

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 2 MAY 2021

**WEATHER**

Max: 35.6°C  
Min: 26.2°C  
RH: 44%  
Rain: Trace

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky.  
Rain likely in some parts.  
Max/Min temp. 38/26°C

**ASTROGUIDE**

Plava: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Chaitra Bahula Shashti till 2.55 pm  
Star: Purvashada till 9.01 am  
Varjyanam: 4.48 pm to 6.22 pm  
Durmuhurta: 4.52 pm to 5.42 pm  
RahuKalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

Ramzan 19,1442 AH  
**PRAVERS**  
Fajar: 4:46 am  
Zohar: 12:23 pm  
Asar: 4:39 pm  
Magrib: 6:43 pm  
Isha: 7:54 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 6:36 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 5:49 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 11:19 PM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 9:35 AM

**RAMZAN TIMINGS**

**IFTAR:** 6:42 PM (TODAY)  
**SEHR:** 4:23 AM (TOMORROW)

**COUNTER POINT**

Hypertension, nausea, pain... don't worry, it's not Covid, it's due to counting!

**SHORT TAKES**

**Time extended for tax compliance**

**New Delhi:** The government on Saturday extended timelines for various income tax compliances, including the filing of belated or revised return for the 2019-20 fiscal, till May 31. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it had received representations from various stakeholders for relaxation on compliance requirements.

**SBI home loan rate cut to 6.70%**

**Mumbai:** State Bank of India (SBI) Saturday said it has reduced home loan interest rate to 6.70 per cent. The lender said home loan interest rates are now starting from 6.70 per cent for loans up to ₹30 lakh and 6.95 per cent for loans above ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh. The interest rate on home loans above ₹75 lakh is 7.05 per cent, the bank said in a release.

**GST collections hit ₹1.41 lakh cr**

**New Delhi:** GST collections in April touched a record high of over ₹1.41 lakh crore, indicating sustained economic recovery, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday. The revenues for the month of April 2021 are 14 per cent higher than ₹1.23 lakh crore collected in March. During the month, the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 21 per cent higher over March.

**Poonawalla cites pressure for vax**

**London:** Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla on Saturday spoke out about the pressures he was under over the production of Covid-19 vaccines to meet the ever-increasing demand in India. He told *The Times* in an interview about aggressive calls from some of the most powerful people in India, demanding supplies of Covishield.

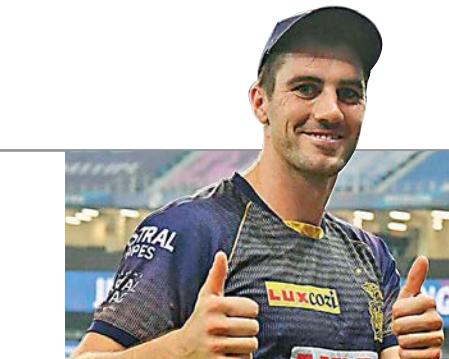
■ Report on Page 5

**WORLD | 9**

**Covid situation in India tragic: Harris**

**SPORTS | 10**

**Sunrisers sack Warner as captain**

**TABLOID**

**IPL players chip in for Covid relief**

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**Vaccination for all adults starts**

A woman gets inoculated with a dose of Covishield vaccine against the Covid-19 at a vaccination centre in Mumbai on May 1 on the first day of vaccination drive to all adults. Several states deferred the plan due to lack of vaccines. — AFP

**12 patients die due to O2 shortage in Delhi hosp**

**18 killed as hospital catches fire in Gujarat**

**BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC with agency inputs**  
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD  
MAY 1

Twelve critical Covid-19 patients died at the Batra Hospital in Delhi's Mehrauli area allegedly due to oxygen shortage. Six of the 12 people who died had been admitted to the hospital's ICU (intensive care unit) and among the deceased is the hospital's gastroenteritis head, Dr R.K. Himthani (62).

"We ran out of oxygen at 11.45 am. Supply came at 1.35 pm (a second tanker reached at around 4 pm). We were out of oxygen for 1 hour and 20 mins," the hospital told the Delhi High Court which was holding the 11th day of hearings into a crisis triggered by a massive wave of Covid infections.

Meanwhile, at least 16 Covid-19 patients and two nurses died on Saturday when a four-storey hospital in Bharuch, Gujarat, caught fire. There were around 50 other patients when the blaze began at 1 am. It was put out.

■ Page 2: 230 left without oxygen for 80 minutes

**Sputnik vaccine arrives in Hyd**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The stage is getting set for administering of Sputnik V, the Russian Covid-19 vaccine in the country with 1.5 lakh doses of the vaccine, arriving on Saturday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here in the city, aboard a special transport aircraft from Moscow.

The city-based drug major, Dr Reddy Labor-

atories, is the licensing partner for the vaccine in India. In a release, DRIL said the first consignment of 1,50,000 doses of Sputnik V, will be rolled out subject to necessary clearances. The company said this initial consignment will be used across different channels as a pilot to line up the supply chain for the larger vaccination programme. Three million doses of Sputnik V are expected later this month.

Rao had ordered two simultaneous investigations by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Vigilance DGP Poornachander Rao into the allegations and had sought a preliminary report. Official sources said that the preliminary inquiry report that was submitted to Rao by noon on Saturday and prima facie had found that the allegations against Etala were true.

ETALA SAYS IT IS CM'S PREROGATIVE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

On a day of swift developments, Etala Rajendar was on Saturday stripped of the health and family welfare portfolio.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has transferred the portfolio to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao with immediate effect.

The decision was taken on the advice of the Chief Minister, a release from the Raj Bhavan said. Consequently, Rajendar is now minister without a portfolio.

Rajendar, who represents Huzurabad constituency, is in the thick of a controversy over allegations of encroaching assigned lands in Achampally and Hakimpet villages of Masaipet mandal in Medak district for his poultry farms.

Rao had ordered a probe on Friday into the allegations against Rajendar. Even as inquiry teams from Vigilance, ACB, revenue and survey departments were in Achampally and Hakimpet villages on Saturday, the decision to remove the portfolios from him was announced.

The decision shocked Rajendar and his supporters, who questioned the logic behind the hasty move when the inquiry report was yet to be submitted to the Chief Minister.

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ETALA SAYS IT IS CM'S PREROGATIVE

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Reacting to his removal as medical and health minister, Mr Etala Rajendar on Saturday said that it was the prerogative of the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to change Cabinet ministers.

He even expressed happiness as the CM charge of the portfolio.

■ Report on Page 3



Sputnik V vaccines arriving in Hyderabad on Saturday.

**Vote count under Covid fear**

**New Delhi, May 1:** Counting of votes will be held on Sunday in the high-stakes Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly elections, overshadowed by the raging Covid pandemic.

There will be 2,364 counting halls as compared to 1,002 halls in 2016 in 822 Assembly constituencies, a more than 200 per cent increase, in view of the Covid guidelines, according to the Election Commission which had

drawn flak from the courts over the conduct of polls during the pandemic. At least 15 rounds of sanitisation will be carried out at each polling centre, besides social distancing and other precautions. — PTI

**Restrictions for indefinite period from May 4; Exceptions given to students, academics, scribes**

**US curbs travel from India, non-Americans restricted**

**STUDENTS SEEKING to apply for new F-1 or M-1 visas should check the status of visa services at the nearest embassy.**

**THOSE QUALIFIED for F-1 or M-1 visas will automatically be considered for an NIE to travel**

imposed for an indefinite period and will require another presidential proclamation to end it.

"I have determined that it is in the interests of the US to take action to restrict and suspend the entry into America, as non-immigrants, of non-citizens of the US who were physically present within India during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the

United States," says the proclamation signed by Biden on Friday.

The decision has been taken at the recommendation of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), within the Department of Health and Human Services, which determined India is experiencing widespread, person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

After reviewing the public health situation within India, the CDC has concluded that proactive measures are required to protect the nation's public health from travellers entering the US from that jurisdiction, he said.

According to the State Department, the travel ban exemption to certain categories is in line with a sim-

ilar exemption that the US has granted to some categories of travellers from Brazil, China, Iran and or South Africa.

Students seeking to commence studies in the fall, academics, journalists and individuals who provide critical infrastructure support in countries affected by a geographic Covid-19 restriction may qualify for the exception, it said.

This includes qualified applicants who have been present in India, Brazil, China, Iran, or South Africa, it added.

As always, visa applicants should check the website of the nearest embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date information about visa appointment availability, the State Department said. — PTI

**Aussies from India to face 5-yr jail if they try to return**

**Melbourne, May 1:** Australian citizens could face five-year jail term or hefty fines up to 66,000 dollars if they try to return home from India after Canberra made the journey temporarily illegal in an effort to curb the spread of the deadly viral infection.

The temporary ban begins on Monday and applies to any travellers who have visited India within 14 days of their intended arrival date in Australia.

There are an estimated 9,000 Australians in India and over 600 of them are classified as vulnerable, according to *The Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper. The decision was announced by the health ministry on Friday after a meeting of the National Cabinet. The move aims at keeping the Coronavirus spread in check in Australia.

The decision was based on the proportion of overseas travellers in quarantine in Australia, who

**COVID TESTING IN HEALTH CENTRES RESTRICTED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The government appears to have decided to conduct only limited Covid-19 tests every day, if instructions doing the rounds in various districts are anything to go by.

Henceforth, only 50 tests should be conducted at each public health centres and urban health centres every day, while at community health centres, the limit has been fixed at 100. The highest number of daily tests — 200 — will be conducted at district general hospitals, as per the instructions, being relayed in WhatsApp groups administered by district administrations and district level health officials.

Meanwhile, questions are being raised against the minister's hatchery raising ₹100 crore from Canara Bank mortgaging the Achampet lands. Rajendar himself revealed about the bank loan

by the minister's hatchery, 66 acres are of patta lands and the remaining 50 acres were assigned to poor in different spells," Medak collector Dr S. Harish told *Deccan Chronicle*.

"Though there were certain discrepancies in patta lands also, we will initially focus on assigned lands as their occupation by the third parties is illegal," he said.

The collector has submitted an interim report to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar. Another major discrepancy found by the officials pertains to the change of land use. All the lands were classified as 'agriculture' and it is mandatory for the hatchery to obtain change of land use from 'agriculture' to 'non-agriculture' by paying the requisite fees.

■ Page 2: RAT tests only 50% reliable

**Vigilance talks to villagers around Etala's hatcheries**

**L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Several teams of Vigilance and Enforcement (V&E) wing and Revenue department are camping in Achampet and Hakimpet villages to probe into the land-grabbing allegations. V&E officials are led by an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police Manohar while the revenue officials are led by District Collector S. Harish and Additional Collector Ramesh.

The teams spoke to farmers, whose lands were allegedly taken possession of forcibly by Jamuna Hatcheries, owned by Etala Rajendar. The teams examined the lands in Hakimpet village.

A digital survey of 177 acres was carried out within three hours. The most advanced DGPS sur-

vey machines were used to ensure accuracy. All the surveyors in three revenue divisions of Medak district were deployed for accomplishing the digital survey within a few hours.

The survey covered not only lands where Jamuna Hatcheries is located but also the adjoining government and assigned lands. It is learnt that the company even mortgaged three acres of assigned land in Survey No. 130 of Achampet with Canara Bank, Abids branch in Hyderabad, and had obtained loans.

V&E SP Manohar told reporters that their inquiry could continue for another two or three more days, that is till they came to a conclusion.

have contracted the infection in India, health minister Greg Hunt said. The move was due to an "unmanageable" number of arrivals from the country who have tested positive to Covid-19, he was quoted as saying by the state-run Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Breaches of the travel ban could lead to five years' imprisonment, a 66,000-Australian dollar (\$50,876) fine or both, the report said. — PTI

**SHORT TAKES**  
**GOV. CALLS FOR BETTER PLAN TO FIGHT COVID**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday called for a multi-pronged approach to contain the spread of Covid-19.

It is important to increase testing, intensifying vaccination, and ensuring that people adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour to contain the pandemic, she said.

The Governor was addressing an international webinar organised by the Lead India Foundation, USA chapter, on promotion of public awareness to prevent the pandemic's spread.

Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan said, "There is great pressure on infrastructure with a massive number of patients rushing to hospitals. It is high time that we all adhered to preventive norms strictly and break the chain."

She expressed confidence that "India will bounce back from the impact of the pandemic and will emerge victorious with the collective resolve and effort of the people."

She saluted doctors and other frontline workers for their tireless and selfless services in saving millions of precious lives during this pandemic.

**HC: KEEP EYE ON VEG MARKETS FOR VIOLATIONS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 27

Telangana High Court has directed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and police commissioners within GHMC area to take necessary precautions and place curbs wherever violation of Coronavirus protocols is seen at weekly pavement vegetable markets in various localities of the twin cities.

A Division Bench of High Court headed by Chief Justice Hima Kohli sought details from GHMC as to locations, zones and circles where these vegetable markets are functioning. The bench wanted to know how many sanitation inspectors are being deployed to ensure adherence to Covid protocols.

The Division Bench was dealing with a PIL filed by law student Bhuvana complaining that WHO norms are being violated by neither wearing masks nor ensuring social distancing in the weekly markets.

Mayur Reddy, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that these markets witness large gatherings. They are hence hotspots of Coronavirus. People are also thrown together as these markets witness traffic jams, with vendors sitting on the road and buyers parking their vehicles while making their purchases.

**PVT HOSPS BILL CRITICAL PATIENTS, RUSH TO GOVT HOSP**

PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS  
ADILABAD, MAY 1

In old Adilabad district, private hospital managements are asking Covid patients who slipped into critical condition while undergoing treatment to go to government hospitals especially Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad after collecting huge money as charges for the treatment.

It is shocking to know that these hospitals provide treatment till the patient condition is not bad since they don't want to lose the charges for diagnosis. There is a lot of pressure on the government doctors since many covid patients are admitting in critical condition at RIMS, Adilabad and it would be good for patients if they admit a little early just after noticing the covid symptoms or when they were recording low oxygen saturation level. It is observed that the many private hospitals managements or doctors are escaping from their responsibility of saving the covid patients when they slipped into critical conditions while undergoing treatment and private hospitals managements were trying to save their skin or keeping themselves on the safer side. Private hospitals not taking a risk in saving the lives of the covid patients when they slipped into critical condition after collecting huge money from them in the name of charges before the patients fell critical.

In some cases, the private hospital's managements referring the critical Covid patients to Hyderabad

# TS asks Centre to hike vax allotment to state

Chief Secretary tells Centre allocations not enough for TS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The state government on Saturday said that it has asked the Centre to increase vaccine allocation for Telangana for May. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar has written to the Centre to increase allocations saying what the Centre said it will send, will not be enough for the state.

The Centre allocated 4.4 lakh doses for May for vaccinating those between 18 and 44 years, who account of 1.72 crore in the state. The Centre allocated

**MEETING DECISIONS**  
**CALL CENTRE (040-21111111) IN GHMC TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO COVID PATIENTS**

**5 lakh free**

Covid medical kits to be added to the existing 7.5 lakh for those in home isolation, home delivery of medical kits; Teams headed by IAS officers to procure essential drugs including Remdesivir and consumables;

**VACANCIES IN all hospitals to be filled via walk in interviews;** **SENIOR IAS officers to head service improvement at major government hospitals in GHMC, and collectors to do the same in districts;** **Efforts to augment oxygen supplies with demand expected to grow.**

another 8.35 lakh doses for the first fortnight of the month for the 45 plus

years category, while the state needs May against a requirement of 30.45 lakh

doses for this group of people.

Somesh Kumar chaired a high-powered review of the Covid-19 situation in the state following directions from Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, who on Saturday, took over the Health portfolio from Etala Rajender. The meeting was attended by top officials. Among the decisions taken were creating oxygen lines for an additional 10,000 beds in government hospital taking the total such beds to 20,000 in the state, and increase Covid-19 beds from 49,133 to 60,000 beds.

## STORIES OF HOPE



Vasumana Ghosh, a representative of Give Hope Foundation organisation, providing protective gear, masks and nutritious healthy meals to frontline Covid workers as a part of its drive in Hyderabad.

**SRIHARSHA KARAMCHATI**



## What goes around, comes around!

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

A good turn deserves another. Putting this adage into practice, a young techie set up a website which soon started yielding positive results. According to Sriharsha Karamchati, he came across, while browsing online, an idea that appealed to him. The idea was that anyone who donates ₹50,000 for serving Covid-19 victims, irrespective of how they have done it, and post a receipt for the same on his website, would in turn get a free promotional film made by him.

Karamchati said he came across the idea posted by Anshuman Rudhra who works at Google-Pay, and soon after he created a website. Interestingly, around 20 people who visited the site, began sharing information about it. "So far, around ₹20 lakh have been donated," he said. "One beneficiary is a young girl who lost her mother to Covid-19 and whose father is getting treated," he said.

It is shocking to know that these hospitals provide treatment till the patient condition is not bad since they don't want to lose the charges for diagnosis. There is a lot of pressure on the government doctors since many covid patients are admitting in critical condition at RIMS, Adilabad and it would be good for patients if they admit a little early just after noticing the covid symptoms or when they were recording low oxygen saturation level. It is observed that the many private hospitals managements or doctors are escaping from their responsibility of saving the covid patients when they slipped into critical conditions while undergoing treatment and private hospitals managements were trying to save their skin or keeping themselves on the safer side. Private hospitals not taking a risk in saving the lives of the covid patients when they slipped into critical condition after collecting huge money from them in the name of charges before the patients fell critical.

In some cases, the private hospital's managements referring the critical Covid patients to Hyderabad

**VASUMANA GHOSH**

## Frontline warriors get do-gooders' assistance

**T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

A few organisations are striving hard to make sure that frontline warriors against Covid-19 pandemic and other caregivers are not deprived of food, groceries and other bare necessities during their fight against the pandemic.

One such organisation, Give Hope Foundation, in association with a privately operated restaurant, started a campaign to help frontline Covid workers each day. As a part of its drive, the members of the organisation are providing protective gear, masks and nutritious healthy meals to them. Anybody can participate and donate groceries and other food items by scanning the Give Hope Foundation QR code.

Speaking to this newspaper, Vasumana Ghosh, a representative of the organisation said, "We have been active for some time, but in the last two weeks we have had some tremendous response for the drive."

"We have conducted various activities like supplying food and groceries to old-age homes, orphanages, GHMC workers and schools during these Covid times," she said.

During the pandemic, the group has distributed ₹1.5 lakh worth masks and sanitiser to law and order departments, traffic police, GHMC workers and sanitation workers, she added.

**DR KHIZER HUSSAIN JUNAIDY**



## Nights for needy: A doc of a different kind in city

**ATHER MOIN | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Every night, after the evening prayers, Dr Khizer Hussain Junaidy reaches his clinic in Mallepally. A pharmacology resident doctor at Gandhi Medical College, Dr Khizer spends almost the entire night seeing patients, counselling them about Covid-19, and tries to educate people not to be afraid of the disease but take every step to protect themselves from it, and provides the course of treatments for those whose families turn up at his clinic for help and guidance.

During the month of Ramzan, Dr Khizer works at the clinic till Sehri, the pre-dawn meal, attending to an average of 150 people who visit his clinic. Once the word spread that there was a doctor willing to see Covid-19 suspects, or even patients, people began lining up, he said.

Most of those who visit the night clinic are poor. "Most of my job here is educating families about taking precautions and spreading awareness about the disease," he said.

## DRDO adds life to fight against Covid

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

In what comes as a major help to patients who are getting treated at various hospitals in two Telugu states, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex of DRDO handed over oxygen to Andhra Pradesh state, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board and Secunderabad Cantonment to meet the scarcity of oxygen while treating Covid-19 patients.

It may be mentioned here that lack of oxygen has already claimed many lives so far during the pandemic second wave.



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex of DRDO hands over oxygen cylinders to TTD and Secunderabad Cantonment to meet the scarcity of oxygen while treating Covid-19 patients.

Officials of DRDO in Hyderabad

handed over 200 oxygen cylinders to meet the urgent requirement of oxy-

gen supply at hospitals and medical institutions in various parts of the country. It has procured oxygen cylinders from various sources. These cylinders are of 46.7 litre water capacity each and can be pressurised up to 150 bars. Each of these cylinders can store 7,000 litres of oxygen. These are high pressure seamless cylinders certified by Bureau of Indian Standards and approved by Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation.

A total of 100 cylinders have been handed over to Andhra Pradesh, 50 to TTD and 50 to Secunderabad Cantonment at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, DRDO, Hyderabad.

# GHMC logs 23,704 cases in April, 611 died in state

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

With the Telangana state health department reporting 51 more deaths due to Covid-19 on Friday, the total number of fatalities due to the pandemic has touched 611 in April alone.

Total deaths due to Covid-19 so far in the state now stand at 2,312. The department also reported 7,754 new cases of Covid-19, taking the total number of cases to 43,360 so far. Of the total cases, 3,621 patients had recovered or deemed to have recovered from the disease so far, including 6,542 on Friday, claimed

the department.

Meanwhile, there was no let-up in new cases piling up in Hyderabad and the rest of the GHMC area from where 1,507 more people were tested Covid-19 positive. A total number of 23,704 cases were reported within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits in April, the highest number in a month since the outbreak of the pandemic. Of the 1,34,584 cases recorded in Telangana state in the month, about 20 out of every 100 belong to Hyderabad city and its neighbouring areas.

According to the department, 77,930 tests were conducted across the state on Friday. Of these, results from 5,186 were not included in the department's Covid-19 bulletin as the results have been still awaited. The number of active cases on Friday evening stood at 78,888, the department said.

After the GHMC area, Medchal-Malkajgiri district has reported 630 new cases, Ranga Reddy 544, Sangareddy 325, Karimnagar 281, Siddipet and Mahabubnagar 279 each, Nizamabad 267, Jagtial 255, Suryapet and Vikarabad 242 each, Nalgonda with 231 and Khammam 230 new cases.

## CM INSTRUCTS CS TO MONITOR COVID SITUATION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Saturday instructed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to personally monitor Covid-19 situation in the state by reviewing the issue thrice a day.

The instructions were issued soon after the portfolio of medical and health was transferred from Etala Rajender.

Rao asked Somesh Kumar to be cautious about Covid-19 surge in the state and ensure that there would be no problems in making available injections like remdesivir, vaccines, oxygen and beds in hospitals.

The CM also deputed special secretary in CMO P. Rajasekhar Reddy to regularly monitor the pandemic from the CMO. He sought all high-level officials in the medical and health department to be on alert and work to free the state from the clutches of corona as early as possible.

## FIRE ACCIDENT AT COVID HOSP IN NIZAMABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, MAY 1

A fire accident occurred at the Covid-19 hospital in Nizamabad on Saturday. Government General Hospital is designated as Covid-19 hospital and treating the patients. Fire engulfed the scanning room and the machinery and furniture was damaged in the mishap. Fire tenders were pressed into service to extinguish the fire. It is suspected that a short circuit caused the fire accident. Covid-19 patients were admitted on the top floors and the fire accident occurred in the ground floor.

Bharuch police said,

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court while hearing the shortage of oxygen

said, "We hope no lives were lost," the court responded, to which the hospital said: "We have... including one of our own... one doctor."

About 230 people were left without oxygen for 80 minutes.

Batra hospital has 327

patients out of which 48

are in the critical care unit.

It has been raising alarms

since Saturday afternoon over depleting levels of oxygen supply.

"Once a patient is pushed to the edge without the support of oxygen, it is very difficult to revive him.

Unfortunately, we are expecting more fatalities," said Sudhantha Bankata, executive director of the hospital.

Dr Himthani, head of the gastroenterology department, was among those who died due to lack of oxygen, said Dr S.C.L. Gupta, medical director of the hospital. He had been admitted to the hospital for the last 15-20 days.

The hospital had sent out an SOS message about oxygen shortage on Saturday.

Dr Gupta said they had informed the authorities about lack of oxygen

Saturday morning when they had 2,500 litres of the life-saving gas left. The oxygen tanker arrived at 1:35 pm, they said, adding that they were without oxygen for 80 minutes.

About 230 people were left without oxygen for 80 minutes.

Saturday was the second time in the space of a week that the hospital ran out of oxygen.

Moula Mufti

Mufti Rayeesuddin of Mudhole

said many Madrasas have stopped paying the salaries of the staff as their exchequers are emptied.

It is observed that the collection in this Ramzan

is merely 30% compared to previous years.

Madrasas in remote areas

have suffered more.

Madrasas in villages

receive meagre donations.

If the situation continues

further, these institutions will vanish.

General Secretary Jamiat Ulama e Hind, Telangana Moula Mufti Mahmood Zubair Qasmi expressed that the collections of

## IN BRIEF

**Helpline set up for orphan kids**

**Hyderabad:** The Women and Child Welfare Department has set up a helpline for receiving information about children who lost their parents to Covid-19. Anyone who has information on such children who need care, can call 040-23733665 between 9 am and 6 pm, and the department will take custody of such kids and look after their needs and upkeep.

**TRS FLAYS BANDI OVER COMMENTS AGAINST KCR**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaders lashed out at the BJP Telangana unit president Bandi Sanjay for his unsavoury remarks on Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao as well as on TRS Ministers and MLAs. Minister Talasani Srinivas and Government Whip in Assembly Balka Suman were addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here on Saturday.

Talasani expressed anger at Sanjay for using 'unparliamentary words' being a Member of Parliament to criticise the Chief Minister day in and day out.

**EX-CONG MIN.: INQUIRY ON ETALA WAS PRE-PLANNED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Former Congress MP Mallu Ravi on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao ordering an inquiry on Eatala Rajender was pre-planned and was aimed at removing him from the Cabinet.

"Mr Eatala, who actively participated in the Telangana agitation was fighting on behalf of the public who are in grave situation due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic."

Removing him from the Health Ministry is pre-planned. Though it is an internal issue of the TRS, it reflects autocratic rule in Telangana. Rule of law must be applied to all the erring Ministers. People of Telangana are watching everything and will decide who is right and who is wrong in a short time," he added.

**DASOJU LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR MASK DISTRIBUTION**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

On behalf of Kharabatbad Assembly Congress Committee, AICC national spokesperson Sravan Dasoju on Saturday launched free Covid-19 mask distribution programme in Hyderabad.

The free distribution is in follow up of instructions given by Congress president Sonia Gandhi that the party launch this unique programme on occasion of May Day, as central and state governments have miserably failed in containing the deadly spread of Coronavirus.

TPC working president Ponnambalam Prabhakar attended as the chief guest and took part in the novel initiative organised at Panjagutta X roads in the city.

**TS SHUTS ZOOS, SANCTUARIES FROM TODAY**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

All zoological parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in Telangana will be indefinitely shut for visitors and tourists from Sunday, May 2.

Announcing this on Saturday, State Forest Department said the closure comes in wake of directives from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to prevent spread of Covid-19 from humans to wild animals.

Popular among the places closed are Nehru Zoological Park and KBR National Park in Hyderabad, Kakatiya Zoological Park in Warangal, and Amrabad and Kawal tiger reserves.

However, urban forest parks owned and managed by the Forest Department will remain open during their normal scheduled hours.

**No testing kits**

Due to non-availability of sufficient Covid-19 testing kits, many people return home from the Musheerabad Urban Primary Health Centre. Social distancing too had gone for a toss here.

—S. SURENDER REDDY

**Confer Bharat Ratna on Dr Ella, says Gudur****Says Bharat Biotech made vax in limited time**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday called on the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna on chairman and managing director of Bharat Biotech International Limited Dr Krishna M. Ella for the development and rollout of Covaxin, the first indigenous developed vaccine for Covid-19.

The vaccine, Narayana Reddy said, was helping in preventing spread of Covid-19 and had been saving lives of crores of people around the world.

Narayana Reddy appealed to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to recommend the name of Dr Krishna Ella to the Government of India for

expert Dr Anthony Fauci

said that it had been found to neutralise the 617 variants of coronavirus. Due to its advantages, Covaxin had become the most sought-after Covid vaccine in India, Narayana Reddy said.

"Those who have worked closely with Dr Ella say that he never takes shortcuts and scientists at his foundation do more research than any country. He said.

Bharat Ratna Award.

He said Bharat Biotech made all-out efforts to bring out the vaccine in a limited period of time under the leadership of Dr Ella, and stood first among all the frontline warriors.

Covaxin has been proved to be very effective and White House Chief Medical Adviser and America's top pandemic

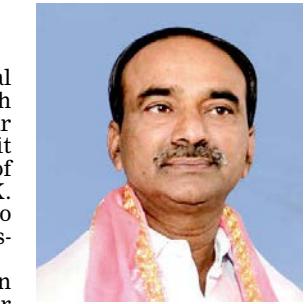
expert Dr Anthony Fauci said that it had been found to neutralise the 617 variants of coronavirus. Due to its advantages, Covaxin had become the most sought-after Covid vaccine in India, Narayana Reddy said.

"Those who have worked closely with Dr Ella say that he never takes shortcuts and scientists at his foundation do more research than any country. He said.

Narayana Reddy said Dr Ella had taken up developing the vaccine as a cause and not as a business. In the process, he performed a yeoman's service to the world and emerged as a hero in the fight against the Covid pandemic and made India one of the countries to have produced a vaccine for Covid-19.

**It's CM's prerogative: Etala Expresses happiness over Rao taking over health portfolio**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1



Etala Rajender

Reacting to his removal as medical and health minister, Etala Rajender on Saturday said that it was the prerogative of the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to change Cabinet ministers.

Rajender even expressed happiness after the Chief Minister took charge of the portfolio and hopes that the people would get better medical facilities in these difficult pandemic times.

of my constituency, my supporters, are my bosses. I can't take any decision on my future course of action without consulting them. I will act according to their wishes and aspirations."

On the shocking developments that were unfolding since Friday, Etala Rajender said, "Everything appears to be well-planned. It appears that a conspiracy has been

hatched against me in order to defame me. In my 20 years of political career, I never faced the brunt of vendetta politics."

On whether he would resign his minister post, he said, "Let the inquiry report come out. They said I had encroached 100 acres and had built sheds on them. Let the probe panels come out with their findings. I will react to this only after the inquiry report."

In the same vein he pointed out, "Even during Telangana statehood agitation, several Seemandhra leaders lured me with various offers and packages to quit TRS and join them but I never compromised. Why would I do now?"

**Etala poll rival says he has startling evidence**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1



P. Kaushik Reddy

Adding to the charges made by farmers and investigating agencies against Etala Rajender of encroaching assigned lands, Congress leader P. Kaushik Reddy, who unsuccessfully contested against Etala in the 2018 Assembly polls, offered to provide 'startling evidence' to the investigating agencies as well as the CBI to unearth the whole scam.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* on Saturday, Kaushik Reddy stated that he had gathered documentary evidence to prove that Etala had encroached not just assigned lands but also government lands in Atchampet village in Medak district.

Sources also said the minister's family members do not own much patta land in their name. There was a dispute over about 12-acre land between brothers of a family and one of them registered the land in the name of the minister's wife and son despite prohibitory orders.

To enable a free and fair probe, Etala should be sacked from the cabinet, arrested and sent to jail in the land grabbing case under TS Assigned

Land (Prohibition of Transfers) Act, which stipulates six years imprisonment for violators.

He said Etala, a native of Kamalpur village, owned a mere two acres of land when he entered politics. In his 2004 election affidavit, Etala had declared assets of around 30 acres of land. However, in the 2018 election affidavit, he declared 69 acres. Reddy wondered how he owned over 100 acres now.

Any assigned land allocated to farmers, should neither be sold nor purchased under the Act. He demanded the immediate arrest of Etala under the provisions of the Act.

**MINISTER'S CAMP DENIES WRONGDOING**

From Page 1

There is no record to establish that the change of land use was done and doubts were raised over the Canara Bank processing the loan without change of land use.

Meanwhile, sources said that of the total 116 acres in possession of the hatchery, a few sheds and roads were constructed in about 20 acres, which included assigned lands. Even constructing a compound wall encompassing assigned lands attracts the provisions of Prohibition of Transfer Act 1977, a senior official pointed out.

Sources also said the minister's family members do not own much patta land in their name. There was a dispute over about 12-acre land between brothers of a family and one of them registered the land in the name of the minister's wife and son despite prohibitory orders.

Reddy alleged that Etala had encroached 227 acres of government

land and 34 acres of assigned land and fenced the entire premises illegally.

He also demanded a CBI inquiry into the land grabbing cases against Etala. Reddy said though Etala was removed from the health portfolio, he continues to be a minister without portfolio.

To enable a free and fair probe, Etala should be sacked from the cabinet, arrested and sent to jail in the land grabbing case under the provisions of the Act.

**AADHAAR | MESS****Consumers with no link to Aadhaar in trouble****Inflated water bills await 5 lakh consumers in GHMC**

**MADDY DEEKSHITH DC**  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

for four months towards water usage.

According to highly placed sources, consumers living in GHMC areas, who have not seeded their Aadhaar numbers for availing free drinking water scheme within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has gone on to even announce that consumers will now receive consolidated bills

as per guidelines issued by the state government, all domestic-slum, domestic-individual, domestic-multi storied building / bulk connections are eligible for 20 KL (20,000 litres) of free water supply provided they link their customer account numbers (CAN) with Aadhaar in accordance with G.O. Ms. No. 211 dated December 2, 2020.

While domestic-slum connections are not required to fix meters for availing the scheme, domestic-individual and domestic-MSB / bulk connections will have to fix functional meters at their connection points to become eligible for the scheme.

According to official data of water board, 4,36 lakh consumers residing in the city can enjoy drinking water free of cost and together benefit by saving an amount of ₹4.78 crore per month. As many as 7.87 lakh individual consumers have to fix three lakh water meters to save for themselves ₹6.91 crore a month. 24,967 domestic apartments and bulk connections have to fix 17,192 meters for getting a benefit of ₹8.23 cr per month.



संत लंगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान

Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology

(Deemed to be University under MoE)

Longowal-148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

अखिल भारतीय स्लाइट प्रवेश परीक्षा

SET - 2021 ALL INDIA SLIET ENTRANCE TEST

ADMISSION NOTICE - SESSION : 2021-22

Online Applications are invited for admission to Integrated Certificate-Diploma (ICD), ICD (Lateral Entry), B.E., B.E. (Lateral Entry), M.Tech., M.Sc. and Ph.D. Programmes. Eligible ICD Students of SLIET need to apply through Lateral Entry. Seats in ICD programme under PWD are also available.

Start of Online Application Process 15.04.2021

Closure of Online Application (ICD, Lateral Entry to ICD & BE) 15.06.2021 Date of Entrance Test (BE Lateral Entry) 11.07.2021 Set - III

Closure of Online Application (MSc, MTech, PhD) 15.07.2021 Date of Entrance Test (MSc (SET VII), MTech (SET VII), PhD (SET VII)) 08.08.2021

Programme Eligibility Programme Eligibility

ICD (3 Years) Matric (10<sup>th</sup>) B.E. (4 Years) As per JEE (Main)-2021 Admission Through JoSAA/CSAB

ICD (Lateral Entry) 2 Year ITI Course/Certificate/10+2 M.Tech. (2 Years) B.E./B.Tech./B.Sc.(Engg.) Admission Through CCMT/SET VII

M.Sc. (2 Years) Physics, Chemistry, Maths B.Sc. (Non-Med./Med.) Admission Through CCNM/SET VI

B.E. Diploma in appropriate Branch of Engineering (SET-III) PhD Master's Degree in Engineering / Technology/ Science/ Humanities/ Management (SET-V)

For details www.sliet.ac.in, E-mail: chairmanset21@gmail.com, Tel:01672-280075, 2513155: HELPDESK No.01672-253178, 253179

(मारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)

## SHORT TAKES

## TWO HELD FOR SMUGGLING MARIJUANA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The South Zone Task Force team apprehended two persons who were smuggling marijuana into the city and seized 50 kilos of contraband from them on Saturday.

According to the police, the accused men, identified as Mohd Khader, 26, and Mohd Mujeeb, 31, were smuggling the drug from Visakhapatnam Agency area in an SUV. Their associate, Mohd Aziz, has been absconding. "Khader, a native of Nalgonda, ganged up with Mujeeb, a resident of Channayangutta, due to financial issues and with the help of Aziz, hatched a plan to smuggle marijuana into the city from Visakhapatnam. Based on a tip-off, we caught them at Falaknuma late Friday night," said the task force police. Both the arrested persons, along with the seized contraband, were handed over to the Falaknuma police for further action.

## UNIDENTIFIED BODY FOUND IN PARKED AUTO

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Decomposed body of an unidentified man was found in a parked auto rickshaw in Rajendranagar area on Saturday. Preliminary enquiries revealed that the man had consumed alcohol and died inside the auto about four days ago, according to the police.

Locals who noticed a foul smell emanating from the vehicle near Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple informed the police, who reached the spot and found the body of a man in 40s in the driver's seat.

"The auto belongs to another man who used to transport schoolchildren, but has been out of job due to online classes. We suspect that the man who was found dead in his auto had consumed alcohol inside the vehicle and died about four days ago. His identity is yet to be ascertained. The body has been shifted to hospital for post mortem," said Rajendranagar police inspector K. Kanakaiah.

## CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client Singiravinda Rao S/o late S. Satyanarayana Rao, No. 180, Krishnamoorthy Village, Guntur, Revenue Mandal, R.R.District - 500075 has filed a suit bearing O.S.No. 52 of 2021 on the file of II Additional District Judge, Sangareddy District for specific performance of Agreement of Sale Dated 22-7-2020 in respect of agricultural land in a plot No. 44-01-Antara containing of Ac. 6.21 gts in Sy.No. 168, Ac. 14.03 gts in Sy.No. 169, Ac. 10.31 gts in Sy.No. 170 & Ac. 14.26 gts in Sy.No. 171 of Ramoguda, Hamlet of Nadigamra Village, Patancheru, Mandal Sangareddy District against Sri. Andam Begum W/o late Mr. H. H. Ali Khan, son & daughters i.e. (1) Mirza jaffar, Ali Khan, (2) Noorunnisa Begum, (3) Mehdi Begum, (4) Zainab Begum, (5) Hussain Begum, (6) Panica Hassan, (7) Mirza Kaukab Hyder Ali Khan & (8) Ameen Baqith Banu Begum @ Nargol All residents of No. 10-22-45-1-Antara, E.P. No. 10-22-45-1-Antara, Haveli, Hyderabad and also Residents of Flat No. 96, 2nd floor, Nizam Plaza Apartments complex bearing premises No. 22-7-669, Purani Haveli, Hyderabad. It is reliably learnt by my client that his above named Vendors are trying to alienate the said property from me by suppressing prior agreement to my client and pending of the above suit. Therefore, the general public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said persons or their agents or anybody else claiming through or under them in any manner. In respect of the above mentioned facts of the above caution notice, if anybody enters into any kind of transaction or deal with them, they will be doing so at their own risk and peril. All such illegal actions shall not be binding on my client.

Sd/- Mohammed Samsuddin  
Advocate  
Flat No. 312, Super Falcon, Apartments  
Falcon Valley, Shaikpet, Hyd - 500008  
(M) 9010161116

## PUBLIC NOTICE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase Agriculture land situated at Cheemaldari (V), Monimpet (M), Vikarabad District, Telangana from the below land owners

1) Pashan Mohan Reddy S/o P. Sitaram Reddy, R/o Hyderabad & having title vide Registered Sale Deed Nos 8102/18, 448/21, 777218, 186/20, 136/21, 35/21, in Sy. No. 23/1, 23/2/2, 23/2/21, 50/A, 50/A, 51/A, 51/A, 52/A/1, 52/A/1, 52/A/2, 53/2/2, 53/A/1, 54/A/2, 54/A/1, addressing Ac.8-11 gts.

2) Further, Pashan Mohan Reddy S/o Sitaram Reddy Agreement Holder in Sy. No. 23/2/3, 22, 22/E/1, 22/E/2, 22/E/1, 22/E/3, 22/E/2, 24, 24/E, 24/E/1, 24/E/3, 51/A/1, 51/A/1, 51/A, addressing Ac.11-20 gts.

3) Pashan Andlu w/o P. Mohan Reddy owner of land in Sy. No 22/A/1, 22/A/2 vide registered sale Deed No. 625/2021. Addressing Ac.2-8 gts.

Total addressing of 22-20 gts.

If any of the General Public has any interest or right or claim whatsoever may contact the below mentioned advocates with documentary proof of their claim, right, interest within 7 days. After expiry of 7 days' time, no claim shall be entertained.

## SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the Property is the agriculture land Ac.22-20gts situated in Sy.No. 22, 23, 24, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 (shown as above) situated at Cheemaldari village, Monimpet (M), Vikarabad District.

A. SRINAGESH  
Advocate  
Ph. No. 9000710105  
Office# 1-4-6711, Flat No. 203  
Maruthi Anand Enclave, Gandhi Nagar,  
Hyderabad - 500080.

## N'sagar bypoll vote count today

Postal votes to be counted first, then EVMS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

Elaborate arrangements have been made for smooth conduct of counting of votes for the byelection to Nagarjunasagar Assembly segment, which will begin at 8 am on Sunday, according to the election authorities. Covid-19 norms will be strictly implemented in the counting centre. The staff, counting agents and media persons, who test negative for Covid in Rapid Antigen Test will only be allowed into the counting centre.

Counting will be done in the godowns of Telangana State Warehouse Corporation at Arjala Bava on the outskirts of Nalgonda. EVM boxes will be opened by officials at 7 am in the presence of counting agents of candidates.

The bypoll was conducted on April 17 in 346 polling stations in the constituency. In all, 41 candidates contested the byelection and 86.8 poll percent was reported. Counting of polled votes

is as follows: Gurrampode, Peddavoor, Tirumalgiri (Sagar), Anumula, Nidmanoor, Madugulapeta.

According to the election authorities, Covid-19 norms will be strictly implemented in the counting centre. The staff, counting agents and media persons, who test negative for Covid in Rapid Antigen Test will only be allowed into the counting centre.

"Tests were already conducted on those assigned for counting, and passes have been issued. Three-level security arrangements will be put in place by the police at the counting centre. In addition to sanitising the counting centre for every three hours, PPE kits will also be supplied to agents of contesting candidates," an official said.

shot dead and another person, Srivinas, both employees of Writer Safeguard, sustained injuries while trying to avert the ATM robbery in Kukatpally.

Two armed robbers, who are yet to be identified, were booked by the Cyberabad police for the crime and efforts are on to trace them. "We have formed eight teams to detect the case headed by the Station House Officer of Kukatpally T. Narsing Rao, and monitored by DCP Cr-

imes and ACP of Special Operations Team under the guidance of Cyberabad Police Commissioner, VC Sajjanar," said Kukatpally ACP B. Surender Rao, adding that the rumours about the arrests of migrant labourers were false.

The staffers were carrying cash to dispense at the ATM of HDFC Bank at Patel Kunta Park and were ambushed by the armed robbers while they were unloading the cash chest.

## Cops file PD Act against four offenders

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 1

The Cyberabad police invoked PD Act against four men involved in a Multi-Level Marketing scam on Saturday. They were arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad police earlier in March.

As part of an ongoing drive against repeated offenders who disturb public order, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar has invoked PD Act against four economic fraudsters, identified as Abhilash Thomas, Prem Kumar, Subramanyam and Imadulla Sharif and detained them in Central Prison, Cherlapally.

"They had collected ₹1,500 crore from about 10 lakh people across the country in the guise of direct selling and cheated them. Despite continuous efforts by the Cyberabad police to check these ponzi schemes and prevent economic frauds, such activities are surfacing frequently across the country, keeping enforcement agencies on their toes," said a police official.

Two cases were registered against them in Gachibowli and RC Puram police stations under Cyberabad Commissionerate. The EOW sleuths arrested the accused persons on March 5 and lodged in Cherlapally Central Prison.

DEVARA MALLESHWAR  
DOB: 20-05-1937 DOD: 24-04-2021

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
Shri. GAMPALA ARVIND KUMAR  
DOB: 06-09-1952 D.O.D: 26-4-2021  
*We Miss You Every Moment in our Life*

SHRADHANJALI  
1958  
SRI K KALLASAPATHI  
passed away Peacefully on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

We miss you every moment of our lives. Your presence continues to surround us. You still live in our hearts and mind. Your friendship is unforgettable and we lost a great friend.

S. Siva Shankar ; C. Ramchander ; B.H. Subramanyam ; V. Srihari ; Bhogaraju ; G. Krishna ; P. Nagara ; K.N. Murthy ; Sainath

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## SHORT TAKES

## COUNTING OF VOTES IN UP AFTER SC'S NOD

**Lucknow, May 1:** Counting of votes for the panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh will be held on Sunday with the Supreme Court on Saturday refusing to stay the process and the State Election Commission (SEC) saying the candidates and their agents will be allowed to enter the counting centres only if they have tested negative for Covid-19 in the 48 hours prior to the commencement of the counting process or taken both doses of the vaccine.

In a special urgent hearing on a holiday, a bench of justices AM Khanwilkar and Hrishikesh Roy passed the order after taking note of several notifications and assurances of the SEC that the Covid-19 protocols will be followed at all the 829 counting centres.

The court directed that there will be a strict curfew in the entire state till Tuesday morning and no victory rallies will be permitted. It also asked the SEC to fix the responsibility for observance of Covid-19 protocols at the counting centres on gazetted officers.

The bench directed the poll panel to preserve the CCTV footage of the counting centres till the Allahabad High Court concludes its hearings on the related petitions before it.

It also ordered that the government officials, candidates and their agents will have to produce RT-PCR test reports to show that they are Covid-19 negative before entering the counting centres.

The Uttar Pradesh Prathmik Shikshak Sangh (UPPSS), in a letter dated April 29 and addressed to the chief minister and the state election commissioner, had said if the counting of votes on May 2 was not cancelled, the teachers will boycott poll duty.

## GST REVENUES HITS A RECORD OF ₹1.41L CRORE

**New Delhi, May 1:** GST collections crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the seventh month in a row and touched a record high of over ₹1.41 lakh crore in April, indicating economic recovery, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, which directly reflect the state of economic activity, in April are 14 per cent higher than ₹1.23 lakh crore mopped up in March.

In April last year, the revenue had plummeted to a record low of ₹32,172 crore, after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Coronavirus. As economic activity picked up, GST collections started crossing the ₹1 lakh crore mark since October last year.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of April 2021 is at a record high of Rs 1,41,384 crore, of which CGST is ₹27,837 crore, SGST ₹35,621 crore, IGST ₹68,481 crore (including ₹29,559 crore collected on import of goods) and cess ₹9,445 crore (including ₹981 crore collected on import of goods). During April, revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 21 per cent higher than in March.

"GST revenues have not only crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark successively for the last seven months but have also shown a steady increase. These are clear indicators of sustained economic recovery during this period".

## Queues for O2, beds, thanks to Modi: RG

**New Delhi, May 1:** As India logged a world record of over four lakh Coronavirus infections on Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the entire world is shaken by what is happening here and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi for queues everywhere, whether for oxygen cylinders, for life-saving medicines, for hospital beds and even outside cemeteries.

"Rely on yourself is the motto. No one will come to help you. Definitely not the prime minister," Gandhi said, while alleging that the Covid-19 situation has gone completely out of control for the Modi government, and wondered whether it was their way of making the states and the citizens truly

## Delhi extends lockdown till May 10 after 27,000 new cases

National capital also battles shortage of beds, oxygen in its hospitals

**New Delhi, May 1:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced an extension of the ongoing lockdown in Delhi by another week on Saturday amid a sudden surge in Covid-19 cases as the national capital battles an acute shortage of beds and medical oxygen in its hospitals.

"Lockdown in Delhi is being extended by one week," Kejriwal said in a tweet.

The lockdown that was scheduled to be in force till 5 am on Monday now stands extended by another week till May 10.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in its order on the extension of the lockdown, stated that a review of the pandemic situation showed that the numbers of positive cases, positivity rate as well as bed occupancy (oxygen-supported or ICU beds) in the dedicated Covid-19 hospitals are very high.

"...therefore, in order to contain the spread of the virus and break the transmission chain, the curfew needs to be extended for another week in the territory of NCT of Delhi (except for essential activities and services)," it said.

In view of the spiralling number of fresh Covid cases and a high positivity rate, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government imposed the lockdown in Delhi on April 19. It was subsequently extended by a week on April 25.

The DDMA has directed to extend the curfew (lockdown) on the movement of individuals (except for essential activities and services) till 5 am on May 10 or further orders, whichever is earlier.

The Covid situation in the national capital is extremely grim as the festering crisis due to the shortage of oxygen claimed 12 lives in the Batra hospital on Saturday, even as the Centre and the city government are involved in a blame game.

The number of fresh Covid cases is still soaring, despite the lockdown.

The number of positive cases in a 24-hour period stood at over 27,000 with a positivity rate of 32.69 per cent and 375 deaths, according to the Delhi government's health bulletin on Friday.

"We will have to watch the situation for a few more days whether the number of cases decreases or increases," Kejriwal had said on the first extension of the lockdown.

Chamber of Trade and Industry chairman Brijesh Goyal said 65 per cent of the traders are in favour of an extension of the lockdown.

Community platform LocalCircles said 75 per cent respondents in a survey conducted by it in the national capital favoured extending the lockdown.

Many believe that till Delhi goes back to a daily caseload of 10,000 and a test positivity rate of less than 10 per cent, the lockdown would be needed, LocalCircles chairman Sachin Taparia said. — PTI

● **THE NUMBER** of positive cases in a 24-hour period stood at over 27,000 with a positivity rate of 32.69 per cent and 375 deaths.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at Sis Ganj Sahib Gurudwara on the 400th Prakash Purab of Guru Teg Bahadur in New Delhi on Saturday. — PTI

## India records highest-ever 4,01,993 fresh Covid-19 cases in last 24 hours

**New Delhi, May 1:** India's daily coronavirus tally crossed the grim milestone of four lakh, while the death toll rose to 2,11,853 with 3,523 fresh fatalities, according to date updated by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

The infection tally rose to 1,91,64,969 with 4,01,993 new cases, while the active cases crossed the 32-lakh mark, the data updated at 8 am showed. Registering a steady increase, the active cases stood at 32,68,710, accounting for 17.06 per cent

of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has further dropped to 81.84 per cent.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,56,84,406, while the case fatality rate stands 1.11 per cent, the data stated.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7; 30 lakh on August 23; 40 lakh on September 5; and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28; 70 lakh on October 11; crossed 80 lakh

on October 29; 90 lakh on November 20; and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of 1.50 crore on April 19. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 28,83,37,385 samples have been tested up to April 30, of which 19,45,299 were done on Friday.

The 3,523 new fatalities include 828 from Maharashtra, 375 from Delhi, 332 from Uttar Pradesh, 269 from Chhattisgarh, 217 from

Karnataka, 173 from Gujarat, 155 from Rajasthan, 122 from Uttarakhand and 120 from Jharkhand, 113 each from Punjab and Tamil Nadu. A total of 2,11,853 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 68,813 from Maharashtra, 16,147 from Karnataka, 15,523 from

Tamil Nadu, 12,570 from Uttar Pradesh, 11,344 from West Bengal, 9,022 from Punjab and 8,581 from Chhattisgarh. — PTI

## States delay vaccination plan due to big shortage

**New Delhi, May 1:** India rolled out the third phase of its Covid-19 vaccination drive for those in the 18-45 age group on Saturday though the inoculation process failed to take off in some states due to shortage of vaccines.

While Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir among other states and union territories launched the vaccination drive, Karnataka and Odisha made only a symbolic start to it.

Blaming organisations authorised by the Centre for not making vaccines available, the Jharkhand government said it will announce fresh dates for the jabs once they reach the state.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren said he has sought the

Centre's intervention in facilitating procurement of at least 50 lakh vaccine doses. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry had also said on Friday that they do not have adequate stocks of vaccines to meet the expected rush of immunity seekers.

After these states expressed their inability to start the latest phase of the vaccination drive from May 1 citing paucity of doses, the Centre had said those, which have already coordinated with manufacturers, will kick off the drive on the designated date.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that inoculation of people in the 18-45 age group will begin in the national capital from Monday, adding 4.5

lakh vaccine doses have been received by the city government. He visited a vaccination centre at Saraswati Vihar for a "symbolic launch" of the nationwide drive. He also urged people not to queue up outside the vaccination centres, saying walk-ins are not allowed yet.

The Kerala government said that vaccination of those in the over 18 years age bracket will be delayed due to shortage of vaccines and urged the Centre to take steps immediately to ensure their availability.

The vaccination of those above 18 years of age will be delayed by a few days. As efforts are on to procure vaccines from manufacturers, those in the 18 plus category cannot be given the jabs now," CM Vijayan said.

## FAUCI SUGGESTS LOCKDOWN TO CONTAIN COVID-19

**New Delhi, May 1:** Top US epidemiologist Anthony Fauci has suggested a lockdown for a few weeks in India as an immediate step to contain the spread of the coronavirus as its deadly second wave shows no signs of ebbing.

Fauci, in an interview to The Indian Express, said another most important thing in the immediate is to get supplies of oxygen, medication, PPEs.

He said looking at the magnitude of the crisis, India should look at putting together a crisis group that would meet and start getting things organised.

Without naming any government, he said one of the things that should have been recognised that "victory was declared maybe too prematurely". — PTI

## Cine personalities take to Twitter to pay rich tributes

## Actor Bikramjeet passes away



Bikramjeet Kanwarpal

noteworthy performances were in Anil Kapoor-starrer "24", "Adaalat", "Diya Aur Baati Hum" and "Yeh Hai Chahatein".

He was last seen in Disney Plus Hotstar web series "Special Ops". Kanwarpal is survived by his parents.

Soon after the news of the actor's demise, several cine

personalities took to Twitter to pay tributes to one of the most "disciplined, energetic and positive man".

Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh said Kanwarpal's sudden death has left him heartbroken. "Extremely sad news. I've known Major Bikramjeet

for so many years. He and I have worked on so many films together. The last being Bypass Road. Such a fantastic, encouraging and energetic human being he was and will always be remembered as. #RIP My dear friend will miss you," he wrote.

Music composer-singer Vishal Dadlani called him a man of dignity. "A man who lent dignity to everything he did, #BikramjeetKanwarpal carried the Fauji stamp. Jai Hind, Sir," he said.

Actor Siddhant Kapoor shared a photograph of him on his Instagram Stories.

"I'm so sorry major! Will have dinner with you on the other side some day! Love you my beautiful soul RIP thank you for serving the nation, lost a friend and a co-star," he wrote.

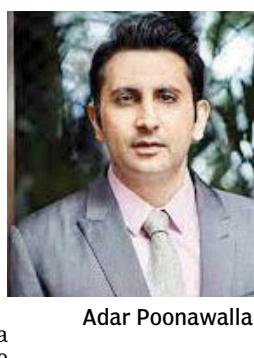
Rohit Bose Roy remembered Bikramjeet for his jovial nature. "And we lose another one... The happiest, most gentlemanly, always positive and smiling Major Bikramjeet.. RIP," he said.

Actor Bidita Bag said he was a disciplined man while serving in the army and also as an actor. "As an army officer he religiously served India. He was a disciplined man in his previous post as also in his current thespian art. He was lively, vibrant, full of energy. My grief goes boundless that I would ever never get him as an inspiring co-actor. RIP #BikramjeetKanwarpal," she said. — PTI

## Got aggressive calls from the powerful: Adar

**London, May 1:** Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla on Saturday spoke out about the pressures he was under over the production of Covid-19 vaccines to meet the ever-increasing demand in India as the country battles through a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first comments since he was provided with Y category security by the Indian government earlier this week, Poonawalla told The Times in an interview about receiving aggressive calls from some of the most powerful people in India, demanding supplies of Covishield — the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine that the Serum Institute is producing in India.



Adar Poonawalla

That pressure is largely behind his decision to fly into London to be with his wife and children, the 40-year-old entrepreneur said.

"I'm staying here (London) an extended time because I don't want to go back to that situation. Everything falls on my shoulders but I can't do it alone... I don't want to be in a situation where you are just trying to do your job, and just because you can't supply the needs of X, Y or Z you really don't want to guess what they are going to do," Poonawalla told the newspaper.

The level of expectation and aggression is really unprecedented. It's overwhelming. Everyone feels they should get the vaccine. They can't understand why anyone else should get it before them, he said. — PTI

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM - C NOTIFICATION (Under Section 11 of the Act, where 10A Exemption is given) (See Rule 6/12)												
District Collector No. G1/41/2017 Dated: 22/04/2021 Revenue Divisional Officer, Lr.No. C/64/2017 Dated: 26/03/2021 Revenue Divisional Officer, Lr.No. C/33/2017 Dated: 25/03/2021												
Gazette No. 153 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana, that a total extent of 43.30% gts., land is required in Narsampally village of Tooran Mandal & an extent of 0.11% guntas of land is required in Manoharabad Village & Mandal in Medak District for public purpose namely New B.G Railway for formation of Manoharabad to Kottapalli in the limit of Narsampally village of Tooran Mandal & Manoharabad Village & Mandal.												
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Narsampally village of Tooran Mandal & Manoharabad Village & Mandal in Medak District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac 3.30% gts. & 0.11% guntas, whose detailed description is as follows under acquisition.												
SCHEDULE Village: Narsampally Mandal: Tooran District: Medak												
Sl. No	Sr. No	Name of Land	Extent	Name of the Original Patta, Address	Boundaries	Trees	Structures	East				

# DECCAN Chronicle

2 MAY 2021



Shashi Warrier

**Off the beaten track**

## Criminal? Or practical, though only for temples?

People across southern India celebrated their new year, and other occasions, in the middle of April... "Celebrated" is the wrong word to use in the midst of the rising second wave of the coronavirus, but that was what it looked like. The little temple across the street, for instance, that came up illegally two years ago, had its second anniversary a few days before the new year. The temple committee announced a comprehensive day-long programme of festivities. There were to be six hours of noise and feasting: excruciating *bhajans* sung into a sound system that could be heard half-a-kilometre away, and a "traditional" lunch and dinner consisting mostly of rice and other starchy foods. Hundreds of people turned up, with vehicles crowding the narrow street, and not a mask in sight. And, of course, there were large piles of the garbage that the temple workers and visitors simply tossed across the wall into the vacant lot to its south.

A few days later came the new year, Ugadi in these parts, celebrated with vigour by crowds of devotees, accompanied by the noise, the feasting, and the garbage that seem to be an integral part of every celebration. Masks and social distancing were forgotten. Following shortly after was a week-long festival at one of the oldest and largest temples in the neighbourhood, involving three daily rounds of crowds and noise and gorging, and, of course, garbage in the aftermath. News emerged during the festival that the head of one of the large *akhadas* involved in the Kumbh died of Covid-19 after getting the disease during the *mela*. Devotees either didn't know or didn't care, for the festivities went right on. The police filed a First Information Report against the temple committee for violating Covid guidelines, to no effect.

In the midst of all this came my wife's birthday. In the time of the pandemic, she gets Zoom calls and good wishes instead of visitors and presents, and she doesn't complain. My friend the professor from the business school called on Zoom, as he did last year, and, when he had finished with the greetings, I took the opportunity to pour out my complaints to him, about the crowds and the noise and the waste of food and the garbage.

He heard me out without batting an eyelid. "I have only bad news for you," he said, when I had finished my rant. "What do you mean?" I asked.

"All this stuff is not going to stop in the near future," he said. "It's how business evolves."

"What do you mean, business?" I asked, mystified. "I thought we were talking about crowds and glutony and noise and garbage associated with temples and blind faith."

"Yes," he said. "It's what happens when you convert faith into income. It's called monetisation."

"Nonsense!" I said.

"Relax," he said. "Let me explain. Look at the Kumbh. It happens every twelve years, and millions of pilgrims gather for it: it's in the Guinness Book of World Records, you know, for the largest gathering of people."

"So?" I asked.

"Think about it. Taking care of several million people for several days means a lot of money. All of them eat and drink and sleep and pray and bathe in the Ganges. So somebody has to arrange travel and lodging and food and security and logistics. It's a huge, expensive affair. They clean up entire cities, build new roads, arrange for cities of tents, and for hundreds of tons of food. Think of just the food. It means grain and vegetables and spices and oils and fuel and cooks... You know all that. Figure it out for yourself."

"Right," I said. "But what does all that have to do with the temples here?"

"Every festival is a smaller version of that," he said. "Every celebration involves money. Where there's money there's business. Where there's business there's a business model. And every business model requires growth."

"But the big temples are rich!" I said, for the faithful can be generous. "They've got enough!"

"It's all part of the business model," he said. "Every temple wants more visitors. Every big temple collects lots of money. They do a little social service, feeding the poor every now and again, but that's it. The rest of the money they collect goes into getting more visitors. So they make it easier for people to get there. There are lots of old temples that were hard to get to; you had to walk cross-country to get to them, or climb steep old flights of stairs. All that is changing. They're building roads so you can get there easily... They've built a new road to Mansarovar that goes close to the Chinese border, that cuts three days off a five-day journey."

That made sense. That big old temple nearby used to have a steep stone staircase to the shrine, and when it rained it got really slippery. They did it up last year, so now you can climb safely up even in the heaviest rainstorm. "Right," I said.

"There's more," he continued. "You have people who happen to be on temple committees organising bus tours on special occasions, or hotel accommodation. Running a temple is now a position of power, you know. It combines business and politics."

I couldn't help agreeing. The temple committee had no trouble dealing with that police FIR. "I see," I said.

"Blind faith leaves you unaware of its ill effects," he continued. "There's a profit to be made out of that faith." He paused. "You know, sometimes it looks like governing people is like growing mushrooms."

"How so?" I asked, mystified.

"You keep them in the dark and feed them plenty of horses\*\*t!" he replied.

**Shashi Warrier** has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.

**C**ultural power surpasses the transient aggregation of political heft in West Bengal. In the natural order of things, there is a rise and a fall of political leaders and political parties, and power waxes and wanes in proportion to the will exercised by the people as voters. Ousting a cultural icon from his, and more rarely her, space in the pantheon of secular deities is an entirely different matter; it has not happened in recent memory.

The deification of the creative genius is a metamorphosis that is imperceptible but very real. There are two pantheons in Bengal. The first is the conventional pantheon of the divine, crowded by so many avatars of the goddess or gods that only the cognoscenti know the difference. The second is the pantheon of cultural deities, reflecting a particular aspect of the Bengali sensibility, an eclectic array of political leaders, literateurs, artists, musicians, performers and filmmakers, almost anyone who the Bengali considers to be uniquely gifted and on whom is bestowed the status of an icon.

Satyajit Ray is part of the second pantheon. His centenary year, which begins from May 2, is a moment when the process of this metamorphosis will

be visible. In these pandemic times, the homage, the tributes, the celebration and the cultural programmes may have to be in a virtual space, but that will not deter devotees of Ray's genius from honouring him by revisiting his work and his creativity in as many ways as possible.

The tributes will not be exclusive offerings of aficionados; the inclusivity of the celebrations will affirm his status as an icon. When Ray died in 1992, even manufacturers of objects as entirely mundane as shovels and construction equipment offered their tribute through advertisements, as a reflection of how significant the filmmaker's transition was from mere mortal to one of the pantheon. It did not matter that his films were never the sort of blockbusters that appealed to the masses. In the Bengali perception, Ray was an icon; his work was quintessentially Bengali, but his contribution was recognised as India's gift to world cinema.

It is revealing of West Bengal's unusual ethos that even the BJP, with its claim to being the world's largest party, scrambled to deploy Satyajit Ray to increase its appeal to the Bengali intelligentsia. If the BJP government in New Delhi lives up to its promise of an Oscar-like film award in the name of Satyajit Ray,

his film series featuring the detective that he created, Feluda, is part of the language in which Bengalis think and speak. He pervades the mind and is embedded in the Bengali spirit.

He was not a filmmaker to begin with. He worked as an artist in advertising. He also designed book jackets that are now classics in the world of book design. He created fonts. He created a visual language through his films that is now part of the grammar of filmmaking. The trilogy, the first of which, *Pather Panchali* (*The Song of the Road*), made in 1958, is the one of the greatest films ever made. It was the first of the total of 29 films and five documentaries that Ray made.

He worked with unknowns, including the legendary cinematographer Subrata Mitra, who improvised to create the amazing light in *Pather Panchali*, and the slew of films including *Jalsaghar*, *Teen Kanya*, *Charulata*, *Devi*, *Mahanagar* and *Nayak*. And through that work, men like Subrata Mitra emerged with their extraordinary talent. Soumitra Chatterjee, the legendary actor who passed away in 2020, was a Ray discovery. As were Sharmila Tagore, Aparna Sen and even Madhavi Mukherjee, who had worked in cinema before, but never displayed the

awesome talent she did in *Charulata*, which remains her most lyrical performance ever.

There were distinct periods in the work that Satyajit Ray did. His early films — *Apur Sansar*, *Parash Pathar*, *Jalsaghar*, followed by films like *Kanchenjunga* and *Abhijan*, documentaries including the film on Rabindranath Tagore commissioned on the insistence of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, *Bala*, on the great Bharatanatyam dancer Balasaraswati, who performs on the Madras Marina with the wind blowing her hair and snatching at her sari, are masterpieces.

The last three films by Ray — *Ganashatru* (*Enemy of the People*), *Shakha Proshakha* and *Agantuk* — were very different. These were bold critiques on contemporary social issues, including the conflict between rational science and irrational religion, the idea of the civilised and the primitive, of what is normal and sickness of the mind. Ray did not start out as a filmmaker with an agenda. He was a storyteller. But he responded to the shifts and changes in the world at large and his conclusions were sharp, critical and almost a call to action.

**Shikha Mukerjee** is a senior journalist in Kolkata

## Revisiting the legend @100: Ray's iconic role to endure



Shikha  
Mukerjee

Subhani



## Reprise, for now, from Yogi's victim-blaming



Pavan Varma

**Chanakya's View**

**Y**ogi Adityanath, the saffron-dharmi CM of UP, believes that everything in his state is hunky dory. There is no shortage of oxygen, hospital beds, ventilators, essential medicines. Those who say there are criminals in league with blackmarketeers and anti-social elements and must be dealt with stringently under the law. Like the proverbial pigeon that closes its eyes and believes that the cat has gone, Adityanath thinks that if he closes his eyes all the miseries that people in his state are facing will disappear.

But unlike the pigeon, Yogi has teeth to bite. On April 24, he asked his officials to take action under the draconian National Security Act (NSA) and the Gangsters Act against anti-social elements who spread "rumours" and propaganda on social media and try to "spoil the atmosphere".

The Supreme Court has

PIL stated that people are afraid that they will be arrested for "spreading rumours about scarcities". It further stated that some relatives were actually arrested for this crime.

The Supreme Court has now given a fitting rejoinder to the undemocratic high-handedness of the likes of the UP CM. The hon'ble court on April 30 said: "If a citizen ventiles his grievances through social media posts, there is no presumption that it is not genuine. There cannot be and should not be any clampdown on free speech. If anyone is booked for airing their grievance about non-supply of oxygen, medicines or availability of hospital bed, it will amount to a clampdown and we will treat it as contempt of this court." (Emphasis mine.)

For good measure the court further added: "Let a loud message go out to the states and the DGP. We will brook no violation of the rights to free speech of a citizen when the country is going through a humanitarian crisis during a health emergency. Let there be free flow of information. Grievances aired through social media posts could actually help the government and local administration to attend to common deficiencies in the healthcare sector and attend to them speedily."

Obviously, Adityanath disagrees. From the beginning of his term, his entire approach is to misuse the law for clamping down on anyone who remotely seems to suggest that all is not well in his

state. Earlier, we have seen how sedition cases were slapped on journalists who had the temerity to report the poor quality of food being provided in midday meals in schools in the state. Really, Mr. Adityanath? Sedition? As the Allahabad high court once exasperatedly alluded, the tendency of the CM to treat everything as my highway or the wilderness, has gone too far. Siddiqui Kappan, a journalist from Kerala, was arrested by the UP police on his way to Hathras to cover the dalit teenager's heinous gangrape. At that time the venerable Yogi had used his magisterial powers to prevent journalists from meeting the family, and done everything else to somehow hush up the case. Kappan, in poor health, has languished in jail ever since, until a recent judicial intervention to shift him to AIIMS.

The central government obviously thinks that Adityanath is doing the right thing. On April 25, it invoked the IT Act 2000 to instruct Twitter to remove for viewing in India over 50 posts that were critical of the government's handling of the pandemic. These tweets related to the shortages of medicines, beds, oxygen, the huge crowds at Kumbh Mela and the tragic visuals of mass cremations.

The writer, an author and former diplomat, is in politics

There is only one reason why governments begin to behave this way. It is the hubris of power. When people in power begin to believe that that power entitles them only to praise, and that all criticism is against the interests of the state, and those interests are their exclusive monopoly, they react in this undemocratic way. There is also the myth of the so-called "strong" leader. To my mind, Adityanath loves the image of the autocratic leader who will brook no opposition. Possibly, he draws his inspiration from the perceived persona of the PM himself, who as the "strong" leader has refused to hold a direct press conference ever since he came to power, and considered meeting with the leaders of the farmer's agitation as inimical to his strong-man image. The net consequence of such hubris is demagoguery, and the justification, at any cost, of gross incompetence in governance.

Democracy is a fragile plant. If those who have been elected to tend to it believe that the entire garden is their preserve, and everybody else is an unwarranted trespasser, the plant will wither. For the moment, Adityanath has been soundly put in his place by the Supreme Court. But, such tendencies do not evaporate by one reprimand. They become part of a mindset, and reinforce the actions of other would-be demagogues. To Adityanath, and his ilk, I have only this couplet in response: "Yun dikhati hai aankhen mujhe bagban, jaise gulshan pe kuch haq hamara nahin." The gardener looks at me in such a way, as though I have no rights to the garden."

His film series featuring the detective that he created, Feluda, is part of the language in which Bengalis think and speak. He pervades the mind and is embedded in the Bengali spirit.

He was not a filmmaker to begin with. He worked as an artist in advertising. He also designed book jackets that are now classics in the world of book design. He created fonts. He created a visual language through his films that is now part of the grammar of filmmaking. The trilogy, the first of which, *Pather Panchali* (*The Song of the Road*), made in 1958, is the one of the greatest films ever made. It was the first of the total of 29 films and five documentaries that Ray made.

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## LETTERS

### PROFIT IN CRISIS

In this crisis, people are ready to spend liberally to save their loved ones. It has become an opportunity for black marketers to raise prices by hiding the supplies they have and creating demand. Everything from oximeter to remdesivir, is being sold at three times their original cost. This exploitation is the result of giving authority to private leaders. Neither the Centre nor states are trying to control it.

**Pydipati Krupa Nidhi**  
Hyderabad

### VACCINES DIVERTED

I booked a vaccination slot at Community Health Centre (CHC) in Choutuppal and it was the only one available. I got confirmation and appointment through CoWIN site. When I went there today (Saturday) at the appointed time, I was told that vaccines are over. I saw a woman with a box of vaccines leave with her companion on a motorbike. When I returned disappointed, I was surprised when me and my wife got an SMS stating that we are vaccinated. I suspect vaccines are being diverted.

**Jack Joshua**  
Hyderabad

### INDIA HIJACKED

It is time to review our federal structure vs "double engine" phrase used in recent elections. For sure the Constitution is being hijacked by a powerful party at the Centre and it will just not be a double engine but a one and only dictatorship. If the EC, judiciary, NSA and all related authorities are directed by people in power at Centre to mislead people in different federal parts of India, we must relate it to the Constitution of nation vs selfish political diplomacy.

**Naresh Sohanraj**  
Secunderabad

### NIGHT CURFEW

Is the extension of night curfew for a week serving any purpose? Have Covid-19 cases plummeted? If the cases are surging, what will night curfew till May 8 achieve? People are suffering due to the curfew. They have not yet recuperated their losses suffered for the lockdown last year. The TS government must think out of the box and take a sagacious decision. People must not be led into mess.

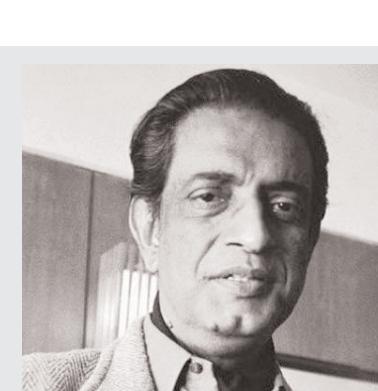
**Zubair Khan**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Union Ministry expanded: 18 new entrants

NEW DELHI, MAY 1 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today expanded her council of Ministers by adding 18 new members to the existing total of 37 but only 17 turned up for the swearing-in ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan this afternoon.

A tribal member from Bihar, Mr. Kartik Oraon, who was appointed Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Communications, was not present to take the oath of office as he was not happy to be a Deputy Minister.



Satyajit Ray (1921-1992)

Bengalis may be pleased, but that is impossible to predict. Satyajit Ray's oeuvre was not limited to making films, or writing his own scripts, or composing the music for his films. His work is part of the popular imagination. Snatches of his music from the fantasy series, *Gopay Gayne Bagha Bayne*, have become signatures in the culture of modern West Bengal. His *Hirak Rajar Deshe* is now the title of an animation series that is a regular satirical take on current politics on a local television channel. The dialogue of



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FIRST FLOOR of Individual House. 2 BHK with Attached bath, close to Paradise Metro station. Call: 986650761, 9849904346 for details. (S/2122/C00226)

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one of the reputed pesticide Formulators, Telling associates of MNC in Hyderabad, South India. We require Chief Chemist with M.Sc, experienced on HPLC, GC, Production Chemists with B.Sc, Experienced in Industry. Senior Accountant with Tally ERP experience & Maintenance Formulator immediately, send resume with photograph to: 9pristine@gmail.com. Pristine Agro Ltd. (S/2122/C00236)

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## LECTURERS

## SHORT TAKES

## THUNDERSTORM KILLS 11, INJURES 102 IN CHINA

Beijing: An extreme thunderstorm hit an eastern Chinese city, leaving 11 dead and 102 injured, with strong winds causing buildings and trees to collapse.

Nantong city, located in the eastern province of Jiangsu, was among the hardest-hit when the extreme weather swept the Yangtze Delta on Friday night, according to state-affiliated newspaper *Global Times*.

Rescuers evacuated 3,050 people, a local government notice said. Wind speeds of 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour overturned a fishing ship. Two sailors were rescued and search operations were underway for the nine remaining crew, the notice said.

Electricity has been restored in Nantong, and collapsed trees, damaged vehicles as well as windows that have been blown away were being cleared.

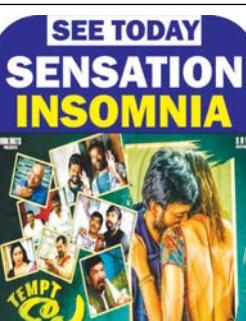
## AFGHAN SUICIDE BOMBING KILLS 21, INJURES 90

Kabul: The death toll in a powerful suicide truck bombing that struck a guest house in eastern Afghanistan rose to 21 with as many as 90 others wounded, officials said on Saturday.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the late Friday night bombing in Pule-Alam, the capital of Logar province. There was no indication why the guest house was targeted.

In Afghanistan, guest houses are lodgings often provided for free by the government, usually for the poor, travellers and students. The Interior Ministry quickly blamed the Taliban. There was no immediate response from the Taliban. The attack came on the eve of the official date set for the start of the final withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

The Taliban, who had demanded that all US troops pull out of Afghanistan by May 1, have not offered any guarantees for the safety of the departing troops. There was no indication the bombing was connected to the pullout.

**SEE TODAY**  
**SENSATION INSOMNIA**  
  
**TEMPT RAVA**  
11.30am,  
2.30pm,  
5.30pm

**CRINNA PRODUCTIONS**  
  
**THRILLING HIT**  
**SAPTHAGIRI 70MM**  
11.00, 2.00, 5.30PM  
**ANJALI 70MM-11.00,2.00,5.30PM**  
**RK-2.00,4.50PM||CON-11.00,5.10PM**  
**PRESTON-1.20,4.10PM**  
**MUSARAMBAGH-2.00,4.50PM**  
**IRRUMMANZIL-11.00,5.10PM**  
**INORBIT-11.15,5.10PM**  
**GALLERIA-11.50,5.00PM**  
**FORUM-11.40,2.30,4.40PM**  
**INOX**  
LIVE THE MOVIE  
GVK-11.00,4.30PM  
MP-11.00,5.00PM|GSM-2.15,5.00PM  
11.00,1.40  
4.20PM  
**NOMA TALKIES**  
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WHERE CINEMA MEETS LUXURY  
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1.00,4.55PM  
**CONTACT:**  
9030 16 1717

# Covid situation in India tragic: Harris

We as a country have made a commitment to support the people in India, says V-P



Visitors wearing face masks gather at a viewing area overlooking the Forbidden City at a public park in Beijing on Saturday. Chinese tourists are expected to make a total of 18.3 million railway passenger trips on the first day of the country's five-day holiday for international labor day, according to an estimate by the state railway group, as tourists rush to travel domestically after the Coronavirus has been brought under control in China. — AP

## WHO approves Moderna vax for emergency use

Geneva, May 1: The World Health Organisation has given the go-ahead for emergency use of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine.

The mRNA vaccine from the US manufacturer joins vaccines from AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson in receiving the WHO's emergency use listing.

Similar approvals for

China's Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines are expected in the coming days and weeks, WHO has said.

The greenlight for Moderna's vaccine, announced late on Friday, took many months because of delays that WHO faced in getting data from the manufacturer. Many countries without their own advanced medical regulatory and assessment

offices rely on the WHO listing to decide whether to use vaccines. UN children's agency UNICEF also uses the listing to deploy vaccines in an emergency like the pandemic.

The announcement, however, wasn't likely to have an immediate impact on supplies of Moderna's vaccine for the developing world. — AP

## CANADA

## Global students not to be allowed entry

Toronto, May 1: Canada is all set to suspend entry of international students, including from India, to Ontario, the worst-hit province which is battling the third wave of the Coronavirus.

According to the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), an education service provider based in Ottawa, there were 530,540 international students in Canada in 2020, of which the maximum were from India (34 per cent) followed by China (22 per cent). Ontario has the maximum number of foreign students at 242,825 or 46 per cent, it said.

During a press conference on Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the government is considering halting the arrival of international

students in Ontario, following a request from the province's premier Doug Ford to combat the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, the globalnews.ca reported.

"Because currently Ontario is the only province to request it, we are happy to work more closely with them," he said. Trudeau said they will be "reaching out to their officials" to formalise the request.

However, there is no clarity as yet on when the change will take effect or how long it will last.

International students are currently exempt from Canada's Covid-19 travel rules. All students must be able to provide a valid study permit or a letter of introduction that shows they were approved for a permit, according to CTV news. — PTI

Wellington, May 1: New Zealand's fledgling quarantine-free travel arrangement with Western Australia faced disruption for the second time in eight days on Saturday following fresh community cases of Covid-19 in Perth.

A worker at a managed isolation facility in the city and two people he shares accommodation with have tested positive, authorities said.

Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan said the state would not go into lockdown "at this point".

But New Zealand health ministry officials said they had conducted a "rapid" assessment and had "determined scheduled direct flights from Western Australia to New Zealand should be immediately paused while a further assessment is carried out."

A flight scheduled to arrive in Auckland from Perth at 5.50am on Sunday (1750 GMT Saturday) has been cancelled, but travel to other Australian states and territories is not affected.

It is the second such disruption since the two countries opened their quarantine-free travel bubble on April 18, almost 400 days after both closed their international borders due to the pandemic.

Flights between New Zealand and Western Australia were suspended less than a week later, when the Perth and Peel regions were sent into a three-day lockdown. — AFP

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## Iran N-talks to resume in Vienna

Vienna, May 1: Parties to the Iran nuclear agreement are to resume on Saturday the third round of negotiations in Vienna aimed at bringing the United States back into the accord.

The deal, which keeps Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief, has been on life support since then US president Donald Trump bolted in 2018.

The remaining partners to the 2015 accord have been engaged in negotiations since early April to try to revive it.

The third round of talks started on Tuesday and, after

several days of technical discussions between expert groups and delegations, will resume on Saturday.

After the talks, the delegations will return to their respective capitals to receive instructions, Iran's foreign ministry said.

A European diplomat said that the American, European, Russian and Chinese delegations held a

joint meeting on Saturday morning, but without Iranian representation as Tehran has refused to negotiate with the US directly.

As well as bolting from the accord, Trump's administration slapped sweeping sanctions on Iran, which in turn started ramping up its nuclear activities.

New US President Joe Biden supports the agreement — with which Iran was in compliance before Trump's sanctions — but has called on Tehran to roll back its measures before Washington ends sanctions. — AFP

## Fans have a ball as Disney theme park reopens

Anaheim, United States: Fans wearing Mickey Mouse ears lined up as Disneyland in California finally reopened Friday, more than 400 days after the pandemic forced an unprecedented closure for the self-styled "Happiest Place on Earth." "It is the greatest feeling ever!" said Momi Young-Wilkins, a 55-year-old mother as she brought her children to the world-famous park near Los Angeles.

"I promised my daughters we would be back here on opening day, and I made it happen." Disneyland Park — the world's second-most visit-

ed theme park — and neighboring Disney California Adventure Park have been closed the longest of all the Mouse House's globe-spanning parks, delayed by California's sharp winter Covid spike and tough restrictions.

But with the Golden State now boasting the nation's lowest per capita infection rate, the sprawling resort flung open its gates Friday to the delight of many of its most obsessive devotees.

Sisters Carla and Jasmine, 23 and 17, who preferred not to give their last name, used to

visit "pretty much every day" before the pandemic.

"We would go after school, after work, and just go on rides, even if it was for a couple hours," said Carla, as they eagerly waited to re-enter.

"We've been excited for this opening day... it's very exciting and emotional!" Inside the park, attendance is capped at 25 percent capacity, and only California residents who have reservations can enter in groups restricted to three households.

Face masks are mandatory, temperatures are checked before admission. — AFP

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## PAKISTAN

## INBOUND GLOBAL FLIGHTS REDUCED BY 20 PER CENT

Islamabad, May 1: Pakistan has decided to reduce the inbound international flights up to 20 per cent of the current numbers from May 5 as part of measures to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country, authorities said on Saturday.

The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), which is the main anti-corona body of Pakistan, said that the decision to decrease the number of inbound flights was taken in view of the prevailing pandemic situation.

In view of prevailing global and regional disease trends, Pakistan has decided to reduce inbound international travel from May 5 to May 20.

International flights to Pakistan will be reduced to 20 per cent during this period, the NCOC said in a statement.

It said that travelers from the existing list of 22 countries banned to enter Pakistan would remain in place. — PTI

## HONG KONG

## MIGRANT STAFF ALARMED AT RULES TO MAKE JAB MUST

Hong Kong, May 1: Hong Kong migrant workers on Saturday criticised plans to make Coronavirus vaccines compulsory for all foreign domestic helpers, labelling the move "discriminatory and unjust".

Health officials said they were planning to roll out mandatory inoculations for the 370,000 domestic helpers in the city, mostly poorly-paid women from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Those wanting to apply for work visas — or renew their current ones — would need to show they had been vaccinated, officials said on Friday.

If the plan goes ahead it would be the first time Hong Kong has directly tied working rights for foreigners to vaccines.

"This is clearly an act of discrimination and stigmatisation against migrant domestic workers," Dolores Balladares Pelaez, chair of United Filipinos in Hong Kong, told reporters. — AFP

## IRELAND

## INDIA ADDED TO MANDATORY QUARANTINE LIST

London, May 1: India is among the five countries that will be added to Ireland's mandatory hotel quarantine list from Tuesday, the Irish government has announced.

Besides India, the other countries that have been added to the list for mandatory quarantine from May 4 are Georgia, Iran, Mongolia and Costa Rica.

The passengers are required to pre-pay for their stay during the quarantine period. — PTI

## NEPAL

## 22 ENTRY POINTS WITH INDIA SET TO BE CLOSED

Kathmandu, May 1: The Nepal government has decided to close 22 border points with India amid a sharp surge in Covid-19 cases in the neighbouring country.

The decision came after the Covid Crisis Management Coordination Committee on Friday recommended to the Council of Ministers to shut down 22 out of a total of 35 border points between Nepal and India, according to officials.

Now, only 13 border points between Nepal and India will now remain operational.

The decision comes in the wake of rising cases of Covid-19 infections in the southern neighbour. — PTI

were on the run.

In his withdrawal announcement last month, Biden said the initial mission was accomplished a decade ago when US Navy SEALs killed bin Laden in his hideout in neighbouring Pakistan. Since then, al-Qaeda has been degraded, while the terrorist threat has "metastasised" into a global phenomenon that is not contained by keeping thousands of troops in one country, he said.

Until now the US and Nato have received no promises from the Taliban that they won't attack troops during the pullout. In a response to AP questions, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the Taliban leadership was still mulling over its strategy. The insurgent group continues to accuse Washington of breaching the deal it signed with Biden's predecessor more than a

**SHORT TAKES**  
**SL spinner takes 6 wickets on debut**

**Pallekele, Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Praveen Jaywickrama took six wickets on his debut to dismiss Bangladesh for 251 and put the hosts in a strong position on day three of the second Test on Saturday.

Jaywickrama, a replacement for the injured Lasith Embuldeniya, has had a modest record in first class cricket, but impressed at Pallekele with his six wickets for 92 to give Sri Lanka a healthy 242-run first-innings lead. He was backed by off-spinner Ramesh Mendis who took two wickets. Sri Lanka, who declared earlier on 493 for seven, did not enforce the follow-on and were 17 for two. The first Test in the two-match series was a draw. — AFP

**Brief scores: Sri Lanka 493/7 decl. & 17/2 vs Bangladesh 251 (Tamim 92, Mominul 49, Jaywickrama 6-92).**

**Hasan leads Pak's rout of Zimbabwe**

**Harare:** Fast bowler Hasan Ali registered career best figures of 5/36 to lead Pakistan to a comprehensive innings and 166 run annihilation of Zimbabwe in the first Test in Harare on Saturday. The 26-year-old finished with 9/89 in the match as Zimbabwe's batting crumbled for the second time in the match, all out for 134 with an hour remaining on the third day at Harare sports club. The victory gives Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

The second Test is also in Harare from May 7. Zimbabwe, who were bowled out for 176 in the first innings, were facing an innings defeat at tea with the total at 118-5. — AFP

**Brief scores: Zimbabwe 176 & 134 (Musakanda 43, Hasan 5/36) lost to Pakistan 426 (Fawad 140, Butt 91, Abid 60, Muzarabani 4/73).**

**Disabled cricket series vs Bangla**

**Hyderabad:** The Board of Disabled Cricket Association (India) is hosting Bangladesh in a cricket series comprising a Test, three One-Day Internationals and an equal number of T20s, from June 23 to July 20.

Hyderabad will host the tour-opening Test and first ODI while the other two one-dayers will be held in Vizag and Bangalore. Later, all the three T20s will be played under lights in Jaipur.

"This is the first international cricket series for physically challenged sportspersons," BDDCA secretary K. Ramreddy said at a press conference attended by BDDCA director Nadeemuddin, joint secretary Ravi Kumar Banjara, Indian team captain Y. Vasanth Kumar and Chella Group CEO Eswaran, who termed his company's support to the series as corporate social responsibility.

**World 107 sends Zverev packing**

**Munich, Germany:** Top seed Alexander Zverev crashed out of Munich's ATP clay court tournament after a shock defeat to qualifier Ilya Ivashka in the quarter-finals on Friday.

Despite winning the opening set on a tie-breaker, Zverev, the 2017 and 2018 Munich champion, bowed out 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 3-6 after Ivashka of Belarus converted his first match point.

The 27-year-old is ranked 101 places below world number six Zverev. "This is a match I should never have lost — I'm sad and disappointed," admitted Germany's Zverev. — AFP

**Live on TV**

**CRICKET**  
IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 3.30 pm; Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

**FORMULA ONE**  
Portuguese Grand Prix: Main Race from 7.25 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, 3

**FOOTBALL**  
English Premier League: Newcastle vs Arsenal from 6.30 pm; Manchester United vs Liverpool from 9 pm; Tottenham vs Sheffield United from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**Italian League:** Udinese vs Juventus from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

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# MI in Poll position

**Pollards' unbeaten 87 off 34 balls downs table-toppers Chennai**

**New Delhi, May 1:** Mumbai Indians beat table-toppers Chennai Super Kings by four wickets in their IPL match here on Saturday.

Kieron Pollard blazed away to the fastest half-century of the ongoing league, reaching the landmark in 17 balls and remaining unbeaten on 87 off 34 balls at the end of the match.

CSK scored 218 for 4 after being asked to bat.

Moeen Ali (58) and Faf du Plessis (50) shared a 108-run stand before Ambati Rayudu pummelled the MI bowling attack into submission with an unbeaten 72 off 27 balls at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Rayudu, who notched up his fifty in just 20 balls, went hammer and tongs with seven sixes and four fours during his stay in the middle.

For Mumbai, Pollard (2/12) snared two wickets while pacers Trent Boult (1/42) and Jasprit Bumrah (1/56) grabbed a wicket each.

In reply, MI were off to a brisk start with Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock putting on 71 runs for the first wicket in just 7.1 overs.

Three wickets fell in quick succession to leave Mumbai Indians at 81 for three in the 10th over, but Pollard took charge of the situation after that, hitting a barrage of sixes and fours to keep his team in the reckoning.

However, Sam Curran bowled a brilliant 17th over, in which he picked up the wicket of Krunal Pandya to break a threatening 81-run partnership while giving away only two runs, to bring CSK back into the match.

But Pollard won it for Mumbai Indians off the last ball. — PTI



Mumbai Indians' Kieron Pollard plays a shot against Chennai Super Kings in their IPL match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday. — IPL

## Struggling SRH sack captain Warner

**New Delhi, May 1:** In a desperate attempt to arrest their slide, SunRisers Hyderabad have thrust Kane Williamson into the leadership role by removing David Warner as they prepare to take on Rajasthan Royals, who are also struggling like them, here on Sunday.

The Royals are not faring any better as they have managed to win only two matches out of the six they have played. No wonder, the Royals are placed seventh just above SRH.

SRH are coming into Sunday's match after losing their last two matches

### HEAD TO HEAD

**Matches** 13

**SRH** 7 RR 6

**LAST YEAR'S MATCHES**

- Rajasthan Royals beat Sunrisers by 5 wickets at Dubai
- Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Rajasthan Royals by 8 wickets at Dubai.

**STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER**

### SCORECARD

**Chennai Super Kings:**

Ruturaj Gaikwad c Hardik Pandya b Boult 4, Faf du Plessis c Bumrah b Pollard 50, Moeen Ali c de Kock b Bumrah 58, Suresh Raina c Krunal Pandya b Pollard 24, Ambati Rayudu not out 72, Ravindra Jadeja not out 22, Extras 10 (lb-2, w-7, nb-1) 10. **Total (for 4 wkt., in 20 overs) 218.**

**FoW:** 4-1, 112-2, 116-3, 116-4.

**Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-42-1, Dhawal Kulkarni 4-0-48-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-56-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-32-0, James Neesham 2-0-26-0.

**Mumbai Indians:** Quinton de Kock & b Ali 38, Rohit Sharma (c) c Gaikwad b Thakur 35, Suryakumar Yadav c Dhoni b Jadeja 3, Krunal Pandya lbw b Curran 32, Kieron Pollard not out 87, Hardik Pandya c du Plessis b Curran 16, James Neesham c Thakur b Curran 0, Dhawal Kulkarni not out 0. Extras (w-8) 8. **Total (for 6 wkt., in 20 overs) 219.**

**FoW:** 1-71, 2-77, 3-81, 4-5-202, 6-203.

**Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-37-0, Sam Curran 4-0-34-3, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-62-0, Shardul Thakur 4-0-56-1, Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-29-1, Moeen Ali 1-0-1.

**INCLUDING THE SUPER OVER**

**Defeat against Chennai Super Kings.**

SRH rely heavily on their top-order — Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Manish Pandey and Williamson — but they did not fire together.

There is a possibility that Warner could be dropped from the playing XI and West Indies captain Jason Holder is likely to replace him. — PTI

### HEAD TO HEAD

**Matches** 27

**PBKS** 15 DC 12

**FOR THE RECORD**

- Lokesh Rahul with 96 sixes in 49 innings of as many matches, needs four sixes to become first batsman from Punjab Kings to complete a century of sixes in IPL.
- Axar Patel who took 24 wickets at an average of 32.58 in 32 innings of as many matches, needs just one wicket to become 13th bowler to complete 25 wickets for Delhi Capitals in IPL.

**LAST YEAR'S MATCHES**

- Delhi Capitals beat Punjab Kings in Super over after match ended in a tie at Dubai.
- Punjab Kings defeated Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets at Dubai.

**STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER**

will like to challenge the DC skipper, who has a knack of hitting against the spin over deep mid-wicket region. The Narendra Modi Stadium track has shown that balls tend to grip and batting becomes difficult as the game progresses. — PTI

## Punjab spinners aim to trick DC

**Ahmedabad, May 1:** Young Punjab Kings spinners Harpreet Brar and Ravi Bishnoi wouldn't mind another dream day in office against a menacing Delhi Capitals here on Sunday, aiming to take a giant leap forward in their bid for an Indian Premier League play-off berth.

Brar's match-winning 3/19 was wonderfully complemented by Bishnoi's 2/19 as their combined haul of 5/36 in 8 overs decimated a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Come Sunday the duo will face a tougher task against the Delhi team which has a slightly better record against spin attacks with openers Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw in imperious form.

Dhawan (311 runs) and Shaw (269 runs) have provided flying starts with five half-centuries between them along with 71 fours and 15 sixes. For any bowling unit, facing the Dhawan-Shaw duo is a scary proposition.

In fact, Bishnoi, who primarily bowls the googly, will like to challenge the DC skipper, who has a knack of hitting against the spin over deep mid-wicket region. The Narendra Modi Stadium track has shown that balls tend to grip and batting becomes difficult as the game progresses. — PTI

### PURPLE CAP

Harshal Patel, RCB	17
Avesh Khan, DC	13
Rahul Chahar, MI	11

### ORANGE CAP

K. L. Rahul, PBKS	331
Faf du Plessis, CSK	320
Shikhar Dhawan, DC	311

### IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Points	Net RR
CSK	7	5	2	0	10	+1.263
DC	7	5	2	0	10	+0.466
RCB	7	5	2	0	10	-0.171
MI	7	4	3	0	8	+0.062
PBKS	7	3	4	0	6	-0.264
KKR	7	2	5	0	4	-0.494
RR	6	2	4	0	4	-0.69
SRH	6	1	5	0	2	-0.264

## Maradona was left to 'fate' ahead of death

**Buenos Aires, May 1:** Argentine football icon Diego Maradona received inadequate medical care and was left to his fate for a "prolonged, agonizing period" before he died last year, an expert medical panel concluded Friday.

In a 70-page document, the panel stated that Maradona, who succumbed to a heart attack on November 25 at the age of 60, "started to die at least 12 hours before" the moment he was found dead in his bed.

Maradona died just weeks after undergoing brain surgery on a blood clot.

A panel of 20 experts was convened by Argentina's public prosecutor to examine the cause of death and to determine if there had been any negligence.

Maradona's neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov and psychologist Carlos Diaz are under investigation as well as two nurses, a nursing coordinator and a medical coordinator.

The finding could result in a case of wrongful death, and a prison sentence of up to 15 years if convicted.

The legal proceedings were prompted by a complaint filed by two of Maradona's five daughters against Luque, whom they blamed for their father's deteriorating condition after the brain operation.

They also found that his treatment was rife with "deficiencies and irregularities" and the medical team had left his survival "to fate". — AFP

Maradona underwent surgery on November 3, just four days after he celebrated his 60th birthday at the club he coached, Gimnasia y Esgrima.

However, he appeared in poor health then, and had trouble speaking.

**'DEFICIENCIES AND IRREGULARITIES'**

The panel concluded that Maradona "would have had a better chance of survival" with