Onice

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE WEDNESDAY 14 | APRIL 2021





Sarvari: Chithirai 1 Tithi: Dhuvithiyai Star: Bharani Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm Yamagandam: 7.30 am to 9 am **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.50 am Luhar: 12.16 pm **Asar:** 3.25 pm

Maghrib: 6.21 pm Isha: 7.33 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.33 PM** SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.11 AM **MOONRISE TODAY 7.38 AM**

MOONSET TOMORROW 9.13 PM





It's a free and fear elections!



CITY | 2 Daily Covid tally nears 7,000 mark in TN



FINANCIAL CHRONICLE | 5

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

SPORT | 6 Ben Stokes ruled out of IPL



Vol. 11 No. 107 Established 1938 | 8 pages | ₹4.00

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle Flutter over rechristening of **EVR Periyar Salai in Chennai**

Signage of 'Grand Western Trunk Road' blackened

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC

The surprise rechristening of Periyar EVR Highway, one of the longest arterial roads in Chennai, to 'Grand Western Trunk Road' by the Highways Department, earned the ire of the followers of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy with several leaders coming out with statements condemning the government.

With social media bringing to light the clandestine name change by publishing the photograph of the new signage put up opposite Ripon Building with the new name on Tuesday, television channels picked

LOK AYUKTA'S

REMARKS HAVE

KERALA MIN QUIT

Thiruvananthapuram,

April 13: Kerala higher

education minister K.T.

Jaleel on Tuesday resigned from resigna-

tion from the Pinarayi

Vijayan cabinet, days

after the state Lokayukta

finding that he had abused his position as a

public servant to favour



up the news, causing widespread flutter.

Besides the anger that was expressed through social media, a group of volunteers belonging to the Dravidar Viduthalai Kazhagam blackened the new name on the board with tar. DMK president M.K.

Stalin wondered if the name change was the handiwork of the religious chauvinists who shivered on hearing the name of Periyar. He said if the old name was not restored immediately, necessary orders would be passed

it as 'Grand

Road' on

Western Trunk

(Bottom): The

signage with

blackened

3 fishers die as boat hits foreign vessel

Mangaluru, April 13: At least three fishermen are feared dead and nine others are missing after their fishing boat collided with a foreign vessel off the coast of Mangaluru early on Tuesday, sources said. The boat, IFB Rabah, with 14 fishermen on board, had set off from Beypore near Kozhikode

in Kerala Sunday The boat's owner Jaffer said in Kozhikode that he had received information that three of them died in the mishap.

Seven of the fishermen are from Tamil Nadu and the remaining from West Bengal and Odisha. Two fishermen have been saved from the sea. — PTI

RECORDS CALL IT GWTR, SAYS HD

B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC CHENNAI, APRIL 13:

An official of the highways department of the state government on Tuesday denied renaming the road. "As per our-records, the road is called Grand Western Trunk Road since the British era," he told DC. "EVR Periyar Salai aka Poonamallee high road is in Chennai corporation records." The name GWT was aimed at helping the passengers, he said.

REPOLL AT BOOTH IN VELACHERY ON SATURDAY

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APR 13:

Election Commission has ordered a repoll on Saturday, at booth No 92 of Velachery assembly constituency, from where an EVM and accessories were taken in a scooter by a couple of officials.

EC BANS WB BJP LEADERS FROM CAMPAIGNING

RAJIB CHOWDHURI |DC KOLKATA, APRIL 13

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

The EC ordered a 48hour campaign ban, starting from 12 noon on Tuesday, on Mr Sinha for inflammatory remarks on the killings of four persons by the Central paramilitary forces at Shitalkuchi in Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of the polls.

'Not four, eight people should have been shot dead by the Central forces there! The Central forces should be issued a showcause notice asking why they killed only four and not eight. Goons are trying to deprive people of their democratic rights. Central forces responded appropriate-ly," he said.

Maha declares 15-day curfew

Mumbai, April 13: The Maharashtra government on Tuesday announced a 15-day long statewide cur-few from April 14 amid the spike in coronavirus

cases in the state. The curfew, which excludes essential services, will come into effect from 8 pm on Wednesday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said in his address via social media to people of the state.

Section 144 (prohibitory orders) of the Criminal Procedure Code will be in force till the "lockdownlike" restrictions are in place, Mr Thackeray said. He refrained from terming the new curbs as a lockdown.

There is a shortage of medical oxygen and beds and the demand for Remdesivir has increased in Maharashtra, he said, adding the Centre should help supply oxygen for coronavirus patients in the state by using Air Force planes.

Meanwhile, a total of

1,61,736 new coronavirus infections have been reported in a day pushing India's tally of cases to 1,36,89,453, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate dropped further to 89.51 per cent, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday.

The death toll increased

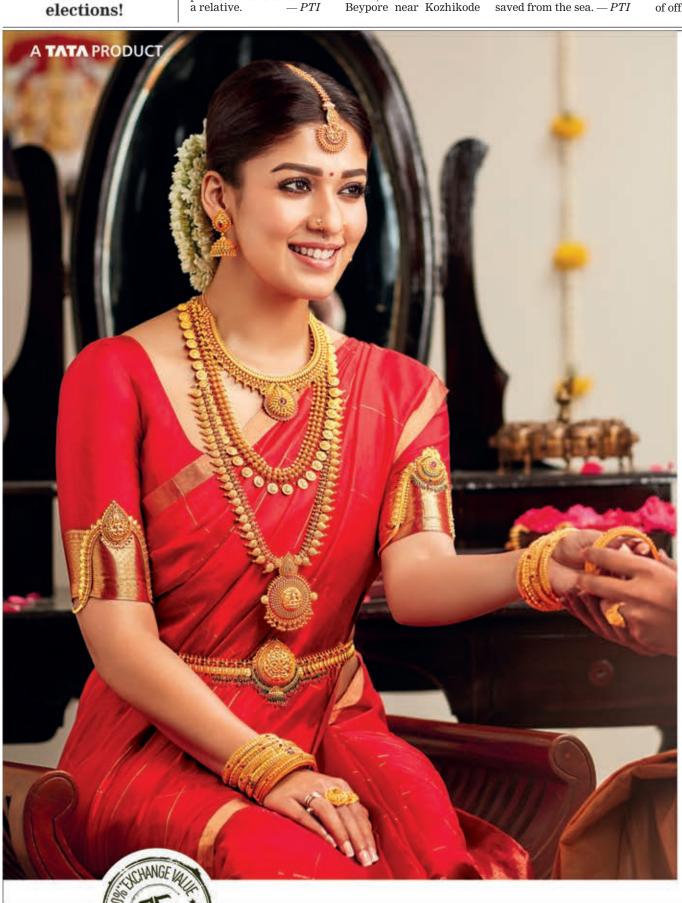
CLEARANCE FOR FOREIGN JABS TO BE FAST-TRACKED

VINEETA PANDEY NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

In a major step to improve vaccine coverage in India, the government on Tuesday announced its decision to fast-track emergency approval for foreign-produced Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved for use in certain other countries, like the United States and European Union member states. The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before these are rolled out for further immunisation programmes within the country, the Union health ministry said.

to 1,71,058 with 879 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Registering a steady increase for the 34th day in a row, the number of active cases rose to 12,64,698, or 9.24 per cent of the total infections. The active caseload was at its lowest at 1,35,926 on February 12, 2021 and it was at its highest at 10,17,754 on September 18.





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Iniya puthandu naalvazhthukkal Let us celebrate life & embrace the golden new year!



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OTHER STORY

Daughter harassed by kin and pastor: Singer

Chennai, April 13: A playback singer has lodged a complaint alleging her 15-year-old daughter was harassed by three men, including her brother-in-law and a pastor, police said. The singer has alleged her sis-

ter's husband, his brother and a pastor harassed her daughter and her sister abetted the crime, police said.

The crime had occurred dur-

ing the girl's stay at her aunt's house and when her mother

"We have received a complaint and an FIR is registered and we are questioning the accused persons, a probe is on," a police officer told PTI, adding based on the outcome of questioning, they may be arrested. Further information on the complaint, harassment to the teen and provisions invoked against the accused men and woman is awaited. —PTI

Bengaluru couple commit suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

A young Bengaluru couple allegedly committed suicide by drinking pesticide in Chialapakkam near Pallikaranai on Monday night. The deceased have been identified as Abinesh, 30, and his lover, Pallavi, 24.

According to Perumbakkam police, the locals in Chilatapakk-am alerted the police after they spotted the bodies of two persons on Arasankalani main road at around midnight. The police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. After a preliminary investigation, police found the duo ran away from their houses in Bengaluru after their parents did

not approve of their relationship. Police sources said the couple had left Bengaluru last month and reached Chennai. They had been staying at Abinesh's sister's house in Chitalapakkam. However, they were facing troubles from both families. On Monday night, Abinesh and Pallavi informed his sister that they were going to Bengaluru and left the house. However, within hours, they were both found dead allegedly due to consuming pesticide. A case has been registered and a probe is on. The bodies have been sent for post-



The shopping crowd at Flower bazaar on Tuesday on the eve of Tamil new year.



Railway Protection Force organises a corona awareness programme at Egmore railway

Daily Covid tally nears 7,000 mark

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

The state on Tuesday registered a steady rise in Covid-19 with nearly 7,000

new cases and 18 deaths. According to the data provided by the state health department, 6,984 new cases were reported, a rise from 6,711 on Mnday. Now total positive cases in the state have reached 9,47,129 while the death toll is 12,945. The Chennai district alone reported 4,337 deaths so far.

Chennai contributed 2,482 fresh cases, a jump from 2,105 on Monday. With this, the district recorded a total 2,69,614 cases so far.

Chengalpattu district continues to be a major contributor to the chart, adding 771 cases, a surge from 611 on Monday. The total cases in the district have now crossed the 6,20,00 mark.

Showing some relief, Coimbatore reported 504 cases, a dip from 604 on Monday. For the last couple of days, the district recorded a decreasing

Over 1.4 lakh vaccinated in Tiruchy dt: Collector

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUCHY, APRIL 13

As many as 1.41 lakh people have been vaccinated for Covid-19 in Tiruchy district so far, and arrangements are being made to vaccinate private sector workers in their work spot itself, said Collector S. DivyaDarshini, soon after inspecting anti-Covid measures adopted at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial government hospital here on Tuesday. collector accompanied by

While Chennai, Coimbatore and Chengalpattu continue to add over 500 cases, Thiruvallur, Madurai and Kancheepuram districts crossed the 200-mark. Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Selam, Thanjavur, Thiru-Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Trichy and Tiruppur districts registered more than 100 cases on Saturday.

However, Chennai and

Vanita, Dean, Dr. K.A.P. Viswanatham govern-ment medical college hos-pital, and other health department officials. She told newsmen that at present 450 beds were ready for Corona outpatients at MGMGH, and if needed, bed numbers will be

increased. She said, on an average, authorities have collected fine of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh per day for Corona violations in the district. The district administration has declared 14 areas including 11 within the

surrounding districts including Thiruvallur including Thiruvallur and Chengalpattu are the main contributors to the tally. These districts together added a total of 3,538 cases on Tuesday. Active cases have

touched 49,985 registering a rise from 46,308 on Monday. The total active cases in the Chennai district, which is the worst hit, now stand at 18,673. While five people died in

containment area, as part of the anti-Covid activities, she added.

She further said 68 persons, 64 from Tiruchy district and one each from Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Perambalur Pudhucherry, were under treatment for Covid-19

infection at the MGMGH, but were discharged on Tuesday. She warned stern action against both wholesale and retail vegetable traders of the Gandhi market for violating anti-Covid norms.

Chennai, Chengalpattu registered three cases. Thirunelveli and Cuddalore reported two deaths each. Erode, Kancheepuram, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Thanjavur and Thiruvallur also reported

deaths. At least 82,236 persons were subjected to RTPCR test, a slight increase from 82,202 on Monday. A total of 2,03,54,041 individuals tested so far in the state.

Second wave another shocker for sex workers Following the

T. SUDHEESH I DC

The second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, which is spreading its tentacles across the city fast, has turned the life of hundreds of sex workers in and around Chennai miserable again. This comes at a time when they are still struggling to come to terms with the blues of lockdowns last

Following the restric-tions imposed by the authorities to contain the spread of the virus, many non-governmental organisations and activists in the city have extended their support for collecting and distributing provisions to these workers after the general public stayed away from them fearing infec-

Emmanual Robin Prasanth, project manager, Real Charitable Trust, Vyasarpadi here, said they have found many sex workers are now out of work since the second wave hit the city. "We are trying to get provisions including rice, dal and groceries from various quarters to distribute to around 844 workers associated with us. The second wave is absolutely painful for this community.

restrictions imposed by the authorities to contain virus, many non-governmental

organisations and activists in the city have extended their support for collecting and distributing provisions to these workers after the general public staved away from them fearing

This comes at a time when they are still struggling to come to terms with the blues of lockdowns last year.

We are working among them for many years. Many of them are continuing in this business unwillingly as they are unable to find other jobs. Since the pandemic hit, we had been con-ducting skill development programmes among them so that they could fight the pandemic stress. Now the second wave has completely shattered the livelihood of this community once again', he said.

A local activist working for the welfare of sex workers in the city also pointed out that the second wave hit the city when the community is still under stress due to the impact of lock-

downs. 'The community has never been put under any social security schemes despite them struggling for a long time. Their livelihood has now completely collapsed as the general public is under the scare of Covid-19 infection. So the government has to support them to overcome this tough time ', he said.

It may be recalled that the National Human Rights Commission "Human rights of women in the context of Covid-19", released in October last year had recognised sex workers as informal workers. The Supreme Court in September had also directed all states to provide dry rations to sex workers identified by National AIDS Control Organisation and legal services authorities, without insisting on any identity proof. Under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, sex work, not maintaining any place as brothel, is not ille-

gal.
"We were struggling to cope with the situation ever since the pandemic broke out. We have no work. Now the second wave is another shocker. We can't survive without the support of the government', says a sex worker.

HC declines to forbear Pondy govt from constructing community hall

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

The Madras high court has declined to forbear the Puducherry Adi Dravidar Development Corporation from constructing a community hall in the land at Kathasthar in Periapet Thirubuvanai Puducherry.The first

bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy disposed of filed PILM.Shivakumar.

The bench said the petitioner makes it out that the petitioner was a public spirited citizen with the

interest of children and young adults in his heart. The petitioner has instituted this PIL for the ostensible purpose of preserving what the petitioner describes as a playground that has been traditionally used by children and young adults in the locality to play there, the bench added.

The bench said according to officials, there was a smaller community centre and the property was recorded as a community centre and a park. The photographs relied upon by the officials reveal that

area was rundown and used as a dumping ground for waste and rubbish. According to the officials, following an appeal from the local residents, work has been taken up for building a modern community centre and substantial money has been expended and partial construction has been completed, the bench added.

The bench said for a start, the petition does not appear to be in public interest. The petitioner's motive may be to stop the construction and allow the land nearby the petitionthere was a dilapidated er's residence, which the building and the general petitioner had free use of, to be preserved in its original state. However, since the construction appears to have progressed substantially, as would be evident from some of the photographs relied upon by the officials, no order was made on the petition except to request the officials to ensure that some amount of open and green area was left preserved so that the building being constructed does not cover the entirety of the land. However, the open space may be used as car parking space or open ground for use in connection with the community center, the bench added.

HC declines to restrain authorities from taking action against water lorry owners

The Madras high court has declined to restrain the authorities from initiating any action against the members of the South Chennai Private Water Lorry Owners Association while transporting water in lorries.

Disposing of the petition filed by South Chennai Private Water Lorry Owners Association, the first bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy said nonetheless, the members of the petitioner association who possess the necessary approvals are permitted to seek permission from the Tahsildar concerned for trans-

porting water by lorries. The

necessary documentary proof of having obtained necessary approvals shall be enclosed with such individual applications, the bench added.

The bench said it was stated that there were 425 members in the petitioner association and that such members operate about 2000 lorries to transport water to the public, including IT companies, hospitals and the like. The petitioner states that all its members draw water from agricultural wells, which were not used for cultivation purposes and that such extraction does not affect the groundwater table. It was further asserted

that the officials frequently

intercept these lorries and harass the members of the association on the ground that the water has been extracted from bore wells. In spite of submitting a representation on July 18, 2019, no action has been taken thereon and therefore the present petition has

been filed, the bench added. The bench said state government pleader V.Jayaprakash Narayanan submitted that various approvals were required both for the extraction of ground water and for the transportation thereof. In case individual members of the petitioner association possess the requisite approvals,

such persons would not be 1 vented by the officials. On the other hand, the present petition has been filed by the asso-ciation and the petition does not contain averments to the effect that the requisite approvals have been obtained by the members of the association. Consequently, he submitted that the petition was liable to be dismissed. "On the basis of the facts set out in the affidavit in support of the petition, an order of the kind requested for by the petitioner association cannot be granted because there was no basis to conclude that the members of the petitioner association have the requisite approvals from the authorities concerned", the bench added.

Govt urged to change fishing ban period

A. ARUL PALANI I DC CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Urging the state government to change the fishing ban period on the east coast of Tamil Nadu, the fishermen have demanded the government not to impose a ban on fishing this year. They stated that last year their livelihood was affected for more than 135 days due to the Coronavirus-induced lockdowns. If the government insists on a fishing ban, it may reduce it to 45 days instead of the usual 61 days, said Nanjil P. Ravi of the All-India

Fishermen Association. He said the fishing ban is enforced $% \left\{ \left\{ \left\{ \right\} \right\} \right\} =\left\{ \left\{ \left\{ \left\{ \right\} \right\} \right\} \right\}$ from April to June every year to facilitate the breeding of fish and conservation of fish stock in marine ecology. Ravi said due to fluctuations in weather conditions, the period from October to December may be considered as the lean period and impose ban during this period instead of April to June. The state receives heavy rainfall during northeast monsoon in the months of October–December, with winds from the western disturbances emerging over the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean.

Over the years, cyclones ravaged the state, especially the coastal dis-

tricts. As a result, among others, the fishing activities also get affected on the Bay of Bengal and Indian

Fishermen are able to pursue their job without any disturbance from April to June since it is summer season and there is hardly any natural disturbance. While this being so, the government permits the fishermen to venture into sea during the rainy northeast monsoon season. Hence, the ban on fishing using mechanised boats can be shifted to the northeast monsoon season to ensure fishermen are not unemployed twice a year.

When fishing is permitted during the hatching/breeding period, the fishing population and their growth get affected. Hence, the government must amend the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 suitably. For more than two decades the fishmen had been demanding the government to change the period. However, so far there is no response from the government, he said.

He also demanded the government to provide ₹5 lakh per year for repairing the mechanised boats. He appealed to the government to ensure that families of all active fishermen get financial assistance without delay.



Harichandran statue found damaged

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

A statue of Harichandran in Chromepet's Bharathipuram was found damaged on Tuesday.

After being alerted by the locals, the police rushed to the spot and examined the statue. According to the police, tension prevailed in the area after the statue was vandalised by miscreants.

The statue was installed by the local residents about 100 years ago and they had been maintaining it regularly. A complaint was lodged with the Chitlapakkam police.

Police officials visited the spot and conducted spot

Congress man's house in Chengalpet burgled

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Burglars broke into the house of a Congress functionary in Chengalpet's Thimmavaram Monday night and

decamped with 28 sovereigns Nagar in Thimmavaram. On ed him that some unidentified of jewellery and ₹5 lakh in cash.

to According police. Praveenkumar, a contractor and a Congress functionary, lived in a house at Palaru

April 6, he and his family went to Chennai for medical treatment and have been staying there since.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday morning his neighbours alert-

persons entered the house by breaking the front door lock. He immediately rushed to the house. Inside, the almirah was open and around 28 sovereigns of jewels and Rs 5 lakh were

missing. Based on his complaint, the Chengalpet taluk police registered a case and began a probe. Forensic experts collected fingerprints from the scene. Further inves-















QUICK CROSSWORD

Down

1. Cargo area (4)

2. Blood fluid (6)

4. Deception (4)

5. Enervate (6)

6. Quandary (7)

and sex (4)

jumble

PUDEN

GURHO

DHNIED

GDOAAP

12. Hat (6)

14. Cosv (4)

9. Imposing, dignified (7) 11. Feverish (6)

15. Wild party with drink

10

18

Across

1.Dash (6)

3. Black bird (4)

8. Daytime nap (6) 10. Infatuated (7)

18. Pet bird house (4)

Word Mine

LEB

OUUSC

TODAY'S RATINGS: 14 AVERAGE; 16

now many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one pine letter word Plurels foreign.

nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

GOOD; 18 OUTSTAND How many words of four or

19. Underhand (6)

13. Thwarted (7)

16. Knot (6)

17. Hog (4)

7. Go first (4)

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: Today, you can expect to have a good time on the social front. Plans to meet your partner may have to be revised due to an unforeseen commitment.



irus: On the work front, you will be efficient enough. Your undivided attention on the one you love are likely to win him or her over and make your day!



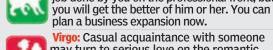
Gemini: Keeping good relations with coworkers will help you in getting out of a tight corner on the professional front. A fun time with family is foreseen.

Cancer: An overseas journey may materialise



for some of you. Your revenues are likely to pick up as the business flourishes. Expenses may rise suddenly. **.eo:** Someone may attempt to take credit for a

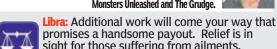
job done by you on the professional front, but



irgo: Casual acquaintance with someone may turn to serious love on the romantic front. Those married are likely to enjoy a second honeymoon by planning a vacation.

You share your b'day with Sarah Michelle Gellar, an American actress. She is best known for her roles in Buffy the Vampire Slayer, I Know What You Did Last Summer, Scream 2, Cruel Intentions, Scooby-Doo, Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed and The Grudge.

plan a business expansion now.



promises a handsome payout. Relief is in sight for those suffering from ailments. Financial front looks good. orpio: Urgent professional commitment will



Disagreements and arguments can dampen your spirits today, so avoid any conflict. Sagittarius: Some worries on the professional front regarding a task is set to disappear, as help comes form a most unexpected quarter.

be completed in an efficient manner.



Money flow will be good. **Capricorn:** It is not a good time to invest in real estate and stock market. Try to make out time to go on a vacation with your loved ones. Relation-ships need attention, shower love on your partner.



larius: You just need a little patience. This is a bit tricky day for some of you. Try to follow your inner voice and intuition. There are certain deceptive forces operating, but you can easily spot them.



Pisces: You will enjoy yourself in the companv of your family members. Socially this is a busy time. Health-wise there is likely to be a tendency to overindulgence during this day.



PHILLIP ALDER

bridge

TO FINESSE OR NOT TO

FINESSE

To be or not to be: that is the question, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of out-rageous fortune ..." begins a well-known soliloquy, but the letters can be rearranged to produce: "In one of the Bard's oest-thought-of tragedies, our nsistent hero, Hamlet, nsistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about

how life turns rotten." (Who worked that out?) In today's deal, you are faced with finesses on two fronts. After West leads a low diamond, how would you play in both six spades and seven

After North recovers from the shock of hearing his part-ner open two spades, he ought to use two doses of Blackwood to find out if South has a minor-suit king. If he does not, North signs off in six spades or six no-trump; if he does, North bids seven spades or seven no-trump. (In notrump, North might gain from

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR &

All offices of the major

political parties in Chennai that bustled

with humanity in the

run up to the elections

now wear a deserted

look, post-polls, with not

even the top leaders making their customary

appearances in normal

The close to a month

long gap between polling

and counting of votes

has given most func-

tionaries of the parties a

sabbatical with not

much political activity

happening around and

also the fear of

Coronavirus looming

AIADMK top honchos

like party coordinator O

Panneerselvam and co-

coordinator Edappadi K

Palaniswami, or even

their predecessors, are

not used to visiting the

party headquarters at

Lloyds Road regularly.

The practice is to turn up there only to attend

meetings or discussions

or special occasions that

require garlanding the

But in the case of some

Top leaders like

other parties it is differ-

DMK President M K Stalin, TNCC chief K S

Alagiri and also the top brass of the BJP attend-

ed office on a regular basis and interacted

with the functionaries,

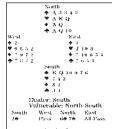
who too would be present

statues of the leaders.

over.

D. SEKAR I DO

CHENNAI, APRIL 13



tradition in the

DMK is that the leaders

always attended office

and kept in touch with

the cadre thronging the

party office for various

purposes. Similarly the

TNČC and BJP offices

provided a place for

interface between the

leaders and cadre and for

workers to develop a

ers not turning up at the

offices, the throngs of

cadre are also missing.

Enquiries at the BJP

office, where of course

there is some movement

of people when com-

pared to other party offices, revealed that

many of the leaders had

gone to West Bengal for

am in T Nagar will draw crowds when events are

organised there. So even

now BJP cadre turn up

after the elections as the

party holds celebrations

like New Year's Day and

so on to keep the place

In the DMK, Stalin vis-

ited Anna Arivalayam

after the elections and

even held discussion

with the candidates to

understand the poor

voter turnout in many

constituencies. Other

leaders too came there

With the party general secretary Duraimuru-

gan testing positive for

Coronavirus, he first

went into isolation, keep-

post elections.

abuzz.

However, Kamalalay-

But now with the lead-

sense of bonhomie.

n minor-suit lead.) In six spades, South needs one minor-suit finesse to work. So, he should finesse in diamonds at trick one. If it loses, he wins East's return, draws trumps and tries the

ing away from the office,

admitted to hospital.

Perhaps that was one

reason other leaders too

did not feel the need to

visit the office and kept

in touch with key func-

tionaries over the phone.

down, Stalin was in

touch with functionaries

and cadre through meet-

ings held over video con-

ference, preparing them

for the elections. Perhaps

the situation that is

unfolding on the

Coronavirus front could

lead to a similar practice

among all parties as the

second wave is also mak-

ing an impact on politi-

Anyway, the offices of

the other smaller parties

like the VCK, DMDK,

MDMK now draw only

some cadre with some

business there. The lead-

ers do not visit the

Thirumavalavan is said

to have gone to the office in K K Nagar once after

the polls but otherwise, it

is only the functionaries

and staff who are pres-

Koyambedu used to bus-

tle when events or dis-

cussions were held.

There was a time when

the party founder Vijay-

akanth too would visit

the place often. But now

with the leader not keep-

ing well, the cadre too go

there only when there is

a need. So, post-polls, the

place is deserted.

VCK's Thol

office in

cians.

offices,

DMDK's

Even during the lock-

got himself

THE COOKS COOKS

Yesterday's Jumbles MFTAL LUNGE SITCOM BARBEN Answer: When the L. V. X and Livent for a hike together, they were — "ROAMIN" NUMERALS

12

Across: 1. Unlimited, 6. Dowel, 7. Shaft, 9. Null, 10. Defend, 12. Myriad, 14. Tome, 17.

Colon, 18. Hoist, 19.

Down: 2. Newel, 3. Idle, 4. Issued, 5. Elate, 6. Dynamic, 8. Tidiest, 11. Tanned, 13. Ruler, 15. Osier, 16. Sham.

club finesse. In seven spades, though, the diamond finesse is a red herring. Even if it wins, declarer still needs the club club finesse is working, there

and then

to go with six spades, three hearts and one diamond. So, South should win with dummy's diamond ace, draw trumps ending in hand and run the club jack. If it wins, the opponents will feel that declarer's fortune was outra-

Now arrange the circled letters

United Feature Syndicate

headquarters in Egmore

too, is not a busy place

nowadays as it used to be

once upon a time when

the party general secre-

tary Vaiko was active.

However, Vaiko does not

miss an opportunity to

issue statements even

after the elections but

without visiting the

In the case of the PMK,

honchos. S Ramadoss

and Anbumani Ram-adoss, even otherwise

interact with their fol-

lowers mostly through

social media and video

conferencing, their office

has no reason to draw

For Naam Tamilar

Katchi, the entire activi-

ty revolves around the

coordinator, Seeman,

who works mostly from

home, preferring to

reach out to cadre and

voters through social

Once in a while he used

to organise meetings to address the followers

and also other events,

say a feast to celebrate

the ear-piercing of the

leader's child, that would

help him personally interact with cadre. But

in general the leader

does not meet up with

them regularly, other

than through the videos put up by the IT wing

that maintains the social

media accounts, and

hence there is no need

for anyone to visit their

leader at his house now.

crowds.

media.

the

CALVIN AND HOBBES|Bill Watterson

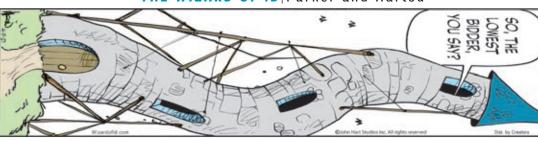






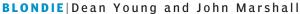


THE WIZARD OF ID Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman









ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs





OTHER

Document registration on auspicious days at extra fees

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

The state government will permit registration documents relating property transactions highly auspicious days like Chithirai Thirunal (April 14), Aadi Peruku (August 3) and Thai Poosam (January 8, 2022) by keeping the Registrar's office open and charging extra

According to a government order, the move was to generate more revenue for the Registration Department as the registration charges would be more than the normal charges as per the Table of There has been a demand

from the public to enable them to do the property registrations highly auspicious days of the year, Chithirai Thirunal, Aadi Peruku and Thai Poosam, which are otherwise government holidays, the order said.

So, acceding to the popular demand, the offices would be kept open and registrations would be allowed on those days for those willing to pay the extra fees.

Neolithic painting, human habitat found in Tirupattur district

AUSPIN BAYLIS AND K. SENTHIL NATHAN I DC TIRUPATTUR, APRIL 13

Based on information about the presence of caves located three kilometers away from Gajalnaickenpatti, Tirupattur district, a research team comprising Tamil Prof. Dr. A. Prabu, Archaeologist Prof. Sekar, and research scholars Dharanidaran and Krishnakumar, during a field visit found the caves and remains of

human habitat there. Explaining their findings, Dr. Prabu said the team visited the Selliamman temple located in the vicinity and found 'New Stone Age' stone daggers kept there for worship. Opposite the temple, is a spot called "Thamburan Kuntru', a cave in which 'New Stone Age' (now called the 'Neolithic Period') humans lived. Thamburan could mean 'leader' or 'god'. The cave which has three sides, could have accommodated at least 10 persons. On one of its sides are three troughs which are constantly filled with water, even in summer. The cave interior is painted white and has five paintings. Three of them are still intact, while two others have been eroded slightly. One of them is understood to indicate either a place where those early residents lived or could be a picture of the lamp used by them. A

human figure with a bow in

his right hand and an arrow in his left is yet another painting, which refers to a hunting event. There are more than six natural caves near this place behind the Selliamman temple, called 'Kuhaikuntru'. The painting of a white bird in the entrance of one of the caves indicates that these caves were used by people of that time. These paintings are very new findings which have never been seen before, said Prof. Dr. K. Rajan.

protect these sites.

Although many rock paintings have been found in these parts of the state, this is the first rock painting found in the district after the division of Tirupattur into a separate district. The rock paintings are on the verge of extinction due to locals who use these caves to mostly drink and eat. Hence, the team has urged the district administration and archeology department to take immediate action to

Party offices wear deserted look EVMs in scooter: Repoll ordered at Velachery booth on the particular booth, said the 'poll taken on 6th April,

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

The Election Commission has ordered a re-poll on Saturday, April 17, at booth No 92 of Velachery Assembly constituency, from where an EVM and accessory equipment were taken in a scooter by a couple of officials after the conclusion of polling on April 6.

The transport of the election machines independently by the officials came to light after they were caught by the members of the public near Taramani, causing a sensation in the area. Though it was initially claimed that the EVM was kept

as a spare machine, it was later found that 15 votes were polled

The Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo had said that he had sent a report to the ECI, which would take a final call. The ECI, ordering the re-poll 2021 (Tuesday) at polling No 92 of 26-Velacherry Assembly constituency to be void.'
The ECI instructed the

Returning Officer to hold the re-election from 7 am to 7 pm and give wide publicity to the polling areas concerned and the political parties and contesting candidates in writing. Adequate security may also be provided, the ECI said.

Henry Irwin's grave found in Ooty

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, APRIL 13

The grave of Henry Irwin, noted architect and punter, has been discovered in Ooty.

As the 127th Ooty turf racing

season, sans punters, is all set to start on Wednesday, the long forgotten grave of Henry Irwin, a British racing enthusiast and a celebrated architect, has been rediscovered recently not far from the race course here.

Irwin's noted contributions in architecture are in Chennai that included the Madras Central station and Connemara library. The nearly 100-year-old graves were discovered recently by Dharmalingam Venugopal, director, Nilgiri Documentation Centre (NDC), who had discovered many famous graves including that of John Sullivan, founder of modern Nilgiris and McIvor

the creator of Ooty Botanical

gardens. He now discovered the grave of Henry Irwin, at the cemetery attached to St. Thomas Church, here.

Elaborating on Henry Irwin, D. Venugopal said that Irwin was a British architect and engineer who worked for the Madras government towards the end of the 19th century. He was a sports loving man with a particular liking for horses. He ow-ned and rode several horses in Madras. He was a great punter too. Around 1896, he tried to drain away the upper lake in Ooty then, to make way for a

race track in Ooty, he noted. Henry Irwin settled down in Ooty after retirement at Loch End and died on August 5, 1922 at the age of 81. His wife predeceased him. Both were buried in the St. Thomas Church cemetery. Henry Irwin was no ordinary architect. He was one of the greatest of British architects of India who combined

the European style with the Indian style in architecture.

"His landmark buildings include the Vice Regal Lodge in Simla, the Ambi Vilas Palace in Mysore and the American College in Madurai. However, it

was in Chennai that he made most of his contributions. The iconic buildings that he created include the Madras Central station, the Egmore station, the southern railway headquarters next to Central station, the Madras High Court and the Law College, the Connemara Library, the Museum Theater and the Art Gallery, the Victoria Memorial Hall and Bank of Madras," Venugopal noted. It is a tragic irony the several monuments across the country, particularly in Chennai, that Henry Irwin created continue to enthrall generati-

DK prez Veeramani warns of rebellion if name not restored

DK president K. Veeramani warned of a rebellion if the name was not restored as Periyar EVR Highway. Mr Veeramani, in a statement, recalled that it was the late M.G. Ramachandran who named the road, earlier known as Poonamallee High Road, after Periyar in 1979 on the occasion of the birth centenary of the founder of Dravidar Kazhagam. Pointing

out that the Highways website also now described the road as Grand Western Trunk Road, Mr Veeramani demanded that the change be made online, too. He asked as to who was the government pleasing through the name change.

Among the other leaders who condemned the AIADMK government for changing the name given by MGR himself

Many users of social media wanted to know who was exactly behind the name change and

ons of citizens, but his grave li-

es in obscurity and neglect in a

corner in Ooty, Venugopal said.

was MDMK general secretary

they were empowered to do it. Though the names of roads and streets are changed to honour leaders and other successful people, it is normally done through proper announce-ments and not just by painting a board and fixing it on the



















COP FINED ₹2,000 FOR NOT WEARING MASK ON DUTY

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 13

Odisha police on Tuesday imposed a fine of ₹2,000 on an on-duty traffic constable posted in the pilgrim city Puri for violating Covid-19 guidelines by not wearing a face mask.

Puri superintendent of police (SP) Samarth Verma took to his Twitter handle and shared the news. "We have fined our own Traffic constable of ₹2,000 for not wearing a mask. And he, as a responsible citizen has paid," the SP tweeted.

In his post, the SP cautioned the public to always wear a mask, else pay the penalty. On April 9, the Odisha gov-

ernment doubled the fine amount for violation of the mask-wearing norm. Accordingly, violators will have to pay ₹2,000 for the first two violations and ₹5,000 for subsequent offences.

TMC, BJP **PLAYING 'DIRTY POLITICS': OWAISI**

BRAHMACHARI | DC BERHAMPORE, APRIL 13

chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday accused the BJP and Trinamul Congress of trying to grab power in West Bengal by playing a "dirty game" of body politics into the recent killings of five persons at Shitalkuchi in Cooch-behar in the fourth phase of the Assembly Election.

At a party rally in Sagardighi of Murshidabad he alleged, "Both the BJP and TMC want to grab power over the bodies of our slain youth and an 18-year-old Rajbanshi youth. It is a dirty game they are playing. They are dividing the people over caste, creed and religion to trigger communal disharmony and hatred. TMC even branded us as 'Outsiders' and Vote Katua here."

Mistakes of past need not constrain our thinking: PM

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

Congress, Sena fear Kumbh

KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

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

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

the future".
PM Modi further pointed out that "while humanity has not faced the Third World War, the threat of violence has not

SHAH TRIES

TO W00

GORKHAS

reduced in people's lives" and that "with a number of proxy wars and unending terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present".

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC

Senior Congress leader

Cabinet minister Asalam

Shaikh criticised the BJP

led-Uttarakhand govern-ment for not enforcing

the Covid related norms

in Kumbh Mela. Shaikh

stated that these were the

spread the virus. Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut also expressed apprehension

Maharashtra

The Prime Minister was delivering an address at the four-day sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogue conference in the Capital that began in Virtual format on Tuesday. Calling upon the participants "to emerge as a powerful voice for a human centric approach", he reminded them that "while we may be used to having Plan A and plan B, there is no Planet B, only planet Earth" and that "we must

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC **KOLKATA, APRIL 13**

In his desperate bid to woo the Gorkhas about their separate state-hood demand of Gorkhaland ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal, Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assured them in Darjeeling that "two governments

returnees may worsen crisis that the people returning from Kumbh mela in Haridwar will turn out to be potential carriers of

The Congress leader said that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath

Singh Rawat should be

held accountable for Cobid spread. "When

many states are invoking

section 144 to avoid the gathering of more than

five people, the Uttarakhand CM is giv-

ing opportunity to gather lakhs of people," Shaikh

Raut raised the apprehension that the infec-

tions in Maharashtra are

increasing because of

cooperation has been for-

gotten. After the end of

the second world war,

over the next few decades

many structures and institutions were created but

under the shadow of the

two wars they were aim-

ed at answering only one

question, how to prevent the Third World War?

Today, I submit to you that this was the wrong

question, as a result all

the steps taken were like

treating a patient symptoms without addressing

the underlying causes. Or

to put it differently, all the

steps taken were to pre-

vent the last war not the

Kumbh returnees.

Without taking the name of the BJP, Shaikh said that the same people who accused the Tablighi Jamaat of spreading Covid in the country have allowed lakhs of people to gather at Kumbh Mela same people who alleged that Tablighi Jamaat had in Haridwar.

He claimed that the number of Coronavirus patients are increasing times four

remember that we hold this planet merely as trustees for our future Generations"

The Raisina Dialogue is "India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016" and is "jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the (thinktank) Observer Rese-

arch Foundation (ORF). PM Modi said, "Is it perhaps because in the race of economic development the concern for welfare of humanity has been left behind. Is it perhaps because in the age of competition, the spirit of

> of the BJP" — one at the Centre and another in West Bengal, if the saffron party comes to power in the state - would work out their "permanent political solution" under the ambit of the "Constitution."

> He also made it clear that the Centre does not have any plan to implement the National Register of

CREMATORIUM FURNACES MELT

Surat, April 13: Metal structures of furnaces at some crematoriums in Surat have started melting or breaking as they are being used round-the clock due to the rush of bodies amid the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said on Tuesday.

Since the past one week, around 16 gas-based furnaces at the Kurukshetra Crematorium and Ashvini Kumar Crematorium here in Gujarat are operating 24X7 to cremate bodies, hence maintenance issues are cropping

up, they said.
The metal frames of gas furnaces, on which the bodies are kept, and chimneys are melting or breaking because of overheating and excessive use, the official said. In the last couple of days, Surat city reported 18 to 19 deaths due to Covid-19 every day.

"Before the outbreak last year, around 20 bodies were cremated at the Kurukhsetra Crematorium every day. Now, there is a sudden rush of bodies. At present, we are handling about 100 bodies per day," Kamlesh Sailor, president of a trust which manages the crematorium, said.

permanent political solution for the Gorkhas. But our constitution is also vast. There is a solution for every problem in our constitution. I promise you today that the permanent political solution for the Gorkhas will be worked out by two governments of the BJP, one at the

"I know you are worried about the

Do not blame me for defeat: Min. to oppn

MANOJ ANAND | DC

Assam minister and top BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma who is confident about his party returning to power second time in the state on Tuesday said that the Congress-led grand alliance has shifted its can-didate outside the state, ignoring the safety of stron-grooms where EVMs are

Pointing out that most of the candidates are keeping a close watch and joint surveillance on strongrooms, Sarma told reporters that the Congress-AIUDF which have shifted their candidates should not blame him for defeat. "If they lose elections in counting of votes they will have a new refrain that in their absence something was done with EVMs. Hope they will not blame me for doing something wrong with EVMs," said Sarma while taking a dig at Congress-AIUDF alliance for shifting at least 20 candidates in the Assam assembly polls to a hotel in Jaipur. Suspecting motive behind

this move, Sarma said, "This was the time when all

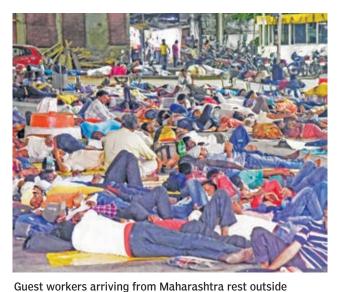
At least 20 candidates of the Congress-AIUDF alliance have been shifted to a hotel in Jaipur.

the candidates should keep a close watch on stron-grooms where EVMs are stored but surprisingly Congress-AIUDF have shifted their candidates outside the

He said that these political parties should clarify their stand that they have left the strongrooms at their own risk and would not blame him for defeat in counting of votes on May 2.

It is significant that at least 20 candidates of the Congress-AIUDF alliance in the Assam Assembly polls have been shifted to a hotel in Jaipur. They were flown to Jaipur in a chartered flight and taken to a hotel on the Delhi highway on the outskirts of Jaipur. Most of

them are AIUDF candidates. Days after the Congress-AIUDF shifted their candidates outside Assam fearing horse-trading, the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) another constituent of Congress led grand alliance also shifted its prospective winning candidates outside the state



Patna junction on Tuesday, as Coronavirus cases spike

Egypt releases activist: Lawyer

Cairo. April 13: Egyptian aut horities on Tuesday released an activist known for his outspoken criticism of the government after he spent more than a year and a half in pre-trial detention, his lawyer Gamal Eid said. Khaled Dawoud, an opposition leader and former head of the liberal Dostour, or Constitution party, arrived at his home in Cairo after his release. Dawoud, a journalist, was set free pending an investigation into whether he disseminated false news.

Biden dog goes back to school

Washington, April 12: The Bidens' rambunctious young dog Major is leaving the White House again, this time for extra schooling in how to behave more like a presidential cani-ne. Michael LaRosa, a spokesman for First Lady Jill Biden, said Major would "undergo some additional training to help him adjust to life in the White House.

"The off-site, private training will take place in the Washington, DC area, and it is expected to last a few weeks," LaRosa said.

Tennessee school shooting: 1 dead

Washington, April 13: One person was killed and a police officer wounded in a shooting at a high school in the US state of Tennessee on Monday, police said. Knoxville city police said on Twitter "multiple gunshot victims" had been report ed at Austin-East Magnet High School, before adding in a statement read out on local television that one of the injured had died.

Officers had responded to reports of a "male subject" who was possibly armed in the school, the Knoxville Police Department said.

"Ūpon approach of the sub-

ject, shots were fired." A KPD officer was struck at least one time and transported to UT medical center with injuries that are not expected to be life threatening," the statement said.

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

Recommendations by health authorities is blow to immunisation campaign

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

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

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

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

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

"People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider," the FDA said.

The CDC will convene a meeting of a top expert committee on Wednesday to further assess these cases and their significance, and the FDA will also carry out its own investigation. "Until that process is complete, we are recom-



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

an abundance of caution,' it said, to ensure the medical community was aware of the development and could develop appropriate treatment plans.

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

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

But even before the pause, the company was affected by supply problems after a contractor spoiled 15 mending this pause out of million doses that never

J&J delays Europe vax rollout Berlin, April 13: Johnson single-dose shot to investi-

gate reports of potentially

dangerous blood clots.

We have been reviewing

& Johnson said Tuesday it is delaying the rollout of its Coronavirus vaccine in Europe amid a US probe into reports of rare blood clots in some recipients.

The announcement came after regulators in the United States said they were recommending a "pause" in administration of the

Nonetheless, with Pfizer

and Moderna continuing to deliver their hundreds

of millions of promised

doses on time, the US is

likely to maintain a high

ended up shipping

vaccination pace.

these cases with European health authorities," Johnson & Johnson said. "We have made the deci-

sion to proactively delay the rollout of our vaccine in Europe." The delay is a further blow to vaccinati-

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

That might be because

vaccine to older age groups. -APthe disorder resembles a rare reaction to heparin, in which the body forms antibodies in response to the thinner which in turn

triggers platelets to form

dangerous clots.

nations, plagued by supply

shortages, logistical prob-

lems and concerns over

unusual blood clots in a small number of people

who received the AstraZe-

neca vaccine. The blood

clot reports prompted sev-

eral countries to limit the

Iran to enrich uranium to highest level

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

Dubai, April 13: Iran

will begin enriching ura-

finding a way for the United States to re-enter the agreement, the goal of which is to limit Iran's enrichment of uranium in exchange relief on sanctions. Iran had been nical step to weapons-grenriching up to 20 per cent. That is a short tech-

JAPAN'S MOVE TO RELEASE N-PLANT WATER: CHINA OBJECTS

Beijing, April 13: China on Tuesday objected to Japan's move to release treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant into the sea, warning Tokyo that "it reserves the right to make further reactions". Japan decided on Tuesday to release treated radioactive water from crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant into the sea, having assessed there will be no negative impact on human health or the environment despite concerns from local fishermen and neighbouring countries, Japan Times reported. Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga met with members of his Cabinet to formalise the decision.

ade levels of 90 per cent.

500 TROOPS TO BE ADDED BY US IN GERMANY: AUSTIN

Berlin, April 13: Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced on Tuesday that he is expanding the US military presence in Germany by 500 troops, suggesting he will not carry out a Trump administration order to with-draw thousands of them.

This planned increase in US personnel underscores our commitment to Germany and the entire

NATO alliance," Austin said in a notable counterpoint to the Trump administration's repeated complaints that Germany is a weak partner on defence and security. Austin made the announcement after talks with German Defe-nce Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on his first tour of Europe since becoming Pentagon chief in January.



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

China's March exports rise 30.6% as demand revives

* As of 8:30 PM IST

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



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

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

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

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

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

New Delhi, April 13: An

independent board set up

by Facebook to look into

hate speech and other

undesirable content on the

platform on Tuesday said

it will now accept cases

Instagram users who believe the company

wrongfully allowed such

content to remain on these

from Facebook

FB, Instagram users can now appeal to Oversight Board

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

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

Once a resolution plan is duly approved by the adjudicating authority, the

social media platforms.

Facebook, which has

faced flak in many parts of

the world over various

issues, including data breaches and handling of

hate speech, had set up the

Oversight Board last year.

mer judges, journalists

and human rights activists, who review

The board includes for-

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

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

appeals from users on

material that has been

Facebook and Instagram,

and make binding content decisions for the social net-

appeal content they want

to see removed from

Facebook is a significant

working platforms.

expansion

"Enabling users

down

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

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

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

Oversight Board's capabil-

director of the Oversight

Board Administration,

said this new capability

represents an important

step toward delivering a

more principled and trans-

parent model of content

said in a statement. The Oversight Board

moderation.

Thomas Hughes,

premium written by the non-life insurance companies saw a 5.2 per cent rise in 2020-21 to Rs 1,98,734.68 crore, Irdai data showed. All the non-life insurance companies had written gross direct premium of Rs 1,88,916.61 crore in 2019-20. In March 2021, the total premium by all the players stood at Rs 19,298.85 crore, up by over 17 per cent from Rs 15.635.42 crore a year ago. Among the 25 general insurers, the total premium in FY21 rose by 3.35 per cent to Rs 1,69,840.05 crore.

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

Indirect taxes up 12% in FY21

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

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

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

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

GATHERING MORE Net indirect tax collection (GST & non-GST) 2019-20 2020-21

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

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

2020-21 1.32

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

Net customs duty collec-

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

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

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

BUSINESS

NON-LIFE GROSS DIRECT PREMIUM UP 5% IN FY21

New Delhi, April 13: The gross direct

BIS LICENCE FEE CUT FOR STARTUPS

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

free of cost to everyone and can be

downloaded from e-BIS port. The

INDIA-EU TRADE TALKS TO RESUME



relay in Osaka

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

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

Bhuvneshwar is **Player of Month**

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

Kane wins Hadlee medal for 4th time

award since its inception early

this year. - PTI

Wellington: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won his fourth Sir Richard Hadlee medal for excelling across formats and was also adjudged the 'Test Player of the Year' in the country's annual cricket awards on Tuesday. Devon Conway won the men's

ODI and T20 Player of the Year during the 2020-21 awards season which was conducted digitally for a second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic

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

Wizards snap Jazz winning home run

Los Angeles: Bradley Bkeal

scored 34 points and Russell

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

Star-studded field for India Open No fans at torch

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

New Delhi, April 13: Carolina Marin and World No. 1 Kento Momota will headline a star-studded OĪ international shuttlers when the India Open Super 500 event is held here from May 11 to 16. albeit behind closed doors due to the raging Covid-19 pandemic. The \$400,000 tourna-

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

However, the Badminton
Association of India (BAI)

said "due to the rapidly rising Covid-19 cases in the country, the tournament will be contested in a bio-secure bubble without spectators and media while implementing strict Covid-19 safety protocols.'

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



on May 3," BAI said in a

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

On the court, three-time world champion Marin will lead the women's singles category along with other Top-10 shuttlers Yamaguchi, 2019 world champion P.V. Sindhu, Korea's An Se-Young and Pornpawee Thailand's Chochuwong.

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

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

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

time world champion Momota, defending champion Viktor Axelson, Anders Antonsen and reigning All England Open champion Zii Jia Lee will be in the fray. Srikanth Kidambi will

lead the Indian charge along with B. Sai Praneeth, H.S. Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap. The last date for with-

drawal of entry is April 19 while the draw will be announced on April 20. The governing body said

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

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

SA WOMEN CRICKETERS STUCK IN BANGLADESH AFTER POSITIVE TEST

Dhaka, April 13: Five members of a South African women's cricket team have become stranded in Bangladesh after testing positive for Covid-19, officials said Tuesday.

Seventeen other members of the South Africa Emerging team left Bangladesh late Monday, the country before imposed a ban on international flights over a surge

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

"All members of the South African team gave Covid-19 test samples before their departure from Sylhet. Five of them positive," Himangshu Lal deputy director of the

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

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

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

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

— AFP

Indian women to tour **England in June-July** in Chelmsford.

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

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

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

THE FIXTURES

- June 16-19: Test match -Bristol County Ground

 | June 27: 1st ODI - Bristol **County Ground**
- June 30: 2nd ODI The **Cooper Associates County** Ground, Taunton July 3: 3rd ODI - New

Road, Worcester

Chelmsford.

July 9: 1st T201 - County Ground, Northampton July 11: 2nd T20I - Central County Ground, Hove July 15: 3rd T201 - The

Cloudfm County Ground,

last played a red-ball game during the 2019 Ashes. The one-off Test will be followed by three ODIs and T20Is each with the

tour concluding on July 15

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

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

mostly empty Osaka city park on Tuesday, snowing the risks of trying to hold the postponed games during a pandemic. It came on the same day

Tokyo, April 13: The

torch relay for the Tokyo

Olympics ran through a

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

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

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

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

CITY CLIPS

Abhivathanan sizzles for Magnet G.K. Abhivathanan (74* & 3/29) helped Magnet Rec Club pip Behind Stumps Academy by 15 runs in the

final to lift the M.J. Gopalan Trophy, a state-level open tournament conducted by Chennai Cricket Club Academy at the Kabilan Nest Ground.

Results: Final: Magnet Rec Club 179/7 in 30 overs (G.K. Abhivathanan 74 (not out), A. Raghav 26; Vetrivel 3/27) bt Behind Stumps Academy 164 in 30 overs (Suresh Ganesan 40, Boobalan 29; S. Sriram 3/28, G.K. Abhivathanan 3/29). Special awards: Man of the final: G.K. Abhivathanan (MRC), Best batsman: Suresh Ganesan (BSA), Best Bowler: Iyappa Dass (BSA), Best all-rounder: Martin (MRC). Promising Younger: S. Sriram (MRC).

Tamildhasan scalps five

V.S. Tamildhasan scalped five wickets and smashed 32 runs as Sunny Sachin CC beat Vikaravandi CC in the first division of the Villupuram DCA league. In another match, J. Santhosh



Brief scores: I-Division: Vikaravandi CC 164 in 37.1 overs (K. Arun Kumar 40, S. Chandrakanth 37; R. Yeswanth 3/43, V.S. Tamildhasan 5/33) lost to Sunny Sachin CC 168/7 in 48.1 overs (S. Raghu 62, V.S. Tamil Dhasan 32; N. Raja 3/19); Captain CC 168 in 40.2 overs (M. Arunachalam 29, E. Kalaiarasan 37 (not out); B. Kamalanathan 4/45, S. Senthil Kumar 3/33) bt United CC 'A' 131 in 42.2 overs (E. Ghouse 32, B. Kamalanathan 28; J. Nazar 3/15, S. Anbalaghan 3/26, M. Balaji 3/34).

II-Divsion: SG CC 179 in 25 overs (G. Jayaprakash 59) bt Evergreen CC 170/9 in 25 overs (P. Venkatesan 46, S. Gokmul 33; J. Santhosh kumar

III-Division: TVS CC 89 in 21. 3 overs (D. Ramkumar 33) lost to New Star CC 92/1 in 9.5 overs (K. Surya 30); Siga Management 'B' 46 in 16.1 overs lost to Power CC 47/3 in 7.2 overs (R. Amarnath 3/28); VDCA 123/6 in 25 overs (K. Kalayan Kumar 27, K. Karthikeyan 28 (not out); V. Vajravel 4/9) lost to Siga Management 'B' 125/4 in 16.1 overs (V. Vajravel 54 (not out), V. Rajasekaran 29).

• RAJASTHAN ROYALS • ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE • SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

DECCAN CHRONICLE, COIMBATORE, WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021

ORANGE Nitish Rana, KKR Sanju

Samson, RR KL Rahul, **PBKS**

PURPLE

Andre Russell, KKR Harshal

Patel, RCB Rahul Chahar, MI

Off the field



DC opener Shikhar Dhawan works out at the team hotel

Archer's IPL return remains uncertain

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

Rohit wants to maintain fitness

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

When Harshal felt insulted

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

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RUSS HOUR CHAOS

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

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

Jamaican Andre Russell turned a villain from a hero in a matter of a few hours as Kolkata Knight Riders crashed to a 10-run defeat at the hands of their nemesis Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Russell stood tall with a career-best 5/15 to restrict Mumbai to 152, but misfired with the bat when it mattered the most.

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

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

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

Krunal Pandya bowled a superb spell of 4-0-13-1. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar took four wickets.

Jasprit Bumrah who was guilty of dropping Russell bowled a brilliant penultimate over to bring the equation to 15 off six

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

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

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

buoyant

Sunrisers Hyderabad would be keen to plug a

big hole in their batting

line-up when they take on

Challengers Bangalore

here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium

Warner & co's biggest

worry has been an inex-

perienced middle-order

who once again failed to

take them past the finish line in their opener against Kolkata Knight

Jammu Kashmir young-

ster Abdul Samad showed

glimpses of his big hit-

ting talent when he smashed KKR's premier

pacer Pat Cummins for a

couple of sixes. With

West Indies all-rounder

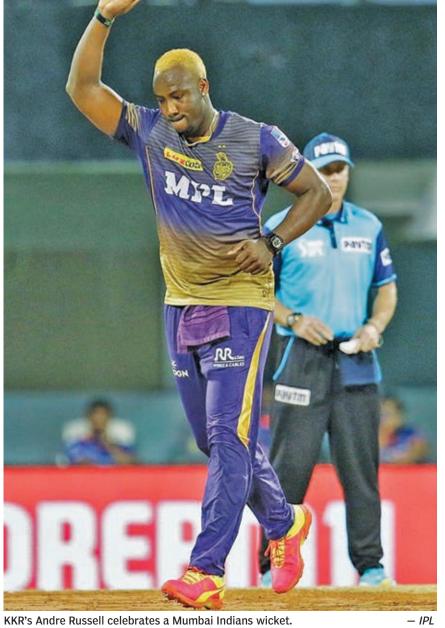
Jason Holder out of quar-

antine, Sunrisers might

draft him in ahead of

David

Tuesday.



RCB challenge for Sunrisers

Sunrisers pacer T. Natarajan during a training session

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

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

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

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

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

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

had struggled his way to a

16-ball 10 against Mumbai

again Devdutt Padikkal

at the top. Padikkal was

rested from the previous

game following his recov-

ery from Covid-19 Rajat

Patidar, who batted at

one-drop, is expected to be benched to accommo-

Their new recruit from

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

attack. Along with the

lanky Jamieson, Harshal

Patel, who took a five-for

in the season opener, and

Mohammed Siraj RCB

now have a settled pace bowling unit. Harshal is

expected to continue as Kohli's death bowling

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra

Chahal had a poor outing

in the opener. He went

wicketless and conceded

41 runs in four overs

option.

date Padikkal in the XI.

SCORECARD

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

(in 20 overs) 152. FoW: 1-10, 2-86, 3-88, 4-115, 5-123, 6-125, 7-126, 8-150, 9-150. Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 2-0-17-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-27-1, Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-23-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-24-2, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1 Andre Russell 2-0-15-5. Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana st de Kock b Chahar 57, Shubman Gill c Pollard b Chahar 33, Rahul Tripathi c de Kock b Chahar 5, Eoin Morgan c Jansen b Chahar 7, Shakib Al Hasan c Yadav b KH Pandya 9, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8, Andre Russell c & b Boult 9, Pat Cummins b Boult 0, Harbhajan Singh (not out) 2. Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 1, w 2) 12. Total (in 20

overs) 142/7. FoW: 1-72, 2-84, 3-104, 4-122, 5-122, 6-140, 7-

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

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

Mumbai's innings As Pat Cummins dealt a double blow by removing (43 off 32 balls), Mumbai were reduced to 115 for

Live on TV

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Matches

SRH 10 RCB **FOR THE RECORD**

 Virat Kohli who has scored 5.911 runs at an average of 38.13 in 185 innings needs 89 more to become the first batsman to score 6,000 runs in IPL history.

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

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

• RCB defeated Sunrisers by 10 runs Sunrisers beat RCB by 5 wickets

Sunrisers beat RCB by 6 wickets

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

POINTS TABLE 0.200

Sanju rues failure to cross finish line

Mumbai, April 12: Sanju Samson's magnificent 119 on his captaincy debut for Rajasthan Royals came in a losing cause but he said the second part of his innings was the best he ever played.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We batted really well

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



STOKES RULED OUT OF IPL

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

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

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

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

blow for the Royals after the franchise missed the services of Jofra Archer due to a hand surgery. "Everyone at Rajasthan

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

Competition for India's T20 Cup places hots up



Ayaz Memon **Over The Top**

in Chennai.

Afghan Mohammed Nabi.

As Sunrisers are heavily

dependent on overseas

batsmen, skipper David

Warner and Englishman

Jonny Bairstow hold the

of two pulsating, last-ball finishes, fantastic Lindividual performancis any indication, IPL2021 promises to be a roller-coaster ride again with non-stop excitement

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

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

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

- Sunrisers Hyderabad

The battle between leg-

spinner Rashid Khan and

RCB's swashbuckling duo

Glenn Maxwell would be

an exciting affair. Washington Sundar who

AB de Villiers and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

places in the squad. Yuzvendra Chahal and

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

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

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