THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | TUESDAY | 20 APRIL 2021





Forecast: Clear. Max/Min temp. 40/26 ºC

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Ashtami till 12.39 am (Wednesday) Star: Punarvasu till 6.51 am Varjyam: 3.12 pm to 4.52 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.30 am to 9.20 am; 11.05 pm to 11.51 pm **Rahukalam**: 3 pm to 4.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Ramzan 7,1442 AH **Fajar:** 5.35 am

Zohar: 1.30 pm Asar: 5.15 pm Maghrib: 6.25 pm Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.48 AM SUNSET TODAY 6.24 PM MOONRISE TODAY 11.56 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 1.22 AM





It is running late by 12 hours, doctor!

UK PM cancels India tour again

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cancelled his planned visit to India next week due to the coronavirus situation in the country, Downing Johnson, who admitted it was "frustrating" but "only sensible" to call off the visit, will instead speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this month to launch their plans for the future UK-India partnership.

Full report on Page 4

India is red list **country for UK**

London: Britain on Monday added India to its Covid-19 travel "red list", which bans all travel from the country and makes a 10-day hotel quarantine compulsory for UK residents arriving back to the country. Health sec-

retary Matt Hancock confirmed the move in the House of Commons as he revealed that 103 cases of the so-called Indian variant had been identified in the UK, of which the "vast majority have links to international travel".

WORLD 4

Russia forced to take **Navalny to hospital**



SPORTS 6

Murali discharged after angioplasty

New Delhi, April 19: Former prime minister Manmohan Singh tested positive for Covid-19 and

was admitted to All India

Institute of Medical Sciences here with a mild

fever on Monday after-

Singh, 88, has been

admitted to the AIIMS

trauma centre, which is a

dedicated Covid facility, sources said, adding his condition is stable. They

said Singh had a mild

fever in the morning and

later tested positive for

Covid-19. The doctors are

monitoring his condition. Singh had taken both the

doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Wishes for the speedy

recovery of the Congress

veteran poured in following his hospitalisation. "Wishing you a speedy

recovery. India needs your

guidance and advice in

this difficult time," former

Congress president Rahul

Former union minister

P. Chidambaram, chief ministers Ashok Gehlot,

Gandhi tweeted.

noon.

TABLOID

Non sexual affair is cheating too

Manmohan Singh +ve

Admitted to AIIMS with mild fever, condition is stable

DC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister K. Chand-

rashekar Rao has been

tested positive for Covid-

Somesh Kumar said the

CM has been advised isolation and he

would remain at

his farmhouse for a

Chandrashekar

Rao had mild symptoms, follow-ing which he had

undergone Covid-

19 tests. A team of doctors is monitoring the

CM's health. His health

condition is normal and

there was no fever on

Monday.
Dr M.V. Rao, the CM's

personal doctor, said, "We have conducted antigen

Samajwadi Party chief

Amarinder

Chief secretary

HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Telangana CM positive

test as well as RT-PCR

test. The results were pos-

itive. He has mild symp-

toms. Home isolation will

Dr M.V. Rao said the

tests conducted on the

personal staff of the CM

have come negative. The CM made his last

complained of uneasiness on Monday, after which the tests were

done. He has not taken the

Covid vaccination though

his daughter K. Kavitha

Kumar took the jabs.

leader Himanta

Santosh

Yadav, BJP

Joginapally

Akhilesh

disinfected.

public appearance

on April 14, at a

public meeting in

Halia to campaign for the TRS in Nagarjun-asagar Assembly bypoll. The Chief Minister



Vol. 32 No. 320 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

Over 18-yr-olds can get Covid shot from May 1

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Under pressure to open up vaccines for all age groups as Covid-19 cases surge in India, the Central government on Monday announced that vaccinations will be available to all above the age of 18 from May 1. In another major shift in vaccine policy, the Centre also allowed states to directly procure vaccine doses from manufacturers. Vaccine manufacturers have been asked to supply 50 per cent of their stock to the Centre, and split the rest 50 per cent between state governme-

nts and the open market. The decision for "liberalised and accelerated" Phase 3 Covid-19 vaccination drive from May 1 was announced after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a series of meetings over India's response to record daily surges in

Covid cases. With Covid-19 cases rising at an alarming speed and hospital beds, oxygen supply and medicines in short supply, the government was under tremendous pressure to open up vaccination and allow states access to medical

India on Monday report-

DC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy released the

first tranche of ₹671.45

crore by crediting into

bank accounts of mothers

of 10.88 lakh students to

help them pursue higher studies under Jagananna

Vidya Deevena scheme for

the academic year 2020-21.

on Monday, the Chief Minister stated that the

main objective in coming

up with Jagananna Vidya

Deevena scheme was to

make education accessible

to poor. Education was a

wealth that can make stu-

dents sustain themselves.

He explained about a

series of schemes rolled

out to promote education

like Jagananna Goru Mudha, Amma Vodi and

Vasati Deevena in order to

ensure that no family

should fall into debts for

the sake of providing edu-

cation for their children.

He said that under

Jagananna Vidya Deevena

scheme, so far, an amount

of ₹4,879 crore was spent

Page 2: Call 1902 in case of

any problems, say officials

on 10.88 lakh students.

At his camp office here

Didi cuts rally time, **BJP** for mini meets

RAJIB CHOWDHURI & YOJNA GUSAI KOLKATA/NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Rattled by an explosion of Covid-19 cases in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has can-celled her election campaign in Kolkata and curtailed the length of her district rallies to 30 minutes. The BJP also capped the strength of crowds at its rallies, including those of Prime Minister Narendra, to a maximum of 500 for the remaining three poll phases.

The move by the Trinamul Congress and the BJP came after former Congrpresident Gandhi cancelled his cam-

paign in the state citing

Covid cases.
The BJP's decision to curtail the strength of crowds was taken after the party had flak from rivals and also on the social media for holding big rallies of its leaders despite worsening pandemic.

The saffron party's statement came after its national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya tweeted, "In view of the (rise in) Corona infection cases, instructions have been received from the Prime Minister's Office to change the form of the meetings of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Special attention should be taken for social distancing."

ed 2.74 lakh cases and 1,619

As per the new vaccination policy, pricing, pro-curement, eligibility and administration of vaccines have been made flexible in Phase 3 and all stakeholders have been

Jagan's ₹671 cr sop to help

pursuit of higher studies

given flexibility to customise to local needs. However, vaccines in the government sector will

continue to be adminis-

tered free of cost.

Page 3: Private players free to set jab price

5,963 fresh cases in state, 27 dead

12 IIT GIRL STUDENTS POSITIVE

Singh and

Banerjee,

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

Andhra Pradesh registered 5,963 fresh coronavirus infections and 27 deaths in the last 24 hours. The state health authori-

ties reported here on Monday that out of 37,765 samples tested, 5,963 persons were found infected with the virus. Out of a total of 1,57,15,757 samples tested so far in the state, 9,68,000 persons were found infected with the virus and of thom 9.12,510 virus and of them, 9,12,510 have recovered while 48,053 are still active with the virus.

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

officials Srikakulam district said that 12 girl students living in hostels of IIIT, Etcherla, have tested posi-tive on Monday. All of them have been shifted to the Covid Care Centre on outskirts of the town.

Chittoor reported the highest number of coronavirus cumulative active cases at 8,705 followed by

All hostels of the IIT, which had been reopened in February, have been

Cases in Srikakulam district have been rising. On Monday, 893 people tested positive from out of 2,435 samples collected.

Page 3: Collector orders shifting vendors

5,422 in Guntur, 5,183 in Srikakulam, 4,730 in East Godavari. 4.324

4,305

Visakhapatnam, 3,676 in Kurnool, 3,267 in Prakasam, 3,097 in Nellore, 2,068 in Anantapur, 1,377 in Kadapa, 1,342 in Vizianagaram and 557 in West Godavari.

Manmohan Singh

Chandrababu Naidu and

several other leaders

expressed concern over

Singh's health and voiced

hope that he will recover

soon.
"My prayers are with

Manmohan Singh ji and

his family today, and my

deepest respect. May he

fight this scourge with all

his might and get well soon," Congress leader

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

said on Twitter Banerjee

said, "Just got the news

Sir, our thoughts and

prayers for a speedy and full recovery". — PTI

former Manmohan Singh Ji has tested positive for COVID.

With regard to daily cases of death of Covidinfected patients, Krishna reported the highest at six followed by four each in Chittoor and Nellore, two each in Guntur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, Srikakulam and Visakhapa-

> Page 3: 2,569 patients discharged

TTD HAS already cut

Slotted Sarva Darshan

to 15,000 a day.

ting down on daily

down on issue of daily free

(SSD) tokens from 22,000

IT IS now mulling cut-

issuance of `300 special

entry darshan tickets too,

starting from the month of

THE TTD may restrict issuance of ₹300 special

entry tickets. Currently,

they are being issued in

25,000-30,000 tickets range

places of worship have been temporarily closed for devotees, speculations

are rife that TTD may

4 PM TO 6 AM

DC CORRESPONDENT

Konaseema traders voluntarily decided to close their shops from April 21 to April 30 between 4 pm and 7 am the next day in view of the continuing surge in

first taken of Commerce. It suggested that remaining chambers of commerce a similar decision in trades people and soci-

with decision

KAKINADA, APRIL 19

The suggestion was Amalapuram Chamber in Konaseema too take the interests of both

KONASEEMA

cases of Coronavirus.

Jagananna Vidya Deevena funds from the camp office on Monday, Ministers A. Suresh (right), Ch. Venu (second from right) and Dharmana Krishnadas are present.

New ₹912-cr lift plan on Polavaram dam the purpose to drop water

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy release

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

The state government has administrative approval for construction of a new lift system near the head regulator of Polavaram reservoir at a cost of ₹912.84 crore.

AP government issued an order on Monday for the new lift system with

ty of Polavaram project in non-monsoon season for supply of domestic water to the villages located in upland and drought-prone areas in West Godavari and Krishna districts during January to April.

into right side connectivi-

■ Page 2: State move raises

Page 3: Police agrees

HISTORY | CREATED

Nasa's helicopter become first object to take flight outside earth

Giant leap: Chopper flies on Mars

Cape Canaveral, Florida, April 19: Nasa's experimental helicopter Ingenuity rose into the thin air above the red surface of Mars on Monday, achieving the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet.

The triumph was hailed as a Wright Brothers moment. mini 1.8-kilogram copter even carried a bit of wing fabric from the Wright Flyer that made similar history at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903.

"Altimeter data confirms that Ingenuity has per-formed its first flight, the first flight of a powered aircraft on another planet," said the helicopter's chief pilot back on Earth, Havard

 To accomplish all this, the helicopter's twin, counter-rotating rotor blades needed to spin at 2,500 revolutions per minute - five times faster than on Earth.

Grip, his voice breaking as his teammates erupted in applause. It was a brief hop

— just 39 seconds — but accomplished all the major

Project manager MiMi Aung was jubilant as she ripped up the papers hold-

ing the plan in case the flight had failed.
"We've been talking so long about our Wright

Brothers mom-ent, and here it is," she said.

Flight controllers Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California declared a success after receiving the data and images via the Perseverance rover. Ingenuity hitched a ride to Mars on Perseverance, clinging to the rover's belly upon their arrival in an ancient river delta in February

The \$85 million helicopter demo was considered a high "Each world gets only one first flight," Aung observed earlier this month.

■ Page 4: Tech takes a giant stride with 19-inch chopper



the surface of Mars on Monday. The little four-pound helicopter rose from the dusty red surface into the thin Martian air on Monday, achieving the first powered, controlled flight on another planet.

Holiday for schools from Classes I to IX due to virus

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

Andhra Pradesh government has announced clo-sure of schools from Classes I to IX from Tuesday due to surge in cases during the second wave of Covid-19 pandem-

tres will also be shut down. However, exams for Class X and intermediate students will be held as per schedule. Junior colleges have also

been permitted to run,

Hostels and coaching cen-

along with the respective hostels, till completion of annual exams.
These decisions have been taken at a review meeting Chief Minister Y. Jagan Mohan Reddy

held with top health offi-

cials on intensification of

Coronavirus cases in the

The Chief Minister has ordered that all people wear face masks compulsorily to curb the spread of Covid-19.

He directed officials to impose a fine of ₹100 on those who do not wear masks while moving in

public places.

Jagan Mohan Reddy asked officials to ensure that a distance of at least six feet be maintained between two persons sitting at convention centres during various func-

Likewise, he said no person should be sitting next to another in film theatres. Alternate seats must be compulsorily left vacant between them.

The Chief Minister asked hospitals in the state to be well prepared in handling

TTD likely to curb darshans at temple

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, APRIL 19

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is likely to impose restrictions on darshan of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala due to the rising intensity Covid-19 cases in the coun-

try.
TTD has already cut down on issue of daily free Slotted Sarva Darshan (SSD) tokens from 22,000 to 15,000 a day. It is now mulling cutting down on daily issuance of ₹300 special entry darshan tickets too, starting from the month of May. Guidelines in this regard are expected to be released soon.

The devasthanam has in a statement said devotees, who have booked ₹300 special entry darshan tickets online for darshan from April 21 till April 30; but cannot come to Tirumala due to rising cases of Coronavirus in the country, can use the same tickets for darshan in the next

90 days. Amid latest developments across the country, where several temples and

severity Coronavirus cases, including supply of medical oxy-

He wanted officials to popularise number 104, so that more people could take help from the government with regard to Covid-

impose restrictions in issuance of ₹300 special entry tickets. Currently, they are being issued in the range of 25,000–30,000 tickets a day. However, the Temple Board is yet to take a decision on the matter. The announcement is expected soon when TTD announces the quota of special entry darshan tickets to be issued for the month of May.

THE CM has ordered that all people wear face masks compulsorily to curb the spread of Covid.

• HE DIRECTED officials to impose a fine of ₹100 on those who do not wear

PORTAL DEVELOPED TO CHECK ONLINE FRAUD IN AP, TS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

To restrict the number of mobile phone connections to nine for an individual as per the norm and also to keep a check on online fraud, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has developed a portal and launched it on

DoT director-general Tushar Kanti Paul launched the portal www.tafcop.dgtelecom.gov.in online from New Delhi. It has been named 'The Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection'.

Vijayawada telecommunica-tion authorities said that the main objective in developing the portal was to impose restrictions as they had found out that some individuals were having more than nine mobile connections in their names. The portal will help to locate such numbers. The individuals would be advised to get rid of them as a safety precaution. For instance, as some people use the IDs of others to get mobile connections and in case any criminal activity crops up, the innocent people face trou ble as their IDs without their authorisation were used.
The portal developed by the

department of Telecommunications in Vijayawada will facilitate consumers of AP Licensed Service Area consisting of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

STATE MOVE ON NEW LIFT SYSTEM RAISES QUESTIONS

From page 1

The GO said that the construction of new lift system was subject to correctness of provisions, quantities and rates proposed in the estimate and also the designs/drawings are to get approval from the Cen-

tral Designs Organisation.
The state's move to permit construction of a new lift system at a time when the whole project is supposed to be completed by end of 2021, raises

several questions.

Meanwhile, the state government has issued another GO according revised administrative approval for taking up various works of Polavaram irrigation project for ₹7,192 crore against the earlier approved amount of ₹5,534.41 crore.

The state government issued an order on Monday according revised administrative appr oval for the estimate for the work of investigation, surveyor preparation of designs, drawing and L.P. Schedules. Accordingly, they will include construction of earth dam gaps I and III, earth-cum-rock fill dam for gap II, spill channel, approach channel and pilot channel; construction of spillway with crest level +25.72 and its ancillary works; excavation of foundation of 960 MW hydro-electric power house, approach channel, intake structure, tail race pool

and tail race channel. The revised approval was subiect to the condition that the entire cost is within the revised estimate approved by the and also ensure that reimbursement is obtained from

JNTU AND SKU **CONVOCATIONS ON APRIL 24**

DC CORRESPONDENT

Jawaharlal. Technological University and Sri Krishnadevaraya universities are planning to conduct the convocation ceremony by taking all necessary preven-

tive measures.
The convocation was scheduled to be held on April 24 at both universities. However, as the Governor Biswabhushan Harichandan cancelled his visit and now will address the meeting through

In fact, both universities had fixed dates to conduct on the same day following which the Governor agreed to take part in the celebrations. In the wake an increase in coronavirus positive cases, his programme was cancelled and it

will now be a virtual address. The Sri Krishnadevaraya University administration has asked students to produce Covid-19 negative reports before entry into the Bhuvana Vijaya auditorium. JNTUA authorities have also made arrangements for the 11th annual convocation of the university at auditorium. will also follow similar preventive steps", sources said.

Tirupati voters bring down poll percentage once again

Only half the voters in Tirupati Assembly segment cast their vote

DC CORRESPONDENT

The electorate in this temple town has continued with their trend of bringing down the voting percentage, as was evident from the byelection for the Tirupati (SC) Lok Sabha

seat on Saturday.
Only half the voters in the Tirupati assembly segment cast their vote, triggering a debate on the urban people's disenchant-ment with the present political styles and sys-

As per the official statistics of the Election Commission of India (ECI), nearly 10.99 lakh people have cast their votes in the bypoll out of 17.10 lakh voters in the parliamentary constituency. The polling percentage was

64.29. The data released by the ECI showed that the voter turnout in the Tirupati assembly segment, per se, was still lower as compared to those of the other six assembly segments.

Going by reports, out of 2.82 lakh voters in the Tirupati assembly segment, only 1.42 lakh have cast their vote. This forms about 50 per cent. The other six assembly segments — including Sarv-epalli, Gudur, Venkatagiri, Sullurpeta, Srikalahasti and Satyavedu recorded an average voting of 67.14 per cent.

The pilgrim city had witnessed low voting percentage in the previous elections too. In the 2004 general elections, the percentage was 50.94, whereas in 2009 it was slightly better at 51.64 per cent.

The situation remained the same in the 2014 elections, which saw a voting percentage of 59.51. The 2019 elections saw a decent turnout with 65.94 per cent of the voters casting their vote.

Even in the bypoll held for the Tirupati assembly seat, which followed the death of the Telugu Desam sitting MLA in 2015, the poll percentage was 50.78 per cent.

In the Saturday's byelection, the first two hours of the polling saw 6.50 per cent voting, and it went up to 32.12 per cent by 1 pm, 45.85 per cent by 5 pm and finally halted at 50.58 per cent by 7 pm.

Political analysts feel that while a general disinterest in voting was palpable, the spread of the second wave of Covid-19 too might have prompted many to sit back in their

the Tirupati Though assembly segment has been recording an average of around 50-55 per cent polling in every election, it had seen a hike in the 2019 election with a voting of 65.94 per cent.

 Analysts feel that while a general disinterest in voting was palpable, the spread of the second wave of Covid-19 too might have prompted many to sit back in their homes.

DC CORRESPONDENT

The state government is

taking steps to provide

three phase power supply

in villages of Kadapa dis-

trict with population of at

least 5,000 for encouraging

establishment of small scale industries in such

As part of this project,

the government is for the km of three phase alu-



A specially challenged man comes to a polling station in Satyanarayanapuram in Tirupati to cast his vote in the Lok Sabha seat by election held on Saturday in this file

Bypoll: Audio clip on bogus votes goes viral

DC CORRESPONDENT

Amid the Oppositions' hue and cry over the alleged bogus voting in Tir-upati Lok Sabha byelection, an audio clip of phone conversations allegedly between the Chandragiri MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and an unknown person has surfaced on social media on Monday.

The phone conversation, which was posted by the Telugu Desam on its offi-cial Twitter wall and also telecasted by some of the Telugu news channels, carried a talk between two persons about certain difficulties in arranging logistics to bring people from elsewhere to Tirupati to cast bogus votes in the Saturday's polling, allegedly in favour of the ruling party candidate.

According to the audio clip, the unknown person on the phone was proposing to arrange nine buses with 50 people in each, to reach Tirupati by

But the person with the alleged voice of MLA says it is not possible to make arrangements as it is going to be around a 9 hours journey and the time is very less to make it at the last minute. He then told the unknown person that they would somehow cast those 400 votes locally and asked him to drop the Deccan When

Saturday to cast the votes.

contacted Bhaskar ChronicleChevireddy Reddy, he was unavailable to make a comment on this. However, one of his close associates maintained that the Opposition TD has made several such attempts to mislead the people during the byelection day, and this is another cheap trick by them to defame the ruling party. Chevireddy maintained

silence over the audio before it was made public. It is not known if he brought the calls to the notice of police or election authorities.

BJP asks SP to reveal status of bypoll plaints

DC CORRESPONDENT

Bharatiya Janata Party Samanchi Srinivas handed over a representation Tirupati SP Ch. Venkata Appala Naidu, requesting him to reveal the status of the complaints made by the BJP on the irregularities committed in the Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection.

Alleging that no action has been taken so far on the complaints lodged by the BJP leaders against the irregularities committed during the polling on April 17, the BJP funcdemanded immediate registering of cases and prosecute those who cast bogus votes and those who mobilised the outsiders to polling sta-

first time implementing a World Bank-funded ₹8.5

crore scheme for supply-

ing three-phase power supply in 17 villages of the

district. New lines are

being constructed to sup-

ply three phase power

directly from the 33/11 KV

substations near these respective villages. The

work will involve 109 km

of 11 KV power lines, 44

Speaking to the media on Monday, Samanchi Srinivas said they have (BJP) functionaries in lodged a complaint with the Tirupati led by its state official spokesperson seeking action against the violators

Meanwhile, BJP leader Kola Anand alleged that Pavitra Reddy, the daughter of Srikalahasti MLA B. Madhusudhan Reddy, who came with her followers, has threatened the polling official and agents at Thottambedu in Srikalahasti on the election day.

"BJP leaders were injured due to the highhanded behaviour of YSRC leaders, who forcibly removed the gates and pulled out those who were sitting as election agents on behalf of the BJP. The YSRC men are now going to our agents' houses at night and threatening them", he

World Bank funding 3-phase power in 17 villages

minium conductor and 44 transformers of 110 KV

Villages identified for

the project in Kadapa dis-

trict are Parnapalle in

Nagulaguttapalle in Chakrayapeta, Chowdur in Prodduturu, Korrapadu

Tanguturu

Rajupalem, Animela and

Veerapunayunipalle,

mandal,

in

Lingala

Palagiri

and

for 3-phase power supply.

TO TIRUPATI LS SEAT DC CORRESPONDENT SAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 19

DEMANDS RE-POLL

ATCHANNAIDU

Telugu Desam AP president K. Atchannaidu has demanded the Central Election Commission to re-conduct the Tirupati by-election keeping in view the irregularities committed by the YSRC activists.

Addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Monday, Atchannaidu said he had observed many by elections in the country but none like

"Out of 100 voters, only 60 were genuine and rest were imposters brought from outside. The ruling party did this after realising that the TD would win elections,'

Atchannaidu said.
Like Pancha Panday, the DGP, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, chief whip Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and Nellore returning officer supervised rigging of the elections, the Telugu Desam AP president alleged.

Atchannaidu said Tir-upati is a sacred place and let them swear in the name of God that they did not resort to irregularities. Exhibiting audio clips of Chevireddy's con-versations with voters with fake voter ID cards, he said these evidences were submitted to the Central Election Commission but there has been no response.

Expressing his concern expressing his concern over the spike in Covid cases in the state, Atchannaidu said there was shortage of beds, oxy-gen and doctors all over the state but the Chief Minister has been claiming that everything is under control.

DEMOCRACY WAS DUMPED IN GUTTERS AT TIRUPATI: VASU

DC CORRESPONDENT

TD politburo member Reddeppagari Srinivasa Reddy (Vasu) said that democracy was dumped in the gutters during the by election to the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat.

He said that people had seen on electronic media how the Jagan government was taking the constitutional system into its own hands.

Minister Peddireddy Ramachandrareddy had set up a camp for everyone in his own function hall. He said it would not be possible to check such misconduct in the future unless Aadhaar is linked to the voter ID card.

Peddamudium, Y. Kota in

Obulavaripalle, G. K. Rajupalle, Maditadu and Rayavaram in Sundupalli,

Chinnamandem.

Shettypalle in Nandalur,

Pottukuru in Ramapuram

mandal and Ganganeru

village in Veeraballi man-

Chakibanda

Nallaguttapalle



Speaker says education is gaining importance in AP

DC CORRESPONDENT SRIKAKULAM, APRIL 19

Education is getting top priority in the state after Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had taken over as Chief Minister, said AP Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram after participating in the video conference with the Chief Minister on the launch of Jagananna Vidya Deevena on Monday.

Minister for animal husbandry Seedari Appala Raju was present along with him.

Talking to the media after the video conference,

CALL 1902 IN CASE

OF ANY PROBLEM,

Sitaram said education was needed to drive away the poverty conditions.

He said that the CM strongly believed that anything could be achieved with the help of education and realised pover-ty need not be a cause to deprive poor children from getting education. Taking this as a mission,

Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Amma Vodi and Nadu Nedu to strengthen government schools to the level of corporate schools, launched CBSE syllabus and introduced English medium at the primary

Deevena and rna Poshana, Vasati Sampoorna Jagan Mohan Reddy wanted to provide nutrition from the pre-natal stage to the children.

Under the new scheme, Jagananna Vidya Deevena, 67,567 students belonging to SC, BC, ST and minorities were benefited An amount of ₹31.86 crore was deposited in the accounts of 60,971 moth-

ers in the district, the Speaker said. Appala Raju said the amount under Jagananna Vidya Deevena would be deposited in four phases.

Young Vidya Deevena

SAY OFFICIALS from page 1

Referring to the earlier practice where the fee-reimbursement amount used to be paid into the bank accounts of the owners of educational institutions, the new facility provides for cash assistance to the mothers of students

Meanwhile, the educa-tion authorities advised the beneficiaries of the scheme to call on tollfree number 1902 in case they find any problem in the implementation of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena. Under the scheme, fee-reimbursement is done in four

The first instalment was released on Monday. the second to be released in July, December and fourth in February.

Apart from releasing ₹4,207.85 crore towards reimbursement for 2019-20, the state government also cleared dues of ₹1,880 crore of the previous government for 2018-

 The first instalment of Jagananna Vidya Deevena was released on Monday, the second to be released in July, third in December and fourth in February.

Nallabothula Srinivasu

told Deccan Chronicle that

power works are currently

underway at Korrapadu in

Rajupalem mandal. Later,

out works in Tangutur and

Chowduru villages. He

said villages with popula-

tion of over 5.000 will get

three-phase power supply

beneficiary lauds CM DC CORRESPONDENT

NELLORE, APRIL 19

A young woman from Pernamitta in Ongole City of Prakasam district, identified as Nandini, profoundly thanked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his Vidya Deevena Scheme which she said has enabled her to pursue a degree course in Ongole.

During a virtual interaction with the CM on the occasion of the release of financial aid to beneficiaries under Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme in Ongole on Monday, she said every members of her family were benefited because of CM's welfare "I am studying first year

B.Sc (Agriculture) at Harshini Degree College. I have a sister and my family had no dependable resources either to study or survive if not for the welfare schemes of CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy." Nandini said in an emotional tone.

She said that her sister

Vidya Deevena beneficiary Nandini of Ongole speaks during a virtual interaction with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy through virtual mode at Ongole on

is a beneficiary of Amma Vodi scheme and her father got financial assistance under Mithra scheme.

In addition to this, the loan her mother borrowed through self-help groups to run the family has been waived, she said while heaping praises on the CM for coming to the

CORPORATOR DIES DAYS AFTER TAKING JAB

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, APRIL 19

Chintakunta Padmavati, the recently elected YSRC corporator of 39th division in Anantapur municipal corporation died on Monday due to illness. Sources said she had taken Covid-19 vaccination a few days back. Leaders of various par-

ties from AMC expressed deep shock at the demise of the corporator.

Meanwhile, a Kunichitiga Kapu Association director from Madakasira Assembly constituency succumbed to Covid at Hindupur district hospital early Monday morning. Balakrishna, YSRC lead-

er from Begarlapalli village in Madakasira municipality was acting as dir-

ector for Kunchitiga Kapu (Vakkaliga) caste association in Madakasira constituency. The leader was admitted to Hindup-ur hospital three days

In another case, vice-chairman of Madakasira municipality Ramachandra Reddy has tested posi tive and is being treated at Hindupur district hospital. His condition is said to be critical. District administration

was on alert after the rise of cases closer to Bengaluru city borders of Anantapur district. While KSRTC workers are on strike and buses are not operating to AP, private buses and TSRTC and APSRTC services running between Bengaluru

SUPPLY I HURDLES People wait for hours, fail to receive supplies; officials blame it on 'server problems'

APSPDCL superinten- commercial purposes.

Door delivery of rations facing teething problems

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 19

Door delivery of rations, introduced by the state government for convenience of householders, has been facing many teething problems; even as it is receiving appreciation from beneficiaries.

Many times, problems with the server are hindering door delivery. Though people have been waiting for hours, they fail in receiving their supplies and return empty handed. There is no regularity in supplies.

Sometimes, rations arrive all of a sudden. Volunteers then inform people about the rations arriving. But people find it difficult rushing to the

All these had not been there under the earlier system. Ration cardholders used to reach fair price shop in the first fortnight of the month and draw their commodities. Now. there is no such assurance. as beneficiaries do not know when the Mobile Dispensing Unit (MDU) carrying commodities for door delivery is going to

operators of clashes between operators While MDUs are getting frustrated due to server problems, there have been reports of

arrive.

WHILE OPERATORS of MDUs are getting frustrated due to server problems, there have been reports of clashes between operators and beneficiaries in some places. More than 80 operators have withdrawn from

and beneficiaries in some places. Significantly, more than 80 operators have

the door-delivery system.

withdrawn from the doordelivery system. The state government is yet to fill up these vacan-A beneficiary in Kakinada said, "Chief

Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced the scheme to reduce difficulties of people in getting rations. But some of the operators are unable to run the scheme successfully. This is damaging the image of the govern-

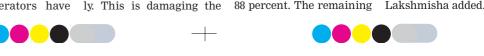
This month, for example, many beneficiaries in 48th ward have not yet received redgram and sugar. MDU operators in charge say stocks have run out.

collector Lakshmisha said many of the teething problems have been overcome. Door delivery of rations has 88 percent. The remaining

The JC observed that though some operators have withdrawn from the scheme, most of such vacancies have been filled 'Posts of 10 or 11 operator posts are yet to be filled. I request people to bring their problems to the notice of officials. They

will be immediately sorted

problems will be sorted



COLLECTOR ORDERS SHIFTING

FROM PAGE 1

In all, 4,831 positive cases have registered from April 6 to April 18. District collector has ordered shifting of vegetable and grocery vendors from Potti Sriramulu Market to the 80 feet road, so that social distance could be maintained and Coronavirus avoided.

TTD SIMPLIFIES **ROOM ALLOTMENT** PROCESS ONLINE

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, APRIL 19

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which has simplified the procedures for easy access to rooms in Tirumala for devotees with advanced online booking for accommodation, has now launched counters at Padala Mandapam and Alipiri tollgate and also at Srivari Mettu to scan the room receipts and receive further instructions to directly board the room.

Instead of the existing procedure at the Central Reception Office (CRO) in Tirumala, the TTD has decentralised the accommodation procedures. At present, after scanning at CRO the devotees had to visit the sub enquiry offices to get rooms, leading to wastage of time and energy.

Following suggestions by devotees, the TTD has changed the procedures to avoid unnecessary waiting at the CRO. Devotees can now scan their advance/online booked rooms at the scanning counters at the Alipiri tollgate (for vehicles), Srivari Mettu and Padala Mandapam at Alipiri (for foot walkers). When they scan their receipts, the devotees will get details of sub enquiry office they have to go on their registered mobile numbers, so that devotees can directly visit

and get rooms without wasting time at CRO.
Similarly, TTD is also mulling to de-centralise the CRO to six regions with 12 registration counters and allotment counters shifted to subenquiry offices of each rest houses and cottages for the convenience of devotees.

AGENCY TRADERS TO OBSERVE

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 19

All the traders and business establishments have decided to observe half a day lockdown Visakhapatnam Agency from

Tuesday onwards. The shops will open at 6 and close at 2 pm, barring essential services like medical shops and milk booths. Bakeries and sweet shops were allowed to open till 4 pm and the motor and vehicle mechanics could open any time with the permission of the traders association in case of emergency.

The Araku Valley Traders Welfare Association and Civil Welfare Society held a meeting on Sunday and took the decision as there was a sudden spike in the positive cases.

The decision has been conveyed to the local MLA Chetti Palguna, circle inspector and local sarpanch P. Dasbabu.

The traders also observed a similar lockdown last year.

Beds to be hiked to 45,000

Present availability of 17,000 beds in 126 hospitals to be increased

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

As Coronavirus cases are rising by the day, the government is working towards readying 5,000 beds spread over 265 government and private hospitals in a week's time.

Based on directions from Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to overhaul infrastructure in all hospitals, the state health authorities are making arrangements to take qualitative care of the patients.

Authorities maintained that when the spread of the Coronavirus reached its peak last September, they had arranged over 37,000 beds in 261 hospitals. As the virus has started spreading again, the authorities intend to

2,569 PATIENTS

The state health authori-

ties discharged 2,569

Among daily cases of

infection, Chittoor was

the worst hit at 1,182 fol-

lowed by 938 in Guntur,

893 in Srikakulam, 626

in East Godavari, 565 in Visakhapatnam, 491 in

Nellore, 434 in Kurnool,

280 in Prakasam, 189 in

Kadapa, 171 in Krishna,

156 in Anantapur and 19 each in Vizianagaram

and West Godavari.

SHOPS TO BE

CLOSED BY 2 PM

Nellore: In view of an

alarming rise in Covid

positive cases in Gudur

authorities decided to

down shutters by 2 pm to

Municipal

patients after recovery.

DISCHARGED

FROM PAGE 1

Presently 35,465 lation and 7,535 patients are taking treatment in hospitals

enhance the bed-strength to 45,000 from the present availability of 17,000 beds in 126 hospitals.

Officials are trying to people showing corona symptoms within three hours of receiving a call on 104 toll free number. In case the patient shows mild symptoms, the individual will be placed in home isolation under the supervision of an ANM. If the patient shows moderate symptoms, he or she will be shifted to the nearby Covid care centre and if the symptoms are severe, the patient will be shifted

Covid

hospital

Presently, 35,465 patients are in home isolation and 7,535 patients are taking treatment in hospitals.

Jagan Mohan Reddy

has laid stress on the role of community participation to curb the spread of coronavirus. Health authorities are taking up an aggressive awareness programme on social media by sending messages on appropriate behaviour and protocols.

AP state Covid-19 nodal officer Dr Arja Srikanth said, "We are ramping up the number of beds and other requisite medical infrastructure in both government and private hospitals to ensure health care to all infected patients. We have taken up a campaign on social media to educate people on how to curb the spread of the virus.

TTD EO is chief of Covid command

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams executive officer K.S. Jawahar Reddy has been appointed as the chairman of the State Covid Command and Control Centre.

The state government issued an order on Monday appointing the senior IAS officer and presently the executive officer of TTD,Tirupati, with immediate effect and to report to the office

immediately.
In the wake of the rise in number of Covid-19

infections and the resultant deaths in the second wave of the pandemic, the state government recently revived the Covid Command and Control Centre by appointing several offi-cers with specific tasks to strengthen surveillance for prevention, containment and control of the virus and also to take steps for Covid-19 management and vaccination a daily basis. Similarly, the state government appointed the chairman to take appropriate measures to handle the situation.

POLICE AGREES WITH DECISION

FROM PAGE 1

Representatives Amalapuram Chamber of Commerce, led by its president K. Tataji, met police authorities and informed them about their decision to down shutters from early evening to next day morning keeping in view the spiraling Covid-19 cases. Police officials agreed with officials agreed with their decision.
Tataji maintained that

traders of Amalapuram have taken this decision voluntarily. belonging to Ravulapalem, Mummidivaram Razole, Tatipaka and other major panchayats have also agreed to close their shops around the

same time. The chamber president said they will assess the Coronavirus situation on April 30 and decide

4 Secretariat, 2 HC staff die of Covid-19

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

Four employees of the AP Secretariat died after get-ting infected with Coronavirus and nearly 40 employees got infected with the virus in the last few

The deceased were identified as V. Padma Rao, assistant secretary, finance department; G. Ravi Kanth, finance section officer, general administration department; Santhi Kumari, section offi-cer, panchayat raj depart-ment and A.S.N. Murthy, record assistant. They breathed their last in the last three days.

Pradesh Andhra Secretariat Association submitted a representation to the Chief Secretary on Monday with a request to issue necessary orders to permit all employees of the Secretariat to work from home as they were having the tool of e-office system for processing of files or to allow at least 50 per cent of the employees to work from home on rotation basis.

The association general secretary Napa Prasad said

The employees requested Chief Secretary to allow work from home or to allow 50 per cent staff to work from home on rotation basis

that employees were panic stricken following the death of four employees and 40 of them getting infected with the virus as they were living with their families having elderly people and also chil-

Earlier, minister for pan-chayat raj and rural development Peddireddy Ramachandra mourned the death of AP Secretariat employees due to Covid-19, observed twominute silence at his chamber and expressed condolences to the bereaved family members. He called upon all the employees to take Covid-19 tests and also go for vaccination to be safe

from the virus. In a related development, two employees working at AP High court also died of Covid-19. They were identified as junior assistant Srilatha and Subramaniam.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT TENALI MUNICIPALITY, E-procurement Notice

EPTC NIT No.14,19,20/2020-21/AP Govt grant & General Funds (2nd & 4th Call), Dt:20-04-2021,

Online tenders are hereby invited from the contractors/contracting agencies for the No. of works:6 vide ECV Rs.287.91 In Lakhs. The tende document is available for download from Dt:20-04-2021 (11.00am) and las date for bid submission is Dt: 27-04-2021 & Dt:04.05.2021(4.30pm through http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in (AP portal) Further detail can be seen at 'e'procurementmarket Place i.e., "www.apeprocurement.gov.in

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Private players free to set jab price, says Centre

FROM PAGE 1

States too have been given the freedom to procure additional vaccine doses directly from the Centre will also continue to supply them.

Vaccine manufacturers can scale up their production as well as attract new national and international players. Private hospitals would have to procure their supplies of Covid-19 vaccine from the 50 per cent supply earmarked for states or from the open market. Private vaccination providers will have to declare their self-set vaccination price.

The government will allow the imported ready-to-use vaccines to be utilised in the private sector and state facilities. Centre, from its share, will allocate vacto states/UTs cism for its poor handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for preferring elections and Kumbh Mela to public health, the Union government on Monday went into a huddle.

The second wave has exposed the country's weak and uncaring health care system more than the first wave.

based on the criteria of extent of infection (number of active Covid cases) and performance (speed of administration).

Incidentally, this move comes a day after former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh wrote letter to Prime Minister Modi urging him to ramp up vaccination efforts and let states decide priorities for age The government has

Medical staff administers Covid vaccine to a woman during a vaccination drive

at Swarnabharathi Indoor Stadium in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

been scrambling for a response as the second wave has exposed the country's weak and uncaring health care system more than the first wave. With Covid-19 cases shooting, and the situation getting worse each day, harrowing stories have been emerging of hospitals overflowing with patients, patients suffering and dying due to shortage of medicines, oxygen and hospi-

Facing severe criticism for its poor handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for preferring elections and Kumbh Mela to public health, the Union government on Monday went into a huddle to find ways to wriggle out volatile situation.

P. NARASIMHA MURTHY

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SI. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Vacancy*	Pay Matrix Level in CDA pattern	
1.	General Manager (T/P)	**	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC	
	[Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern		[Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs. 37,400 - 67,000/- plus	
	States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]	
2.	Deputy General Manager (T/P)	20	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC	
	[Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern		[Pre-revised PB-3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade	
	States, A&N Islands etc.]		Pay of Rs. 7,600/-]	
3.	Deputy General Manager (Fin)	05	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC	
	[Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in Leh (Ladakh),		[Pre-revised PB-3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/-plus Grade	
	J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Pay of Rs. 7,600/-]	
4.	Manager (T/P)	20	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC	
	[Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern		[Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600- 39,100/- plus	
	States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 6,600/- in CDA Pattern]	
5.	Manager (Fin)	05	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC	
	[Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in Leh (Ladakh),		[Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600- 39,100/- plus	
	J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 6,600/- in CDA Pattern]	
6.	Manager (Legal)	01	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC	
	[NHIDCL HQrs/ Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in		[Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600- 39,100/- plus	
	Leh (Ladakh), J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 6,600/- in CDA Pattern]	
7.	Assistant Manager (HR)	02	Pay Matrix Level-8 of 7th CPC	
	[NHIDCL HQrs/ Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in		[Pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9,300-34,800/- plus	
	Leh (Ladakh), J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 4,800/- in CDA Pattern]	
8.	Junior Manager (HR)	06	Pay Matrix Level-6 of 7th CPC	
	[NHIDCL HQrs/ Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in		[Pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9,300- 34,800/- plus	
	Leh (Ladakh), J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 4,200/- in CDA Pattern]	
9.	Junior Manager (Legal)	01	Pay Matrix Level-6 of 7th CPC	
	[NHIDCL HQrs/ Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in		[Pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9,300-34,800/- plus	
	Leh (Ladakh), J&K, North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]		Grade Pay of Rs. 4,200/- in CDA Pattern]	
10.	Junior Manager (Rajbhasha)	01	Pay Matrix Level-6 of 7th CPC	
	[HQrs, NHIDCL]		[Pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9,300-34,800/- plus	
			Grade Pay of Rs. 4,200/- in CDA Pattern]	

* Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare a Panel of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL. The number of vacancies in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement.

Last date for submission of Application: 31.05.2021 (Monday) up to-18:00 hrs.

For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit- www.nhidcl.com

NOTE 1: Officers presently serving in the Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings and satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply for the post on Deputation basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of ACRs/APARs for last five years, No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Vigilance Clearance (VC). Those applying for appointment on deputation basis can be of any age. Subsequent to their retirement they may be allowed to continue in NHIDCL on contract basis subject to both party agreeing to it. If their parent organisation need them to revert back for retirement formalities, they may be allowed to do so for a period up to one week. Thereafter they can continue on contract basis on the terms and conditions applicable to Contract employees.

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment in this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

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Man arrested for torturing his two wives

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 19

A gruesome incident of a 32-year-old man subjecting his two wives to unbearable physical torsuspecting their fidelity, has come to light. Chinturu police said

they have arrested the man Kalvanam Venkanna and his mother Maremma - the mother on the charge that she encouraged the son to torture her daughters-in-law. Venkanna had himself taken videos of him torturing the wives and the videos later went viral on

social media. Chinturu DSP Shaik Kahdar Bhasha said Venkanna had married two women at Chitti village of Chinturu mandal. By March end, he subjected his first wife to physical torture. He tied her up and cut off her one ear. Unable to bear the torture, she fled to her parents' home in Nalgonda district along with her three children.

Again, on April 3, suspecting the fidelity of his second wife, the man forced her to place her hand in burning oil and boiled water, by turn, to prove her fidelity. The woman suffered serious burn injuries and she also left for her parents' home. The accused then went to his in-laws house and persuaded them to send her back to his home. The woman returned with him, but he and tried to set her on



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION





SHORT TAKES **ODISHA IMPOSES WEEKEND SHUTDOWNS**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 19

government Odisha Monday announced weekend shutdowns on Saturdays and Sundays in all the urban areas in the state in view of the unprecedented rise in Covid-19 cases. "In view of the rapid increase in the Covid-19 cases in the state, the government announced weekend shut-downs on Saturdays and Sundays. Besides, the government appeals to people to maintain social distance, wear masks and use sanitiser," Special Relief Commissioner P.K. Jena said on Monday evening.

The SRC said night curfew will continue from 6 pm to 6 am on 10 districts bordering Chhattisgarh. In other 20 districts, night curfew will remain in force from 9 pm to 6 am, the SRC said, adding, essential services will be allowed to function.

Meanwhile, as reports of shortage and black marketing of important Covid-19 medicines and medical supplies, including Remdesivir, began to pour in from various parts of the state, the Odisha government constituted a state-level Committee to ensure that such issues do not crop up here. The Committee is headed by Crime Branch ADG Yashwant Jethwa. The committee, formed on Sunday evening, on Monday discussed several issues with Controller

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Jethwa said that teams of flying squads, surveillance teams and surprise checking teams from the enforcement wing of Drug Controller, Police, Special Task Force of Crime Branch will be part of Joint Enforcement squad which will carry out special drives across the state. "We have constituted 7 flying squads for Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and 15 squads for remaining parts Odisha," said Jethwa.

Delhi locks down for 6 days as cases continue to surge

Kejriwal said it was necessary as city's health system was stretched to its limit

New Delhi, April 19: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind announced a six-day lock down in the national capital from 10 pm on Monday till 5 am on April 26 and said it was necessary to deal with the rising number of Covid-19 cases as the city's health system was stretched to its limit.

announcement, which came at the end of a weekend curfew, bought back the memories of last year's lockdown and triggered usual responses from people — guest workers rushing to railway stations and bus terminals in a bid to return home, residents flocking to markets to stock up on essentials, and tipplers joining in long, serpentine queues outside liquor stores.

Thousands of guest workers gathered at the city's inter-state bus terminals and railway stations to return home even though Kejriwal appealed to them with folded hands not to leave Delhi and gave a word of assurance — "main hoon na" (I am here for you). Addressing an online press conference, Kejriwal sought to assure the guest workers by saying that this short period of lockdown would not be extended. "I have full faith that this short period of lockdown would not be extended. We might not have to extend it. Trust me that if we fight this together, we would be able to overcome this. I assure you, the government will take full care of you. I am here, have faith in me," he said. The CM said that Delhi's health system is tremendously stretched although it has not collapsed yet, and added that despite around 25,500 cases com-



Family members mourn the death of Covid-19 victim at a mortuary in New Delhi on Monday.

ing up every day, it is still functioning.

But any system has its limit, he said, assuring that the lockdown is needed to prevent the health system of Delhi from collapsing under the increasing number of patients as there is an acute shortage of medicines, beds, ICUs and oxygen. "If we do not impose a lockdown now, we might face a tragedy. We do not want Delhi to face such a situation wherein patients are lying on the corridors or losing their life on the streets at any cost," he said.

Noting that the decision of imposing new restrictions was not an easy one, Kejriwal said that he has been strictly against a lockdown even as it becomes crucial only after the health system of the city reaches its limit.

Meghalaya bans entry of tourists to curb spread

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, APRIL 19

In view of the growing number of Covid-19 cases across the country, the north-eastern states have started taking steps restricting movement of people from outside the region as Meghalaya on Monday imposed a ban on entry of tourists into the state while Manipur has imposed night curfew.

Assam, which is also the gateway of northeast, has already announced that Covid-negative certificates from other states

will not be valid to enter turn out," Sangma said. the state and people will Meanwhile Assam have to undergo tests upon arrival at airports and railway stations.

Informing that there will be no restriction on local tourism, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said that restrictions on entry of tourists from outside Meghalaya will come into force from April 23. The state has also decided to shut down tourist spots, which witnesses high tourists foot fall. "We have decided to close down tourist destinations which usually have very high tourist

Covid-19 tally mounted to 2,24,455 as 639 more people tested positive for the infection, while six fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,135. The six deaths were reported from Barpeta, Cachar, Dhemaji, Kamrup Metropolitan, Moriga on and Tinsukia districts. Assam currently has 5,268 active cases. Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the cases reported in Assam during the second wave were mostly among those who were from outside the state.

HC orders lockdown in five UP cities

virus cases, the Allahabad High Court on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to impo-se a week-long lockdown in Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur Nagar, Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

Reacting to the order, the UP government, how-ever, said there will be no 'complete lockdown" in the cities for now.

A two-judge bench comprising justices Siddhartha Varma and Ajit Kumar passed the lockdown order on a Public Interest Litigation on the condition of quarantine centres in the state and treatment of Coronavirus patients.
"We are of the consid-

ered view that in given scenario of present time if people are restrained from going outside their homes for a week in the

Allahabad, April 19: first instance, the current Amid a surge in Corona-chain of spread of infecchain of spread of infec-tion can be broken and this will also give some respite to the frontline medical and health workers." the bench observed.

Accordingly, we are passing the directions in respect of cities of Prayagraj (Allahabad), Lucknow, Varanasi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur Nagar and Gorakhpur and we direct the government to strict-

ly enforce them forth-

with," it said.
"All establishments be it government or private, except financial institutions and financial departments medical and departments, medical and health services, industrial and scientific establishments, essential services including municipal functions, and public transport, shall remain closed till 26th April, 2021," the bench said. — PTI

Kerala imposes night curfew

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

With Kerala reporting 31,901 cases in the last two days and the second wave posing serious challenge to the health care system, the state government on Monday decided to enforce stringent measures including night curfew from April 20 A high level meeting of

the core committee held in Thiruvananthapuram, decided to impose night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am for next two weeks.

All shops and business establishments barring essential services will have to shut shop by 9 pm daily. The meeting decided to intensify checking by police at main junctions, market places, commercial centres, city centres and major roads to enforce the restriction chiefly and take action strictly and take action

against the violators.

The cinema theatres will wind up shows by 7 pm, strict restrictions have been imposed on shopping malls and the entry of people would be restricted.

NZ distances

from 'Five Eyes'

Wellington, April 19: New Zealand said Monday it would not let the Five Eyes intelli gence alliance dictate its dealings with its largest trading partner China, in the latest dis tancing from the US-led group's approach to tensions with Beijing. Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta told the New Zealand China Council that the Five Eyes — the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand should not stray from its scope intelligence-sharing

between member nations. "We are uncomfortable with expanding the remit of the Five Eyes relationship," she said.

Baerbock may succeed Merkel

Berlin, April 19: Germany's Green party on Monday named its co-chair Annalena Baerbock as their candidate to succeed Angela Merkel, throwing down the gauntlet to the chancellor's conservatives who were locked in infighting for her crown. "Both of us want the job, but in the end, only one can do it. So today is the moment to say that the Greens first chancellor candidate will be Annalena Baerbock," said the party's joint co-chairman Robert Habeck. Yet with the party polling in second place behind Merkel's divided con-servatives, the Greens now have a genuine chance of becoming the biggest party.

PIO brothers buy UK food chain

London, April 19: Indian-origin billionaire brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa have acquired a popular British fast food chain, Leon, as part of what they described as their goal to grow their foodservice

operations in Britain. The Issa brothers, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business. Last year, they acquired leading UK supermarket chain Asda from US owners Walmart as part of the strategy to expand their non-fuel business.

Oz-NZ travel bubble opens, high emotion as kin reunite

Passengers can fly across Tasman Sea without undergoing quarantine

Canada support INFECTED BODY WASHES ASHOR ons ran high Monday as excited passengers set off on the first flights to take for province advantage of a quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, allowing families split by the pandemic to finally reunite.

Ottawa, April 19: Cana-"(I'll) yell, scream cry, hug, kiss, (feel) happy — all of these emotions at da is expected to channel funds into childcare, wage subsidies and other pan-Denise O'Donoghdemic recovery measures ue, 63, told AFP at Sydney as the government presairport as she prepared to ents its new budget Monday ahead of possible board her flight

The arrangement means that for the first time in The 2021 budget is the almost 400 days passenfirst full fiscal plan from gers can fly across the Prime Minister Justin Tasman Sea without Trudeau's administration undergoing mandatory Covid-19 quarantine when since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and is expected to outline Cana-"It's a very big day and da's recovery as virus exciting for families and infections surge.

snap elections.

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland has promised Ottawa "will continue to

ceived saturation coverage from media in both countries, with live television reporting from airports providing regular updates on the progress of

On a grass embankment at the foot of Wellington Airport's runway, the wor-

do whatever it takes" to fight the spread of the Coronavirus and support the economy as it emerges

from a recession.

"We have a plan for jobs and robust growth," she told parliament last month. Canada entered the pandemic in a strong fiscal position relative to other G7 nations after decades of belt-tightening, she said, allowing it to dole out hundreds of billions of dollars in Covid-19 emergency aid.

Critics have warned against piling on too much

in giant letters. Zealander stranded by the

pandemic while visiting family in Australia, told AFP it was "wonderful" to be able to travel again.

ds 'WELCOME WHANAU' (family) were spelled out Lorraine Wratt, a New

"We're very excited to be

heading back home but we're gonna miss our family (in Australia) big time," she said.

WASHES ASHORE,

ALARMS VANUATU

Port Vila, April 19: Van-

uatu slapped travel restri-

ctions Monday after tests

confirmed a body that washed ashore on the lar-

gely Coronavirus-free Pac-

ific nation was infected

said the deceased was a

Filipino sailor whose ves-

sel had left Port Vila a day

before his body was found

The man's crewmates

and police officers who retrieved the body had all

tested negative for the

virus, said the sources,

who wished to remain

washed up near a village.

sources

with Covid-19.

anonymous.

Government

"We came to Australia on December 11 to spend Christmas with our children... planning to go back in February, it's been a bit of a nightmare."Australia

tnousands of expatriate Zealanders and before Coronavirus many regularly shuttled back and forth across the Tasman on three-hour

O'Donoghue said the travel bubble's opening made her feel the world was returning to some sort of normality.

"I'll be going back, they'll be coming over, we'll just be back to normal," she

"What normal's going to be from now on I don't know, but I'm just really, really excited today."Air New Zealand executive Craig Suckling said the

port before departure was "It was quite the emotional rollercoaster here in Sydney," he said.

atmosphere at Sydney air-

'The check-in area was a hive of activity and at the boarding gate, customers were eager to get on."The airline's chief executive Greg Foran said it was also a "monumental" day for those involved in the hard-hit tourism industry.

"(It's) a real turning point for the airline. It's day one of our revival," he

Banned party releases 11 Pak police hostages

Lahore, April 19: The at its headquarters in Labanned radical Islamist hore. The first round of arty Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan on Monday released 11 police hostages after the first round of talks with the Imran Khan government, which buckled under the pressure of the terror outfit over its demand to expel the French ambassador over a blasphemous caricature published in France last year.

After declaring TLP a proscribed outfit under terrorism laws and freezing its leadership's bank accounts last week, the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government had announced that there would be no talks with the terror outfit as the state would not allow it to challenge its writ. However, after Sunday's clash between the law enforcement agencies and the TLP workers in Lahore in which 11 policemen and Rangers were taken hostage by the radicals, the government held talks with the outfit lead-

ership on Monday. Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed in a video message said: Talks have started with the TLP. The TLP has released 11 policemen who were tak-en hostage by it and kept

talks with the TLP well and the second will take place in the evening The minister hoped that the rest of the matters would be resolved with the TLP in the second

round of talks. Meanwhile, business centres, markets and public transport in Lahore, Karachi and some other parts of the country remained closed on Monday on the call of senior cleric Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman to condemn the "brutal" police action at the TLP headquarters in Lahore on Sund ay that left three Islamists

dead and dozens injured. The TLP has announced a protest march to Islamabad on Tuesday if the government does not expel

the French envoy. In Monday's talks with the government, the TLP leaders presented four demands — expel the French ambassador; release its party chief Saad Rizvi; revoke the ban on TLP; and release all its activis ts (over 3,000) and withdraw FIRs against them. The party warned that if their demands are not met, they will go ahead with their march to Islamahad. — PTI

Technology takes a massive stride with a 19-inch chopper

From Page 1

they arrive.

friends," said New Zeala-

nd Prime Minister Jacin-da Ardern, who hailed the

success of both countries

in containing the virus as

the travel corridor.

visitors in 2019.

key factor in allowing

Australia was New Zeal-

and's largest source of int-

ernational tourists before

the pandemic, accounting

for about 1.5 million arriv-

als or 40 percent of total

The bubble's opening re-

Scientists cheered the news from around the world and even from space. "A whole new way to explore the alien terrain in our solar system is now at our disposal," Nottingham Trent University astrono-

mer Daniel Brown said from England. This first test flight with more to come by Ingenuity — holds great promise, Brown noted. Future helicopters could serve as otherworldly scouts for rovers, and eventually astronauts, in difficult,

dangerous locales

Ground controllers had to wait more than three excruciating hours before learning whether the preprogrammed flight had succeeded more than 170 million miles (287 million kilometres) away.

When the news finally came, the operations centre filled with applause, cheers and laughter. More followed when the first black and white photo from Ingenuity appeared, showing the helicopter's shadow as it hovered above the surface of Mars. "The shadow greatness,

#MarsHelicopter flight on another world

complete!" Nasa astronaut Victor Glover tweeted from the International Space Station. Next came a stunning

colour video of the copter's clean landing, taken by Perseverance, "the best host little Ingenuity could ever hope for," Aung said in thanking everyone. The helicopter hovered

for 30 seconds at its planned altitude of 10 feet (3 meters), and spent 39 seconds airborne, more than three times longer than the first successful flight of the Wright Flyer, which lasted mere 12 seconds on December 17, 1903.

To accomplish all this, the helicopter's twin, counter-rotating rotor blades needed to spin at 2,500 revolutions per minute — five times faster than on Earth. With an atmosphere just 1 per cent the thickness of Earth's, engineers had to build a helicopter light enough — with blades spinning fast enough — to generate this otherworldy lift.

More than six years in the making, Ingenuity is just 19 inches (49 centimetres) tall, a spindly fourlegged chopper. Its fuselage, containing all the batteries, heaters and sensors, is the size of a tissue box.

filled rotors are the biggest pieces: Each pair stretches I feet (1.2 metres) tip to tip. Ingenuity also had to be sturdy enough to withstand the Martian wind and is topped with a solar panel

for recharging the batteries, crucial for surviving minus-130 degree Fahrenheit (minus-90 degree-Celsius) Martian nights. Nasa chose a flat, relatively rock-free patch for Ingenuity's airfield, measuring 33 feet by 33 feet (10 metre by 10 metre). Following Monday's success, Nasa named the Martian

airfield "Wright Brothers

"While these two iconic moments in aviation history may be separated by time and 173 million miles of space, they now will forever be linked," NASA's scimissions chief Thomas Zurbuchen anno-

unced. The little chopper with a giant job attracted attention from the moment it launched with Perseverance last July. Even Arnold Schwarzenegger joined in the fun, rooting for Ingenuity over the weekend via Twitter. "Get to the chopper!" he shouted, re-enacting a line from 1987 sci-fi film

increasingly flights are planned, and they could lead the way to a fleet of Martian drones in decades to come, providing aerial views, transporting packages and serving as lookouts for human crews. On Earth, the technology could enable helicopters to reach new heights, doing things like more easily navigating the Himalayas.

This gives us amazing hope for all of humanity," Zurbuchen tweeted. Indeed, JPL's mantra, "Dare Mighty Things," was printed on a wall of the control

quick

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	49,746.21	0.17
Nifty 50	14,873.80	0.37
S&P 500*	4,161.45	-0.57
Dollar (₹)	74.59	-0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.51	0.50
Euro (₹)	88.52	0.07
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	45,975▲182	0.39
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	66.73	-0.06
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.081	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.605	0.032
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

ACC net jumps 74% to ₹563 cr in March quarter

a 74.17 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 562.59 crore for the first quarter ended March 2021, helped by an increase in sales and cost efficiency. The company, which folthe January-December financial year, had posted a profit of Rs 323.02 crore in the year-ago period. Total revenue from operations was at Rs 4,291.97 crore, up 22.57 per cent from Rs 3,501.71



■ Market turns volatile; FPIs net sellers

Sentiments sour as C19 cases rise

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, APRIL 19

It was panic selling over rising Covid infections in the country as the market opened on Monday. In just half an hour, the Sensex was down 1469.32 points, or 3 per cent, as the benchmark index touched the day's low of 47,362.71. The Nifty-50 touched a low of 14,191.40, down 426

points. But a partial recovery later helped the Sensex to close with a loss of 882.61 points, or 1.81 per cent, at 47,949.42 while Nifty-50 closed at 14,359.45, down 1.77 per cent.

Vaccine and oxygen shortages in several states were making the fight against the second Covid wave difficult for the Centre and states.

"It seems like our markets have decoupled from global counterparts due to rising Covid cases in India. Going forward, the Covid-19 situation and the pace of vaccination would be a key monitorable for the markets," said Ajit Mishra, VP--research, Religare "Market Brok-ing. "Market participants reacted negatively to increasing restriction announcements from state governments while ignoring the positive global cues," Mishra said.

Foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1,633.70 crore but domestic institutional investors stepped in with Rs 2,355.56 crore net

₹ SHEDS 53 PAISE ON LOCKDOWN FEARS

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, APRIL 19

Fear of harsher restrictions and more economic pain amid a record surge in Covid-19 cases spooked the rupee that fell 53 paise to close at 74.88 on Monday. The rupee is under pressure despite a weak US dollar globally and has weakened by 3 per cent this month.

India reported its tenth record daily increase in Covid cases in 11 days, with the capital city of New Delhi announcing a complete curfew till next Monday. Maharashtra had imposed stringent curbs, effective April 15. On Friday, the rupee had

settled at 74.35 a dollar. The Dollar Index, which gauges the dollar's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.49 per cent to 91.11. Anindya Banerjee, deputy vicepresident-currency derivatives at Kotak Securities, said, "RBI...may intervene agg-ressively to curb volatility. Over the near term, we expect a range of 74.00 and 75.50."

MACROTECH TANKS ON MKT DEBUT

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers, earlier Lodha Developers, made a tepid stock market debut at 10.28 per cent discount to the public issue price, of Rs 486 a share, at Rs 436 on the NSE. As the market faced huge selling pressure, Macrotech further dipped to a low of Rs 422.60. However, the shares gained upward momentum as the mar-

The fall was bigger in the broader market with Nifty Mid-cap 50 and Nifty Mid-

cap 100 indices down by 2.

ket stabilised and recov ered some losses, which helped Macrotech to close at Rs 457.95 on the NSE and at Rs 463.15 on the BSE, lower by 5.77 per cent and 4.70 per cent, respectively. The firm had raised Rs 2,500 crore from the IPO.
Macrotech Developers

is now the third largest listed realty firm in terms of m-cap at Rs 20,717.55 crore, after DLF (Rs 58,615.38 crore) and Godrej Properties (Rs 36,167.34 crore.)

60 per cent and 2.12 per cent respectively and the BSE Mid-cap down by 1.93

Oxford study to reinfect recovered C19 patients

TODD GILLESPIE

People who have fought off the Covid-19 virus will be deliberately reinfected in a first-of-its-kind trial at the University of Oxford that may shed light on how to develon more how to develop more effective vaccines against the pathogen.

Researchers are looking for 64 healthy, previously Covid-infected volunteers from 18 to 30 years old to be studied under controlled, quarantined conditions for at least 17 days, the UK university said on Monday. Participants will be infected with the original strain from Wuhan and followed for

Initial data from the Oxford study should be available within several months, helping vaccine developers look at levels and types of immunity needed to prevent reinfection, and how long protection persists. Challenge trials, involving deliberate, supervised infections, are seen as helpful for answering questions like these, because they allow scientists to scrutinise the details of how the body confronts the virus and vice versa.

While vaccines and previous infections provide some immune protection against the coronavirus, concerns and doubts remain about how long it lasts.

—Bloomberg

SC stays HC proceedings in Future-Amazon case

SANGEETHA G

The Supreme Court has stayed the proceedings in the Amazon-Future Group case before the single and division benches of the Delhi High Court.

"...Further proceedings before the single judge as well as the Division bench of the High Court shall remain stayed," the bench headed by Rohinton Fali Nariman said.

The court was hearing the appeal by Amazon that challenged the division bench's decision in the case involving the Future group. On March 22, the division bench of Chief



Justice D. N. Patel and Justice Jasmeet Singh had stayed a March 18 order of single judge Justice J. R. Midha ordering attach-ment of the assets of Future Coupons, Future Retail, Kishore Biyani and 10 others promoters.

The court has permitted filing of counter affidavit within two weeks from Monday. A rejoinder affidavit can be filed within

one week thereafter. The matter will come up for final disposal on May 4 along with other matters, the top court said.

Amazon has been seeking enforcement of an order of the emergency arbitrator (EA) at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) restraining Future Retail from taking any steps to transfer its retail assets to Reliance Group under a proposed Rs 25,000-crore deal.

Amazon's contention is that it had invested Rs 1,431 crore in Future Coupons on the clear understanding that Future Retail would be the sole vehicle for its retail business.

BUSINESS

GLENMARK LIFE PLANS IPO

Mumbai, April 19: Glenmark Life Sciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, has filed draft red herring prospectus with the Sebi for an initial public offering. The public offer comprises a fresh issue of shares worth up to Rs 1,160 crore and an offer for sale of over 73.05 lakh equity shares each of Rs 2 face value.

Glenmark Life Sciences is a developer and manufacturer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). The company works with 16 of the 20 largest generic companies globally. With 120 APIs in its portfolio, the firm supplies APIs to more than 540 pharma companies worldwide.

WHATSAPP IN PINK IS A VIRUS

New Delhi, April 19: Cyber experts have warned users from falling into the prey of a virus link, which claims to turn Whatsapp in pink colour and comes with new features. Clicking on

the link claiming to be an official update from Whatsapp will hack users phone and they may lose access to their Whatsapp. "Beware of WhatsApp Pink!! A Virus is being spread in whatsapp groups with an APK download link. Don't click any link with the name of #WhatsappPink. Complete access to your phone will be lost," cyber security expert Rajshekhar Rajaharia posted on social media platforms. Whatsapp users were seen sharing the malicious link.

M&M SELLS 1,000 E-CARGO AUTO



Pune, April Mahin-dra & Mahindra on Monday said its Mahindra Treo Zor electric three-wheeler (cargo) has crossed the sales milestone of 1,000

— Michel Gonsalves

units within six months of its launch, indicating growing demand for electric three-wheelers in Asia's third largest economy. With this milestone, the Treo Zor has become India's top selling electric cargo and has acquired a market share of 59 per cent in its category.

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Covid cases surge delays India Open

New Delhi: The India Open Super 500 tournament, one of the last three qualifying events for the postponed due to raging Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The \$400,000 India Open was scheduled to be held behind

closed doors in the national capital from May 11 to 16. "Considering the current challenges, BAI is left with no option but to announce the postpone-ment of the tournament for the time being," Badminton

Association of India (BAI) general secretary Ajay Singhania said. Delhi has emerged as the worst hit city with 25,462 cases reported on Sunday. - PTI

Vaccinate athletes

at earliest: NRAI

New Delhi: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has requested the government to vaccinate its Olympic-bound shooters at the earliest, taking into account the unprecedented spike in Covid-19 cases. As per the data updated by the union health ministry, India reported 2,73,810 new positive cases in the last 24 hours, the highest single-day surge taking the country's caseload past the 1.5 crore mark. As many as 1,619 people succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours. Considering the grim situation, the NRAI is keen that its athletes

Foxes pip Saints to reach FA Cup final

are vaccinated soon. - PTI

London: The goal scored by Kelechi Iheanacho didn't just send Leicester into a first FA Cup final since 1969. It was the first to be cheered by spectators at Wembley in more than a year. Not since March 2020 had fans been allowed into English football's national stadium through

three national lockdowns. Now as coronavirus restrictions are eased, Wembley was allowed a 4,000-strong, socially distanced crowd on Sunday to witness Leicester's 1-0 victory over Southampton to test the return of spectators. While those per-

mitted were only local residents

over the age of 18 who tested

negative for Covid-19. — AP

'Super clubs' in different league

European heavyweights face criticism over 'cynical' Super League

football's most powerful they will share billions of clubs faced accusations of euros. greed and cynicism on they as announced a breakaway European Super League that could have far-reaching implications for the

game. Premier League Six teams Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea Manchester City and Tottenham — are involved, alongside Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Juventus, Inter

Milan and AC Milan. The clubs, most of them saddled with debt and large wage bills, and hit by the pandemic, stand to benefit financial-

Paris, April 19: Twelve of ly, with predictions that • The clubs, most But the initial reaction

from football authorities, fans and pundits was furious, with threats to ban participating clubs from domestic. European and world competitions.

'Our members and football supporters across the world have experienced the ultimate betrayal," the Chelsea Supporters' Trust said.

"This is unforgivable. Enough is enough," it

The ESL said the founding clubs had agreed to create a "new midweek competition" to start "as soon as practicable" but that they would continue of them saddled with debt and large wage bills, and hit hard by the pandemic, stand to benefit financially, with predictions that they will share billions of euros.

to play in their domestic leagues.

Three more clubs would be announced, the statement said, with the 15 founder members guaranteed to play each year Another five places will available "based achievements in the prior

The founding clubs will top three qualifying for the quarter-finals. The fourth share 3.5 billion euros for infrastructure investment costs, and are expected to remaining spots. receive a further 10 billion euros in "solidarity payments" over the life of the initial commitment much more than is available in the Champions

League. "I think there are two things in play here: one is greed and the other is desperation," former England Football Association and Manchester City chairman David Bernstein told

the BBC. **UEFA THREAT**

Under the plan, two groups of 10 will play each other

and fifth-based teams and to offset pandemic would play off for the two Then the con

would adopt the same two leg knockout format used in the Champions League before a single-leg final in May. A women's version is also planned.

But European governing body UEFA and the English, Spanish and Italian football authorities warned the clubs face being barred from their national competitions and the Champions League. 'We... Will remain united

in our efforts to stop this cynical project," read a joint statement.

Justice Verma steers clear of controversy

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Confusion prevailed in the faction-ridden Hyderabad Cricket Association circles on Monday with regard to the Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of the state cricket body.

In the first half of the day, mails circulated in groups that Justice Deepak Verma has decided against the post of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer after HCA secretary R. Vijayanand wrote to him saying president Mohammed Azharuddin's letter appointing him did not have the approval of the General Body meeting held on April 11.

However, in the evening, another mail written by Justice Verma sought to clear the air. "I would like to clarify that vide Email dated 12.04.2021, I had assumed the charge of Ombudsman of HCA. My previous mail is not to be mis-interpreted as I am still the Ombudsman of

HCA," it read.
"...I have re-assumed charge of Ombudsman after going through the High Court Order and after receiving an Email dated 11.04.2021 from the President of HCA and I intend to serve Ombudsman of HCA till the time my tenure ends, Justice Verma clarified.

He also urged the groups not to involve him in the

tussle and to settle their differences and tentions (with regard to appointments) in a court of law. "The purpose of writing the previous mail was to let everyone know that I don't want to get involved in the politics and tussle between the two groups and also not to approach me if there is any conflict between the two groups. I am in no way a party to the dispute or politics between the two fractions and I urge every-one not to involve me in all this. Both the factions are free to approach the Court of law and put their grievances before the Court. I have nothing to do with any of this conflict,' Justice Verma wrote.

The Delhi-based judge also said he would not be able to travel. "I would further like to clarify that I would not be in a position to travel to Hyderabad looking at the current situation. Therefore, if any hearing is to be taken place, the same can be done through online video conferencing," he wrote.

Advantage Atletico after Real held Spurs sack

Madrid, April 19: A depleted Real Madrid delivered a major boost to Atletico Madrid's title hopes on Sunday by drawing 0-0 with Getafe in La

Atletico had thrashed Eibar 5-0 to reignite their own fading challenge and their victory proved even more valuable after Real Madrid were held to a goalless draw at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez.

It means Atletico extend their advantage at the top of the table from one to three points over Real while Barcelona, who now have a game in hand, are five points back.

Sevilla could yet join the race after they defeated Real Sociedad 2-1 but with six points separating them and Atletico, it remains more of an outside chance.

Real have enjoyed an incredible two weeks after beating Barcelona in the Clasico last weekend between knocking out Liverpool over two legs in the quarter-finals of the Champions League. But a crippling list of injuries and absentees means the squad is down to its bare bones and this was the game that finally caught up with them.



Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois dives for the ball during a La Liga match against Getafe in Getafe on Sunday.

JUVENTUS' CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AT RISK

Milan, April 19: Andrea Pirlo Juventas missed Cristiano Ronaldo's instinct" as the Italian champions fell to their first league defeat in two decades to Atalanta on Sunday leaving their particiin next Champions League at risk. Leaders Inter Milan edged towards the Serie A title despite

a 1-1 draw at Napoli, to pull 13

points ahead of Juventus who

Christian Eriksen snatched a point for Inter whose 11-match winning streak ended but who "killer hold a nine-point advantage on AC Milan as they target a first league title since 2010. Milan earlier got back winning in the San Siro after two months

2-1 against Genoa. Juve's nine-vear reign as champions looks set to end with nine games left, and their European hopes are also at risk

'Special One'

sacked by Tottenham on Monday just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final as the Portuguese boss paid the price for a turbulent campaign. Mourinho, 58, was dismissed after only 17 months in charge, even though he could have led the club to their first silver ware since 2008.

Tottenham have been struggling in their bid to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League. Spurs are currently seventh, five points behind fourth placed West Ham, and suffered a shock Europa League last-

16 exit against Dinamo Zagreb.
"The club can today announce that Jose Mourinho and his coaching staff have been relieved of their duties," a been relieved of their Tottenham statement said.

The bombshell news came less than 24 hours after Tottenham announced they were one of 12 clubs planning to launch a breakaway European Super League. Tottenham's academy coach Ryan

Mason, a former player at the club, will take first-team training this week and is set to pick the team for Wednesday's Premier League clash with Southampton and the League Cup final at Wembley.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said: "Jose and his coaching staff have been with us through some of our most challenging times as a club.
"On a personal level I have enjoyed work-

ing with him and regret that things have not worked out as we both had envisaged. "He will always be welcome here." -AFP

LANKA'S LOKUHETTIGE GETS

Dubai, April 19: Former Sri Lanka cricketer Dilhara Lokuhettige was on Monday banned from all cricket for eight years after being found guilty of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

The ban for Lokuhettige, a right-arm fast-medium bowler and lower-order batsman, is backdated to April 3, 2019 when he was provisionally suspended. "Having represented Sri Lanka in international cricket, Dilhara had attended a number of anti-corruption education sessions and would have known his actions were a breach of the Code," Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager Integrity Unit, said.

"The severity of the sanction reflects the seriousness of his offences and his continued refusal to cooperate and should serve as a deterrent for anyone considering getting involved in corruption of any kind. The 40-year-old, who had retired in September 2016 after playing nine ODIs and two T20 Internationals for his country, was found guilty of three offences under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code in January this year, following a hearing by an independent tribunal. He was charged under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code in November 2019 for his involvement in matchfixing during a T20 tournament in UAE in 2017, where a Sri Lankan team participated.

dropped to fourth place.

Glenn Maxwell, RCB

PBKS

KL Rahul,

PURPLE

Harshal Patel, RCB Rahul

Chahar, MI **Avesh** Khan, DC

Off the field



Pandya brothers having a whale

Blake wants ABD to make SA comeback

Acricket enthusiast, Jamaica's star sprinter Yohan Blake wants AB de Villiers to come out of international retirement and represent the South African national team in their upcoming assignments, including the T20 World Cup. "Wow de Villiers is on a different level. South Africa come on you need this man," Blake tweeted after the versatile South African's breathtaking innings in the IPL in Chennai on Sunday

De Villiers has expressed his desire to make a comeback his superb knock against KKR on Sunday.

Murali discharged from hospital

Sri Lankan cricket legend Muttiah Muralitharan was discharged on Monday after undergoing a coronary angio-plasty at a hospital in Chennai.

The 49-year-old former spinner, who is part of the Sunrisers Hyderabad support staff in the ongoing IPL, went for the planned procedure on Sunday. "He underwent successful coronary angioplasty with stents yesterday under the care of Dr G Sengottuvelu, senior interventional cardiologist," Apollo Hospitals said in a release on Monday.

"He would resume ȟis normal activities.' Muralitharan would rejoin the Sunrisers Hyderabad squad after undergoing the

mandatory seven-day quarantine period, sources said. Hardik nurses a

shoulder niggle

All-rounder Hardik Pandya did not bowl in the last three IPL games due to a shoulder niggle that he picked up during the final ODI against England, said Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene on Monday. "We were looking forward for him to be bowling this season... he was coming back from an injury already, but after those matches against England, the last ODI, I believe he picked up niggle, so that is something that we are nursing at the moment,"

Jayawardene said. The Sri Lankan hoped that Hardik will be able to return to bowling in the next few

Read. No. AP/VJA/41/24/2000.

Printed and published from Vijayawada
by K.Sudhakar on behalf
of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited
at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Press,
No. C 3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, VIJAYAWADA

RNI Registration No.45061/90 Editorial: 2555962, Fax: 2555234 Board: 2555284, 2555287, 2555185

DUJA TRICK

Jadeja's magical performance helps CSK outplay Royals by 45 runs

Mumbai, April 19: The spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja (2/28) and Moeen Ali (3/7) tormented the Rajasthan Royals batting line-up to ensure a second consecutive win for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL here on Monday. Jadeja had an outstanding day as he also took

four catches. Cameos from Faf du Plessis (33 off 17), Dwayne Bravo (20 not out off 8), Ambati Rayudu (27 off 17) and Ali (26 off 20) helped

CSK post 188 for nine after being put in to bat. Royals made a promising start in the run chase courtesy Jos Buttler (49 off 35) before the batsmen succumbed to the spin-ners on the Wankhede pitch which offered more turn than earlier games. CSK won the game by 45 runs after Royals' innings

ended at 143 for nine. Ali (3/7 in 3 overs) picked up three wickets in quick succession to effectively seal the game for his team after Jadeja (2/28 in 4) provided the crucial breakthrough by castling Buttler with a classical away turning delivery.

It was another emphatic win for CSK after they outplayed Punjab Kings while Royals suffered their second loss in three

Earlier, CSK lost wickets towards the end with the batsmen going for big hits and also in the face of some good bowling by Rovals.

Bravo smashed a huge six off the last ball of the innings from Mustafizur Rahman (1/37) to ensure the Super Kings got close to 190.

Du Plessis top scored with 33 as the CSK batsmen got starts but couldn't capitalise on them after.

Young Chetan Sakariya (3/36 from 4) was the best bowler for Rajasthan while Chris Morris finished with 2/33 despite conceding 15 runs in his final over.

MS Dhoni, in his 200th perished going for an match as CSK captain, attacking shot on the offcame in to bat at No.7 but side off Sakariya. could not get going as



Ravindra Jadeja (centre) of Chennai Super Kings celebrates a Royals wicket in Mumbai on Monday.

quickly as he would have liked. He, however, managed two boundaries in his 17-ball 18 before being beaten by an off-cutter by Sakariya only to give a catch to Jos Buttler.

He survived a run-out chance and a few anxious moments in his brief

and Suresh Ravudu Raina (18, 15 balls, 1 four, 1 six) added 45 runs in quick time for the fourth wicket before the former

SCORECARD

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad c Dube b Mustafizur Rahman 10, Faf du Plessis c Parag b Morris 33, Moeen Ali c Parag b Tewatia 26, Suresh Raina c Morris b Sakariya 18, Ambati Rayudu c Parag b Sakariya 27, Ravindra Jadeja c Samson b Morris 8, MS Dhoni c Buttler b Sakariya 18, Sam Curran run out (Mustafizur Rahman/Samson) 13, Dwayne Bravo (not out) 20, Shardul Thakur run out (Samson/Mustafizur Rahman) 1, Deepak Chahar (not out) 0. Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 1, w 8) 14. Total (for nine wickets) 188. 8) 14. Total (for nine wickets) 188. FoW: 1-25, 2-45, 3-78, 4-123, 5-125, 6-147, 7-

163, 8-174, 9-180, Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-40-0, Chetan Sakariya 4-0-36-3. Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-37-1, Chris Morris 4-0-33-2, Rahul Tewatia 3- 0-28-1, Moeen Ali 3-0-7-3,

0-21-1, Riyan Parag 1-0-16-0. **Rajasthan Royals:** Jos Buttler b Jadeja 49

Manan Vohra c Jadeja b Curran 14, Sanju Samson c Bravo b Curran 1, Shivam Dube Ibw b Jadeja 17, David Miller Ibw b Ali 2, Riyan Parag c Jadeja b Ali 3, Rahul Tewatia c Gaikwad b Bravo 20, Chris Morris c Jadeja b Ali O, Jaydev Unadkat c Jadeja b Thakur 24, Chetan Sakariya (not out) 0, Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 0. Extras (b 1, lb 3, nb 1, w 8) 13. Total (for nine wickets in 20 overs)

FoW: 1-30, 2-45, 3-87, 4-90, 5-92, 6-95, 7-Bowling: Deepak Chahar 3-0-32-0, Sam Curran 4-0-24-2, Shardul Thakur 3-0-20-1,

Ravindra Jadeja 4-0-28-2, Dwayne Bravo 3-

Live on TV Mumbai Indians vs from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Matches

MI 16 DC 28

12

FOR THE RECORD

• Kieron Pollard with 201 sixes in 150 innings is the only Mumbai Indians batsman to 200+ sixes in

Rishabh Pant who has hit 194 fours in 71 innings needs just six more to become only the second batsman after Virender Sehwag (266) to complete a double century of fours for Delhi.

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES Mumbai beat Delhi by 57 runs at

Mumbai beat Delhi by 5 wickets

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

PRITHVI WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS TECHNIQUE

Mumbai, April 19: The promising Prithvi Shaw says he had started "worrying" about his technique after being dropped in Australia before roaring back to form in domestic cricket, thanks to a few technical changes he made in his game.

"After getting dropped from the Test side after the first Test in Australia, I started worrying about my technique on why I was getting bowled. Even if it was a minor mistake, wanted to minimize that. I started working on it there itself," said Shaw after Delhi Capitals' win over Punjab Kings on Sunday night.

	POINTS TABLE								
Teams	Р	W	L	N/R	Points	Net RR			
RCB	3	3	0	0	6	+0.750			
CSK	3	2	1	0	4	+1.194			
DC	3	2	1	0	4	+0.453			
MI	3	2	1	0	4	+0.367			
KKR	3	1	2	0	2	- 0.633			
RR	3	1	2	0	2	- 0.719			
PBKS	3	1	2	0	2	- 0.967			
SRH	3	0	3	0	0	- 0.483			

Not afraid to take risks, says Shikhar

April Mumbai, April 19: Shikhar Dhawan smashed a match-winning 92 off 49 balls against Punjab Kings on Sunday and the southpaw said he made a conscious effort to improve his strike rate during the knock

Dhawan, who smashed back-to-back hundreds in the IPL last season, is no more a certainty in India's T20 playing XI and is competing for an opening slot alongside Rohit Sharma in the World Cup later this

"It was a conscious effort from my side. I knew I have to improve on that (strike rate). Started taking more risks. Not afraid of changes, always open towards it. Not scared of getting out as well," said Dhawan, who batted at a strike rate of 187.86, after the six-wicket win over Punjab Kings.
The left-hander said he

has also been working on his stroke play.

"I have worked on a few shots. My slog shot has improved a lot. It was there earlier as well, but now I play it more freely. I'm relaxed. having more played for so many years. I don't take things for grant-

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant said he has started to enjoy captaincy. 'Coming from a loss, winning the next match was

19: important. Have already started enjoying captaincy But we were under pressure at the start, the wicket was not doing much.

"Bowlers did a good job keeping them to 195. He (Dhawan) has a lot of experience. You can to talk to him about anything, how we can set the field, there are many stuff you can talk about. End of the day, what he's giving to the team is commendable," Pant said.

Punjab skipper K L Rahul, who turned 29 on Sunday, said they put up a decent total but defending at Wankhede is always tough.

"Right now it looks 10-15 runs short, but I think 190-odd looked good. Me and Mayank thought 180-190 would have been great on this wicket. Shikhar batted well, so congratulations to

"When we come to Wankhede, bowling second is always a challenge. We prepare for such conditions. It does get difficult against these quality batters. I'm not saying that because I'm on the losing side," he said.

"Bowlers try to bowl with the wet ball, but it's always difficult to do that. I asked the umpires to change the ball a couple of times (as it was wet), but the rule book doesn't allow that," Rahul



R. Ashwin (right) takes a selfie with his Delhi Capitals teammate Shikhar Dhawan.

Chennai pitches are tricky: Mahela

Chennai, April 19: The wickets in Chennai are not unplayable but challenging being on slower side, insisted Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene as teams bat-Mahela ting first have dominated the matches played at the Chepauk stadium, so far.

Out of six matches played here, thrice teams managed 150-plus score and five times the team that has batted first won the match. The match between Royal

Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals was a high-scoring affair on Sunday when Virat Kohliled side posted 204 for four to win the match by 38

"They are not unplayable wickets. They are good, competitive wickets. And adapting to challenges is always the key for any batsmen or any team. We have been consistent with that approach, it is challenging, but our bowlers have adapted pretty well, Jayawardene said ahead of the team's game against Delhi Capitals. Rahul Chahar has picked

seven wickets in the last two games and the head coach acknowledged the Chennai pitches are not unplayable wickets. They are good, competitive wickets. And adapting to challenges is always the key for any batsmen or any team. We have been consistent with that approach, it is challenging, but our bowlers have adapted pretty well.

— MAHELA **JAYAWARDENE** MI coach

leg-spinner has shown every year.

"When we started playing him (Chahar), I believe it was the 2019 season, where

he had a breakthrough season. Even in the UAE in the last season, he bowled well but he had his ups and downs, he wasn't consistent in execution, but every year we see improvement in Rahul. "He is still a young player

and he is also learning, he gets challenged by different oppositions, some topclass players, it is constant learning for Rahul, but very happy the way he has come out and he is one of our leaders in that bowling improvement the young group," he added. -PTI

A clash of heavyweights Capitals, the biggest positive has been the form of

Chennai, April Heavyweights Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals cross swords and look to outsmart each other in the ongoing IPL here on Tuesday.

Up against a resurgent side, defending champions MI will need to address their middle-order woes if they are to go for a third consecutive

While Delhi come into the match after beating Punjab Kings by six wickets at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai have recorded back-to-back victories by defending low totals, something a formidable opponents like DC may not offer.

Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma has got starts and he would be keen to convert it into a big one and so would be Quinton de Kock.

MI have the likes of Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya and his brother Krunal, who can pummel any attack into submission on their day, but they are yet to fire on all cylinders.

After the last game, Rohit had conceded that his team "can bat a little better in the middle overs.

The Mumbai bowlers, led by pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, have been splendid in the last two games when they successfully defended low scores of 150 and 152 respectively. Strike bowlers Bumrah (3 wickets) and New Zealander Trent Boult (6 wickets) have been exceptional at

Rahul Leg-spinner Chahar, whom bowling his team breakthroughs.



Mumbai Indians allrounder Kieron Pollard during a training session in Chennai.

coach Shane Bond described as a "wicket-taking bowler", has grabbed seven wickets in last two games. Another important cog

in the wheel is left-arm

spinner Krunal, who

would be itching to give

Mumbai played Adam Milne in the previous game but considering the nature of the pitch, they could be tempted to bring in off-spinner Jayant Yadav, who played the 2020 final against the same opposition.

Meanwhile, for Delhi Ashwin.

unison against the defending champions, to whom they had lost in the final last year. DC also possess quality all-rounders in Marcus Stoinis and Lalit Yadav, who would be keen to play their roles well.

Shikhar Dhawan, who is

the leading scorer so far

in the tournament with

Dhawan and young

Prithvi Shaw form a

lethal opening combina-tion, but the Mumbaikar

needs to convert his

Australian Steve Smith

on Sunday but, as they

are next playing on the

slow Chepauk track, they might go back to Ajinkya Rahane, who is looking

better suited for such

Skipper Rishabh Pant has the ability to take any attack to the cleaners.

The DC team manage-

ment would be hoping

that the top-order fires in

starts into big scores. Delhi opted

186 runs.

Their pace attack is led by South African Kagiso Rabada and Chris Woakes, and the two have been impressive so far. They have an additional option in Anrich Notrje, who has also joined the Delhi played four pacers

in the game against Punjab, but in Chennai, they could play more spinners as the track is conducive for the slower They have options in the

experienced Amit Mishra, Pravin Dubey and new recruit Shams Mulani, who can comple-Ravichandran