



SUGA IN AMERICA



SUU KYI APPEALS TO
MEET HER LAWYERS
IN PERSON

P6



UK LOBBYING SCANDAL
SNARES FORMER PM

P9



KNIGHTS NOW OUT
TO PUT MUMBAI
IN THEIR PLACE

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 39 and 18 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 66% Min: 21%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 39.2°C (+3) Min: 18.3°C (-3)

SUN RISES

05:57 hrs

MOON RISES

07:16 hrs

SUN SETS

18:46 hrs

MOON SETS

19:55 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A view of the Golden Temple on the eve of Baisakhi festival, in Amritsar, Monday. AGENCE

IIP falls: Showing sluggishness in the economy amid the pandemic, industrial production contracted for the second straight month by 3.6 per cent in February due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Monday. The manufacturing sector ~ which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) ~ declined by 3.7 per cent in February 2021, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Meanwhile, retail inflation rose to 5.52 per cent in March, mainly on account of higher food prices.

P8

President Kovind returns after surgery: President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday said he has returned to Rashtrapati Bhavan after bypass surgery at the AIIMS New Delhi. Kovind, 75, had on 30 March underwent a cardiac bypass surgery. "My speedy recovery is thanks to wishes and prayers of all of you and exceptional care given by doctors and nursing staff at AIIMS and Army's RR hospital. I am glad to be back home," Kovind tweeted.

'Indian Ocean drill could lead to India-US friction'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

The US will not easily discard its hegemony in the Indian Ocean given its strategic location nor will it tolerate any country to share the hegemony with it and this will lead to frictions in strategic interests between India and the US, according to the state-run Chinese media.

In an op-ed, the *Global Times* claimed that out of geopolitical causes, such as coping with the "so-called threat" from China, India has escalated collaboration with US, but there were still many differences between the two nations

ations within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) without seeking New Delhi's consent.

"This is evidently a kind of hegemonic practice. But since both Washington and New Delhi recently have promoted their ties and stepped up cooperation, including in the military, some analysts said their bilateral ties seem to have entered a honeymoon period," the influential Chinese newspaper said.

It wondered why the Indian government did not immediately respond to the US 7th Fleet's transit.

Sushil Chandra
is new CEC

NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra was on Monday appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, the Law Ministry said.

According to a statement issued by the Legislative Department of the ministry, Chandra will assume charge on 13 April. Incumbent Sunil Arora demits office on Monday. Chandra was appointed as an election commissioner on 14 February, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He would demit office on 14 May, 2022.

Under him, the EC would hold Assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The term of the Uttar Pradesh assembly ends on 14 May next year.

In a first, Modi, Shah campaign on same day in West Bengal

SNS & PTI
KALIMPONG/RANAGHAT/
BARDHAMAN, 12 APRIL



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a rally in support of BJP candidates in East Burdwan on Monday. ■ SANJOY KARMAKAR

For the first time, this polling season Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were campaigning in Bengal on the same day.

Drawing a cricket analogy, Prime Minister Modi said on Monday the people of Bengal have hit so many fours and sixes in the first four phases of the Assembly polls that the BJP has already completed its century and the TMC is on course to being wiped out.

He came down hard on chief minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of instigating people against Central forces on election duty in the state. The Prime Minister also launched a blistering attack on Banerjee, saying she did not care to express regret after a

SHEER MADNESS



Amidst rising coronavirus cases nationwide, sadhus during the second Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) at Har Ki Puri, during Kumbh Mela 2021, in Haridwar on Monday. ■ AGENCIES

the Gorkhas. Shah, during an address after a roadshow in Kalimpong, said as long as the Narendra Modi-led BJP government is there at the Centre, no Gorkha will be harmed.

"NRC has not yet been implemented, but whenever it is done, not a single Gorkha will be asked to leave," the senior BJP leader said.

"The Trinamul Congress is lying about the possible fallout of NRC on the Gorkhas to create fear among them," he said.

Noting that Darjeeling and Kalimpong have suffered atrocities for long, Shah claimed in 1986, over 1,200 Gorkhas lost their lives, but they did not get justice.

The home minister also alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government has also been responsible for the death of many Gorkhas in recent times.

Mamata banned from campaigning for 24 hours

SNS & AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 12 APRIL

Mamata Banerjee was banned from campaigning in Bengal for 24 hours this evening over speeches that the Election Commission said violated the poll code.

The chief minister was accused of breaking the law with her comments on Muslim votes and for allegedly urging voters to revolt against central security forces.

Mamata Banerjee announced a sit-in protest against the ban. "To protest against the undemocratic and unconstitutional decision of the Election Commission of India, I will sit on dharna tomorrow at Gandhi Murti,

Kolkata from noon," she tweeted. The ban till 8 p.m. on Tuesday- outgoing Election Commissioner Sunil Arora's final order- comes halfway through the Bengal election, with four more rounds of voting left in an intense campaign pitting Mamata Banerjee against a galaxy of BJP leaders including Prime Minister Modi.

The Bengal chief minister, 66, had been served two notices last week by the Election Commission, which said her replies to them betrayed "selective amnesia".

She was asked to explain her speeches on 28 March and 7 April, allegedly accusing Central forces of intimidating voters and urging women

to hit back or surround the security personnel. "As and when whatever information we get regarding the Sitalkuchi incident, we will share with the media," said Sanjay Basu, additional CEO.

Meanwhile, Biman Basu, who led a delegation of Sanjukta Morcha while speaking to newsmen juked EC's argument of an alleged mob attack trying to snatch the arms of the CISF personnel led to the opening of fire was highly "hypothetical" in the absence of documentation.

Shortly after the EC's decision, her party claimed that the poll panel was behaving like a "wing of the BJP" and its decision smacks of authoritarianism.



Man arrested
for killing father
for money

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

A 61-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by his inebriated son when the father refused to give him money in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area, police said on Monday.

The victim, Manohar Lal, was stabbed multiple times by his 29-year-old son Balwan, who was arrested in connection with the incident, they said.

The incident took place on Sunday near Bheem Basti, Junapur after a quarrel broke out between the father-son duo over some money following which Balwan attacked Lal with a sharp object, police said.

The injured man sustained multiple stab wounds on his abdomen and he was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre where he died during treatment, a senior police officer said.

However, the officer said that the exact number of stab wounds will be ascertained in the post-mortem report which is awaited.

Banquet hall converted into Covid care centre in Delhi

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

the growing number of patients, a senior Delhi government official said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after visited the LNJP Hospital on Saturday and said the COVID centre at Shehnai banquet hall will start working soon. The same banquet hall was converted into a COVID care centre in June 2020 as well.

"The COVID centre at Shehnai banquet has beds with oxygen supply. Doctors will keep watch on the health of patients with mild and moderate symptoms and anyone whose condition deteriorates will be shifted to LNJP hospital," said Rajat Jain, president of Doctors for You that has been looking after administration of the centre.

Various arrangements including security through CCTV cameras, medical staff, food, sanitation have been arranged at the banquet-turned-COVID care centre, he said.

In order to overcome the shortage of beds, work is on to set up COVID care centres at banqueting halls and similar spaces in view of

the growing number of patients, a senior Delhi government official said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after visited the LNJP Hospital on Saturday and said the COVID centre at Shehnai banquet hall will start working soon. The same

banquet hall was converted into a COVID care centre in June 2020 as well.

"The COVID centre at Shehnai banquet has beds with oxygen supply. Doctors will keep watch on the health of patients with mild and moderate symptoms and anyone whose condition deteriorates will be shifted to LNJP hospital," said Rajat Jain, president of Doctors for You that has been looking after administration of the centre.

Various arrangements including security through CCTV cameras, medical staff, food, sanitation have been arranged at the banquet-turned-COVID care centre, he said.

In order to overcome the shortage of beds, work is on to set up COVID care centres at banqueting halls and similar spaces in view of

With 11,491 cases, Delhi sees highest Corona spike so far

72 more Covid deaths logged, positivity rate rises to 12.44 pc, active cases soar to 38,095

The election is a fight to save democracy

MD SALIM, POLITBURO MEMBER, CPI-M

ON HIS PARTY'S STAND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DEFEAT BOTH TMC AND BJP

Capital



A temporarily converted isolation ward for Covid patients in Shehnai Banquet Hall opposite LNJP Hospital, in the Capital on Monday. SNS

ed out of 92,397 tests conducted the previous day.

Delhi had yesterday recorded 10,772 cases — which was the highest single-day figure till then — and 48 Covid deaths.

It had reported 7,897 Covid cases and 39 deaths on Saturday.

The positivity rate was above 15 per cent in mid-November last year.

On Friday, 8,521 Covid cases and 39 deaths were recorded in the national capital. This was also the first time that more than 8,000 cases were recorded in a day this year amid a surge in cases over the last several weeks.

Last Thursday, the city had recorded 7,437 cases. On the two preceding days, the number of cases had stood above 5,000.

Today, the number of active cases in Delhi rose to 38,095 from yesterday's 34,341.

The number of people under home isolation increased to 19,354 from 17,093 the previous day while the number of containment zones increased to 6,175 from 5,705, the bulletin added.

Amid an unprecedented surge in coronavirus cases in Delhi, health minister Satyendar Jain said today that the

Delhi government has written to the Centre to again scale up Covid beds in its hospitals in the national capital.

Interacting with reporters, he also appealed to people to step out of their homes only if necessary and wear masks all the time.

Asked about beds' requirements in view of escalating cases, Jain said, "We are ramping up medical infrastructure post the surge in cases and

5,000 beds have been added in last one week".

"We have also written to the Centre to again scale up Covid beds in its hospitals in Delhi in view of the massive surge. As of now, about 1,090 beds are there in their hospitals, which was above 4,000 during last surge. So, our request is to scale up back to that level," the minister said.

Asked about ventilators requirements, Jain said, "About

50 per cent Covid beds in total are still available in hospitals. And, ventilator beds may be occupied, but very few patients are actually on ventilator."

He had warned last Wednesday that the new cases "could surpass" the previous single-day record of 8,593 cases registered in Delhi on 11 November last year, given the rapid pace of the infection's spread in the city.

Convert some govt, pvt hospitals into Covid facilities: Kejriwal to officials

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL



CM Kejriwal holding an emergency review meeting on Delhi's Covid situation, at Delhi Secretariat in the Capital on Monday. SNS

mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago, the issue of the number of ventilators was huge. Now, we have HFNO, Bi-Pap and high-flow oxygen, which are equally good as ventilators. We should know that not every patient requires a ventilator; only 2-3 per cent need it. If a ventilator bed is occupied, it is counted as a patient being on a ventilator."

But when it comes to the actual use of ventilators, the number of patients

using them is very less. Take for instance, in Burari Hospital. There are 30 patients on ventilator beds. However, no patient is using the ventilator.

Similarly, in LNJP Hospital, there are around 60-70 patients on ventilator beds, but only two or three are using ventilators."

In response to a question about the availability of beds in temporary Covid care centres, the Health Minister stated, "There are 5,525 beds in the Delhi government's Covid care centres where 190 beds are occupied."

On the issue of rising coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jain said, "I appeal to everyone to stay at home and step out only when necessary. It is highly recommended that you wear a face mask while stepping out of your house as this would help us to fight this virus."

Talking about the number of ventilators in hospitals, Jain said, "There are only two types of beds — ICU beds and normal ward beds. A year ago



What she has said is reflective of the TMC's and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's mindset.

BJP GENERAL SECRETARY DUSHYANT KUMAR GAUTAM
REACTION ON THE COMMENTS OF TMC CANDIDATE SUJATA MONDAL KHAN

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021

03

Night curfew imposed in Haryana amid Covid surge

Khattar govt seeks to curb non-essential movement of people from 9 pm-5 am across the state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 12 APRIL

Amid fear of rampant Covid-19 spread in Haryana, the Manohar Lal Khattar-led state government on Monday imposed night curfew in the state from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

With this, the Khattar government has prohibited the movement of individuals for all non-essential activities between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. across Haryana. This curfew order will come into force with effect from tonight and will remain in force till further orders.

During the Curfew timings, no person will leave their homes or will move on foot or by vehicle or travel or stand or roam around on any road or public places during the above said hours.

Giving details in this regard, a spokesperson of the Haryana State Disaster Management



Authority said that in exercise of powers vested under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, there will be complete prohibition on the movement of individuals for all non-essential activities in the state between 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. However, the movement of persons and services that will

related duties (all on production of identity card). Besides this, those who have been specially issued a restricted movement curfew pass by the officers authorised in this behalf are also exempted.

The spokesperson said that there will be no curbs on inter-state and intra-state movement of essential and non-essential goods. All vehicles or persons in bona fide transit (inter-state or intra-state) will be allowed to pass, but only after verification of point of origin and destination.

This apart, hospitals, chemists shops and ATMs will be allowed to remain open for 24 hours on all days. Pregnant women and others are also exempted from the night curfew for getting medical services, said the spokesperson.

He said that passengers going to or returning from the airport or railway station of interstate bus terminal will be

exempted. Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, as well as legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.

The spokesperson said that the country is at a critical juncture in its fight against Covid-19 and the Union ministry of home affairs, as well as the Haryana government has issued various guidelines from time to time to prevent the spread of Covid.

"However, there has been a recent surge in numbers of Covid-19 cases and therefore, it is imperative to put in place strict measure of isolation and social distancing to contain the spread of Covid-19 as a lot of non-essential movement of people and vehicles during the night has been reported," the spokesperson added.

HP CM urges PRIs members to join fight against Corona

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 12 APRIL

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday called on all elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to join the fight against coronavirus and said they must act as a bridge between the people and Health department.

Virtually interacting with over 3,000 elected representatives of three-tier PRIs of Himachal from Mandi today, Thakur said the world, country and the state was passing through a difficult phase of Corona pandemic, thus it becomes duty of each one of us to help the government in fight against this virus.

All elected PRIs representatives played a crucial role during the first phase of Covid pandemic last year and they had not only distributed face masks and hand sanitizers, but also distributed food packets and ration to the needy.

The second surge is more dangerous and fatal, hence, the PRIs members of the PRIs must work proactively to help their panchayats in tackling this

virus," he added.

Thakur said the elected representatives must take lead in motivating the people to strictly adhere to the SoPs issued by the state government from time to time.

They must also ensure that all the people in their panchayats use face masks and ask the people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour.

Besides, they should also make the people aware to avoid gathering in large numbers in various social, religious and other functions, he said.

He further stated that the biggest vaccination campaign was in progress in the country. He urged the people to come forward to vaccinate themselves as this would go a long way in protecting them from the virus.

"The PRIs members must also ensure well-being of the patients under home isolation and they constantly remain in touch with the family members of the patient as this helps in keeping their morale high.

The PRI representatives must also educate the people

under home isolation to adopt various dos' and don'ts to check spread of this virus to other members of the family.

A person under home isolation must not use the same toilet being used by other family members," he said while urging PRIs members to help in making arrangements for separate toilets for the patient.

Thakur said that the PRIs members must also take a lead in motivating the people to get vaccinated and make arrangements for mass vaccination. "The state government has allowed temples to remain open but at the same time, has banned organizing langars, bhandas and kirtans.

The PRIs members must also ensure that the people strictly follow the SoPs regarding temples and marriages.

Addition to this, they must motivate and advise the old people, especially those with comorbidity to avoid going to public places as they are most prone to this virus. Such persons must be reverse quarantined meaning that their movement outside their houses should be minimized to the extent possible," he said.

Himachal to focus on expansion of health infra to tackle Covid surge: Jai Ram

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 12 APRIL

The Himachal Pradesh government will focus on expanding and increasing health infrastructure to tackle any situation arising out of a sharp surge in Covid-19 cases in the state, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Monday.

After a review meeting of Covid-19 situation in Mandi and Kullu districts, Thakur said work on prefabricated hospitals at Bangrotu and Mother-Child Hospital, Mandi must be expedited and completed at the earliest so that ICU bed capacity could be increased.

The Chief Minister said the district administrations must ensure that social functions such as marriages etc strictly follow the maximum limit prescribed for such events and action, if required could be

taken against the violators. "The district administrations must also ensure that adequate arrangements are made to meet out the demand in case of any major surge in the cases.

The residents must be motivated to use face masks and hand sanitizers and also avoid overcrowding in public places.

Apart from this, effective regulation of devotees must also be ensured in temples and other religious places to avoid overcrowding," he said.

He further stated that Kullu district being a major tourist place, witnesses the



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur reviewing the Covid situation with senior officials in Mandi on Monday.

"All the guidelines need to be followed and implemented strictly. The Ayurveda department must also provide 'kadha' to the patients under home isolation but they should be properly guided regarding its proper consumption.

Besides, proper sanitization drive must also be done in urban areas by the sanitary workers," he said.

He directed the Police department to ensure that no casualness be adopted by the tourists, particularly in tourist spots such as Manikaran, Kasol, Manali etc.

State Health secretary

cases from Mandi town alone

and a total of 1,64,280 vaccine doses have been administered in the district till date," Deputy Commissioner Mandi Rugved Thakur informed.

Deputy Commissioner Kullu Dr Richa Verma, while participating in the meeting virtually from Kullu, said that there had been a sharp surge in the number of Covid cases in the district.

"Maximum deaths have been reported in the district due to Covid-19 and co-morbidity. A total of 57,612 doses of vaccine have been administered in the district till date," Verma added.

कोविड-19



रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाएं आयुर्वेदिक उपाय अपनाएं



सामान्य उपाय



पूरे दिन केवल गर्म पानी पिएं।



प्रतिदिन कम से कम 30 मिनट योगासन, प्राणायाम एवं ध्यान करें।



हल्दी, जीरा, धनिया एवं लहसुन आदि मसालों का भोजन बनाने में प्रयोग करें।

सामान्य आयुर्वेदिक उपाय

- नस्य-सुबह एवं शाम तिल/नारियल का तेल या धी नाक के दोनों छिप्पों में लगाएं।
- कवल- 1 चम्मच तिल/नारियल तेल को मुँह में लेकर दो से तीन मिनट कुल्ले की तरह मुँह में ही छुमाएं। उसके बाद कुल्ले की तरह ही थूक दें। फिर गर्म पानी से कुल्ला कर लें। ऐसा दिन में एक से दो बार करें।

- च्यवनप्राश 10 शाम (1 चम्मच) सुबह लें। मधुमेह रोगी शुगर फ्री च्यवनप्राश लें।
- तुलसी, दालचीनी, कालीमिर्च, शुण्ठी (सूखी अदरक) एवं मुनक्का से बनी हर्बल टी/काढ़ा दिन में एक से दो बार पिएं। स्वाद के अनुसार इसमें गुड़ या ताजा नीबू का रस मिला सकते हैं।
- गोल्डन मिल्क-150 मिलीली 0 गर्म दूध में आधा चम्मच हल्दी चूर्चा दिन में एक से दो बार लें।

खांसी/गले में खराश के लिए

- दिन में कम से कम एक बार पुदीना के पत्ते /अजवाइन डाल कर पानी की भाष पें।
- खांसी या गले में खराश होने पर लौंग के घूर्ण में गुड़ या शहद मिलाकर दिन में दो से तीन बार लें।
- ये उपाय सामान्य सूखी खांसी एवं गले की खराश के लिए लाभदायक हैं, फिर भी यदि लक्षण बने रहते हैं तो डॉक्टर से परामर्श लें।

आरोग्य सेतु ऐप डाउनलोड कर उपयोग करें

मास्क का प्रयोग करें

कोरोना से बचाव के लिए Social Distancing अपनाएं

याद रखें: दो गज दूरी, बेहद है ज़रूरी



Quit! If you cannot run the administration and make way for President's rule in the state.

KARNATAKA CONGRESS PRESIDENT D K SHIVAKUMAR

TARGETING THE RULING BJP

India

Mask violation: T'gana cops book 6,478 people

Andhra fails to conduct Tika Utsav for second day as state runs out of vaccines

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 12 APRIL

While Telangana police today booked more than 6,000 people for venturing out without face-masks as the pandemic rages on, Andhra Pradesh today could not conduct Tika Utsav for the second day as the state has run out of its stock of Covid-19 vaccines.

Andhra Pradesh now awaits fresh stock of four lakh vaccines from the Centre either tonight or tomorrow to distribute among the districts. Despite ambitious plans to vaccinate large number of

people in both rural and urban areas, the state was forced to make do with less than one lakh doses on day one and almost no vaccination on day two.

Chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had urged the Prime Minister to send 25 lakh doses for the Tika Utsav. In many places those who were registered to take the second dose of the vaccine had their appointment rescheduled due to the shortage. Andhra Pradesh today registered 3,263 new cases with Chittoor district leading the list with 654 cases, followed by Guntur with 418 and Vizag 454 cases.

Telangana Police today



People buy flowers ahead of Ugadi festival at a wholesale market, amid surge in coronavirus cases, in Bengaluru, on Monday. AGENCIES

booked cases against 6,478 people for not wearing face-masks a day after the state government made wearing face-masks mandatory in public places under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and levying Rs 1,000 fine on those

flouting the order.

Hyderabad Police registered the highest number of 2,030 cases while adjoining commissionerates like Cyberabad and Rachakonda booked 514 and 670 cases, respectively on the same ground.

However, political leaders and cadres came under fire for not wearing masks or adhering to other Covid-19 norms while campaigning in the bypoll for Nagarjunasagar Assembly seat.

Telangana reported 2,251 cases along with 6 deaths but the low count might be attributed to low testing on a Sunday. Greater Hyderabad area reported 355 new cases.

HC to ECI: Hold RS polls for 3 seats in Kerala during present Assembly term

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOCHI, 12 APRIL

Kerala High Court on Monday directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold elections to three Rajya Sabha seats from the state before 2 May, the date of results of the recently held Assembly elections.

A different view is warranted only when there is any law and order situation or any practical impossibility," the court said.

"The fact that it is up to the commission to fix the poll schedule would not mean that it can fix any date," the court further said.

The ECI had initially announced that the elections for the three seats will be held on 12 April, but later it said it is being kept in abeyance after a communication received from the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

Three seats will fall vacant when Muslim League's Abdul Wahab, CPI's KKRagesh and Congress' Vayalar Ravi retire on 21 April.

Amit Shah vows panel to probe Hill 'political killings'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DARJEELING, 12 APRIL

Home Minister Amit Shah today promised a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe all incidents of "political killings" in the Hills and bring to book those responsible for them.

Addressing an election rally in Kalimpong, Mr Shah said that the Gorkhas faced atrocities in the hills in the 80s, with more than 1200 people sacrificing their lives.

"The same happened in Didi's regime when many people died. When the BJP comes to power here, I assure you that we will provide justice to you all by forming a Special Investigation Team and sending to jail all those behind it," said Mr Shah.

However, he spoke nothing on the 'Permanent Political Solution' (PPS) that the BJP has promised for the region, and highlighted the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He claimed that even if it was implemented here, no Gorkhas would be affected.

Mr Shah was in Kalimpong to attend a road show as part of the BJP's election campaign for their Assembly election candidate Subha Pradhan.

"There is a conspiracy going on here of spreading false news that the Gorkhas will be sent packing from here when the NRC is implemented here. The NRC has not come here and even it does, it will not affect the Gorkhas," said Mr Shah. According to him, not even a strand of hair of the Gorkhas will be harmed as long as the BJP is in power.

The Home Minister also iterated the BJP's promise to grant tribal status to 11 Gorkha communities. He, however, did not speak a word on the PPS, which has been one of the main demands of its alliance parties here.

The president of one of the BJP alliance partners, Gorkha National Liberation Front, Mann Ghisingh had on 7 April said in Kuresong that

they should hear what the BJP senior leaders have to say on the PPS issue. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who was present there in Kurseong, also did not speak on it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed a rally in Siliguri on Saturday, also did not mention the PPS.

Making announcements from atop a vehicle which was parked near Dambar Chowk today, Mr Shah said, "We will have addressed your problems in our manifesto. We will be giving importance to Nepali/Gorkha language in Bengal and also introduce a TV channel in your language at Doordarshan. Apart from that, we will establish a museum dedicated to Freedom Fighters at a cost of Rs 100 crore."

He also talked on the contribution and sacrifice of Gorkhas in the country while maintaining that the Trinamul Congress, Congress or the Communist parties did not recognize the same.

Mr Shah further said that they would work for granting land rights to tea garden and cinchona plantation residents, hike in the wages of tea garden workers to Rs 350, All India Institute of Medical Sciences-like health facility in north Bengal, along with a central university. He also said that Rs 1,000 crore will be sanctioned to make the Hills a tourism hub, along with free education for women and free tickets for them on buses, trains and metro trains. He also promised depositing Rs 18,000 in bank accounts of farmers, along with providing Rs 5 lakh as medical assistance to the people.

Maintaining that 2 May, the day the election results are scheduled to be out, would be a "farewell to Didi," he appealed to all to make help the BJP win the three Hill seats, "so that the farewell is a grand one."

Mr Shah will be making an appearance in Darjeeling tomorrow.

Cooch Behar deaths now parties' poll campaign issue

MANAS R BANNERJEE

SILIGURI, 12 APRIL

The death of five persons in Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar on the fourth phase of polling for the Assembly elections on Saturday has now become a top issue in election campaigns for the remaining four phases.

Political party leaders, especially those from the BJP and Trinamul Congress, have been attacking each other in public rallies, while Left and Congress leaders met Election Commission officials today over the Sitalkuchi incident.

Addressing political meetings, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have been holding the TMC responsible and are accusing the TMC of provoking people in attacking central forces.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee have criticised them on the Sitalkuchi incident.

Addressing a public meeting at Dhubguri in Jalpaiguri, Mr Shah said: "Mamata Banerjee is always scolding me and asking me to step down from my post."

"The resignation letter is ready in my pocket. Should I step

down now?" Mr Shah asked the audience and said: "Mamata Didi is talking about the death of four persons (belonging to the minority community). But Didi has not yet expressed her sympathy at the death of a Rajbanshi boy Ananda Barman there."

"Ananda was shot dead by TMC goons as he was going to cast his vote," Mr Shah claimed. Pointing out to the Sitalkuchi incident, Mr Shah came down heavily on Miss Banerjee for her alleged appeasement of a particular community. "Had you not provoked your men, the incident would not have occurred," Mr Shah added.

According to political observers, the Sitalkuchi incident has also created sharp religious polarization among voters and that it would help the BJP, as it has adopted a resolution on Hindutva to take on Miss Banerjee in the elections. On the other hand, Trinamul Youth Congress president Abhishek Banerjee, addressing a rally in the Phansidewa Assembly Constituency near Siliguri today, claimed that Central Paramilitary Forces killed four innocent persons at point-blank range as they were in a queue in front of a polling station.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ON Load Changeover Switch in Power Cars of Delhi Division.
Tender No.	30-Elect-1T-Chg-2021-22
Approx. cost of the works in (Rs.)	Rs. 47,91,080/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 0.00
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 0.00
Period of completion of work	05 Months
Last date & time of submission of tender	03.05.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs.
And Opening of tender	03.05.2021 at 15.01 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

830/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE	
Dy. CSTE/TW. Divisional Railway Manager Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:	
1 Name of Work	*Provision of OFC & associated equipments Philar-Lohian khas Sections of FZR Division.*
2 Approximate Cost of the work	Rs. 2,59,69,360.32/- (Two Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty and paisa Thirty Two only)
3 Tender No.	172-Sig/TW/NR/T-06
4 Cost of tender form	Nil
5 Address from where tender document can be downloaded	Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 13.04.2021 from 11.30 hrs.
6 Earnest money	Nil
7 Completion period	06 (Six) months
8 Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 23.04.2021 upto 11.30 hrs. of 07.05.2021. Date of tender Opening : 07.05.2021 at 11.30 hrs.
9 Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.: 172-Sig/TW/NR/T-06 Dated: 12.04.2021	829/2021 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TPWODL	
TP WESTERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED (A Tata Power & Odisha Govt. Joint venture) Corporate Office, Berhampur-768017	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Tender Enquiry No.: TPCODM/AO/W051	
TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited invites tenders (2 part bidding) from eligible vendors for the following package:	
Scope of Tender:	
Maintenance of LT & HT Network, FCC, DTR, Installation, Replacement and Shifting of single phase meter, New connection up to 5kw, Recovery and disconnection in Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Ltd.	
For detailed tender document, please visit Tender section on website https://www.tatapower.com and www.tpwodl.com . Further details for participating in tender is given in the tender document.	
Interested bidders to submit Tender Participation Fee and Authorization Letter through email before 19 th April 2021, 1500Hrs, after which link from e-Tender system shall be shared. All future correspondence regarding the tender, bid submission, bid submission date extension etc. will happen with participating bidders only through E-Tender system.	
Sd/- Chief Contracts & Stores	

Quit! If you cannot run the administration and make way for President's rule in the state.

KARNATAKA CONGRESS PRESIDENT D K SHIVAKUMAR

TARGETING THE RULING BJP

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sealed items rate tender are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, H.P.P.W.D., Dhami, on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, on the prescribed form, from the eligible and experienced contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department.

Sr. No. **Tender Schedule**

1. The last date of receipt of application for tender form.
2. The last date of issue of tender form
3. The last date of receipt of tender.
4. The date of opening of tender.

Date
Upto 03-05-2021 at 4.00 PM
Upto 04-05-2021 at 4.00 PM
Upto 05-05-2021 at 11.00 AM
Upto 05-05-2021 at 11.30 AM

The tender form can be obtained against payment of Rs. 350/- (Rs Three hundred and fifty only) non refundable) and contractor will be required to produce documents of registration in appropriate class , list of completed works and sale tax registration certificate . The tenders shall be opened in the presence of contractors or their representative.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Accounts / FDR of Nationalized bank duly pledged in the favour of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, H.P.P.W.D., Dhami, must accompany with the application form for the tender offer. The tender received without earnest money for each work in the prescribed mode and so also the conditional / telegraphic / ambiguous tender shall not be entertained and the Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject the conditional / telegraphic / ambiguous tender without assigning any reason thereto. Also tender sent by Fax / e-mail shall not be entertained / considered and will summarily be rejected.

The request for issue of tender should be on the PRESCRIBED APPLICATION which can be obtained from the office of undersigned on the above mentioned date and time and tender will be issued only to those contractors who qualify the criteria, after the scrutiny of application form. The request on prescribed application should accompany the registration of appropriate class, (attested copy be attached) GST, registration No, and proof of registration under Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952.

The validity of tender has been given in the tender document. If any contractor / firm withdraw the offer within validity period then his earnest money shall be forfeited and shall finally be at the disposal of State Government. The contractor is advised to write the rates both in figures and in words, failing which the tender shall be rejected straight way.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of Form

<tbl_r cells="6" ix="3" maxcspan="1" maxr



Allow emergency use of more Covid-19 vaccines, expand vaccination based on need...

CONGRESS PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI
AMID A SURGE IN CORONAVIRUS CASES IN THE COUNTRY

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021

05

THUMBNAILS



A Muslim man, seen setting prayer timings in different watches for Ramzan festival, in Hyderabad, on Monday. ■ AGENCY

Amarnath online registration: Online registration of pilgrims for cave shrine of Shri Amarnath in Kashmir will commence on 15 April for both the Baltal and Chandanwari routes. This year's 56 day pilgrimage will begin on 28 June and culminate on Raksha-Bandhan, the 22 August. Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) said that the intending pilgrims shall visit the URL: www.jksasb.nic.in and will then be guided for the steps to be followed. ■ SNS

Ambedkar birth anniversary: The 130th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar, which falls on 14 April, is likely to be a low key affair for the second year in the row at his birthplace Mhow in Madhya Pradesh due to Covid-19 restrictions. ■ PTI

National Herald case: The Delhi High Court granted time to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and others accused in the National Herald case, to file replies on a plea by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy seeking to lead evidence before the trial court. ■ PTI

Bengal govt gears up to tackle spike in Covid cases

The state has decided to increase testing facilities, hike the existing Covid management infrastructure by 20 per cent



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 12 APRIL

taken expediently.

According to an official, Bandopadhyay has asked all DMs to ensure that Covid guidelines are followed while giving permission to political parties for holding road shows and gatherings.

The infrastructure facilities that were in place last October, when there was the highest number of active and daily cases would be taken into account while undertaking the infrastructure plan.

Officials have been asked to ensure masks are made mandatory on road and hand sanitizers are used frequently. The hospitals have been asked to increase beds, oxygen availability and home monitoring system within 48 hours as was the case in October.

Those who can be treated at home, the doctors should be made available for this system, he said.

Along with this, the government will restore its system for monitoring the ambulance services, hospital infrastructure, Rapid Covid tests and vaccination.

Currently, 3,961 out of 5,604 beds in government hospitals and 692 out of 2,485 beds in private hospitals are vacant.



Passengers gather at the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to board outstation trains, amid the ongoing spike in Covid-19 cases, in Mumbai on Monday. ■ AGENCY

SAD holds Captain responsible for flaws in Punjab's Covid management

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 12 APRIL

Covid care items, large scale irregularities in testing, scams in procurement of Covid kits and shortage of ventilators and ambulances. All this resulted in people shunning government facilities and a complete lack of faith in the government efforts to control the spread of the pandemic."

Badal said these aspects were also reflected in the report of the Central team which disclosed that the situation was dire in the worst affected districts of Patiala, Ludhiana and Mohali because contact tracing exercise was not being done.

In a statement, the SAD leader said the CM was directly responsible for the present state of affairs and the mortality rate in Punjab was one of the highest in the country because Amarinder had refused to take control of the situation from the very start.

The CM isolated himself in his farm house and subsequently Punjab witnessed scams in procurement of

slow place of Covid vaccination", the Lok Sabha member from Bathinda added.

Asking the CM to take stock of the situation personally and visit the nine worst affected districts to ensure required changes occurred at the ground level, Badal said it was unfortunate that the Congress government had failed to upgrade medical infrastructure in all districts of the state even one year after the onset of the pandemic.

She also asked the CM to act on the report immediately and take action against officials responsible for the deficiencies reported by the Central team.

"An audit should also be done on the money used to counter the pandemic and misuse of Covid funds should be identified and acted upon," Badal added.

SC to pass order on new SPPs for coal scam cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

The Centre on Monday objected to the names suggested by the Supreme Court appointed special public prosecutor for selecting new SPPs in the coal scam cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate after which the top court said it would pass orders based on the names given to it by the lawyers concerned.

Senior advocate RS Cheema, appointed SPP in 2014 by the top court, has sought to be relieved from the responsibility citing his age and shortage of law officers assisting him. Cheema has agreed however to act as the SPP in cases lodged by CBI in coal scam.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said, We will pass order in the matter.

During the hearing, the top court asked for the opinion of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, on the two names with it-advocates Satish Tamta and D P Singh. The bench said Singh is appearing for the ED in the AgustaWestland case and another matter. Mehta said he has suggested the names of senior advocate Maninder Singh and advocate Rajesh Batra.

Advocate M L Sharma, the main petitioner in the coal scam case, said that there are so many accused in the coal scam cases and most of the

Lakhs take dip in Ganga on shah snan amid rising Covid-19 cases

HARDIWAR, 12 APRIL

Amid rising coronavirus cases nationwide, a sea of saffron-clad seers and ash-smearred Nagas converged at Har ki Pari in Hardiwar for a holy dip in the Ganga during the second shah snan of the Kumbh Mela on Monday.

Led by their 'mahamandaleshwars', the sadhus from different akhadas took out shobhayatras through the main thoroughfare of the pilgrimage city to gather at Brahma Kund, Hari ki Pari for the shah snan or the royal bath on Somvati Amavasya.

Masks were not worn by a large proportion and social distancing appeared impossible in an event in which, according to the mela administration, over 17 lakh people had taken a dip in the river in the first few hours up to 10 am. Mela inspector general Sanjay Gunjyal said 100 per cent compliance with Covid-19 norms is not possible with such a large crowd of seers converging on the ghats, but efforts were on to ensure that everyone adheres to them. Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar said the shahi snan was being conducted smoothly throughout the mela kshetra from Haridwar to Devprayag. More than 20,000 police and para military personnel kept an eye over the mela area spread over 600 hectares. ■ PTI

BSY warns of possible lockdown unless people cooperate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, 12 APRIL

With Karnataka clocking over 10,000 cases a day, a worried chief minister, B S Yeddyurappa, today warned of a possible lockdown unless people take the basic precautions necessary for keeping the Covid-19 virus away.

The chief minister told newsmen this afternoon that it was imperative for the people to respond appropriately for their own good otherwise the government would have no choice but to impose a lockdown.

In fact, his warning does

not come as a surprise, particularly as the government's Technical Advisory Committee on the subject has already recommended the imposition of lockdown in the state, albeit for a short period. If only to contain its spread.

The officials, meanwhile, warn that the state may well see a peak in Covid-19 cases by May first week before slowing down by month end.

Yeddyurappa, meanwhile, also spoke about his interaction with the Prime Minister while talking about the steps taken by the state government to check the spread of the virus.

These included the imposition of night curfew in a few districts.

The Prime Minister, on his part, had also emphasised the importance of focussing on micro containment zones.

Having said that the fact remains that both the chief

minister and his colleagues remain averse to any thought of an economic lockdown.

The crippling impact of last year's lockdown during the first phase of Covid-19 is still fresh in the government's mind.

Witness, therefore, the government's reiteration that if people are aware and cooperative, there is no need for a lockdown or measures to curb economic activities.

According to the health minister, K Sudhakar, it is imperative to be vigilant till end May especially as our health infrastructure will be overburdened if there is a surge in cases.

Meerut shows upward trend in cases:

Matching up with the data of Covid-19 cases at the national level Meerut district has shown an upward trend in past 11 days of April with a highest 219 cases being recorded on Sunday taking the total of positive cases to 1330 in this month so far.

Concerned over the spread of Covid-19 in the district at such a high pace the administration had even imposed a night curfew between 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. since Friday which will continue till 18 April.

Development comes with a price in Bihar, literally!

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 12 APRIL

Development works being carried under the Nitish Kumar government are now costing Bihar dear, literally. While a portion of the iconic 130-year-old Khuda Baksh library building faces demolition to make way for a flyover, 10 government schools are being razed to the ground to widen another road and make the traffic smooth.

At present, historians, researchers, scholars and intelligentsia are up in arms against the state government's plan to bulldoze a portion of the heritage Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library in Patna to construct a flyover. The iconic library with 21,000 rare

manuscripts and over 2.5 lakh books in various languages has been attracting researchers from across the globe.

A group of educationists, historians, scholars and cultural artists have threatened to take to the streets if the government went ahead with its plan to demolish the library building. The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), on the other hand, has written a letter to the chief minister urging the latter to protect the building saying the library is a 'heritage of Indian culture'. In a sudden U-turn, the government today said the partial demolition would be carried out only if the library authorities gave their consent.

Some of library's rare collections of the library set up in 1891 include Tarikh-e-Khandan-e-Timuriyah, a history of Mughal

dynasty commissioned by Emperor Akbar and the only manuscript of its kind, a copy of English poet Lord Byron's Ode to Napoleon in which two additional stanzas have been added in what is considered to be Byron's own handwriting and a miniature copy of the Quran that is 2.5 mm wide.

Similarly, the state government is demolishing 10 government schools in Gaya district to widen a road connecting Patna from Gaya. Of the total schools to be demolished, four are middle schools, three primary schools and the rest high schools. Education department officials said they would require around Rs4 crore to search for suitable land for these schools and shift

them into new buildings but these all processes would take time. However, the proposed demolition of schools has left the local villagers angry.

Prior to that the study of the children suffered a lot after the Maoists blasted more than 50 government schools in the state using dynamites and other explosives to protest government offensive against them. The demolition prompted the poor schoolchildren to write an emotional open letter to the rebels urging them to spare the temples of learning. In their reply, the Maoists regretted their acts but said they had no options other than demolishing these schools since they are being used to launch operations against the poor.

Terrorists have misused mosques for terror attacks in Pampore on 19 June, 2020, Sopore on 1 July, 2020, and Shopian on 9 April, 2021. General public, Masjid Intizamia, civil societies and media should condemn such acts," the IGP tweeted.

It is worth mentioning that on 19 June last year, the security forces neutralised two terrorists during a fierce encounter in south Kashmir's Pampore where they took shelter in the Jamia Masjid from where they targeted a joint team of the Army, CRPF and Police. The terrorists were sent in the mosque to convince them to surrender but the effort remained futile.

On 1 July last year, a CRPF jawan and a 65-year-old civilian were killed when terrorists fired at them from the attic of a mosque in Sopore in north Kashmir. Besides, three other CRPF personnel were injured. Two of the 5 terrorists on 9 April entered the mosque in south Kashmir's Shopian from where they fired at the security forces. All 5 were neutralized without any damage to the mosque where the security forces exercised maximum restraint.

The IGP also asked the parents of the newly-recruited terrorists in Kashmir to make continuous appeals to their children to shun the path of violence and not confine themselves to the last appeal when their children are trapped in an encounter.

Lt. General Pandey said that cooperation of the civil society was necessary for breaking the cycle of violence in the south and central Kashmir where social and on-line

media was being misused to recruit and radicalize the youth. Connect between the civil society and security forces was also necessary to meet the challenge.



Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Sh. Vinay Kumar Khanna
LD, District Judge (Commercial-Court)
South District Room No. 503,
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SUIT NO. CSJD 1071/18

Title: UNION BANK OF INDIA
VsPlaintiff
Himanshu Kumar Sharma
and Ors.Defendant
To,

(D-2) Mr. Himanshu Kumar Sharma S/o
Sh. Mahendra Sharma, R/o AC/
Bhojtal, P.O. RAIPURC Viya
Narayanpur Thana Bhopur, Bhagulpur
853202
Whereas you are intentionally evading
service of summons it is hereby notified that
if you shall not defend the case on the
27th April 2021 the day fixed for the final
disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the
court, this on 07th day of April 2021.

District Judge
(Commercial Court)-02
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Sh. Vinay Kumar Khanna
LD, District Judge (Commercial-Court)
South District Room No. 503,
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SUIT NO. CSJD 1071/18

Title: UNION BANK OF INDIA
VsPlaintiff
Himanshu Kumar Sharma
and Ors.Defendant
To,

(D-2) Mrs. Kanchan Malvi W/o Himanshu
Kumar Sharma R/o AC-Bhojtal, P.O.
RAIPURC Viya Narayanpur Thana Bhopur,
Bhopalpuri-853202
Whereas you are intentionally evading
service of summons it is hereby notified that
if you shall not defend the case on the
27th April 2021 the day fixed for the final
disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the
court, this on 07th day of April 2021.

District Judge
(Commercial Court)-02
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Sh. Vinay Kumar Khanna
LD, District Judge (Commercial-Court)
South District Room No. 503,
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SUIT NO. CSJD 1071/18

Title: UNION BANK OF INDIA
VsPlaintiff
Himanshu Kumar Sharma
and Ors.Defendant
To,

(D-3) M/s Bliss Infratech Pvt. Ltd., 156,
3rd Floor, Sarai Juhela, New Delhi-110025,
Also at: 312/313, Hemkunt Chambers,
89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Whereas you are intentionally evading
service of summons it is hereby notified that
if you shall not defend the case on the
27th April 2021 the day fixed for the final
disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the
court, this on 07th day of April 2021.

District Judge
(Commercial Court)-02
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

Proclamation Requiring Attendance of Defendant
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Sh. Vinay Kumar Khanna
LD, District Judge (Commercial-Court)
South District Room No. 503,
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SUIT NO. CSJD 1071/18

Title: UNION BANK OF INDIA
VsPlaintiff
Himanshu Kumar Sharma
and Ors.Defendant
To,

(D-3) M/s Bliss Infratech Pvt. Ltd., 156,
3rd Floor, Sarai Juhela, New Delhi-110025,
Also at: 312/313, Hemkunt Chambers,
89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Whereas you are intentionally evading
service of summons it is hereby notified that
if you shall not defend the case on the
27th April 2021 the day fixed for the final
disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the
court, this on 07th day of April 2021.

District Judge
(Commercial Court)-02
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

paper . thestatesman . com

Shoot the Shadow

Myanmar has been witness to one of the severest military crackdowns since the coup on February 1. A fairly conservative estimate has calibrated the toll at more than 80 in the city of Bago, near Yangon. The exact number may never be accurately established as the military is reported to have removed the bodies of those killed and dumped them in the complex of the Zeyar Muni pagoda, and then cordoned off the place. That secrecy by itself is a grotesque instance of man's inhumanity to man. The dumping of bodies is indubitably an outrage of a Buddhist shrine, if ever there was one. "It is like a genocide. They are shooting at every shadow," was the lament of an organiser of the protest against the gross injustice meted out to Aung San Suu Kyi post her election victory yet again. While the comity of nations has generally been muted in response, the democratic world must give it to Britain and the United States of America for having appealed to the UN Security Council, to call for an urgent response in the immediate aftermath of the weekend massacre. Both nations are likely to ratchet up sanctions on Myanmar's military. Last Friday, the day of the massacre, the ousted MPs and Myanmar's UN ambassador called on Security Council members to take action against the military, including the extension of sanctions and imposition of an arms embargo and no-fly zone. The UN meeting was also warned that Myanmar was "on the brink of state failure". The International Crisis Group's senior adviser, Richard Horsey, said the military's actions were creating a situation where the country could become ungovernable. According to witnesses, soldiers had used grenades and heavy weapons and had shot at anything that moved. Calculated malevolence is, therefore, the striking feature of Tatmadaw's relentless crackdown, now in its third month. More than 600 people have been killed since the 1 February military coup. The omnipotent army has resorted to increasing levels of violence to maintain its grip on power. The latest killings in Bago are reported to have happened last Friday but it took a whole day for the "breaking news" to emerge as many residents were forced to flee to nearby villages. The monitoring group, called the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), said the actual number of deaths was likely to be much higher. Grim reality is under the hat in contemporary Myanmar. And the secrecy of the cantonment has deepened the tragedy. Yet the military engages in an exercise in self-deception when it maintains that "protests are dwindling" because the "people want peace", and that it will "hold elections within two years". Myanmar can well do without so shambolic a caricature of democracy in the context of Suu Kyi's predicament despite repeated victories of her National League for Democracy (NLD).

Nuclear terrorism?

Iran's nuclear programme has suffered a jolt with Sunday's blackout at its underground nuclear facility in Natanz, alleged to be an act of "nuclear terrorism", perpetrated by Israel. It may be sheer coincidence that this has happened when Washington, helmed by President Joe Biden, is trying to mend fences with Tehran. Small wonder that the incident has stoked regional tensions as the major world powers and Iran negotiate over its tattered nuclear deal which was jettisoned by Donald Trump. Iran's Atomic Energy Organization has not directly blamed anyone for the incident, which was initially described as a blackout caused by tripping of the electrical grid feeding the site. The Israeli media, at another remove, offered the same assessment, specifically that a cyberattack had darkened Natanz and damaged a facility that stores sensitive centrifuges. While the reports thus far have offered no attribution for the evaluation, Israeli media maintains a close relationship with the country's military and intelligence agencies. Suffice it to register that the blackout has further heightened tensions between Iran and Israel, both engaged in a shadow conflict across the Middle East in the wider canvas and almost chronically in ferment. "To thwart the goals of this terrorist movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to improve nuclear technology on the one hand and to lift oppressive sanctions on the other," was the response of Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization. Nuclear terrorism has inevitably been debunked. "While condemning this desperate move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the need for consultation by the international bodies and the International Atomic Energy Agency against this nuclear terrorism." The IAEA, the United Nations' entity that monitors Tehran's atomic programme, said it was aware of media reports about the incident at Natanz and had spoken with Iranian officials about it. The agency did not elaborate. And perhaps thereby hangs a tale.

Sunday's developments will doubtless complicate efforts by the United States of America, Israel's main security partner, to re-enter the accord aimed at limiting Tehran's programme so that it is unable to pursue a nuclear weapon. As news of the blackout emerged, US Defence Secretary, Lloyd Austin, arrived in Israel on Sunday for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Benny Gantz. According to the Iranian parliament's energy committee, the incident was "very suspicious," raising concerns about possible "sabotage and infiltration." Natanz was largely built underground to withstand enemy airstrikes. It became a flashpoint for Western fears about Iran's nuclear programme in 2002, when satellite photos showed Iran building its underground centrifuges facility at the site. Natanz suffered a mysterious explosion at its advanced centrifuge assembly plant in July, one that authorities later described as sabotage. Iran now is rebuilding that facility deep inside a nearby mountain. The nuclear darkness renders the outlook in Vienna direly uncertain.

Suga in America

The discussions are expected to cover how to deal with China; North Korea's nuclear development; the issue of abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea and how to advance a joint vision of a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' to promote a rules-based order in the region



The Japan-US security alliance relationship has remained as the lynchpin in the security construct of East Asia for the past over seven decades. Bilateral ties have been strengthened over the years through continuous interactions between political leaders at the highest level with visits to each other's countries.

These US alliance relationships with Japan and South Korea have helped in maintaining peace and stability in the region, despite the fact that threats loom large from certain quarters on a regular basis. In continuation of this narrative, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga shall travel to the US on 16 April 2021, the first foreign leader to meet new US President Joe Biden in person since he took office in January 2021. Suga's first visit to the US as Prime Minister demonstrates the kind of importance the US attaches to Japan and the US commitment to engage in the Indo-Pacific region.

Earlier the visit was planned for 9 April but was postponed as details and schedules could not be coordinated in time and because of circumstances on the US side. As per the latest decision, Suga shall depart Japan on 15 April and depart Washington on 17 April after extensive talks on a host of issues including China, South China Sea, the pandemic, North Korea and others. Suga is scheduled to meet Biden on 16 April, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato.

Besides its commitment to strengthen Japan-US ties, the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policies, the discussions are expected to cover how to deal with China, North Korea's nuclear development and the issue of abduction of Japanese nationals

by North Korea and how to advance a joint vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific" to promote a rules-based order in the region.

Climate change and the fight against the pandemic are also expected to be discussed. The current pandemic has put some constraints as the size of the Japanese delegation was decided to be kept to a maximum of about 80 to 90 people. The participants will be vaccinated ahead of the trip. Suga has already got his first shot on March 16 and is expected to have a second shot within days.

What are the main agenda items likely to figure in the discussion? Obviously, both Biden and Suga are expected to discuss shared concerns about China's expansionist moves. In March, Japan and the US held 2+2 meetings when the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Chief Lloyd Austin visited Japan. So, even in these difficult times of the coronavirus, bilateral dialogues are going on, mostly on virtual mode, to keep the process on-going.

Both sides are also expected to firm up cooperation of an international summit on climate change, to be held in the US on April 22. Besides discussing shared concerns about China's expansionist moves, Suga and Biden are also expected to discuss the importance of stability in the Taiwan Strait. Japan, the US and the rest of Asia are concerned that China in February enacted a new law that authorises its coast guard to seize foreign ships entering waters claimed by Beijing.

Besides putting more pressure on Taiwan, Japan is also affected since it controls the Senkaku Islands, which China claims and calls Diaoyu. Japan is troubled by Chinese coast guard ships' entry on a continuous basis into Japanese territorial waters around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, thus worsening tensions.

The Japanese Defense Ministry think-tank, The National Institute for Defense Studies in March published a report titled "East Asian Strategic Review 2021" in which it asserted that China's coast guard could step up armament and provocations around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea following the enforcement of a controversial Chinese law.

There have been several cases of illegal intrusion by Chinese vessels into the East China Sea since the enactment of the law. China also claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea and has overlapping territorial claims with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The Asian region has witnessed China's increased maritime activities. This could be because Beijing fears America's increasing military presence as Sino-US trade disputes considerably increased when the Donald Trump administration adopted tough measures against China in order to reduce the adverse trade deficit. With no positive response and Beijing resorting to retaliatory measures, the US policy

towards the Indo-Pacific started getting more robust. The focus shifted to further beefing up alliance relationships with the Asian countries. China's BRI initiative also came under the scanner with the fear of many small nations around the world falling into China's debt trap.

The strengthening of the Quad initiative in quick time also can be seen as a response to China challenge. Democratic countries in Asia and elsewhere also do not approve of China's abuse of the Uyghur minority and crackdown on freedoms in Hong Kong. Coming at a time of renewed focus on China's activities, Suga's talks with Biden are expected to cover these areas and explore a new approach by the world community for an appropriate response. Also to be noted, in early March the Pentagon chief and top US diplomat visited Japan when Japan and the US warned China against "coercion and destabilising behaviour".

Given Beijing's growing bonhomie with North Korea despite the latter's relentless surge in nuclear developments and missile firings, latest being in March to unsettle Biden, there has been a greater urgency in strengthening the Japan-US alliance.

Instead of discouraging North Korea from its provocative actions, Beijing helps sustain the regime in Pyongyang with open and at times hidden financial and political support, thereby violating US sanctions.

Suga is also expected to use the trip to invite Biden to the Tokyo Olympics, due to begin on 23 July after a year's pandemic delay. Both Japan and the US are also likely to agree on strengthening cooperation over infrastructure projects in other countries, in response to China's BRI projects that aims to create a huge economic bloc.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Exemplary poverty alleviation success

The State Council Information Office released a white paper, China's Practice in Poverty Reduction, on Tuesday which shares with the world how China has achieved its goal of eradicating abject poverty from the country. With a population of nearly one-fifth of the world's total, it has been an immense challenge for China to lift more than 770 million poverty-stricken rural villagers out of poverty in a little more than four decades since the reform and opening-up policy was implemented in the late 1970s. In accordance with the World Bank's international poverty line, the total number of people China has lifted out of poverty is 70 percent of the world's total in the same period. The country has attained the poverty alleviation target 10 years ahead of that of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. What China has achieved has not only contributed to the global endeavor to reduce poverty. It also provides successful experience that other countries can learn from. Although the causes of poverty in other countries may vary, China is more than willing to share the policies it has tried and tested and which have proved effective.

The importance China's top authorities have attached to the task has made it possible to work out the right policies and have these policies carried out to the letter, from the central government through to the lowest level governments. To ensure this, government officials from different levels

CHINADAILY
have been dispatched to villages not only to conduct fact-finding missions, but also to draw up and carry out specific plans to solve the problems on the front line of the poverty battle. It is because of the importance given to eliminating poverty that the focus has always been not just on lifting people out of poverty but also helping them make a living. Relocating those households in remote places with harsh natural conditions to sites with conditions more conducive to them finding for themselves is an example of how different policies have been adopted for different cases.

Fortune favors those who help themselves. Policies have been made to tap the potential of various localities, and efforts have been made to stimulate the initiative of poverty-stricken villagers to solve their own problems. By helping poverty-stricken villagers find a way to improve their living standards through their own efforts rather than just providing handouts, the poverty alleviation campaign consecrated by specific policies has instilled in villagers the awareness that their own efforts make the real difference once the right direction has been determined. The elimination of abject poverty has laid a solid foundation for China to further its development for the building of a modern socialist country. In the same way, poverty alleviation is important for the international community to build a better world for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

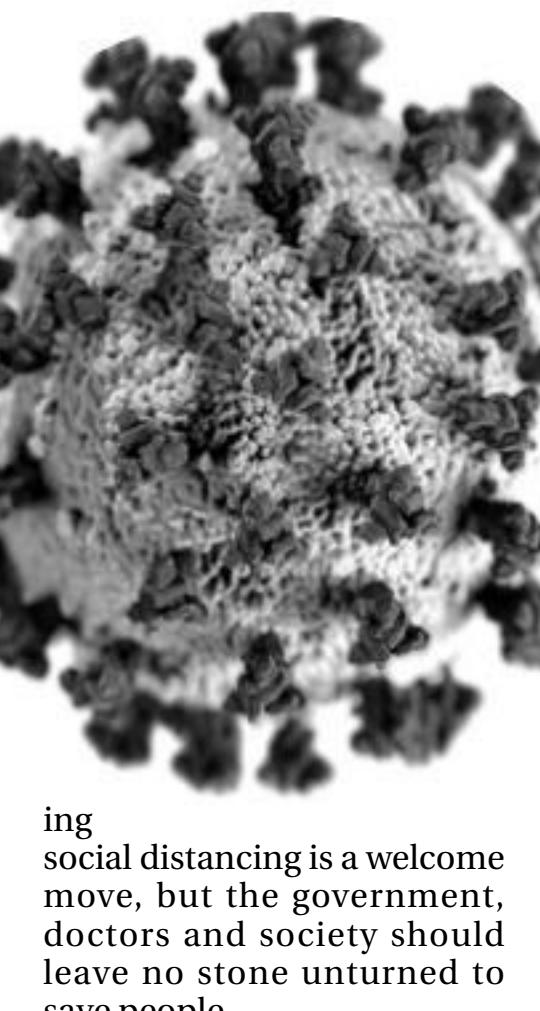
editor@thestatesman.com

Save people at all costs

SIR, This refers to the editorial, 'Virus, Variants, Vaccines' (April 10). The second wave of Coronavirus is causing great havoc. Although the state governments are not in favour of complete lockdown, if cases continue to rise, then a complete lockdown may be inevitable. Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other states have started adopting strict measures.

The economy of India returning on track will have to face further bad effects. The labourers have started migrating. Maintaining social distancing at railway stations, trains, buses and in markets is somewhat difficult. Relaxations in organising religious festivals, political and social events etc has shown the carelessness of people. Given the magnitude of the crisis, a need has arisen to increase the production of vaccines.

Serum Institute of India has further demanded a grant of Rs 3,000 crore to increase vaccine production. Literally speaking the Serum Institute of India is facing difficulties in accelerating the vaccine supply, for it is already engaged in fulfilling international contracts. The advisory of follow-



ing social distancing is a welcome move, but the government, doctors and society should leave no stone unturned to save people.

Yours, etc., Yugal Kishore Sharma, Faridabad, April 11.

OVERWHELMING PANIC

SIR, Regular panic about Covid-19 caused by the surge in cases and presence of new variants has dominated headlines. Now there is another cause of panic because of reports of a shortage of vaccines in Maharashtra as reported by you in your edition of 8 April.

Since other states are also

making the same complaint, the panic is justified. It is more than strange that the largest producer of vaccines is starved for vials due to insensitive planning of the dispensation.

Our government suffered from risible complacency when daily infections came down to only 8,000 and the death rate declined to 72. Authorities did not even imagine this was a mirage and failed to warn people about the second wave.

Common prudence would suggest that Election Commission of India should have deferred elections in four states and one Union Territory. Such postponement is not unprecedented - TN Seshan in 1991 rescheduled remaining two days polling after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi apprehending law and order problems.

There is no denying that this time, the situation is more grave than in 1991. Shockingly neither ECI nor the Government have applied their minds to the problem. On the contrary, major leaders are busy with campaigns that invite huge gatherings.

Yours, etc., Prasanta Basu Ray, Chandannagar, 9 April.

US NAVAL EXERCISE

SIR, Please refer to your yesterday's report 'Pentagon defends US Navy ship's patrol in Indian EEZ sans consent'. India is justifiably angry at being blindsided by the public announcement of the Freedom of Navigation operation conducted by the US Navy's Seventh Fleet some 240 nautical kms off Lakshadweep.

The language deployed by the Seventh Fleet in its statement on the Freedom Of Navigation Operation (FONOP) ~ its hectoring references to India's "excessive maritime claims" ~ could have well been a rant against a hostile nation rather than an ally. The FONOP and the accompanying aggressively worded statement were all the more surprising because it came barely three weeks after the US Defence Secretary's visit to Delhi, the first by a high ranking member of the Biden Administration, and a month after the highly vaunted summit of the Quad, the informal grouping of Australia, India, Japan and the US that positions itself as a provider of a rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region, and in so doing, seeks to convey the group's shared distrust of China.

That was not just a gaffe by the Seventh Fleet, or a matter of the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing, became clear at a briefing by the Pentagon on Saturday, at which the spokesperson reiterated that the Navy destroyer USS John Paul Jones had done nothing inconsistent with international law. It is true that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) allows navy vessels to navigate through the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) without seeking consent. However, India's own law ~ "the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976" ~ requires foreign military vessels to take prior consent before sailing into the Indian EEZ. Delhi's position on the UNCLOS is that it "does not authorise other States to carry out in the EEZ and on the continental shelf, military exercises or manoeuvres, in particular those involving the use of weapons or explosives, without the consent of the coastal state". Delhi's interpretation of the "rules based international order", therefore, is different. India, which has said it was monitoring the movement of the ship all through, has not said why it did not challenge it at any stage. The explanation perhaps lies in US Department of Defence annual reports for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019, which show that the US navy has carried out FONOPs in the same area before ~ without any noise by either side.

The difference this time was the posturing by the Seventh Fleet. The last line of the statement that "FONOPs are not about one country, nor are they about making political statements" could be a message to China that such operations are not just aimed at it. That does not make it any better. Still, India and the US can talk this through. More seriously, what India needs to watch out for is that this incident does not set a precedent for other navies of not so friendly countries.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das, Kolkata, 12 April.

HARSHA KAKAR

The ambush on police forces by Naxalites in Tekulgudam leaving 23 dead shook the nation. Those who backed, planned and implemented the operation defended their actions. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel stated, "It was not an attack on (police) camp... We had gone there to corner them. We have been continuously setting up camps and making inroads into Maoist bastions from three sides." He added that the Naxals have been losing ground and have been pushed into an area of 40X40 km.

The DG CRPF, Kuldeep Singh, stated that there was no intelligence failure and an equal number of Naxalites were killed. He was defending the indefensible. Intelligence, despite claims by DG CRPF, was an abject failure, as reports stated that police forces were unaware even of the nature of weapons held by Naxals. Empty villages along the route, a clear indicator of danger lying ahead, did not trigger alarm bells and induce a reconsideration in movement pattern. It was also evident that the planners had not considered scenarios which can emerge when such large forces are moved and accordingly failed to cater for contingencies.

Ambushes should be expected during large-scale movements in rebel territory. These are tactics by weaker forces seeking to gain high dividends against stronger adversaries. It is also true that the insurgent has to succeed once to gain notoriety, while regular successes of security forces are brushed aside. The ambush on an army convoy in Chandel in Manipur leading to 20 dead in June 2015 is a case in point.

Maximum casualties occur during the first few moments of the ambush when surprise is in the hands of the attacker. It also causes momentary panic. It takes time for those under attack to regain composure and retaliate. Subsequently, power shifts to the better trained force. Regrouping, taking control of the situation and retaliating against ambushees is essential for reclaiming the situation. Counter ambush drills as part of training are essential, which were apparently ignored in this case.

On the contrary, survivors abandoned their injured and dead colleagues and fled, returning only the next day. This abandonment led to a laughable excuse.

New strategy needed to handle Naxalites

the Naxalites carrying away weapons, ammunition, clothing and bullet proof jackets of those who were killed or wounded. Only one body of a slain Naxal was recovered.

The claim by DG CRPF that Naxals carried away their dead and wounded proves that those involved in the operation had left the field open to the insurgents to conduct mopping up operations without interference. The Naxals released a video claiming they lost four, while displaying equipment recovered from those they had ambushed. This is evidently poor leadership on the part of those who planned as also executed the operation.

This is also not the first such incident in the region. The April 2010 Chintalnar massacre in Dantewada had led to 75 dead. There were promises of vengeance, but as usual, these remained just words. In this area alone there have been over 175 security personnel killed in the past ten years. Reports indicate that planning for the current operation was done by a small group of serving and retired IPS officers, re-employed as advisors. This group was camping in the region for a few weeks. The execution displays that none involved in the planning had any idea of the terrain but designed the operation from maps based on limited intelligence.

Moving 2,000 plus soldiers from multiple camps, each of which is possibly monitored by the Naxals, towards a common objective, is a recipe for disaster. Any small anti-national force (including Naxals), seeking to operate in an environment dominated by security forces, would bank on intelligence as a basic strategy to ensure survival. Claiming subsequently that villagers passed on information on troop movement is a given due consideration.

India has failed to develop an anti-Naxal strategy despite multiple NSAs being from the IPS. The reason is that CAPFs are commanded by IPS



briefed to be prepared for a counter-strike. Claiming the ambush site to be deep in the jungles was another illogical statement. The site was reached by journalists within 30 minutes by road.

India has handled insurrections since the fifties. The NE and Kashmir insurgencies are well under control, while Naxalites continue to cause casualties, despite claims to the contrary by the Chhattisgarh CM. In May 2010, Manmohan Singh, as PM, had stated, "I have been saying for the last three years that Naxalism remains the biggest internal security challenge facing our country." It has yet to be given due consideration.

The easiest answer to any internal security problem is to employ the army. However, placing interior regions under AFSPA and inducting the last bastion of national power is a

officers thrust down from the top, with little to zero ground experience. The suggestion of the Kargil committee on restructuring of CAPFs, based on their role and tasks, especially with regard to command, control and leadership has been ignored for over two decades.

The CAPF will continue being employed in similar environments in coming years. They need to be trained and equipped accordingly. It is evident that the current system of command, control and training is a failure. It must be revamped with immediate effect. The longer the delay, the more the damage.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army

sign of failure on the capability of all central forces and a lack of national strategy. In fact, as Home Minister, P Chidambaram had sought to push the army in. This was turned down by the army, after detailed deliberations. This shortcut is not a solution.

It is hoped that the current political dispensation would draw lessons from this tragic incident, rebuild the CAPFs, making them an effective force capable of fulfilling their role and tasks. It is time we accept mistakes, restructure central forces and ensure their ability to perform, rather than defending the indefensible. The time to take the bull by the horns has arrived. Will the Modi government act?

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army

The last dynastic marriage ends

JONATHAN SPENCER



In 1947 a dynastic union was forged between the royal houses of Greece and Great Britain. It would be one of the last of this kind of royal marriages in history – a type of union that had knitted together the continent for 1,000 years. When Philip, prince of Greece and Denmark married Elizabeth, princess of Great Britain, they reconnected two bloodlines descended from Queen Victoria. But they also renewed a kinship tie between Britain and Denmark that had been joined together numerous times, from Canute and Aelfgifu in 1015 to Edward VII and Alexandra in 1863.

For centuries, almost every European monarchy maintained diplomatic relationships with its neighbours through dynastic marriages, in a system that persisted all the way up to the 1930s, then rapidly faded away in the post-war era.

In stark contrast, before the second world war this practice was the absolute norm – particularly seen in the dense web of intermarriages between the royal families of Sweden, Denmark and Norway in the earlier decades of the 20th century.

Prince Philip's marriage to Princess Elizabeth in 1947 thus represented one of the last iterations of Queen Victoria's dream. It reunited two of her descendants: Elizabeth through her father's line, and Philip through the line of his mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-grand-daughter of Victoria. Indeed, in the previous decade, three of Philip's four sisters had married other descendants of Victoria.

But in 1947, times had changed, and post-war Britain was not so keen to see the heir to the throne married to a foreign royal. Particularly not one whose sisters had married prominent German officers and whose family

had an extremely fragile position on its throne in Greece, with a dynastic history full of abdications, military coups and plebiscites. Prince Philip was therefore "rebranded" before his marriage as Philip Mountbatten, lieutenant in the Royal Navy, naturalised British subject. But where did the name Mountbatten come from? And why before he changed his name was he called "Prince of Greece and Denmark"?

It is an important question for understanding the identity of the Duke of Edinburgh – and by extension, the identity of the British royal family and even Britain's position within the wider European community of nations. It is all very intertwined. Philip himself said in an interview in 2014: "If anything, I've thought of myself as Scandinavian. Particularly, Danish. We spoke English at home ... The others learned Greek. I could understand a certain amount of it. But then the (conversation) would go into French. Then it went into German, on occasion,

because we had German cousins. If you couldn't think of a word in one language, you tended to go off in another."

His experience is a perfect expression of the extraordinary cosmopolitan environment of the royal courts of Europe a century ago, when royal princes in Prussia and Russia almost always had English nannies, and adults conversed in polished French. Queen Elizabeth II is the product of this same nursery environment and also has very good French.

But why would a Greek prince consider himself Scandinavian? In the mid-19th century, when the crumbling Ottoman Empire was giving birth to newly independent states such as Bulgaria and Greece, the Great Powers of Europe determined that it was in the best interests of stability in the region to select junior members of the major royal dynasties to found new monarchies.

Greece, independent since 1832, had first been governed by a Bavarian prince, Otto, but in 1863, he was deposed, and the 17-year-old Prince William of Denmark chosen instead. Denmark's ruling family, the House of Oldenburg, one of the oldest in Europe, was known for its liberal views, and it was hoped that a young prince from such a family would help the Greeks establish a democratic monarchy along the lines of Denmark, or its closely related, England.

The reign of Prince William, as King George I of Greece, was long and fairly calm. His son, Constantine I, was another matter, and after a disastrous war with Turkey (1919–1922) he was forced to abdicate. His younger brother, Prince Andrew, had fought in the war, and was sent into exile, along with his infant son, Prince Philip.

Philip was thus raised as an exile, first in Paris, then in England, where he boarded at Cheam School in Hampshire. He began a career in the British navy in 1939, served with distinction during WWII, then retired from active service once his wife became the Queen in 1952. He had been naturalised as a British subject in the summer of 1947, a few months before his wedding, and assumed a version of his mother's name, Battenberg – itself anglicised to Mountbatten at the height of anti-German sentiment in England in 1917.

The Battenbergs were also from an ancient ruling family, the House of Hesse, territorial princes in the heart of Germany since the 13th century. Philip wasn't alone in representing the Greek royal family in Britain: a decade before, his cousin Princess Marina had married the youngest son of George V, the Duke of Kent, and had charmed the nation with her elegance and cosmopolitan style.

Philip was firmly tied to the UK through his uncle, Earl Mountbatten, a British naval hero during the war – but, at the same time, he remained closely linked to the old continental system. One of his aunts, Mountbatten's sister, was Queen Louise of Sweden.

Louise Mountbatten died in 1965, and Marina of Greece in 1968 and, by the 1970s, royal marriages were seen as affairs of the heart, not affairs of state – or indeed as points of reunion and reconnection for these ancient royal dynasties.

With the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, one of the last representatives of a system that had endured for a millennium passes into history.

The writer is Senior Lecturer of History, Manchester Metropolitan University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

The annual reports issued by the Physician-Superintendents of the Royal Edinburgh Mental Hospital have often attracted attention on account of their reference to matters of general public interest. This year's report, by Dr. George Robertson, affords very gratifying evidence of the progressive decline in the number of cases of insanity which are attributed to excessive indulgence in alcohol. The decline has taken place since the beginning of the present century. Alcoholic excess has always been more rare as a cause of insanity among women than among men, and it is among women that the decline is most marked. In the seven years before the war alcoholic excess was given as the exciting cause, on the average, in 9.6 per cent of the cases in women. In the following seven years the average was 2.6 per cent. Last year it was only 1 per cent. Among males not much less than a third of the cases, 30.4 per cent, were attributed to alcoholic excess during the first seven years of the century. In the second period of seven years the average fell to 16.3 per cent, and in the third period, ending with 1920, to 12.6 per cent. Dr. Robertson, however, is not satisfied with this reduction, but believes that a still greater improvement may be effected. His own opinion seems to be that prohibition is too drastic a measure to aim at.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN KARACHI

The Municipal elections took place at Karachi today but little excitement was manifested. There were one hundred candidates for forty-four seats, the non-cooperators having nineteen candidates. At one polling station some non-cooperators had an altercation with the officials, alleging that the latter were influencing the voting, and when one of the Stipendiary Magistrates arrived on the scene he found that the non-cooperators had placed a man inside the booth who, it is alleged, was taking voting slips from the voters. He was ordered out, and the non-cooperators, after threatening to withdraw their candidates, began to interfere with those who desired to vote. Eventually a police guard was placed at the polling station to preserve order.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER AT BASHPARA

A murder was committed at Bashpara, in the Feni, sub-division, the victim being a young man named Bepin Saha, a nephew of the zamindar of the village. The dead body of the deceased was found floating in a tank close by the zamindar's house. Mr. Sen, Police Superintendent, accompanied by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, proceeded to the locality and traced some blood-stained things to a room occupied by a young maid-servant of the house, and this led to the arrest of six persons, including the maid servant. The police report states that deceased was hacked to death by means of a ram dao and that his dead body was thrown into the tank. The accused will be placed before the Sub-divisional Officer of Feni on April 18.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS OUTBREAKS

Dr. Sandilands, the Executive Health Officer of Bombay Municipality, has issued a warning that outbreaks of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis are reported in God and Hongkong. Deaths due to this disease in Bombay have numbered eight, thirteen and thirty-one in January, February and March last respectively. The disease is infectious, as in the case of influenza, and is conveyed from the sick to the healthy, by nasal and buccal secretions. The precautions are the same as in the case of influenza. Measures for preventing the introduction of infection from other infected areas are being taken in Bombay and the public will be duly informed, if the number of deaths in the City from this cause continues to increase.

STORM HAVOC AT MUSSOORIE

A severe dust storm, followed by heavy rain and accompanied by thunder and lightning swept over Mussoorie on Thursday last, causing considerable damage to buildings. The upper portion of a house was carried away and deposited some distance away on the Mussoorie-Barlowgunj road. At Landour a few houses were partly unroofed and in one case the entire roof of corrugated iron was blown off and fell on to the main road. Beneath the Himalaya Club the stables and two of the outhouses were badly damaged and in the vicinity of Strawberry Bank another house was all but completely demolished. The houses on the north-east side of the hills were generally safe. No loss of life has been up to the present. The rain ceased at about 8 PM.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

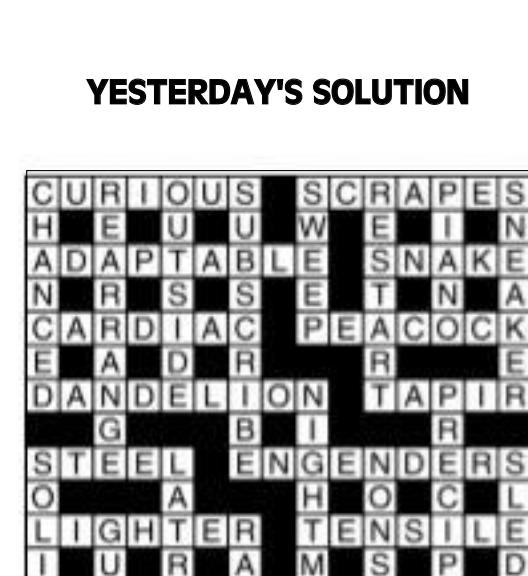
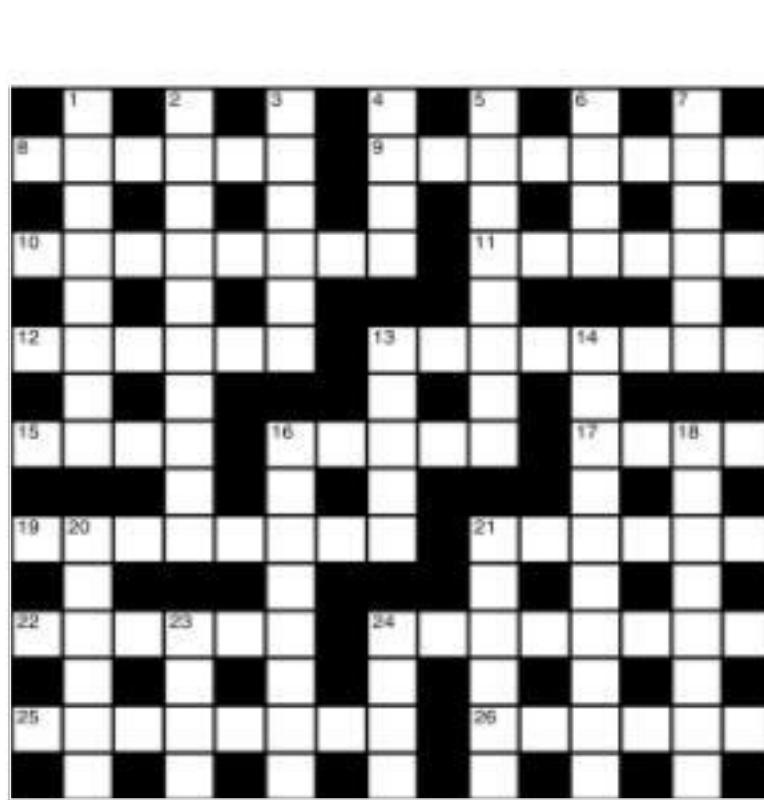
ACROSS

- 8 Five yoga exercises on European cruise (6)
- 9 Broadcast mike in a van (8)
- 10 Transcend extravagant endless pain (8)
- 11 District attorney initially thinks I have a case (6)
- 12 Smart game to play outside (6)
- 13 How rook flapping by motorway gets a parasite (8)
- 15 Like a member of the military? (4)
- 16 At any time that is weird (5)
- 17 Green-yellow mucus after wiping top of sleeve (4)
- 19 Half out of uniform ointment on cut leg's rough (8)
- 21 Security needed for place on the

DOWN

- 5 Attire of doctor in conflict with honour (8)
- 6 Independent's new head of telesales? On the contrary (4)
- 7 A metal splinter I picked up (6)
- 13 Many a white one's seen from rocky shore (5)
- 14 Gnu edible when minced in boiled stew (10)
- 16 Take food into doorway for begging (8)
- 18 Wizard guy conceals all-American private intelligence (8)
- 20 Vitamin in one way and another gives protection For a cold (6)
- 21 Royal Navy invested in value (6)
- 23 It's ending in aftermath (4)
- 24 Start off banquet as one at table (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)





DGFT's trade facilitation mobile app will help improve the efficiency of both importers and exporters.

PIYUSH GOYAL
UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

RBI Gov to banks: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday asked banks to remain watchful of the evolving situation and emphasised the importance of credit flow to sustain the nascent economic recovery amid rising coronavirus cases. In his meeting with MD/CEOs of public sector banks and select private sector lenders, Das also highlighted the recent policy measures taken by RBI to further support the ongoing recovery while preserving financial stability, the central bank said in a statement.

PTI

Yes Bank fined: Markets regulator Sebi on Monday imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on Yes Bank in the matter of miselling the lender's AT-1 bonds a few years ago. Besides, the watchdog has imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Vivek Waran, who was the managing director of Yes Bank, Rs 50 lakh each on Ashish Nasa and Jasjit Singh Banga, who were part of the bank's private wealth management team at the time of violation. They need to pay the penalty within 45 days, Sebi said in its order.

PTI

Vodafone Idea: Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) on Monday said it will be sending a "suitable clarification" to the telecom department on show-cause notice over non-payment of licence fee in seven circles, and noted that any payment not made on 25 March, would be paid on 15 April with interest. Last week, the department of telecom (DoT) issued a show-cause notice to VIL over non-payment of licence fee for the fourth quarter of 2020-21, with regard to circles of Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (East), Odisha, as well as national long distance.

PTI

Reporting format for MFs: Capital markets watchdog Sebi on Monday came out with fresh guidelines on reporting formats for mutual funds. The formats for the reports to be submitted by asset management companies (AMCs) to trustees, by AMCs to Sebi and by trustees to the regulator have been revised on the basis of consultation from the industry. In a circular, Sebi said the compliance certificate to be submitted by an AMC to the trustees on a bi-monthly basis and half-yearly basis would be discontinued.

PTI

Jewellery exports: The overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 25.71 per cent to Rs 1,85,952.34 crore during financial year 2020-21, compared to the previous financial year, on account of Covid-related disruptions, industry body GJEPC said on Monday. The gross gems and jewellery exports during financial year 2019-20 stood at Rs 2,50,319.89 crore, according to data released by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

PTI

Sensex crashes 1,708 points on surge in Covid-19 cases

Rupee falls for 6th straight session to mark its lowest level in nearly 9 months at 75.05 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 12 APRIL

Equity benchmark the Sensex plummeted 1,708 points today following an across-the-board sell-off as spiking Covid-19 cases in the country spooked investors.

The 30-share BSE index sank 1,707.94 points or 3.44 per cent to end at 47,883.38 points. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 524.05 points or 3.53 per cent to finish at 14,310.80 points.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, tanking over 8 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, ONGC, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank. Dr Reddy's was the sole gainer, climbing over four per cent.

"Domestic equities reminded the bloodbath of March 2020 as record rise in Covid-19 cases in the country and possibility of lockdowns in several states dented investors' sentiments," said Binod Modi, head - strategy at Reliance Securities.



Concerns of possible reversal in economic momentum and earnings recovery made investors risk-averse and huge sell-off to the erosion of nearly Rs 9 lakh crore in investor wealth, he added.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo were in the red, while Seoul ended with mild gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe

were largely trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.57 per cent higher at \$63.31 per barrel.

In the forex market, the Indian rupee fell for the sixth straight session to mark its lowest level in nearly nine months at 75.05 against the American currency today as investors fretted over the prospects of lockdown in some parts of the country amid continuous rise in Covid-19 cases.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee settled 32 paise lower against the greenback as weak domestic equities, rising crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows also weighed on sentiment.

The local unit opened at 74.97 against the greenback and traded in the range of 74.78 to 75.14 during the day. The 75.05 closing is the weakest since 16 July last year, when the rupee had closed at 75.18 to the US dollar.

"Rupee traded lower below 75 yet again as Maharashtra lockdown after Gudi Padwa festival sent weak signals across

the risky assets, making rupee weaker. Levels at which the rupee will trade looks 74.75-75.50 with a weak tone for rupee," said Jateen Trivedi, senior research analyst at LKP Securities.

The domestic currency has been battered by 2 per cent since the RBI unexpectedly announced quantitative easing style G-Sec acquisition programme (G-SAP) last week with the first auction aggregating Rs 25,000 crore to be held on 15 April 2021.

This was the sixth straight session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has seen depreciation of 193 paise.

"Indian rupee spot slipped past the 75-mark to nine-month low of 75.15 on Monday as rising Covid-19 cases scared fears of a complete lockdown in Maharashtra and a few other states, dampening hopes of a faster recovery and increasing prospects of RBI's ultra-loose monetary policy for a longer period," said Kaynat Chainawala - fundamental research analyst currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

TCS logs 14.9% growth in net profit at ₹9,246 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

The country's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) today reported a 14.9 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 9,246 crore for the March 2021 quarter. This is against a net profit of Rs 8,049 crore in the year-ago period, TCS said in a regulatory filing.

The revenue of the IT major grew by 9.4 per cent in the quarter under review to Rs 43,705 crore from Rs 39,946 crore a year ago, it added.

"Our investments over the last decade in building newer capabilities, and in research and innovation, position us well for the multi-year technology services opportunity ahead. While we continue to dominate in

REPORT CARD



► Consolidated net profit for the March 2021 quarter rises by 14.9 per cent to Rs 9,246 crore.
► Revenue grows by 9.4 per cent in the quarter under review to Rs 43,705 crore.
► The net profit for the fiscal ended March 2021 rises to Rs 33,388 crore.

our traditional areas of strength, we are making good progress in gaining share in the growth and transformation opportunity," TCS chief executive officer and managing director Rajesh

Gopinathan said.

The firm's focus going into FY'22 will be to engage with clients in their growth agenda, propelled by innovation and leverage of collective knowledge, he added.

The net profit for the fiscal ended March 2021 was up at Rs 33,388 crore (excluding legal claim provisions), from Rs 32,340 crore in the previous financial year.

Its net profit on a reported basis stood at Rs 32,430 crore for FY'21.

TCS had provided Rs 1,218 crore (\$165 million) towards a legal case (relating to Epic Systems Corporation) in its consolidated statement of profit and loss for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The board of directors has proposed a final dividend of Rs 15 per equity share.

Flipkart inks pact with Adani Group; partnership to create 2,500 jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

ing data centre technology solutions, it added.

Adaniconnexus is a new joint venture formed between EdgeConneX and Adani Enterprises Ltd. Financial details of the partnership were not disclosed. As part of this partnership, Adani Logistics Ltd will construct a 5.34 lakh sq ft fulfilment centre (warehouse) in its upcoming logistics hub in Mumbai that will be leased to Flipkart to address the growing demand for e-commerce in western India and support market access of several thousands of sellers and SMEs in the region.

The centre, which will leverage state-of-the-art technologies, is expected to be operational in the third quarter of 2022 and will have the capacity to house 10 million units of sellers' inventory at any

point, the statement said.

In addition to strengthening Flipkart's supply chain infrastructure to support MSMEs and sellers, the facility will enhance local employment and create about 2,500 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs, it added.

The data centre, on the other hand, has been designed to meet the highest standards in reliability, security, and sustainability that will capitalise on the Adani Group's capability as the largest solar player in the country to generate and source green power.

The AdaniConnex data centre is a new facility enabling Flipkart to design the data centre to its growing infrastructure needs with a significant focus on security and keeping data locally within India, the statement said.

"I am delighted to see two of India's fastest-growing businesses come together to help build some of the most critical as well as state-of-the-art infrastructure that our nation needs. This is what Atmanirbharata should be all about," Karan Adani, chief executive officer of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), said.

He added that this broad-ranging partnership across the logistics and data centre businesses is a unique business model, and this is a great opportunity to serve Flipkart's physical as well as digital infrastructure needs.

"The Adani Group is unmatched in the way it has gone about building infrastructure across India," Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said.

ONGC seeks buyers for KG natural gas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

oil price of \$63, the minimum price comes to \$6.6 per million British thermal unit.

This price, however, will be subject to the ceiling or cap fixed by the government for deepsea fields every six months. The cap for six months beginning 1 April is \$3.62 per mmBtu.

This essentially means that bidders may corner gas by offering to pay \$7, but the buyers will have to pay no more than the ceiling price of \$3.62. A senior ONGC official said the ceiling price is expected to rise to \$5.5-5.6 at the next revision due on 1 October.

The current ceiling price is one-third less than the bare minimum cost of production from a deepsea field. After including the cost of money as well as margin, gas price should be \$6 and not \$3.62," he said.

At the current Brent crude

Coforge buys SLK Global for \$195 million

MUMBAI, 12 APRIL

Noida-based IT solutions provider Coforge today picked up a controlling stake in SLK Global Solutions, a business process transformation services provider primarily to the financial services industry, for a reported enterprise value of \$195 million. The deal will further strengthen the financial services vertical of Coforge, scale up its BPM operations and expand its US footprint, the company said in a statement, which did not quantify the deal value.

However, sources said that the enterprise value of the deal is around \$195 million.

Though based in Bengaluru, SLK Global has most of its clients in the US banking and insurance sectors and has deep domain expertise in the banking and insurance businesses of North America.

It services clients like Fifth Third Bank of the US, which in addition to being the largest customer is also a large shareholder with well over 40 per cent stake of SLK. It has offices in Texas in the US and the Philippines.

Coforge will initially acquire 60 per cent of SLK by completely buying out its founders and some stake of Fifth Third Bank, post which its stake will come down to 40 per cent. Coforge will acquire an additional 20 per cent stake from Fifth Third Bank after two years.

SLK Global had \$62 million revenue in FY20 and this is expected to touch \$73 million in FY21. A profitable company, the deal should be margin accretive to Coforge, the statement said. As part of the transaction, Fifth Third Bank has committed to remain a significant customer of SLK Global and has also committed a base volume over five years starting this fiscal.

Passenger vehicle sales decline by 2% in FY'21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 APRIL

Passenger vehicle sales in India declined by over two per cent in financial year 2020-21 as the Covid-19 pandemic has put brakes on the sector which has already been witnessing a structural slowdown over the last few years, industry body Siam said today.

As per the latest data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), in fiscal 2020-21, passenger vehicle wholesales declined by 2.24 per cent to 27,11,457 units as against 27,73,519 units in fiscal 2019-20.

Similarly, total two-wheeler dispatches during the last fiscal by companies to their respective dealer partners

declined by 13.19 per cent to 1,51,19,387 units, as compared to 1,74,16,432 units in fiscal 2019-20.

Total commercial vehicles sales declined by 20.77 per cent to 5,68,559 units last financial year, as against 7,17,593 units in 2019-20.

Dispatches of three-wheelers saw a drop of 66.06 per cent in 2020-21 fiscal at 2,16,197 units, as against 6,37,065 units in 2019-20.

Vehicle sales across categories declined by 13.6 per cent to 1,86,15,588 units, as against 2,15,45,551 units in the year-ago period.

"On the sales front, a deep structural slowdown in the industry even before the pandemic, combined with the impact of Covid-19 in 2020-

RECOVERY TO TAKE TIME

On the sales front, a deep structural slowdown in the industry even before the pandemic, combined with the impact of Covid-19 in 2020-21, has pushed all vehicle segments back by many years. Recovery from here will require time and efforts, by all stakeholders. There is uncertainty in the value chain owing to semiconductors, lockdowns and raw materials. In an environment of uncertainty, instead of trying to predict the future, we will all work hard to create it.

KENICHI AYUKAWA
SIAM PRESIDENT

21, has pushed all vehicle segments back by many years. Recovery from here will require time and efforts, by all stakeholders," Siam president Kenichi Ayukawa said.

There is uncertainty in the value chain owing to semiconductors, lockdowns and raw materials, he added.

issues that need attention. According to the findings of research conducted by the industry body, compounded annual growth rates of all segments, including passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers, have witnessed a continuous drop over the last

three decades.

Elaborating further Siam director-general Rajesh Menon said in the last fiscal, there was a de-growth in sales of all segments compared to the previous years.

"If we look at the fourth quarter January-March 2021 sales which might include some deferred sales from previous quarters, only passenger vehicle segment at 9.34 lakh sales was marginally above the previous high of January-March 2018 period at 8.62 lakh units," Menon added.

Commercial vehicles sales at 2.1 lakh units in January-March period of 2021 were below 2.82 lakh units in January-March period of 2018, Menon noted.

"Similarly, two-wheeler

sales in January-March 2021 stood at 43.54 lakh units against January-March 2018 figures of 51.13 lakh units.

Three-wheeler segment was the worst-hit with sales of 86,000 units in the period under review as compared to 1



How to improve their (Covid vaccine) efficacy is a question that needs to be considered by scientists around the world

DIRECTOR OF CHINESE CENTRE OF DISEASE CONTROL GAO FU
COMMENTING ON TO BOOST EFFICACY OF COVID VACCINES IN THE COUNTRY

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021

09

Iran hits out at Israel for attack on Natanz explosion

Vows revenge against 'Zionists' after attack on Natanz nuclear site attributed to Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 12 APRIL

Iran on Monday blamed Israel for a sabotage attack on its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged the centrifuges it uses to enrich uranium there, warning that it would avenge the assault.

The comments by Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh represent the first official accusation leveled against Israel for the assault Sunday that cut power across the facility.

Israel has not directly claimed responsibility for the attack. However, suspicion fell immediately on it as Israeli media widely reported that a devastating cyber attack orchestrated by Israel caused the blackout.

If Israel was responsible, it would further heighten tensions between the two nations, already engaged in a shadow conflict across the wider Mid-



A file photo of the Natanz uranium enrichment facility 250 km south of the Iranian capital Tehran. ■ AGENCIES

dle East. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who met Sunday with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, has vowed to do everything in his power to stop efforts to revive a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

At a news conference at Israel's Nevatim air base Monday, where he viewed Israeli air and missile defense systems and its F-35 combat aircraft, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin declined to say whether

the Natanz incident is likely to impede the Biden administration's efforts to re-engage with Iran on its nuclear programme.

Those efforts will continue, Austin said.

Details remained scarce about what happened early Sunday at the facility. The event was initially described as a blackout caused by the electrical grid feeding its above-ground workshops and underground enrichment

halls.

The answer for Natanz is to take revenge against Israel, Khatibzadeh said. Israel will receive its answer through its own path. He did not elaborate.

Khatibzadeh acknowledged that IR-1 centrifuges, the first-generation workhorse of Iran's uranium enrichment, had been damaged in the attack, but did not elaborate. State television has yet to show images from the facility. A former chief of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said the attack had also set off a fire at the site and called for improvements in security. In a tweet, Gen. Mohsen Rezaei said that a second fire at Natanz in a year signaled the seriousness of the infiltration phenomenon.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif separately warned Natanz would be reconstructed with more advanced machines, something that could imperil ongoing

talks in Vienna with world powers about saving Tehran's tattered atomic accord.

The Zionists wanted to take revenge against the Iranian people for their success on the path of lifting sanctions, Iran's state-run Zairf was quoted as saying. But we do not allow (it) and we will take revenge for this action against the Zionists, he added.

The IAEA, the United Nations body that monitors Tehran's atomic program, earlier said it was aware of media reports about the blackout at Natanz and had spoken with Iranian officials about it. The agency did not elaborate.

Natanz has been targeted by sabotage in the past. The Stuxnet computer virus, discovered in 2010 and widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation, once disrupted and destroyed Iranian centrifuges at Natanz during an earlier period of Western fears about Tehran's programme.

65 killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 APRIL

At least 65 people were killed in clashes and terrorist attacks in Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, an independent war monitoring group said on Monday.

"Over the past 24 hours, our team has documented 65 deaths, including six civilians, 12 Afghan National Defense and Security Forces members, and 47 Taliban militants," Reduction in Violence, said on its Twitter account.

The group said that around 35 people, including 18 Taliban militants, 12 security forces and five civilians, were also injured during the cited period.

IANS

Bangladesh issues fresh directives for 'full lockdown'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

DHAKA, 12 APRIL

Amidst a surge in new Covid-19 cases, the Bangladeshi government on Monday issued a fresh set of directives for a nationwide "full lockdown" from Wednesday onwards.

The Cabinet Division on Monday issued a circular with the directives to be effective from 6 a.m. on Wednesday to the midnight of April 21.

In line with the directives, all government, semi-government, autonomous and

private offices will be closed. But the ban will not be applicable to airports, land ports and maritime ports and their offices.

The new lockdown imposed with stricter rules demands the closure of markets and shopping malls, but allows restaurants and hotels to remain open from morning to evening but only for takeaway or online services.

No one will be allowed to go outside except for trips for the absolute necessity such as medicine and daily essentials, medical treatment, and burial or funeral.

Pakistan human rights activist scribe IA Rehman passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE, 12 APRIL

Eminent Pakistani human rights activist and Magsaysay award winner I.A. Rehman, a strong voice for the country's minorities including Christians and Hindus and an advocate of peace between India and Pakistan, died here on Monday at the age of 90, according to his family.

Rehman, who was born in 1930 in Haryana in the pre-partitioned India, worked as an Editor for various newspapers in his journalistic

career spanning more than 65 years and was a founding member of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, the Dawn newspaper reported.

According to his family, he was diabetic and suffered from high blood pressure and his condition deteriorated

a couple of days ago. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

Pakistan Peoples Party's Senator and his friend Sherry Rehman said that the activist died due to Covid-19.

Rehman worked as director of HRCP for two decades and was also the group's secretary-general till December 2016.

He was a strong supporter of the country's minorities, including Christians and Hindus, and campaigned for amendments to Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws.

Japan launches Covid vaccination for elderly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

TOKYO, 12 APRIL

Japan on Monday started to vaccinate its elderly population against Covid-19 amid growing concerns about another wave of new infections.

The country will inoculate about 36 million people aged 65 or older, which account for 29 per cent of its population.

Since its launch in mid-February, the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines has been extremely slow.

Only 0.4 per cent of the population has been fully

charged with illegally possessing two-way radios and violating coronavirus protocols. She has also been accused by the ruling military council of bribery. Her lawyers say the charges were trumped up and they dismiss the accusation of bribery as a joke.

An additional complaint against her was filed on Monday related to the coronavirus rules, Min Min Soe said.

The coup has plunged Myanmar into crisis after 10 years of tentative steps towards democracy as the military stepped back from politics and allowed Suu Kyi to form a government after her party swept a 2015 election.

The military says it had to overthrow her government because a November election again won by her party was rigged. The election commission dismissed the accusation.

The coup has triggered relentless protests by those who cannot abide military rule and unyielding suppression by the generals who think only they can save the country from disintegration.

Eight die in Indonesia quake

JAKARTA, 12 APRIL

At least eight people were killed and 39 others injured when an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's East Java province, the National Disaster Management Agency said.

The agency's spokesman Raditya Jati said 1,189 houses were destroyed in several districts.

Shelters for the evacuees and logistics facilities have been established.

IANS

Five new animal species discovered in Tibet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 12 APRIL

Five new animal species have been discovered in Tibet, including three kinds of frogs, one old-world monkey and a bushmaster snake challenging the long-held view that the Himalayan mountains are a desolate and lifeless region.

The discovery of the five new species was the result of an eight-year investigation of the terrestrial wildlife in the Tibet Autonomous region carried out by the regional forestry bureau, state-run Global Times reported on Monday.

The discovered species are: a type of macaque (a genus of gregarious Old World monkeys), bushmaster snake (venomous), and three kinds



of frogs. The investigation also discovered 20 species that were not previously known to habitat in Tibet.

The white-cheeked macaque is the only mammal of all the five new species. Its place of dwelling was Medog county, which is the last county in Tibet bordering Arunachal Pradesh.

The species was first described by its discoverers, Chinese primatologists Li Cheng, Zhao Chao and Fan Pengfei, in 2015.

It is the first primate species in recent decades to be named by Chinese scholars, and is also the most recent new macaque

species to be described in an academic paper, the report said.

White-cheeked macaques are stout with the males significantly larger than the females. These animals' backs range from yellowish-brown to chocolate-brown colours, while their cheeks sport the distinct grayish-white hairs that gave them their name.

Protobothrops himalayanus, a type of bushmaster snake, was discovered in the Himalaya Mountains in 2012. Its most distinctive features are its red head and red eyes. It can grow up to 1.5 meters in length.

Dubai parts with curtain covers for restaurants in Ramzan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 12 APRIL

Dubai is parting with a long-standing requirement that restaurants be covered by curtains in the daytime during Ramzan to shield the sight of food from people fasting.

The move, announced Sunday by the city-state's Economic Development Department, is the latest change aimed at boosting tourism in the autocratic nation.

Restaurants will be allowed

to serve customers without putting in place curtains, dividers or facades as has been the mandatory practice previously, the state-run WAM news agency said.

The new circular replaces circulars issued in previous years that have required restaurants to block dining areas from the sight of those who are fasting.

The new rules also don't require restaurants to obtain special permits to serve food during sunlight hours as well.

During Ramzan, Muslims

observing the holy month abstain from food and drink even water during the day.

For the unversed, Muslims traditionally break the daylong Ramzan fast with their first sips of water and their evening meal, called iftar.

Among Gulf Arab states, home to large, non-Muslim expatriate populations, most require curtains be put up to block the sight of food from those fasting.

Eating and drinking in public also could bring fines and legal trouble.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Affirmative vote (3)
- 3 State of calm (5)
- 7 Fifty per cent (4)
- 8 Entreaty (8)
- 9 Manufactured in large numbers (4-8)
- 10 Charitable donations (4)
- 12 Underground (12)
- 18 Motion (8)
- 19 School principal (4)
- 20 Very steep (5)
- 21 Golf peg (3)
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40
- 41
- 42
- 43
- 44
- 45
- 46
- 47
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65
- 66
- 67
- 68
- 69
- 70
- 71
- 72
- 73
- 74
- 75
- 76
- 77
- 78
- 79
- 80
- 81
- 82
- 83
- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87
- 88
- 89
- 90
- 91
- 92
- 93
- 94
- 95
- 96
- 97
- 98
- 99
- 100
- 101
- 102
- 103
- 104
- 105
- 106
- 107
- 108
- 109
- 110
- 111
- 112
- 113
- 114
- 115
- 116
- 117
- 118
- 119
- 120
- 121
- 122
- 123
- 124
- 125
- 126
- 127
- 128
- 129
- 130
- 131
- 132
- 133
- 134
- 135
- 136
- 137
- 138
- 139
- 140
- 141
- 142
- 143
- 144
- 145
- 146
- 147
- 148
- 149
- 150
- 151
- 152
- 153
- 154
- 155
- 156
- 157
- 158
- 159
- 160
- 161
- 162
- 163
- 164
- 165
- 166
- 167
- 168
- 169
- 170
- 171
- 172
- 173
- 174
- 175
- 176
- 177
- 178
- 179
- 180
- 181
- 182
- 183
- 184
- 185
- 186
- 187
- 188
- 189
- 190
- 191
- 192
- 193
- 194
- 195
- 196
- 197
- 198
- 199
- 200
- 201
- 202
- 203
- 204
- 205
- 206
- 207
- 208
- 209
- 210
- 211
- 212
- 213
- 214
- 215
- 216
- 217
- 218
- 219
- 220
- 221
- 222
- 223
- 224
- 225
- 226
- 227
- 228
- 229
- 230
- 231
- 232
-



"I urge everyone to continue to behave responsibly and remember hands, face, space and fresh air" to suppress Covid

PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON

THUMBNAILS



Firefighters help a man out of a seniors residence following a fire in Montreal on Sunday. AP

Norway man charged for attacks in London: A man has been charged in Norway for his alleged role in plans to carry out three extremist attacks in Denmark and in London, and for purportedly spreading Islamic State group propaganda on the internet. Authorities believe the 24-year-old man, who wasn't identified, was part of a group that sought to strike a church in England, possibly St Paul's Cathedral in London, but British police thwarted the plot. Norwegian broadcaster NRK reported Monday. AP

Saint Petersburg factory fire: A huge fire was burning in a historic factory in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg on Monday, sending clouds of black smoke over the city. The emergencies ministry said the fire had broken out over several floors of the red-brick Nevskaya Manufaktura building. Forty people had been evacuated, while two firefighters had been hospitalised and contact lost with another one, the ministry said. AP

Paris shooting: Paris police are hunting for a gunman who opened fire Monday near a hospital in the wealthy 16th district of the French capital, killing one person and injuring another. Witnesses suggest it could be a case of tragic score-settling, while authorities have not made any links with terrorism. Paris police said the shooter fired several shots before fleeing on a two-wheeled vehicle. Noura Berrahmouni, DSPAP Alliance, said the injured woman, was a security agent for the hospital. AP

Harry arrives in UK for Prince Philip's funeral

LONDON, 12 APRIL

Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, has flown in from his California home to London to attend grandfather Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral on Saturday, according to a UK media report on Monday.

The 36-year-old was seen getting off a British Airways flight from Los Angeles that arrived at Heathrow Airport at 1.15pm. local time on Sunday and was taken to Kensington Palace, his former London home. The Sun newspaper said. The face-masked royal, the sixth in line to the British throne, was met by security staff and driven off in a black Range Rover.

Buckingham Palace had confirmed over the weekend that Harry would be attending the funeral but wife Meghan Markle, who is heavily pregnant with the couple's second child, was advised by her doctors against travel.

Harry will not have time to complete 10 days of quarantine before the funeral on Saturday but the current coronavirus lockdown rules allow people to temporarily leave their self-isolation on "compassionate grounds", which includes a funeral.

He would, however, have needed to provide a negative Covid-19 test before travelling and will have to return two more in the UK as well as stating providing his location while in England.

The funeral itself is also affected by the coronavirus rules, which limit crowd size to 30 people, with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson giving up his spot to accommodate royal family members. PTI

Floyd re-run in Minnesota: Man killed during traffic stop sparks unrest

Protesters descended upon Brooklyn Center police building where rocks were thrown at officers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BROOKLYN CENTER, 12 APRIL

Crowds of mourners and protesters gathered in a Minneapolis suburb where the family of a 20-year-old man said he died after being shot by police before getting back into his car and driving away, then crashing several blocks away. The family of Daunte Wright said he was later pronounced dead.

The death sparked protests in Brooklyn Center into the early hours of Monday morning, and stores were broken into, as Minneapolis was already on edge and midway through the trial of the first of four police officers in George Floyd's death. Brooklyn Center is a city of about 30,000 people located on the northwest border of Minneapolis.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz tweeted he was praying for Wright's family "as our state mourns another life of a Black man taken by law enforcement." Police didn't immediately identify Wright or disclose his race, but some protesters who gathered near the scene waved flags and signs reading "Black Lives Matter." Others walked peacefully with their hands held up. On one street, written in multi-coloured chalk: "Justice for Daunte Wright."



Men jump on police vehicles near the site of a shooting involving a police officer on Monday. AP

Demonstrators gathered shortly after the shooting and crash, with some jumping on top of police cars and confronting officers. Marchers also descended upon the Brooklyn Center police department building, where rocks and other objects were thrown at officers. Minnesota Department of Public Safety commissioner John Harrington said. The protesters had largely dispersed by 1.15 a.m. on Monday, he said. Harrington added that about 20 businesses had been broken into at the city's Shingle Creek shopping center. He said law enforcement agencies were coordinating to tame the unrest, and the National Guard was activated.

Brooklyn Center police said that officers had stopped a motorist shortly before 2 p.m. on Sunday. After determining

the driver had an outstanding warrant, police tried to arrest the driver. The driver reentered the vehicle and an officer fired at the vehicle, striking the driver, police said. The vehicle travelled several blocks before striking another vehicle.

Police said the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office will release the person's name following a preliminary autopsy and family notification. A female passenger sustained non-life-threatening injuries during the crash.

Katie Wright, Daunte's mother, huddled with loved ones near the scene and pleaded for her son's body to be removed from the street, the Star Tribune reported. She said her son had called her when he was getting pulled over, and she heard scuffling before the call ended. When she called back, she

said his girlfriend told her that her son had been shot.

Carolyn Hanson lives near the crash scene and told the newspaper that she saw officers pull the man out of the car and perform CPR. Hanson said a passenger who got out

Officer accused of force in stop of Black Army officer fired

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND(US), 12 APRIL

One of two police officers accused of pepper-spraying and pointing their guns at a Black Army officer during a traffic stop has since been fired, a Virginia town announced late Sunday, hours after the governor called for an independent investigation into the case.

The town of Windsor said in a statement that it joined calls from election officials, including Gov. Ralph Northam, in requesting an investigation by Virginia State Police into the December 2020 encounter in which two Windsor officers were accused of drawing their guns, pointing them at US Army second lieutenant Caron Nazario and using a slang term to suggest he was facing execution.

said his girlfriend told her that her son had been shot.

Carolyn Hanson lives near the crash scene and told the newspaper that she saw officers pull the man out of the car and perform CPR. Hanson said a passenger who got out

Nazario, who is Black and Latino, was also pepper-sprayed and knocked to the ground by the officers, Joe Gutierrez and Daniel Crockier, according to the lawsuit he filed earlier this month against them.

The two sides in the case dispute what happened, but Crocker wrote in a report that he believed Nazario was "eluding police" and he considered it a "high-risk traffic stop." Attorney Jonathan Arthur told that Nazario wasn't trying to elude the officer, but was trying to stop in a well-lit area. In the statement on Sunday, Windsor officials said an internal investigation opened at the time into the use of force determined that department policy wasn't followed.

Officials said disciplinary action was taken and Gutierrez has since been fired.

was covered in blood.

Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott announced a curfew in the city until 6 a.m. Monday. In a tweet he said, "We want to make sure everyone is safe. Please be safe and please go home."

GRADUAL EASING



Shoppers queue outside Primark in Norwich, England on Monday as shops, gyms, hairdressers, restaurant patios and beer gardens reopened after months of lockdown. AP

Chilly weather doesn't dampen UK joy at lockdown easing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 12 APRIL

some stores, including a branch of Nike Town on London's busy Oxford Street, and pubs and restaurants with outdoor space reported a flood of bookings.

Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium, said businesses that have endured months of enforced closure were "excited and desperate" to welcome customers back.

At a hairdresser in Birmingham, customer Amy Smith said she was thrilled to be getting a trim at last.

"It's great to be here, I've been going with this weird little top knot for a few months now," she said. "I'm going to a go to a beer garden experience later, so it's going to be good." Many people were planning outdoor meals and drinks, despite unseasonably cold weather that brought springtime snow flurries to

many areas—including, briefly, London.

Emma McClarkin, chief executive of the British Beer & Pub Association, said Monday's opening for outdoor service was "a first small step in a very long journey to recovery" for the "Great British pub." Across the country, hardy pub-goers ordered pints on patios and in beer gardens despite the chilly weather.

"Absolutely delicious," said Pippa Ingram, as she tasted her first drink alongside a hot breakfast at the Royal Victoria Pavilion pub in the seaside town of Ramsgate, southeast England. "That's banging," she said appreciatively.

England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are following distinct but broadly similar plans to ease lockdown.

Britain has had Europe's worst coronavirus outbreak, with more than 127,000 confirmed deaths.

Infections, hospitalizations and deaths have all fallen thanks to the lockdown, and a mass vaccination program that has given at least one dose to more than 60 per cent of the adult population.

The situation in Britain stands in contrast to many of its neighbors, including France, where new lockdowns have been introduced to combat surging infections and deaths.

Johnson and epidemiologists have urged caution, saying that many people remain unvaccinated and relaxing social distancing rules or allowing foreign holidays this summer could bring a new spike in infections.

Indoor drinking and dining won't be allowed in England until 17 May at the earliest, and theaters, cinemas, nightclubs and most other venues remain closed.

US colleges divided over requiring student vaccinations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON, 12 APRIL

US colleges hoping for a return to normalcy next fall are weighing how far they should go in urging students to get the Covid-19 vaccine, including whether they should—or legally can—require it.

Universities including Rutgers, Brown, Cornell and Northeastern recently told students they must get vaccinated before returning to campus next fall. They hope to achieve herd immunity on campus, which they say would allow them to loosen spacing restrictions in classrooms and dorms.

But some colleges are leaving the decision to students, and others believe they can't legally require vaccinations.

At Virginia Tech, officials determined that they can't because the US Food and Drug Administration has only allowed the emergency use of the vaccines.

The question looms large as more colleges plan to shift back from remote to in-person instruction. Many schools have launched vaccination blitzes to get students immunized before they leave for the summer. At some schools, the added requirement is meant to encourage holdouts and to build confidence that students and faculty will be safe on campus.

"It takes away any ambiguity about whether individuals should be vaccinated," said Kenneth Henderson, the chancellor of Northeastern University in Boston. "It also provides a level of confidence for the entire community that we are taking all appropriate measures."

Northeastern and other colleges requiring shots believe they're on solid legal ground. It's not unusual for colleges to require students to be vaccinated for other types of diseases, and a California court last year upheld a flu shot requirement at the Universi-

ty of California system.

But legal scholars say the Covid-19 vaccines' emergency use status moves the issue to a legal gray area that's likely to be challenged in court.

Harvard Law professor Glenn Cohen, said there's no legal reason colleges wouldn't be allowed to require Covid-19 vaccinations. It makes no difference that the shots haven't been given full approval, he said, noting that many colleges already require students to take coronavirus tests that are approved under the same FDA emergency authorisation.

But there's also no federal guidance explicitly permitting vaccination mandates. The biggest clash could come in states taking a stance against vaccination requirements, he said.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis this month banned all businesses from requiring customers to show proof of vaccination. The order raises questions about Nova South-

eastern University's plan to require students and staff to get vaccinated. The college's president said he's still confident in the plan, but he also promised to "respect the laws of our state and all federal directives."

The governor of Texas, the country's second-largest state, issued a similar order.

There's a parallel debate about whether to require vaccination for faculty and staff, an issue that employers across the nation are grappling with. At the University of Notre Dame, one of the latest schools to require student vaccinations, shots are still optional for workers. Northeastern is considering whether to extend its mandate to employees.

Even at schools making shots mandatory, there are exemptions. Federal law requires colleges to provide accommodations to students who refuse a vaccine for medical reasons, and most schools are also offering exemptions for religious reasons.

BAFTAs 2021: 'Nomadland' bags four awards, Anthony Hopkins wins best actor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 12 APRIL



Health Secretary Matt Hancock, on behalf of Greensill, which collapsed last month, threatened to sue the company's collapse forced the owner of Liberty Steel, which employs about 5,000 people, to seek a government bailout.

Gordon Brown, PM from 2007 to 2010, on Monday

called for a five-year ban on lobbying by former ministers. But Bernard Jenkin, lawmaker who led an inquiry into links between government and business, said the only way to combat this long-running problem is to require serving ministers and civil servants to report inappropriate conduct by lobbyists.

Jenkin alleged that a culture had been building up for a long time in which government officials who "generously welcomed" her team into their lives.

"They shared with us their dreams, their struggles, and their deep sense of dignity. Thank you for showing us that aging is a beautiful part of life, a journey that we should all cherish and celebrate. How we treat our elders says a lot about who we are as a society and we need to do better," the director said in her acceptance speech.

Hopkins, who earned his eighth BAFTA nomination with

"The Father", said acting is like a way of life for him. "It's the only thing I do. I enjoy it. It's a way of life for me..." he said in an interview post the win.

"The Father" also won the

award to the nomadic community who "generously welcomed" her team into their lives.

"Thank you, dear British people. I humbly accept this honour on behalf of the 'Nomadland' tribe and company. We salute you," she said.

"Anthony Hopkins-starrer 'The Father' won the best actor award for the veteran star, a category where Irrfan Khan's Adarsh Gourav was also nominated for his role in 'The White Tiger'.

Hopkins, who earned his eighth BAFTA nomination with "The Father", said acting is like a way of life for him. "It's the only thing I do. I enjoy it. It's a way of life for me..." he said in an interview post the win.

"The Father" also won the

adapted screenplay BAFTA.

In the supporting actress category, the award went to South Korea's veteran star Yuh-Jung Youn for her role as the maternal grandmother in "Minari", while Daniel Kaluuya was named the winner in the supporting actor category.

Kaluuya thanked the makers of "Judas and the Black Messiah", the producers, his mother and friends, and he also

remembered his childhood icons. "It's an honour to be a vessel for him (Fred Hampton and the Black Messiah)", he said.

In her quirky acceptance speech, Yuh-Jung thanked "snobbish" British people for recognising her as an actor.

"Thank you so much for this award. Every award is meaningful, but this one, especially (to be) recognised by British people, known as very snobbish people, and they approve of me as a good actor. So I'm very, very privileged and happy, she said.

Kaluuya thanked the makers of "Judas and the Black Messiah", the producers, his mother and friends, and he also

the bond shared between a diver and an Octopus, won the BAFTA in the documentary category.

The animated film BAFTA went to Pete Docter-Danna Murray's jazz animation "Soul". The movie won its second award in the original score category. Riz Ahmed-starred "Sound of Metal" bagged two BAFTA awards in the editing and sound categories.

Christopher Nolan's time inversion story "Tenet" won in the special visual effects category. British short animation BAFTA went to "The Owl and the Pussycat" and the British short film award went to "The Present".

'More favourable immigration pathways have been created for Indian students'

MADHURIMA SENGUPTA

Just as the new normal sunk in, the second, third and even fourth waves of the coronavirus started gripping countries across the world, making one rethink their steps. As several states in India are going into partial lockdowns, schools and colleges are shutting down again. The unsettling turn of events can be especially discouraging for students looking forward to studying abroad.

Under such circumstances, James Pitman, managing director of Study Group, an organisation facilitating students to study abroad, shared his insights on what to expect while applying to universities in the UK. Excerpts:

Q From when will the UK start vaccinating their international students? Do you think it can be a major step in restoring their numbers in the country?

The UK department of health and social care has confirmed that international students studying at UK universities will be eligible to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. As such, international students in full-time education in the UK who have paid the immigration and health surcharge and have a valid student visa, are entitled to free National Health Service medical care. This includes the vaccination for Covid-19.

Regulations have also been passed by the UK government, which enable everyone to get tested and treated for coronavirus, free of charge, regardless of their visa status. All of the adult population is expected to be offered vaccination by the end of July this year, in line with the latest independent health guidelines in the UK. Anyone under the age of 30 will be offered a different vaccine other than AstraZeneca. This is good news for Indian students who intend to pursue higher education in the UK.

Q Given the Covid-19 situation, how will the education system in the UK cope with the flow of students?

The UK government has introduced a point-based international student immigration route. In line with the new UK international education strategy, the system gives more

James Pitman of Study Group opens up about a new strategy that has been introduced in the UK to draw meritorious learners from India, their vaccination drive, impact of Brexit and more

points to those with high education levels, academic qualifications and skills. And Indians have these qualities in abundance. So, with the UK government's focus on improving the application process for international students, clearer, smoother and more favourable immigration pathways have been created for Indian students. There will be no limit on the number of visas available and international students will be permitted a longer window of time to submit their immigration applications.

The strategy will also allow Indian students pursuing Bachelor's or Master's degrees to stay in the UK and search for employment two years after receiving their degree. PhD students can stay in the country for one more year. The government, however, will be working on simplifying the process to switch from a student to a tier 2 visa.

The UK will also help domestic and international students facing financial hardships. The government provided £ 20 million to colleges and universities to distribute to students in need last December. Recently, another £ 50 million was allocated and with plans to assign more to be offered for student support.

All these initiatives are set to create an increasing number of education and employment opportunities for Indian students, thus triggering their flow in the nation. With a large number of prestigious higher education institutions across the country, the UK is well placed to accommodate increased demand for degree and post-graduate programmes from international students.

Q How has Brexit impacted student visa policies, particularly in the context of Indian students?

It's an important question con-

cerning Indian students but there is nothing to worry about. The graduate route (similar to the old post-study work visa) will now allow two years unsponsored stay in the UK after completing a Bachelor's or three years after completing a PhD. This time will allow students to gain international experience and career prospects and ensure a smooth transition to skilled worker visas in the UK.

The work visa route, which replaced the tier 2 general visa, will also offer better opportunities to information technology, healthcare, legal and research and development professionals from India.

Q Data shows that Indian applicants to UK universities belong mostly to metros. Do you have any plans to also attract students from tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India?

We are working with credible partners to help students from Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur and other tier 2 and 3 cities to fulfil their dream of studying in the UK. This will positively impact the diversity of students from India studying in the UK, which will enrich the overall learning experience.

Q Which subjects in UK universities are favoured among Indian students and why?

Business, engineering, computing, law and hospitality programmes are the most favoured ones. This is largely due to the programme rankings and the career opportunities after completion.

Q Do universities in the UK attract students for graduate courses more than post-graduate ones? What are some of the degrees and courses in the UK, which can prove beneficial

for Indian students but are yet to gain popularity among them?

UK universities attract applications to both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. At the moment, we are noticing slightly more demand for post-graduate programmes from Indian students.

In terms of subject preference, medical, nursing, sports science, and programmes related to psychology are gaining popularity amongst Indian students.

Q What scholarships can Indian students avail from UK universities? What percentage of costs is generally covered by them?

Different universities offer different kinds of scholarships. However, broadly it is between 10 to 20 per cent.

The writer is a staff member, Features, The Statesman, Kolkata



Stepping out of the kitchen

There is vast scope in the bakery industry for aspiring culinary artists with an eye for detail and an understanding of the right temperature, texture and taste

NIKLESH SHARMA

Olden days are known for the simplicity of food and traditional cooking style. No fancy cutlery, experiments, extravagant dishes, and hence no baking and culinary courses were required then. With time, the food industry has evolved, gained popularity, witnessed master chefs around the world and now people can see enormous opportunities.

Down the years and with the growing love for pizzas, lasagne, cakes, muffins, cookies, tarts and scones, the baking industry has witnessed a boom. Bakery emerged as a completely different stream. One can call cooking and baking a science as it requires a person to be precise in measurement and good at understanding the minute details of the process. In short, one would need good training to become a baker or chef. That's when bakery and culinary skills come into the scenario.

Scope in India

Culinary mavericks have been breaking boundaries, giving a whole new definition to our understanding and relationship with food. There is vast scope for culinary artists who are ambitious towards making their career in the food industry, have an eye for detail and an understanding of the right temperature, texture and taste.

A degree or certification is not always required to enter the culinary world, but it is required when one needs to perform with creativity and under pressure to meet professional expectations. There are many recognised and credible universities for learning culinary arts in India. The



on training to create one's own network and job offers. It can prove to be a great career move for budding chefs.

Turning skills and education into an opportunity is still a challenge for culinary pass-outs. It is necessary to work on various aspects such as strong communication skills, to hone and round out the knowledge one gains within four-walled classrooms.

Aspirants would need a stepping stone for becoming a chef entrepreneur, sous chef, pastry chef, start their venture, food stylist, food writer, restaurant and café owners, catering

directors, etc because the world needs more culinary artists who are flawless when it comes to accuracy and precision.

Culinary and bakery courses

One can easily find culinary programmes which generally last from one to two years and cover major concepts of the industry. The candidate needs to have a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. One can also get specialised in bakery and confectionaries by opting for six-month courses. There are numerous

courses available to learn bakery and culinary skills -- Bachelor of arts in culinary arts; Bachelor of science in culinary science; BSc in culinary arts with specialisation in bakery and pastery art management; certification course in bakery and confectionery; post-graduate diploma in culinary arts; PG diploma in bakery science and technology, and advanced programme in pastry and baking.

Under these courses, one can learn major concepts of microbiology, the foundation of baked foods and product development, hygiene and safety, professional skills of baking bread, services marketing, food entrepreneurship, professional baking tarts and pastries, food sociology, the functionality of wheat flour components and bakery ingredients, quality testing of wheat flour, rheology and chemistry of dough to name a few.

Certain specialised training institutes offer six to nine months courses in specialised domains such as baking or international cuisines. It's advisable for budding chefs and bakers to opt for these courses rather than spending three to four years on a degree course. These institutes, available in France, are very costly. Now, culinary and bakery institutes of similar standards are available in India as well. Such institutes are much more effective in learning since they are completely hands on.

Obsession over bakery products and foods which are treating the taste buds are crazily driving the industry. Apart from its taste, there are many bakery products which are nutritive and are also an indispensable part of people's diet.

India owns a large market for bakery products and is growing rapidly. The food industry is considered to be one of the unavoidable factors and a backbone of the economic growth for any country in the world. Development and commencement of culinary courses in universities, and opening new ones with the purpose to give the industry a dramatic boost with the above-mentioned factors will open innumerable opportunities for budding culinary artists of India.

The writer is founder, Academy of Pastry and Culinary Arts

PLUS POINTS

Empowering girls



In the wake of promoting the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign and building a digital India, HKBK College of Engineering in association with Round Table India have taken an initiative to empower girl children studying at various government schools in Bangalore. The initiative aims to distribute 500 laptops, wherein they gave out 10 laptops as a pilot project.

The event was held at the college in the presence of Kannada actor and chief guest Shashi K Garh and Angadd KM. Through the initiative, the partners would educate students and give them access to professional training to empower them to go beyond their limits and find their path in life.

Awards bestowed



Asia Today Research organised the Asia Education Summit and Awards 2021 Ceremony in New Delhi recently on the theme "The change in education system due to the unprecedented situation of Covid-19". The summit focused on the new policies given by the Central government towards enhancing the quality of education across the country so that India can create enough opportunities for new graduates. Former union minister and Indian emissary to the G20 and G7 Suresh Prabhu and actress Jaya Prada were present at the event.

The awards were presented to institutions such as Mody University of Science and Technology, Raffles University, Globsyn Business School, St Mark's School, Birla High School and Lakshmi Pat Singhania Academy to name a few.

New fellowship



Indian Institute of Technology-Madras' Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI, and the Narayanan Family Foundation have collaborated to launch a fellowship in "artificial intelligence for social good" recently. The objective is to attract budding AI researchers with exceptional promise to RBCDSAI, IIT-Madras.

The fellows will be primarily drawn from recent PhD graduates or early career researchers in computer science, computational and data sciences, biomedical sciences, management, finance and other engineering branches. They would get a salary of Rs 15,00,000 to Rs 18,00,000 per year depending on the experience for a non-renewable term of three years and are also eligible for a one-time research grant of up to Rs 30,00,000. Interested candidates can apply at <https://rbcdsai.iitm.ac.in/nfj/>

Design potential



World University of Design announced the introduction of a well-thought array of new courses for design school students in the new session recently. The courses are keeping in view the current necessity of students pursuing the discipline across its various fields, along with enhancing their potential for future needs. Additions are made in the fields of management, architecture, design and performing arts.

The course will prepare students with a strong base in the theories of performance, nuances of the classical, folk and contemporary arts, the rudiments of production and presentation along with rigorous insight into the field of specialisation-- dance or music studies or theatre arts. For details, visit, www.worlduniversityofdesign.ac.in



ONE IN THE EYE

A season that provided the flickers of a title challenge could now be turning into the worst of Jose Mourinho's (photo, left) managerial career. Of all the managers to inflict Tottenham's most recent loss in the Premier League season, it was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who had replaced Mourinho at Manchester United.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Racial abuse: Tottenham forward Son Heung-min became the latest Premier League player to be targeted with racist abuse on social media following a match. The South Korea international was involved in an incident which saw a goal by Edinson Cavani ruled out.

Narrow lead: Atletico Madrid's lead at the top of La Liga was reduced to one point as they were held to a 1-1 draw away to Betis. Yannick Carrasco put them ahead after just five minutes only for Cristian Tello to equalise in the 20th minute game on Sunday.

Gunners boom: Arsenal kept alive their hopes of playing in European competition with a 3-0 win at Sheffield United, left starting at relegation after Alexandre Lacazette scored twice and Gabriel Martinelli added another on Sunday. Arsenal rose to No 9.

Second victory: Schalke won a Bundesliga game for just the second time in 15 months as Suat Serdar scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over Augsburg to delay the last-place club's seemingly inevitable relegation. A goalkeeping blunder handed Schalke the lead.

Vazquez injured: Real Madrid have paid a price for their 2-1 win over FC Barcelona, given that Lucas Vazquez will probably miss the rest of the season with a knee injury he picked up in the game. Vazquez set up Karim Benzema for Real Madrid's first goal of the game.

First title: Veronika Kudermova of Russia won her first Women's Tennis Association title, coming up strong on the big points to beat Danka Kovinic 6-4, 6-2 at the Volvo Car Open. The 23-year-old did not drop a set in six matches on the way to the championship.

Test series: Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque on Sunday ruled out experiments in the forthcoming Test series in Sri Lanka as they were badly in need of some positive results. The Tigers were scheduled to leave home on Monday with an inflated squad.

Tour cancelled: The Pakistan U-19 cricket team's tour of Bangladesh, previously scheduled for April, has been called off owing to a rise in Covid-19 infections in Bangladesh, which has imposed a nationwide lockdown. They were to fly out on 11 April.

Cricket crisis: South African cricket's extended administrative crisis appeared close to an end on Saturday when Cricket South Africa interim board hailed an agreement on a new governance structure in which independent directors will be in the majority.

Boxing woes: Two assistant coaches at the national camp for Indian women boxers here have tested positive for COVID-19 and quarantined with mild symptoms. The development was confirmed by a source close to the team, which is training at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Davis Cup venues: The cities of Innsbruck in Austria and Turin in Italy will co-host the Davis Cup Finals along with the Spanish capital of Madrid this year, the International Tennis Federation said Monday. Madrid was the sole host of the inaugural edition of the revamped event in 2019, and it was going to repeat as host by itself last year before the tournament was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

ONE IN THE EYE

A season that provided the flickers of a title challenge could now be turning into the worst of Jose Mourinho's (photo, left) managerial career. Of all the managers to inflict Tottenham's most recent loss in the Premier League season, it was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who had replaced Mourinho at Manchester United.

www.thestatesman.com

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 12 APRIL

Fresh from their clinical display against Sunrisers Hyderabad, two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will tomorrow look to set the record straight against Mumbai Indians in their second Indian Premier League match here.

Having missed the last two play-offs, KKR look a completely different unit, given the manner in which they defeated SRH by 10 runs in their first game last evening. Be it the aggression shown by the top order or the explosive finish by Dinesh Karthik, KKR displayed a fearless approach under skipper Eoin Morgan.

Morgan's intent was evident right at the toss when he chose to leave out Sunil Narine, one of the team's reliable playes. The left-right opening combination of Nitish Rana and Shubman Gill started attacking right from the first ball, clearly indicating that the new approach had Morgan's gameplan written all over it.

Boasting a solid middle



order studded with Andre Russell, Karthik and Morgan, 2020 had been a season of promise for KKR but unimaginative planning did not help their cause. This time around, KKR have further bolstered their middle order by adding

Bangladesh superstar Shakib Al Hasan to it.

Morgan, now in his first full season as skipper, gives the franchise a new dimension. Rana's deft wristwork and brute power was on full display last evening and it

ensured they stayed ahead despite Rashid Khan's twin blows. After Rana's 56-ball 80, it was the under-fire Karthik who hit an unbeaten 22 from nine balls to propel KKR to the winning total of 187 for six. And KKR would look to

come out all guns blazing against the five-time champions. They have won just once in their past 12 games against MI, and have an overall 6-21 head-to-head record. It will all boil down to a battle of wits between Morgan

and Rohit Sharma, under whose captaincy MI won a record fifth IPL title last season. MI will pose a real challenge as the title-holders would be desperate to secure their first win of the season after their two-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday.

KRR found it easy against SRH bowlers, who lacked firepower, but in Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI have tougher bowlers. Gill's struggle to bat at Twenty20 pace has been a concern for KKR and it will be interesting to see the young opener's approach against the finest in the business.

Known as slow starters, MI lost the other day owing to the individual brilliance of RCB's Harshal Patel and AB de Villiers on a two-paced wicket. In his debut match for MI, Chris Lynn was their top-scorer, albeit with some luck as he survived some edges and mishits. If Quinton de Kock is still in quarantine, MI may have to persist with Lynn at the top, or they may go back to their preferred left-right opening combination of Sharma and de Kock.

"One of the many strengths

we have within our squad is two of the most talented guys in the country opening the batting for us," Morgan said at the post-match virtual media conference last evening. "Tripathi at No 3 played beautifully, and the middle order we have is extremely versatile. When Dinesh plays like that or Andre plays the game he can play, you're going to see a very destructive batting unit that has potential to win you matches." The skipper was all-praise for Rana, who had played the match-winning knock, days after recovering from Covid-19.

"What impressed me the most about his innings was the method that he used. He played really aggressively and always took a positive option, which really set up our batting innings." Talking about Karthik, who had batteed at No 6, Morgan said the wicketkeeper-batsman was happy with the role given to him. "Dinesh is happy with where he is at the moment. Obviously we're in regular conversation with him being the vice-captain and me being captain."

Match starts at 7:30 pm

Hockey boys savour emphatic victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUENOS AIRES, 12 APRIL

have been ahead had it not been for some excellent saves from India's goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who twice denied Martin Ferreiro.

Harmanpreet then converted India's first penalty corner of the game in the 11th minute. Lalit doubled India's lead when he showed lightning quick reactions in the second quarter, pouncing on a save from Argentina custodian Juan Vivaldi to slot home.

The strike gave the visitors a deserved reward after a lengthy period of probing possession play. The result was confirmed two minutes from the end when Mandeep fired home from close, losing his footing but keeping his composure to guide an backhand effort into the net.

"I think we defended well," said India's goalkeeper Pathak, who was named Player of the Match. "They are good in defence but we created a lot of chances. We scored the goals, so that is good for us. We have to work on a lot of things, in defence, in midfield also. We have to learn from this match. Today we did a lot of good things, but we still have to work (to do)."

Dhoni's wicket a dream come true for young DC pacer Avesh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 12 APRIL

Delhi Capitals' (DC) young fast bowler Avesh Khan was one of the happiest players around on the field after his team defeated Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by seven wickets in the second match of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The reason for the 24-year-old's enthusiasm was the wicket of Mahendra Singh Dhoni late on Saturday night.

"Three years ago, I had a chance to take Mahi bhai's wicket, but somebody had dropped the catch. But now my dream of taking his wicket is fulfilled, so I am very happy about it."

Avesh said DC's strategy was to put pressure on the CSK skipper as he had not played competitive cricket for some time. "It was because of the pressure (that) I could take his wicket," said Avesh, who returned figures of 2/23 and helped the Delhi franchise restrict CSK to 188/7 before chasing down the target in 18.4 overs.

Avesh, who made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in 2017, said that he was very happy with the way he carried out the role given to him. "I am happy with my performance in the first match. I put the team in a good position with the wickets of Mahi bhai and Faf du Plessis.

After winning the first match, everyone's confidence goes up. Now, we have to maintain the momentum." On Rishabh Pant's captaincy, the right-arm bowler said, "Rishabh backed me and gave me the second over of the match and I took a wicket (of Faf du Plessis) in that over itself. A wicket in the initial part of a fast bowler's spell is really good for his rhythm. Du Plessis is a good

Hooda, Rahul take Punjab Kings to 221/6 against RR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 12 APRIL

A 105-run partnership for the third wicket in just 46 balls between skipper K.L. Rahul and Deepak Hooda helped Punjab Kings post 221/6 in their 20 overs against Rajasthan Royals here at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

Punjab Kings, who lost

opener Mayank Agarwal early, saw Rahul and Chris Gayle (in photo) add 67 for the second wicket with the West Indian batsman being the dominant partner as he gave his side the initiative.

Gayle's 28-ball 40 comprised two sixes and four fours as he became the first batsman to hit 350 sixes in the history of Indian Premier League.

Gayle's dismissal off Ryan Parag would have given hope to the Rajasthan franchise but then Hooda and Rahul pounded sixes.

Overs 13 and 14 bowled by Shivam Dube and Shreyas Gopal went for 20 each and saw sixes, five of those coming off Hooda's bat.

From 110/2 after 12 overs, Punjab Kings moved to 150/2 after 14 overs.

The hammering didn't end there. After a couple of overs that went for 11 each, Punjab Kings took 15 off Chetan Sakariya, who had got the earlier wicket of Mayank Agarwal.

Even in the 18th over, when Rajasthan Royals got rid of Hooda and Nicholas Pooran, the Punjab franchise managed to get 14 runs.

Then came 15 off Mustafizur Rahman's fourth over, the innings' 19th.

Young Saurashtra left-arm pacer Sakariya got two wickets in his last over and conceded just five runs to finish as the most successful Rajasthan Royals bowler with three wickets for 31 runs in his four overs.

From 110/2 after 12 overs, Punjab Kings moved to 150/2 after 14 overs.

The hammering didn't end there. After a couple of overs that went for 11 each, Punjab Kings took 15 off Chetan Sakariya, who had got the earlier wicket of Mayank Agarwal.

Even in the 18th over, when Rajasthan Royals got rid of Hooda and Nicholas Pooran, the Punjab franchise managed to get 14 runs.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS INNINGS	
KL Rahul c Tewatia b Sakariya	91
M Agarwal c Samson b Sakariya	14
C Gayle c Stokes b Parag	40
D Hooda c Parag b Morris	64
N Pooran c Sakariya b Morris	0
Sahrur Khan not out	6
J Richardson c Morris b Sakariya	0
Extras: (nb 2, w 4)	6
TOTAL: (20 Ov, RR: 11.05) 221/6	
BOWLING: C Sakariya 4,0,31,3	
M Rahman 4,0,45,0 Chris Morris 4,0,41,2 S Gopal 3,0,40,0	



Matsuyama first man from Japan to win a major golf title

TOM KERSHAW

As history beckoned at Augusta, even a four-shot lead could not suppress the angst that swirled in the air and, for a second, threatened to blow Hideki Matsuyama (in photo) into the most disastrous of footnotes.

For so long on Sunday, he had treated the whispers of collapse with deafening silence, with the chasing pack receding into the long afternoon shadows in Georgia. But on the 15th fairway, he evoked vestiges of golf's worst unravellings, recklessly taking on the par-5 and succeeding only in finding the water at the back of the green.

From a position of impious dominance, a one-paced Masters suddenly swung towards a knife-edge. Yet, at the crucial moment, Xander Schauffele, Matsuyama's playing partner and closest challenger, turned the sword on

himself at the 16th, finding the water and making a triple bogey. With a two-shot cushion but nerves fraying like old feathers, Matsuyama drew on every ounce of resilience to cling to victory and become the first Japanese man in history to win a major.

As he walked off the 18th green, the emotions finally told. Matsuyama has long been an icon for a country enamoured with golf. Finally, after so many agonising near-misses, he has fulfilled the prophecies that were born when he finished as the low amateur at Augusta a decade ago. For ever in a relentless spotlight, it is a shame that his most ardent followers were unable to see him reach the sport's pinnacle in person.

"Hideki in Japan - he's a bit like a Tiger Woods to the rest of the world," Adam Scott, the 2013 champion, said after closing out his fourth round earlier in the day.

"I'm really happy. My



many more will follow me."

It was a dramatic finale to what had otherwise been a day desperately short of suspense. After a 77-minute rain delay on Saturday, Matsuyama took advantage of the softened greens and stormed four shots clear of the field with a blistering back nine. There were, though, inevitably nerves on the first tee and his drive

veered deep into the pine straw.

Almost immediately, as Will Zalatoris started with back-to-back birdies, entirely undaunted by the prospect of becoming the first winning debutant in 42 years, Matsuyama's advantage was reduced to just one.

But what promised to become a wide-open race instead became one man's procession. To end the early apprehension, Matsuyama responded clinically at the second with a wonderful up-and-down for birdie from the front bunker. From thereon, the tricky opening stretch was navigated in serene fashion, his irons once again steady and sublime.

Without any serious charge from behind, the lead was consolidated again at the par-5 eighth before an exquisite approach at the far trickier ninth. Making the turn in 34, a healthy slice of daylight restored, it was little more than

Matsuyama's anxiety.

Matsuyama had already expressed his relief earlier this week that not quite so many Japanese reporters had made the journey to Augusta this year; his free hours spent at peace rather than faced with another firing line of questions.

But soon the pressure started to tell as the horizon came into view on the back nine. The first cracks emerged at the 12th, where he dropped a shot after finding the back bunker.

From there, he benefited from two huge helpings of luck as his drive kicked out of the trees and an overhit approach coursed over the back of the green on pure adrenaline and stopped only just short of the azalea bushes.

Up ahead, Zalatoris remained steadfast in pursuit while Schauffele picked up the slipstream, even if the likes of Justin Rose and Jordan Spieth had long faded out of contention. If Matsuyama's anxiety was unsurprising, for a

while his smile belied the gravity of the situation.

Soon, though, the nerves became impossible to disguise.

It would have been a dreadful and undeserved ending had he not held on, but after Schauffele unravelled, Matsuyama regained his composure to come home with just one shot to spare. It might have been a stumble over the line, but such measured brilliance earlier this week afforded him the saving grace. This was a victory that will reverberate across the golfing landscape, no doubt inciting another boom of popularity in Asia, where there is already such