THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021



Rainfall: NIL

Forecast: Humid and Partly Cloudy. Max/Min temp. 38/25 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Magha Shuddha Chaturdasi till 3.57 pm Star: Pushyami till 10 pm Varjyam: 7.17 am to 8.46 am Durmuhurtam: 6.49 am to 8.20 am **Rahukalam:** 9 am to 10.30 am

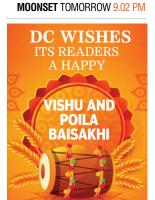
HIJRI CALENDAR Ramzan 1,1442 AH

PRAYERS (ROYAL MOSQUE) Fajar: 5.25 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm

Asar: 5.00 pm

Maghrib: 6.26 pm

Isha: 8.30 pm SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.47 AM SUNSET TODAY 6.18 PM **MOONRISE TODAY 7.11 AM**







It's a free and fear

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon to remain

normal this year

New Delhi: The Southwest monsoon, which brings more than 75 per cent of the coun-try's rainfall during June-September, will be normal this year, Skymet Weather said on Tuesday. The north India plains, along with a few parts of the northeast region are likely to be at risk of being rain deficient through the season, said G.P. Sharma, the president (Meteorology) of Skymet. He said the rainfall will be 103 per cent with a five per cent error.

Sushil Chandra

takes over as CEC

New Delhi: Sushil Chandra assumed charge as the 24th Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday. He was appointed as the CEC on Monday the day Sunil Arora demitted office. Chandra was appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He would demit office on May 14, 2022. Under him, the EC will hold assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Kerala minister

quits after indiction

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala's higher education minister K.T. Jaleel resigned on Tuesday, days after the Lokayukta indicted him for nepotism, abuse of power and breach of oath of office.

NATION 4 Didi calls off dharna as



SPORTS 8

Sunrisers to meet RCB today

TABLOID

Covid widens gender divide in companies

Vol. 25 No. 344 Established 1940 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

blames Lokesh for mess

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

EC acts on 3 BJP leaders

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA. APRIL 13

A video of Telugu Desam sate president K. Atchannaidu predicting doomsday to the party and ridi-culing the leadership of TD general secretary Nara Lokesh went viral in social media on Tuesday.

The veteran TD leader was seen saying: "17th tarvata (Tirupati bypoll day) andaru khaleeye... party ledu bokka ledu (everyone in the party will be free after April 17 as party will have no future). We are carrying on with the party as we are associated with it from the very begin-

The video has surfaced as a major embarrassment to the principal Opposition party, which is facing shock after shock in the series of elections — the 2019 assembly poll defeat, followed by the worst drubbing in the civic polls.

The party is seen losing its confidence as is also evident from the decision by party chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu to

JAGAN UNVEILS

GOVERNMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

ties due to Covid, there

was no delay in implementation of the welfare

schemes. For the first

time, he said, the state

government has prepa-

red a calendar for welfa-

re schemes and impleme

nted them. Now, in an-

other first of its kind, the

YSRC government has

released the calendar for

the people.
The CM said the calen-

dar for 2021-2022 was rel-

eased on the occasion of

the Plava Nama Samvats-

ara Ugadi, and it listed the

schemes and programmes

that will be implemented

during the year, on a

Page 3: Details of all

month-by-month basis.

CALENDAR

brations

Nara Lokesh



K. Atchannaidu

keep the TD out of the Zilla and Mandal Parishad polls. The poll boycott has further demoralised the party cadre and raised doubts over the future of the party. Notably, the present

video got leaked a few days before the Tirupati bypoll.

The video, apparently

17TH TARVATA
(Tirupati bypoll day) andaru khaleeye.. party ledu bokka ledu (everyone in the party will be free after April 17 as party will have no future). We are carrying on with the party as we are associated with it from the very beginning

- K. ATCHANNAIDU Telugu Desam state president

shot with a secret camera, carried a conversation between Atchannaidu and a TD leader Venkat Rao. Their chat began over a land deal in Hyderabad and payment thereof, but went on to other matters and the party president making sensational observations about the party and Lokesh's leadership.

Atchannaidu told *Deccan* Chronicle dismissively, "Too many people are indulging in mischievous things and this could be

Page 2: No one can spoil my relations with Lokesh

Atchannaidu's video clip Centre fast-tracks nod for foreign Covid jabs

Russia's Sputnik V will be available by the end of April

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

In a major step to improve vaccine coverage in India, the government on Tuesday announced its decision to fast-track emergency approval for all foreign-produced Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved for use in certain other countries, like the United States and European Union member

states The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before these are rolled out for further immunisation programmes within the country.

The Union health min istry said the plan is to add these jabs to the existing basket of vaccines for domestic use and increase the pace and coverage of vaccination.

India as of now is using Covishield (which is known in other countries as the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine) and the locally made Covaxin for vaccinations, while Russian shots of Sputnik V were given a formal approval on Tuesday morning after recommendation from the subject experts committee of the Drugs Controller General of India.
The SEC noted that the

THINK OF HUMANITY AND NOT **JUST OUR CITIZENS, SAYS MODI**

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC **NEW DELHI, APRIL 13**

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us an opportunity to reshape the global order by thinking about the entire humanity and not merely of those who are on our side of the borders, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday

"We, in India, have tried to walk the talk (and) have tried to pro-

safety and immunogenicity data presented by applicant Dr Reddy's from the Indian study was comparable with that of the

The vaccine is indicated for active immunisation to prevent Covid-19 disease in individuals of over 18 years of age. The vaccine should be administered intramuscularly in two doses of 0.5 ml each with an interval of 21 days. The pricing of the vaccine is yet to finalised.

doses of first Sputnik V are expected to be available through was huge" ■ Full report on Page 4

zens from the pandemic"

and also "supplied vac-

cine to over 80 countries", he said in his address at the sixth edi-

tion of the four-day

Raisina Dialogue confer-

ence, which began in the

national capital in virtu-

He also admitted that

the supplies have been

modest but the demand

al format on Tuesday.

Phase III clinical trial

interim data from Russia.

direct import by the end of

April. "The NEGVAC recommended that vaccines for Covid-19, which have been developed and are being manufactured in foreign countries and which have been granted emergency approval for restricted use by US FDA, EMA, United Kingdom MHRA, PMDA Japan or which are listed in WHO (Emergency Use Listing) may be granted emergency use approval in India, mandating the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial in place of conduct of local clinical

U.S. SUSPENDS USE OF J&J SHOT AFTER CLOTS

Washington, April 13: The US is recommending a pause in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US FDA said Tuesday they were investigating clots that occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

Full report on Page 4

trial as per the provisions prescribed under Second Schedule of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019," the health ministry said in a statement on

Tuesday.
Officials said this move will facilitate quicker access to foreign vaccines by India and would encourage imports, including import of bulk drug material, optimal utilisation of domestic fill and finish capacity etc, which will in turn provide a fillip to vaccine manufacturing capacity and total vaccine availability for domestic consumption.

Panchangam predicts good days for AP

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has, in a first-of-its-kind gesture, DC CORRESPONDENT released for public kno-

wledge a government cal-VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13 endar detailing the implementation schedules of The Telugu New Year the state's welfare sche-Panchangam (almanac) mes for the 2021-2022 fispredicts an end to the cal. The release was done Coronavirus pandemic and good days for Andhra to mark the Ugadi cele-

Pradesh this year. At the event held at the During Panchanga camp office here on Sravanam (almanac read-Tuesday, the chief minising) programme conductter stressed that his goved on Ugadi festival to ernment is implementmark the beginning to ing various schemes and Plava nama samvatsara at the Chief Minister's programmes for the welfare and development of camp office at Tadepalli all sections of the society. He has fulfilled more on Tuesday, priest predicted that Andhra Pradesh would emerge than 90 per cent of the poll promises in one year's time after his takeoprosperous with abundant rainfall and a surge ver in 2019, he claimed. in business due to the con-The CM said that des tainment of Covid-19 this pite the financial difficul-

Government siddanthi Kappaganthula Subb-araju Somayajulu recited the new panchangam in the presence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, ministers

and eminent persons.

Observing that the meaning of Plava is a ship, the Chief Minister wished for abundant rainfall, good luck to farmers, and every sister would be

Extending his Ugadi greetings to people, the Chief Minister wished prosperity for every house in the state and that everyone would win the war against Covid.

The siddanthi said the state economy would improve this year due to

OBSERVING THAT the meaning of Plava is a ship, the Chief Minister wished for abundant rainfall, good luck to farmers, and every sister would be happy

the planetary movements of Guru and Shukra grahas. He also observed that the Chief Minister's personal horoscope also augurs well for the state. He said Guru's stay in the Kumbha rashi for nine months, which would usher in copious rains, increase milk production, education, agriculture and finance sectors, which would give best results with all-round

development.
After the programme, the siddanthi blessed the Chief Minister and presented Ugadi Pachadi. Priests of the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams (TTD) blessed the Chief Minister with vedic hymns and presented him the TTD Panchangam and

Prasadam. The Chief Minister felicitated the siddanthi, Durga Malleswara Swamy temple chief priest Lingambatla Durga Prasad, Markapuram-based priest A.V.K. Narasimhach-aryulu, Tenali-based priest Mamillapalli Mruthyunjaya Prasad and deputy chief priest Kota Ravi Kumar and Vedic scholar R.V.S. Yajulu.

Festive mode



Devotees visit the Golden Temple on the occasion of Baisakhi festival, in Amritsar, on

2 Al-Badr ultras among 5 held in J&K

Srinagar, April 13: Police arrested two militants and three militant associates of terror outfit Al-Badr and seized arms and ammunition from possession Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Tuesday.

Authorities have directed

proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr and arrested two active terrorists and three terrorist Incriminating material, recovered," a police spokesperson said.

He said acting on a spe-

mobilisation of beneficia-

tants on Baramulla-Handwara highway in the north Kashmir district, a special checkpoint was established near Kachloo a motorcycle tried to escape from the spot but were apprehended by the alert

including arms and ammunition, have been Crossing by security forces. During checking of vehicles, three people riding

"Police in Handwara cific information regardbusted a terror module of ing the movement of miliforces, he said.

Health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vaccination centres COVID-19 | CARE

State plans to vaccinate 4 lakh people today

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh will take up a massive Covid-19 vaccination drive on Wednesday with a target to vaccinate four lakh beneficiaries. Though the centre announced Tika Utsav from April 11 to 14 and AP targeted to administer vaccine to 24 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of six lakh doses per day, there was no vaccination on April 12 and 13 as doses were not

available. On the first day

of Tika Utsav too on April 11, AP vaccinated only 2.38 lakh beneficiaries However, as the state gov-

ernment has received from the centre 6.40 lakh doses including 4.40 lakh doses of Covishield and two lakh doses of Covaxin on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon, the state government has come up with plans to take up a massive vaccination programme on the last day of Tika Utsay. Accordingly, state health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vacciTHE STATE government has received from the centre 6.40 lakh doses including 4.40 lakh doses of Covishield and two lakh doses of Covaxin on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon, the government has come up with plans to take up a massive vaccination programme on the last day of Tika Utsav.

nation centres by deploying additional health personnel. 500 persons on an average will be adminisall district medical and tered the vaccine at each health officers and also discentre from 9.00 am to 5.00 trict immunisation officers pm on Wednesday, with to gear up for the occasion the main target of covering by making all necessary people aged over 45 and 60 arrangements, including

of healthcare workers and 50 percent frontline workers have been administered the dose. Remaining have been advised to take their dose on Wednesday. State health director Dr. years, apart with health-T. Geetha Prasadini said, care and frontline workers.

We are taking up a special Covid-19 vaccination programme to administer the vaccine to nearly four lakh targeted beneficiaries on the last day of Tika Utsav on Wednesday. People who cannot take it on the day

Thursday. After that, based on the available ries. So far, 82–83 percent stock, we will continue the vaccination programme in the state. State health authorities

say the centre is insisting on exhausting existing stocks of vaccine doses before releasing the fresh stocks. This is the reason why the state government is taking up a massive drive to exhaust the existing stocks and place fresh indents for additional

NGT CANNOT STRIKE OFF A LAW, SAYS SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC **NEW DELHI, APRIL 13**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was not vested with the powers to examine the validity of any law or to strike it down. "Prima facie we are of

the view the National Green Tribunal can't strike down a law," said Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, heading a bench that also comprised Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian. The court's observation

on the limits of the powers of the green tribunal came in the course of the hearing of a petition by Environment Support Group.
It had challenged the

Karnataka High Court order transferring a case to NGT and asking it to adjudicate a challenge to Section 40 of the Biodiversity Act that empowers the Central government to exempt certain biological resources.

Staying the proceedings before the green tribunal, the court has posted the matter for further hearing next week.

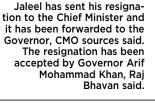
Appearing for the NGO, senior lawyer Nikhil Nayyar told the court that earlier the Supreme Court had in the Sterlite case said that the green tribunal can't strike down rules or regulations. The court had in its

February 18, 2019, order said: "It is clear, there-

fore, that under the NGT

Act, the tribunal exercising appellate jurisdiction cannot strike down rules regulations... Therefore, it would be fallacious to state that the tribunal has powers of judicial review akin to that of a high court exercising constitutional powers under Article 226 of the Constitution... We must never forget the distinction between a superior court of record

and courts of limited jurisdiction."





'NOBODY CAN SPOIL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH LOKESH'

From page 1

He tweeted that the video was the handiwork of chief minister Jagan who, he said, was resorting to "stone throwing and circulating a distorted version of my conversation," out of fear of the YSRC losing the Tirupati bypoll. "Nobody can spoil my relationship with Lokesh," he said.

Taking potshots
Atchannaidu, mum
administra* municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanaranayana said he could have openly announced that TD would be shut very soon, but "he being the president of the AP unit, he may have limitations and could share his anguish only with his own party leaders.

The conversation begins with Venkat Rao complaining to Naidu that Lokesh was neglecting his repeated request to help him get Rs 3 crore from builder K.L. Narayana, though Chandrababu Naidu and film actor Balakrishna had prom-

ised to help him out. When Rao said Lokesh did not receive him properly when he went to meet him,

the TD state president was seen saying, "ippudu andariki ante. Yevvariki vinadam ledu. badhalu (Lokesh is not listening to anyone. We are all having issues)

Reacting to Rao repeatedly complaining against Lokesh, the TD state president said, "aa manishulu baagunte party ki ee paristhiti enduku vun-

It was an open secret in political circles that Atchannaidu and Lokesh have strained relations and the latter tried to halt the appointment of the several-time MLA from Srikakulam district as party president for AP.

Atchannaidu had been arrested by the Jagan-led state been government in a corruption case a few months ago.

NOTICES SERVED TO GOVT FOR FAILING TO IMPLEMENT RTE

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

A notice under Section 166 of IPC was served to the state government for failing to implement the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, resulting in deprivation of access to quality education to nearly one lakh children belonging to the poor and vulnerable sections in private schools every academic year in

Advocate Thandava Yogesh served the notices under Section 166 of IPC recently, dealing with a public servant disobeying the law with an intent to cause injury to any person and shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year with or without fine. The notices were served to the Chief Minister, minister for education, school education principal secretary, commissioner of school education and to all the district education

officers in the state. Earlier, the advocate filed a PIL in 2017 in the High Court seeking direction for implementation of section 12 (1)(C) of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, read with AP RTE Rules, 2010, Rule 14,15 and 16.

The act deals with provision of reservation for admission in private schools for children belonging to the poor and vulnerable sections in Class I at least 25 per cent in an academic vear.

However, in 2010, a private school management obtained a stay order from the High Court on implementation of RTE, 2009 Section 12 (1)(C). In 2012, the Supreme Court adjudicated the RTE, 2009 Section 12 (1)(C) as valid.

In 2014 also, the Supreme Court Constitution Bench declared the same Act as valid. The SC also issued direction in a case that any stay order issued by a court to be valid for six months only.

Despite such an order, the AP government has been maintaining that a stay order has been there on implementation of the Act and is failing to ensure implementation of the Act by the private educational

institutions for several years. Advocate Yogesh said, "As the state government failed to ensure the Act to be implemented by the private schools for several years, I served notices to the government under Section 166 of IPC.

My objective is to ensure social justice to the children by enabling them to get quality education in private schools under the Act.'

Naidu is politicising hurling of stones: Suresh

Minister says TD supremo was trying to damage healthy relations between people and government

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, APRIL 13

Education minister Suresh Adimulapu accused TD national president N. Chandrababu Naidu of trying damage the healthy relations between people and the state government.

Addressing a public meeting at Manubolu on Tuesday as part of his campaign in favour of YSRC Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection candidate M. Gurumoorthy, the minister said the former CM is playing politics by raising a hue and cry over hurling of stones on his road-show at Tirupati on Monday

night.
He charged that the stones were hurled by TD people themselves to gain sympathy. Maintaining that TD will be forgotten soon, he called upon people to ensure a thumping majority

Gurumoorthy.
Stressing that Naidu was trying to do politics with stones, Suresh sarcastically said that the TD supremo got patent rights for the culture of throwing chappals and stones on own party leaders.

"Chandrababu Naidu is yearning for public sympathy through shortcuts. Women are certain to reprimand him if he continues to blabber about Amma Vodi benefits are going for Ayya buddi (father liquor)," the minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkatagiri legislator Anam Ramanarayana Reddy took pot shots against nominees of BJP, Congress and TD contesting the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat. He said they had supported the TD nominee for 15 years but she shifted to Telugu

He pointed out that the BJP nominee lives in Karnataka and speaks only Kannada. Congress nominee Dr. Chinta Mohan used to stay in Kerala. But it is only YSRC nominee Gurumoorthy who is the most accessible among all others, he said while appealing to people to vote for Gurumoorthy.

Government whip Prabhakar Reddy, legislators Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Silpa Chakrapani and K. Parthasarathy also

Meanwhile, the YSRC leaders under the supervision Anam Ramanarayana Reddy making arrangements for a huge rally at Venkatagiri town on Wednesday at 8 am.

The rally will commence at Kasi Viswanadha Swamy temple after offering prayers to the presiding deity. It will pass through Kasipeta Centre, Dwaraka Hotel Centre, Rajavari Veedhi, Vinayaka temple, Poleramma temple and conclude at MRO Office Centre.

Ramanarayana Reddy appealed to all the party cadres and supporters to take part in the rally and bless the party nominee for Tirupati byelection Dr Gurumoorthy.

DC CORRESPONDENT

BJP national secretary

and AP in-charge Sunil Deodhar demanded that

YSR Congress nominee

from Tirupati Lok Sabha

seat should be disqualified

as he is contesting a seat reserved for SCs though



Venkatagiri legislator Anam Ramanarayana Reddy pays tributes to the bust of former chief minister late Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy at Manubolu on Tuesday. Education minister Adimulapu Suresh and other leaders are also seen.

CHINTA VOWS TO MAKE VENKATAGIRI AS AP'S CAPITAL

DC CORRESPONDENT **NELLORE, APRIL 13**

Former MP and Congress nominee for Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll Dr Chinta Mohan surprised the residents of Venkatagiri town with a peculiar promise that he would put all his efforts to make Venkatagiri as capital of Andhra Pradesh if they vote for the Congress.

Addressing the gathering during a public meeting at Venkatagiri on Tuesday, he accused TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu of taking away the capital to Thullur (Ama-ravati) even when 1 lakh acres of government land was available between Venkatagiri and Yerpedu.

He maintained that Venkatagir has all the qualities necessary for a state capital while hinting that a major part of AP was under Venkatagiri when it was ruled by

Referring to the popularity of handloom saris produced at Venkatagiri all over the country, he said it should have been considered as the capital city of AP, but unfortunately TD supremo Chandrababu Naidu opted for Tulluru, probably due to its proximity to Guntur and Krishna districts.

He lamented over disregarding the availability of a huge chunk of government lands near Venakatagiri and the potential of the region.

"Besides one lakh acres of land, the area is close to Kandaleru reservoir, national highway, and the international airport at Tirupati. The area is also safe from earthquakes and floods, yet the region has been neglected. If Congress is supported, I will try to make Venkatagiri the Capital city of the state," said

approaching the Election

Commission of India to

disqualify the YSRC candi-

date Gurumoorthy. He ma-intained that any SC who

has converted to Christia-

nity cannot contest from a

He was speaking to

media persons after tak-

ing part in a programme

seat reserved for SCs.

No one can do anything to me as long as Lord is with me, says Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, APRIL 13

Opposition leader and former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that he is being targeted by "hawala ministers and gambler ministers" of the YSR Congress. Naidu stated this on

Tuesday as he addressed a roadshow in Gudur as part of the campaign for TD nominee Panabaka Lakshmi in the Tirupati by-election. Referring to the stone-

pelting incident while he held a roadshow in Tirupati a day ago, Naidu alleged that the police were seeking evidence rather than arresting the

Stressing that the state of affairs in AP was often shocking him, Naidu said, "Stones were hitting us. There were those who were injured, there was blood too. After all these, the police are unmoved and simply seeking evidence from us."

The former chief minister said, "Am I afraid of being stoned after being Chief Minister for 14 years? Militants used 24 claymore explosives to kill me. Nothing happens to me as long as Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara with me. No one can do anything on me.

Naidu assured the people that there would not be any corruption, threats, false cases, and exploitation of natural resources if the Telugu Desam Party candidate is elected for the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat.

Naidu said the ruling party, out to win the election, is trying to misuse the police at times of attacks on the opposition leaders.

"The government has failed to control Covid-19 spread in the state and the people have to live with the infection for the rest of

Tirupati YSRC nominee must be disqualified, says BJP

held in Tirupati to pay tributes to Dr Baba Saheb

Ambedkar on Tuesday.
Deodhar asked, "Jagan
Mohan Reddy Garu, what
is happening in your
state? Your candidate from

Tirupati being a Christian

is not a problem for BJP.



TD chief and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addresses a road show in Gudur on Tuesday. — DC

FORMER CM CLAIMS THAT TELUGU **NEW YEAR BELONGS TO DESAM** Positivity and self-con-

DC CORRESPONDENT **NELLORE, APRIL 13**

TD national president N. Chandrababu Naidu turned philosophical while taking part in the Ugadi celebrations at the TD office in Tirupati. He said positive results are certain if everyone does their duty religiously. The New Year belonged to the TD, he said.

"Panchanga Sravanam is very important even from the angle of science as it gives us the guidance to overcome difficult times. Darkness is certainly replaced by light, and vice versa; and the clock never stops. Positivity and selfconfidence in all our deeds are the key to success." the former CM observed.

the Naidu greeted Telugu people living in

He asked whether any-

fight from any other seat,

not from schedule caste

He pointed out that he had posted a photograph

of Gurumoorthy taking

blessings from a bishop in

Gudur church before fil-

seat," he remarked.

being ignored.

their lives. Yet, the Jagan virus is more dangerous than the Covid-19 virus and the people should prefer their voting right to change the scenario for the better," the TD leader said. Naidu said the inter-

among those present.

lowing the funds. ests of the students are

got government employment in the recent past.
The TD chief said the Nadu-Nedu programme is not for improving the education sector but for swal-

"MLAs and others are making big bucks through the programme.'

Rev. Abhilash, a pastor at

the Holy Prayer Church,

Gudur. It means they understood that their fraud has been exposed. I

request people of Tirupati

Ratna Prabha, who is

Hindu Madiga and highly qualified," the BJP leader

one from the Gudur region

fidence in all our deeds

are the key to success,

the former CM observed

We have to fight for

the people collectively

once again. Naidu said.

two states and other parts

of the word on the occa-

sion of Ugadi. "We have worked 40 years for the welfare of the people. We

have to fight for the people

collectively once again

without any iear, 'ne said

Atchannaidu, former min-

ister Chinna Rajappa, TD

nominee for Tirupati Lok Sabha seat Panabaka

Lakshmi, Veda Pundit

Gautham Sarma, TD lead-

ers Sugunamma and

Narasimha Yaday were

TD state president K

TD seeks protection to Naidu, punish guilty

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Telugu Desam senior leader and former minister K Kala Venkatrao has alleged that the incident of "stone-pelting" on for-mer chief minister and TD national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu is proof of the anarchic "Raja Reddy Rajyangam" prevailing in Andhra

He said here on Tuesday that the YSRC is realising that defeat is inevitable. "Its rowdy mob pelted stones at Naidu at the instigation of chief minister Jagan Reddy. The culprits must be arrested and adequate protection provided to the TD chief," he said.

stone-pelting allegedly took place during the road show of

Chandrababu Naidu in Tirupati on Monday. This is a direct proof of Rajyangam. This mirrors the undemocratic style of governance prevailing in the state," Venkatrao

He said Jagan Reddy is terrorizing voters and weakening Opposition.

... Venkatrao alleged that there was no development during the two-year rule of the YSRC. "What was evident were the YSRC's attacks and the government's partisan attitude towards the

On the other hand, the Opposition leaders who questioned mafia rule of Jagan Reddy have been charged with aggravated assault, murder and physical threat.

Botsa: Naidu enacting a 'stone-age' drama

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

TD supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu is trying to make a mountain out of a pebble, said municipal minister Botsa Satyanarayana while talking to the media in Visakhapatnam Tuesday. He said Chandrababu Naidu knows very well that his party is facing another debacle at Tirupati and

hence he was enacting different kinds of dra-Satyanarayana said the police and his friendly TV channel made it clear that there was no trace of attack on Naidu with stones during his public

meeting in Tirupati. Yet,

he abused the police and the Chief Minister. Later, he staged a dharna. "He called out a party worker and told him to bring the stone and the worker brought a small pebble. Naidu is still resorting to stone-age gimmicks," the minister said and added that such

gimmicks were common to Naidu. When Mallela Babji attacked N.T. Rama Rao, he enacted a big drama to draw the attention of the people, he said.

He said that victory and defeat were common in politics and Naidu should accept the defeat with dig-

Asserting that the party

NO STONE PELTING ON NAIDU: HM

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL. 13

Mekathoti refuted the allegation that there was stone-pelting during Naidu's meeting in Tirupati. She said there was no need for the YSRC to indulge in such acts. "Rather, the Telugu Desam is trying to earn the sympathy of the peo-ple to win the by-elec-

Speaking to the media Guntur on Tuesday, Sucharita said Naidu was spreading lies. "He has started a new drama realising that the TD would fail miserably in the Tirupati byelection.

Responding to criticism over the Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case, she said the CBI is investigat ing the case.

candidate would win the election hands down, Satyanaryana Gurumoorthy will get 80 per cent of the votes while the BJP and TD candidates would lose their deposits.

Fearing losses, Pawan Kalyan went into quarantine and Chandrababu is playing his own tricks,' the minister said.

DIG condemns TD chief's comments

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, APRIL 13

Anantapur DIG Kranti Rana Tata condemned allegations that police pelted stones on the roadshow of TD chief Chandrababu Naidu at Tirupati on Monday Speaking to media per-

sons at Tirupati on Tuesday, the DIG said they have not found any

evidence related to hurling of stones or commotion at Naidu's meeting, whether in the CCTV footage, media footage, or video footage on mobile phones.

The DIG said yet they formed special have teams to probe the inci-

He expressed displeasure over comments of Chandrababu Naidu

THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES TAKE PART **IN SRISAILAM RATHOTSAVAM**

DC CORRESPONDENT **KURNOOL APRIL 13**

he is a Christian.

Ugadi festival was celebrated at Srisailam with thousands of devotees participating in Rathotsavam. Around 90 per cent of devotees were from the neighbouring Karnataka state.

Every street in Srisailam witnessed traditional dances by Kannadigas to their spiritual tune. Chants of "Om Namah Shivava" rent the air, though many pilgrims seemed exhausted after their long trek. Temple officials org-

anised special progra-

mmes including cultural events from morning till late in the night.

An interesting feature

ka prefer to celebrate their Ugadi (New Year) at Srisailam, the abode of Mallikariuna Swamy. They consider Mallikarjuna Swamy as their son-

was that most people of Karnataka and some parts of Maharashtra presented their yearly offerings like tamarind, kumkum, sari, mangala sutram, and flowers to Goddess Bramarambha Devi. Devotees from Karnata-

in-law and Bramarambhika Devi as their daughter. FOLLOWING TRADITION Fighting with dung cakes to be organised in Kairuppala

We respect all religions. But we cannot tolerate "When I tweeted the photograph, it was immediately

Donkey race follows Ugadi in Kurnool Slush was arranged for about three-feet in depth but none lodged a complaint, Veerabhadra

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOON, APRIL 13

As Ugadi festival heralds a new year, the festivities continue through the following day in Kurnool district, where enthusiastic youth cheer donkeys to race through the slush and mud. "Donkey race which draws huge crowds from neighbouring mandals to Kallur Chowdeshwari temple on Wednesday is the most awaited event,' said Ramanjaneyulu, the organiser.

near the temple and donkeys were made to race around with bullock carts called as 'Gadidala pradakshina' in it. The onlookers encourage donkeys to run as they find wallowing in mud slush most challenging and tiresome. The winner donkey gets the trophy of achievement while youths jump into slush and smear and play a sport as part of Ugadi festivities, the organisers said. On the

About 30,000 people attend the event and it is a big social gathering in this part of the district.

other hand, people of of Kairuppala in Asapari mandal take part in the traditional 'pidakala samaram' (fighting with dung cakes) when a pro-cession of Lord Veerabhadra Swamy was

As many as 50 persons were injured in the fight

Swamy temple EO G Ramprasad has said. This fight of hitting cow dung cakes and throwing them like missiles take place when the Lord was taken out of the village on a pleasure trip and while being brought into the village, a group of villagers obstructed it. Soon another group of villagers intervenes and both the groups hurl dung cakes at each other. Veerabhadra Swamy was taken into the tem-

ple even while the dispute goes on, the villagers said. It is believed that Lord Veerabhadra Swamy and goddess Bhadrakali got separated for some time after an affair. Taking sides of gods, villagers also get divided into groups and fight with each other in the same way every Ugadi. Aspari sub-inspector Giribabu said about 30,000

people attend the event and it is a big social gathering in this part of the

IN BRIEF

Big rally against VSP privatisation

Visakhapatnam: Students and youth organisations have decided to take out a "Youth March" on April 16 to protest against the privatisation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. A poster in this regard was launched at the Gandhi statue near RTC Complex in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. Visakhapatnam district secretary of DYFI L.J. Naidu, who was present at the poster launch, said the youth would be ready to sacrifice their lives to pro-

tect the steel plant. He said the youth and students have

been fighting along with the

trade unions since the agita-

tion started two months ago.

KGGH HEADLESS AS COVID-19 CASES SURGE

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, APRIL 13

The Kurnool Government General Hospital (KGGH), with 300 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment, is directionless as the Superindent of the Hospital Dr G. Narendranath Reddy has been tested positive. He is not attending the hospital, and neither he had assigned the duties to the Deputy Superindent Dr C. Prabhakar Reddy. Patients face problems as no one is taking any responsibility to guide them on patient administra-tion and treatment management. A few house surgeons and an assistant professor in the gynaecology department were also tested positive, said a source. When contacted, the deputy superintendent said he had not been assigned any responsibility.

Meanwhile, The District Medical and Health Officer, Dr Ram Giddaiah said Covid-19 Tika Utsav would resume on Wednesday as the district got 35,000 doses on Tuesday. He said the replenishment of stocks resumed after we exhausted the entire supply and placed reorders to continue the inoculation in the district. The inventory management of the vaccination is imperative as the government has taken it up as a drive to vaccinate all the people above 45 years of age.

He said there are about 8 lakh people in the age group of above 45 years out of which 2 lakhs have been inoculated. Our main focus is frontline workers and medical staff followed by the cases having comorbidities.

5 ARRESTED FOR TRANSPORTING

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 13

Maredumilli police arrested five persons in different cases on the charges of transporting ganja and seized 460 kg of

According to Maredumilli Circle Inspector Mr Ravi Kumar, when the police conducted vehicle inspections, two accused Balaji of Karnataka and Chinna Rathod Govind of Telangana State were found carrying 400 kg of ganja in 20 plastic bags worth ₹8 lakh by a van. In another case, 54 kg of Gania was seized from Jeeram Ramireddy of Y. Ramavaram mandal in East Godavari at Madduluru junction. In this case, Marigela Tata Rao and Marigela Narayana absconded from the spot. Gopisetti Kumar and Bejjipuram Srinivasa Rao of Vijayawada were arrested.

₹8.30 CRORE **SANCTIONED TO AKNU**

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 13

The Central Government sanctioned ₹8.30 crore for the establishment of a swimming pool and indoor stadium in Adikavi Nannayya University Rajamahendravaram Margani Bharat said that the central team visited the University previously and sent proposals of ₹20.85 crore for setting up the international stadium in the University and Khel India sanctioned ₹8.30 crore in the first phase. He said that a film institute would come up to the University soon. and Nannayya Museum will be established at a cost of ₹12 crore and set up a Human Resources Centre in the University. He also said that educational institutions run by Hithakarini Samajam would be merged with the education

department soon. Úgadi celebrations were celebrated at the MP camp office on Tuesday.

Vaccine made mandatory for frontline people

VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

Health officials said 1.2 lakh doses arrived in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, and of them 80,000 were dispatched to Vizianagaram districts

They
Visakhapatnam and
Srikakulam received
40 000 each and
38,000.

40,000 each and Vizianagaram 38,000.
Health officials of the three districts said it has been mandatory for front-line workers left over to get inoculated, after which others who have crossed 45 will get the

dose.
"All the doses will be given on a single day on Wednesday," said Visakhapatnam district immunisation officer Dr Jeevan Rani. Officials of

been mandatory for frontline workers left over to get inoculated, after which others who have crossed 45 will get

Srikakulam Vizianagaram also said they would wind off the

All the village and ward secretariats have been asked to be ready to complete the process. In . Visakhapatnam, all the 27 urban health centres, government hospitals and PHCs in the agency will conduct the process.

There has been a demand for the vaccine as the districts have shown a sudden spike in cases

AP records 4,228 +ve cases, 10 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh continues to register a surge in Coronavirus infections day by day, almost from April 1 onwards in the second wave of the pandemic and it recorded 4,228 cases and 10 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities reported here that out of 35,582 samples tested, 4,228 persons were found 4,228 persons were found infected with confirmed Covid-19. Out of a total number of 1,54,98,728 per-sons tested for Covid-19 so far in the state, 9,32,892 were found infected with the virus and of them, 8,99,721 recovered while undergoing treatment while 25,850 are still active with the virus.

Chittoor district found to be the worst hit by continuing to register the highest number of Covid-19 infections daily and on Tuesday, it registered 842, followed by 622 in Guntur, 538 in East Godavari, 414 in Visakhapatnam, 334 in 271 in Srikakulam, 268 in Nellore, 261 in Krishna, 130 in Vizianagaram, 128 in Anantapur, 88 in Kurnool and 48 in West

Among Coronavirus cumulative active cases, Chittoor recorded the highest at 4,947 followed by 3,246 in Guntur, 3,043 in by 3,246 in Guntur, 3,043 in Visakhapatnam, 2,876 in Krishna, 1,939 in Nellore, 1,743 in Srikakulam, 1,558 in East Godavari, 1,531 in Prakasam, 1,480 in Kurnool, 1,323 in Kadapa, 1,157 in Anantapur, 710 in Vizianagaram and 297 in

West Godavari. With regard to the Covid-19 deaths, Chittoor district registered four, followed by two in Nellore and one each in Guntur, Krishna, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam, raising the death toll to 7,321. The state health authori-

ties discharged 1,483 Covid-19 infected patients after recovery in the last 24 hours. AP conducted Covid-19

tests on 2,90,238 samples per one million population and registered the a Kadapa, 284 in Prakasam, positive rate of 6.02.

Araku tourism hit for second year

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, APRIL 13

Summer tourism Araku valley draws blank for the second consecutive year with a handful of locals visiting attractive places like Borra caves, Ananthagiri. Araku Valley and Chaprai.

'Only a few hundreds of local people are visiting the valley, and they are not staying overnight. The second wave surge has scared many outsiders, and for the second consecutive year, no tourist from West Bengal visited the Agency," said the divisional manager of AP Tourism Development Corporation, Giri Prasad

Talking to *DC* on Tuesday, Reddy said APTDC hotels and resorts were booked till Ugadi as three holidays preceded the festival, but no fresh enquiries were received. Rajdhani Hotel, the best

and famous hotel in Araku Valley, has no visitors, and the management is not hoping to get any customers in the immediate future due to the surge in the second wave of Covid-19.

"By this time, all our 33 rooms were getting filled and till the onset of southwest moons, the rush remained. Many stayed in tents due to lack of accommodation. But after the virus outbreak last March, things have changed for the worse for agency hotels," said a hotel representative.

He said though the agency is free from the since November, only young couples visit the valley and return by 4 pm. He added that this would hit hard on the people who depended on tourism for gainful employment.

Last year the government opened up hotels after June 10.



Plava Nama begins on fruitful note in Tirumala

Navadhanya art and Janur art steals the show on Ugadi DC CORRESPONDENT Details of all the schemes **NELLORE, APRIL 13**

On the auspicious occasion of Plavanama Ugadi, the Garden wing of TTD made spectacular floral decorations that caught the attention of the devotees on Tuesday.

Starting from the temple entrance to Golden Threshold, the dioramas made of fruits and flowers brought an aesthetic feel of Bhooloka Vaikuntha to the pilgrims.

Matching the occasion, splendid decorations were made in a big way with tonnes of varieties of traditional flowers and thousands of cut flowers. Florists, cutlery artists from Karnataka, and AP did decorations with innovative concepts.
On the whole, eight

tonnes of traditional flowers, 70,0000 cut flowers were donated by donors from Hyderabad, Salem, while decorations were by artists from done Vijayawada Bengaluru.

This year unique dioramas using Janur art for the first time were diswnich stood as a special attraction. Janur art is one where the floral decorations are made using Coconut leaves as supportive background over a steel mesh. The roof of Dhwaja Mandapam was decked with Tooti-Frooti sky with varieties of fruits, flowers hanging colourfully. hanging Another special attraction Sri Lakshmi

of Navadhanayas. Dasavataras watermelon also remained a cynosure inside the temple while the elephants, Sri Krishna Leela, outside the temple caught the attention of pilgrims. Garden Superintendent of TTD Srinivasulu supervised the arrangements.

DC CORRESPONDENT

Ugadi is usually revered as the festival of Mother

Nature since the perfect

spring season begins dur-

ing this time, said Hindu

Dharma Prachara Pari-

shat secretary Rajago-

NELLORE, APRIL 13

Narasimha Swamy, made

FROM PAGE 1 schemes to be implement-The first page of the cal-

endar contains details of all the schemes and the second page contains details of the number of people benefited from the different schemes including financial details *July 2021* for the last 22 months from June 2019 to March

He stated that on the third page, the details of YSR Aasara and Pension Kanuka are published. Next to it, the details of implementation of various schemes are published.

May -2021 YSR Free Crop Insurance -2020), the first of the YSR (Kharif

of the Bharosa, the Bharosa phase Rvtu Matyakara (Diesel Subsidy) and the Matyakara Bharosa (subsidy on fishing prohibition) and other regular

June 2021 YSR Cheyutha, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka and other regular schemes to be

The second phase of the Jagananna Vidya Devena, the YSR Kapu Nestham, the YSR Vahana Mitra and other regular schemes to be implemented.

August 2021

Zero Interest loans to farmers (Kharif-2020), farmers (Kharif-2020), Industrial subsidies to MSMEs and spinning mills, the YSR Nethanna Nestham, the payments to Agrigold victims and other regular schemes.

* September 2021* YSR Aasara and other regular schemes.

October -2021 Second phase of the YSR

Jagananna Chedodu, the Jagananna Thodu and other regular schemes.

November -2021 YSR EBC Nestham and other regular schemes

December -2022 Second phase of the Jagananna Vasati Devena and third phase of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena, the YSR Law Nestham and other

January- 2022 The third Phase of YSR Rytu Bharosa, the Jagananna Amma Vodi, the increase of YSR Pension amount to ₹2,500 and other schemes.

February- 2022 The fourth phase of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena schemes.

Covid hits Ugadi celebrations DC CORRESPONDENT AAKINADA ADDII 13 The tilling of the lands with bullocks have already ed. Sources, however, said

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 13

The traditional Ugadi celebrations remained muted in Godavari districts because of the surging cases of Covid-19 disease. The state government used to celebrate Ugadi as an official festival by Panchanga arranging

Sravanam (citation of the Telugu new almanac calendar) programme, recitation of poetry and other cultural activities.

The government could not celebrate the festival officially due to Covid-19 lockdown last year. This year also the Ugadi celebrations were low-profile

palan. Ugadi Mahotsavam

was observed with gran-

deur in Mahati Audito-

rium in Tirupati on Tuesday. The Plavanama

Ugadi was welcomed in a

Mangaladhwani, Veda

Swasti, Bhakti Sangeet,

traditional fancy dress.

UGADI IS FESTIVAL OF MOTHER NATURE

with bullocks have almost lisappeared and also traditional forms of entertainment are also gradually vanishing from the villages.

and officials did not take up any culture progra-mmes due to the second wave of Covid scare. Though there was no lockdown this year, the state culture department has not given permission or issued any instructions to the district administra-tions to hold the festival. Many poets and artists who were eagerly waiting for the fete to prove their talent and also receive

ed. Sources, however, said the shortage of funds at the culture department is another reason for the muted celebrations.

"We welcome the government's decision to suspend the official celebration of traditional festivals like 'Ugadi" to prevent gathering at one place. But the government did not ban other programmes which led to overcrowding. For example, the government has held felicitation functions to volunteers, which was attended by thousands of people", said Chinta Gopi Sarma Siddanti, an almanac writer and also Bhuvaneswari Peetham awards, were disappoint- chief at Peddapuram.

SPIRITUAL BOOKS RELEASED

DC CORRESPONDENT

NELLORE, APRIL 13

series of spiritual books released on the auspicious day of Plavanama Samvatsara Telugu Ugadi on Tuesday in Tirumala. TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, EO Dr K.S.

Jawahar Reddy released these books in Rangan-

ayakula Mandapam. They said the coffee table book gives a broad view of Tirumala temple and TTD activities while the five other spiritual books written by Vedic exponents.

MOSQUES TOLD TO FOLLOW COVID

JAGAN WISHES RAMADAN KAREEM

DC CORRESPONDENT

Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy wished the Muslims of Telugu states on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. He wished that all the Muslim brothers and sisters would observe this holy month of fasting, which is observed with strict observance of the rules and regula-tions for a month, and may Allah bless them.

Mr Jagan said that this month is of utmost importance to Muslims as the revelation of the Holy Quran by the great Prophet Muhammad took place during the month of Ramadan. He said Ramadan is not only the initiation of fasting, but also the great initiation into eradicating evil feelings, iniquity and hatred in man.

ASTANAM HELD AT KASAPURAM HANUMAN SHRINE

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, APRIL 13

Ugadi astanam held at Gadi astanam heid at Kasapuram Lord Hanuman temple in Guntakal mandal in the district. The historic temple has a tradition of the standard of annual Ugadi celebrations every year. In view of the Covid 19 pandemic, the endowment department took necessary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during the Telugu New Year celebrations that started on

Tuesday.
The Hanuman temple has five centuries-old historic as Sri Vyasaraja Theertha, Rajaguru of Vijayanagar Empire consecrated the Lord Hanuman statue found inside a tree near Nettikanti in Guntakal mandal. As part of his tour, the saint set up the idol of Lord Hanuman by inserting a saligram in one of the eyes of Lord Hanuman statue. The temple became a healing centre for people with psychological disorders, mostly with demons' assumptions.

The Hanuman temple has been part of Ugadi Celebrations every year. The Anantapur endow ment department assiscommissioner Ramanjineyulu led celebrations at Kasapuram temple. As part of celebrations, panchanga shravanam was held at Gramotsavam held in the main streets of Kasapuram on Tuesday night.

Assistant commissioner Ramanjineyulu said the Covid-19 norms being followed at all parts of temple premis-

DON'T INDULGE IN BETTING: SP

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 13

The East Godavari Superintendent Police urged the cricket lovers and the youths not to indulge in any cricket betting and fall into a trap of cricket bookies on the eve of IPL match. He said that the cricket bookies are making use of the innocence of the youths.

COVID | PANDEMIC | Prayers will be performed amid Coronavirus restrictions

Ramzan month starts today

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL. 13

Ramzan prayers would be performed once again amidst restrictions imposed by the government in the wake of a surge in Coronavirus cases. The Muslims had observed Ramzan fast under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic last vear also.

The Islamic month of Ramzan, which is considered a holy month by the Muslims, will begin on

Corona guidelines for the prayers to be conducted in mosques.
The AP State Waqf
Board (APSWB) issued a

circular on the commencement of Ramzan instructing all managing bodies of Waqf institutions to make necessary arrangements at mosques and Idgah grounds to avoid inconvenience to the namazis following the Covid-19 protocol. According to APSWB's

Wednesday. The government has issued a set of be made available at the Hand sanitisers should entry and exit points at every waqf institution by its management.

> instructions, hand sanitisers should be made available at the entry and exit points at every wakf institution by its management. Before entering the masjid, everybody must sanitise his hands with a sanitiser or a soap. "Social distancing at the

entry and exit of the mosque must be maintained," it directed. The Namazis/Musallies

visiting the wakf institutions must use masks mandatorily and follow social distance. Hugging and handshake need to be avoided. Only asymptomatic persons would be allowed in the mosques. Senior citizens, children and people with cough, cold or fever are advised to avoid visiting the

The APSWB has also

ordered frequent clean-ing and disinfection of the mosque after every prayer. Masjid floor, Wazu area, toilet area, must be cleaned multiple times with phenyl, Dettol and other disinfectants. Cleaning of masjid carpets and wadhu/ablution tank (House) also need to be ensured. The community kitchens, langars, Annadaan etc., must follow physical distancing norms during the preparation and distribution of

NORMS DURING RAMZAN MONTH DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, APRIL 13

In the view of month-long holy Ramzan celebrations, the minority welfare wing guidelines issued Mutavallies, Imams and also devotees follow Covid norms across the state. The circular has to be publicised in all mosques and requests to follow the directions strictly for a period of one month.

From day one huge public will be attending the mosque for a month and need to follow the safety instructions without fail Shakeel Safi Mutavalli Jamia mosque Anantapur

and also President of AP Mutavalli and Managing Committees Welfare Association (APSWB)

In the light of ensuing Ramzan, all the inspector Auditor waqfs and management of the state's waqf institutions are directed to make necessary arrangements at the masques and Idgahs to take preventive measures during five times prayer and lftar, by following Covid-19 protocol.

lt is the responsibility of the Managements of wagf institutions to ensure the safety of the devotees duly taking necessary health precautions.

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

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 13

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

Puri superintendent of police (SP) Samarth Verma took to his Twitter handle and

shared the news.
"We have fined our own
Traffic constable of ₹2,000 for not wearing a mask. And he, as responsible citizen has paid," the SP tweeted.

In his post, the SP cautioned the public to always wear a mask, else pay the penalty.

On April 9, the Odisha government doubled the fine amount for violation of the mask-wearing norm.
Accordingly, violators will have to pay ₹2,000 for the first two violations and ₹5,000 for

subsequent offences.
The same day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in a video message to the people of the state, initiated 14-day 'Mask Abhiyaan' and urged them to wear masks properly in order to make it a habit.

Earlier, the fine was ₹1,000 for first two violations and ₹5,000 for subsequent offences.

MP: SHGs, NGOs **TO RUN COVID CARE CENTRES**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, APRIL 13

In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Madhya government on Tuesday decided to hand over the management of some Covid care centres in the state to self-help groups (SHGs) and non-government organisa-

tions (NGOs).
Chief Minister Shivraj Singh
Chouhan said he has already
initiated the move to train SHG members to run the Covid care centres in their respective areas. He has also offered the NGOs to run such

Sources disclosed to this newspaper that the state government was mulling the option of roping in reputed NGOs having expertise in the health sector to establish Covid care centres in the state with necessary help from the

Talking to reporters here, Chouhan said there was no shortage of life saving drugs such as Remdesivir or oxygen in the nospitals treating the Covid-19 patients. He also said beds for Covid-19 patients have been increased by setting up Covid care centres in different districts in the state.

Covid care centres have already been set up in 43 districts and work on establishing such centres in the rest nine districts is in progress.

K.J. JALEEL QUITS AFTER LOKAYUKTA INDICTMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

Kerala higher education minister K.T. Jaleel who was indicted by Lokayukta for nepotism, abuse of power and breach of oath of office, resigned here on Tuesday.

Jaleel sent his resignation to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the latter forwarded it to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

In an emotional Facebook post Jaleel said that those who were baying for his blood could find some relief now. The minister's resignation came hours before the Kerala High Court was scheduled to hear his plea challenging the

Lokayukta damning report. In his petition Jaleel had contended that the Lokayukta findings were not based on evidence or proper investigations, hence the ruling should be set aside by the high court. The Lokayukta had indicted him of appointing his close relative K.T. Adeeb by altering the educational qualifications needed for the post of general manager, state minorities development finance cor-

The division bench of Lokayukta had ruled that the charge of abuse of power, favouritism and nepotism against Jaleel had been proved.

It was the Muslim Youth League leadership which had first alleged that Jaleel's cousin Adeeb, was appointed general manager, flouting rules. At the time of appointment, Adeeb was working as manager of a private bank.



Guest workers arriving from Maharashtra rest outside Patna junction on Tuesday, as Coronavirus cases spike across the country.

Mistakes of past need not constrain our thinking: PM

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

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented us an opportunity to reshape the world order and we must think of the entire humanity and not merely of those who are on our side of the borders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, adding that "we in India have tried to walk the talk (and) have tried to protect our own 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic" but that despite many constraints, India had still "supplied pandemic" vaccine to over 80 coun-

Acknowledging that "the supplies have been modest" and the "demands huge", he said it would "be a long time before the entire humani-

thinking and action

MAHA: 11 DIE,

OF OXYGEN

Congress, Sena fear Kumbh returnees may worsen crisis Sanjay Raut also expressed apprehension number of Coronavirus

that the people returning

from Kumbh mela in

Haridwar will turn out to

be potential carriers of

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, APRIL 13

Senior Congress leader and Maharashtra Cabinet minister Asalam Shaikh criticised the BJP led-Uttarakhand government for not enforcing the Covid related norms in Kumbh Mela. Shaikh stated that these were the same people who alleged that Tablighi Jamaat had spread the virus. Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP

share its "experiences, the future". expertise and resources

Without taking the name of the BJP, Shaikh said that the same people who accused the Tablighi

Jamaat of spreading Covid in the country have allowed lakhs of people to gather at Kumbh Mela He claimed that the

India would continue to strain our thinking for

PM Modi further point-Advocating that that in the fight against the must be at the centre of the entire humanity as a whole must be at the centre of the expertise and resources with the entire humanity and out that "while humanity has not faced the Third World War, the threat of violence has not the expertise and resources are resources and resources and resources and resources are res deeds of the past seven—reduced in people's lives: PM Modi promised that decades need not con- and that "with a number conference in the Capital gotten."

of proxy wars and unending terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present".

patients are increasing by four times in Haridwar. The Congress

leader said that
Uttarakhand Chief
Minister Tirath Singh
Rawat should be held
accountable for Cobid

spread. "When many states are invoking sec-

tion 144 to avoid the gath-

ering of more than five people, the Uttarakhand

CM is giving opportunity to gather lakhs of peo-

ple," Shaikh said.

The Prime Minister was delivering an address at the four-day sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogu

mat on Tuesday. Calling upon the participants "to emerge as a powerful voice for a approach", he reminded them that "while we may be used to having Plan A and plan B, there is no Planet B, only planet Earth" and that "we must remember that we hold this planet merely as trustees for our future Generations"

that began in Virtual for-

The Raisina Dialogue is "India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016" and is "jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the (thinktank). Observer, Peccel ktank) Observer Research Foundation (ORF). PM Modi said, "Is it per-

haps because in the race of economic development the concern for welfare of humanity has been left behind. Is it perhaps because in the age of competition, the spirit of

ve started melting and

breaking due to the heat.

he said, adding that mec-

hanics are being called to

The Ashvini Kumar Crematorium, the oldest such facility in Surat, is also facing similar issues

and its management has

decided to increase the

number of traditional

wood pyres to manage the rush of bodies in case

of maintenance issues in

"We operate 10 gas fur-

replace those parts.

Maha govt imposes stern curbs till May 1

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday announced imposition of prohibitory CrPC (sanchar-bandhi) from 8.00 pm on Wednesday to 7.00 am May 1 in order to break the chain of the

Public transport will continue to function only for essential workers and for essential activities for general public.

Coronavirus.

Nobody would be allowed to use the public transport without a valid reason excluding the people noti-fied under essential services in an order issued by the disaster management unit of the Relief and Rehabilitation department," Thackeray said in his video

address to people.
Stating that the situation is very grim in Maharashtra, Thackeray said that the government would use this 15 days period to scale up its health infrastructure.

Maharashtra

Tuesday reported 60,212 new cases taking total positive cases to 5,93,042. The state also reported 281 deaths on Tuesday.

Underlining the shortage of oxygen and Remdesivir injection among other things, Thackeray said, "at present, 1,200 MT oxygen is being produced in our state. Of these, 950 to 1,000 MT oxygen are being used daily. The demand for Remdesivis injection is also

increasing."
The Chief Minister also said he will speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request him to provide the Indian Air Force's assistance in the supply of oxygen for medical use from nearby states.

Petrol pumps, financial institutions associated with SEBI, ATMs, and construction work would also continue. Hotel and restaurants would remain closed and only take-away/home deliveries would be allowed.

Thackeray also appealed to retired nurses, doctors and health workers to extend their help during the Covid



Bollywood actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty during a roadshow in support of party candidate Jagannath Sarkar (R), ahead of the 5th phase of West Bengal Assembly polls, at Santipur in Nadia district on Tuesday.

Didi calls off Dharna as EC acts against three BJP leaders

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, APRIL 13

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

Though the Trinamul Congress supremo had announced she would sit on dharna from 12 noon, she reached the Gandhi Statue at the Maidan, which falls under the authority of the Army's Eastern Command as it is defence land, quite

From 11.45 am Banerjee, in her wheelchair, began her silent protest, also a rare scene, sitting there alone. As she was seen talking on

her mobile before getting busy at painting, it came to light that her party's appli-cation to the defence ministry for permission for her demonstration at the venue was yet to be cleared. Command

spokesman Wing Commander Mandeep Huda said: "We have received the application from the Trinamul Congress for a no objection certificate for the Gandhi statue protest. It was received at 9.40 am today. It is under process. We have not yet issued the NOC for that. We are processing it as per laid down procedures

and guidelines."

Meanwhile the Election
Commission, in wake of the TMC's questions on its impartiality, ordered a 48hour campaign ban, starting from 12 noon on Tuesday, on Habra Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Rahul Sinha for his inflammatory remarks on the killings of four persons by the Central paramilitary forces at

Shitalkuchi in Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of the polls.

"Not four, eight people should have been shot dead by the Central forces there! The Central forces should be issued a showcause notice asking why they killed only four and not eight. Goons are trying to deprive people of their democratic rights. Central forces responded appropriately. If it happens again, they will answer again," the former state Bharatiya Janata Party president had claimed at a campaign rally on Monday.

After the order, he however said: "I hold the Election Commission in high respect. But it is a severe punishment to me.'

The Election Commission also served a showcause notice to Ghosh directing him to explain his recent threat to "repeat the Shitalkuchi-style killings at many places" during the polls by 10 am on

polls by 10 am on Wednesday. The poll panel also warned and advised Adhikari, after getting his reply to its notice on his "begum" remark, in a veiled reference to Banerjee, and his assertion that voting for his political opponent would imply voting for a "mini-Pakistan", "to desist from using such statements while making public utterances during the period when the Model Code of Conduct is in force".

Five hours before the end of the ban on her campaign, Banerjee cut short her dharna at around 3 pm and headed for home at Harish Street Chatterjee

Resuming her campaign on Tuesday evening, Banerjee said: "On one hand the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders will keep campaigning while on the other hand I cannot campaign. You be the judge... I will leave it to the masses to judge... I fail to understand why there has been an all-round attempt to stop me from campaigning," the chief minister said at Barasat in North 24 Parganas.

Frames of crematorium furnaces melt due to rush of bodies in Guj. frames and chimneys ha-

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, APRIL 13

KIN BLAME LACK

Eleven Covid deaths were reported at two hospitals at Nalasopara in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Tuesday. While angry relatives of the deceased blamed it on the oxygen shortage, the government officials denied the allegations saying both the hospitals have ample oxygen stock. The deaths occurred as the patients

were critical, they said.

According to Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation officials, seven deaths were reported from the Vinayak hospital, four patients died at the Riddhi Vinayak hospital. Both the hospitals are treating Covid patients. The relatives of the deceased stormed the hospitals as the rumour spread that the deaths were caused due to the shortage of oxygen.

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

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

pandemic, officials said

on Tuesday.

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

MP GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER ALL CREMATORIUMS IN RAIPUR DISTRICT

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC RAIPUR, APRIL 13

Raipur district administration Tuesday took over all the 18 crematoriums and burial grounds falling under city civic limits in the wake of opposition to cremation of bodies of Covid-19 victims by the locals in some areas. Raipur district collec-

"Before Coronavirus outbreak last year, around 20 bodies were cremated at the Kurukhsetra Crematorium every day. Now, there is a sudden rush of bodies. At present, we are handling about 100 bodies per day,"

tor S. Bharathidasan took stock of the situation in a video conference with officers concerned and ordered use of all the 18 crematoriums and burial grounds falling under Raipur Municipal Corporation for performing funeral rites of the deceased Covid-19 victims. Earlier, two crematoriums were used for cremation of the bodies of the Covid-19 victims.

Kamlesh Sailor, president of a trust which manages the crematorium, said. Sailor said six gas furnaces at their facility are now being operated 24 hours and hence, the temperature there reaches up to 600

naces and three wood pyres. Earlier, we used to cremate about 30 bodies every day. Now, the number has gone up to 90-95, the crematorium's manager, Prashant Kabrawala, said. Since the furnaces are being operated round-the-clock, some of their iron frames have melted due to overheat-

the gas furnaces.

degrees Celsius.

HAPPY I TIMES India, Pak are religiously observing ceasefire pact since Feb.

J&K: Marriage feast returns along LoC

India and Pakistan adhere to ceasefire agreement after years of crossborder shelling, marriage celebrations have silently returned to villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. Director General of Operations Military (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan agreed uphold ceasefire along

the borders in the Union

of February 24 and 25, bringing respite to the

The original ceasefire agreement was reached that were the worst-hit by between the nations in November 2003 but it virtually lost its relevance after 2006 due to frequent ceasefire violations that touched an all-time high

incidents of firing and shelling being recorded. residents who were reeling under the constant brought relief to the borthweet of chelling from threat of shelling from der residents who across the border. resumed activities like farming and schooling

> Pakistani shelling. With both countries observing the ceasefire agreement religiously since February, people have also started cele

own houses instead of moving the events to safer places outside the villages, the officials said. They said brightly illu-

minated wedding houses are a common sight on the borders these days in both Poonch and Rajouri districts as are people dancing to drums and accompaniments, a sight which many have forgot-

fear of shelling and the practice of observing complete darkness to escape being attacked during the hostilities.

"We are happy to witness such celebrations after a very long time,' Parvez Ahmad, a groom from village Gagriya along the zero line in Sawian area of Poonch



IN BRIEF

Egypt releases

activist: Lawyer

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

Biden dog goes back to school

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

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

Tennessee school shooting: 1 dead

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

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

"Upon approach of the subject, shots were fired."

Vatican probe: U.S. Bishop quits

Rome, April 13: A Minnesota bishop who was investigated by the Vatican for allegedly interfering with past investi-gations into clergy sexual abuse has resigned.

The Vatican said Tuesday that Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Michael Hoeppner and named a temporary replacement to run the Crookston diocese. Hoeppner is 71, four years shy of the normal retirement age for bishops. The Vatican did not say why Francis accepted the resignation, but the Vatican in 2019 authorised an investigation into claims that Hoeppner had engaged in "acts or omissions intended to interfere with or avoid civil or canonical investigations of clerical sexual misconduct.

The Vatican tasked St Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda with conducting the investigation. Hoeppner is accused of stating that a priest was fit for ministry despite allegedly knowing the priest had abused a 16-year-old boy.

HK's LEGISLATIVE POLL TO TAKE PLACE IN DEC.

Hong Kong, April 13: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday that the semiautonomous Chinese territory's legislative elections will take place in December, more than a year after they were postponed by authorities citing public health risks from the Corona-

virus pandemic. Lam also said that laws will be amended so that inciting voters not to vote or to cast blank or invalid votes will be made illegal, although voters themselves are free to boycott voting or cast votes as they wish. "When a person willfully obstructs or prevents any person from voting at an election we will consider it corrupt co

nduct," said Lam Lam said that the elections will take place on Dec. 19. The elections were initially slated to be held last September. Lam was speaking a day ahead of the first reading of draft amendments to various laws in the city's legislature, to accommodate Beijing's planned changes to the city's electoral system. Beijing in March announced changes to Hong Kong's electoral system, expanding the number of seats in the legislature while reducing the number of directly-elected seats from 35 to 20.

The move is part of a twophase effort to rein in political protest and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a more liberal political system.

Iran to enrich uranium to highest level

Dubai, April 13: Iran will begin enriching uranium to 60 per cent purity, higher than the programme ever has before though still short of weapons grade, after an attack on its Natanz nuclear facility, an Iranian negotiator said Tuesday. The annou ncement marks a significant escalation after the sabotage, suspected to have been carried out by Israel. It could result in further action by Israel, whose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and further raise tensions across the Mideast. Nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi's comment, quoted by the staterun İRNA news agency, came after Iran's foreign minister warned that the weekend assault could hurt ongoing negotiations over its tattered atomic deal with world powers.

Those talks are aimed at finding a way for the United States to re-enter the agreement, the goal of which is to limit Iran's enrichment of uranium in exchange relief on sanctions. Iran had been enriching up to 20 per cent. That is a short technical step to weapons-gr-

ade levels of 90 per cent. The International Atomic Energy Agency said it was aware of the media reports but had no comment at the time. *Press TV*, the Iranian state television's English-language

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

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

arm, separately said that the IAEA had been informed of the move. It said the enrichment would begin as of Wednesday. broadcaster also quoted the negotiator as saying Iran would introduce another 1,000 centrifuges at Natanz, without elaborating.

500 troops to be added by US in Germany: Austin

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

'This planned increase in US personnel underscores our commitment to Germany and the entire NATO alliance," Austin said in a notable counterpoint to the Trump administration's repeated complaints that Germany is a weak partner on defence and security.

Austin made the announcement after talks with German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on his first tour of Europe since becoming Pentagon chief in January. Kramp-Karrenbauer welcomed the announcement as a "strong signal" of a healthy US-German relationship. They also discussed a pending decision by President Joe Biden on whether to withd-raw completely from Afghanistan by May 1, a deadline the Trump administration pledged to the Taliban militants.

Germany is a key part of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan. Austin said at a joint news conference with Kramp-Karrenbauer that the extra 500 US troops will be stationed permanently in Germany's Wiesbaden area as early as this fall.

These forces will strengthen deterrence and defence in Europe. They will augment our existing abilities to prevent conflict, and, if necessary, fight and win," Austin said in prepared remarks. "This move will also cre-

ate more space, more cyber, and more electronic warfare capabilities in Europe," he added, and he said it will "greatly improve our ability to surge forces at a moment's notice to defend our allies Last year, President

Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of 12,000 troops from Germany as retribution for what he considered Germany's refusal to spend more on its own defence. Austin suspended that move shortly after taking office. He said decisions on troop levels would be made as part of a comprehensive review of the US military presence around the wo-

rld, including in Europe. Austin's announcement on Tuesday is the first concrete indication that he may not carry out the Trump decision, which included moving US European Command headquarters from Germany

The US currently has about 35,000 troops in Germany. Asked by a reporter whether the decision to add 500 troops means Washington will not carry out Trump's move, Austin said the Pentagon has "ceased planning" for troop reductions. The German minister said she had Biden's word that "there will be no troop reduction as was previously planned." -AP

Washington, April 13: US health authorities recommended a "pause" Tuesday in the use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine "out of an abundance of caution" over potential links to a

immunisation campaign. The disorder appears similar to that observed in rare cases of people who received the AstraZeneca vaccine in Europe — and the shots by both compa-nies are based on adenovirus vector technology. The US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control are assessing the "pot-ential significance" of six reported cases of a type of clot in the brain called ce-

rebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia). All the cases involved women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred six to 14

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

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

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



US suggests 'pause' in use of

J&J vax over blood clot fears

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

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

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

The J&J vaccine was celebrated for the fact it can be stored at fridge temper ature and requires just one dose — unlike Pfizer and Moderna that need

two and require freezing. But even before the pause, the company was affected by supply problems after a contractor spoiled 15 million doses that never

J&J delays Europe vax rollout

gate reports of potentially

dangerous blood clots.

We have been reviewing

these cases with European health authorities," Johnson & Johnson said.

"We have made the deci-

sion to proactively delay

the rollout of our vaccine

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

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

likely to maintain a high

ended up shipping.

in Europe." The delay is a further blow to vaccinati-The FDA said that norm-Nonetheless, with Pfizer ally, an anticoagulant drug and Moderna continuing called heparin is used to to deliver their hundreds treat these blood clots, but of millions of promised doses on time, the US is in this case administering

heparin might be danger-That might be because

on drives in European nations, plagued by supply shortages, logistical problems and concerns over unusual blood clots in a small number of people who received the AstraZeneca vaccine. The blood clot reports prompted several countries to limit the vaccine to older age groups.

rare reaction to heparin, in which the body forms antibodies in response to the thinner which in turn triggers platelets to form

the disorder resembles a

UN: MYANMAR MAY SEE HUGE CONFLICT

Geneva, April 13: The UN rights chief warned Tuesday of possible crimes against humani-ty in Myanmar and said it seemed to be neading towards a massive conflict like the one ravaging Syria.

In a statement, the UN rights office urged countries to take immediate and decisive action to push the military leaders behind a February 1 coup in Myanmar to stop their "campaign of repression and slaughter of its people."

"I fear the situation in Myanmar is heading towards a full-blown conflict," Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in the statement. "States must not allow

the deadly mistakes of the past in Syria and elsewhere to be repeat-Myanmar is in chaos and its economy paralysed since the military seized power from civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1.

A junta crackdown against dissent has resulted in the civilian death toll reaching at least 710 as of late Monday including 50 children, according to a local monitoring group.

US, Nato turning Ukraine into 'powder keg', accuses Russia

otner Nato countries of turning Ukraine into a "powder keg," after the West sounded the alarm over Russian soldiers massing on the border.

"The United States and other Nato countries are deliberately turning Ukraine into a powder keg," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Rvabkov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies, adding that countries were increasing their arms supplies to Ukraine.

Clashes between Ukrainian forces and Moscowbacked separatists in eastern Ukraine have escalated in recent weeks, upending a ceasefire brokered last vear. Following an uptick in violence, Russia has built up troops along the border, raising fears of a major escalation in the long-running conflict in Ukraine's mainly Russianspeaking east.

If there is any aggravation, we of course will do everything to ensure our security and the safety of our citizens, wherever they are," Ryabkov said. "But Kiev and its allies

in the West will be entirely responsible for the consequences of a hypothetical

Moscow, April 13: Moscow on Tuesday accused the United States and Withholding Quran: US TO LEAVE Navalny to sue jail

Moscow, April 13: Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Tuesday he was suing his prison for withholding the Quran, which he intended to study while serving time in a prison outside Moscow. Navalny has been on a hunger strike for two weeks, protesting prison officials' refusal to let his physician examine him behind bars after he developed severe back and leg pain.

But he said Tuesday in an Instagram post that his first lawsuit against prison officials had to do with the Muslim holy book.

exacerbation," he added.

On Tuesday morning, a Ukrainian soldier was killed and two more injured near the village of Mayorske some 35 kilometres (21 miles) north of the separatist stronghold Donetsk when a drone dropped grenades on the positions of Kiev's troops, the military said. The latest casualty brought the number

"The thing is, they're not giving my Quran. And it pisses me off," Navalny said, adding that "deeply studying" the Quran was one of several "self-improvement" goals he set for himself while in prison. The politician said he hasn't been given access to any of the books he brought or ordered over the past month, because they all need to be "inspected for extrem-ism," which officials say takes three months.

"So I wrote one more petition to the (prison) chief and filed a lawsuit, Navalny said.

of Ukrainian troops killed since the start of the year to 29, compared to 50 in all of 2020. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was in Brussels on Tuesday, where he met with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg. Kuleba was also set to meet with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Brussels later

TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN BEYOND MAY

Washington, April 13: President Joe Biden has decided to leave American troops in Afghanistan beyond the May 1 deadline negotiated with the Taliban by the Trump administration, and has set the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks as the new goal, US officials said Tuesday.

Biden has been hinting for weeks that he was going to let the deadline lapse, and as the days went by it became clear that an orderly withdrawal of the remaining 2,500 troops would be difficult and was unlikely. US officials provided details on Biden's decision on condition of anonymity, speaking ahead of the announcement. His decision risks retaliation by the Taliban on US and Afghan forces possibly escalating the 20year war. And it will reignite political division over America's involvement in what many have called the endless war.

TRIBAL I TRADITION Kingdom undergoing dramatic economic, social reforms

Saudis keep 'Taasheer' war dance alive

Taif, Saudi Arabia, April 13: In Saudi Arabia's west, classic muzzle-loading rifles are carefully prepared for the traditional 'Taasheer" war dance, a striking display of leaping and gunpowder blasts.

Men and boys take weapons laid out in the bed of a truck and fill the barrels with gunpowder before, one by one, they take centre stage to showcase their skills in what is also known as the fire

Dozens of onlookers, including women and chil-

dren, stand on the sidelines of a grassy clearing lined with gazebo tents. In a collision of the ancient and the modern, some hold up mobile phones to film the spectacle.

Barefoot and in their traditional thobe and ghutra headdress, the performers dance to traditional music against the backdrop of mountains in the western province of Taif

They bounce up and down with their knees pressed close together, as they wave the gun and finally reach for the sky

and fire at the ground, resulting in a blast of sparks and smoke under their feet.

tribal tradition believed to date back hundreds of years, the dance is now performed at weddings, festivals and on other special occasions. In a rapidly modernising

kingdom, which is undergoing dramatic economic and social reforms spearheaded by the de facto Črown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudis are seeking to maintain some long-held

traditions.

"Taasheer dance is the popular heritage of the people of Taif. It is considered an essential event at all occasions," Salman al-Tuweirgi, owner of a cof-

fee shop in Taif, said. He said that the dance, originally performed before battle to motivate fighters and intimidate opponents, has been passed down from generation to generation.

"It is an ancient war dance, and we are preserving it in this way," said Tuweiri.

"Thank God, we still continue this tradition so it will last forever.'

Young boys also take part in the dance, training at first with an unloaded weapon until they are able to handle the gun.

'We increase the level of training as they become more capable of performing the dance," said Tuweiri. "It is a popular legacy... and we are teaching our children how to do it so that they too in the future will train their chil-

Protest after chief says cop meant to use Taser

April 13: Police clashed with protesters for a second night in the Minneapolis suburb where an officer who authorities say apparently intended to fire a Taser, not a handgun, fatally shot a PoC man during a traffic stop.
Brooklyn Centre Police Tim Gannon described Sunday's shooting death of 20-year-old Daunte Wright as "an accidental discharge. The shooting sparked protests and unrest in an area already on edge because of the trial of the first of four police offi-

cers charged in George Floyd's death. Hundreds of protesters faced off against police in Brooklyn Centre after nightfall Monday, and hours after a dusk-todawn curfew was announced by the governor. the protesters When wouldn't disperse, police began firing gas canisters and flash-bang grenades, sending clouds wafting over the crowd and chasing some protesters away.

A long line of police in riot gear began slowly forcing back the remain-









Chronicle 14 APRIL 2021

Vaccine crisis intensifies, scale up production now

he decision of the subject expert committee of the Central Drugs and Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), the country's drugs regu-latory agency, to recommend Russia's Covid vaccine Sputnik V for emergency use authorisation is a welcome, if not belated, step. The CDSCO cleared the Sputnik V for use, making it the third such product available in the country. The vaccine, developed by Russia-based Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, is based on the human adenoviral vector platform and has a proven efficacy rate of 91.6 per cent in the interim analysis of phase 3 clinical trial. It may be remembered that the CDSCO panel had in February deferred its decision on the emergency licence seeking additional data on immunogenicity from the Indian company that was conducting the bridge study in the country.

The Russian vaccine is expected to join India's fight against the virus at a time when the country is facing two crises — one, an unprecedented spike in the daily caseload of Covid-19, and two, short supply of the two vaccines

The government did little planning on both upgrading the healthcare infrastructure and on rolling out an inoculation programme despite it getting almost a year since the pandemic arrived here

manufactured locally. Data on every single parameter, from the number of new infections to total active cases to test positivity rate and fatality rate, show a new high, putting the nation on the edge. There are reports from several states including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh of the healthcare infrastructure coming under extreme strain as we had witnessed in the United States and Italy last year when the first wave of the pandemic hit the world. On top of it, India is facing a shortage of vaccines with several states complaining about being compelled to close down many vaccination centres. The Union government and the Prime Minister had lost no opportunity in going to town with the

story of the two made-in India vaccines going to help the world contain the pandemic but the reality at home is starkly different from the claims.

It must not go unsaid that the government did little planning on both upgrading the healthcare infrastructure and on rolling out an inoculation programme despite it getting almost a year since the pandemic arrived here. Several state governments relaxed the restrictions imposed during the lockdown even on social, political and religious gatherings without recognising the fact that the virus had not gone. And the nation now is made to pay a price for it. There was little planning on the manufacturing and distribution of the vaccines either. Both the companies that manufacture the vaccines in India are finding it difficult to meet their targets due to a variety of reasons, which include shortage of funds and even raw materials. The government's lackadaisical approach has landed them in a vicious circle. The Serum Institute of India (\$\hat{SII}\), which manufactures Covishield, has been served a notice by its foreign partner AstraZenaca for reneging on its obligation of exports, which hit the company's cash flow. SII and Bharat Biotech, which manufactures Covaxin, have both reportedly approached the Centre for funds. The government must immediately consider their request and facilitate ramping up production. Plucking the low-hanging fruits is easy, but going for the ones at the top is tough. The government must realise it.

Winners and losers

n what must rate as one of the finest IPL innings seen in a big run chase came the lesson that sometimes even the most valorous must bow to the dic-Lattes of Lady Fortune. Success and failure are not the same as victory and defeat as there will always be valiant sportsmen who shine as winners like Sanju Samson even if he did end up on the losing side. A gifted cricket writer used to describe the limited-overs game as "a perfumed harlot" who bestowed her favours one minute and dashed your hopes the next. Samson must have felt the weight of such an allegory as he took it upon himself to keep the strike and aim for that one more lofted drive for victory on a night of inspired stroke

Golf must seem even more of a perfumed harlot in between the ball and the lip of the cup that makes the hole.

play and keen reading of the cricket compass. As it transpired, a yard or so made all the difference between victory and defeat as Rajasthan Royals' skipper Samson was caught on the line to leave the Punjab Kings the victors. It was clear the bestowing of enough though who the star gladiator of the night favours as there was. It was a similar story but one with the happiest ending for another sportsman at the other end of the world as Hideki Matsuyama of Japan held on to his lead to earn the right to wear the coveted Green Jacket at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia Golf must seem even more of a perfumed harlot in the bestowing of favours as there can be many

a slip between the ball and the lip of the cup that makes the hole. No victory could have been more dramatic and more inspiring than that of a Japanese journeyman golfer scaling Olympian heights. Eyebrows may rise at the sight of international sportsmen minting millions while billions cower in fear of the virus. But IPL has the money to create a safe bio-bubble for players while viewers are entertained in these grim times. It is Japan's wish then that Matsuyama headline the Olympics while the Games go on to show the world that humanity can emerge from the life-and-death fight against the virus.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER

K. SUDHAKAR Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

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Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08



India's isolation likely to grow in the entire region



K.C. Singh

the United States.

ato with

part of Afghan society

and thus any settlement

must include all groups.

This mirrors the Pakistan-

China approach. India views the Taliban with sus-

Then news broke about

USS John Paul Jones sail-

ing 130 nautical miles west

of India's Lakshadweep

Islands, without New

Delhi's permission. Being

within 200 nautical miles of

the island baseline, it fell in

Economic Zone (EEZ). The

US is not a signatory to the

Exclusive

India's

picion, if not hostility.

he said though their rela-

tions have "reached the

ome recent diploof them lowing from shifting global power equations, hold much significance for India. The overlapping visits by Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov and US special presidential climate envoy John Kerry raised eyebrows. India frets over the growing Russian proximity to the China-Pakistan axis. Mr Kerry met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss India's Paris Agreement commitments. But Mr Lavrov could not, either due to Mr Modi's preoccupation with the Assembly elections or India conveying a subtle snub as Mr Lavrov, unmindful of Indian sentiments, combined his Indian trip with one to Pakistan. Also, when Russia hosted an intra-Afghan meeting, India was not invited. To shape events in post-transition Afghanistan, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin's India visit later this year will be against this background. India wants to retain Russian goodwill while enhancing America's role as arms supplier and strategic partner. Thus, India retains its order for Russia's S-400 air defence system, despite US warnings about the inevitable US sanctions under the America's Countering Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). External affairs minister S. Jaishankar termed India-Russia ties as time-tested and warm. Mr Lavrov listed areas of cooperation ranging from combating the Covid-19 pandemic, to nuclear energy, peaceful uses of space and infrastructure projects, in the Far East and the Arctic. Afghanistan, Syria, Iran and the Gulf were also discussed.

Russia strongly supported the Russia-India-China grouping (RIC), besides the East Asia Summit. A Russian role in the Sino-Indian de-escalation in

some nations, under customary international law. UNCLOS Articles 55-75 outline EEZs and the rights and obligations of coastal states. But Article 51 allows Ladakh has been speculat-"other legitimate activied about. Russia realises ties" of non-coastal states in the EEZ. Indian law prethat India-Russia ties will get impacted if Russia's scribes prior approval for military exercises and burgeoning engagement with China is accompanied manoeuvres in its zone. It's by China-India tensions. not clear why the US publi-Both ministers emphasised cised the issue at this stage, the centrality of Asean in but it also underscores the contradiction in India joining its Quad partners in developing cooperative ventures in East Asia. This asserting that right in the addressed Russian concerns, which China shares, Indo-Pacific while, like two score other nations, restricting it in its own EEZ. The US objects to any unilateral delimitation of about the "Quad", of which India is a member alongside Australia, Japan and During his media interacthe high seas as it impacts tion, Mr Lavrov spoke on its naval operations. For many issues. Asked about India, the interpretation is a possible military alliance important as otherwise the naval vessels of China and between Russia and China.

UN Convention on Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS) and asserts its freedom of navi-

gation through such zones.

unilaterally declared by

best level ever", such an islands, the territorial waters, where UNCLOS allows full sovereignty, extending to just 12 nautialliance was not envisaged. In turn, he asked if a Middle Eastern or Asian Nato was possible, thus cal miles. indirectly raising India's Two other important developments are undermembership of the Quad. Russia's primary preoccuway in India's western pation is with the European theatre and neighbourhood. The intra-Afghan dialogue to be host-Ukraine as the ed by Turkey, tentatively on April 16, faces uncertainty. The Taliban friction point. China's focus is on the Indo-Pacific, including South and East demands issues like the withdrawal of American troops by May 1 be settled China Seas, Taiwan and the shoals and islands that its neighbours control or before they name their delegation. The Kabul governclaim. In Central Asia, their interests diverge, as ment's vision, as spelt out Russia will resent any by President Ashraf Ghani at the Heart of Asia confer-Chinese consolidation of ence in Tajikistan, calls for its influence via Belt and Road Initiative projects. a negotiated political settle-India cannot veto Russia's ment and ceasefire before a presidential election and outreach to Pakistan but must have warned it establishment of a "government of peace". Simultaneously Iran and against defence cooperation. On Afghanistan, Mr Lavrov argued that he "Taliban members are a

Pakistan can manoeuvre

near India's mainland and

P-5+1 prepared to meet in Vienna to restore Iranian

Iran and Russia,

India's steadfast

allies during the 1990s to counter the Taliban's rise, are now positioned differently, with one leg in Taliban camp. India is perceived to be in the Saudi-Emirati-US corner.

conformity with the nuclear deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Programme of Action. Neg-otiated during Barack Obama's presidency, it was abandoned by the Trump administration. Israel, stumbling through more post-election uncertainty, took credit for a cyberattack on Iran's nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, causing a power failure. It may have set back the plant by a year. It was intended to undermine the Vienna talks and may do so as the Iranians favouring talks are isolated by such attacks.

In both these developments, India is just a spectator. On March 26, the China-Iran 20-year \$400-600 billion "comprehensive partnership" was announced. Typical of Iranian tactics, a foreign ministry official later called it a "non-binding agreement". Iran was using the China deal to lure the US and European interlocutors to the dialogue table, preferably with sanctions relief in hand. Iran realises that an India unwilling to defy Washington is of marginal use to its strategy of retaining its strategic gains in West Asia and advancements in its nuclear programme while normalising relations with Europe. not also the US.

Similarly, Afghanistan, India can't help Ghani government retain power or even negotiating influence when the Taliban are gaining on the ground and the US keen to cut and run. Iran and Russia, India's steadfast allies during the 1990s to counter the Taliban's rise, are now positioned differently, with one leg in Taliban camp. India is perceived to be in the Saudi-Emirati-US corner, with marginal gains like calibrated de-escalation with Pakistan. The fragility of that and the trio's ineffectiveness in restoring even partial trade between India and Pakistan indicates that Pakistan is recovering its mojo as the master of serial diplomatic blackmail. If India cannot quickly get on top of the pandemic respike, its diplomatic isolation in the neighbourhood

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

LETTERS

A SAD STORY

The sad story that tormented not only India but the entire world in 2020 is repeating. It is mainly because of the people disregarding pandemic protocol. The authorities too relaxed. USA, Europe, **Brazil and Argentina** together with a population of about 135 crores are unable to handle the pandemic despite being developed, educated and rich enough. Unfortunately poor planning by the authorities (obviously so because of a shattered economy) and utter disregard to the protocol by the people led the country into a rather severe second wave.

Govardhana Myneedu Vijayawada

THE RESURGENCE

The unabating resurgence of Covid-19 in several states has stepped up the demand for the life saving drug remdesivir (Demand for remdesivir picks up as Covid resurges, DC, April 13). Banning the export of remedesvir medicine by the Centre for the present is also welcome and appreciated. Further, it needs to revise its vaccination policy and plan for the inoculation of all categories of people in order to control the transmission of virus. Expanding vaccination coverage is the best way to limit the pandemic.

Visakhapatnam



AGARTALA, April. 13 Caught in the early monsoon rains in the eastern districts, Pakistani troops moved under the cover of fighter planes which bombed civilian targets far and wide in the wake of more tactical gains for the liberation forced of Bangla Desh formally proclaimed a republic today.

While the liberation forces at Thakurgaon and Sibganj destroyed airfields to prevent their use by military authorities, they gave a stiff fight to advancing Pakistani army column on Rangpur-Saidpur road as also in the Pabna sector.

Heavy fighting was raging at Dinajpur this evening after a column of Pakistani troops forced its way into the town after a threeday battle in the suburban area.

Dattatreya



Ambedkar's way: It was education that helped him make a difference

abasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar is the greatest exemplar of the belief that education enables a man to overcome all obstacles in life, be they social, cultural or eco-

nomic in nature. Born on April 14, 1891, Ambedkar, whose 130th birth anniversary we are celebrating today, was the 14th and last child of soldier Subedar Ramji Maloji Sakpal and Bhimabai Sakpal, daughter of Laxman Murbadkar. Born into the Mahar (dalit) caste, he experienced caste discrimination and humiliations early in life. But his life is an inspiration to everyone, especially the subaltern wishing to rise in life. With 26 degrees and titles, including PhDs, associated with his name, Ambedkar believed education can alone pave the way for change in society. "Cultivation of the mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence," Ambedkar said. Ambedkar holds the distinction of

first double doctorate holder in economics in South Asia. Ambedkar experienced discrimina-

tion since he was a child. Two incidents had a huge impact on him. Once, while returning home with a cousin after school, they alighted at the railway station in scorching heat and found no one had come to receive them from their village. They managed to hire a bullock cart to travel to their village but on learning the boys were Mahars, the driver forced them to get down from the cart. Babasaheb offered to double the price and even offered to drive the cart himself but the owner refused. On the way, no one allowed them even to drink water. In another incident, Ambedkar went to drink water from a

roadside tap. He was beaten up. Despite the Bole Resolution passed by the Bombay legislature in 1923 called for opening of public places and public water reservoirs to untouchables, there was no change in the plight of the dalits. Ambedkar conceived the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927 to highlight the issue of untouchability discrimination. caste Surendranath Tipnis, president of Mahad municipality declared public spaces open to dalits and invited Ambedkar to hold a meeting in 1927. After the meeting, they proceeded to Chavadar tank. A riot broke out following a rumour that Ambedkar and his followers were planning to enter a Hindu temple in town. In December 1937, the Bombay high court ruled that

and use water from the tank. With the Kalaram temple entry movement, Ambedkar led a protest outside the temple on March 2, 1930, asserting the right of dalits to enter temples. It was a nonviolent movement attended by over 15,000 people, who squatted before the temple and sang bhajans.

untouchables have the right to drink

Throughout his life, Ambedkar fought for securing human rights for the downtrodden and the oppressed. He was the first labour minister of India and also our first law minister. On August 29, 1947, he was appointed chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. He studied the salient features of constitutions of over 60 countries and distilled the best features that suited the Indian context. He is recognised worldwide as the maker of the Indian Constitution.

will only grow.

The Constitution drafted Ambedkar ensures justice and equality to each and every citizen of India. Civil liberties, freedom of religion, abolition of untouchability, reservation and prohibition of all forms of discrimination are the gifts of Ambedkar to Indians. Ambedkar championed economic and social rights for women and advocated affirmative action for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Not many people are aware that Ambedkar refused to draft Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir on grounds that it was discriminatory and against the principles of unity and integrity of the nation. The article was finally drafted by Gopalswamy Ayyangar, former Diwan to Maharaja Hari Singh.

Ambedkar's commitment to equality and justice is best established by his resignation as law minister when the Hindu Code Bill was dropped by Parliament. He had introduced the bill to elevate the social status of Hindu women. Most labour laws protecting the interests of workers are his contribution. He made provisions for maternity benefits for working women.

In 1990, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour. His birth anniversary is celebrated as a day to reflect upon the progress made in achieving social equity and ending oppression.

As a nation, we are going to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Independence in 2022. But even today, all evils against which Ambedkar fought have not been eradicated. The worst of these is communal hatred. The real tribute to Babasaheb would be to establish social and economic justice.

The writer is the governor of





being the first Indian to pursue a doc-

toral degree in economics abroad. He

was the first PhD in economics and the









RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	48,544.06	1.38
Nifty 50	14,504.80	1.36
S&P 500*	4,133.82	0.14
Dollar (₹)	75.06	-0.40
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.11	-0.69
Euro (₹)	89.33	-0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,093 ▼ 130	0.28
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.99	1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.011	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.661	-0.015
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

China's March exports rise 30.6%



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

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

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

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

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

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

made in 2019 in section 31 of IBC, any debt in respect of the payment of dues arising under any law for the time being in force, including the ones owed to the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, which does not form a part of the approved resolution plan, shall stand extinguished. Once a resolution plan is duly approved by the adjudicating authority, the claims as provided in the resolution plan shall stand frozen and will be binding on the Corporate Debtor and its employees, members, creditors, including the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, guarantors and other stakeholders, Justice Gavai, who wrote the 139-page judg-

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

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

The top court was faced with the question whether any creditor, including central or state governments, was bound by the Resolution Plan once it is approved by an adjudicat-

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

Indirect taxes up 12% in FY21

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, APRIL 13

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

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

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

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

Net tax collection on account of central excise and service tax (arrears 2019-20 2.45 2020-21 3.91 2019-20 1.09 2020-21 1.32

Figures in ₹ Lakh crore , and are provisional

Source: Ministry of Finance . KBK Infographic

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

Net customs duty collec-

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

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

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

as demand revives

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



FB, Instagram users can now appeal to Oversight Board

New Delhi, April 13: An independent board set up by Facebook to look into hate speech and other undesirable content on the platform on Tuesday said it will now accept cases Facebook and Instagram users the company wrongfully allowed such content to remain on these

social media platforms. Facebook, which has faced flak in many parts of the world over various issues, including data breaches and handling of hate speech, had set up the Oversight Board last year.

The board includes former judges, journalists human rights activists, who review

Carolina Marin

appeals from users on material that has been down Facebook and Instagram, and make binding content decisions for the social networking platforms.

"Enabling users to appeal content they want to see removed from Facebook is a significant expansion of the Oversight Board's

capabilities," Hughes, director of the Administration, said in a statement.

The Oversight Board said this new capability represents an important step toward delivering a more principled and transparent model of content moderation.

BUSINESS

NON-LIFE GROSS DIRECT PREMIUM UP 5% IN FY21

New Delhi, April 13: The gross direct premium written by the non-life insurance companies saw a 5.2 per cent rise in 2020-21 to Rs 1,98,734.68 crore, Irdai data showed. All the non-life insurance companies had written gross direct premium of Rs 1,88,916.61 crore in 2019-20. In March 2021, the total premium by all the players stood at Rs 19,298.85 crore, up by over 17 per cent from Rs 15,635.42 crore a vear ago. Among the 25 general insurers, the total premium in FY21 rose by 3.35 per cent to Rs 1,69,840.05 crore.

BIS LICENCE FEE CUT FOR STARTUPS

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

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

loaded from e-BIS port. The Bureau of

Indian Standards issues licences with a

INDIA-EU TRADE TALKS TO RESUME



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

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

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Bhuvneshwar is **Player of Month**

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

Kane wins Hadlee medal for 4th time

award since its inception early

this year. — PTI

Wellington: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won his fourth

Sir Richard Hadlee medal for excelling across formats and was also adjudged the 'Test Player of the Year' in the country's annual cricket awards on Tuesday. Devon Conway won the men's ODI and T20 Player of the Year during the 2020-21 awards season which was conducted digitally for a second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic

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

Wizards snap Jazz winning home run

Los Angeles: Bradley Bkeal scored 34 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Washington Wizards ended the Utah Jazz's 24-game home winning streak with a 125-121 victory in Salt Lake City on Monday. Donovan Mitchell delivered a 42-point gem for Utah but could not prevent the understrength Western Conference leaders from sliding to a surprise defeat against a Wizards team struggling near the foot of the East. Utah, with Mike Conley and Jordan Clarkson absent from the line-up, looked to be racing towards a 25th straight home victory after a dazzling opening quarter saw them put up 42

Star-studded field for India Open

Marin, Momota among top entries as badminton action returns to India men), while Malaysia has

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

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

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

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



on May 3," BAI said in a release.

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

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

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

Indian women to tour

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

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

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

along with B. Sai Praneeth, H.S. Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap. The last date for withdrawal of entry is April 19 while the draw will be

announced on April 20. The governing body said "Delhi Government will conduct RT-PCR test on arrival on May 3 and 6 as well as on May 9 and 14.

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

Tokyo, April 13: The Osaka, which Olympics ran through a mostly empty Osaka city park on Tuesday, showing the risks of trying to hold

No fans at torch

the postponed games during a pandemic. It came on the same day that the government said new coronavirus cases in Osaka hit 1.099, a singleday record for Japan's second largest metropolitan

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

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

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

New Covid-19 cases are rising across Japan, where fewer than 1% of last week to take the relay off city streets and bar the public, became the first detour since the relay began.

residents have been vaccinated in very slow rollout. Japan has attributed about 9,500 deaths to Covid-19, far fewer than many countries but higher than most neighbours in Asia.

Osaka, Tokyo and other parts of Japan have declared "quasi-emergency" conditions until early May with bars and restaurants being asked to close by 8 pm.

Many runners arrived in Osaka's Expo '70 Commemorative Park by bus and ran short legs carrying the torch alongside metal barriers or in

empty park space. They were accompanied by security officials who jogged or walked alongside, and followed by an 'escort" or "promotional' vehicle festooned with logos of major Olympic sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota. — AP

SA WOMEN CRICKETERS STUCK IN BANGLADESH AFTER POSITIVE TEST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

England in June-July London, April 13: The THE FIXTURES

Indian women's cricket team will play a historic one-off Test against one-off Test against England in Bristol as part of a multi-format series that will also feature three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals across June-July.

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

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

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

County Ground June 30: 2nd ODI - The **Cooper Associates County** Ground, Taunton

July 3: 3rd ODI - New Road, Worcester July 9: 1st T20I - County Ground, Northampton July 11: 2nd T201 - Central

County Ground, Hove July 15: 3rd T201 - The Cloudfm County Ground, Chelmsford.

last played a red-ball game during the 2019 Ashes. The one-off Test will be followed by three ODIs and T20Is each with the tour concluding on July 15

in Chelmsford.

After announcing its home fixtures, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive offi-June 27: 1st ODI - Bristol cer Tom Harrison, said: 'We're really looking for-

ward to a busy summer in what is a huge year for our England Women's team, and we're very excited about hosting India and New Zealand.

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

our fans," Hrrison added.

EX-INDIA HOCKEY PLAYER BALBIR SINGH JR NO MORE

Chandigarh, April 13: Balbir Singh Junior, who was a member of the silver medal-winning 1958 Asian Games Indian hockey team, died here at the age of 88, his daughter Mandeep Samra said on Tuesday. He is survived by his wife, daughter and son. "My father passed away in sleep on Sunday morning due to heart failure," his daughter said. His son is settled in Canada and could not attend the

last rites of his father because of the pandemic. Born on May 2, 1932, at Sansarpur in Jalandhar, also known as the nursery of Indian hockey, Balbir Singh Junior had played alongside legends like Balbir Singh Senior, Leslie Claudius, Prithipal Singh,

Balkishan and Charles Stephen among others. Singh took to hockey when he was six years old. He studied at Lyallpur Khalsa College in Jalandhar and was first selected to play for the Indian hockey team in 1951 during the tour of Afghanistan.

He was part of the Punjab state hockey team and also captained Panjab University team.

points. - AFP









• RAJASTHAN ROYALS • ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE • SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

DECCAN CHRONICLE, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021

Nitish Rana, KKR

Samson, RR KL Rahul,

PBKS

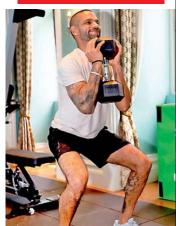
Sanju

PURPLE Andre

Russell, KKR Harshal

> Patel, RCB Rahul Chahar, MI

Off the field



DC opener Shikhar Dhawan works out at the team hotel

Archer's IPL return remains uncertain

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

Rohit wants to maintain fitness

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

When Harshal felt insulted

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

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2021-23

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

RUSS HOUR CHAOS

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

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, APRIL 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHENNAI, APRIL 13

buoyant

Sunrisers Hyderabad

would be keen to plug a

big hole in their batting

line-up when they take on

Challengers Bangalore

here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium

Warner & co's biggest

worry has been an inex-

perienced middle-order

who once again failed to

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

Jammu Kashmir young-

ster Abdul Samad showed

glimpses of his big hit-

ting talent when he smashed KKR's premier

pacer Pat Cummins for a

couple of sixes. With

West Indies all-rounder

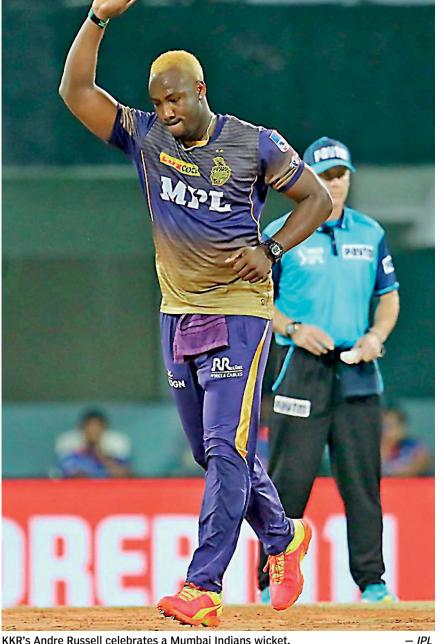
Jason Holder out of quar-

antine, Sunrisers might

draft him in ahead of

Tuesday.

David



KKR's Andre Russell celebrates a Mumbai Indians wicket.

RCB challenge for Sunrisers

Sunrisers pacer T. Natarajan during a training session

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

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

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

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

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

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

had struggled his way to a

16-ball 10 against Mumbai

again Devdutt Padikkal

at the top. Padikkal was

rested from the previous

game following his recov-

ery from Covid-19 Rajat

Patidar, who batted at

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

Their new recruit from

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

attack. Along with the

lanky Jamieson, Harshal

Patel, who took a five-for

in the season opener, and

Mohammed Siraj RCB

now have a settled pace

bowling unit. Harshal is

expected to continue as Kohli's death bowling

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra

Chahal had a poor outing

in the opener. He went

wicketless and conceded

41 runs in four overs

option.

date Padikkal in the XI.

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma b Cummins 43, Quinton de Kock c Tripathi b Varun 2, Suryakumar Yadav c Shubman Gill b Shakib Al Hasan 56, Ishan Kishan c Prasidh Krishna b
Cummins 1, Hardik
Pandya c Russell b
Prasidh Krishna 15,
Kieron Pollard c Karthik
b Russell 5, Krisha Pandya c Prasidh Krishna b Russell 15, Marco Jansen c Cummins b Russell O, Rahul Chahar c Shubman Gill b Russell 8, Jasprit Bumrah c Shakib Al Hasan b Russell O, Trent Boult (not out) O. Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7. Total (in 20 overs) 152. Fow: 1-10, 2-86, 3-88, 4-115, 5-123, 6-125, 7-126, 8-150, 0 150

150, 9-150. Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 2-0-17-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-27-1, Harbhajan Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-23-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-24-2, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1 Andre Russell 2-0-15-5. Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana st de Kock b Chahar 57, Shubman Gill Pollard b Chahar 33, Rahul Tripathi c de Kock

b Chahar 5, Eoin Morgan c Jansen b Chahar 7, Shakib Al Hasan c Yadav b KH Pandya 9, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8, Andre Russell c & b Boult 9, Pat Cummins b Boult O, Harbhajan Singh (not out) 2. Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 1, w 2) 12. Total (in 20 overs) 142/7. FoW: 1-72, 2-84, 3-104, 4-122, 5-122, 6-140, 7-140

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

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

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

Live on TV

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Matches SRH 10 RCB

FOR THE RECORD

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

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

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

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

 Sunrisers beat RCB by 6 wickets at Abu Dhabi (Eliminator).

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

0.200

POINTS TABLE

Sanju rues failure to cross finish line

Mumbai, April 13: Sanju Samson's magnificent 119 on his captaincy debut for Rajasthan Royals came in a losing cause but he said the second part of his innings was the best he ever played.

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

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

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

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

"The coin (at the toss) looked really nice so pocketed it, asked the referee if I can have it, but he said no." could not have done better than that though he rues failing to clear the ropes on the final ball. "I don't have words to tell, very close game, came close but unfortunately.

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

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

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

"We batted really well

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



STOKES RULED OUT OF IPL

Mumbai, April 13: Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes' IPL campaign came to an abrupt end

after sustaining a finger during fracture Rajasthan Royals' opening game against Punjab Kings, the franchise confirmed on Tuesday.Stokes will, however, remain in India for a week before flying back to United Kingdom. "Rajasthan Royals all-

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

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

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

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

Kuldeep Yadav haven't had a good start. The former leaked runs aplenty

leaked runs aplenty against Mumbai, while

Yadav didn't even make it

to the playing XI for

Knight Riders

Competition for India's T20 Cup places hots up



Ayaz Memon

in Chennai.

Afghan Mohammed Nabi

As Sunrisers are heavily

dependent on overseas

batsmen, skipper David

Warner and Englishman

Jonny Bairstow hold the

Over The Top

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

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

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

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

Sunrisers Hyderabad

The battle between leg-

spinner Rashid Khan and

RCB's swashbuckling duo

Glenn Maxwell would be

an exciting affair. Washington Sundar who

AB de Villiers and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yuzvendra Chahal and

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

Kolkata

first match.

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