cannot be said it's wrong information." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representative of Central Government said: "As an officer of the court, I fully agree with what Your Lordships have said".

Centre's censor of Twitter

If this is the response of states, the centre is also not logging behind. The Union Ministry of Law & Justice is issuing instructions to the Twitter to remove several tweet comments saying some tweets on Covid were not in compliance with India's IT law. Twitter is ready to promptly implement the orders of the Central Government. It has blocked several tweets made by some popular handles, including those of Member of Parliament Revanth Reddy, West Bengal Minister Moloy Ghatak, actor Vineet Kumar Singh, and filmmakers Vinod Kapri and Avinash Das.

The tweets that have been deleted were strongly questioning the scarcity of medicines that is hurting Covid patients. A few comments are about the Kumbh Mela that took place in Haridwar even as the pandemic saw a resurgence. Though banned in India, the tweets are still available if they



are accessed from outside India. As per MediaNama webportal 52 tweets were blocked out, because they were critical of the Government's miserable failure. It is well known that the world media denounced the Indian management was poor and inefficient. For example: Congress MP Revanth Reddy, from Malkajgiri of Telangana, tweeted that India was having over 200,000 new cases of the virus per day, and that the healthcare system was collapsing. He also posted a picture of a mass cremation on his twitter account.

Now we cannot see it in India, while whole of the world around can see. The content of critical comment is about multi-phase elections in West Bengal, a very contentious issue, especially when rulers are irresponsibly addressing huge rallies un-mindful of hazardous risk of corona spread. It is in this context West Bengal's Minister of Labour and Law Moloy Ghatak criticised that India would "never forgive" the Prime Minister for what he described as underplaying the seriousness of the pandemic, and for exporting doses to other countries. A tweet of ABP News editor Pankaj Jha, was calling out the difference in attitudes towards the Tablighi Jamaat event in 2020 and the Kumbh Mela.

Actor Vineet Kumar Singh's Hindi tweet was that he was in Varanasi and that it was difficult to get medication, and criticised political rallies being held amid the pandemic. Filmmaker and former journalist Vinod Kapri made a tweet about the mass cremations with a video of one such cremation ground. In that tweet, Kapri made a sarcastic remark about how a promise to make more shmashanas (Hindu cremation grounds) had been fulfilled. All of these are removed.

When contacted by MediaNama, the actor wrote: "India is facing biggest crisis of all times, thousands are dying EVERYDAY just because of lack of oxygen and medi-

cines and it is my moral duty as a filmmaker and Journalist to tell the truth, to expose this inhuman and immoral Government who instead of supplying oxygen to dying patients, is writing to Twitter to take action against free and independent voices."

There is an earlier history of removal of some tweets. Centre was very strongly opposing certain contentious hashtag tweets like the #ModiPlanningFarmerGenocide hashtag etc. All those dozens of tweets were withheld. These comments can never be termed as abuse of freedom of expression. They are common man's general questions.

The twitter's response to MediaNama's question was: "When we receive a valid legal request, we review it under both the Twitter Rules and local law. If the content violates Twitter's Rules, the content will be removed from the service. If it is determined to be illegal in a particular jurisdiction, but not in violation of the Twitter Rules, we may withhold access to the content in India only".

Twitter said: "In all cases, we notify the account holder directly so they're aware that we've received a legal order pertaining to the account".

Both the Government and Twitter should be transparent about the orders issued and tweets deleted in response. How can a 'request' from Government could be treated as a legal order? What is the legal basis? Why did it not display the legal order if it is really 'legal'? It also claimed: We notify the user(s) by sending a message to the email address associated with the account(s), if available. Read more about our Legal request FAQs. The legal requests that we receive are detailed in the biannual Twitter Transparency Report, and requests to withhold content are published on Lumens.

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner)

LETTERS

Didi O Didi....

Mamata Banerjee sat on an electoral wall, Mamata Banerjee had a minor fall, Yet, all the Modi's jugglery and all the Shah's men, Could not stop her from a landslide win. *Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad*

Formidable foe

MAMATA Banerjee, the wounded Bengal tiger has returned to power with a large majority with the BJP proving unable to hit three-digit strength in a House of 292. Every attempt was made to polarise the voters in terms of caste and religion. She turned the tables against her opponents by espousing sub-nationalism, while reciting the sacred texts to hammer the point that she was no less a Hindu than Modi & Co. Now that the verdict is out, at least no one will complain against non-working of EVMs.

Ranged against Mamata was the combined might of the ruling BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and JP Nadda. They have suffered a humiliating body blow in all the states except Assam, where it was able to bounce back to power. A suggestion: it would be prudent if the BJP now devotes its prime time for Covid-19 management and run the country. It's time they stop canvassing for more votes.

JS Acharya, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

Ek nari sab pe bhari?

CONGRATULATIONS to Mamata Banerjee and strategist Prashant Kishor for retaining Bengal for second time with a huge margin, which even exit polls didn't get right. She was pitted against all the odds - most of Central Cabinet including PM and HM, EC, ED, CBI, IT Cells, BJP CMs, Cobra Chakraborty and her own party people's defections at last minute. The 8 phase polls turned out to be a blessing in disguise for TMC. The mishandling of second wave Covid-19 pandemic by BJP made sure the game was over for them in later phase polls.

Sajid Farooq, Kurnool

Regionalism is a reality

THE results of the recently concluded assembly elections turned out to be a low-key affair for the leading national parties due to their inability to gain a majority amidst the pandemic crisis. The election results thus signify that even major national parties still struggle to set their foothold while contesting closely with regional parties. Of late, the trend of regional parties to set a surprise comeback in assembly polls is emerging, while obtaining a clear majority otherwise even now remains a challenge even for popular national parties. The voters on the other hand remain elusive with both national and regional parties' expressing their ability to form the government in the states. The votes otherwise only look forward to government machinery now to come back on its toes at the earliest amidst pandemic chaos.

Varun Dambal, Bengaluru

Interesting poll outcome

ANTI-INCUMBENCY did not work in West Bengal, Kerala and Assam while it has greater impact in Tamil Nadu. BJP gimmicks did not fetch any result. Tirupati Parliamentary seat and Assembly seat in Nagarjunasagar were bagged by new faces because of unfailing charisma of ruling parties. Psephologists predictions proved in right direction. Good and timely decision taken by Rajinikant should have been followed by Kamal Hassan whose MNM met with total disaster.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

Set up Special Service Cadres

THE present aggravated pandemic situation spinning out of control is due to lack of quality systems in Education and Health. It is time that we set up an All India Service based on - National and State Educational Service and National and State Health Service. An ordinance is the need of the hour so that we rebuild the nation with quality and calibre which this great nation has in abundance. These two services like the Civil and other associated Services, will go ahead in serving the basic needs of this highly populated nation, through the best of Indian talent.

A Sreenivas, Secunderabad

Here is why BJP lost...

THE BJP at least now must understand that the reasons for failure of NDA in Assembly elections:

1. Failure to contain second wave of

Covid-19 which has now turned into tsunami

2. Abnormal price raise for cooking gas, diesel and petrol,
 3. Not fulfilling the promises made by NDA i.e. Special status to AP in the Parliament at the time of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh,
 4. Not able to get the black money and distribution to the people as promised by NDA (PM Modi),
 5. Striving to kill the public sector through privatisation which is not mentioned in the manifesto,
 6. Distribution of 86% of loan amount to only 110 corporates and balance 14% distribution among crore and crores of small and medium scale industries and individuals,
 7. Following anti- people's policies,
 8. Sky rocketing unemployment as against the promise of generation of 2 crores of Jobs,
 9. Merging of the Banks for sake of Corporates,
 10. Not able to get back the money from corporate loan defaulters (Mr. Adani owes 4.5 crores of money to Banks). One day or other Indian economy will collapse
 11. Failure to organize second dose of Covid-19 vaccine in a proper way,
 12. Dirty politics during elections, mudslinging on the great leaders and Income Tax rises at the time of elections
- All the voters are watching the poor performance of BJP Government and the voters are not ignorant. BJP thinks that they will win the elections by uniting Hindus which cannot substitute poor performance of NDA Govt. for a long time now.

Sambasiva Rao Choda, Hyderabad

Pull up your socks, people are dying: BJP to CM KCR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA State BJP on Monday asked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao to pull up his socks as the current Covid-19 situation in the State is turning serious that warrants declaration of a health emergency.

Addressing media here on Monday, State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that elections and politics come and go. "We are speaking with a lot of pain as families are losing their sole bread earners of the family. Young men and women with bright futures are dying due to Covid-19."

"We, the political leaders have been receiving hundreds of phone calls from the people with pleas for recommendation for beds, oxygen and medicines and hospital admissions," he added.

Barring a few private hospitals trying to fleece people, doctors in the private and government hospitals are work-



ing round the clock to save the lives of the people. But, "The situation briefed by them is so grave, that they are not able to admit patients. Where there are beds, there is an oxygen shortage, besides, the shortage of ventilators, medicines. Even the private hospitals were forced to turn away people from admitting as they don't want them die in their hands," he noted.

He also addressed other problems including non operational testing centres, slow vaccination drives and shortage of medical staff. Further he criticised threatening the

existing staff to work without paying salaries for the past four months. "The situation in the districts is not different as the State government has not allocated funds for the pandemic," he added.

Lack of support from the government to the private and government hospitals to streamline and supply Remdesivir injections, oxygen, medicine, ventilators are taking a toll pushing their fight against Covid and people are going into depression and panic as they see no security and safety in their lives, he fumed.

He asked the TRS chief to stop playing politics putting up elections and land grabbing issues to divert the attention of people at a time when he and his government has to think about how to save the lives of the people.

"The chief minister had all the time to focus on removing a minister on the allegations of land encroachment, get a report within 24 hours and ap-

pointing a committee of IAS officers to probe the allegations. Instead, he might have put to use the services of the IAS and IPS official in saving lives of people battling with Covid-19," he said. Further asking the Chief Minister, whether he has no time even to come out and assure people that they need not panic and give confidence to them that the State government stand by their side in the troubling times faced by them and in saving lives.

Charging the CM KCR for leaving people of Telangana as orphans, Kumar asked medical, police, other staff and Asha workers have been doing their duties spending sleepless nights. But, how can they be expected to perform without allocation of funds? He asked what happened to oxygen and CM Care funds and why the CM failed to review? Is it negligence, was he scared of Covid or is it that he is not bothered about the lives of people?

“Remdesivir not a lifesaver, Dexamethasone is best”

MOHSIN ALI
HYDERABAD

BLACKMARKETING of Remdesivir is at peak. It is not a lifesaver remedy for corona virus, it's just an antiviral drug that is still under trial. It has not yet been proved that it saves lives of Covid patients who are in critical condition. But still, it is been sold in black market while Dexamethasone is more effective than Remdesivir; and it costs just Rs 15.

The demand for the Remdesivir injection has led to black marketing prompting the police to arrest those who are selling it at high price illegally. The actual price of this injection is Rs. 5,400 while it is being sold between Rs. 35,000 to one lakh to the needy. Why is Remdesivir being sold so costly? Why is it in demand? Is it so effective that it can be bought at exorbitant prices? Is it the lifesaver for a Corona patient? The answer is absolutely no. According to experts, Remdesivir is not an effective drug to eradicate corona.

If it cannot cure a Covid-19 patient then why is this vaccine in so much demand during a global pandemic and why are people buying it at any cost? Let us know for which disease this medicine was made. According to reports, Remdesivir was developed to treat hepatitis C, MARS, SARC and Ebola but it could not be proved it is efficient in treating those viruses.

The drug has not produced for long time and was not used in any treatment until the corona virus outbreak. As this was meant to treat the viruses similar to Covid-19 and there was no remedy to cure the Novel Corona Virus this drug was the only ray of hope. Many



trials of Remdesivir were conducted in America and China but it had fail to prove its efficiency. The Food and Drug Association (FDA) has approved it and allowed the use of Remdesivir under conditional emergency use of authenticity.

State health officials repeatedly requested people that Remdesivir is not a lifesaver and it is an antiviral drug and still under trial people should not prefer it over medicines being provided by the State government. Despite the requests and warnings, people are paying a hefty amount for it.

Dr Sanjeev Kumar, a Pulmonologist, has revealed that "the Remdesivir is not at all lifesaver it could not treat the patient even with mild symptoms." He said that after failing in the purpose for which the drug was made, how can the drug cure such a strong virus. The doctor said that after the outbreak of corona virus, several experiments were performed on it and it found be of no effect, yet the FDA conditionally approved its sale, recommending that it be used only in the Emergency Use Authenticity".

He added that there are three categories of medicines. A medicine that falls under the

first stage is said to be effective, medicine which stands second in a category will not be effective can be used rarely, while the medicine in the third stage is harmful and can not be used and Remdesivir stands in the second category", the Doctor said.

Speaking about the best alternative of Remdesivir, Dr Sanjeev Kumar said that Dexamethasone has been found very effective, with very good results and it is a lifesaver compared to Remdesivir. Dexamethasone has developed for asthma patients but it is found that it is working on high-risk patients.

Though the use of the drug raises blood sugar levels, diabetics suggested using it with a doctor's advice. It is available in the form of injections and tablets and costs very less. Dexamethasone injection costs Rs 15 and the tablet cost is Rs 2 Maximum and it is available very easily in the market.

The public should be encouraged to use Dexamethasone According to WHO it was tested in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in the United Kingdom's national clinical trial recovery and was found to have benefits for critically ill patients, Dr Sanjeev said.

Sutikaari artist Kamblekar passes away

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based Sutikaari artist Gyaneshwar Kamblekar passed away on Saturday. Sutikaari art is all about a piece of art that is made of thread or cloth. Gyaneshwar gained immense fame for his own style of art, in which he does not use a single brush or any colour to paint an image. All he uses is pieces of cloth to create the beauty.

His art forms include portrait art, and abstract art. He made portraits of famous personalities including Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi. He had also prepared portraits of film stars including his favorite film star Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, cricketer Virat Kohli and also of Saudi Arabia king Mohammad Bin Salman. Gyaneshwar is survived by wife Sunitha and four children. The artist fraternity in the city has expressed shock at the death of Gyaneshwar and expressed condolences to the family.

SCR to run 8 weekly summer special trains

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN order to facilitate the passengers, South Central Railways (SCR) to run eight weekly summer special trains between Secunderabad - Guwahati - Secunderabad. Train no 07030 (Secunderabad - Guwahati) would depart from Secunderabad at 7:30 am and would arrive Guwahati

at 5:45 am on the next day and this would be applicable on May 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Meanwhile the Train no 07029 (Guwahati- Secunderabad) would depart from Guwahati at 6:45 am and would arrive Secunderabad at 5:45 am on the next day and this would be applicable on May 12, 19, 26 and June 02. These special trains would be fully reserved.

M M FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

EVEN as the second wave is taking heavy toll, people remain carefree and continue to live with the care-a-hang attitude. Almost all the major bazars in the city are bustling as they ordinarily do, maybe a little less here or a little less there.

In the last one month, the number of Covid-19 cases has been on

the rise in Telangana State and Hyderabad continues to be the hotspot. Even after identification of as many as 63 containment zones under the GHMC limits people remain negligent. Covid norms go for a toss in several markets, including Begum Bazar, Troop Bazar, Gujrati Galli, Jagdish Mar-

ket, Mahboob Gunj market, and the vegetable markets like Rytu Bazars, Mir Alam Mandi, Madan-napet mandi and Guddimalkapur. People were seen without masks and not following social distancing protocol. Meanwhile traffic jams remained the order of the day. However, shopkeepers say that

they are following safety norms including sanitising, face masks and social distancing but it is the customers who are flouting the norms. "Though the market follows several safety measures, the decision rests in the hands of people to obey the norms and safeguard them. All we can do is, tell

them to wear masks and maintain distance," said Mohammed Khader, owner of the Kirana store at Mir Alam Mandi. The same can be witnessed in the morning markets, on one hand the vendors remain stern to the Covid-19 protocols and maintain social distance while customers flout norms.

HC grants anticipatory bail to ex-Intelligence chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE High Court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to former intelligence chief A B Venkateswara Rao, who is suspended on charges of irregularities in purchase of security devices. Venkateswara Rao filed petition in the High Court seeking anticipatory bail as the commissioner of enquiries completed 14 days investigation of the case. As the investigation has been completed, the former intelligence chief filed petition in High Court seeking anticipatory bail. It may be noted that the State government suspended Venkateswara Rao on the charges of irregularities in purchase of security devices during his tenure as the Intelligence chief and also charged him with violating the service rules.

The petition filed against shifting of capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam came for hearing in High Court on Monday. Three-member bench of High Court after the hearings posted the next hearing on the petition to August 23.

Naidu condoles death of Sabbam Hari

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday expressed shock and grief over the demise of former MP and party leader Sabbam Hari due to coronavirus infection.

Naidu said that it was disturbing him a lot and he was not able to believe the fact that Sabbam Hari was no more. It was expected that the ex-MP would recover from the deadly infection but that did not happen. Now, the tragic news had come as a big shock to one and all.

In the death of the senior leader, the TDP would suffer an irreparable loss.

In a statement here, the TDP chief said that Sabbam Hari was always in the forefront to respond to the problems of the

- Describes the death of the former MP as an irreparable loss to the TDP
- Points out that Hari had a firm understanding and grip over contemporary politics at the State and national levels
- Says the TDP will extend full support to his family
- TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh says the party lost a people's leader

general public. As a Lok Sabha MP and Vizag Mayor, he rendered active services to the people. He spoke strongly to highlight the sufferings of the people. The former MP had got a firm understanding and grip over

contemporary politics at the State and national levels.

Naidu asserted that the TDP would always stand by the family members of Sabbam Hari in this hour of great loss. With his selfless services, he had stood like a model for all of us. Sabbam Hari was frank and outspoken.

Naidu expressed condolences to the bereaved family members and prayed that the departed leader's soul would rest in peace.

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh expressed grief and termed the death of Sabbam Hari as 'very painful and tragic'. The TDP lost a people's leader who was always there to question any wrong that was being done to the State. It was hard to believe that the strong leader has succumbed to Covid-19. The MLC conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family members.

VIT-AP merit scholarships for UG, PG non-engg. programmes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DR G. Viswanathan, Founder & Chancellor, VIT, announces GV Merit Scholarship and Rajeswari Ammal Merit Scholarship aimed at supporting candidates enrolling in non-engineering programmes such as BBA, B.Com, Law, B.Sc, B.A and post graduate programmes from the academic year 2021-22.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, VIT-AP explained that the G V Merit Scholarship is for any Board topper across the country. Under this scholarship, the admitted candidate will get 100% scholarship for all years of the UG programme.

He also stated the eligibility criteria to avail Rajeswari Ammal merit scholarship, the candidate must be a district topper from any State across the country.

The admitted candidate is eligible for a 50% scholarship on the tuition fee for all the years of the degree programme. If the district topper is a



G Viswanathan, VIT Chancellor

girl, she will get an additional 25% scholarship making it as 75% scholarship.

Dr Sekar Viswanathan, vice-president, VIT-AP, said that the PG merit scholarship for all PG programmes with 100% scholarship to all admitted candidates who have secured CGPA of 90/ 90% or above (whichever is applicable) in the qualifying UG examination and merit scholarship of 50% to the admitted candidates who have secured CGPA of

8.0/ 80% or above (whichever is applicable) in the qualifying UG examination and merit scholarship will be given for a girl candidate making it as 75% Scholarship.

Dr C L V Sivakumar, Registrar, VIT-AP, said that these merit scholarships can be availed in non-engineering programmes from the academic year 2021-22. The last date to apply for admission is May 31, 2021.

For more details, the interested may please visit www.vitap.ac.in or e-mail to admission@vitap.ac.in or call 7901091283, he added.

Sangam Dairy farmers need not worry: APDDCF MD

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

AP Dairy Development Cooperative Federation (APDDCF) Managing Director Ahmed Babu said that the Sangam Dairy operations will be carried out without any interruption and dairy farmers need not worry about the dairy.

In a statement here on Monday, he said the federation cleared the dues of Rs 14 crore to milk producers and paid the salaries of 771 regular employees of the dairy. He said the salaries of 415 contract workers will be paid on Tuesday.

The Federation MD said that the Sangam Dairy received 4.96

- The dairy to function regularly
- AP Dairy Development Cooperative Federation clears dues of Rs 14 crore to milk producers
- Salaries paid to 771 regular employees

lakh litres of milk on Monday and the milk was processed and marketed. He assured the dairy farmers and contractors that the operations of the dairy will be carried out without any interruption and they need not worry about the dairy.

NEWLY-ELECTED MP MEETS CM



Tirupati MP M Gurumoorthy presenting a bouquet to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy, Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy and others are seen.

Swarnalatha assumes charge as Addl Director of I&PR Dept

AMARAVATI

L Swarnalatha assumed charge as Additional Director (full additional charge) of Information and Public Relations Department. She is the first woman to assume office as additional di-

rector of I&PR Department. Swarnalatha joined service in the department as DPRO in 1992 and served as assistant director of information at Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED (A Govt. of Andhra Pradesh under taking) Near Srinivasaa Kalyanamandapam, Truchanur Road, Tirupati.		
Tender Notice No.CGM/Projects / 30 / 2021-22 Dt.03-05-2021 Sealed bids through "e-procurement" are invited from the eligible bidders for the following works under YSR Uchita Vyavasaya Viduyat Padhakam.		
S.No	Name of the work	Download start date
1	Supply, configuration and integration of 11 Lakh No's of 30, (10A-60A, Class 1.0) whole current Smart Energy Meters as per IS 16444 part-1/30, (10A-60A, Class 1.0) whole current Energy Meters as per IS 13779 with Local Communication (IRDA / Bluetooth) with Modem and Relays along with required software (HES, MDMS) with 5 - years online meter readings collection and comprehensive Annual Maintenance with 100% OPEX mode	The tenders will be made available from 23.00 Hrs on 05-05-2021 onwards
2	Supply and installation of allied materials for providing of 11 lakh No's of 30, (10A-60A, class 1.0) Energy meters with Modem and disconnectors in 5-Districts of APSDC, with 100% CAPEX mode	in the website : www.eprocurement.gov.in
Contact Phone No.: 8332999180 8332999985 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER / PROJECTS, APSDC : TIRUPATI		

TODAY'S QUOTE

Can't ramp up vax production overnight

"I would like to clarify certain things since my comments may have been misinterpreted. First of all, vaccine manufacturing is a specialised process, it is therefore not possible to ramp up production overnight. We also need to understand that the population of India is huge


— Adar Poonawalla, CEO, SII



AUTOMOBILES

HMSI sells 2,83,045 units in April

HONDA Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt Ltd (HMSI) on Monday reported total sales of 2,83,045 units in April, a decline of 31 per cent from 4,11,037 units sold in March this year. Its domestic sales in April this year stood at 2,40,100 units, while exports were at 42,945 units

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	74.65	South		
Euro	89.94	African Rand		5.87
UAE Dirham	20.72	Hong Kong Dollar		10.94
Thai Baht	2.61	Japanese Yen		0.78
British Pound	103.39	New Zealand Dollar		53.48
Australian Dollar	57.64	Saudi Riyal		21.67
Canadian Dollar	60.64	Swedish Krona		10.06
Swiss Franc	81.83	Singapore Dollar		56.6

DELHI TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Nasal spray from Glenmark

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited has announced the launch of Ryaltris-AZ nasal spray for the treatment of moderate to severe allergic rhinitis, in India. The spray can be used for patients over 12 years of age. It relieves symptoms of allergic rhinitis, including stuffy nose, runny nose, nasal itching, sneezing, as well as itchy, red and watery eyes. Alok Malik, Group Vice President, Business Head, India Formulations said: "We are glad to introduce our brand Ryaltris-AZ, which is clinically studied and cutting-edge, at an affordable cost for patients in the country. Respiratory segment is a key area of focus for Glenmark and the launch of this product will enable us to improve access to allergic rhinitis treatment."

STL takes up CSR initiative

Smartchem Technologies Limited (STL), a subsidiary of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (DFPCL), donated 500 kgs of bleaching powder and 1500 kgs of lime powder to Ponnada Village, in view of the severe surge in Covid cases in Srikakulam District. The donation was made by the Unit Head PCS Rao in the presence of Neelam Appadu - Ponnada village head and A Venkatarao, village secretary. DFPCL Manufacturing President D S R Raju said: "As a responsible corporate citizen, we work closely with the local community and during times like this we lend our hand of support for the community around our unit as part of our social responsibility. DFPCL and its subsidiaries are working full throttle to combat the effects of Covid-19".

JSW unveils new campaign

JSW Paints has unveiled new marketing campaign 'Sachche Rang' this month. The campaign features its brand ambassador Ayushmann Khurrana and aims to make a disruptive statement on the issue of lack of price transparency prevalent in the Indian paints market. This 360-degree integrated campaign offers a completely new canvas to the JSW Paint's 'any colour one price' brand promise. A S Sundaresan, Joint MD, CEO of JSW Paints, said: "Our new campaign turns the spotlight on the unfair industry convention where consumers are forced to pay more for different colours in a product. The any colour one price proposition that offers 1808 colours at the same price, be it whites, pastels, mid tones or deep accents, is an industry-first offering disrupting the entire paints market."

SBI allots ₹71 cr for Covid fight

THE country's largest lender SBI on Monday announced allocating Rs 71 crore towards the fight against Covid-19, a part of which will be used to set up a makeshift 1,000-bed hospital for the treatment of patients in some of the worst-affected states. State Bank of India (SBI) has allocated Rs 71 crore to undertake various support initiatives to combat the second wave of Covid-19, SBI said in a release. The state-owned lender has allocated Rs 30 crore for a makeshift hospital while Rs 21 crore will be used to support initiatives such as procurement of life-saving healthcare equipment, oxygen supply to hospitals, Covid-care centres, ambulances, PPE kits, masks as well as food relief efforts. Besides, Rs 10 crore will be used to supplement government's effort in genome sequencing, SBI said.

COVID IMPACT

FACTORY OUTPUT HITS SLOWLANE

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S manufacturing sector activity was largely flat in April, as rates of growth for new orders and output eased to eight-month lows amid the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 55.5 in April, little changed from March's reading of 55.4. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "The PMI results for April showed a further slowdown in rates of growth for new orders and output, both of which eased to eight-month lows amid the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

Lima also noted that "the surge in Covid-19 cases could dampen demand further when firms' financials are already susceptible to the hurdle of rising global prices." The daily Covid-19 cases in India showed a slight dip with 3,68,147 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, taking the total tally of cases to 1,99,25,604, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

"The headwinds facing manufacturers cannot be ignored, however. The surge in Covid-19 cases



The surge in Covid-19 cases could dampen demand further when firms' financials are already susceptible to the hurdle of rising global prices

could dampen demand further when firms' financials are already susceptible to the hurdle of rising global prices," Lima said. On the prices front, survey participants also signalled a steep increase in input costs, the quickest since July 2014, and upward revisions to selling prices. "April saw the steepest increase in input costs for nearly seven years drive the sharpest upturn in output charges since October 2013. Data for the coming months will be important at verifying whether client demand is resilient to these challenges or if producers will have to further absorb cost burdens themselves to secure new work," Lima said.

The survey, however, noted that while output and sales increased at the slowest rates since last August due to an intensification of the Covid-19 crisis, there was a faster upturn in international orders. New export orders increased for the eighth consecutive month in April and at the fastest rate since October 2020. The rise was associated with a pick-up in international demand for Indian goods, the survey said. On the job front, although manufacturing employment continued to fall, the rate of contraction recorded in April was marginal and the weakest in the current 13-month sequence of job shedding, it noted.

Natco gets CDSCO nod for Covid drug

NEW DELHI

DRUG major Natco Pharma on Monday said it has received emergency use approval for Baricitinib tablets, for the treatment of Covid-19 positive patients, from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in India.

CDSCO is responsible for approval of drugs, conduct of clinical trials, laying down the standards for drugs, control over the quality of imported drugs in the country and coordination of the activities of state drug control organisations.

"Natco Pharma Ltd has received emergency use approval for Baricitinib tablets, 1mg, 2mg and 4mg strengths from Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in India," the



company said in a regulatory filing. Baricitinib in combination with Remdesivir, is used for treatment of Covid-19 positive patients, the company said. Natco said it will request a compulsory license based on emergency use and in light of the grave and serious public health emergency across India due to the pandemic.

The company is ready to launch the product this week, so as to make the product available to suffering patients across India, it added. Shares of Natco Pharma were trading 3.35 per cent higher at Rs 926.70 apiece on BSE.

Mkt recovers early losses

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmark Sensex staged a smart recovery from the day's low to end with marginal losses on Monday, propped up by robust buying in FMCG and telecom counters.

Reliance Industries and banking stocks accounted for most of the losses, while a rebounding rupee also provided support, traders said. After plunging over 750 points in early trade, the 30-share BSE index made a U-turn to finish 63.84 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 48,718.52. In similar movement, the broader NSE Nifty closed 3.05 points or 0.02 per cent higher at 14,634.15. Titan was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 4.58 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Kotak Bank,

ITC, SBI, ONGC and ICICI Bank. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, HUL, Maruti, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, NTPC and Nestle India were among the gainers, climbing up to 3.98 per cent. "Domestic equities recovered sharply from day's low despite weak global cues. While growing uncertainties about collection efficiency and asset quality of banks/NBFCs dragged heavy weight financials, strong buying in FMCG and Metals supported recovery in markets," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities. While persistent rise in second wave of Covid-19 cases has weighed on investors' sentiments, steady corporate earnings with positive managements' commentaries offered support to markets, he noted. On the macroeconomic front, India's manufacturing



sector activity was largely flat in April, as rates of growth for new orders and output eased to eight-month lows amid the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis, a monthly survey showed on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 55.5 in April, little changed from March's reading of 55.4. Sectorally, BSE consumer durables, energy, bankex, oil and gas, realty and finance indices fell up to 1.99 per cent, while telecom, metal, FMCG, industrials and basic materials closed in the green. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmark, surging as much as 1.57 per cent. The daily Covid-19 cases in India showed a slight dip with 3,68,147 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, taking the total tally of cases to 1,99,25,604, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

NMDC output grows to 3.13 MT

NEW DELHI

STATE-OWNED miner NMDC on Monday posted a 74 per cent jump in its iron ore output at 3.13 million tonne (MT) in April 2021.

The company had produced 1.80 MT iron ore in April 2020, NMDC said in a BSE filing.

During the said month, NMDC has recorded a growth in its sales as well. In April 2021, its sales were at 3.09 MT, higher from 1.38 MT in same month last year.

NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), under the Ministry of Steel, is India's single largest iron ore producer, presently producing about 35 MT iron ore annually from its three fully mechanised mines located in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.

Hyderabad will soon see a unicorn startup: T-Hub CEO

N SHARATH CHOWDARY
HYDERABAD

A startup associated with T-Hub is likely to achieve unicorn status very soon. Even amid the ongoing pandemic situation, the business incubator has helped startups like Chitmonks, Drink Prime and Pulse raise funding through its flagship programme Lab32.

T-Hub's corporate innovation programme has impacted MNCs from across the world such as Raytheon Technologies, Boeing, and Oppo. Its corporate memberships and partnerships have enabled more than 350 startups to collaborate, present Proof of Concept work, raise money or get acquired by larger corporates. Among them, 100 startups are from the city.

After successfully nurturing more than 1,800 startups over the last five years, T-Hub is now looking forward to enabling its startups to help solve problems for the global market. Backed by the Telangana government, it continues to evaluate partnerships with the international and national government bodies, research institutes and ecosystem enablers.

"T-Hub has forged some strong

international connects in the last year, with the South Korean Government, Japan Investment and Cooperation Agency (JICA) and others, which helped create over 390 international startup connects," Ravi Narayan, CEO, T-Hub said in an exclusive interview with Bizz Buzz.

Excerpts:

Till now, what is the overall funding received by the startups incubated at T-Hub?

startups associated with T-Hub raised about Rs 1,860 crore investment. T-Hub improves startups' ability to raise capital through its various interventions and workshops. A testament to this is that despite the pandemic, our startups raised a total Rs.100 crore investment in the past 12 months.

Are there any startups that are on the way to unicorn status?

Telangana innovation ecosystem is maturing in different sectors like life sciences, agritech, and other healthcare sectors using advanced technologies like



Ravi Narayan



T-Hub phase-2 will be a microcosm of the Innovation ecosystem. It will not just house startups but will house corporations, investors, and other ecosystem enablers

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. All the sectors that these startups are thriving have a larger gestation period. But we will be seeing a few startups reaching unicorn status in the future with the support from all the ecosystem enablers of the State. T-Hub has proactively reached out to VCs with curated startups and expects mega deals to follow

in the coming days. Last month, T-Hub had two rounds of focussed meetings with a group of select VCs wherein in the first round, healthcare devices startups had made their pitches and in the second round, semiconductor players pitched their business plans. In T-Hub, we believe there is a movement in the right direction, and we will see more Series-C, Series-D in-

vestments in the coming days before you see more unicorns popping out of Hyderabad.

Why there is a delay in the construction of the second phase building of T-Hub?

Initially, the work was delayed due to various factors, while the Covid-19 pandemic had led to further delay.

How much is being invested by the state government?

T-Hub phase-2 is being built by Telangana government at a cost of Rs.276 crore.

Can you let us know more about the facilities that will be offered to startups at the new building?

T-Hub phase-2 will house more than 1,500 startups. It will be a microcosm of the innovation ecosystem. It will not just house startups but will house corporations, investors, and other ecosystem enablers. It will be known as a centre for startup innovation, corporate innovation, and ecosystem innovation. These are key for generating demand. Due to this robust innovation ecosystem that T-Hub has built, we have seen a rise in the number of startups from 400

then to about 2,000 now, and phase-2 will further boost this growth.

Is there any development in setting up T-Hub facilities in tier-II cities of Telangana?

Facilities similar to T-Hub will soon be established in tier-2 cities such as Warangal, Karimnagar, and Khammam by the government in the State to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. By decentralising the IT industry, the State government has planned to expand it to tier-II cities. The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) has built an IT Incubation Centre in Warangal on a two-acre land. Meanwhile, in Karimnagar, an IT centre is being constructed in an area of 51,600 sq ft.

T-Hub is also focusing on becoming the source of demand for innovation by creating innovation economy in the state. Its strategy will also include creating a strong funding ecosystem here for our startups and create innovation pathways for startups, ecosystem enablers from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. T-Hub will act as a springboard to help startups from these regions scale up and go global.



Varun Chakravarthi

IPL POINTS TABLE

	Team	Played	Won	Lost	NetRR	Pts
1	CSK	7	5	2	+1.263	10
2	DC	7	5	2	+0.466	10
3	RCB	7	5	2	-0.171	10
4	MI	7	4	3	+0.062	8
5	RR	7	3	4	-0.190	6
6	PBKS	7	3	4	-0.264	6
7	KKR	7	2	5	-0.494	4
8	SRH	7	1	6	-0.623	2

Covid bursts IPL bubble: KKR-RCB tie deferred

- Kolkata Knight Riders' Chakravarthi, Warrior test +ve
- Delhi, Ahmedabad games in doubt
- CSK non-playing staff also caught up, calls off training for a day

NEW DELHI

A Covid-19 outbreak left the star-sprinkled IPL on tenterhooks as Kolkata Knight Riders' Varun Chakravarthi and Sandeep Warrior tested positive for the dreaded virus, forcing postponement of their game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, while cases also came to light in the Chennai Super Kings camp.

The match, which was to be held in Ahmedabad this evening, will be rescheduled some time later during the tournament, which will conclude on May 30.

"Varun Chakravarthi and Sandeep Warrior were found to be positive in the third round of testing in the last four days. All other team members have tested negative for COVID-19," the league, which features the biggest names in international cricket, said in a press release. Apart from this, Chennai Super Kings CEO Kasi Viswanathan, bowling coach L Balaji and a bus cleaner with the contingent tested positive on Sunday. A top BCCI official, after declaring all three cases to be "false positives", later clarified that Balaji along with the unnamed cleaner had come out positive even in the repeat test.

"Three members of CSK contingent, CEO Kasi, bowling coach L Balaji and a bus driver had tested positive in the morning followed by negative Rapid Antigen test report," the source said. "However second RT-PCR report found Balaji and bus driver positive again. The others in the team especially playing members have tested negative," he added.

CSK, currently based in Delhi, suspended

their training for the day and are scheduled to face Rajasthan Royals on May 5. The team had been hit by COVID cases even in the 2020 edition which was held in the UAE.

There was cause of concern in Delhi too as a few groundsman at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium, which is due to host Mumbai Indians vs SunRisers Hyderabad on Tuesday, have also tested positive for the virus. However, Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) chief Rohan Jaitley asserted that "none of the groundsman on duty" are among them.

The BCCI continued to insist that the league will go on but Monday's developments have definitely cast a shadow on how the COVID-19 threat would be managed for an event being staged across six venues -- two at one time. Leg-spinner Chakravarthi and pacer Warrior, both 30, have been isolated and the rest of the KKR contingent has returned negative reports for now. Of the two, Warrior has not yet made the playing XI in any of the seven matches KKR have played.

"The Medical Team is in continuous touch with the duo and are monitoring their health. Meanwhile, the Kolkata Knight Riders have now moved towards a daily testing routine to identify any other possible cases and treat them at the earliest," the IPL stated.

"The Medical Team is also determining the close and casual contacts of the two positive cases during the 48 hours prior to collection of the sample that returned the positive test results," it added.

KKR last played on April 29 against Delhi Capitals in Ahmedabad and the development is bound to trigger anxiety in the league, which had been going along smoothly so far in a bio-secure bubble in front of empty stands. "Now, the DC players (currently in Ahmedabad) will also have to be tested and every member of the team contingents that came in contact with Chakravarthi and Warrior will also be contact traced through the app watch that has been given to

everyone," a BCCI source said.

According to IPL's Standard Operating Procedure for COVID-19 management, any close contact of an infected person has to isolate for six days and return three negative tests on days 1, 3 and 6. It is learnt that KKR's pace spearhead Pat Cummins revealed the latest development to all the Australian players in the IPL after Chakravarthi, while undergoing some shoulder scans for a niggle after Thursday's game, tested positive for the virus.

Chakravarthi has appeared in all of KKR's matches so far and been one of their most successful players with seven wickets under his belt. KKR and CSK had clashed on April 21 in Mumbai. IPL had dealt with positive cases before the tournament started, including some high-profile names like Axar Patel and Devdutt Padikkal. However, this is the first instance of positive cases in the middle of the tournament.

"The BCCI and the Kolkata Knight Riders prioritise the health and safety of everyone involved and all measures are being taken in that endeavour," the IPL stated.

Foreign players, who were already anxious about getting home with travel restricted from India, are edgier right now. But franchises would prefer the league to continue with necessary safeguards. "There is no going back now with half of the tournament done. The news (positive cases in KKR) makes the BCCI's job more challenging," a franchise official told PTI.

Just days before this, three Australian players had pulled out of the league, citing COVID-19 concerns



Sandeep Warrior

Cummins sends Covid relief to UNICEF, not to PM CARES fund

SYDNEY

KOLKATA Knight Riders' Australian pace bowler Pat Cummins changed his decision to donate to PM CARES fund and instead directed the \$50,000 amount pledged for Covid-19 victims, to UNICEF Australia's India COVID-19 Crisis Appeal.

Cummins on Monday quoted-tweeted a Cricket Australia (CA) initiative to help India's Covid-19 victims and wrote, "Terrific work @CricketAus. FYI I ended up allocating my donation to UNICEF Australia's India COVID-19 Crisis Appeal. If you're able to, please join many others in supporting this here <https://india.unicef.org.au/t/australian-cricket>."

Earlier on April 26, Cummins had announced a donation of \$50,000 to PM CARES fund.

"As players, we are privileged to have a platform that allows us to reach millions of people that we can use for good. With that in mind, I have made a contribution to the 'PM CARES Fund', specifically to purchase oxygen supplies for India's hos-

pitals," wrote Cummins in a statement last week.

"I encourage my fellow IPL players -- and anyone else around the world who has been touched by India's passion and generosity -- to contribute. I will kick off with \$50,000," he further said.

Meanwhile, CA on Monday said that it has pledged an "initial donation" of \$50,000 towards India's fight against the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

CA also said that it is partnering with the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) and UNICEF Australia to raise more funds.

"Australian Cricket has been deeply saddened by the devastation caused by this second coronavirus wave to hit India, a country with which Australians share a strong friendship and connection," it said in a statement.

"Cricket Australia will make an initial donation of \$50,000 and encourage Australians everywhere to give generously at this critical time in India's Covid-19 response," it further said. (ANS)

Sindhu, Li named athlete ambassadors for IOC's 'Believe in Sports' campaign

NEW DELHI

WORLD champion and Olympic silver medalist P V Sindhu and world no 11 Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sports' campaign, the Badminton World Federation said on Monday.

The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'I am badminton' campaign since April last year. "It is an honour to be nominated by the IOC as an ambassador. I stand alongside my fellow athletes in the fight against any form of cheating or competition manipulation. Together we are stronger," Sindhu said in a release.

Lavishing praise on Sindhu, Badminton Association of India (BAI) general secretary Ajay Singhania said: "This is a recognition of her sincerity, fair-play and integrity towards the game she has dedicated and played through her sporting years."

"We at BAI are extremely delighted and proud to see this champion athlete is chosen for this coveted honour at the world stage."

In badminton, manipulation or match fixing,

includes influencing the course or the result of a badminton match in order to obtain an advantage for the individual or others. "We all want to be on the same start line. It's so important to be fair as that's a true representation of what your ability is," said 2014 Commonwealth Games champion Li.

As part of the campaign, Sindhu and Li will be engaging with the badminton athlete community through online webinars and social media messages to highlight the risks in-



Lanka crush Bangladesh, clinch Test series

KANDY: Sri Lankan left-arm spin prodigy Praveen Jayawickrama again grabbed a five-wicket haul as he helped his team crush Bangladesh by 209 runs on the final day of the second Test on Monday. The first match of the two-Test series had ended in a draw. Jayawickrama claimed 5 for 86 for a record debut match haul of 11 for 178, becoming the first bowler to take a 10-wicket haul on debut since Jason Krejza in 2008. The 22-year-old had taken six wickets for 92 runs in the first innings. Chasing 437, Bangladesh were all out for 227, where the hosts dominated from Day 1 with skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimann scoring 118 and 140 runs, respectively. Brief scores: Sri Lanka 493 for 7 decl and 194 for 9 decl beat Bangladesh 251 and 227 in 71 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 40; Jayawickrama 5/86, Mendis 4/103) by 209 runs.

Inter end Juve dominance, win first Serie A title since 2010

ROME

INTER Milan claimed their 19th Italian Serie A title after a 1-1 draw between Atalanta and Sassuolo gifted the Nerazzurri the crown for the first time since 2010, and their first major title since winning the Coppa Italia in 2011.

Inter had last claimed the Scudetto in the 2009-2010 season when coach Jose Mourinho guided the Italian giants to a historic treble. AC Milan then topped Serie A the following year, before Juventus established an era of dominance by winning nine consecutive titles.

The Nerazzurri temporarily went 13 points clear on the table after a 2-0 victory over already-relegated Crotone on Saturday. Antonio Conte's side was expected to end the title drought with four games remaining once Atalanta failed to beat Sassuolo, and the 1-1 draw was enough for Inter to secure the championship.

"We are, yes, we are. Champions of Italy. We can finally scream it, after dreaming of it, after keeping it hidden in the depths of our hearts, after holding on to it like a precious dream that



we did not want to waste. We wear this Scudetto. Beautiful, emphatic, deserved. Long-awaited and yearned for," Inter wrote on their website.

The newly-crowned champions also urged the fans to "celebrate responsibly." While the Scudetto has been secured, the top-four race is still wide open as Juventus fight for a Champions League spot.

The Bianconeri were 0-1 down just 10 minutes into the game against Udinese, but Juve started to push forward and it paid off in the last minutes as

Cristiano Ronaldo ended his goal drought with a penalty and a header, helping the Old Lady finish the comeback.

Atalanta, Juventus and AC Milan rank second to fourth, all with 69 points, while fifth-placed Napoli with 67 points also have Champions League aspirations after a 1-1 draw with Cagliari on Sunday.

In Sunday's other fixtures, Lazio edged Genoa 4-3, Sampdoria conquered Roma 2-0, and Bologna shared the spoils with Fiorentina 3-3. (ANS)

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