

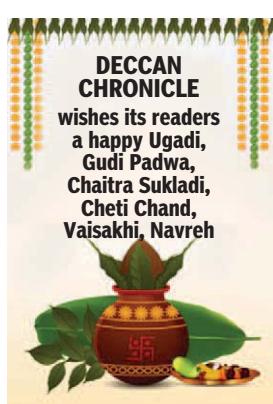
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Volunteers get Jagan's pat

CM launches Seva Award programme for volunteers in state

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday saluted 2.6 lakh-strong contingent of ward and village volunteers for their selfless service in delivering welfare schemes at doorsteps of beneficiaries in a transparent manner "seeking only blessings from elderly persons".

Launching the Vasisht Parashar Seva Award presentation programme here, he said cash incentives worth ₹228.74 crore, apart from citations, are in recognition of the hard work put

in by local volunteers in serving the general public within their jurisdictions.

The Chief Minister appreciated volunteers for redefining governance and showing the world how effective inclusive welfare could be delivered, especially during the pandemic.

He praised volunteers for developing affinity and rapport with members of families living within their respective areas.

He pointed out that volunteers delivered 32 types of services to targeted beneficiaries in wards and villages in a corruption-free manner.

The CM announced Seva Mitra awards for 2,18,115 volunteers, including cash prize of ₹10,000, a citation, a shawl and a badge. Seva Ratna awards were given to 4,000 volunteers comprising cash prize of ₹20,000, a citation, a shawl and a badge. 875 volunteers were presented Seva Vajra award carrying cash prize of ₹30,000, a medal, a citation and a shawl.

He felicitated nine volunteers while transferring ₹18.93 crore into bank accounts of 18,576 volunteers on the first day. He called upon volunteers to work with more commitment and dedication.

Giving details of bond developed by volunteers with beneficiaries, the CM said a volunteer from Srikakulam went to Visakhapatnam for delivering pension amount to an old woman who had been hospitalised there in an accident.

Similarly, another volunteer from Prakasam went to Hyderabad to deliver pension amount to a woman who underwent heart surgery. Yet another volunteer from Chittoor went to Bengaluru to deliver pension to a beneficiary who was hospitalised.

CM's reward



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy felicitates volunteers with 'Seva Vajra Puraskaram' at Poranki near Vijayawada on Monday. Minister Perni Venkataiah (Nani) is also seen. — DC

Demand for remdesivir picks up as Covid surges

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

AP RE-ENTERS LIST OF TOP 16 WORST COVID-HIT STATES

With the steady rise in coronavirus infections and the resultant deaths, the demand for the life-saving drug, remdesivir, has increased in Andhra Pradesh in recent days.

According to state health authorities, the state had 23,115 active coronavirus cases. Eleven out of the 13 districts are having more than 1,000 active cases. Two districts — Vizianagaram and West Godavari — were having 647 and 258 active cases respectively.

The number of daily Covid positive cases in AP has crossed the 3,000-mark and the daily number of

were discharged from hospitals after recovery.

The demand for the life-saving drug is on the rise. Hetero and Cipla are major suppliers of remdesivir under brand names like Covifor and Cipremi. For an infected patient, a pack of six vials are being given as a course at the rate of two shots a day with a gap of several hours while one shot each for the remaining days. Each vial of Covifor costs ₹5,400 and Cipremi ₹4,000.

Pharma giants are ramping up the production of remdesivir vials as the demand is increasing.

■ Page 2: Pharma cos asked to boost drug production

deaths is in the range of 10 now. On Monday, 1,091 virus-infected patients

SPUTNIK VACCINE GETS NOD FROM CENTRE'S PANEL

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 12

Even as India surpassed Brazil to become the second most infected country in the world, the Drugs Controller General of India on Monday approved Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd's application to grant emergency-use authorisation to Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

The Sputnik V vaccine has been developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of Russia. This is the third vaccine approved by the Indian government for use on its population.

DRL will produce around 750 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine.

New Delhi, April 12: The Election Commission on Monday barred West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee from campaigning for 24 hours for her remarks against central forces and a statement which had alleged religious overtones.

The commission hereby condemns such statements potent with serious law and order problems across the state(s) and sternly warns Mamata Banerjee and advises her to desist from using such statements while making public utterances during the period from April 12 till 8 pm of April 13".

Assembly elections in West Bengal began on March 27 and four of the eight phases of the polls have been completed.

The poll panel's order cited two separate notices to Banerjee on April 7 and April 8, and her subsequent replies.

On her speech which had

alleged religious overtones, the Election Commission (EC) said that Banerjee has "selectively chosen" parts of her speech in her reply dated April 9 and "did not mention anything on the context of key parts of her speech".

In her reply to the notice, the Trinamool Congress leader had said that "I did not seek to influence the voters to cast their vote for her on religious segments; rather I categorically spoke in favour of religious harmony in line with the spirit of Model Code of Conduct and the Constitution". — PTI

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WEATHER



Max: 35.4°C
Min: 26.2°C
RH: 68%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Mist.
Max/Min temp.
35/26°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava;	Uttarayana
Tithi:	Chaitra Shuddha Padyami till 10.17 am
Star:	Ashwini till 2.19 pm
Variyam:	9.51 am to 11.38 am
Durmuhuram:	8.34 am to 9.23 am; 11.06 pm to 11.53 pm
Rahuakalam:	3 pm to 4.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR	
Sha'ban	30,1442 AH
PRAYERS	
(ROYAL MOSQUE)	
Fajar:	5.50 am
Zohar:	1.30 pm
Asar:	4.45 pm
Maghrib:	6.15 pm
Isha:	8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY	6.12 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW	5.42 AM
MOONRISE TODAY	7.18 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW	6.29 PM

COUNTER POINT



Not gold and diamonds...
let's smuggle Covid
vaccine and medicine!

IN BRIEF

CM, GOV. GREET
PEOPLE ON THE
EVE OF UGADI FEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy greeted the Telugu people living in the state and worldwide on the eve of the Ugadi festival.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the CM wished that the state would witness adequate rainfall to help farmers yield good harvest and help all three regions in the state to flourish, with every house in the urban and rural areas to be happy. He wanted the Telugu culture and traditions to flourish all the time and wanted the Telugu people and the world to get rid of the Coronavirus pandemic forever. He called upon the people to celebrate the Sri Plava Nama Samvatsara Ugadi, relishing the Shadhruchulu.

Similarly, Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan greeted the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telugu people in the world on the occasion of 'Sri Plava Nama Samvatsara Ugadi' festival to be celebrated on Tuesday.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Governor has extended the heartiest felicitations and greetings to the people in the state and said that Ugadi is a festival of joy and happiness as the New Year brings in a new hope of a bright future for the people. He appealed to the people to celebrate the festival with the family members while staying at home. Following appropriate Covid-19 behaviour, he called upon all the eligible persons to come forward and take the Covid-19 vaccine.

CBI RESUMES
PROBE INTO
VIVEKA'S MURDER

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, APRIL 12

Officials from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) resumed investigation into the murder of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. They are camping at the Pulivendula R&B guesthouse.

It is learnt that some people close to Vivekananda Reddy were interrogated on Sunday evening and key documents were seized from them. Reportedly, Yerra Gangireddy, a close aide of the former minister and his personal secretary Inayatullah were summoned to the R&B guesthouse on Monday for questioning. Some other suspects were also questioned by the officials. Later, the officials went to Vivekananda Reddy house and inspected the surroundings.

Vivekananda Reddy was murdered on March 15, 2019. The CBI had last year launched an investigation into the case as per the directions of the state high court.

YSRC men toil for huge majority in bypoll

Ministers, legislators have been hitting the road on a daily basis to ensure the victory of Gurumoorthy

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

Notwithstanding the winning spree of the YSRC in gram panchayat, civic bodies, and parishad elections across the state, the ministers and legislators of the party have been hitting the road on a daily basis to ensure the victory of Dr M. Gurumoorthy, the YSRC nominee for Tirupati Lok Sabha seat, with thumping majority.

"They are working as if it is their election for the success of Dr M. Gurumoorthy braving scorching heat as well as Covid-19 threat probably to prove their grip on the electorate to our boss Jagan Mohan Reddy," a party leader said.

Interestingly, even the senior-most politician in the district, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, is seen going to every nook and corner of his Venkatagiri constituency seeking votes for the party nominee.

Incidental, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy's strategies during municipal election in Venkatagiri town paid rich dividends to the YSRC.

The party bagged all the ward member posts unlike never before despite TD's all-out efforts to secure the wards where the party had a strong base.

Unmindful of these victories, the former finance minister is campaigning round the clock. He said it is his duty to make sure about the huge majority for party nominee and he is not after any posts.

Like Ramanarayana Reddy, Sarvapalli legislator Kakani Govardhan Reddy is also knocking on his constituents' doors daily.

He said that all the MLAs of the party have been working hard to ensure a good majority, not less than last time.

Referring to speculations that they are working overtime to bag the highest majority to impress the CM with an eye on the ministerial berth, he said it is a notion of Opposition leaders.

Govardhan Reddy said they are banking on the welfare schemes launched by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy besides development works they have implemented in every constituency.

He said the government has spent ₹30,000 crore worth of development works in Sarvapalli constituency alone.

Referring to ₹15,000 majority in Sarvapalli segment for YSRC nominee during Parliament election in 2019, he intends to double the figure this time.

Referring to the letter of Jagannath Reddy to the people of Tirupati parliament constituency, he explained what they accomplished since they came to power. He said the Opposition failed to explain what they did during their five-year term.

In a sarcastic tone, he said Jana Sena has always been facing a dilemma over which party to support.

He said that the electorate of Andhra Pradesh disowned Telugu Desam in



Venkatagiri legislator Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and other leaders take part in a road show as part of campaign for YSRC nominee for Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll Dr M. Gurumoorthy at Venkatagiri constituency on Monday. — DC

Anil rebukes TD for not taking challenge on resignation of MPs

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

Water Resources minister Dr Anilkumar Yadav criticised Telugu Desam for failing to take Panchayat Raj minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy's challenge that TD MPs should quit if YSRC wins in Tirupati bypoll while offering the resignations of 21 MPs belonging to the ruling party if TD wins.

He also lambasted the TD leaders for their comments against the media at the district party office here on Monday, the MLA compared the attacks on Dalits in the state, YSRC MLA Meruga Nagarjuna said attacks and atrocities on Dalits were more prevalent during the TD regime.

Speaking to the media at the district party office here on Monday, the MLA compared the attacks on Dalits in the past 10 years and said Dalits are safe and many welfare schemes are being implemented for them in the YSRC government.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Anilkumar Yadav said Chief Minister Jagan Saab will never fear of any Saab while indirectly pointing to the Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan's latest film 'Vakeel Saab'.

Referring to the letter of Jagannath Reddy to the people of Tirupati parliament constituency, he explained what they accomplished since they came to power. He said the Opposition failed to explain what they did during their five-year term.

In a sarcastic tone, he said Jana Sena has always been facing a dilemma over which party to support.

He said that the electorate of Andhra Pradesh disowned Telugu Desam in

YSRC MLA defends govt on attacks against Dalits

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

mentioning the action taken by the government.

On Tirupati bypoll, asserting that Dr M. Gurumoorthy is a Dalit, the MLA slammed BJP leader Sunil Deodhar for targeting the YSRC candidate in the name of his caste and religion.

He questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the vandalisation of idols by TD leaders. He said YSRC has been fighting for Special Category Status to the state and reminded them that Naidu took many turns on the issue.

He said the Opposition parties are running out of issues as the Chief Minister has been implementing all the welfare schemes promised during the 2019 elections. He urged the people of Tirupati to vote for the YSRC candidate and give him a thumping majority.

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He took a dig on Jana Sena for teaming up with BJP even after opposing them in 2014, compromising on the issue.

He stressed that police should maintain law and order, he alleged that police have failed in local

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Miscreants pelt stones at TD rally, Naidu protests

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

Tense situation prevailed near Krishnapuram Tana in Tirupati when some miscreants pelted stones on the people attending the road-show of TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu late on Monday evening.

A TD worker reportedly suffered a bleeding injury to his leg in the incident.

Naidu became furious when a woman handed over the stone to him.

Body elections also.

He said that TD MPs will

meet the Election Commission of India in Delhi on Tuesday and lodge a complaint on the issue.

He said they will also request the ECI to conduct bypoll with central forces.

TD state president K. Atchanna Reddy said that the attack is against democracy and not against Chandrababu Naidu while stressing that the Chief Minister should be held responsible for this. The Central Electoral Commission should take action on this immediately, demanded the TD leader.

Meanwhile, minister for panchayat raj and rural development Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said that the Opposition leader has been playing 'drama' behind the attack.

Later the TD chief went to Tirupati Urban Police office and submitted a written complaint to Additional Superintendent of Police Suprajya while demanding action against the miscreants behind the attack on a TD leader.

Speaking to the media, the former chief minister demanded the Election Commission of India to depose Para Military forces for Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll as the police failed to provide security to the Opposition party leaders.

Stressing that police should maintain law and order, he alleged that

police have failed in local

A Telugu Desam worker reportedly suffered a bleeding injury to his leg in the incident.

Naidu became furious when a woman handed over the stone to him.

body elections also.

He said that TD workers will



Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu squats on the road after some miscreants pelted stones on the people attending his road-show near Krishnapuram Tana in Tirupati on Monday.

AP rulers ignored Seema, says Nadda

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

around 20 lakh houses in AP, besides allocating amount for the development of the state apart from funding promised under the smart cities scheme to 4 cities.

Referring to the central assistance for the Polavaram project, he expressed surprise over concern expressed by the Opposition on the issue during his public meetings.

Taking strong objection to the comments that the Chief Minister is in fear because of Vakeel Saab movie's impact, the minister said their leader never

fear for any Saab.

Nadda claimed credit to the Centre for the sanction funds under PM Awas Yojana for constructing

of attacks on temples, he said no one was booked yet giving doubts over religion-based priority. He added that conversions have been taking place without barriers even though the party claims itself as secular.

Earlier in the day, Nadda offered prayers at the holy shrine in Tirumala. He greeted the people of AP on the occasion of the Ugadi festival. He also took part in a colourful rally in Tirupati before going to Naidupeta to address the public meeting.

Pointing to the 150 insta-

Other states looking at our volunteer system: Speaker

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 12

ice points due to lack of communication.

Deputy chief minister Dharmananda Krishnadas, who was the chief guest at the felicitating function, said the system fulfilled the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, who conceived the grama swarajya system. "It was the splendid decision of the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to launch this village secretariat and volunteer system free from politics, caste and religion," he said.

He said ₹228.74 crore was spent to honour 2,22,990 volunteers across AP. The cash awards include ₹10,000 for Seva Mittra, ₹20,000 for Seva Ratna, ₹30,000 for Seva Vajra.

Several states in the country are looking at the AP volunteer system to emulate, said AP Assembly Speaker Tammie Sitaran while felicitating the volunteers at a function organised at Rajam in Srikrakulam on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion as the special guest, the Speaker said the volunteer system was most innovative, providing efficient service at the local level during the Covid-19 infection and lockdown period. He wished that the volunteers spread to more interior areas of the state where people are unable to reach the serv-

ice.

Dharmadi Satyam, Kakinada, for retrieving the capsized boat in Godavari river without fearing for his life. Arjun Rao (Reserved S. U. I. n. p. e. c. t. o. r.), Vijayawada City, for rescuing a girl who was drowning in the Bandar Canal.

be given jointly to two persons. Dharmadi Satyam, Kakinada, for retrieving the capsized boat in Godavari river without

IN BRIEF

Hail storm brings mercury down

Visakhapatnam: Hailstorm lashed Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam Agency from 2 pm to 4 pm forcing people to remain indoors. An IMD report said the rains at Araku occurred due to convergence of moist wind (South easterly from Bay of Bengal) and hot and dry wind from north at lower levels and also due to orographic ascent of winds that leads to convection over Araku area.

2 held, 54 tolas gold recovered

Visakhapatnam: The Visakhapatnam city crime police arrested two thieves and recovered 54 tolas of gold ornaments from them. The police said one Narava Rambabu complained to the police on April 9 that some unidentified persons sneaked into his home and took away 54 tolas of gold ornaments and ₹14,000 in cash. A special team was formed and the main accused, Kilaparthi Rama Krishna, 30, of Chodavaram, was arrested near RTC Complex in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Some ornaments were found on him. After questioning, Rama Krishna led to the arrest of the second accused, Patnala Ramu, 50, of Visakhapatnam. The remaining ornaments were recovered from him.

'Not to panic on gas leak news'

Kakinada: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) officials said that there was no gas leak in Kesanadasupalem of Konaseema in East Godavari district on Monday. They said that a news became viral in a private TV channel that a gas leakage incident at the area, but, it was an old gas leakage incident and no such leakage happened at any of the pipelines of ONGC. The ONGC released a note that the people need not get panic.

KGH is getting filled with Covid patients

Visakhapatnam has 2,846 active cases; 500 in hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

King George Hospital is getting filled with second wave Covid-19 patients. The CSR block, the most sophisticated ward in the government sector with 500 beds, has already taken in 361 patients. The load increased during the last two to three days, said the superintendent of KGH Dr P. Mythili.

After the CSR block is filled, the patients would be shifted to Government Hospital for Chest Diseases and Visakha Institute of Medical Sciences. She said doctors are being rescheduled to work in these three hospitals.

Not many private hospitals admit symptomatic patients except for few noted corporate health institutions, the health

sources said. The district has 2,846 active cases, and of them, around 500 patients are in hospitals, and others are in private hospitals and home isolation.

"The second wave has hit the younger persons, unlike the last year phase. Most of them are asymptomatic," Andhra Medical College principal Dr P.V. Sudhakar. He said this could be the reason why more patients prefer to get treatment at home.

The government hospitals in Vizianagaram are also reaching capacity.

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

District health authorities are hoping to resume mass vaccination from April 14 onwards. The stocks went dry all over north Andhra for two days.

District Immunisation Officer Jeevan Rani said they have placed the indent and hope to get sufficient stocks in a day or two.

"We are planning to inoculate at 50,000 per day from April 14 onwards," she said. Since January 17, the district authorities inoculated 3.07 lakh people.

She also assured that there would not be any problem with the second dose.

But many who have taken the first dose are worried a lot now. They have been making enquiries with the media persons as they were not getting a response from the hospitals where they availed the first dose.

A senior government doctor said the persons who availed the first dose need not worry about the second. Since the name of the vaccine, person and Aadhaar number are uploaded in the App, they could avail the second dose anywhere.

AP GETS 4.40L DOSES OF COVISHIELD

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

Andhra Pradesh received 4.40 lakh doses of Covishield on Monday and to receive two lakh doses of Covaxin on Tuesday.

Deputy chief minister and minister for health Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas said on Monday that in response to the letter written by the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send 25 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine, the Centre responded by sending both the vaccines.

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 12

Andhra Pradesh registered 3,263 fresh cases of Coronavirus and 11 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities reported here on Monday that out of 33,755 samples tested, 3,263 persons were found infected with confirmed Coronavirus. Out of a total number of 15,463,146 samples tested so far in the state, 9,28,664 persons were infected with the virus and of them, 8,98,238 were recovered while

23,115 persons are still active with the virus.

Among daily cases of Coronavirus infections, Chittoor found to be the worst hit with highest number of 654 followed by 454 in

Visakhapatnam, 418 in Guntur, 318 in Krishna, 280 in Srikrishna, 259 in Kadapa, 245 in Nellore, 176 in Kurnool, 134 in

East Godavari, 116 in Anantapur, 107 in Prakasam, 83 in Vizianagaram and 19 in West Godavari.

Chittoor registered the highest number of Coronavirus cumulative active cases at 4,326 fol-

TTD TO DECLARE ANJANADRI AS BIRTHPLACE OF HANUMAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, APRIL 12

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is all set to declare Anjanadri hills of

Tirumala as the birthplace of Anjaneya Swamy by presenting mythological, epigraphical and astrological evidences on the auspicious day of Sri

Ramanavami on April 21. TTD EO Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy has constituted a committee in December last to study in detail about the pieces of evidence.

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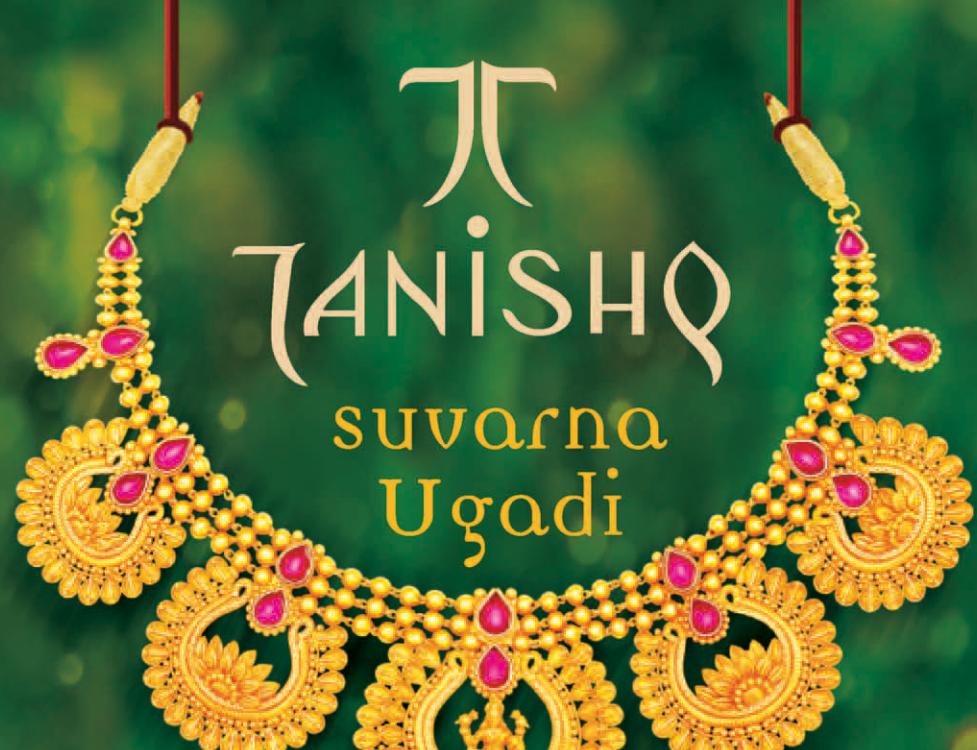
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SHORT TAKES

MP DEFERS 10, 12 EXAMS AMID SURGE IN CASES

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC BHOPAL, APRIL 12

Madhya Pradesh government on Monday announced fresh curbs to tackle Covid-19 pandemic amid surge in Coronavirus cases in the state.

Accordingly, the 10th and 12th board exams in the state have been deferred to June while total lockdown has been enforced in Bhopal for six days till April 19.

"The 10th and 12th board examinations, schedule to commence from April 30 and May 1 respectively, have been deferred to June. The date for these board examinations will be announced later", state education minister Inder Singh Parmar said.

He said the school hostels barring that of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya would be closed down till further order.

Meanwhile, the state government on Monday decided to enforce six-day shutdown in Bhopal in the wake of sudden spurt in Coronavirus cases in the capital.

Bhopal on Monday reported 823 fresh positive cases and three deaths.

Total lockdown for nine have been enforced in 11 cities in the state since six in the evening on Friday.

RAINFALL LIKELY IN SEVERAL PARTS OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 12: Several parts of the country are likely to receive rainfall in the next five days due to different cyclonic circulations, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

According to the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD, under the influence of trough and cyclonic circulations over the south peninsula, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kilometres per hour are very likely over southwest peninsular India in the next five days.

The IMD said isolated heavy rainfall is also likely over south and ghat areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mahe, coastal and south interior Karnataka during April 14-16.

Another cyclonic circulation lies over southwest Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring areas. Under its influence, isolated rainfall with thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) is very likely over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha during next 4-5 days and over Jharkhand during next 24 hours.

ON-BOARD MEALS BANNED IN FLIGHTS LESS THAN 2 HOURS

New Delhi, April 12: Airlines are not permitted to serve meals in flights that have a duration of less than two hours, the civil aviation ministry said on Monday, as Coronavirus cases continue to soar in the country.

The ban will come into effect from Thursday, the ministry said in its order.

When scheduled domestic flights were resumed on May 25 after Coronavirus lockdown last year, the ministry had allowed the airlines to serve in-flight meals under certain conditions.

Modifying the previous order, the ministry's fresh directive said: "The airlines, operating flights on domestic sectors, may provide meals services on board, where the in-flight duration is two hours or more." The ministry stated it has decided to review the on-board meal services in domestic flights.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a rally for West Bengal Assembly polls at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district on Monday.

Assam polls: 12 BPF candidates moved to C'garh

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC RAIPUR, APRIL 12

candidates after they arrived here.

When contacted by this newspaper, media cell chief of Congress in Chhattisgarh Sailesh Nitin Trivedy, however, said he was not aware of the development. "Let me verify it", he said.

The three-phase Assembly polls in Assam which ended on April 6 promises to throw up a nail-biting verdict with ruling BJP locked in a keen contest with 10-party Opposition grand alliance led by Congress.

"Nine candidates of BPF along with half-a-dozen senior leaders of the party arrived here. They were taken to a resort on the outskirts of Raipur. They are scheduled to spend their 'vacation' in Chhattisgarh till May 2 when the results of Assam assembly polls are scheduled to be announced", a senior Congress leader told this newspaper here requesting not to be quoted.

Sources said Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel who was appointed poll observer by Congress for Assembly elections in Assam, greeted the BPF

On Sunday, Pramila Rani Verma, the only BPF candidate who stayed put in Assam, told the local media in Guwahati that other party candidates left Assam on Saturday.

Assam's minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), another constituent of Congress-led grand alliance, sent all its candidates to Congress-ruled Rajasthan in a chartered plane to thwart any bid by BJP to poach them.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sponsored their stay in Rajasthan.

'Cyclone Fani' to decide Pipili fate

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 12

coconut leaves. And this "deliberate" deprivation is going to immensely influence the outcome of the Pipili Assembly by-polls.

"On April 26, 2019, my house was razed to the ground in the 250-km per hour gusty wind of Fani. We were promised many compensations, including ₹55,000 ex-gratia for rebuilding our houses and ₹5,000 for livelihood support. However, I have not received any support. I doubt some influential people deliberately omitted my name suspecting that I do not support them politically," says Mir Sabir, a mini-truck driver, hailing from Nuagudi village under Teisipur gram panchayat.

Narendra Das, the ruling BJD supported Sarpanch of Teisipur, admits the omission of deserving people in the beneficiaries' list. "Almost all affected persons who lost their houses in Fani were listed to get government assistance. However, after complaint petitions were filed by some people, a second survey was conducted by block-level officials. During this exercise many deserving people's names were dropped," he said.



Large number of people at flower market near Dadar station ahead of Gudi Padwa festival in Mumbai on Monday, amid surge in Covid-19 cases across country.

— PTI

Declared dead, Covid patient alive

NAYYAR AZAD | DC PATNA, APRIL 12

removed from the face, the body turned out to be a person other than her husband.

The dead body was taken back to the hospital and after much hue and cry, the wife found her husband alive. The PMCH authorities later dismissed the health manager Anjali Kumari on charges of "negligence".

Sources said that the hospital authority is also trying to find out whether other doctors or officials were involved in the incident. The health manager was dismissed by the hospital authorities immediately after the matter surfaced, sources said.

KARNATAKA CM: LOCKDOWN COULD BE IMPOSED IF THE NEED ARISES

Bengaluru, April 12: Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday said the state government could impose lockdown if the necessity arises.

"People need to respond for their own good. If they don't heed then we may have to take stringent measures. If required and if necessity arises, we will impose lockdown," Yediyurappa told reporters in Bidar.

Reacting to queries on the growing

Coronavirus cases in the state, which saw the numbers breaching 10,000 on Sunday, he said the Prime Minister had also spoken to him about the measures taken by his government.

"(I told him) we have imposed night curfew in the districts where the Coronavirus cases are rising," Yediyurappa said.

He insisted that people should wear face masks, use hand sanitizers and maintain social distancing.

— PTI

Devotees defy Covid norms during 2nd royal bath of Kumbh Mela

Kumbh: Thousands take a dip in Ganga

Dehradun, April 12: Amid rising Coronavirus cases in the country, thousands of saffron-clad seers and ash-smeared Nagas flouted Covid-19 norms and converged at Har Ki Pari in Haridwar for a holy dip in the Ganga during the second royal bath of the Kumbh Mela on Monday.

The seers of different akhadas, led by their Mahamandeshwaras, by

turms took out grand Shobha Yatras through the main thoroughfares of the pilgrimage city to gather at Brahma Kund, Hari ki Pari for the holy bath on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya.

Marching barefoot to their destination with many of them not wearing masks or observing social distancing, the seers took a dip in the river as they were showered with flow-

er petals from helicopters flying above on behalf of Uttarakhand government.

While Har ki Pari, considered the holiest of the Ghats was reserved exclusively for the akhadas from 7 am onwards, common people also took the holy dip on the other ghats of the Ganga, revered by millions as a goddess.

The mela administration claimed that approximately 17.31 lakh devotees had

taken the holy dip in the Ganga till 10 am.

Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar said the Shahi Snan was being conducted smoothly throughout the Mela Kshetra from Haridwar to Devprayag. So far, seers of three out of a total of 13 akhadas had bathed in the river at Har ki Pari while bathing by devotees is underway at the other ghats, the DGP said.

Seers of Niranjani Akhada led by their Mahamandeshwar Acharya Kailashanand Giri were the first to take a dip in the river on the occasion. Seers of Ananda Akhada also took bath along with them. They were followed by Joona Akhada saints led by Acharya Kailashanand. Former King of Nepal Gyandendra Bir Bikram Shah was also among those who took a dip in the Ganga on the occasion.

PARMOD KUMAR | DC WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, APRIL 12

With 44 Supreme Court staffers out of over 3,000 testing positive for the Coronavirus infection in the past one week, the Judges on Monday decided to hold the court through video-conferencing from their residences — a setback for hybrid hearing that the top court had started in March after a gap

of nearly one year.

While some judges had been coming to the apex court premises to hold court, few others have been presiding over proceedings from their residences till now.

As a consequence the hearing today was rescheduled with courts that were to assemble at 10.30 am assembled at 11.30 am and the courts that were to assemble at 11.00 am assembled at 12.00 noon.

The other notification sus-

pended physical mentioning of cases for urgent hearing by advocates from Monday till further orders. However, the mentioning of the matters for urgent hearing or listing through video-conferencing will continue.

The entire court premises including the court rooms were sanitised. While everything appeared to be in retreat, the top court officials said that the situation was not alarming.

IN BRIEF

34 migrants die as boat capsizes

Djibouti: Thirty-four migrants drowned on Monday after their boat capsized off the coast of Djibouti, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said, the second such accident in just over a month. Survivors reported that the boat capsized in rough seas at around 4.00 am (0100 GMT) after leaving Yemen with around 60 passengers on board, an IOM official in Djibouti said, asking not to be named.

Huthis claim attack on Saudi

Dubai: Yemen's Huthis claimed on Monday to have launched drone strikes against Saudi energy giant Aramco's facilities, amid an upsurge in fighting between the insurgents and the Riyadh-backed government in northern Yemen. Neither Aramco or Saudi authorities immediately responded to any attack. Huthi spokesman Yahya Saree said in a statement that the strikes took place overnight, in retaliation for the six-year military campaign led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

Five new species found in Tibet

Beijing: Five new animal species have been discovered in Tibet, including three kinds of frogs, one old-world monkey and a bushmaster snake, challenging the long-held view that the Himalayan mountains are a desolate and lifeless region. The discovery of the five new species was the result of an eight-year investigation of the terrestrial wildlife in the Tibet Autonomous region carried out by the regional forestry bureau, state-run Global Times reported on Monday. The discovered species are: a type of macaque (a genus of gregarious Old World monkeys), bushmaster snake (venomous), and three kinds of frogs.

Activist on trial for pornography

Moscow: A Russian court on Monday opened the trial of a feminist activist and artist charged with disseminating pornography after she shared artwork depicting female anatomy online — a case in line with the Kremlin's conservative stance promoting "traditional family values" that has been widely seen as controversial and elicited international outrage. Yulia Tsvetkova, 27, from the far-eastern city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, faces up to six years in prison on charges reportedly related to her group on the popular social network VKontakte where colourful, stylised drawings of vaginas were posted. Tsvetkova is not allowed to give details of accusations against her.

HUAWEI, HSBC AGREE ON PAPERS FOR EXTRADITION

Hong Kong, April 12: Chinese telecommunications equipment firm Huawei said on Monday that it has reached an agreement with HSBC in Hong Kong to obtain documents that its chief financial office Meng Wanzhou hopes will help prevent her extradition to the US.

Meng, who was detained in Canada in 2018 at the behest of US authorities, has been fighting a legal battle over the last two years as the US seeks to extradite her over allegations of bank fraud and violations of sanctions against Iran.

The US accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of US sanctions. It says Meng committed fraud by misleading HSBC about the company's business dealings in Iran.

An earlier request by Meng's legal team for documents from HSBC was rejected by a court in Britain. In a court hearing on Monday, Hong Kong High Court judge Linda Chan approved the document-sharing agreement between Huawei and HSBC.

"An agreement has been reached with HSBC in relation to the Hong Kong legal proceedings for document production and an order has been approved by the court," Huawei said in a statement on Monday. It is not clear which documents Huawei has obtained or what the scope of the agreement covers.

Syria used chemical weapons, says report

2018 Saraqib attack involved use of chlorine, claims OPCW

The Hague, April 12: The Syrian regime's air force used the chemical weapon chlorine in an attack on the town of Saraqib in 2018, the global toxic arms watchdog said on Monday after an investigation.

The report is the second by an investigations team set up by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which has the new power to apportion blame for attacks.

The OPCW said in a statement that the Investigations and Identification Team (IIT) "concludes that units of the Syrian Arab Air Force used

● **THE TEAM** issued its first report a year ago, in which it said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's air force used the nerve agent sarin and chlorine in two attacks.

chemical weapons in Saraqib on 4 February 2018".

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that, at approximately 21.22 on 4 February 2018, a military helicopter of the Syrian Arab Air Force under the control of the Tiger Forces hit eastern Saraqib by dropping at least one cylinder," the OPCW report said.

"Symptoms... included shortness of breath, skin irritation, chest pain, and coughing," the report said. However, it said it "regrets" that the Syrian regime refused to grant access to the

cylinder ruptured and released chlorine over a large area, affecting 12 named individuals." OPCW investigators interviewed 30 witnesses, analysed samples collected at the scene, reviewed symptoms reported by victims and medical staff and examined satellite imagery to reach their conclusions, the Hague-based organisation said.

"The cylinder ruptured and released chlorine over a large area, affecting 12 named individuals." OPCW investigators interviewed 30 witnesses, analysed samples collected at the scene, reviewed symptoms reported by victims and medical staff and examined satellite imagery to reach their conclusions, the Hague-based organisation said.

site, some 30 miles (50 kilometres) south of Aleppo, despite repeated requests.

The team issued its first report a year ago, in which it said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's air force used the nerve agent sarin and chlorine in two attacks on the village of Lataminah in March 2017.

Despite strong objections by Damascus and its ally Moscow, OPCW member states voted in 2018 to set up the team to attribute blame for attacks. Previously the watchdog could only say if chemical attacks had happened or not.

EU tries to save Iran nuclear talks

IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL FOR SABOTAGE AT NATANZ SITE

Brussels, April 12: The European Union on Monday warned against attempts to derail talks aimed at returning the United States to the Iran nuclear deal, after Tehran accused Israel of an attack on its main Natanz site.

EU spokesman Peter Stano said the reported incident "could have been an act of sabotage" but insisted that there had been no official attribution over who was responsible.

ings a shadow of war between the two countries into the light.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for the attack. It rarely does for operations carried out by its secret military units or its Mossad intelligence agency. — AP

"We still need to clarify the facts in detail as quickly as possible," he said. — AFP

Suu Kyi hit with a new criminal charge

Yangon, April 12: Myanmar's ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi was hit with a fresh criminal charge on Monday, as the junta's tough crackdown on dissent rolls on.

The 75-year-old Nobel laureate has not been seen in public since being detained in the early hours of February 1 as the military deposed her government and seized power.

The generals have used increasingly brutal methods to try to quell a growing protest movement against their rule, while Suu Kyi faces a raft of criminal charges that could see her barred for life from office.

"Amy Suu has been charged again under section 25 of the natural disaster management law," lawyer Min Min Soe said after a court hearing in the capital Naypyidaw, where Suu Kyi appeared by videolink.

"She has been charged in six cases altogether — five charges in Naypyidaw and one in Yangon." The most serious charge Suu Kyi faces falls under Myanmar's official secrets laws.



Aung San Suu Kyi

Min Min Soe said Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest in Naypyidaw, appeared in good health but it is not clear if she has any idea of the turmoil that has unfolded in Myanmar over the past two months.

Near-daily protests seeking her release and the restoration of democracy have been met with rubber bullets, live rounds and even grenades by the security forces.

More than 700 civilians have been killed in the space of just 70 days since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners monitoring group, which says more than 3,000 have been arrested.

— AFP

JAGADAMBA 4K DOLBY QUARTET SPEAKERS
DAILY 4 SHOWS
EAST COAST RAILWAY
"ONLINE WHATSAPP INTERVIEW"
FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS & SPECIALISTS
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO. 02/2021-CMP, Dated : 12.04.2021

In view of the exigencies related with the COVID-19 global pandemic, it has been decided to engage Contract Medical Practitioners (General Duty Medical Officers) 10 Nos. & Specialists (Chess Physician / Physicians) 02 Nos. on temporary basis upto 30.06.2021, from the date of such engagement in Waltair Division, East Coast Railway from willing, eligible Doctors, which can be extended purely on administrative requirement and willingness of concerned CMP or till the scheme is further extended by Railway Board, whichever is earlier.

The interview will be conducted through WhatsApp on 16.04.2021 at 100 hrs.

Mode of Selection & Registration of WHATS-APP INTERVIEW : Registration for the interview is compulsory. All need to register for WhatsApp Interview by submitting the scanned application form in the attached format along with self attested enclosed copies and to send the same to E-mail ID : chotugaz1974@gmail.com till 1800 hrs of 15.04.2021 (Thursday) mentioning subject of the mail as "CMP 2021".

For Application Format, Total no. of Vacancies, Educational Qualification / Eligibility, Age, Remuneration and other terms & conditions refer to website : www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (P) / Waltair

PR - 14/M/21-22

MSME-TOOL ROOM, HYDERABAD
(CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF TOOL DESIGN)
(A Government of India Society, Ministry of MSME)
Balanagar, Hyderabad, PIN - 500 037.

ADMISSIONS FOR DIPLOMA COURSES

S. No.	Course Details	Eligibility for Admission	Age Limit	Duration of Study
1	Diploma in Tool, Die & Mould Making (DTDM)	10 th Pass with 50% for General & 45% for SC / ST	Minimum 15 years, Maximum 19 years	4 Years
2	Diploma in Electronics & Communication Engineering (DECE)			3 Years
3	Diploma in Automation & Robotics Engineering (DARE)	10th Pass	Maximum 19 years	3 Years
4	Diploma in Production Engineering (DPE)			3 Years

Application form can be downloaded from our website www.citdindia.org under the link "Diploma Admission Notification-2021" or can be collected from CITD Admissions Desk on any working day from 10:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.

How to Apply:

By Speed Post or Courier: Filled in application forms can be sent to The Principal Director, CITD, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500037 along with necessary documents, photograph & application fee.

By Hand at CITD: Filled in application forms can be deposited at CITD Admissions Desk along with necessary documents, photograph & application fee on any working day from 10:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.

Mode of Payment of Application Fee:

*Application cost Rs. 700/- for General Category and Rs. 350/- for SC/ST Category

- ✓ By way of Demand Draft drawn in favor of Principal Director, CITD, Hyderabad
- ✓ By Online at www.citdindia.org (detailed steps of online payment can be found from prospectus)

Important Dates

- ❖ Availability of applications : 25-02-2021 (Thursday)
- ❖ Last date for receipt of filled-in application : 22-05-2021 (Saturday)
- ❖ Date of Entrance exam (Tentative) : 30-05-2021 (Sunday)
- ❖ Centre for Entrance Examination : Hyderabad

Further details can be obtained from prospectus available on our website under the link "Diploma Admission Notification-2021"

Contact Details Admissions Desk
Phone No. : 9502405170, 040-2377 1959
E-Mail-training@citdindia.org

Sd/- PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR

ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 29990:2010, ISO 14001:2004, ISO 50001:2011 Certified Institution

Rc.No.916/2021 SA(LA) DL.06.04.2021

Collector's Office, Vizianagram .

FORM NO-VI (A)

[under Section 11 (1) of the Act, 30 of 2013]

Read with Sub Rule (1) of Rule 19]

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Vizianagram that the lands specified in the schedule below are needed for a public purpose, to wit for excavation of 4R sub Minor of 27L Minor of Gajapathinagaram Branch Canal under Thotapalli Barrage Project, notice to that effect is hereby given to all to whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions of Section-11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30 of 2013).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was taken up by the I&CD Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 and Environment clearance granted by MOEF vide letter No.J-12011/10/2002 A dt/29.8.2005. There are no displaced families due to this Land Acquisition.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section-12 of the Act, the District Collector, Vizianagram hereby designates the Special Deputy Collector, T.B.P.Ult-II, Parvathipuram, his staff and workmen to exercise the powers conferred under the above said section.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale / purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of this notification without the prior approval of the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

Objections to the acquisitions, if any, may be filed by the person(s) interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section-15 of the Act before the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

SCHEDULE

District : Vizianagram

Mandal : Gajapathinagaram

Village : Jinnam

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Total Extent Acre	Extent under Acquisition Acre	Classification	Name & address of the person interested	Boundaries				Details of Trees, Structures etc., if any.
						North	South	East	West	
1	3-8A2	0.49	0.01	R.Dry	Kunibili Ramaswami s/o Narayana Naidu	Pattadar	3-8A1	3-14	3-3B	3-11
2	6-1B	0.59	0.10	R.Dry	Kunibili Seethamma w/o Ramaswami	Pattadar	6-1A	6-2B	6-6B	6-2B
3	6-2B	0.66	0.30	R.Dry	Vempadapu Ramulu s/o Gaddinaidu	Pattadar	6-1A	6-2C	6-6B	5
4	6-6B	0.44	0.13	R.Dry	Netheli Suri s/o Parasayya	Pattadar	6-6A	6-6C	6-7A1	6-2B
5	6-7A1	0.89	0.02	R.Dry	Kesali Narayana s/o Appadu	Pattadar	3	6-7A2	6-7B	6-6C
6	5-3B	2.04	0.01	R.Dry	Yijjirothu Suri Naidu s/o Appalaswami	Pattadar	3-3A	7	3-4	3-2
7	5-5B	1.80	0.45	R.Dry	Yijjirothu Paidathalli s/o Papaya	Pattadar	5-5A	5-5C	6	5-6
8	7-1B	1.02	0.47	R.Dry	Yijjirothu Guruvulu	Pattadar				
9	7-8A	2.11	0.11	R.Dry	Yijjirothu Venkataramana s/o Suri Naidu	Pattadar				
					Mantri Narayana Naidu s/o Parisi Naidu	Pattadar				

DECCAN Chronicle

13 APRIL 2021

US Navy foray: Will Delhi stand up to Washington?

When the US Seventh Fleet entered the Bay of Bengal in December 1971 to boost Pakistan's morale and threaten India's security as the birth of Bangladesh was being midwifed, New Delhi used the counterweight offered by the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in August that year to call out Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. The Americans withdrew, cursing. Not so now.

This time the around Americans are hectoring and Indians are praying they will emerge from this with their prestige unscathed. It does really boil down to the vision of the leadership which sees the United States as the reliable heavyweight partner. The US is of course quite clear about one thing: with no country does it have a relationship that is "taller than the mountains and deeper than the seas" – China's description of its ties with Pakistan. As part of its "freedom of navigation operations" (FONOP), a warship of the US Navy's Seventh Fleet, USS *John Paul Jones*, passed through India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) some 240 nautical km off Lakshadweep. An official Seventh Fleet communication said two things: that its action was to repudiate India's "excessive maritime claims"; and two, its action was consistent with international law and therefore the US wilfully disregarded the Indian condition of prior permission.

About the first, it's evident the US doesn't doubt the legitimacy of the extent of India's EEZ in that area. What it's saying is that it has no regard for India's domestic law which does not permit the passage of a warship of any country without permission. As for international law, the US has not endorsed the UN Conference on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). Furthermore, the US privileges its domestic laws over any international law but may not give the same consideration to other countries.

When New Delhi pointed out through diplomatic channels that the terse, even brazen, communication of the Seventh Fleet was unwarranted in respect of a friendly country that had participated in a summit of the Quad, hosted by the US President, only three weeks earlier, Washington sought to convey that its FONOP aren't country-specific. The government here seems to have fed the media the speculation that President Joe Biden is trying to signal China that its naval movements in the South China Sea should not be misunderstood by Beijing since India is getting the same treatment.

This is the overlord's show of neutrality which India is entitled to call out. But will it, or will it make excuses for the US? Surrounded by a pearly China and a hostile Pakistan, with Russia now adopting a somewhat cool stance in view of evolving zonal and international alignments, New Delhi gives the impression of standing before Washington, cap in hand.

The latter is seeking to exploit the situation to the hilt. The US and India both know the Americans had carried out FONOP in the same area in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019. India was happy to lump it so long as no one made a song and dance about it, but this time the Americans are announcing the story aloud for all to hear. This is Mr Biden's America seeking to re-assert the doctrine of US superiority. If India doesn't make its disapprobation plain, who knows, we may have the Chinese or the Pakistani Navy follow in America's footsteps in India's EEZs.

Fresh Israeli adventurism?

Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility was struck by a suspected cyberattack on Sunday, just a day after Tehran had unveiled new centrifuges on the site that can enrich uranium for use as reactor fuel in generating power or make deadly nuclear weapons. The world knows that Israel is the only power in the region with the capability to carry out such a brazen attack through cyber means that may have been launched in combination with a physical intrusion into a heavily fortified site to knock out the power source with an explosion. Far from denying the intrusion, the Israeli intelligence agency has fed the news to the world's media that its operation may have set the Iranian nuclear programme back by more than a few months.

The reason for this dangerous hit on a nuclear facility is not far to seek. Only last week Iran and the EU started negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal struck in 2015 under the leadership of US President Barack Obama, which his successor Donald Trump revoked in 2018 as one that gave away too much to Iran. The negotiations in Vienna, with all parties to the nuclear deal except United States, were also to do with having about 6,000 US sanctions lifted but Iran's leverage in the talks may have been hit hard by what is typically Israeli adventurism, aimed particularly at Iran's nuclear programme, based purely on its own strategic interests.

Far from rebuking Israel, its action will probably be applauded by its friends in the United States as well as in the Middle East, where Israel has new friends like the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Joe Biden's eagerness to roll the clock back on many of Mr Trump's brash actions may have received a rude jolt from the Israeli strike, but he can do little against a powerful Jewish lobby in his own country. Ironically, US defence secretary Lloyd J. Austin was in Israel over the weekend stressing the strong ties binding the two countries. Iran stresses its nuclear ambitions are peaceful but, with its enriched uranium, can't convince the world, and there is no reigning in Israel either.

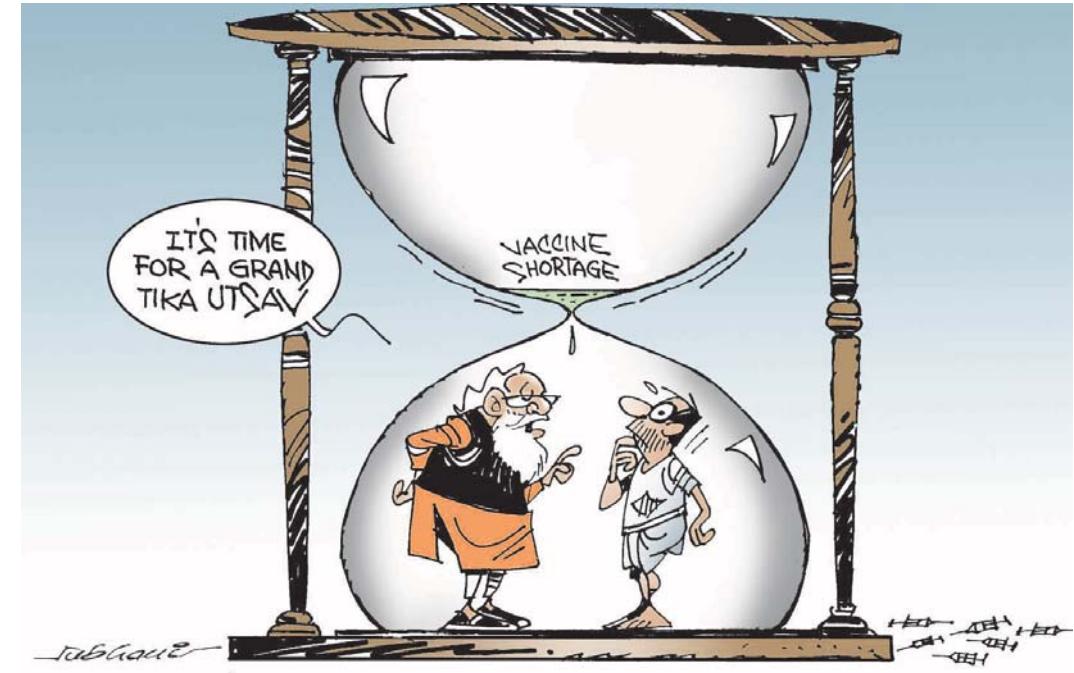
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Subhani



Why world can't afford to take a chance with China

Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

The white paper titled "Poverty Alleviation: China's Experience and Contribution" that Beijing issued earlier this month to mark the Communist Party of China's 100th anniversary hardly helps to explain the contradictions of a China that is as much "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma" as the old Soviet Union was in Winston Churchill's famous words.

Is China rich or poor? The evidence suggests both. Travellers in China certainly see none of South Asia's grinding poverty. But then, it's a vast land, and movement is strictly regulated. Bursting with billionaires, China holds \$3,399.9 billion in the US Treasury's foreign exchange reserves. Yet, intermediaries and snakeheads (secret society gangs) exploit illegal Chinese workers from Angola to England and Malaysia to Saipan in the Pacific.

In a year of many records, China led the pack of billionaires who bounced back according to *Forbes'* 35th annual World's Billionaires List.

The one-time Middle Kingdom is now home to 626 billionaires — against 388 last year — and this is second only to the United States, which has 724. China's roaring stock market and quick recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic (for which Americans blame China) led to 205 new billionaires and the return of another 53 who had dropped out of the list. That excludes the ones based in Hong Kong and Macao, which are listed separately by *Forbes* magazine.

Is China a land of peace

contented with its status? Or is it arrogantly determined to be the next superpower? The UK's recent 100-page "Integrated Review of Security,"

claims that the Chinese will go wherever there is land and water. Nowadays, they will go wherever there are jobs, even though the cockle pickers received a miserable pound for a gruelling

task. Like the former Soviet Union, China, too, might qualify for a British journalist's dismissal as "Upper Volta with rockets."

Is China a land of peace

contented with its status?

Or is it arrogantly determined to be the next superpower?

The UK's recent 100-page "Integrated Review of Security,"

and Foreign Policy" suggested both. It called China a "systemic challenge to our security, prosperity and values". It also promised to "adapt to China's growing impact on many aspects of our lives as it becomes more powerful in the world".

Besides preface and conclusion, the document had five sections — "The Solemn Commitment of the CPC", "Final Victory in the Fight against Extreme Poverty", "The Strategy of Targeted Poverty Alleviation", "Exploring a New Path of Poverty Alleviation" and "A Global Community of Shared Future Free from Poverty" — that predictably applauded the Chinese people's fight in eliminating extreme poverty. They also indicated that China's novel approach would benefit the world.

However, three reported tragedies hardly bear out these lofty maxims. First, 58 illegal immigrants suffocated to death in a container in Dover. Second, 39 were similarly killed in a tractor trailer in Essex. In the third and most poignant instance, 23 labourers were drowned while picking cockles off the Lancashire coast when the tide swept in. One of them managed to dial 999, but it was too late. He could only repeat in his broken English: "Sinking water, many many, sinking water... Sinking water, sinking water."

An old saying claims that the Chinese will go wherever there is land and water. Nowadays, they will go wherever there are jobs, even though the cockle pickers received a miserable pound for a gruelling

task. Like the former Soviet Union, China, too, might qualify for a British journalist's dismissal as "Upper Volta with rockets."

Is China a land of peace

contented with its status?

Or is it arrogantly determined to be the next superpower?

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	47883.38 -3.44
Nifty 50	14310.80 -3.53
S&P 500*	4,129.44 0.002
Dollar (₹)	75.06 -0.40
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.11 -0.69
Euro (₹)	89.33 -0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,070.57 0.12
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.19 0.38
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.011 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.676 0.010

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Over five lakh download 'Mera Ration' app

The government's 'Mera Ration' mobile app has been downloaded by more than 5 lakh people within a month of its launch, a senior government official said. The app, launched on March 12, is helpful to ration card holders, particularly migrants, for identifying the nearest fair price shop and checking details of their entitlement and recent transactions. The Android-based app is currently available in Hindi and English.



■ Market falls 3.5%, investors lose ₹8.77 L cr Panic wave in mkt

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, APRIL 12

Sensex and Nifty-50 fell close to 3.5 per cent on prolonged lockdown fears, as the second Covid wave became more severe with 1.69 lakh people affected in a single day.

Investors suffered a notional loss of over Rs 8.77 lakh crore, as BSE's market capitalisation dipped to Rs 200,85,806 crore from Rs 209,63,241 crore last Friday.

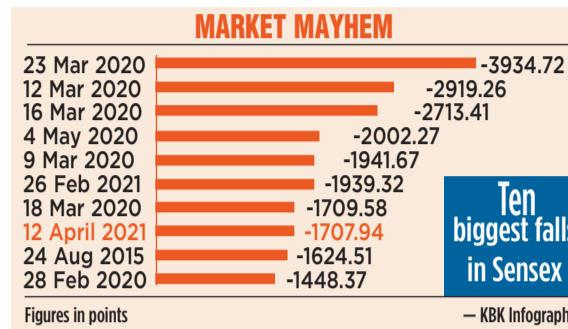
The Sensex fell 1,898 points intra-day to 47,693.44 with the weekend spike in cases making investors jittery, who resorted to profit taking in stocks and sectors that had run up sharply in recent weeks.

The Sensex closed below the 48,000-mark, down by 17,074 points at 47,883.38 while the Nifty-50 closed 524.03 points down at 14,310.80, after touching an intra-day low of 14,248.70.

Foreign portfolio investors net sold stocks worth Rs 1,746.43 crore and there was little support coming from the domestic institutions as they were net buyers by just Rs 232.76 crore.

"The rising cases of Covid-19 and a fear of probable lockdown in some parts of the country led to a sell-off in our markets which resulted in a huge under performance compared to the global peers," said Ruchit Jain, analyst-technical and derivatives, Angel Broking.

NSE's India VIX index, an indicator of market volatility in coming days, climbed up 16.22 per cent to 23. Among the sectoral indices the top losers were Nifty Metal (-6.07 per cent), Realty (-7.50 per cent), Bank (-5.10 per cent).



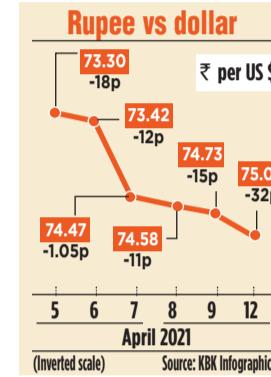
Ten biggest falls in Sensex

FALAKNAZ SYED
MUMBAI, APRIL 12

The rupee plunged below 75 against the dollar for the first time in eight months on Monday as investors worried over the likely economic fallout of several states considering lockdown restrictions and a strong dollar globally. Analysts believe volatility is ahead for the rupee, with more states joining localised lockdown to contain the Covid-19 second wave. This was the sixth straight session of loss for the rupee, during which it has depreciated by 193 paise.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee closed at 75.05 against the dollar after trading in the 74.78-75.14 range, down 32 paise.

Adding to the panic was the Reserve Bank's policy of providing more and more liquidity to the system through the government securities acquisition programme, under which it will purchase Rs 1 lakh crore worth bonds from the market. GSAP, though positive for the bond market (where yields have softened by 5-8 basis points) is not so for the cur-



rency. There is now excess liquidity of Rs 7 lakh crore in the reverse repo basket and there will be an infusion of Rs 25,000 crore on the 15th of this month. Such high liquidity means interest rates will remain low. The problem is, the US 10-year yield is now at 1.66 per cent, while Indian bonds are being driven down. This makes India less attractive for investors.

"Choppy times are ahead for the rupee, which was definitely not expected as the liquidity dimension added by the RBI and the commentary provided have spooked the market," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Care Ratings.

TCS Q4 NET RISES 15% TO ₹9,246 CRORE

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 12

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday ushered in the March quarter earnings season, reporting a 14.9 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 9,246 crore.

The country's largest software services firm had posted a net profit of Rs 8,049 crore in the year-ago period.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said its revenue grew 9.4 per cent in the March 2021 quarter to Rs 43,705 crore from Rs 39,946 crore a year ago.

"Our investments over the last decade in building newer capabilities, and in research and innovation, position us well for the multi-year technology services opportunity ahead. While we continue to dominate in our traditional areas of strength, we are making good progress in gaining share in the growth and transformation opportunity," Rajesh Gopinathan, chief executive officer and managing director, TCS, said.

The company's net profit for the financial year ended March 2021 was up at Rs 33,388 crore (excluding legal claim provisions) against Rs 32,340 crore in the previous financial year. Its net profit on a reported basis stood at Rs 32,430 crore for FY21.

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

SMEs to get ₹250 cr of ₹10,900-cr PLI

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, APRIL 12

kitty of SMEs, that too, to those who produce organic and innovative products.

"This includes Rs 250 crore or approximately 2 per cent of the outlay, which has been earmarked for innovative/organic products in the SME sector...," said the draft. The remaining will be allocated to select large manufacturers.

The draft PLI scheme is less and is only for those who produce organic and innovative products. We will reach out to the government on this," said Piruz Khambatta, CMD of Rasna.

He says some 30,000 to 40,000 FSSAI-registered SMEs are there in the food processing industry.

INFLATION RISES, IIP CONTRACTS

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 12

With a sharp spike in food inflation, retail inflation jumped to 5.52 per cent in March, the highest in three months, while the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted by 3.6 per cent in February, data from the statistics ministry showed.

Food inflation saw a steep rise of 4.94 per cent in March from 3.87 per cent in February.

The IIP also showed a worrisome trend by contracting 3.6 per cent against an expansion of 4.5 per cent in February 2020. The IIP had contracted 1.6 per cent in January 2021 as well.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

PASSENGER VEHICLE SALES DROP 2.24% IN FY21: SIAM



Mumbai, April 12: Pramerica Life Insurance on Monday announced the appointment of Kalpana Sampat its MD & CEO, from April 9. Prior to this, she was the chief operating officer at the firm. Before joining Pramerica Life, Sampat was the CEO for Swiss Reinsurance Co, India branch, and was instrumental in its launch in 2015. — PTI

FLIPKART PARTNERS ADANI GROUP

Chennai, April 12: Flipkart has entered a strategic and commercial partnership with the Adani group. In this two-pronged partnership, Flipkart will work with Adani Logistics to strengthen its supply chain infrastructure. Flipkart will also set up its third data centre at Adaniconnex's Chennai-based facility. Adani Logistics, on its part, will construct and lease a 534,000 sq. ft. fulfilment centre in Mumbai to Flipkart. At the AdaniConneX unit, Flipkart will be able to design its data centre. — FC Bureau

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Man Utd hit back to sink Tottenham

London: Manchester United staged a superb fightback to shatter Tottenham's top-four bid with a 3-1 win, while West Ham climbed to fourth place in the Premier League as the revitalised Jesse Lingard inspired a 3-2 victory against Leicester on Sunday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side trailed to Son Heung-min's first half strike, but United scored three times after the break through Fred, Edinson Cavani and Mason Greenwood. Second-placed United's fourth successive league win avenged their embarrassing 6-1 home defeat against Tottenham in October. — AFP

Son racially abused on social media

London: Tottenham Hotspur are to take action after Korean star Son Heung-min was subjected to "abhorrent racist abuse" on social media following Sunday's 3-1 defeat by Manchester United. Son is the second Spurs player in as many matches to suffer such abuse following Davinson Sanchez after the 2-2 draw with Newcastle United on April 4. Son scored Spurs' goal but was involved in a controversial incident when he went down clutching his face after contact with Scott McTominay. "Another matchday and more abhorrent racial abuse suffered by one of our players," said a Spurs statement. — AFP

Darmian wins it for Inter Milan

Milan: Antonio Conte's Inter Milan tightened their grip on the Serie A title on Sunday with Matteo Darmian scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Cagliari to stretch their winning streak to 11 games. Champions Juventus consolidated third place with a 3-1 win over Genoa as Atalanta battled to a 3-2 victory over Fiorentina to stay fourth ahead of Napoli who won 2-0 at Sampdoria. "We're starting to see the finish line," said Conte after Inter restored their 11-point lead on second-placed AC Milan who won 3-1 at Parma on Saturday. Achraf Hakimi came off the bench and set up Darmian to grab the winner with 13 minutes to go at the San Siro. — AFP

Hideki goes green at Augusta Matsuyama becomes first Japanese to win Masters



Hideki Matsuyama of Japan celebrates after being awarded the Green Jacket by 2020 Masters champion Dustin Johnson (left) of the United States after he won the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday. — AP

Tears, cheers and shares rise as Hideki win thrills Japan

Tokyo, April 12: Thrilled Japanese golf fans welcomed Hideki Matsuyama's historic Masters victory on Monday, with broadcasters close to tears and the prime minister hailing the win as a bright spot during the pandemic.

"Matsuyama Masters" trended on Twitter and golf-related shares rose on the Tokyo stock market after the 29-year-old became the first Japanese man to capture a major golf title.

"Matsuyama opens the door of history," declared the Asahi Shimbun newspaper.

"Congratulations. Thank you," a presenter said as two golf commentators next to him struggled to hold back tears.

TV networks ran breaking news flashes announcing the victory and several newspapers published special editions online, usually reserved for major stories.

ing the victory and several newspapers published special editions online, usually reserved for major stories.

As Tokyo's stock market opened, shares in Value Golf, which provides services linked to the sport, jumped 14 percent, while golf club maker Graphite Design rose 16 percent.

Fans flooded to congrat-ulate the country's new sporting hero as social media lit up.

"I can't see through my tears," one fan tweeted.

Japan's prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, told reporters Matsuyama's performance had been "really wonderful".

"I think it encouraged and excited people across Japan at a time when the impact from coronavirus is lingering," he said.

Azhar writes to Justice on appointment

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 12

Against the backdrop of Sunday's acrimonious Annual General Meeting, Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammed Azharuddin has sent a letter to Justice (Retd) Deepak Verma, appointing the former Supreme Court judge as Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of the HCA.

"I am pleased to inform you that the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Hyderabad Cricket Association has appointed your goodself as the Ombudsman and Ethics Officer of HCA for the year 2020-21 thereby ratifying the decision of the Apex Council dated 06.06.2020," the letter signed by Azhar reads.

Justice Verma confirmed his acceptance on Monday in an email addressed to the President and other members of HCA. "I hereby formally accept the appointment as Ombudsman cum Ethics Officer of the HCA," he wrote.

Swansong



Members of Team Swans pose with the trophy after being declared winners of the inaugural Hyderabad Premier Golf League on Sunday. Having reached the semifinal stage after six rounds, the event was suspended due to the spike in Covid infections in Hyderabad and winners announced on the basis of leaderboard scores till then. Team Swans had 1005.25 points, followed by Markenzo Fairways (1002.88), Civet Rangers (995.75) and Villaggio Highlanders (992.62).

ORANGE	
Sanju Samson, RR	119
KL Rahul, PBKS	91
Shikhar Dhawan, DC	85

PURPLE	
Harshal Patel, RCB	5
Chetan Sakariya, RR	3
Arshdeep Singh, PBKS	3

Off the field

RCB cricketers play chess during a promotional shoot. — Twitter

Women's Challenge not to be expanded

The BCCI is likely to stick to three teams for the Women's T20 Challenge tournament, usually held during the IPL play-offs. The Board had planned to increase the exhibition event to four teams last year but it will continue to be a three-team affair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the delayed IPL was held in the September-November window last year, the Women's Challenge clashed with the WBBL, making the Australian players unavailable. "There is a good chance that it will be held in Delhi. Talks are on with the leading Australian and England players," a BCCI official said.

Parag 'underarm' raises eyebrows

Ryan Parag went as low as illegally allowed in cricket to release a ball when bowling to Chris Gayle during the Punjab Kings innings against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL on Monday. The umpire was seen having a word with the bowler after the delivery, as the commentary box exploded in surprise.

"How low is a legal sidearm delivery?" was the question raised by Harsha Bhogle. "Underarm deliveries are not allowed any more, as the Australians know well," he said.

Avesh cherishes Dhoni's wicket

Delhi Capitals' pacer Avesh Khan said he fulfilled a long-cherished dream when he got former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's prized wicket in their IPL opener against Chennai Super Kings. "Three years ago, I had a chance to take Mahi bhai's wicket, but somebody had dropped the catch. But now my dream of taking Mahi bhai's wicket is fulfilled, so I am very happy about it," Avesh said.

"Since he has not played competitive matches for some time, we had planned to put pressure on him and because of that pressure I could take his wicket," he added.

ROYAL FUMBLE!

Samson's hundred in vain as Rajasthan falter at finish line

Mumbai, April 12: Sanju Samson's magnificent 119 went in vain as Punjab Kings beat Rajasthan Royals by four runs in their IPL match here on Monday.

Rajasthan needed 13 off the last over and five off the last ball. Samson who denied a single to partner Chris Morris in the penultimate ball was caught at sweeper cover.

"I don't have words to explain my feelings. Would have loved to finish it off for my team. I don't think I could have done better than that. I thought I timed it well for a six but somehow. Catches go down and good catches were also taken. It's part of the game," said Samson who became the first player to hit a century on captaincy debut.

Earlier, KL Rahul and Deepak Hooda pummelled the Rajasthan Royals bowlers into submission with their sensational stroke play propelling Punjab Kings to an imposing 221 for six in the IPL here on Monday.

While Rahul smashed seven fours and five sixes in his 50-ball 91, Hooda, playing his first game since the last IPL, plundered six maximums and four boundaries as he blazed his way to 64 off just 28 balls.

Put into bat, Punjab lost opener Mayank Agarwal (14) early, who edged it back to Royals captain and wicketkeeper Sanju Samson for IPL debutant Chetan Sakariya's first wicket.

He ended being the pick of the bowlers, conceding only five runs in the 20th over.

Rahul, who got his first four with a glance to the fine-leg fence, and Chris Gayle (40 off 28) gave the team a good start with their 67-run stand.

Rahul got a 'life' after Ben Stokes dropped him at the fence in the seventh over even as Gayle, looked in his elements.

The duo then took on Stokes, as Gayle hit his

SCORECARD

Punjab Kings: KL Rahul c Tewatia b Sakariya 91, Mayank Agarwal c Samson b Sakariya 14, Chris Gayle c Stokes b Parag 40, Deepak Hooda c Parag b Morris 64, Nicholas Pooran c Sakariya b Morris 0, Shahrkhan Khan (not out) 6, Jhye Richardson c Morris b Sakariya 0. **Extras:** (nb 2, w 4) 6. **Total (in 20 overs)** 221/6.

FOOTBALL: 1-22, 2-89, 3-194, 4-201, 5-220, 6-221.

Bowling: Chetan Sakariya 4-0-31-3, Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-45-0, Chris Morris 4-0-41-2, Shreyas Gopal 3-0-40-0, Ben Stokes 1-0-12-0, Rahul Tewatia 2-0-25-0, Riyan Parag 1-0-7-1, Shivam Dube 1-0-20-0.

Rajasthan Royals: Ben Stokes c & b Mohammed Shami 0, Manan Vohra c & b Arshdeep Singh 12, Sanju Samson c Hooda b Arshdeep Singh 119, Jos Buttler c Hooda b Arshdeep Singh 23, Riyan Parag c Rahul b Mohammed Shami 25, Rahul Tewatia c Rahul b Meredith 2, Chris Morris (not out) 2. **Extras:** (lb 2, nb 1, w 6) 9. **Total (in 20 overs)** 217/7.

FOOTBALL: 1-0, 2-25, 3-70, 4-123, 5-175, 6-201, 7-217.

Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-33-2, Jhye Richardson 4-0-55-1, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-35-3, Riley Meredith 4-0-49-1, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-43-0.

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson en route to his hundred against Punjab Kings on Monday. — IPL

350th IPL six, a pull over the deep square in the 8th over with Punjab racing to 70 for one.

Gayle was dropped by leggie Rahul Tewatia (0/25) off his own bowling and the very next ball, the left-hander smashed a six.

However, in the 10th over, Riyan Parag (1/7) removed Gayle, who was

holed out to Stokes in the deep.

Rahul then changed gears and got to his fifty with a six over Shivam Dube's (0/20) head in the 13th over.

Hooda then smashed two maximums in the same over and then struck three sixes off Shreyas Gopal (0/40) in the next as

Punjab went ballistic.

It was Rahul and Hooda's show at the Wankhede that made the difference to their total as the duo tore into the opposition attack on way to their 105-run stand.

Courtesy their monstrous hitting, Punjab added 111 runs in the final eight overs.

Hooda, who had made a 62 against CSK in his last competitive game in November, had stormed out of the Baroda camp ahead of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy after claiming that Krunal Pandya misbehaved with him. Hooda was subsequently suspended.

— PTI

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— PTI



KKR coach Brendon McCullum (left) and captain Eoin Morgan. — IPL

We have destructive batting unit: Morgan

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 12

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan said the Kolkata franchise have one of the most destructive batting line-ups in the IPL. He warned rivals that they would soon be firing on all cylinders.

"One of the many strengths we have within our squad is two of the most talented guys in the country opening the batting for us," Morgan said after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs on Sunday.

"It was quite magnificent the way the guys at the top of the order batted.

Morgan also hailed his bowling unit. "Certainly the bowling, we couldn't have asked for a better start. Chopped and changed a bit in the powerplay. Huge amount of structure that goes into the decisions on the field. We have got a fantastic head coach in (Brendon) McCullum," said Morgan.

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Vijay Hazare I was just looking to get back into my rhythm and focus on what I am doing and really improve my game every time I went out to bat.

"It was really great to have the runs behind me, so coming into IPL, I know that I am confident," Padikkal said.

Padikkal continued rich form in the last Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (218 runs at an average of 43.60 in six matches) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (737 runs in seven matches).

"...last IPL was amazing for me. It was such a great experience and exposure for me, the opportunities I got and the fact that I was able to contribute to the side is all that matters in the end."

"Mushtaq Ali was decent, not up to what I was expecting and in



Devdutt Padikkal

"Right now I am completely fine, most importantly I am able to move around well. I am able to react to balls and that's the most important part...In IPL you always have to be ready, you always have to be 100 per cent in every situation."

Vijay Hazare I was just looking to get back into my rhythm and focus on what I am doing and really improve my game every time I went out to bat.

"It was really great to have the runs behind me, so coming into IPL, I know that I am confident," Padikkal said.

And the young batsman can't wait to open alongside skipper Virat Kohli when the opportunity comes. "Definitely, it's something new...I am definitely looking forward to that," he said. — PTI

POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Points	Net RR
DC	1	1	0	0	2	+0.779
KKR	1	1	0	0	2	+0.500
PBKS	1	1	0	0	2	+0.200
RCB	1	1	0	0	2	+0.050
MI	1	0	1	0	0	-0.050
RR	1	0	1	0	0	-0.200
SRH	1	0	1	0	0	-0.500
CSK	1	0	1	0	0	-0.779

Knights run into nemesis Mumbai

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, APRIL 12

After a familiar script in their season-opener, defending champions Mumbai Indians would be eager to get off the mark when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

While Mumbai went down to Royal Challengers Bangalore in a last-ball thriller, Kolkata Knight Riders got off to a rousing start by getting the better of Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Though KKR are fresh from their impressive win, Mumbai will go into the match as favourites having a stranglehold over the head-to-head. Mumbai have won 21 matches in their 27 previous meetings.

The failure of Mumbai's fancied middle-order batsmen in the death overs can be attributed to their stumbling start. And none of the batsmen managed to get past 50. Reserve opener Chris Morris who was drafted in because of Quinton de Kock's unavailability was Mumbai's top-scorer with 49.

Now that de Kock is out of quarantine, it would be interesting to see who walks in with Rohit Sharma to open the innings.

Barring Rahul Chahar, all the Mumbai bowlers had a decent outing against RCB. Lanky South African Marco Jansen who had an impressive debut with figures of 2/28 in his four overs holds a lot of promise.

Eoin Morgan is unlikely to change Kolkata Knight Riders' combination of overseas players as Aussie Pat Cummins and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan had provided vital breakthroughs.

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches 27

MI 21 KKR 6

FOR THE RECORD

● Shubman Gill who has scored 954 runs at an average of 32.89 in 39 innings needs 44 more to become the 11th batsman to make 1,000+ runs for KKR.

● Krunal Pandya who has taken 47 wickets at an average of 21.32 in 70 innings needs three more to become the sixth bowler to achieve the 50-wicket landmark for Mumbai.

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

● Mumbai beat K