

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 12 APRIL 2021



WEATHER

Max: 34.8°C
Min: 23.6°C
RH: 41%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
May rain in evening.
Max/Min temp. 36/24°C

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Uttarakaya

Tithi: Phalguna Bahula

Amavasya till 8.01 am

Star: Revati till 11.30 am

Varjyanam: Nil

Durmuhuram: 12.42 pm to
1.31 pm; 3.10 pm to 4 pm

Rahuakalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Sha'bani 29, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.01 am

Zohar: 12.27 pm

Asar: 4.37 pm

Magrib: 6.37 pm

Isha: 7.46 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.01 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 6.14 AM

MOONSET TODAY 6.49 PM

COUNTER POINT



I like polls with more phases... we are earning more money attending more election rallies!

SHORT TAKES

PLA: India must cherish +ve trend

Beijing: With no forward movement at the latest round of Sino-India military talks on disengagement from the remaining areas in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese military has said that India should cherish the "current positive trend" of de-escalation and cooling down of tensions in the border area. There was no progress at the latest round of military talks between the two countries as the Chinese came to the talks with a "pre-meditated mindset", people familiar with the negotiations said.

IMD WEATHER WARNING NOW COVERS ALL TS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

It would be rainy days ahead for Telangana. The state would experience thunderstorms coupled with gusty winds till April 15.

Under the influence of a trough travelling over the state which goes from Madhya Pradesh to Cape Comorin, there would be thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40kmph range at isolated places in the state, a warning issued by the weather office said on Sunday.

■ Page 2: Hailstorms are likely, says IMD

WORLD | 10

Suspicious blackout in Iran's plant



SPORTS | 12

Dhoni is my go-to man: Pant

TABLOID

Walk through your fear



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Remembering Jyotiba Phule



Leaders of several parties joined to pay tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and his services to reform Indian society of its evils, including his peerless contribution to fight to eradicate untouchability and against caste oppression, on the occasion of his 195th birth anniversary. TRS leader and health minister Etala Rajendar, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao, BJP's OBC Morcha president K. Laxman were among those who paid tribute and spoke on the occasion. — DC

Mamata provoked TMC violence on CISF: Shah

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, APRIL 11

Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday squarely held West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent "provocative speech" responsible for the violent mob attack on the Central paramilitary forces which, in turn, shot dead four villagers at a polling booth in Shitalkuchi of Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of the election a day earlier.

Asking the Trinamul Congress supremo to apologise for her instigation, he questioned her silence on the killing of a first-time voter, Ananda Burman of the Rajbanshi community, after linking him to the saffron party.

Rejecting Ms Banerjee's demand for his resigna-

Model code is BJP code, alleges Didi

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, APRIL 11

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday described the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct (MCC) as the "BJP Code of Conduct ... or BCC" after she failed to visit the aggrieved family of the four villagers who were shot dead by the Central paramilitary

forces at a polling booth at Shitalkuchi in Cooch Behar due to the 72-hour ban imposed by the EC on the visit of any political leader to the district.

The TMC chief also called the killings a "mass murder" in a virulent attack on the EC and the BJP after speaking to the victims' relatives.

■ Page 2: Didi vows relief for each family

tion over the firing, Mr Shah said: "Didi has been constantly claiming: Amit Shah must resign. Didi, I will resign when the people ask me to. But

you should get ready since you will have to resign on May 2."

■ Page 2: Forces acted in self-defence: Shah

Tika Utsav second big war against Covid-19, says PM

CENTRE BANS EXPORT OF REMDESIVIR

He also spoke of "each one, save one", saying emphasis should be on wearing mask so as to save oneself and others too. He asked families and members of society to take lead in setting up micro containment zones if anyone gets the disease, saying it is an important way to fight Covid in a densely populated country like India.

"Our success will be determined by our awareness of the micro containment zone and by not leaving house when there is no need. Our success will also depend on whether we wear masks and follow other rules," he said, adding that it will also depend on getting those eligible for vaccine inoculated. — PTI

In a blog, he urged them to remember four things, including "each one, vaccinate one"— helping those getting vaccinated who are less educated and elderly and who cannot go for the jab themselves, and "each one, treat one"— helping those who do not have the means or do not know about the facilities available for vaccination.

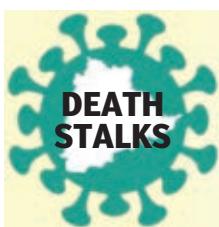
— PTI

GLOOMY SCENARIO

State may see 3 times more deaths from March

TS sees highest Covid tally

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11



The number of Covid-19 deaths is rising rapidly in the second wave
55 January
33 February
67 March
58 April* *Till April 10

The state recorded its highest-ever Covid-19 tally of 3,187 cases on Saturday, according to data released by the state health department on Sunday. The previous high was 3,018 cases on August 26, 2020. The first case was discovered in the state on March 2 last year.

The highest daily tally of the pandemic came even as the number of people dying from the disease is seeing an uptick with each month this year. Seven more people died of Covid-19, taking

to 1,759 the fatalities from the disease so far. The overall Covid-19 cases have reached 3,27,278, as on Saturday evening, the department said.

While the rapid increase in the number of cases has become a daily affair in this

second wave of Covid-19, the number of deaths is increasing rapidly. Compared to 67 deaths reported by the state government as Covid-19 related in March, the first 10 days of April have seen 58 people die of the disease. This fig-

ure representing almost 87 per cent of deaths during the 31 days of March.

"There are more and more people going to the hospitals late and neglecting the need to get proper medical attention because they believe that this disease no longer poses any danger and will go away," a senior government doctor said. It is feared that even well before the second wave of Covid-19 peaks, TS may see many more people losing their lives.

■ Page 3: Over 500 cases in Hyderabad, GHMC areas

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■ Page 3: Over 500 cases in Hyderabad, GHMC areas

N'sagar saboteurs give parties sleepless nights

Politicians suspect disgruntled leaders may help Oppn

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Political parties are deeply worried about "saboteurs" ahead of polling in the Nagarjunasagar Assembly by-election on April 17.

All parties are keeping a close watch on movements of disgruntled leaders, suspecting them of resorting to covert activities and sabotaging their party's prospects in the bypoll.

Earlier, the respective party leaderships had made all efforts to convince these disgruntled leaders into withdrawing from race in favour of the party's official candidates by offering them different posts. Still, there are fears that they may resort to covert activities and help rival parties.

While the ruling party has engaged the services of the intelligence department sleuths to keep a tab on such contenders, the Opposition parties are relying on their close aides to track the saboteurs and submit daily reports on their activities.

There had been multiple serious contenders for party tickets to contest the



Congress leader K. Jana Reddy goes on a roadshow for the Nagarjunasagar bypoll accompanied by TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other party leaders on Sunday.

bypoll, especially from the ruling TRS and the BJP.

Though there were no contenders in Congress other than K. Jana Reddy, the Congress too is wary of saboteurs, as the ruling party has lured several prominent Congress leaders from village to district level into its fold over the past three months in presence of ministers, TRS

MLAs, MLCs and so on.

The Congress is worried that several of such leaders, though continuing to remain in the party, have been in touch with TRS leaders and sabotaging party's prospects by "leaking" the party's strategy.

Congress suspects that seizure of liquor worth nearly ₹40 lakh on Friday from the residence of a

local party leader known to be the close aide of Jana Reddy in Nagarjunasagar is handiwork of "coverts". Congress leaders argue that though all parties are distributing cash and liquor in the bypoll, few coverts had leaked information to ruling party leaders, who ordered police raids and seized stocks.

The Congress has now demanded that police raid residences of key leaders belonging to all parties if they are really sincere in curbing distribution of cash and liquor.

TRS leadership is worried that a few leaders from the Reddy community in the constituency are angry with the party for giving ticket to Yadava community. Thus, they are silently working for Jana Reddy on "caste grounds", besides keeping away from campaigning for the party to register their dissent.

In the BJP, too, there had been many aspirants from the Reddy and BC communities. The party gave ticket to an ST candidate, leading to resentment among other communities. The party too is thus tracking movements of its disgruntled leaders.

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SHORT TAKES
**MAN KILLS WIFE,
MOTHER-IN-LAW,
SURRENDERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A man killed his wife and mother-in-law while they were sleeping, and surrendered to the IDA Bolarum police on Sunday. Police said the accused, Nune Narasimha, used to suspect his wife Swaroopa, 32, and physically abuse her.

A few days back, Swaroopa returned to the house of her mother Teki Yellamma, 50, after a quarrel with her husband. On Sunday, at about 4.30 am, Narasimha went to the house when they were sleeping and stabbed them.

"Subsequently, he went to the IDA Bolarum police station and surrendered himself," a police statement said. Following this, the police booked a case of murder and started investigations. Narasimha is in judicial custody.

**BOY TOUCHES
TRANSFORMER,
SUFFERS BURNS**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

An eight-year-old boy suffered burns when he accidentally came in contact with a transformer on Friday under the Malkajgiri police station limits. On learning of the incident, IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday assured that he would take care of the child's medical treatment.

The boy's mother Janaki appealed to the government and public to help. Janaki in a video message explained that she was a single mother and her husband died two years ago. "On Friday afternoon while I was taking care of my second child at home, Nishant went out to play and accidentally touched the transformer and suffered burns," she said in a video clip.

With the clip being widely shared, Rama Rao on his official social media handle said, "Will take care of Nishanth," and directed his team to contact the family and assist them. Mynampally Hanumanth Rao, TRS Malkajgiri MLA, visited Nishant in hospital and spoke to the family and directed the hospital to treat the child well.

The Malkajgiri police have booked a case and started investigation.

**MAN BEATEN FOR
QUESTIONING
SPITTING AT GATE**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A 64-year-old man was allegedly assaulted by three men whom he questioned for spitting at the gate of an Urban Healthcare Centre (UHC) at Malakpet on Sunday morning. Police said the victim, a GHMC staffer, had visited the hospital for getting the Covid-19 vaccine when the assault took place.

According to a complaint received from one R. Devender, 26, he and his father R. Sudharshan had gone to the UHC at Shalivahananagar to get the vaccine and were waiting outside the place when three men — a man aged about 70 and his two sons — spat at the place where they were standing.

"Upon asking them how they can spit during such a pandemic, they got hostile and allegedly assaulted the victim and abused them using filthy language, leaving them with bleeding injuries," said the Malakpet police, who booked a case and started an investigation.

COVID | CARE

Senior doctor appeals for live bed availability information for patients to check

Shortage of beds a big worry in hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

There appears to be no connection between the number of ICU beds in demand for Covid-19 patients needing intensive care, and the number of such beds actually available in hospitals, whether government or privately run.

The problem, according to doctors is that while the 'number' of ICU beds reported faithfully every day by the state health department in its Covid-19 bulletin — particularly for patients requiring ventilation or assisted breathing — may be correct, the rub lies in the fact that not

every one of these beds, though classified as 'Ventilator/CPAP' is actually equipped with either a ventilator or a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine. While using a ventilator involves what doctors called 'intubation', inserting a tube into the throat to help the patient breathe in the hope of helping in recovery, or at best, extend the life by a few days at best or a few hours at worst, a CPAP machine does not involve intubation but a tight-fitting mask over the face that forcibly pushes air into a patient's lungs thereby helping in keeping the patient alive.



Anecdotal evidence over the past few days from attendants of Covid-19 patients running around the city trying to find an 'ICU bed' points to the fact that beds equipped with such machines are few and hard to come by.

On paper, however, at least in the daily Covid-19 bulletins issued by the state government, it is claimed that there are 1,711 ICU (Ventilator/CPAP) in government hospitals across the state, the number of such beds is put at 3,331 in private hospitals which are treating Covid-19 patients.

As on Saturday, according to the bulletin, of the 1,711 such beds in the government sector, only 328 were occupied leaving 1,383 ready to receive patients. In the private sector, of the 3,331 such beds, the bulletin says 1,493 are occupied leaving 1,838 available for patients who might need either ventilation or assisted breathing with a CPAP machine.

A senior doctor involved in Covid-19 care, said it is a fact that patients are once again getting the run around for ICU beds. "What is needed is a live bed availability information, something people can check and go to a particular hospital that actually has a ventila-

• ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE
over the past few days from attendants of Covid-19 patients running around the city trying to find an 'ICU bed' points to the fact that beds equipped with such machines are few and hard to come by.

tor or a CPAP machine available along with an ICU bed. This will prevent desperate running around by Covid-19 patients and their families," the doctor said.

"Of course, there then is always the issue of private hospitals saying there are no such beds available and then relenting to say there may be one available but can be given to a patient only on making an upfront hefty payment and the like. This is the government's responsibility to ensure people have access to live ICU bed data that have the necessary equipment to revive a failing patient," the doctor said.

**STATE TO CLOSE
VACCINATION
CENTRES DUE
TO SHORTAGE**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The state government, now left with Covid-19 vaccines enough to last may be two days at best, is facing the prospect of closing some of its vaccination centres in the next few days, even as the 'Tika Utsav' — the vaccination festival ordered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi began on Sunday.

The state was waiting to hear from the Centre on its Saturday's request for supply of 30 lakh doses of the vaccine.

It may be recalled that Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar wrote to the Centre on Saturday seeking urgent additional vaccine supply with the state planning to ramp up vaccinations to 2 lakh doses a day.

On Saturday, according to Somesh Kumar, the state had 5.66 lakh doses of vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — left with it. The state is vaccinating at the rate of 1.5 lakh people every day, leading to fears that the stocks will run out in three to four days.

The state, according to officials, has more doses of Covishield than Covaxin, which has left the officials worried. As a consequence, they have stopped dispensing first doses of Covaxin, of which there is a shortage, and saving the available stocks of this vaccine for those lining up to take their second dose of this particular vaccine.

According to the health department, on Saturday, the state administered a total of 1,62,385 doses of vaccine, of which 1,53,295 were to people getting their first shot, with 9,090 people receiving their second dose. So far, the state has administered 20,61,395 first and second doses.



The state had 5.66 lakh doses of vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — left with it. The state is vaccinating at the rate of 1.5 lakh people every day, leading to fears that the stocks will run out in three to four days.

— SOMESH KUMAR
Chief Secretary



Traffic police personnel counsel youths on the importance of wearing the mask and following Covid-19 protocols among a surge in Coronavirus cases, in Hyderabad on Sunday. The overall cases have crossed the 3.25 lakh mark, with the state recording its highest-ever 3,187 cases on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

**MISCONCEPTIONS
AMONG YOUTHS
ABOUT VIRUS**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The government's current stand on Covid-19 vaccination eligibility is resulting in a misunderstanding among youth that they have nothing to worry or fear about the disease, the Indian Medical Association has said.

IMA national president Dr J.A. Jayalal said that with the government focusing on 45 years and plus age group to be the vaccine recipients in the country, the youth and those under 45, were increasing under the misapprehension that they are not vulnerable to Covid-19.

Indicating that nothing could be farther from the truth, Dr Jayalal told *Deccan Chronicle* that the second wave of Covid-19 is seeing more and more youths, aged 18 years and more, succumbing to the disease. "Fatalities in the youth group were less than one per cent of all deaths during the first wave," he said.

Asked what could be done to control the current rapid spread of Covid-19, Dr M. Srinivas, Dean of ESI Medical College, told *Deccan Chronicle* that "people have to be conscious not just for themselves, but for those around them. Everyone must feel responsible for reducing transmission. We will not likely see another pandemic like this in our lifetimes and it is for everyone to pitch in in the 18- to 40-age group, 36 had lost their lives. This is more than 30 per cent of the cases and is worrisome," Dr Jayalal said.

Overall, during the current resurgence of Covid-19 that India is witnessing, 20 to 35 per cent of all Covid-19 victims are children and youth. "This is something we are seeing across the country," he said.

It may be recalled that there have been repeated calls from Telangana, Delhi and some other states to open up vaccination for all age groups but the Centre has so far not agreed to these requests.

Cops book 6,500 in state in a week for not wearing mask

State fixes ₹1K penalty for not wearing mask in public

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The police has booked 6,478 persons in the state for not wearing the mask, the first guard against Covid-19, between April 5 and 11. This information came from the state police IT Cell. Stricter enforcement of the mask rule has been in effect for a week in view of the rising Covid-19 cases.

The three police commissioners in the city have booked 3,214 cases of violations. These included 2,030 in Hyderabad, 670 in Rachakonda and 514 in Cyberabad, the data revealed.

While this is so, there has been much debate about the large crowds gathering at election campaign rallies, and how people who do not wear masks there get away lightly.

Speaking about the use of masks during election campaigns, BJP spokesperson Krishna Sagar Rao said the party would want everyone to do this. "During the election campaigns, the candidates would want the voters to see his face and hence most of the contestants do

not use the mask at public events. This should not be the case. I strongly believe self-regulation is above any punitive measure and I welcome the regula-

would attract a penalty of ₹1,000. The government has directed the district collectors and commissioners and superintendents of police to strictly implement the related instructions.

The GO issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said: "To prevent the spread of Covid-19 virus, wearing of face mask is made mandatory in all public places, work spaces and means of transport. Any deviation would attract prosecution under section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and section 188 of IPC as well as other applicable laws."

tions," he said.

In Nalgonda district, 39 people were booked for not wearing the mask, including those involved in campaigning for the bypolls. Meanwhile, Wanaparthy zilla parishad chairman R. Lok Nath Reddy paid a ₹1,000 fine for not wearing the mask at a function.

He said that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi just a couple of days ago had pointed out that of the 140 critical cases of Covid-19 in the 18- to 40-age group, 36 had lost their lives. This is more than 30 per cent of the cases and is worrisome," Dr Jayalal said.

In Nalgonda district, 39 people were booked for not wearing the mask, including those involved in campaigning for the bypolls. Meanwhile, Wanaparthy zilla parishad chairman R. Lok Nath Reddy paid a ₹1,000 fine for not wearing the mask at a function.

Meanwhile, Hyderabadi and the rest of the city and the rest of the state have shot the 500 mark in daily Covid-19 cases with the health department in its bulletin, reporting 551

cases in the GHMC limits on Saturday, compared to 487 on Friday. With 333 new cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri district was in second spot, while 271 cases were reported in Ranga Reddy, and 251 from Nizamabad districts.

The number of active Covid-19 cases rose past the 20,000 mark on Saturday to stand at 20,184 while the number of peo-

ple in isolation increased to 13,366. On Friday, these figures stood at 17,791, and 11,495 respectively.

The department said it conducted 1,15,311 tests in the state on Saturday, but of these, results were pending for 3,753 tests.

reformative campaign by not allowing more than five persons with a candidate," said Dasoju Shrawan, chief spokesperson from the Congress.

"Section 144 does not allow a gathering of more than five people in the public. Public meetings should be banned and the EC should be careful while drafting campaigning rules. Now we have social media platforms that are accessible and most people have smartphones. There is no need for mass campaigning," he said.

"This was a good enough time for the Election Commission to introduce restrictions and it should have recommended a

SCARY SCENE

NINE DISTRICTS REPORTED CASES IN THREE-FIGURES ON SATURDAY

GHMC (Hyderabad): 551	Nirmal : 154
Medchal-Malkajgiri : 333	Jagital : 134
Ranga Reddy : 271	Kamareddy : 113
Nizamabad : 251	Karimnagar : 104
	Sangareddy : 104

Over 500 cases in Hyd, GHMC areas

From page 1

If this current rate continues, we may well see three times the deaths compared to last month," he said.

Meanwhile, Hyderabadi and the rest of the city and the rest of the state have shot the 500 mark in daily Covid-19 cases with the health department in its bulletin, reporting 551

cases in the GHMC limits on Saturday, compared to 487 on Friday. With 333 new cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri district was in second spot, while 271 cases were reported in Ranga Reddy, and 251 from Nizamabad districts.

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With reference to the Advertisement dt. 01/04/2021 Notification 03/2021 issued by TSPSC, it is here by informed to the candidates that, TSPSC have received the amended Rules and Guidelines from the Government. G.O Ms.No.33, General Administration Department, Dt. 08.02.2021 v/s G.O Ms.No.65 GA(Ser.D) Dept., dated 19.03.2021 for initial appointments to posts in services under the state. Therefore the Commission will implement the same (10% Reservation to the EWS) to Notification No.03/2021. The online application start form 19.04.2021 and last date for submitting applications is 20.05.2021. The other terms & conditions of Notification remain unchanged. The detailed information will be made available in TSPSC Website (www.tspsc.gov.in).

Hyderabad
Dt: 09/04/2021
RO No: 10832-PP/CL/Advt/1/2021-22

Sgt-
PRL. SECRETARY

or a CPAP machine available along with an ICU bed. This will prevent desperate running around by Covid-19 patients and their families," the doctor said.

"Of course, there then is always the issue of private hospitals saying there are no such beds available and then relenting to say there may be one available but can be given to a patient only on making an upfront hefty payment and the like. This is the government's responsibility to ensure people have access to live ICU bed data that have the necessary equipment to revive a failing patient," the doctor said.

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IN BRIEF

KCR CLAIMS OF GRAFT-FREE RULE A FARCE: CONGDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The alleged involvement of Srinivas Reddy, son-in-law of former minister late Naini Narasimha Reddy, in IMS scam regarding purchase of unnecessary medicines at exorbitant prices for ESI hospitals, proves that the claim of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao that his government is corruption-free government is a farce, said TPCC spokesperson G. Nirajan.

Srinivas Reddy and Narasimha Reddy's personal assistant had been raided by the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday.

"The IMS scam, minister Malla Reddy's threats asking for commissions, the involvement of TRS legislators in the Karnataka drugs case and the case booked against an associate of a TRS corporator for an illegitimate affair with a woman and extracting Rs 10 lakh from her for a double bedroom house shows the level of corruption in the TRS government", he alleged.

HIKE AGE LIMIT FOR JOBS BY 10 YEARS: DASOJUDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

AICC spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Sunday demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao increase the age limit by 10 years to enable unemployed persons to apply for all job recruitment notifications. The age limit should be 44 years, as was done in the past, he said.

He explained the TS Public Service Commission had reduced the candidates' upper age limit to 34 years, thereby eliminating lakhs of unemployed persons who have actively participated in Telangana movement since 2009.

The Congress leader made the demand that he wrote to the Chief Minister. In the letter, Dr Dasoju asked the CM to consider the rising unemployment as a social emergency and constitute a special task force to address the issue on priority.

Dr Dasoju requested the CM to organise an all-party meeting to discuss the unemployment issue and find a way out. He said a majority of unemployed youth were in deep distress, unable to face their family and friends, unable to get married and settle in life.

He pointed out that the government of Telangana had relaxed the upper age ceiling by 10 years between 2015 and 2017 with which the candidates' eligibility has gone up to 44 years.

While that had helped, the lack of big-ticket recruitments in the last seven years had left unemployed persons frustrated.

The AICC spokesperson reiterated that providing employment was not only the agenda of the Telangana statehood movement, but also the constitutional responsibility of the Chief Minister.

"We must seriously recollect and remember the ferocious sacrifices made by our youth and emphatically respond to them and their problems. It is high time that we keep all our politics aside and let us collectively figure out a way and a way forward to protect our youth ... our own youth who struggled and sacrificed their lives for Telangana," Dr Dasoju said.



Minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy talks to the voters of Nagarjunasagar on Sunday. —DC

Dump TRS, urges BJP**Kishan asks voters to remind govt of 2BHK homes, jobs**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy slammed the ruling TRS and Opposition Congress for their failure to develop Nagarjunasagar constituency.

The minister on Sunday participated in several road shows at Anumula, Manepally, Thripuraram and Halia in the constituency.

He said that although elected seven times from the seat, Congress candidate K. Jana Reddy had done precious little for Nagarjunasagar. Even

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao failed to honour his promises for the area, Reddy said.

Kishan Reddy asked the voters to give a chance to the BJP candidate Dr P. Ravi Kumar, who was a practicing doctor and who can forcefully raise people's issues in the Assembly. He said Congress has been reduced to a non-entity and the TRS was corrupt from top to bottom and they should not fall prey to the money and muscle power of TRS.

He urged the people of Nagarjunasagar to question the Chief Minister about double bedroom houses, employment notification, women empowerment groups loan issues and three acres promised for Dalits, and the tribal land issues.

In another road show at Halia, Union minis-

● KISHAN REDDY

ter Arjun Ram Meghaval alleged that TRS was looting Telangana and Chandrasekhar Rao and his family were "fully into corruption."

He stated that Nagarjunasagar constituency was ridden with bumpy roads and water problems despair the Sagar project. He said that KCR Kit was actually a Union government scheme, which Rao hijacked and gave it a new name.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and former MP Vijayashanti are likely to address road shows on Monday.

Uttam: Jana's win is the need of the stateDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The Congress intensified its campaign in the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency by fielding a host of prominent leaders for an intensive campaign in the past two days.

TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, working president A. Revanth Reddy and Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy were among the party leaders who are campaigning for candidate K. Jana Reddy. The leaders recalled the role played by Jana Reddy in the formation of Telangana state and sharply attacked the TRS.

They said Jana Reddy had been offered the post of Chief Minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh but he had not only rejected the offer but persuaded the Congress-led UPA government to immediately grant statehood.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Jana Reddy's win is a historic need for the state to keep the "wayward" acts of the TRS leadership in check. A vote for Jana Reddy, a seven-time legislator, would also be an acknowledgement of the contributions he made to the constituency and the state. "The Congress in the state would regain its past glory soon with the victory of Jana Reddy in this

● BHONGIR MP

Venkat Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was habituated to betrayal of the people. He said TRS leaders are behind the sand mafia as also several acts of corrup-

tion.

by-election," Uttam said.

He said that the people of Telangana, particularly voters in the poll-bound constituency, should have a close look and see how the TRS govern-

ment was indulging in misrule with an ugly display of arrogance of power and money. He urged the tribes of Nagarjunasagar to defeat the TRS candidate.

Revanth Reddy said, "Had the 'Bangaru Telangana' dream been attained, Sunil Naik and Ravi would not have died by suicide."

They said Jana Reddy had been offered the post of Chief Minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh but he had not only rejected the offer but persuaded the Congress-led UPA government to immediately grant statehood.

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bedroom houses for the poor, and a 12 per cent reservations for the Muslims and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

"Only one solution to solving all the problems in Nagarjunasagar is of electing Jana Reddy as the MLA again," Revanth Reddy said.

He appealed to the people to raise the slogan, "Let's question KCR on his unfulfilled promises, defeat the TRS candidate and ensure development of the constituency and the state."

Bhongir MP Venkat Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was habituated to betrayal of the people. He said TRS leaders are behind the sand mafia as also several acts of corruption in infrastructure projects, and "they are even behind the drug mafia as is recently exposed via the real estate date."

He said the TRS leaders are playing with the lives of the youth in Telangana through their support to the drug mafia. The MP said during the campaign that Jana Reddy in his 40 years of political career remained "stainless" and indulged in no act of corruption.

"The TRS leaders have no right to paint the tall leader as corrupt. TRS leaders indulging in corrupt practices will soon be jailed," he said.

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Minister plans to complete election process**KHAMMAM | POLLS****10 corporators to miss ticket**RAVINDRA SESHU I DC
KHAMMAM, APRIL 11

Ten to 15 TRS corporators may not get the party ticket for the upcoming elections to the Khammam Municipal Corporation.

Transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar is citing various reasons including land-grab allegations against them or allocation of their divisions to the reserved categories, or local disinterest for grant of another term to some corporators as was reflected in a recent opinion survey.

Four corporators close to former MP Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and former minister Tummala

ABOUT 50 persons from various parties joined TRS in the presence of the minister.

Later, he formally launched the black-topping of the road works from the 11th to the 48th ward. Engineers were asked to complete the work in a week.

Nageswara Rao, are also likely to be kept out of the electoral race.

TRS corporators like Jaswanth, J Bhaskar, C.N. Rao, Swetha and P.N. Raju might not get re-nomination. Deputy mayor B. Murali and TRS corporator K. Krishna are not keen on having another term for various reasons like the sharp rise in

money requirement for vote-fetching.

Reliable sources in the Puvvada camp said, "The minister is angry with some of the corporators who fleeced him during the last assembly elections. They took money from him for election campaign and did not spend it." These corporators too might not get the ticket.

The minister plans

things in a way as to complete the KMC election process by April 30, by getting the election notification issued immediately after the Nagarjunasagar election.

Ajay Kumar organised Athmeya Samavesam with key TRS leaders in

wards 17 and 18. TRS leaders Punukula Neeraja and Golla Venkat participated in the meeting.

"The KMC elections will be important for us and the TRS flag should be unfurled in each and every division. TRS leaders should do only one thing, just highlight the KCR government schemes to the voters," the minister stated at the meeting.

About 50 persons from various parties joined TRS in the presence of the minister. Later, he formally launched the black-topping of the road works from the 11th to the 48th ward. Engineers were asked to complete the works within a week.

MAN DROWNS AFTER SAVING HIS CHILDREN

KHAMMAM: An man drowned in the Nagarjunasagar Left Canal at Medepalli in Modigonda mandal of Khammam district after saving his children on Sunday. Police said K. Suresh Kumar, 45, had gone for

his morning walk along the canal with his children. The kids entered the water but were washed away by the flow of water. Suresh jumped into the water and saved them but drowned in the process.

OBITUARY**Smt. TALLA HYMAVATHY**
(Age 83 years)

W/o Late Sri TALLA NAGABUSHANAM

Expired on: 11th APRIL 2021

Funeral on: 12th APRIL 2021

✿ Inserted by ✿

Sri TALLA SHIV KUMAR AND FAMILY
Sri TALLA MANMOHAN AND FAMILY
Sri TALLA RAJ KUMAR AND FAMILY
Sri AKKU LAKSHMAN RAO AND FAMILY
GRAND SONS AND GRAND DAUGHTERS
Ph: 9848016257 9849022219 9121018845

OBITUARY**PULI VENKATESHULU**

DOB: 12.10.1933 DOD: 11.04.2021

Place: 6-2-333, 4th lane, New Bhiguda,

Near Mother Dairy, Secunderabad.

Funeral: Bansilapet

Funeral Timing's: 12 Noon

Inserted by: Family Members

(CA 357)

3rd DAY CEREMONY

**Sri L. EASHWAR LAL YADAV**

S/o Late Sri Lakan Lal Yadav

DOD: 10-04-2021

Ceremony will be held today at 12:00 noon at Flat no C-4, Prakhyat Residency, Dayanand Nagar, Malkajgiri.

You will always be remembered with deep affection

Inserted by: E. Lakshmi Rani (Wife)

E. Eashan Krishna Yadav (Son)

E. S. Suresh (Lal Yadav) (Son)

& Family Members

Ph. No: 9848004934.

(CA: 357)

OBITUARY

OBITUARY**Mr. S. JAIRAM PILLAY**

S/o Late Sri T.S. Pillay

Passed away on 11th April 2021

Date of Birth : 5th of May 1946

"Your memories remain in our hearts forever."

Inserted by:

VASANTHA PILLAY : 9989652978

(S/2122/D00033)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**Smt. Arundhati Waghry**

W/o Sri. Narendra Pershad

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform her sad demise on 10th April 2021

Cremation ceremony will be held on Sunday

18th April 2021 at 5: 30 PM at our residence

at Ganeshbagh, Pullibilli, Hyderabad.

In Grief: Narendra Pershad and the bereaved Waghry family.

Inserted by:

Son: N.B. SRIKUMAR &

Family Members. Ph: 8329809587.

(S/2122/D00034)

SHRADHANJALI

SHRADHANJALI

IN BRIEF

TTD stops issue of tokens at Tirupati

Nellore: In view of the increasing Covid cases, the TTD has decided to stop the issue of slotted Sarva Darshanam (SSD) tokens in Tirupati from April 12. The Shridi Samsthana has already closed for darshan in Maharashtra.

As Tirupati is also witnessing an increase in cases everyday, the TTD has decided to temporarily dispense with the issuance of SSD tokens in the Bhu Devi Complex and Vishnu Nivasam in Tirupati.

10 held for theft of Nandi idol

Nellore: The Chittoor police apprehended 10 persons reportedly involved in stealing of a Nandi idol from the Malleswara Swamy temple in Jagamala village at Palamaner Mandal in Chittoor district. "One them died in a road accident three days ago," police said on Sunday. Police said the accused confessed to have taken away the idol from the ancient temple premises on March 26. The accused had broken the idol to see if it contained treasure.

3 WOMEN COPS PENALISED IN KHAMMAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, APRIL 11

Shaik Nafeez, a woman constable of the Armed Reserved Wing, was penalised ₹3,335 on various charges including riding a two-wheeler without helmet, dangerous driving, cellphone driving and triple riding.

The fine was imposed after Khammam police commissioner Vishnu Warrior noticed the cop violating traffic rules at 2.30 pm on April 9 at Anand Vihar on CCTV camera footage.

Nafeez and two other women constables, who were on duty at the Y.S. Sharmila public meeting on Friday in Khammam, were riding on the two-wheeler (TSO4 FD 0822) at that time along with Nafeez.

The commissioner has also ordered disciplinary action against the three constables. He said that they had behaved in an irresponsible manner.

The break-up for the penalty was ₹1,200 for triple riding, ₹1,000 each for cellphone driving and dangerous driving, ₹100 for not wearing helmet and ₹35 as user charges.

119 BC STUDY CENTRES BY JUNE 2

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, APRIL 11

The state government is striving to ensure that students from Backward Class (BC) will become highly qualified persons, said minister Gangula Kamalakar on Sunday.

After paying floral tribute to the portrait of Mahatma Jyothibha Phule on his death anniversary in Hyderabad, Kamalakar announced that the state government is to establish 119 BC study centres across every constituency. They will be formally inaugurated on June 2, the Telangana Formation Day.

Top-grade coaching will be provided to BC students through these study centres and help them to crack various state and national level competitive examinations. Focus will also be on improving spoken English and personality development.

Kamalakar said that during the pandemic, students cannot attend classes. Study centres will be established in either junior and degree colleges or in polytechnic colleges of respective constituencies, with modern technology and advanced computer labs.

Since the formation of the state, BC study centres have been established in Siddipet and Gadwal. As many as 15,214 students have undergone coaching in the two study centres and around 1,302 students got jobs in various departments. Very soon one more study centre will come up in Sircilla, he said.

The minister after inaugurating an exclusive digital studio said that all lessons that have been taught in the study centres will be uploaded on YouTube for live streaming.

To fulfill the dreams of Mahatma Phule, the youth of present generation must utilise the opportunity provided by BC study circles and land with plum jobs.

Thanksgiving tour

Chief Justice of India-designate Justice N.V. Ramana of the Supreme Court visits the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara on Sunday morning along with his family members to offer prayers after his appointment. He was accorded full temple honours. Justice Ramana will be taking charge of office on April 24. — DC

MPs will quit if YSRC does not win Tirupati bypoll: Min**Party calls it referendum, dares TD to respond to challenge**

Former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addresses a gathering at Rapur in Nellore district on Sunday while campaigning for the party candidate Panabaka Lakshmi for the Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency by-election. — DC

BJP-JS promises to free TTD from govt control

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 11

The joint election manifesto of BJP-Jana Sena alliance for Tirupati Lok Sabha by-poll focuses on skill development, health, education, infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries sector and employment to youth.

The manifesto gives priority to develop Tirupati as Hindu Dharma Kshethra, paying special attention to culture and arts. In addition, it proposes to appoint a 'Dharmacharya Mandal' to protect the sanctity of TTD assets. The scope of this mandal can be widened to cover religious institutions across the state, the manifesto says.

Importantly, it proposes to free the devasthanams' board from clutches of the government. The board will instead function under the supervision of empowered seers.

Narasimha Rao underlined that the Centre has already established IIT, IIEST, and Indian Culinary Institute, apart

from developing all national highways connecting the holy city, as well as Tirupati railway station and international airport. He said they would give priority to protect traditional arts, such as Kalamkari and handicrafts that are widespread in the constituency. As part of this initiative, training will be offered to upgrade inherent skills of artisans. In addition, trauma care centres will be established in Tirupati Lok Sabha constituency.

The manifesto spoke about BJP-Jana Sena plans to improve market yards, storage points, including cold storages, providing irrigation facilities and financial assistance to farmers, in addition to from Kisan credit cards.

Development of Pulicat Lake in Sullurpetta segment and fishing harbours in Nellore region has also been included.

DIRTY | DRAINS

City's 951-km of drains contain 40% silt; blocked nala cause flooding during rains**Trash-filled plastic bags choking up city drains**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Biodegradable waste wrapped in plastic bags has been the prime cause for nala and stormwater drains across the city getting choked. This came to light when Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) was desilting the drains.

The corporation, after conducting a comprehensive study, found that more than 60 per cent of biodegradable waste is wrapped in plastic bags.

To add to the woes, since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, masks and sanitiser bottles are

adding to the plastic waste.

GHMC officials have taken up desilting works at 356 locations over an overall 951-kilometre stretch. The corporation so far has found 30 per cent of plastic waste, including masks and sanitizer bottles. It has excavated one tonne of waste this year and the material composition has been ascertained.

It was found that more than 30 per cent of material nala comprised plastics, plastic covers, paper plates, water hyacinth, and clothes. There was 40 per cent silt (earthen material) and 30 per cent

of water (sewage and stormwater).

When the corporation again conducted a comprehensive study, citizens living alongside open nala have been dumping 60 per cent of biodegradable

waste like vegetable waste and animal waste. Apart from this, the citizens have been wrapping non-bio-

waste like face masks, which would turn into a hard substance and choke the free flow of water during rainy days and inundate low-lying areas.

Centre silent on vax supply: KTR**Minister says lockdown not a good idea**

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY
DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said that, to his knowledge, the state government had not received any communication from the Centre on its request for supply of more Covid vaccines.

Referring to the shortage of the vaccine in the state, Rao said, "There is a shortage all over India from what I hear." On whether he has taken the vaccine, he replied, "Not yet."

During a 90-minute #AskKTR session on Sunday, Rama Rao answered a volley of questions from Twitteratti and shared his thoughts on national politics, political, entertainment and also spoke about the future plans for the development of the state.

Replying to a query on the upcoming Nagarjunasagar by-election, he said, "TRS will win it with the blessings of the people of Nagarjunasagar. The contest is between a leader who represents the past (Jana Reddy) and a young man who symbolises future hope, Nomula Bhagat."

He said government job recruitment notifications will be released after the by-election.

When some asked about the possibility of postponing SSC and Inter exams this year, he said, "You have to ask education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy."

On the possibility of a complete lockdown in Telangana, he said, "I don't think it's a good idea."

When asked about the likely winners in West Bengal and Kerala, Rama Rao said, "at the end of the day, democracy should win."

He said government job



TR will win it with the blessings of the people of Nagarjunasagar. The contest is between a leader who represents the past (Jana Reddy) and a young man who symbolises future hope, Nomula Bhagat

— K.T. RAMA RAO
IT Minister

Will certainly consider doing it in other towns too post-Covid."

On reopening of schools and colleges, he stated, "Let's hope the pandemic slows down."

Talking about Uppal elevated corridor, he said it was a six-km long skyway and should be completed in 10-12 months.

Referring to the status of Hyderabad Metro Rail phase-1 from MGBS (Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station) to Falaknuma and the second phase, he said the works have been affected because of the pandemic and "we will try to bring it back on track."

He said the long-delayed Bala nagar flyover will be completed before the end of May.

On the second phase of T-Hub at Rayadurgam he said that it would be inaugurated in a couple of months.

On the implementation of Niti Aayog recommendations, he said "I don't think there's much we can do as it's just an advisory body. Hope prudence will prevail and states are supported on merit and not political considerations."

School shut, owner turns food vendor

PULI SHARATH KUMAR |
KAKINADA, APRIL 11

started a to run a tiffin centre in Huzurabad, naming it 'Nirudoyi' with a tagline of his educational qualifications — MSC, BED, BLIsc.

The one-time school owner says pandemic has shattered lives of private teachers and lecturers. He feels the government's announcement of ₹2,000 and 25 kg of rice per month is too little.

"How can even a small family with two children survive with such a little amount? The government must help all private teachers revive themselves economically. Or it must provide employment opportunities along with job security," Sampath said.

Mathematics teacher Prakash feels the tiffin centre depicts the pitiable state of private education. The teacher pointed out that those who once taught children to live with self respect are now doing menial jobs as farm labour, whereas some have even ended their lives by committing suicide.



The push cart being operated by pandemic-hit former school correspondent Maddela Sampath



Plastic waste that was removed from storm water drains by GHMC staff, who were cleaning them in preparation for the monsoon.

— DC



Plastic waste that was removed from storm water drains by GHMC staff, who were cleaning them in preparation for the monsoon.

— DC

degradable products like sanitary napkins, which would turn into a hard substance and choke the free flow of water during rainy days and inundate low-lying areas.

A senior GHMC official said that the corporation has taken up desilting of nala in two layers. The first layer hardly had any silt with more than 30 per cent comprising plastic waste and 20 per cent comprising paper plates, water hyacinth and clothes.

"Despite the ban on plastics, several establishments have been selling material below 50 microns which was clearly evident during desilting. This situation will end only if manufacturing units are closed," he said, adding, "The situation cannot be improved as people lack civic sense."

DECCAN Chronicle

12 APRIL 2021

Disquieting signals in forces firing on voters

The death of four persons in firing by the personnel of Central Industrial Security Force in a booth in Sitalkuchi Assembly constituency in West Bengal, and the death of a fifth person in violence in another booth in the same constituency, give out far too many disquieting signals. A clear picture of the two events is yet to emerge but a preliminary assessment leaves one in no doubt that the central armed police forces that were entrusted with the task of facilitating free and fair elections failed to meet the challenge.

The claim of the security forces that they fired at the people in self-defence prima facie defies logic. There have been no reports of widespread violence or of security personnel suffering injuries. It is natural that minor issues could crop up during elections but there will mechanisms to deal with them. It looks like there was no effort to take the local political leadership into confidence and calm the mob which the security forces allege gheraoed them. They forgot the fact that they were called in to help the polling process, and not to quell a local mutiny. It is deeply disturbing that the protectors, who have been trained to do

The claim of the security forces that they fired at the people in self-defence prima facie defies logic. There have been no reports of widespread violence or of security personnel suffering injuries.

Politicians joined issue no sooner had the news of the mishap reached them. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has been inimical to the central forces from the very beginning, and the latest incidents will fuel her charge against them. Her series of statements against the central forces would have made the local population suspicious of their intentions. It is an irony that Ms Banerjee had betted on the presence of the same central forces to ensure a

fair election in the state 10 years ago. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was campaigning in West Bengal at the time the unfortunate incidents happened, lost no time in blaming the chief minister for the violence. This is unfortunate. The Prime Minister should have counselled peace and calm instead of targeting his political opponent. The very fact that it was the forces under the Union government that shot the people down should have tempered the Prime Minister's response but it did not work that way.

The Election Commission has a lot to learn from the Cooch Behar incidents. It practically takes over local governance once the election process is set in motion. We do not know what instructions it had passed on to the security forces when it despatched them to the states; clearly they used the force not to the optimum but to the maximum. It is also evident that there is no local command and control system to address issues even though the West Bengal elections are conducted in eight phases with only two or three districts going to the polls at a time. The EC must ensure that it uses its powers to act in an efficient and non-partisan manner; grand statements alone are not enough.

A modernising royalist

Considering the circumstances the world finds itself in now, only 30 members of the British royal family will attend the service for Prince Philip on Saturday. If not for Covid-protocol restrictions, half of Britain would have liked to turn up at the royal consort's funeral when he will be wheeled in a Land Rover hearse. So beloved a royal was he for his nation that an outpouring of grief over his passing, when just short of a century, is understandable. His ceremonial presence was a feature of over 22,000 public events besides any number of occasions on which he willingly walked two steps behind his wife, the long reigning monarch Queen Elizabeth II. He symbolised selfless public service while also making 5,496 speeches and undertaking 637 solo trips abroad.

To paraphrase his enormous contribution to a largely dysfunctional family that was beset with more than a fair share of scandals, induced mostly by extramarital love and marriage trouble, Prince Philip modernised the British royal family while shepherding it into the modern age. And then, in the face of the latest public outrage over charges of racism made by one of their own — Prince Harry and his wife Meghan in an interview with Oprah Winfrey in the United States — the Prince Philip was busy trying to keep his anachronism that is royalty. A royal consort who knelt and swore to his wife Queen Elizabeth's "liege man of life and limb" at her coronation in 1952, was more than true to his word in holding steadfast to his own marriage for a good 73 years.

The time of his passing lends itself easily to hagiographical references. The unsentimental would, however, also see him as the gadfly that he was who often shocked the world as the prince of gaffes with his often slanderous, extempore remarks. To Indians Prince Philip seemed racist for the extent to which he could be dismissive of them — "Some Indian must have put it there" was his snooty reference to a shoddily patched-up electrical connection. Just as Britain needed in war time a Winston Churchill, with all his faults, its royalty sorely needed Prince Philip to deal with peace time turbulence.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

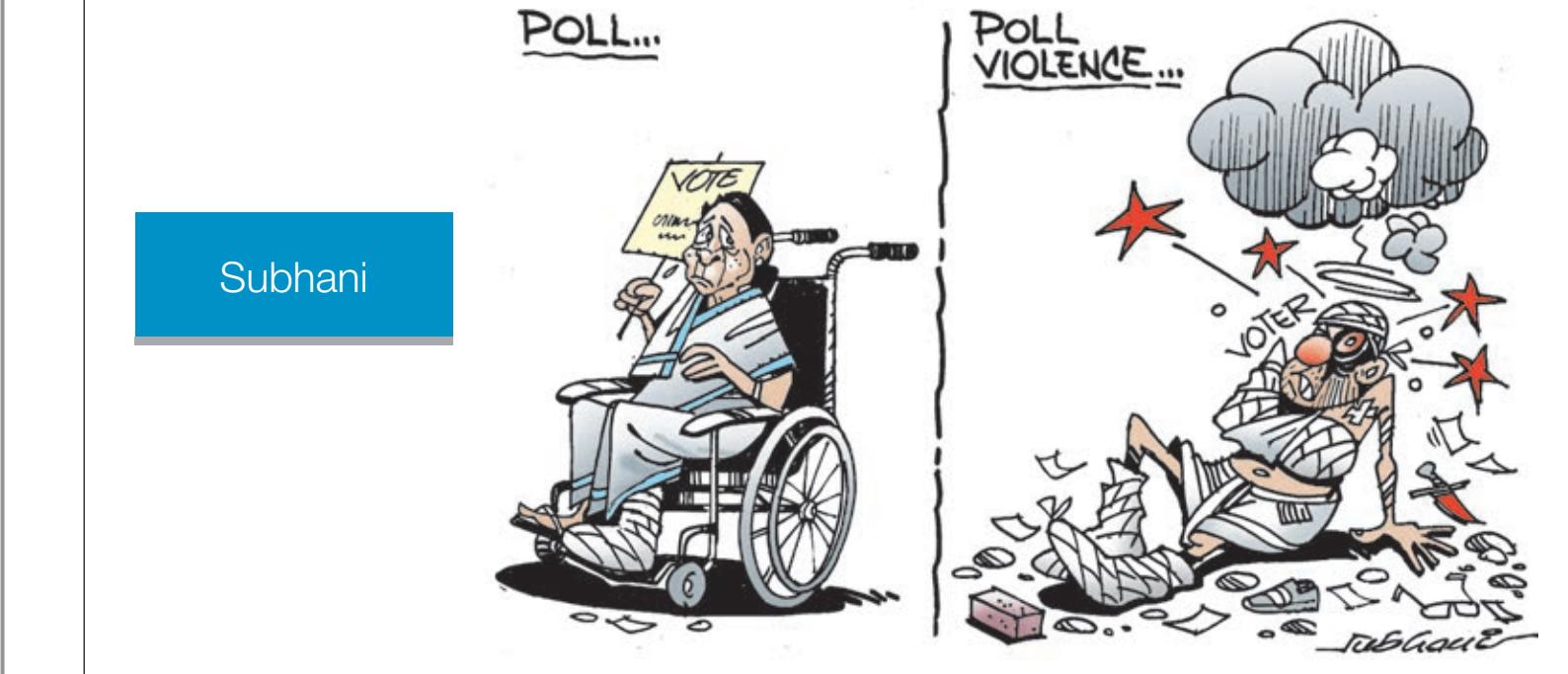
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DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-255233/255234; Fax: 0891-275528
Rajahmundry: Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2220433; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burrapur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt. Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Cochin: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
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A.G. Noorani

Vestige of colonial repression, J&K surety bonds blow against democracy



Subhani

Despite Modi's push, BJP yet to reach tipping point

Shikha Mukerjee



Shikha Mukerjee

An eight-phase Assembly election, even for West Bengal where violence is intrinsic to the process and every government has been accused of rigging the outcome, seemed excessive when the Election Commission announced the dates. On second thoughts, it is just what the BJP needed to build up a wave in its favour, however hard that may be.

After four phases and 135 constituencies that have already made their choices, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda are still hard at it, because another four phases and 159 constituencies have yet to decide. The BJP's top brass is doing some heavy lifting with Mr Modi in the lead to get that wave going. The process seems as fraught and dependent on a force of nature, meaning the wave, as were the tense days before the mega container ship blocking the Suez Canal, *Ever Given*, finally budged. The difference is the wave was not the only push that the container needed; there were dredgers and tugs pulling at the hulk to get it to move.

The staggered polling dates give the BJP the time it needs to campaign for its conquest of West Bengal. If it needs so much time to campaign when the elections are underway to build voter support, the question that must be asked is, what was the party doing between 2019 when it zoomed to winning 18 Lok Sabha seats and 40.64 per cent of the votes from a mere 10.16 per cent votes in 2016? One conclusion would be that as the West Bengal election grew closer, the BJP realised it needed time to deploy its mightiest weapon,

A list of what makes the TMC and Ms Banerjee a far tougher challenge for the challenger, meaning BJP, is perhaps necessary to assess why the party is deploying Mr Modi in key constituencies to drum up the momentum it needs to get to the point where it can unseat the incumbent. In other words, the BJP has not as yet reached the tipping point. Quite apart from usual comparisons, Ms Banerjee's popularity vis-a-vis Mr Modi's popularity, anti-incumbency at the state level, the attraction of the BJP as a new untested party in West Bengal, what will matter most is which party is best at holding the middle ground, meaning which party is most appealing to the median voter, the average woman/man in rural, urban and peri-urban West Bengal.

The BJP has shifted so far to the right, especially in terms of its Hindutva politics, and economic and divisive social engineering policies, that it is entirely dependent on the Hindu majority to give it the percentage of votes it needs to win an election,

especially in West Bengal. It boils down to being confident of getting at least 60 per cent of the total 70 per cent Hindu votes in the state, given that the overwhelming majority of 27 per cent Muslim voters are unlikely to choose the lotus symbol on EVM machines. Its leaders are quite candid that the party has no expectations of attracting Muslim votes; state party chief Dilip Ghosh as well as Amit Shah are on record about this.

It is realistic that the BJP will get 60 per cent of the 70 per cent Hindu votes in West Bengal? It would appear, as yet, difficult. Bengalis are split between conservatives, who uphold religious and social orthodoxy, and Bengalis who reject it and embrace socially progressive values. Till this election is over, there is no knowing how the Bengali voter will react to state-sponsored religious orthodoxy that is divisive in its intent and destabilising of the uneasy equilibrium between the Hindu and Muslim communities.

It is instructive to note that in 2019, the BJP's surge to 40.64 per cent of votes was a switch that hitherto Left voters made, sending its vote-share plummeting to 6.34 per cent in 2019 from 19.75 per cent in 2016. Congress votes declined by over 50 per cent in 2019 to 5.6 per cent; the Trinamul Congress suffered a marginal erosion of votes in 2019 compared to 2016, even though it lost in 12 seats

WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS 2021

The BJP's promise to deliver better development and integrate West Bengal with the mainstream, which it believes it controls, comes with a promise to polarise the state on communal lines. Will that appeal to the run-of-the-mill Bengali?

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

to the BJP. The Trinamul Congress, with over 43 per cent votes in 2019, obviously enjoys the support of a substantial section of Hindu voters. It is only if significant numbers of these voters shift away from Ms Banerjee that the BJP can muster the numbers it needs to oust India's only woman chief minister.

While the BJP campaign has focused almost exclusively on the evils of the Mamata Banerjee government, focusing on polarising the vote on religious identity lines by putting Muslim appeasement at the cost of the Hindu majority at the top of the list, it has ignored the quieter revival of the Left, led by the CPI(M), and the Samyukta Morcha as a new political combination that was created for this election. The Samyukta Morcha is contesting in all 294 seats; the Left is contesting in 177 seats, the Congress in 91 and the Indian Secular Front in 26 seats. The Left is fighting for its very survival, and in this election it is working to achieve a revival. Its pitch as the alternative is politically necessary but unrealistic. Any increase in the Left and Congress voteshare will take off votes that the BJP has been counting on to reach the tipping point. This can be offset if the Trinamul Congress loses its voters and loses the elections.

Whichever party makes it across the finishing line needs to occupy the middle ground in West Bengal in social and religious identity terms. The BJP's promise to deliver better development and integrate West Bengal with the mainstream, which it believes it controls, comes with a promise to polarise the state on communal lines. Will that appeal to the run-of-the-mill Bengali, who as poet Shakti Chattopadhyay famously said, are into religion and into giraffes?

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

LETTERS

TIKA UTSAV

I am against naming the vaccination programme as an utsav (Tika Utsav). An utsav is an occasion to celebrate. However, Covid has caused so many deaths and is still raging. There is gloom all around in several homes where family members have died or someone is being treated due to Covid. Why are many states complaining about vaccine shortage when India is exporting it? India's needs must be met first.

Baru Rajendra Prasad

Hyderabad

STINKY STREETS

The Padmaraonagar road behind the Gandhi Hospital is in a pathetic state (*Stinky streets, DC, April 11*). It needs to be urgently addressed by the GHMC. Due to the absence of garbage bins, the litter is strewn across the road. The GHMC must remove the dump immediately and collect the garbage from the residents of Padmaraonagar, door-to-door and put up a signboard against littering and impose a penalty of ₹500. In a smart and metropolitan city like ours, it is the responsibility of the GHMC to collect garbage.

Zubair Khan

Hyderabad

UNFORTUNATE DEATHS

Whenever elections are held in West Bengal in recent times, people have lost lives in violence (*4 Trinamul men killed in CISF firing during clash, DC, April 11*). In the last panchayat election also many people were killed. The economic condition of rural people in West Bengal is awful but many are involved in politics at the cost of their lives.

Dr Shankar Chatterjee

Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Curfew in Ceylon as clashes continue

COLOMBO, April 11

As pitched battles between insurgents and government forces continued throughout Ceylon, the Government identified areas with heavy fighting by reimposing a 24-hour curfew on eight administrative districts in the Southern, North Central and Central provinces. Colombo itself remained a heavily guarded city. Troops fired at curfew breakers, injuring many.

ment to prosecute its own minister or official in authority sitting as judge in its own case.

The code enables banning of books. There is Chapter VIII. It provides for "Security for Keeping the Peace and Good Behaviour". Even in olden times the language clearly pertained to persons of ill repute or "history sheeters" as they are called in short, goondas. The chapter extends from Section 106 to Section 124.

Consider the scheme as a whole and you will find it has no application to political opponents. The British abused it for political ends sparingly. Restraint does not come easily to New Delhi.

The only change after Independence was the separation of the executive from the judiciary. The magistracy was divided into executive magistrates and judicial magistrates. Proper understanding is vital. To begin with, Section 106 provides for "security for keeping the peace" on conviction of an offence like criminal intimidation and

assault, in sum, plain goondagiri. Judicial magistrates make such an order. But Section 107 empowers executive magistrates to order execution of a bond if he "receives information that any person is likely to commit a breach of the peace or disturb the public tranquillity or do any wrongful act" that may be disruptive. The suspect is made to sign a bond for good behaviour. This, the courts have held, is a judicial proceeding. The section applies to persons distributing material which is likely to disturb the peace because it is seditious or communal.

Section 109 applies to suspects who go into hiding. Section 110 applies to habitual offenders. The entire scheme of the chapter reveals that its object is not to control the politicians.

However, a complaint was filed in Puna against Bal Gangadhar Tilak under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code for disseminating "seditious matter". Tilak was defended throughout from the magistrate's court in Poona (August 1916) to the

high court (November 1916), by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He won in the high court and did an unusual thing for him after judgment was pronounced. He turned around and shook hands with his close friend, Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The full text of his entire proceedings verbatim are reproduced in this writer's book, *Jinnah and Tilak*.

In 1919, the Government of India invoked these archaic, repressive provisions of a colonial law and put an entire people in bondage by forcing their leaders to sign bonds. Not content with the massive presence of its army and paramilitary in Kashmir since 1989, in 2019, New Delhi made a bonanza of bondage. It knew that the people would revolt if it scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution and what little was left of Kashmir's autonomy. Knowing full well that the people would protest, New Delhi got the leaders to sign bonds under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code as if they were criminals. The leaders were

imprisoned. By Sept 19, 2019, 36 politicians were confined.

On November 5, 2020, the People's Democratic Party president, Mehbooba Mufti, said that 19 party leaders were asked to sign an affidavit after being detained and released later for taking out a protest rally. "India is the world's largest democracy only on paper now," she said.

A PDP spokesman said the affidavit was "unacceptable in a democracy". He said the 19 leaders "refused to sign surety bonds which asked them to refrain from taking part in unlawful, anti-national activities".

The surety bond stated: "That we are permanent residents of the J&K U.T. That a case under section 107/151 stands against us... That we will not indulge... in any unlawful, anti-national activities..."

There is no law in the statute books which defines what is "anti-national". This is sheer barbarism.

By arrangement with Dawn

SHORT TAKES

CONG. CANDIDATE IN TN POLL DIES OF COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
CHENNAI, APRIL 11

The Congress party's Srivilliputhur constituency candidate in the April 6 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, P.S.W. Madhava Rao died on Sunday due to Covid-19 complications, his family said.

Rao was 63-years-old and is survived by his only daughter. He died at a private hospital in Madurai this morning where he was admitted on March 20 for treatment, Rao's son-in-law K. Rajiv said.

TN's CEO clarified that the counting will go on for the seat and that a re-poll would be ordered only if the deceased candidate wins the poll. That clears the air on any doubts over what is to be done with a seat when a candidate dies before the votes are counted as in Madhava Rao's case.

Congress party secretary and Tamil Nadu incharge Sanjay Dutt tweeted saying he was deeply pained to learn about the demise of Rao due to Covid-19 complications. "Our heartfelt condolences to his family. We stand with them in this hour of grief & pray may his soul rest in peace," Dutt said.

900 JAB CENTRES SHUT IN ODISHA DUE TO SHORTAGE

Bhubaneswar, April 11: On Sunday when 'Tika Utsav', a special inoculation drive against Coronavirus was launched across the country, at least 900 session sites in Odisha remained shut owing to shortage of Covid-19 vaccines, triggering a blame game between the ruling BJD and the BJP.

Director of family welfare Bijay Panigrahi said, while vaccination is underway in only 579 out of over 1,400 centres in the state, the inoculation programme may have to be stopped in many places on Monday, if fresh vaccine stock does not arrive.

While state labour minister Sushant Singh is not performing 'Rajdhama' and discriminating against Odisha in the distribution of the vaccines, BJP MLA Mukesh Mahaling said, Eastern India, including the coastal state, is on the priority list of the central government.

LOCKDOWN NOT A SOLUTION TO COVID: CHOUHAN

Bhopal, April 11: There is no lockdown in Madhya Pradesh nor will it be imposed statewide. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said, adding that "corona curfew" has been enforced in some parts with people's support.

Talking to reporters here, Chouhan said lockdown is not a solution to the Covid-19 crisis and economic activities should continue to allow people to sustain their livelihood.

"There is no lockdown in Madhya Pradesh. Nor will it be imposed state-wide. The (district) crisis management groups in some places, after talking to people, to break the chain of the virus, imposed self-restrictions like remaining indoors," Chouhan said.

The "corona curfew" has been imposed in some places, not the lockdown, the Chief Minister said, adding that there are a number of relaxations for many activities.

"This is a 'corona curfew' to stop crowded activities. The economic activities should continue so that people can earn their livelihood."

New device to control airborne spread of virus

Kochi, April 11: An incubator under Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has developed a pioneering electronic device that could contain airborne Coronavirus.

The new device of Allabout Innovations Pvt Ltd — 'Wolf Airmask' — performs real-time sterilisation rupturing the SARS-CoV-2, a press statement from the KSUM said here on Sunday.

The device has proven its efficiency at tests conducted by Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology. RGCB, Trivandrum, is an ICMR-recognised testing lab. "The Wolf Airmask is the



A deserted view outside Bandra east railway station during weekend lockdown imposed by the state government in the wake of rising Coronavirus cases, at Bandra in Mumbai on Sunday.

— PTI

Despite shortage, Maha vaccinates one crore people

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, APRIL 11

Despite facing acute shortage of vaccines, Maharashtra has added yet another feather to its cap by becoming the first state in the country to administer more than one crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

"We have crossed one crore doses today. Till today noon, we have administered 1,00,38,421 doses, highest in the country so far," Dr Pradeep Vyas, the principal secretary of Maharashtra's health department, said on Sunday.

According to data from the Union ministry of health and family welfare, Maharashtra has the highest share in vaccinations done so far in India.

India had administered more than 10 crore vaccine doses till Sunday, of which eight states accounted for 60 per cent of the total doses.

Of them, Maharashtra was leading with more than one crore doses, accounting for nearly 10 per cent of total doses. It was followed by Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The state is facing multiple issues pertaining to the drug, like demand-supply gap, its hoarding and black-marketing by stockists and pharmacy shops, unaffordable prices and irrational prescription by some doctors.

Maharashtra's health services commissioner Ramaswami N., in a letter dated April 9, has written to all district collectors in the state to set up control rooms to streamline the supply of the key anti-viral drug.

— PTI

be sent back.

Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope has accused the Centre of discriminating against the state in the vaccine's supply. He has alleged that many states, which are smaller than Maharashtra in terms of population and the number of patients, have received more doses of vaccine.



A beneficiary receives a dose of Covid-19 vaccine in Jaipur on Sunday.

— PTI

Uddhav to take final decision on lockdown on Wednesday

Details of lockdown are expected to be finalised within next 24 hours

India hits another record daily surge in Covid cases

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is likely to impose a stricter lockdown from April 14 for two weeks as most of the members of the task force opined are in favour of it. However, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is yet to take a final call.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with the task force and senior bureaucrats of the state administration on Sunday to seek their views on form of lockdown and took stock of the present Covid situation in district-wise.

According to a senior official, the meeting lasted for about two hours. Most of the task force members have suggested imposing stricter lockdown for two weeks. The details of the lockdown are expected to be finalised within next 24 hours.

An official statement issued by the chief minister office (CMO), Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that during the stricter curbs, they would establish an Oxygen generation plant, make arrangements of beds, other medical facilities and Remdesivir injection.

Thackeray also said that SOPs (standard operating procedures) would be prepared after holding a discussion with the senior officials.

The task force also suggested in the meeting that 95 per cent patients can be treated at home. Only serious patients need hospitalisation.

Dr Pradeep Vyas, principal secretary of public health department informed in the meeting that four lakh new patients have been tested positive from April 4 to April 10. 1,982 deaths have been reported and the mortality rate is at 0.5 percent.

Speaking with the reporters on Sunday, Maharashtra public

has, meanwhile, written to Maharashtra, Punjab and Chhattisgarh over reports by the Central health teams on Covid-19 testing and containment operations, hospital infrastructure and vaccinations to contain the virus' spread.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in the letter, asked the states/UTs to take suitable corrective measures. The letter said: "The Union health ministry has been actively engaging with states in coordinating and collaborating on preparedness and the response to Covid-19."

Bhushan said the Centre has also taken note of issues related to the availability of vaccines and required action to augment supplies will be taken based on the available stock.

He said a brief summary of the key performance indicators related to testing, hospital infrastructure and vaccination, as reported by the teams, was shared for suitable corrective actions by the state or district administrations.

Central teams have been deployed for the most-affected districts in Maharashtra.

Kejriwal said the surge in Covid-19 cases this time was "worse" than what Delhi saw during the third peak. This is the fourth wave in Delhi which is "much more dangerous", he added.

A day after announcing several new restrictions to check the spread of the deadly virus, the Chief Minister also said a full lockdown was not the solution to tackle the pandemic.

The Union government

health minister Rajesh Tope said that the lockdown is necessary because of the current situation.

Few of the task force members have opposed that lockdown stating that it would not be a solution.

The Chief Minister might hold a cabinet meeting on Wednesday and an appropriate decision pertaining to lockdown would be declared after the meeting.

Maharashtra reported the highest single day

jump in Covid cases, breaching the 60,000 mark on Sunday. The state reported 63,294 cases, taking the total tally to 34,07,245. With 349 more deaths, the death toll has risen to 57,987.

FEAR | RETURNS

Few workers left for their natives as they feared availability of transport

Industrialists fear another exodus of workers

COIMBATORE AND Tirupur reported increased infection cases and a correct picture of workers returning would emerge only after another week, they said.

per cent increase in the raw materials has affected the industries, sources from different industrial associations said.

A few workers reportedly left for their natives early last week as they feared the availability of transport like trains to reach their towns. However, there was no major exodus from the

industries as the workers working on a weekly payment basis had taken their wages Saturday last, the sources said.

Coimbatore and Tirupur reported increased infection cases and a correct picture of workers returning would emerge only after another week, they said.

No worker left the city till Saturday from nearby Tirupur, a major hub of knitwear garments where 80 per cent of over three lakh workers hailed from the North, said sources in the Tirupur Exporters Association.

— PTI

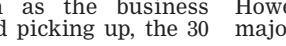


Guest workers from Maharashtra arrived at Patna railway station to go to their native place, amid rise in Covid-19 cases across the country in Patna on Sunday.

— PTI



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RGV
దెవయ్య
RAM GOPAL VARMA
A.B.SRINIVAS RAGHUMUDRI SETHIAR R.SUNDHAR SRIDHAR POTHURI
LIVE PRODUCTION PREM SAGAR KOMMELU RAJKARTHIK JADI
PRODUCTION INCLUDES KANCHARELA FOR MADHUR VR

SANDHYA 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
RTC X ROADS

MAHALAXMI COMPLEX

OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh
Next galleria

INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL
CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA
Cinépolis SHALINI/SHIVANI PLATINUM CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR
BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX
CONTACT: 9030161717

POWERFUL HIT

SUDARSHAN 35MM
(ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

KUKATPALLY

VISWANATH 70MM
11.45am, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45pm
SHIVAPARVATHY 70
11.30am, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45pm
BRAHMARAMBA 70
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm
MALLIKARJUNA 70
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm
ARJUN 70MM
11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

DILSHUKNAGAR

KONARK 70MM
11.15am, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15pm
RAJADHANI DELUXE
11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

MAHALAXMI, 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
EESHWAR, 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00
SANGEETHA, 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00
SRI LAXMI, 12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00

PRASADS LARGE - 10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45pm
PRASAD MULTIPLEX - 10.00, 10.15, 11.30, 12.30, 1.00, 1.15, 2.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 6.30, 7.00, 7.15, 7.45, 9.30, 10.00, 10.15, 10.45pm

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli 9.30am, 12.45, 3.45, 5.55, 6.50, 7.05, 10.00, 10.10pm
TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secbad - 9.30am, 10.20, 12.40, 1.30, 3.50, 4.40, 7.00, 7.50, 10.10, 10.50pm
SLN - 8.35, 9.00, 8.30, 10.00, 11.00, 11.25, 1.55, 2.30, 3.00, 4.00, 4.45, 7.00, 7.40, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 10.30, 10.40, 11.00pm
TALLURI - 11.00, 11.15, 2.00, 2.15, 6.00, 6.15, 9.00, 9.15pm
Cinépolis

DSL - Uppal - 12:15, 12:25, 12:35, 12.55, 1.05, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:10, 6:45, 6:55, 7:05, 7:25, 7.35, 10:00, 10:10, 10:20, 10:40, 10:50pm
MANTRA - Attapur - 9:00, 9:10, 9:20, 9:30, 9:40, 9:50, 12:15, 12:25, 12:50, 1.00, 1:10, 3:30, 4:00, 4:10, 4:20, 6:45, 7:00, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 10:00, 10:10, 10:30, 10:40, 10:50pm
CCPL - Malkajgiri - 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 12.30, 1.15, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 10.15, 10.30, 10:45, 11:00pm
SUDHA - 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 12.15, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 3.30, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 10.00, 10.30, 10.45, 11:00pm
MIRAJ - Shalini Shivani - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 2.20, 3.30, 4.40, 5.50, 6.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50pm
MIRAJ - Balanagar - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 2.20, 3.30, 4.40, 5.50, 6.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50pm
MIRAJ - Chandanagar - 11.00, 12.00, 2.30, 3.30, 6.00, 7.00, 9.30, 10.30pm

SANTOSH 70-ABIDS
INURA VENKATARAMANA / PADMAVATHI COMPLEX

CINE PLANET Cinesquare-Uppal
Mcube-Attapur
ASIAN CINEMAS Cinépolis CCPL/DLSL
MANTRA | SUDHA
PARAMJYOTHI FILMS RELEASE

DEV 70MM
RTC X ROADS
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

FROM TODAY

2021's BIGGEST HIT
BIGGEST POWERPACKED BLOCKBUSTER
SUDARSHAN 35MM
(ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

PVR

FORUM - Kukatpally - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.00, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20pm
INORBIT - Cyberbad - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20pm
CENTRAL - Punjagutta - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm
RK - Banjara - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00pm
ICON - Hitech - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 2.40, 3.00, 3.20, 4.00, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40pm
GALLERIA - Punjagutta - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm
IRRUM MANZIL - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 2.40, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 4.00, 4.20, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40pm
MOSARAMBAGH - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 2.40, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 4.00, 4.20, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40pm
S2 - Mallapur - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm
PRESTON PRIME - Gachibowli - 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00pm
S2 - Mallapur - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm
PRESTON PRIME - Gachibowli - 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00pm
ASIAN CINEMAS

WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD |
MONDAY | 12 APRIL 2021

ECUADOR, PERU HEAD TO POLLS

Lima, April 11: Ecuador and Peru were choosing new presidents Sunday under strict public health measures prompted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Key to GOP success is more Trumpism: Don

Former President casts populist policies

Business faces a tricky path

Palm Beach (US), April 11: Staking his claim to the Republican Party, former President Donald Trump is casting his populist policies and attack-dog politics as the key to future GOP success.

In a closed-door speech Saturday night to donors at his Mar-a-Lago resort, Trump also reinforced his commitment to the party, according to prepared remarks obtained by *The Associated Press*. His appearance came as Republican officials are trying to play down an internal feud over Trump's role in the party, his commitment to GOP fundraising and his plans for 2024.

While Trump's advisers report he will emphasise party unity, he rarely sticks to script. "The key to this triumphant future will be to build on the gains our amazing movement has made over the past four years," Trump told hundreds of leading Republican donors, according to the prepared remarks. "Under our leadership, we welcomed millions upon millions of new voters into the Republican coalition. We transformed the Republican Party into a party that truly fights for all Americans."

It was the final address of the Republican National Committee's weekend donor summit in Palm Beach. Most of the RNC's invitation-only gathering was held at a luxury hotel a few miles away; attendees were bused to Trump's club for his remarks. While a significant faction of

RESCUE FIND 4 DEAD, SAVE 19 FROM VESSEL IN ATLANTIC

Madrid, April 11: Spanish authorities said Sunday that they had recovered the bodies of four migrants from a boat along with 19 survivors who had taken the treacherous route from West Africa to the Canary Islands. Spain's maritime rescue service said that its crews had responded to an alarm call by a fishing boat that had located the migrants in a flimsy craft unfit for the high seas. Rescue helicopters airlifted groups of the migrants to Tenerife, including six people who were in poor health and suffering from dehydration. The Atlantic crossing from the Western coast of Africa to Spain's Canary Islands has become a major route for migrants and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict, violence and economic plight exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. More than 2,400 people have reached the Canaries in the first three months of this year.

HIT-AND-RUN CRASH IN FLORIDA KILLS NY FED JUDGE

Boca Raton, April 11: A Florida woman who claimed she is Harry Potter fatally struck a federal judge visiting from New York and seriously injured a 6-year-old boy after swerving her car onto a sidewalk, officials said. Anastasia Snape, 23, is charged with vehicular homicide and other felonies for Friday's crash that killed District Judge Sandra Feuerstein, 75, who served in the Eastern District of New York since 2003. The boy, Anthony Ovchinnikov, was taken to the hospital, but his condition Sunday could not be determined. According to court records, witnesses told Boca Raton police the Snape was driving erratically, going around stopped traffic, on a busy road when she drove onto the sidewalk and struck Feuerstein. Snape then drove back onto the roadway, striking the boy in a crosswalk. Police say Snape fled into neighbouring Delray Beach, where she crashed. A Delray police officer said Snape appeared to be having convulsions.

— AP

5th BLOCKBUSTER WEEK



SAPTAGIRI 70MM

11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

KUMAR 70MM SWAPNA 35MM

11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

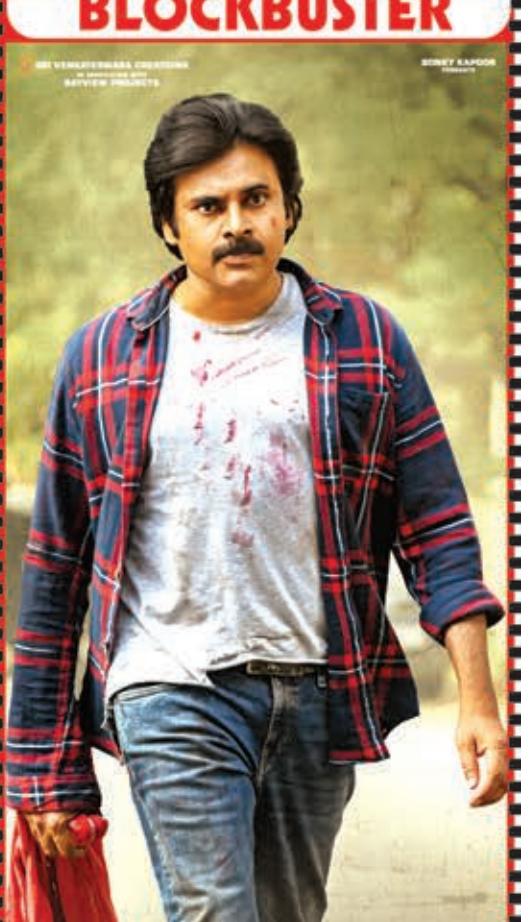
PVR

CENTRAL - 1.20pm I **IRRUM MANZIL** - 1.05pm I **GALLERIA** - 1.50, 7.50pm I **RK** - 11.00pm I **PRESTON** - 10.15pm I **ICON** - 3.20pm **FORUM** - 4.40, 11.00pm I **INORBIT** - 1.10, 7.10pm **MUSARAMBAGH** - 3.20pm I **CENTRAL** - 1.20pm **MIRAJ** - Shalini - 2.20pm I **MIRAJ** - Balangar - 1.20pm I **S2** - Mallapur - 2.20pm

INOX - 4.25pm I **MANTRA** - 12.40pm **CCPL** - 12.15pm I **SUDHA** - 12.30pm **CINESQUARE** - 1.35pm I **CINEPLANET** - 7.20pm I **RADHIKA** - 4.15pm I **MJR** - 4.20pm **MP** - 2.00 & 7.05pm I **GVK** - 1.30 & 7.50pm I **GSM** - 12.55 & 7.20pm I **TIVOLI** - 11.10 & 7.45pm **PLATINUM** - 2.25 & 7.45pm

BRIDGE FILMS

POWER STAR'S BLOCKBUSTER



SUDARSHAN 35MM

(ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS)

11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

MANJU 70MM

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRI RAMULU 70

11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SRI SAI RAM 70

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

RANGA 70MM

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

GOKUL 70MM

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

AMBA 70MM

11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SRI KRISHNA 70

IN BRIEF

Flood traps 21 Chinese miners

Beijing, April 11: Rescuers on Sunday were trying to reach 21 coal miners who were trapped by an underground flood in China's northwest, a state news agency reported.

The mine in Huitubi County in the Xinjiang region flooded at about 6:10 pm on Saturday, the *Xinhua News Agency* said. It said eight people were rescued. China's coal mines are among the world's deadliest, regularly suffering explosions and gas leaks despite repeated safety crackdowns.

Nasa delays Mars copter flight

Washington, April 11: Nasa has delayed by at least several days the first flight of its mini-helicopter on Mars after a possible tech issue emerged while testing its rotors, the US space agency said Saturday.

Ingenuity's trip, which is to be the first-ever powered, controlled flight on another planet, was set for Sunday but is now on hold until at least April 14. A high-speed test of the four-pound (1.8 kilogram) helicopter's rotors on Friday ended earlier than expected due to an alert of a potential issue.

No power, water in Saint Vincent

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, April 11: Massive power outages struck the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent before dawn on Sunday, as officials recorded more explosive activity at a long-dormant volcano that launched into a series of eruptions.

After remaining quiet for nearly 42 years, La Soufrière rumbled back into life Friday, blanketing the island in ash and permeating the air with the stench of sulphur.

The eruptions prompted thousands to flee for safety, with around 16,000 people living in areas under evacuation orders.

Clark, Saddam lawyer, dies

Washington, April 11: Ramsey Clark, who promoted civil rights as America's top law enforcement official in the 1960s but later helped defend Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic in court, has died at 93. The often controversial liberal figure and former attorney general died April 9 at his home in New York City, a niece, Sharon Welch, told US media. No cause of death was given.

His political arc was extraordinary. While serving under president Lyndon Johnson, Clark's Justice Department prosecuted popular author and pediatrician Benjamin Spock for helping Vietnam War protesters evade the draft. But he also filed the first school desegregation and voting rights suits in the US North.

Within years of leaving government in 1969, he had become a stunningly direct critic of US foreign policy, which he called "genocidal," and of military spending, which he termed "certifiably insane."

GERMAN POLL: 2 GOVS THROW HAT INTO RING

Berlin, April 11: Two German state governors on Sunday declared their willingness to become the centre-right candidate for the country's Sep 26 national election.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel isn't seeking a fifth term after 16 years in power. Her centre-right Union bloc has yet to choose its candidate between two state governors, Armin Laschet and Markus Soeder. "Markus Soeder and I had a long talk," Laschet told reporters after a meeting of the leaders of the parliamentary party factions of the Union bloc. "We both have declared our willingness to run for the candidacy for the chancellorcy."

Armin Laschet, who is the governor of Germany's most populous state North Rhine-Westphalia, won the leadership of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union or CDU, in Jan. He hopes to succeed Merkel as chancellor as does Soeder, who is Bavaria's governor and the head of the CDU's Bavarian-only sister party CSU.

The centre-right Union bloc, which is made up by the two parties but dominated by the CDU, hasn't yet decided on its candidate for the parliamentary election. However, a decision is expected in the coming days. "There's a big expectation to come to a solution together, rather sooner than later, regarding the question of the candidacy for chancellor," Soeder said.

Blackout hits Natanz atomic site, Iran calls it 'N-terrorism'

Raises regional tensions as world powers, Tehran negotiate tattered N-deal



The Natanz atomic facility in Iran.

Dubai, April 11: Iran on Sunday described a blackout at its underground Natanz atomic facility as an act of "nuclear terrorism," raising regional tensions as world powers and Tehran continue to negotiate over its tattered nuclear deal. Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, stopped short of directly blaming anyone for the incident. Details remained few about what happened early Sunday morning at the facility, which initially was described as a blackout caused by the electrical grid feeding the site.

Many Israeli media outlets offered the same assessment that a cyberattack darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that is home to sensitive centrifuges.

While the reports offered no sourcing for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country's military and intelligence agencies. If Israel caused the blackout, it further heightens tensions between the two nations, already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider Middle East.

"To thwart the goals of this terrorist movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to seriously improve nuclear technology on the one hand and to lift oppressive sanctions on the other hand," Salehi said, according to state TV.

He added: "While condemning this desperate move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the need for a confrontation by the international bodies and the International Atomic Energy Agency against this nuclear terrorism." The IAEA, the United Nations' body that monitors Tehran's atomic

programme, earlier said it was aware of media reports about the incident at Natanz and had spoken with Iranian officials about it. The agency did not elaborate.

Sunday's developments also complicate efforts by the US, Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the atomic accord aimed at limiting Tehran's programme so it can't pursue a nuclear weapon.

Power at Natanz was cut across the facility, which is comprised of above-ground workshops and underground enrichment halls.

— AP

Israel: Will see Iran deal saves interests

Tel Aviv, April 11: Israel will work with Washington to ensure any new agreement on Iran's nuclear programme will safeguard regional security. Defense Minister Benny Gantz told his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on Sunday.

The comments came as Austin made the first high-level US trip to Israel since talks resumed on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear accord, which the Jewish state fiercely opposed.

Gantz said "we will work closely with our American allies to ensure that any new agreement with Iran will secure the vital interests of the world and the United States, prevent a dangerous arms race in our region and protect the State of Israel".

Austin, the highest-level envoy from President Joe Biden's administration yet to visit ally Israel, said Washington would work

with Israel "to advance shared security interest and priorities".

Stressing America's "iron-clad" bond with Israel, Austin said the US will "continue close consultations to ensure Israel's qualitative military edge and to strengthen Israel's security". Austin's visit came just days after the US said it had offered "very serious" ideas on reviving the hobbled nuclear agreement reached between Tehran and world powers, which was abandoned by former president Donald Trump in 2018. Israel under hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a fierce critic of the Iran nuclear deal, dating back to when it was being negotiated during Barack Obama's administration. Netanyahu applauded when Trump withdrew from the deal and imposed sanctions on Tehran.

— AFP

Jordan king, prince put up united front

were arrested.

But Abdullah said Wednesday that Hamzah, who has signed a letter pledging his loyalty to the king following mediation by an uncle, was safe in his palace under his "care". In an address read out in his name on state television, the king added that "sedition has been nipped in the bud".

Jordanian political analyst Labib Kamhawi said the appearance of the king and Prince Hamzah together "sends a clear message that the crisis within the royal family has been closed".

"It shows the Royal family is united." But, he added, the fact that Prince Hamzah stood behind the king and his uncle prince Hassan and Crown Prince Hussein... and not beside the king means he is now a normal prince, not on the level of a king or his crown prince".

Hamzah had been appointed crown prince and heir to the throne in 1999 in line with his father's wishes, but Abdullah stripped him of the title in 2004 and named his own eldest son Hussein in Hamzah's place.

All were dressed in civilian clothes, apart from Hussein, the heir to the throne, who wore military dress. Jordan was marking 100 years of national survival Sunday as a resource-poor country in a war-ravaged neighbourhood, but the palace crisis and the coronavirus pandemic have overshadowed celebrations.

The government had accused Hamzah — a former crown prince who was sidelined as heir to the throne in favour of Abdullah's son Hussein in 2004 — of involvement in a conspiracy to "destabilise the kingdom's security and ineptitude". At least 16 people

were arrested.

Hamzah had been appointed crown prince and heir to the throne in 1999 in line with his father's wishes, but Abdullah stripped him of the title in 2004 and named his own eldest son Hussein in Hamzah's place.

Hamzah

in a video message published by the BBC on April 3 claimed he had been placed under house arrest and accused Jordan's rulers of corruption and ineptitude.

Officers were "called out for an excessive noise complaint about a restaurant" late Friday and "put



Demonstrators take part in a march organised by the anti-restriction movement 'Men in Black' in Copenhagen on Saturday against mass testing and restrictive measures during the Covid-19 pandemic.

— AFP

China vax found less effective

Cops fine 100 at Paris restaurant

Beijing, April 11: In a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mixing them to get a boost.

Chinese vaccines "don't have very high protection rates," said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference Saturday in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses abroad while trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine made using the previously experimental messenger RNA, or mRNA, process.

"It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunisation process," Gao said.

Officials at a news conference Sunday didn't respond directly to questions

about Gao's comment or possible changes in official plans. But another CDC official said developers are working on mRNA-based vaccines.

Gao did not respond to a phone call requesting further comment. "The mRNA vaccines developed

in our country have also entered the clinical trial stage," said the official, Wang Huaiqing.

He gave no timeline for possible use. Experts say mixing vaccines, or sequential immunization, might boost effectiveness.

— AP

Yemen's Marib fighting: 70 dead

Dubai, April 11: Fierce fighting for Yemen's strategic Marib city has killed 70 pro-government and Houthi rebel fighters over the past 24 hours, with battles raging on three fronts, loyalist military officials said Sunday.

The other official said that warplanes from the Saudi-led military coalition, which entered the Yemen conflict to support the government in 2015, launched airstrikes that "destroyed 12 Houthi military vehicles, including four tanks and a cannon".

However, the Saudi fire-power does not seem to have halted the rebel offensive.

The Iran-backed Houthis in late 2014 overran the capital Sanaa, 120 kilometres (75 miles) to the west of Marib, along with much of northern Yemen.

The loss of Marib would be a heavy blow for the Yemeni government, currently based in the southern city of Aden. — AFP

"My dear Papa was a very special person who I think above all else would have been amazed by the reaction and the touching things that have been said about him, and from that point of view we are, my family, deeply grateful for all that," he added.

"It will sustain us in this particular loss and at this particularly sad time."

The Duke of Edinburgh — the 94-year-old queen's husband of 73 years — died peacefully on Friday just two months short of his 100th birthday, triggering

eight days of national mourning.

Royal officials said his funeral, which will be televised, will take place at 1400 GMT on Saturday, April 17 in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, west of London.

It will be preceded by a national minute's silence.

Government guidelines restrict mourners to just 30 people and close attention has been paid to the pared-down guest list for the funeral, particularly whether the duke's grandson Harry would attend.

Palace officials confirm-

CHINESE SHIPS IN SCS: U.S., PHILIPPINES SHOW CONCERN

Aboard a US Military Aircraft, April 11: Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday discussed with his Philippine counterpart China's recent positioning of "militia vessels" near the South China Sea.

Austin spoke by phone with Philippine Secretary of National Defence Delfin Lorenzana while Austin was flying from Washington to Israel to begin an international trip. Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Austin and Lorenzana discussed the situation in the South China Sea and the recent massing of Chinese vessels at Whitsun Reef, which has drawn criticism from Manila. China has said its vessels are there for fishing. Austin proposed to Lorenzana measures to deepen defence cooperation, including by "enhancing situational awareness of threats in the South China Sea," Kirby said.

Kirby said earlier this week that the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group, as well as the amphibious ship USS Makin Island, are operating in the South China Sea. The US has no military forces based permanently in the Philippines but sometimes rotates forces to the country under the US-Philippines Visiting Forces Agreement.

The recent gathering of Chinese vessels near the Philippines is among moves the US has criticised as efforts by Beijing to intimidate smaller nations. — AP

• AUSTIN PROPOSED to Lorenzana measures to deepen defence cooperation, including by "enhancing situational awareness of threats in the SCS," Kirby said.

Prince Charles pays tribute to 'Papa', says family misses him

No Meghan at funeral for Prince Philip

London, April 11: The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II's husband, Prince Philip, will take place next week, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday, announcing a stripped-back ceremony due to Coronavirus restrictions, and a return for exiled royal Prince Harry but not his wife, Meghan. The announcement came as the couple's eldest son, heir to the throne Prince Charles, 72, paid a heartfelt tribute to his "dear Papa", and said he and the royal family missed him "enormously".

Underground newsletters aid Myanmar youth

Yangon, April 11: Myanmar youth are fighting the junta's internet shutdown and information suppression with an explosive underground printed newsletter they are secretly distributing across communities.

For 56 days straight there have been internet outages in coup-hit Myanmar, according to monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Two hundred high-profile celebrities, including actors, singers and social media influencers are on an arrest warrant list and could face three years' jail if convicted of spreading dissent against the military.

"If we write revolutionary literature and distribute it like this, we could end up in prison for many years," he said, his face concealed by one of the Guy Fawkes masks popularised by the dystopian movie "V for Vendetta".

"Even if one of us is arrested, there are young people who will carry on producing the Molotov to appeal to young people."

"This is our response to those who slow down the flow of information — and that's a threat to us," he said. Thousands of readers across the country are downloading the PDF version of the publication and printing out and distributing physical copies

— AFP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

		%
Sensex	49591.32	-0.31
Nifty 50	14834.90	-0.26
S&P 500*	4,128.80	0.77
Dollar (\$)	74.75	0.27
Pound Sterling (\$)	102.40	0.11
Euro (\$)	88.89	-0.41
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	46,257.97	0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.18	-0.03
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.017	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.673	0.041

* As of Friday/Saturday

China approves third Sinopharm vaccine for trial

China has approved the third Covid-19 vaccine from Sinopharm Group Company to start clinical trials, the company said. The green light to begin testing comes after two inactivated vaccines from Sinopharm were approved and widely used both at home and in developing countries. The latest one is a recombinant vaccine that includes parts of the coronavirus's spike protein to stimulate immune response.

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Packaging units face input shortage Global producers ignore BIS mark

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, APRIL 11

The government's insistence on BIS certification on certain imported tin and steel products has led to a shortage in metal packaging materials.

The Steel and Steel Products Quality Control Order, issued on July 17, 2020 by the Ministry of Steel, has made BIS certification mandatory for imports of tinplate and tin-free steel. Further, restrictions have been imposed on the import of various steel products like easy open ends and peel off ends used by the metal packaging industry, which has 10 per cent share of the \$50 billion packaging industry.

The restrictions have affected a large number of micro, small and medium enterprises involved in making products using tinplate steel-sheets of steel

NOT BIG ENOUGH MARKET

Steel ministry has made BIS certification mandatory for imports of tinplate and tin-free steel

Restrictions have also been imposed on various steel products like easy open ends

But foreign suppliers have stopped shipping tin plates to India, leading to shortage

coated with a thin layer of tin that have specialised use in consumer products like cans, hairclips, pens.

"It is virtually impossible to force the international suppliers to go for BIS certifications as the procedure of BIS registration is highly cumbersome. Further, for the international suppliers of tin plates, India is a small market and hence they are not quite keen to get into lengthy bureaucratic and cost-intensive BIS certification procedures," says the Metal Container Manufacturers' Association (MCMCA).

The shortage has also led to rise in prices.

Since the order came into effect, foreign suppliers have stopped shipping tin plates to India and this has led to a shortage in the domestic market.

"There is a huge demand-supply gap for tinplate and tin-free steel in India to the extent of 2.5 lakh tonnes per annum which is met through imports. Moreover, tin-free steel is produced only by one mill, Tin Plate Company, and that too once a quarter," said Sanjay Bhatia, president, MCMCA.

The shortage has also led to rise in prices.

SBI makes ₹300 cr from zero balance a/cs

New Delhi, April 11: Several banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), have been imposing excessive charges on certain services provided on the zero-balance or Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA), a study by the IIT-Bombay has revealed.

The study observed that the SBI's decision to levy a charge of Rs 17.70 for every debit transaction beyond four by the BSBDA account holders cannot be considered as "reasonable."

It highlighted that the imposition of service charges resulted in undue collections to the tune of over Rs 300 crore from among nearly 12 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) holders of SBI during the period 2015-20.

The study observed that the SBI's decision to levy a charge of Rs 17.70 for every debit transaction beyond four by the BSBDA account holders cannot be considered as "reasonable."

National Bank, which has 3.9 crore BSBDA accounts, collected Rs 9.9 crore during the same period.

"There had been systematic breach in the RBI regulations on BSBDAs by few banks, most notably by the SBI that hosts the maximum number of BSBDAs, when it charged @ Rs 17.70 for every debit transaction (even via digital means) beyond four a month." — PTI

Term life policies could become costlier

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

Life insurers, including Life Insurance Corporation, could increase the premium on term life insurance policies by up to 10 per cent this fiscal. They are confident that a higher premium would not affect the demand for this product for various reasons.

"We expect up to 10 per cent hike in term life insurance in the near future. Even in the increased premium regime, women, who comprise half of the country's population, will continue to get it at cheaper rates, thanks to their better longevity rate than their male counterparts. Besides, the home loan borrowers, who often prefer the cost-effective term life in place of home insurance, will also continue to buy the product," said an official of a public sector insurer.

A significant rise in demand for term insurance has been observed of late, regardless of the cost.

"The increase in online term market is largely attributed to increasing awareness about insurance due to increased economic uncertainty during the coronavirus-led recession as well as mortality risk," said Gopal Kumar, an economist and actuary.

IBC: Recovery rate plunges after settlement of big cases

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, APRIL 11

Absence of high value companies led to a poor recovery rate for lenders from cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) during the December quarter of this fiscal. The recovery rate for Q3FY21

dipped to a low of 12.6 per cent, a steep fall from a high of 64.1 per cent reported in the March 2020 quarter.

In the past, the recovery rate in India used to be about 26 per cent. Post-IBC implementation, the overall recovery rate till date has improved to 39.8 per cent.

Of the total claims

which were settled via liquidation in Q3FY21, the realisable value was only Rs 20.3 crore, or around 21 per cent, of the total admitted claim amount of Rs 97.3 crore.

According to Sanjay Agarwal, senior director of Care Ratings, "The earlier quarters of the previous year saw resolution at a very high value for large steel accounts such as Essar Steel, Bhushan Steel, JP Infratech. Similarly, there was a high value cement account (Binani Cement) getting resolved last year. The recovery rate was high for these steel and cement companies. This year, some of the companies that have been admitted

are weaker of the cases with legacy bad debt and so the recovery rate for lenders have fallen steeply."

Suspension of fresh bankruptcy proceedings due to the pandemic defaults also led to a slowdown in the number of cases getting admitted for Corporate Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIRPs).

For instance, the number of cases admitted slowed down in nine-month FY21 (283 cases) compared with 1,517 cases admitted in 9MFY20. The December-end quarter witnessed a drop of around 83 per cent compared with the previous year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CAIRN TO FOREGO \$500 MN IF INDIA PAYS PRINCIPAL

New Delhi, April 11: UK's Cairn Energy Plc has offered to forego \$500 million and invest that amount in any energy project identified by the government if New

Delhi agrees to honour an international arbitration award and returns the value of loss it incurred from being taxed retrospectively, sources said. The Scottish firm invested in the oil and gas sector in 1994 and made a huge oil discovery in Rajasthan. In 2006-07, it listed its Indian assets on the BSE. Five years later the government passed a retroactive tax law and billed Cairn Rs 10,247 crore plus interest and penalty for the reorganisation tied to the flotation. The state then expropriated and liquidated Cairn's remaining shares.

INFOSYS PLANS SHARE BUYBACK

New Delhi, April 11: Infosys said its board will consider a buyback proposal at its meeting on April 14. "The board of the company will consider a proposal for buyback of fully paid-up equity shares of the company at its meeting to be held on April 14, 2021." The company's board is slated to meet on April 13 and 14, to approve and take on record the audited consolidated financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021. In August 2019, Infosys had bought back 11.05 crore of its shares. — PTI

FRANKLIN 2ND TRANCHE SOON

New Delhi, April 11: SBI Funds Management (SBI MF) will distribute the next tranche of Rs 2,962 crore to unitholders of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund's six shuttered schemes this week. SBI MF has already distributed Rs 9,122 crore to investors as directed by the Supreme Court earlier. "SBI MF would be distributing the next tranche of Rs 2,962 crore to unitholders," a Franklin Templeton spokesperson said. — PTI

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

India pip Argentina in Pro League tie

Buenos Aires: The Indian men's hockey team snatched a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over Olympic champions Argentina after Harmanpreet Singh kept the side afloat in regulation time with his two goals in the action-packed first game of their FIH Pro League tie here.

The draw guaranteed a point for each team, but it was the tourists who walked away with the bonus point, thanks largely to some brilliant goalkeeping by P.R. Sreejesh. As per the event's rules, the team winning the shoot-out also walks away with the bonus point. — PTI

Wrestlers return empty-handed

Almaty, Kazakhstan: National champion Sandeep Singh Mann (74kg) failed to qualify for the Olympic Games at the Asian Qualifiers here on Sunday, keeping veteran Sushil Kumar's Tokyo hopes alive in the weight category. Also missing out on qualification was Satyarth Kadian (97kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg) in the three-day competition that concluded here on Sunday.

All those who missed out have one last chance to make the cut for the Tokyo Games at the World Olympic Qualifiers, scheduled to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria from May 6-9.

Sonam Malik and Anshu Malik were the only ones to qualify for the Games in Almaty. — PTI

Two Indian fencers test +ve in Cairo

New Delhi: Two Indian fencers participating in the World Junior and Cadet Championships in Cairo have tested positive for Covid-19, leading to them being quarantined there.

Fencing Association of India (FAI) president Rajiv Mehta said that the infected fencers were doing fine and being looked after by the team doctor.

"Yes, two fencers have tested positive and they are undergoing quarantine in Cairo," Mehta said. "Both the fencers are doing fine and they are being looked after by the doctor there," he added. India had fielded 24 fencers in all the three disciplines — sabre, foil and epee — in the tournament which ends on Sunday. — PTI

Azhar bats on sticky HCA wicket

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin has discovered that cricket administration is a different ball game. He's batting on regardless, and playing some powerful strokes too. On Sunday, the Hyderabad Cricket Association president was up against his own team at the Annual General Meeting, which saw many a drive, pull and punch.

Chairing the meet, Azhar took a firm guard and stuck to his stance as he went through with the appointment of Justice (Retd) Deepak Verma as HCA's Ombudsman and Ethics Officer as mandated by the Constitution and one which the Telangana High Court had upheld in its order recently.

On March 28, the HCA's AGM was stalled and deferred by two weeks as there was no unanimity over the appointment of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer. It was decided to put the matter to vote at the next meet. "The past conventions of HCA and practice followed in other State associations, the Apex Council considers names, obtains consent of the honourable judges as required by the rules and recommends the names for appointment by the General Body. In this case, the Apex Council has made just one recommendation - Justice Deepak Verma," Azhar said on Sunday and pointed to the High Court judgement which outlines the sequence of events with dates of obtaining consent.

He then put the matter to vote by show of hands and announced the former Supreme Court judge's appointment. As the opposition camp demanded voting by secret ballot that led to fracas, Azhar declared the AGM closed, walked out of the hall along with the club secretaries supporting him, and



Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammad Azharuddin gestures as he speaks to the press after HCA's Annual General Meeting at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday.

addressed the press. The rival camp (vice-president John Manoj, secretary R. Vijayand, joint secretary Naresh Sharma, treasurer Surender Agarwal and councillor P. Anuradha and their supporters) stayed back and continued with the meeting, making different appointments — Senior Tournament Committee, Cricket Advisory Committee, Junior Selection Committee (Men), Cricket Talent Committee, CEO and CFO among others.

They also readied appointment orders for Justice (Retd) Nisar Ahmed Kukru (Ombudsman) and Justice (Retd) T. Meena Kumari, (Ethics Officer).

"They can do whatever they want, it's not valid after the president has closed it," Azhar told reporters.

"As a president it was my call to decide whether the vote to

appoint would be by raise of hands or ballot. The Association cannot run on anybody's whims and fancies. There are rules and regulations that we will have to follow," he said even as claims of democracy and accusations of dictatorship flew about.

Azhar also sought to alleviate apprehensions of multiple club owners, who fear their voting powers would be sliced since a complaint in that regard is already pending. "They need not worry. He (Justice Verma) is a former justice of the highest court in the country and will go by the rules. It is good for the game of cricket," he said.

"Some people are spreading rumours that I want to take away the clubs. I have no such intention. As an international player, I already have voting rights and can fight the elections, in HCA or the BCCI. I don't need a club. I

have no ill feelings against anybody and don't want to step on anyone's toes. I want everybody to work in tandem," he added.

Azhar was visibly upset by the uproar at the meet. "I will write to the BCCI, which has been embarrassed by the unruly behaviour of members of its affiliate and might consider taking action. It is bringing disrepute to the parent body, which provides us the funds to run cricketing affairs. Last time too some of the members levelled charges against Justice Verma, which tantamount to Contempt of Court if I may caution," he said.

His opponents too threatened to write to the Board. "The police were set upon us. We were asked to leave the premises saying the meeting was deemed closed," John Manoj said.

Others alleged Azhar left the pitch midway through and felt he should've gone for the ballot if he commanded majority. "As many as 125 of the 160 members who attended the AGM have signed on the appointments we have made," Surender claimed, showing a bunch of printouts.

Nevertheless, Azhar decided to bat on. "We have to make other appointments like the CEO and CFO now," he said and also promised "20 per cent of the fund which the HCA receives from the BCCI (which approximately amounts to Rs 14 crore) to the district associations affiliated to the HCA."

Even as he appears to be playing a lone hand in the Apex Council, Azhar assured: "I will do my best. I am here for the betterment of cricket and will make sure that nothing will go wrong in the Association. People can cast any amount of aspersions on me but I am hell bent on clearing this, because nobody has fought this in so many years, over which all the dirt has accumulated."

'Stunning' Hideki takes 4-stroke lead

Augusta (United States), April 11: Hideki Matsuyama unleashed an incredible back-nine shot-making display to seize a four-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the Masters, putting the Japanese star on the brink of a historic triumph at Augusta National.

Matsuyama, trying to become the first Japanese man to win a major title, fired a seven-under par 65, his career-low 18-hole Masters total and the first bogey-free round of the week, to stand on 11-under 205 after 54 holes.

"It will be a new experience for me being a leader going into the final round of a major," Matsuyama said. "I guess I'll relax as best I can and do my best tomorrow."

England's Justin Rose, Australian Marc

Leishman and Americans Xander Schauffele and Will Zalatoris shared second on 209.



SUMMER SLAM



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

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD, MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2021

pg 12

Off the field



David Warner's daughter sports Sunrisers jersey to cheer on her father.
— Twitter

Dhoni fined ₹12L for slow over rate

Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate during his side's defeat against Delhi Capitals. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr Dhoni was fined ₹12 lakh," a statement from IPL added.

CSK still waiting for Behrendorff arrival

Losing Josh Hazlewood was a big blow as it left the team bereft of overseas pace bowling options with Jason Behrendorff and South Africa's Lungi Ngidi also not available for the next game, said Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming. Australia pacer Hazlewood had withdrawn at the last moment to keep himself fit for upcoming international assignments. Behrendorff was named his replacement last Friday and is yet to arrive, while Ngidi is serving his quarantine after returning midway from South Africa's ODI series against Pakistan. "It's (bowling) an area that we are probably short on," said Fleming.



Suresh Raina spends his day off cooking in the team hotel.

Yellow is a matter of pride for Raina

Suresh Raina is back with a bang in IPL but rueed the fact that CSK failed to score an additional 20 runs against Delhi Capitals in their opening game which led to a seven-wicket defeat. CSK put on board a competitive 188 with Raina scoring a brisk 54 but last year's finalists Delhi Capitals overhauled the target without any fuss.

"It feels amazing to be back with MS Dhoni and the Chennai Super Kings. It is always good to contribute to a side that has done so much for the players, who have done so much for every person."

"It is always good to be back and wear this yellow colour. It's a pride that I have cherished all my life," Raina said.

"It could have been better if we would have scored 15-20 runs more but I think we bowled better in the middle overs, in the next few days we will have a few good practice sessions where we can learn what to do better," he added.

Rain had missed the last edition of the IPL held in the UAE.

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RANA-WAY VICTORY

Nitish slams 56-ball 80 as Knights gallop to their 100th IPL win

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 11

Riding on Nitish Rana's brilliant 80, Kolkata Knight Riders galloped to their 100th IPL win here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. Kolkata got the better of Sunrisers by 10 runs.

Chasing 188, Sunrisers had a disastrous start as they lost both their openers, David Warner and Wriddhiman Saha, early. When they were wobbling at 10 for two, Manish Pandey and an in-form Jonny Bairstow put on a vital stand.

While the Englishman Bairstow counter-attacked, Manish provided the solidity from the other end.

KKR pacer Pat Cummins snapped the partnership at 92 by dismissing Bairstow (55 off 40). Kolkata had the upper-hand when Sunrisers needed 69 off last five overs. But Manish's stay in the middle gave Hyderabad a glimmer of hope. The equation was reduced from 44 off 18 to 38 off 12. Then came a fearless teenager Abdul Samad who clubbed KKR's premier pacer Pat Cummins for two sixes in the penultimate over to make it 22 off 6. However, Andrew Russell's brilliant final over ensured Kolkata had the last laugh. Manish remained unbeaten on 61.

Earlier, the openers Shubman Gill and Rana got KKR off to a decent start, putting on 53 runs. T Natarajan and Sandeep Sharma found it difficult to Rana-Gill at bay as the duo made 50 runs in powerplay.

Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan who was introduced in the seventh over gave Sunrisers' the much-needed breakthrough by removing Gill. Rashid's wrong'un crashed into Gill's off-stump. Rana raced to his 12th IPL fifty in 37 balls, reaching the landmark by pulling a short ball off Vijay Shankar for a six over deep backward square-leg boundary.



KKR opener Nitish Rana en route to his half-century against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match in Chennai on Sunday. — IPL

Barring Rashid, Sunrisers bowlers looked below par.

Rahul Tripathi scored his fifty in 28 balls and added 93 off 50 balls with Rana to set up a perfect platform for his team's big hitters. However, they couldn't make full use of

it as Eoin Morgan and Andre Russell fell for single digit scores. It was another Afghan spinner Mohammad Nabi who removed Rana and Morgan off consecutive balls before Rashid dismissed the dangerous Russell.

As KKR slumped to 160 for five from a commendable position of 146 for one, their hopes of touching the 200-run mark suffered a big blow. If not for Dinesh Karthik's unbeaten 22 off 9 balls, KKR wouldn't have made a competitive total.

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana c Shankar b Mohammad Nabi 80, Shubman Gill b Rashid Khan 15, Rahul Tripathi c Saha b Natarajan 53, Andre Russell c Pandey b Rashid Khan 5, Eoin Morgan c Abdul Samad b Mohammad Nabi 2, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 22, Shakib Al Hasan c Abdul Samad b Kumar 3. Extras (W-7) 7. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 187.

FoW: 1-53, 2-146, 3-157, 4-160, 5-160, 6-187.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-45-1, Sandeep Sharma 3-0-35-0, T Natarajan 4-0-37-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-32-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-24-2, Vijay Shankar 1-0-14-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Wriddhiman Saha c Prasidh Krishna 3, Manish Pandey (not out) 61, Jonny Bairstow c Rana b Cummins 55, Mohammad Nabi c Morgan b Prasidh Krishna 14, Vijay Shankar c Morgan b Russell 11, Abdul Samad (not out) 19. Extras (B-1, LB-1, W-5) 7. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 177.

FoW: 1-10, 2-10, 3-102, 4-131, 5-150.

Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 1-0-8-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-35-2, Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-34-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-30-1, Andre Russell 3-0-32-1, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-36-0.

MoM: Nitish Rana

Rana, who was adjudged the man of the match, said: "I thought the ball was in my slot (first ball, off Bhuvneshwar) and luckily I got a four. My game-plan is always that if the ball is in my slot I'll try to hit it. I was backing myself and looking to hit balls. I've been playing spin since childhood, so in a way, it's in my blood."

DHONI WANTS HIS BOWLERS TO PULL UP SOCKS

Mumbai, April 11: CSK captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said his bowlers will have to pull up their socks after a "poor" outing. "We could have bowled slightly better, and if batters are hitting you over the fields, that's fair enough."

"The execution of the bowlers was poor and there were boundary balls that they bowled, but the bowlers will have learned and they will apply that in the future games," Dhoni said.

"A lot depended on dew, and that factor played on our mind from the start and that's why we wanted to get as many runs as possible. The batters did a good job to reach 188, because it was tricky," Dhoni said. — PTI



Punjab Kings' Chris Gayle is brimming with energy during a training session in Mumbai. — Twitter

A battle of big hitters on cards

Mumbai, April 11: Another battle of big-hitters is on the cards when KL Rahul's Punjab Kings take on the Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan Royals, two line-ups dotted with expansive stroke-makers and in pursuit of a winning start to their IPL campaigns here on Monday. Rajasthan will be banking heavily on their swashbuckling all-rounder Ben Stokes. Stokes will be keen to get some runs under his belt and so will be the likes of Englishman Jos Buttler and newly-appointed skipper Samson, who is a minefield of talent.

The Royals could opt to open with the highly-rated Yashasvi Jaiswal and Buttler. While Samson, who would be itching to prove a point, and Stokes would then form strong middle-order.

If the four fire on all cylinders, they can pummel any attack into submission and Punjab would be no exception on the Wankhede track, which is usually bat-friendly.

Royals also have several other options at their disposal, including all-rounders Shivam Dube, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag and Liam Livingstone.

Gopal, Tewatia and Parag, all bowl leg-spin, so it would be interesting to see whether the Royals opt to go in with two leg-spinners.

Tewatia and Dube have the ability to whack the ball outside the park and look to be certainties in the playing XI. With star pacer Jofra Archer missing due to injury, the pace attack will have to be led by Rajasthan's newest recruit — South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who will be eager to justify his huge price tag of ₹16.25 crore.

RR will have to get their combination right as only four foreigners can make the playing XI.

So, it will be interesting to see whether Royals opt for left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman or go in with either Jaydev Unadkat, Kartik Tyagi or Chetan Sakariya.

Unadkat, with his experience, might get the nod.

On the other hand, Punjab boast of some hard-hitters like Rahul (670 runs in 2020 season), Mayank Agarwal (442 runs) and Chris Gayle. Rahul and Agarwal formed a lethal opening combination in 2020. — PTI

MISSING JOFRA IS A BIG BLOW, SAYS SANGAKKARA

Mumbai, April 11: Star pacer Jofra Archer's absence because of injury is a "big blow" to Rajasthan Royals but their new Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara is confident that the team's young Indian fast bowlers will rise to the challenge in this year's IPL.

Archer, who played with a hand injury during the India series, is currently recuperating from a surgery and the duration of his availability during the later part is still not clear.

"Sanju and I will both agree that it's a big blow for us. Jofra is a very vital part of our make-up and not to have him is unfortunately the reality of it. We have to work around it and plan contingencies," Sangakkara said ahead of the clash against Punjab Kings. — PTI

MSD is my go-to man, says Pant



Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant is the centre of attraction as players walk back to the pavilion. — IPL

and I thought we had to do with the options we have. "We thought whatever we have we have to work around this and put the best playing XI. We just wanted to finish the match before one over, we didn't think about the run-rate."

Pant also lauded the opening duo of Dhawan and Shaw. "Prithvi and Shikhar did a good job for us in the powerplay. They kept it simple and looked for boundaries." — PTI

in a release on Sunday. The change that he referred to was positioning of his back-lift. Earlier, his bat would come down at an angle from the gully region, causing problems with the incoming deliveries but after working with Amre, the back-lift is more straightened reducing the gap between bat and pad.

The 21-year-old on Saturday blasted his way to a 38-ball 72-run innings as Delhi Capitals chased down a winning target of 189 against CSK with more than an over to spare.

"I made some small changes in my batting before the IPL. I just wanted to minimize all the mistakes I was making, and I worked hard," said Shaw



Prithvi Shaw runs in 8 matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. "I practised for two weeks with Strength & Conditioning Coach Rajinikanth Sivagnanam sir and Pravin Amre sir before the Vijay Hazare

I made some small changes in my batting before the IPL. I just wanted to minimize all the mistakes I was making, and I worked hard

— PRITHVI SHAW
Delhi Capitals opener

Trophy. Then I just played my natural game with a few changes in the Vijay Hazare Trophy," he said.

Shaw shared a 138-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan (85) before being dismissed by Dwayne Bravo in the 14th over.

"Very happy with the way I batted... the opening stand which we got was very crucial for us. Chasing 190 odd is not easy

without a good start," he said.

"It was a great win for us; however, I should've stayed in the middle until the end. So, if I have to rate my innings out of 10, I will give an 8 to myself."

Talking about DC head coach Ricky Ponting, Shaw said: "With Ricky, I generally speak to him about tactics and strategies as a batsman."

"He has played so much

of cricket and he has got the experience which he can share with us and he does especially with the youngsters. I am really enjoying working with him."

Asked about skipper Rishabh Pant, who replaced an injured Shreyas Iyer ahead of this season, Shaw said: "We really miss Shreyas Iyer, and he led the team very well."

"However, Rishabh Pant is very smart. He is fearless and enjoys the game. He's very entertaining on the field and is very cool and calm as a captain. He's doing a fantastic job for the team." — PTI

Small changes in technique worked wonders for Shaw