THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

NELLORE | SUNDAY | 25 APRIL 2021





Forecast: clear. Max/Min temp. 36/28 ºC

Plava; Uttarayana Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Trayodasi Star: Hasta till 1.52 am (Monday) Varjyam: 11.53 am to 1.19 pm **Durmuhurtam:** 4.50 pm to Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm HIJRI CALENDAR

Ramzan 12,1442 AH PRAYERS (SHAHI MASJID) Fajar: 4.38 am **Zohar:** 12.08 pm Asar: 4.32 pm Maghrib: 6.25 pm **Isha:** 7.39 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.25 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM**

MOONRISE TODAY 04.46 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 05.06 AM

RAMZAN TIMINGS IFTAR: 6.25 pm (Today) SEHRI: 4.28 am (Tomorrow)





Now, every day is my day!

TN 'lockdown' from April 26

Chennai: Cinemas, places of worship, malls, bars and salons must be shut effective April 26, the Tamil Nadu government announced on Saturday reintroducing more curbs cases. People from abroad and other states shall be allowed entry to Tamil Nadu only if they have registered in the portal http://eregister.tnega.org and information on registration should be produced to authorities on arrival Those from neighbouring union territory of



WORLD 5

Merkel defends tough Covid curbs



SPORTS 8

Sachin to donate his plasma

TABLOID

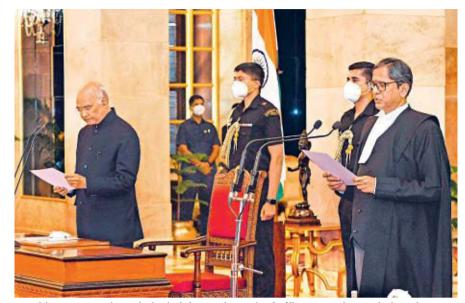
Lost year: Up to adults to mentor their kids



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Justice Ramana sworn in as India's 48th CJI

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President Ram Nath Kovind administers the oath of office to Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, after he was appointed as the 48th Chief Justice of India (CJI) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Saturday. Report on Page 4

Covid hospitals yet to get NOC from fire department

DC CORRESPONDENTS VISAKHAPATNAM/ VIJAYAWADA/TIRUPATI,

Many private hospitals notified as Covid treatment facilities in the state have not obtained their Fire (No Objection Certificate) NOC till date. Officials, while notifying private hospitals, had insisted that they adhere to safety norms and obtain NOC from the fire safety

department. In January last, the government launched a special drive and issued notices to hundreds of hospitals after fire erupted at a health care centre in Bhandara in Maharashtra in which 10 infants were

In Visakhapatnam, 40 Covid treatment facilities and those that were located in Health City at Arilova were declared as fire safety compliant.

Ten hospitals outside the Health City have not obtained the NOC.

"Six hospitals got NoC during the last two days and four are yet to comply with the fire safety

norms," said regional fire officer with GVMC, Niranjan Reddy.

He said unlike in normal times, the authorities would not hesitate to close down the hospitals. down the hospitals.

"Merely having safety equipment is not enough. The hospitals should conduct mock drills, which they have not done despite repeated advisories." Reports from

Vijayawada said 26 private hospitals have been notified as Covid hospitals and four of these have

and four of these have applied for NoC.

However, the requests were held up as they did not adhere to all the

Tirupati reports said three out of the eight hos-pitals notified there as Covid treatment facilities are not having the Fire refused to issue NoC to RUSH hospital, Lotus hospital and ESI hospital.

The Purnas Remedy hos-DBRhospital, Sankalpa hospital, Narayanadri hospital and Amara hospital have obtained fire NOC, said Kiran Kumara Reddy, assistant district fire officer in Tirupati.

STATE REGISTERS 11,698 FRESH **COVID CASES**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

AP has registered 11,698 fresh Covid cases and 37 deaths in the last 24 hours. Health officials said that out of 50,972 samples tested, 11,698 have been found infected with Covid-19. Of total 1,59,31,722 samples tested so far, 10,20,926 persons were infected. Among them, 9,31,839 have recovered while 81,471 are active with the virus and undergoing treatment.

All districts crossed the 200 cases. Srikakulam topped with 1,641 cases, Guntur, 1,306 in Chittoor, 1,066 in Anantapur, 947 in Visakhapatnam, 909 in East Godavari, 902 in Nellore, 820 in Kurnool, 631 in Krishna, 592 in Vizianagaram, 549 in Vizianagaram, 549 in Kadapa, 462 in Prakasam and 292 in West Godavari.

Page 3: Chittoor found to be worst affected

20 critically ill die due to lack of oxygen in Delhi

Delhi grappling with shortage of oxygen as Covid rises BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

The Delhi High Court said on Saturday that if any official at the Central,

state or local administra-

tion was obstructing in

the picking up or supply of oxygen, then it would "hang" that person. The observation by a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Pokhe Polli came during

Rekha Palli came during

the hearing of a plea by Maharaja Agra-sen Hospital over shortage of

oxygen for seriously ill

The court told the Delhi

which will last for one

hour only," hospital chair-person D.S. Rana said in a

statement released around 2 pm. "We are getting sup-plies of 500 to 1500 cubic meters only. We have 516

Covid patients, of which 129 are in ICU and 29 on

invasive ventilation. These 29 patients are on manual ventilation since

Covid patients.

Twenty people died at Delhi's Jaipur Golden Ho-spital as medical oxygen supply was not replenished on Saturday, expos-DC CORRESPONDENT ing the danger to critically NEW DELHI, APRIL 24 ill Covid patients admitted

in the national capital.

The hospital in southwest Delhi's Rohini locality had feared the worst and predicted a disaster

and predicted a disaster could repeat itself a day after 25 patients died at the Ganga Ram Hospital.

"Next impending oxygen crisis in Jaipur Golden Hospital. Over 200 lives at take if liquid medical oxygen." stake if liquid medical oxygen is not supplied by 9 pm tonight," the hospital had tweeted at 7.15 pm.

Medical Director D.K. Baluja said, "Oxygen pressure has dipped as we are running out of stock."

The hospital officials added that over 80 per cent

of the 200 patients in the hospital were on oxygen support and 35 were in the ICU.

At the Ganga Ram Hospital, authorities struggled to avoid a repeat of the earlier day's tragedy. The hospital requires a minimum of 11,000 cubic metres of oxygen daily but was left with just 200 cubic metres when a tanker with 1.5 tonnes of oxygen arrived at 11.35

am, officials said.
"Now it is at 0.7 tonnes,

Delhi HC warns oxygen blockers will be hanged Delhi government to inform the Centre also about such officials of the local administration so that it could take action ed quantity of 480 MTs of oxygen.

The High Court asked the Delhi government to set up its own oxygen plant and said that a against them. The HC also smooth and fully allocated asked the Centre when the

> oxygen per day allocated for Delhi would see the light of the day. (Centre) ʻYou assured us (on April 21) that 480 MT per day will reach Delhi. Tell us when will it come? The 480 MT per day is still to see the light of the day," the court

480 metric ton-ne (MT) of

The Court directed the Centre and Delhi to coordinate between them-selves for arranging the cryogenic tankers ensure that hospitals in the national capital are given the complete allocat-

government to give it one instance of who was obstructing the oxygen supply and said "we will hang that man". "We will not spare anyone," the bench added. It told the midnight due to scarcity of supplies. This can't go on for long, the staff is getting exhausted," he said. "Hospital has and is approaching all authori-ties and nodal officers but

no help is coming, Hundreds of calls made, nobody picking the calls,' he added

In a pincer effect, the

supply of oxygen to Delhi

can resolve many prob-lems. The court on Saturday also pulled up

the Delhi government for

not providing proper sug-gestions to the Centre regarding supply of oxy-gen from nearby plants in place of its allocated oxygen supply from plants in West Bengal and Odisha. It also asked the Delhi government to make arrangements for tankers. The bench also asked the

Centre on Saturday about the arrangements being made to deal with the rise in Covid cases.

shortage of oxygen and the explosion in the number of cases in Delhi together stretched healthcare infrastructure to its limits, leaving hospitals big and small struggling and coming up with band aid solutions—limited supplies to see them through for the next few hours before placing another SOS call.

AP targets vax for 1.5 cr youth

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Andhra Pradesh government aims to administer Covid-19 vaccine free of cost to nearly 1.5 crore youths aged above 18 years from May 1. State health authorities are getting some 1,400 vaccination centres ready for the purpose.

From the start of the vaccination in the state on

lakh persons have been beneficiaries,' included frontline war-riors including health care staff and those above 45 years, the original target being 11 lakh persons.

"A good number of people aged above 45 years, out of a total of nearly 80 lakh, have been vaccinated so far while vaccination of both the first and second dose is going on for

big plans for administering the jabs to those between 18 and 45 years, the coverage will be based on the quantum of vaccine doses that are available to the state. The state has set a record

by administering 6.2 lakh doses of the jab in a day, thanks to the presence of a strong health infrastruc-

January 16, some nine the remaining targeted ture backed by the com-

ace.
"The health department is planning to administer nearly five lakh doses per day subject to availability of doses in order to vaccinate all the targeted beneficiaries in an expeditious manner," officials said.

Page 2: Only limited RT-PCR tests could be done

STATE | AHEAD | 15 won last year

AP bags 17 national panchayat awards

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday presented National Panchayat Raj Awards 2021 to panchayats, mandals and districts of the state on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj

Day.
Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the National Panchayat Awards ceremony through video conference with chief minis-ters of various states. With the switch of a but-ton, the Prime Minister deposited cash incentives in accounts of panchayats, mandals and districts that had won the awards

throughout the country. Modi also launched distribution of e-property cards in 5,000 villages of seven states. Speaking on the occasion, the PM pointed out that village panchayats had dealt well during the Covid-19 situation last year. They should continue to do this year too with the same

Andhra Pradesh won 17 awards in 2021 as against the 15 awards last year. AP received state-level second award in e-pan-



chayat category, two awards at district level, four awards at mandal and 10 awards at panchayat level.

A cash incentive of ₹50,000 is given at the district level, ₹25,000 at mandal level and ₹8,000-10,000 at the level of villages depending on their population. The Chief Minister presented the state-wide second award for Andhra Pradesh in e Panchayat category to panchayat raj minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and panchayat raj commis-sioner Girija Shankar. District-level (Deen Dayal Upadhyay P a n c h a y a t Sashaktikaran Puraskar) went to Guntur district ZP CEO D. Chaitanya and Krishna district ZP CEO Surya Prakash Rao.

Page 2: Vijayawada Rural in winning MPDOs list





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ch as print and electronic

media, telecommunica-tions, Internet services,

broadcasting and cable

services, IT and IT-enabled services will be exempted from the curfew.

Petrol pumps, LPG, CNG, petroleum and gas

outlets, power generation,

transmission and distri-

bution, water supply and

sanitation departments

are also exempted from night curfew, as are cold

storage and warehousing

services, private security

services, production uni-

ts or services, which require continuous process,

and food delivery servic-

Further exempted from

curfew will be all medical

personnel, such as doc-

tors, nursing staff, para-medics and providers of

other hospital services,

on production of valid id-

entity card; pregnant wo-

men and patients for pur-

pose of receiving medical

care, and persons coming

from or going to airports,

railway stations, bus stands holding valid tickets.

All inter-state and intra-

state movement of essential and non-essential

goods will be permitted.

No separate permissions

will be required for move

ment of essential or non-

Essential, emergency

services exempted from night curfew

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

The AP government on

Saturday issued detailed

guidelines on implementation of night curfew from Saturday, detailing the essential and emer-

gency services exempted

Issuing G. O. 161, chief

secretary Aditya Nath Das made it clear that wearing of masks will be

compulsory and every-body must follow Covid

appropriate protocols in

public places.
Any violation will result in prosecution under Sections 51 to 60 of

Act 2005 and Section 188

of IPC as well as other applicable laws. District magistrates and collec-

tors, district superintend-

ents and commissioners

of police will enforce

these regulations in the

Management

from the curfew.

IN BRIEF

LOKESH DEMANDS CANCELLATION OF SSC, INTER EXAMS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

Telugu Desam national general-secretary Nara Lokesh lashed out at the Jagan Mohan Reddy government for 'not cancelling or postponing' Class 10 and Intermediate exams, in accordance with the appeals made by thousands of students and parents in view of rising Covid-19 cases, on

Addressing a press conference here, Lokesh expressed his fears about examinations turning into Covid-19 super spreaders. He said that after he wrote a letter to CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, the latter seems to have taken a "more stub-born attitude, with total disregard for the safety of stu-

Lokesh asked why had the government failed to understand that preventive measures would be very difficult to implement in examination centres. Stating that not even six students can be accommodated in a room if six feet distance has to be maintained, he added that there was a lack of infrastructure to meet this demand. "The government promised to give face masks to each family but had failed to fulfil the same," he said.

Lokesh also demanded an

explanation from the CM as to why his government turned indifferent to the 48-hour deadline issued by the TD regarding cancellation of exams.

He stated that even the CBSE and ICSE boards have cancelled their exams.

SURESH TO TD, JS: DON'T CREATE PANIC AMONG STUDENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, APRIL 24

Education minister Adimulapu Suresh lashed out at MLC Nara Lokesh and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan for creating panic among students and their parents.

Reacting to the ongoing issues and demands to cancel Class 10 exams by Opposition leaders, Suresh said, "We already discussed and obtained opinions from parents regarding conduct of Class 10 exams. The final decision on whether to conduct the exams, or cancel them, will be announced soon after analysing the situation. In fact, our top priorities are both - health of students and their academic future"

"Instead of giving appropriate advice to the government during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic, the TD and Jana Sena are throwing mud at the state government," said Suresh while addressing the media after the convocation ceremony at JNTU-A. He further said that the quality and standard of education in the state sets a role model for the country but the TD leaders were "unable to digest facts.'

Suresh added that the total number of exam papers were reduced to seven, and asked the leaders of Opposition parties to stop their political tricks to defame the govern-

The minister also unveiled the statue of Sri Krishnadevarayulu, Vijayanagar emperor, on Sri Krishnadevaraya University premises on the occasion of their convocation.

AYYANNA OBJECTS TO THE MANNER OF DHULIPALLA ARREST

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL. 24

Former minister and Telugu Desam politburo member Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu on Saturday strongly objected to the manner in which their party form er MLA Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar was arrested as if he was a terrorist trying to esc-

ape from the law of the land. He asked the government to explain whether it was wrong on the part of Narendra to bring the Sangam Dairy under Companies Act. recalled that even the Visakha Dairy was also brought under this Act but the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime has not initiated

similar action against them. Addressing a press conference here, Ayyanna termed it as a sadistic step on the part of the YSRC government to harass and arrest a leader who had the record of getting elected as an MLA for five consecu-

tive terms previously. He said the ACB and the CID officials should discharge the ir duties in an impartial manner without succumbing to the pressure from the ruling party



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, minister Peddireddy Ramchandra Reddy, panchayat raj commissioner Girija Sankar with National awardees MPDOs and CEOs on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj day at the CM's camp office on Saturday.

VIJAYAWADA RURAL IN WINNING MPDOs LIST

from page 1

mandal-level awards went to MPDOs of Sodem in Chittoor district, Kakinada Rural in East Godavari dis-trict, Vijayawada Rural in Krishna district and Penugonda Anantapur district.

Panchayats that got the award from the CM are Varkuru in Kurnool district, Pedalabudu in Visakhapatnam district, Gullapalli in Guntur district, Thada Kandriga, Thaallapalem, Parthavellanti and Pennabarthi in Nellore district and G. Rangampeta in East

Godavari district. Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, principal secretary (Revenue) V. Usha Rani panchayat raj commis-sioner Girija Shankar, land records commis-sioner Siddarth Jain, officers of various districts, mandal-level officers and sarpanches were present on the

KAKINADA RURAL, **G. RAGAMPETA GET NATIONAL AWARDS**

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 24

East Godavari district collector D. Muralidhar Reddy received two national awards through mode Saturday. Kakinada Rural man-

dal of East Godavari was selected for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Shakthi Karan Puraskar-2021 for the appraisal year 2019-20 and G. Ragampeta panchayat in Peddapuram mandal was selected for Panchayat Development Plan-2021 for the appraisal year 2019-20. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the nation through a virtual based online system.

APPP SEEKS FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT **OF VILLAGES**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

The Andhra Pradesh Panchavat Parishad sought the government's help to develop village panchay ats in all aspects. APPP conducted national panchayat raj day on Satur-day and paid floral tributes to Gandhi during a programme at Guntur.

APPP chairman Jasti Veeranjaneyulu said that Corona is putting huge impact on villages, disturbing lives of peoples and stated that newly-elected sarpanches are taking necessary measures for the containment of pandemic Covid-19 by cooperating

with the government. Veeranjaneyulu said that the panchayat raj is the oldest system of governance within the local government. The word is a confluence of two words- "Panch" which means "five" and "Ayat" means assembly and

"Raj" means the rule. Quoting that India lives in villages, they sought the government to provide required funds for the villages towards all-round development in all aspects to strengthen the panchay-

Date-expired drugs given to Covid-affected patients

Patients allege fresh stocks are being sold in market at high price

DC CORRESPONDENT **KURNOOL APRIL 24**

The Kurnool Government General Hospital has, for the past one month, been administering remdesivir injections whose shelf-life had expired – by a few

weeks, though.
About 520 patients are undergoing treatment in the Corona wards specially kept outside of the general medicine wards. The second wave of Covid is so severe that the district reported an average of 1,000 positive cases every day for the past nearly a week.

Covid patients undergo ing treatment at the GGH are worried as to whether the remdesivir doses given to them as a life-saving drug would cause more harm to them than good. An attendant of a patient undergoing treatment in the Male medical ward -1 found that the remdesivir injection given to his rela-

DC CORRESPONDENTS

VIJAYAWADA/ANANTAPUR,

The Covid-19 pandemic caused universal shift to

virtual learning, which

proved to be innovative for

teachers, students, and to

all stakeholders, said Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan while taking

part in the 11th convoca-

tion of JNTU-Anantapur

The Governor lauded the

university for its share in

contributing to the development of Andhra Pradesh in the field of

technological education,

adding that the university

was taking steps to imple-

Education Policy, with

multi-disciplinary nature of education, globalisa-tion, and with collabora-

Congratulating those

students who received

medals for best academic

performance, the Governor called upon

them to play a pivotal role

in building our nation,

and appreciated the uni-

versity for successfully

conducting all exams online and as per sched-ule, despite the challenges

The Governor appreciat-

ed Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for

initiating a series of meas-

ures to improve the quality of education in all uni-

versities across the state.

Anil Sahasra Bude appre-

ciated the educational

reforms being introduced

Minister for education

Adimulapu Suresh stated

that the state government

due to Covid-19.

National

ment the

virtually, on Saturday.

 A professor at Kurnool Medical College said it is not yet known if remdesivir is safe and effective for the treatment of Covid-19. The distribution of remdesivir has been authorised only for the treatment of hospitalised patients with severe Covid19 symptoms.

He said doctors can administer only what is supplied

Virtual learning turns innovative: Gov

tive was having an expiry date of 13/3/2021.

The KGGH continues to administer the expired remdesivir doses to Coronavirus patients as they have a stock of 3,000 vials, said hospital superintenin-charge Bhagawan.

Another story doing the rounds is that date-expired drug is given to KGGH patients while the fresh stocks are being sold in the market at high price. Dr G. Narendranath

gist, is the hospital superintendent and he is down with Coronavirus infec-

Reddy, an ophthalmolo-

General Hospital has been administering remdesivir injections for the past one month and their shelf-life has expired. About 520 patients are undergoing tre atment in the Covid

A professor at Kurnool Medical College said it is not yet known if remdesivir is safe and effective for the treatment of Covid-19. The distribution of remdesivir has been authorised only for the treatment of hospitalised patients with severe Covid19 symptoms. He said doctors can administer only what is supplied to them.

The hospital superintenion. dent was under intense Kurnool Government pressure to fulfil the

demands of political leaders including MLAs and

sivir drug was supplied by Mylan Laboratories of Hyderabad. "We have received a letter from Mylan Laboratories that their drug's shelf-life was extended by the Drugs Controller General Dr. GV Somani on March 15 this year by six months to 12 months. Whether the said letter was genuine or not we cannot certify, but we are administering the remdesivir of 100mg vial (lyophilized)," the health official said.

MPs. Everyone has a cut in the hue hospital supplies pie. It is a well-oiled mechanism and district collector is chairman of the hospital development committee (HDC). There is corruption at all levels in all medicines/equipment purchases/supplies and quality is often over-looked, said a doctor.

state with immediate effect, the chief secretary underlined. As per night curfew orders, all offices, firms, shops, establishments and restaurants shall close by 10 pm and reopen after 5 am. Hospitals, pharmacies and those dealing with supply of essential services, su-The in-charge superintendent said the remde-

diagnostic

Bandar Road wears a deserted look as the night curfew imposed to control the Covid-19 cases in

MINISTER TO OFFICIALS: HAND OVER

BODIES TO KIN WITHOUT DELAY

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

Deputy chief minister and minister for health Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas directed the health authorities to hand over the dead bodies of people infected with Coronavirus, to their family mem-

bers without any delay. The minister enquired about keeping 81 dead bodies in the mortuary having the capacity to store only 50 at government hospital with its medical superintendent Dr Siva Sankar and RMO Dr Hanumantha Rao over phone on Saturday. They informed him that 135 persons died in the last two days and of them, 80

bodies were handed over to their family members.

Reacting on long delay in cremation of dead bodies at Krishnalanka electric crematorium, the Dy CM directed the officials to arrange another crematorium at Ajithsingh Nagar. He also asked the officials to arrange two

The minister asked both the Krishna district medical and health officer Dr Suhasini and government hospital medical superintendent Dr Siva Sankar to work in coordination with regard to handing over dead bodies of people infected with Covid-19 to avoid prolonged delay.

freezers having the capac-

ity to keep six dead bod

PEOPLE ADVISED NOT TO PANIC SEEING **MORE DEAD BODIES AT CREMATORIA**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 24

Covid-19 state nodal officer Dr Arja Srikanth advised people against panicking over news of more number of dead bodies being burnt in crematoria, assuming them all to be Coronavirus-

infected persons.
Srikanth said he had visited Gunadala and Krishnalanka crematoria

in the city. Gunadala crematorium had eight to nine dead bodies of people. But they had died of natural causes on the same day and their bodies brought for cremation. He pointed out that it takes nearly four hours for a dead body to

regard crematorium, the Covid Krishnalanka nodal officer said it is cremating eight to 10 bodies due to natural deaths and a few bodies of those who have died due to Covid-19. He said it takes nearly one-and-half-hours for a body to burn in the elec-

Srikanth asked people not to be carried away by visuals or reports of more number of bodies being cremated.

tric crematorium.

He turned critical about a section of media for giving widespread publicity claiming all dead bodies belong to people infected with Covid-19. He advised such media to desist from spreading misinforma-

DOUBLE | STANDARDS | No Covid-19 negative certificate needed for people entering Seema from Karnataka

Bengaluru contributing to rising cases in Seema

DC CORRESPONDENT

Lack of restrictions and preventive measures at border check posts along the Karnataka border have led to a substantial increase in the number of reported

Ravalaseema region. While passengers entering into borders of Bengaluru are required to carry a Covid-19 negative ures are there when it comes to people entering Rayalaseema from neighbouring Karnataka

convocation of JNTU-A on Saturday.

had been implementing

several welfare schemes

for the benefit of students,

and also for those pursu-

'JNTU-A was one among

five universities selected

by the state government to

transform into a multi-dis-

ciplinary education and research university," he

He stated that the state

government planned on

recruiting teaching staff

in all universities across

the state soon, and that an

amount of ₹671.45 crore

was deposited directly in

higher education.

A 25-vear-old youth working as a software engineer in Bengaluru tested positive a few days ago after returning home in Anantapur. The youth had to be treated at a private hospital for more than a week. Saturday saw 1,066 positive cases being reported

from Hindupur town, which is closer to Bengaluru city. 549 cases have been witnessed in Kadapa, 1,306 in Chittoor and 820 in Kurnool district. Four deaths have been reported in Anantapur district.

Minister for education Adimulapu Suresh presents award to a student during the 11th

10,88,439 students in the

state under the fee reim-

Suresh stated that the

state government had

been implementing sever-

al welfare schemes for the

benefit of students and also for students pursuing

higher education. He

added that JNTU-A was

one among five universi-

ties selected by the state

government to transform

into a multidisciplinary

education and research

Former JNTU vice-chan-

cellor and former UPSC

university

the accounts of mothers of chairman Y. Venkatarami

bursement scheme.

Serious cases are invariably referred to Bengaluru due to lack of proper medical services in Anantapur district and other parts of

persons hailing from the district have died owing to Coronavirus in Bengaluru hospitals in the past two days. A 35-year-old youth from Madakasira town died at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Friday.

Reddy was awarded an

honorary doctorate by the

Later, the Governor vir-

tually took part in the 19th

Krishnadevaraya

University, Anantapur. Praising the university for

its excellent track record

in teaching, research, and

extra-curricular activi-

ties, he also appreciated

the appreciation received

by the university from

Niti Aayog for setting up the prestigious 'Atal Incubation Centre' to cater

to the state's entrepre-

convocation of

university.

Sources said Bangalore corporation authorities were not handing over dead bodies but conducting cremations or burials in Bengaluru itself.

restrictions in Bengaluru city and other district headquarters in Karnataka, a large number of migrant labourer

have been returning to their native villages in Rayalaseema. Farm labourers from Anantapur and parts of Kurnool and Chittoor districts depend on Bengaluru for employment during summer seasons. All of them have

rise in Covid cases in Bengaluru city. Hundreds of buses, taxis

and trains operate from AP and TS to Bengaluru and vice versa every day. "There are no restrictions on them. Only state government can take a decision on imposing minimum preventive measures at border check posts," a senofficial Anantapur said.

IN BRIEF

Vasanthotsavam

commences

Nellore: Annual Salakatla Vasanthotsavam commenced on a grand note at the holy shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala on Saturday. The three days event is being held in Ekantham in view of the Covid-19 restrictions. The annual Vasanthotsavam celebrations kickstarted at the Kalyana mandapam inside Srivari temple on Saturday duly observing the Covid-19 guidelines. As part of the three-day festivities on the first day, the utsava idols of Sri Malayappa and his consorts were given Snapana thirumanjanam in the afternoon after traditional rituals of Viswaksenaradhana, Punya havachanan, Nava kalasha

Anil promises

houses to people

Nellore: AP water resources minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav appealed to the people living on the banks of Sarvepalli canal at Nellore to vacate their houses as they are likely to collapse during the construction of retaining wall for the canal. He made the appeal after inspecting the progress of ₹90 crore estimated lining works of Sarvepalli canal during a visit to the canal passing through Nellore on Saturday. He said that they have taken up the long-awaited works related to the lining works and retaining wall which was pending for decades, while urging for the cooperation of people residing on the banks

Police seize 95 kg of ganja

of the canal.

Nellore: The police seized 45 packets containing 95.115 kg of ganja worth ₹9.5 lakh from two persons transporting the banned substance in a van near Naidupeta. A team of police led by Naidupeta CI Venugopal Reddy and SI K. Nagaraju intercepted an Eicher van transporting Ganja while checking vehicles on the National Highway No 16 at KRM Function Hall near Naidupeta late on Friday evening. The team apprehended the two inmates of the van after noticing the Ganja. The accused have been identified as Isak Muthhu 38 and Abraham Jospher Immanuel 28 of Armuganeri village, Tiruchandoor Taluk in Thoothhkkudi district of Tamil Nadu. The police also seized smartphones, ₹200 cash, and

the Eicher van. **JC WARNS ERRING PVT HOSPS** ON COVID

DC CORRESPONDENT **NELLORE, APRIL 24**

Chittoor district joint collector V. Veerabrahmam made surprise visits to the notified private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients in Tirupati on Saturday.

He shared information on the availability of medicines, beds and oxygen in the hospitals. The joint collector has directed the coordinator of Aarogyasri Dr Balanianevulu to upload details of patient bills, functioning status of CCTV cameras and other details of private hospitals online. Mr Veerabrahmam inspected

Maruthi, Sankalp hospitals Ramadevi Tirupati. He told the management of the private hospitals to maintain Covid-19 protocol strictly while hinting about stringent action in case of any

JEO INSPECTS QUARANTINE

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, APRIL 24

TTD JEO Sada Bhargavi on Saturday directed officials to ensure all facilities like oxygen supply, medicines and nutritional food to TTD employees and their families who are admitted to the Covid-19 quarantine centres.

On the directions of TTD EO Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy, the JEO inspected the Srinivasam and Madhavam quarantine centres and reviewed all arrangements like beds, medicines, sanitation, medical teams, PPE kits, Gloves, masks and face shields.

Thereafter she reviewed the situation with CMO, additional health officer, Covid-19 nodal officer and others

Srikakulam continues to lead in Covid cases

1,641 cases in a single day, 8,516 patients in home isolation

DC CORRESPONDENT

The district is leading in the Covid-19 cases in the state as 1,641 cases were reported on Saturday. During the last four days the figure has been hovering between 1,200 and

Reports said that 6,158 samples were collected during the last 24 hours and of them 1,641 tested positive.

The health officials said 8,516 patients are in home isolation, 975 in Covid-19 Care centres and 875 in various hospitals. The total active cases stood at Saturday. 10.366 Around 522 were discharged during the last 24 hours.

Chittoor follows Srikakulam with 1,306 and 1.066. A senior official said that the district has around 2,000 beds in both government and private sector and as on date only half of them were filled. However, the speed at

Chittoor found to be worst affected

FROM PAGE 1

Chittoor district has been found to be the worst registering cases, followed by 10,366 in Srikakulam, 8,574 in East Godavari, 7,620 in Guntur, 7,206 in Kurnool, 6,711 in Nellore, 6,502 in Visakhapatnam, 6,259 in Krishna, 5,057 in Anantapur, 4,443 3,226 Prakasam, Vizianagaram, 2,094 in Kadapa and 1,242 in West

which the cases are being reported, the administra-

East Godavari and Nellore reported six deaths each during the last 24 hours, followed by four each in Anantapur and Chittoor, three each in Srikakulam and West Godavari, two each in Guntur, Krishna, Kurnool and Vizianagaram, and one in Prakasam district. With this, the death toll in AP has risen to 7,616. AP health authorities discharged 4,421 have Covid-infected.

imposed and police strictly implement the rule of down shops after 6 pm.

ONLY LIMITED RT-PCR TESTS COULD BE DONE

FROM PAGE 1

On the other hand, with more number of people turning up to undergo Covid-19 test and the state government deciding to conduct only RT-PCR test, only a limited number of tests could be done in some districts. Health officials in the districts admit they are having huge backlogs of swab samples for the test and hence not taking fresh swab samples. The state government plans to address the issue by resuming TrueNat tests from April

SPIKE IN COVID CASES IN BHIMILI

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM,

 $\begin{array}{lll} Minister & for \\ t & o & u & r & i & s & m \\ M & u & t & a & m & s & e & t & t & i \end{array}$ Srinivasa Rao on Saturday visited his constituency Bhimili Saturday and alerted the officials on the steep hike in the Covid-19 positive cases in some areas of the constituency. He told the officials that the cases high in Bhimili

Madhurawada zones and three mandals in the constituency. He asked the officials to disinfect the localities where people have tested positive. He asked the volunteers of the ward and village secre-

tariats to visit every home and get tested

Teams formed to check hospitals

NELLORE, APRIL 24

Joint collector-development N. Prabhakar Reddy directed the officials to form teams and conduct surprise checks in the hospitals to examine issues related to additional charges from the Covid-19 patients and other irregularities.

During a review with the officials on Saturday, he instructed them to initiate action suo moto without waiting for his orders.

The joint vollector told the Aarogyasri coordinator, Dr Chandrasekhar, tahsildars and deputy tahsildars to arrange teams and take the responsibility of resolving the problems of the patients on the spot.

He called upon the patients to record their

complaints through 104 for instant action. Stressing that the Covid-approved hospitals have to collect charges from the patients as per GOs 77 and 78, he said collecting any additional charges would be viewed seriously.

He maintained that the Aarogyasri attached hospitals have to provide treatment at free of cost.

The others should obtain permission from the Trust if they want to maintain beds for walk-in patients apart from those eligible under the Aarogyasri scheme. The charges for patients other Aarogyasri should be as per the rates fixed by the Government. The joint collector said the hospitals have to display the charges on the notice board.

mask and the traders have 26 and conducting Rapid e' Procurement Tender Notice No.02/2021-22/DB/EE-VA/SE(W)/ Dt:24-04-2021 tion needs to increase the Anantapur the people who have been suffering from present strength by anothvoluntarily agreed to shut Antigen tests also, besides 01. Number of Works er 2,000 beds. The officials the ongoing RT-PCR tests. fevers. He insisted 02. Value of Works (ECV) Rs.214.30 Lakhs were worried that more Reports said that guest State Covid-19 nodal offizonal commission-24-04-2021 @ 11.00 PM 03. Down Loading Starting Date and more younger persons cer Dr Arja Srikanth said, workers were pouring in ers that the premis-04. Down Loading Ending Date 10-05-2021 @ 3.00 PM were being admitted into from different seriously "There are nearly 1.5 crore es of the Covid-19 05. Last date of Bid submission 10-05-2021 @ 3.30 PM affected states causing the rapid spread of the virus. youths aged between 18 ICU wards. test centres must be have 06. Date of Opening of Tender 10-05-2021 @ 4.00 PM and 45 to get the jab. Note: For any other details required in respect of above tender notice, please contact EE-IV(A)/V before applying for tender schedules and Covid-19 cases Compensation demanded for visit vsp @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in. පංණිවේ ක්රාෆ්ටේදී - පහිරෙෆ් කළ හඩරුස්ති ඩුඩු death of woman in hospital

K.C.

on the rise every day in Kadapa

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, APRIL 24

Covid-19 cases in the district are increasing day by day. According to the health bulletin issued by the district medical health department on Saturday, 549 cases have been registered in the past 24 hours, the highest number of reported cases in the district after the onset of the second

The highest numbers of cases were reported from Rayachoti, Pulivendula and Badvel

According to the health bulletin on Saturday, 4,865 people were tested and 549 reported posi-

At present, 588 people being treated at Rims and Proddatur Covid-19 hospitals. In addition, 1,506 people are in home isolation. About 200 people recovered and were discharged after Corona treatment.

However, there are still allegations that many people are wandering around taking self-medication without even mentioning the Covid-19 symptoms. Doctors say the Covid-19 outbreak is exacerbated by them. It recommended to undergo a test even if there is any minor symp-

There are no contain-

ment zones anywhere

unlike last year. Positive victims are roaming wherever they are. The virus is spreading from one person to another. Some do not even show any symptoms. With that they are wandering outside. Most people do not wear masks. Sanitisers are not widely used anywhere. Physical distance is not observed at all. Crowds gather at tea shops and soft drink centers without masks. Not more than 50 people were allowed to attend weddings and functions last year. Hundreds of people are attending now that there are no such regulations. Political meetings and inaugurations are going on as usual. It is felt that it will be difficult to prevent the spread of Covid-19 unless the government steps in and imposes

restrictions. Collector Chevuru Harikiran has decided to increase the number of Covid-19 beds in the Government General Hospital (RIMs) in Kadapa from 300 to 700. General surgeries performed in Rims have ben shifted to an adjacent dental college. Covid-19 prevalence was 25 per while in Kadapa district it was only 7 per cent. he said.

The highest numbers of cases were reported from Kadapa, Proddatur, Rajampet, Rayachoti, Pulivendula and Badvel

According to the health bulletin on Saturday, 4,865 people were tested and 549 reported positive.

At present, 588 people are being treated at Rims and Proddatur

However, he said that all necessary steps were being taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to provide proper medical services to the patients. The city of Tirupati is close to Rajampet Railwaykoduru an and Rayachoti constituencies, so a letter has been written to the district collector asking him to allocate 200 beds for patients from Kadapa district at the ESI hospital in Tirupati. To this extent the collector there also responded positively. The collector also suggested that people should follow the use of masks, sanitisers and physical distance as part of their normal daily activities. He said to stay away from functions, parties and meetings. The collector appealed to the public not to come out of the house unless absolutely necessary. It is suggested that a Covid-19 test be performed without selfmedication for fever or cold. He told the people to go to the hospital and get proper treatment if the diagnosis is covid positive. He warned that negligence was useless under any circumstances.

collector The Saturday called on private hospitals in the district to come forward to provide Covid medical services. He said the district administration was taking tough measures to control the Covid-19 in the wake of increasing number of cases in the district. He said there was still a need for hospitals in the district to provide medical services. The collector also asked the managements of private hospitals to come forward to contribute to the efforts of the district administration to make the district as Covid-free. Managements of interested private hospitals should apply to the collector and within two days of receipt of applications, the relevant hospitals will look into the infrastructure and facilities required for medical services and will immediately grant clearances

to all eligible hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT officers working in the government hospitals at

NELLORE, APRIL 24

Taking serious view over the death of a woman because of the negligence of medical officers in government Yanadi Sangham demanded ₹20 lakh compensation to the members Krishnamma Marripalli village Podalakur on Saturday.

Nellore denied treatment under the pretext of Covid-19 protocol. According Penchalaiah, tionary of to a funchospitals, Samkshema

Girijan Association, Krishnamma and her husband Ankaiah met with an accident a couple in of days ago and sustained critical injuries. Even though they visit-The woman, an accident

victim died after medical ed the Primary Health

Podalakur, Gudur, and

Centre in Podalakur and government hospitals in Gudur and Nellore city, treatment was denied to them citing Covid-19 pro-

Absence of treatment led Krishnamma to succumb to severe injuries and her husband is being treated at a hospital in Tirupati.

Samkshema Yanadi Sangham demanded a comprehensive probe on the inci-

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान कोलकाता

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CMYK



Justice Ramana had ensured end of internet ban in Kashmir

PARMOD KUMAR | DC with agency inputs

Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana on Saturday was sworn as Chief Justice of India. He was administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind. He is the 48th Chief Justice of India with a term of a little over one year and four months until August 26, 2022.

The swearing in ceremony of Justice Ramana, amongst others dignitaries, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and his predecessor Sharad A. Bobde.

Justice Bobde had his last working day in the top court on April 23. Justice Ramana was elevated as a judge of the top court on February 17, 2014.

Born in an agricultural family on August 27, 1957, in Ponnavaram village, Krishna District, Justice Ramana did his B.Sc., B.L and was enrolled as an advocate on February 10, 1983.

Justice Ramana began his career as a journalist of a leading Telugu newspaper for a short while before turning to legal practice in 1983.

During his student days, he was known as an activist, involved in the issues concerning farmers and industrial workers.

Justice Ramana was appointed

ARMY RESCUES

ONGC STAFFERS

MANOJ ANAND | DC

The Indian Army and

Nagaland police with the support of some

local villagers on Friday night rescued two employees of state-owned Oil and Natural

Gas Corporation (ONGC), who were kid-

napped earlier this week

from Sivasagar, in Mon district of Nagaland.

The operations are still

on to trace the third

The rescued employees were identified as Alakesh Saikia and Mohini Mohan Gogoi.

The police also recovered one AK 47 from the

location, the ONGC employees were rescued.

Informing that securi-

ty forces had launched

joint coordinated opera-

tions since April 21, the

day suspected Ulfa-I rebels had kidnapped

ONGC from a rig site at

Lakwa oil field in

Assam's Sivasagar dis-

trict, security sources said that security forces

have also sealed the

international border

Meanwhile, a total of

14 linkmen, who aided the United Liberation

Front of Assam-Independent (Ulfa-I) in

kidnapping the three

ONGC employees, were

apprehended by Assam police. The Assam police also said that it has

received specific infor-

mation that the banned

Ulfa (Independent) was

involved in the kidnap-ping of three ONGC employees from

MAOISTS KILL

DC CORRESPONDENT

A jawan who was abduct-

ed by Maoists three days

ago in Chhattisgarh's

south Bastar district of Bijapur was brutally

killed by the ultras,

Body of Murali Tati,

who was a sub-inspector

in district reserve group (DRG), an exclusive trib-

wing of Chhattisgarh

police, was found on the

outskirts of the village

of Peddepara in Bijpur district early on

The slain jawan was

abducted by Maoists

Bastar police said.

Saturday

morning,

counterinsurgency

police said on Saturday.

ABDUCTED

BHOPAL, APR 24

JAWAN

with Myanmar.

employees of

three

abductee, Retul Saikia.

GUWAHATI, APR. 24

2 KIDNAPPED

He was also a part of a fivejudge constitution bench of the top court that had in a landmark verdict in 2016 ordered restoration of the Congress government in Arunachal Pradesh. The bench had said the "clock should be turned back" as it quashed all decisions of the governor that precipitated its fall in January, holding them "violative" of the Constitution.

as a permanent Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on June 27, 2000. He functioned as Acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court from March 10, 2013 to May 20, 2013.

He was appointed as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on September 2, 2013.

The new chief justice of India, has authored path-breaking verdicts as a Supreme Court judge and one of them led to the end of internet ban in Jammu and Kashmir, and another brought the apex court under the ambit of transparency law.

He will demit office on August 26 next year and have to deal with key task of ensuring smooth functioning of apex court amid resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic. The judgement penned by Justice Ramana in the Anuradha Bhasin case related to internet ban in Jammu and Kashmir following the abroga-

Covid-19: New

hosps in Kerala

rules for pvt

GILVESTER ASSARY I

THIRUVANANTHAPU-

tion of Article 370 provisions has been hailed by many as one of the progressive verdicts.

It held that freedom of speech and conducting business on the internet are protected under the Constitution and had directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately review curb orders.

The bench had directed the

authorities in the Union territory to immediately review all orders suspending internet services and said orders not in accordance with the law must be revoked.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Ramana had in March last year declined to refer to a larger seven-judge bench a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370.

He was part of a five-judge constitution bench that had held in November 2019 that the office of the CJI was a public authority under the Right to Information

In the November 2019 verdict, the top court had also said "judicial independence has to be kept in mind" while disclosing information in "public interest".

He was also a part of a five-

judge constitution bench of the top court that had in a landmark verdict in 2016 ordered restoration of the Congress government in Arunachal Pradesh.

MADHYA

PRADESH CONG

MLA DIES OF

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

Tribal Congress MLA from Alirajpur district in Madhya Pradesh

Kalawati Bhuria died of

Covid-19 in a private hospital in Indore early

on Saturday morning,

family sources said on

MLA in MP who suc-cumbed to the virus. She

was admitted to the Shalby Hospital in Indore 14 days ago after

Her condition deterio-

rated fast two days ago

and the end came early

on Saturday morning, her family sources said.

cent infected. She was

on ventilator", hospi-

tal's medical superintendent Vivek Joshi said.

The 47-year-old leader

who had shunned mar-

riage to devote her time

for social service was

emerging as a key tribal leader of Congress in Madhya Pradesh, partic-

ularly among her tribe

of Bhil in western belt of

The niece of former Union minister and

Congress MLA Kantilal

Bhuria, Kalawati was

elected as Jhabua dis-

trict zilla panchayat president four times before being elected as MLA from Jobat con-

stituency in Alirajpur district in 2018 polls.

"She was a very popu-

lar leader in the tribal region in the state. Her

death is an irreparable

loss to Congress", former minister and MP

PCC vice-president Raja

Former chief minister

and veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath expressed shock and

grief over the untimely

death of the party legis-lator. "The news of the

sad demise of Jobat MLA Kalawati Bhuria is

very disturbing and

shocking. She was an active, gutsy, strong-willed and friendly legis-

lator", Mr Nath tweeted.

Forest Service (IFS) offi-

cers of MP cadre died of

Meanwhile, two Indian

Pateria said.

the state.

"Her lungs were 70 per-

she tested positive.

She is the first sitting

COVID-19



Covid patients getting free oxygen, by a Sikh organisation at Indirapuram Gurdwara in Ghaziabad on Saturday.

Centre says Delhi got more oxygen than they asked for

On ground, people continue to beg for oxygen beds in hospitals Health Minister Dr 24 hours. Ten states -

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

The harrowing times for Covid-19 patients and their families continues despite several high level meetings by the Centre for the last couple days as hospitals in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat continued sending SOS messages for Oxygen to the Centre and state governments and patients died due to lack of O2.

While Delhi Chief Minister Mr Arvind Kejriwal wrote to all States requesting them to divert their spare Oxygen reserves to Delhi, Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh ordered shutdown of operations of some of the state's industries to divert Oxygen for medical use as five patients

Harsh Vardhan said Delhi has been allotted more than the Oxygen quota they had asked for and UT government has to now rationalise the quota in a timely manner but on ground people continue to beg for Oxygen beds as Delhi hospitals kept pleading for Oxygen.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi held another round of meeting on measures to increase supply of Oxygen and related equipment. The government has announced to waive off basic customs duty and health cess on Oxygen and equipment related such as Oxygen concentrator and cylinders, ventilators and ventilator masks and all other devices that can be used for Oxygen generation.

died at a hospital in Amritsar due its shortage. On his part Union also be exempted from come down to 1.14%. people. Oxygen in During the meeting, hours in During the meeting, have not reported any covid deaths in the last sised the immediate are on way.

IAF planes are bringing in cryogenic oxygen tanks from Singapore and transporting oxygen tanks in the country to reduce travel times. Railways Oxygen Express has delivered nearly 150 tonnes of Oxygen in the last 24 hours in Maharashtra and UP.

ures will boost availability of these crucial items and make them cheaper. The exemption is for three months.
India on Saturday recorded 3,46,787 new cases and 2,624 deaths.

basic customs duty.

Centre feels these meas-

At the same time, over 2.19 lakh recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours and Case Fatality Rate has come down to 1.14%.

Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan reported 74.15% of the new cases in the coun-try. While Maharashtra reported the highest daily new cases at 63,818 and 676 deaths, there was some respite in Mumbai where major

decline in fresh cases

Chhattisgarh, Madhya

Delhi,

Kerala.

Maharashtra,

Pradesh.

Karnataka,

were noticed. Mumbai reported 5,888 new cases and 71 deaths while 8549 people got cured.

Brihanmumbai The Municipal Corp-oration released the third Sero survey data, in which 36.30% of residents of Mumbai were found to be positive. The survey was carried out on blood samples of 10,197

need to augment the supply of medical grade oxygen as well as equipment required for patient care both at home and in hospitals.

It was suggested that

import of equipment related to providing Oxygen to patients needs to be expedited. This will boost availability of these items

and make them cheaper. Senior officials in the Centre said the Centre Government is taking a lot of measures to improve supply Oxygen and medical supplies. IAF planes are bring-

ing in cryogenic oxygen tanks from Singapore and transporting oxygen tanks in the country to reduce travel times. Railways Express has delivered nearly 150 tonnes of hours in Maharashtra and UP and more trains

Kejriwal writes to all CMs, seeks O2 supply for Delhi

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 24

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday wrote to Chief Ministers of all states requesting them for oxygen if they have any to spare.

Kejriwal said that he would be grateful if the chief ministers could provide Delhi with any oxygen, along with tankers, from their state or any organization in their state. He asked for this request to be treated as an SOS. He also wrote that due to the severe rise in Covid cases in the last few days, many Delhi hospitals had run out of oxygen.

Kejriwal wrote that while the Central Government is helping Delhi in this regard, the intensity of the spread is so severe that the quantity is proving

inadequate. Kejriwal tweeted, "I am writing to all CMs requesting them to provide oxygen to Delhi if they have spare. Though Central govt. is also helping us, the severity of corona is such that all available resources are proving

In the letter, he wrote,

duce any oxygen. Due corona cases in the last few days, many Delhi hospitals have run out of oxygen. Daily supplies of oxygen to Delhi are woefully short of

CM added. The "Central Government is also helping us a lot this regard. However, the intensity of the spread is so severe that it is proving inadequate. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could provide us with any oxygen, along-

state or any

our requirements."

personally grateful for your support.'

Two days ago, Kejriwal had said how in this time of crisis, all states should come together to help each other out. Calling the current wave a collective crisis, the Delhi Chief Minister had said, "If we decide to split ourselves into Harvana, Punjab, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal, India will not survive. We need to

CBI BOOKS **FORMER MAHA HOME MINISTER**

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, APRIL 24

The Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at former Maharashtra Minister Deshmukh's premises in Mumbai and his hometown Nagpur after registering a case against him in connection with allegations of corruption levelled against him by former Mumbai Police Commissioner

Param Bir Singh.
However, the NCP has termed the agency's action as a 'political

witch-hunt.' "The preliminary enquiry (PE) prima facie revealed that a cognisable case is made out in the matter wherein former Maharashtra Home Minister, Deshmukh

and unknown others attempted to obtain

undue advantage for improper and dishonest performance of his public duty," said the CBI FIR. The CBI has charged Mr Deshmukh under

Section 7 of the amended Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 2018, along with Section 120 B of the IPC. After registering the case, the CBI conducted a search operation at a number of locations including the premises Deshmukh in Mumbai, Nagpur and other places. A CBI team had arrived in Nagpur from Delhi on Friday night and carried out searches at Mr Deshmukh's

34-hour curfew begins in J&K as situation continues to be grim senior most official D i v i s i o n a l Commissioner P.K.Pole

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, APRIL 24

Entire Jammu and Kashmir was placed under a complete curfew for 34 hours from Saturday night in view of worsening Covid-19 situation.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, while taking to micro-blogging site Twitter announced, "Complete Corona curfew to be observed in the Union Territory from 8PM, 24th April (Saturday) till 6AM, April 26 Essential (Monday). and emergency services to be allowed. All an upward trajectory in Covid-19 cases over the past couple of weeks. The officials said that the UT on Saturday reported 2,030 fresh cases, taking the tally to

market, commercial institutions w remain closed". (sic)

1,58,374.

J&K has witnessed an upward trajectory in Covid-19 cases over the past couple of weeks. The officials said that the UT on Saturday

to 1,58,374. Also, 15 more people died of the virus in the last 24 hours, they said. With these, the total fatality count has went up to 2,126. The government had

earlier this week extended night curfew in all twenty districts of the Union Territory besides announcing a slew of other tough measures including allowing only fifty percent shops and other business establishments on alternate days to curb the spread

of the virus. reported 2,030 fresh However, Kashmir's

in the Valley as the administration is following the mantra of Jaan bhi, Jahaan bhi. Around the same time, the authorities in J&K and Ladakh had informed the Union government that the surge in the positive cases in the twin UTs is a result of inbound

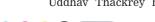
had said that the gov-

ernment has no plan to

impose fresh lockdown

travellers as many of them have turned out to be the carriers of the asymptomatic transmission of virus.

near Palsumpara under Gangalur police station on April 21. Maoists' west Bastar division owned responsibility for his killing. The jawan's widow had earlier appealed to the Maoists to release.



said in Pune.

meeting of representatives of the private hosdecided to mandatorily

such a horrific situa-The chief minister

weeks.

During the last 24 hours 1,31,155 samples were tested and the test

from utilising the public health care infra-structure to the fullest, has decided to involve the private hospitals in an organised manner for providing critical care to the Covid-19

With many states witnessing a surge in deaths of Covid-19 patients due to shortage of oxygen, ventilators and criticial care facilties, the Kerala government has initiated measures to prevent

tion in the state. The state reported 26,685 new cases on Saturday taking the total number of active cases to 1,98,576. Besides, 25 deaths were also reported in Saturday taking the death toll to 5,080. cleared

positivity rate was In the wake of the huge spike in cases reported in the state over the past one week, the government apart

Chief minister Mr Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday convened a

set aside 25 per cent of beds mandatorily for Covid-19 patients.

also directed the private hospitals to not to levy high charges for Covid-19 treatment. He assured the private hospitals that the pending dues connected with Covid care under Karunya scheme would in two

The private hospital managements urged the chief minister not to impose uniform treatment rates for Covid related complications. They pointed out that the rates are based on the facilities provided in each hospital including speciality

Maha to float global tender for Remdesivir

MUMBAI, APRIL 24

To meet a growing demand for coronavirus vaccines and remdesivir injections in the state, the Maharashtra Government has decided to float a global tender for the procurement of these drugs used in the treatment of

Maharashtra, which is the worst coron-avirus-affected state in the country, is facing an acute shortage of vaccines and remdesivir drugs. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced that the State Government will purchase these drugs from foreign compa-

"We have decided to float a global tender for remdesivir. For this, a five-member committee will be appointed and it will be headed by state chief secretary Sitaram Kunte," he

minister Uddhav Thackrey has

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC directed the chief secretary to issue a global tender. It will decide on which vaccines should be purchased, Mr

Pawar added. CM Thackeray has also discussed the details of the vaccine with CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII) Adar Poonawala. The SII has agreed to provide vaccines to the state as per its production capacity. But we have to also keep other options open, he said. The deputy Cl deputy CM

claimed that the Centre has halved the supply of medical oxygen to Maharashtra.
"We were getting 250 metric tonnes of oxygen, but it has been reduced to 125 MT," he

Maharashtra Saturday recorded 67,160 new Covid cases taking its caseload to

The state also registered 676 deaths due to the infection, taking the toll to 63928. The state now has 694480 active Covid cases.

Covid-19 on Friday. The two deceased forest officers are Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Force Ashish Verma and Sendhwa divisional forest officer S S Meheta. The niece of former

Union minister and **Congress MLA Kantilal** Bhuria, Kalawati was elected as Jhabua district zilla panchayat president four times before being elected as MLA from Jobat constituency in Alirajpur district in 2018 polls.

IN BRIEF

Stop killings, **Myanmar told**

Jakarta, April 24: Indonesian President Joko Widodo has said that Southeast Asian leaders have demanded an immediate end to killings and the release of political detainees in Myanmar, in an emergency summit with its top general and coup leader in the Indonesian capital.

The leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also told Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing in the talks Saturday in Jakarta that a dialogue between contending parties in Myanmar should immediately start, Widodo said, adding that the situation in the troubled Southeast Asian nation is unacceptable.

Zarif to visit Iraq, **Qatar today**

Tehran, April 24: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is to visit Iraq and Qatar on Sunday, his ministry announced, following reported talks brokered by Baghdad between Tehran and regional rival Riyadh.

The talks in the Iraqi capital earlier this month, which have not been confirmed by either capital, were held at the level of officials not ministers and aimed at restoring relations severed five years ago, an Iraqi official and a Western diplomat said in Baghdad. Tehran has neither confirmed nor denied the reports saying only that it has "always welcomed dialogue with Saudi Arabia. Riyadh has flatly denied them.

PoC shot: 7 deputies on leave

Elizabeth City (US), April 24: Seven North Carolina deputies have been placed on leave in the aftermath of a PoC man being shot and killed by members of their department serving drug-related search and arrest warrants, authorities said Friday.

The disclosure comes as calls increase for the release of deputy body camera footage amid signs, including emergency scanner traffic, that Andrew Brown Jr. was shot in the back and killed as he was trying to drive away.

Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office Maj. Aaron Wallio confirmed the number of deputies on leave due to the shooting in an email Friday.

New crew reaches ISS

Washington, April 24: A recycled SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carrying four astronauts docked with the International Space Station early Sat-urday, the third time Elon Musk's company has safely delivered humans to the orbital outpost. The spacecraft named Endeavour, piloting herself autonomously, locked on to a docking port at 5:08 am Eastern time (0908 GMT), some 260 miles (420 kilometers) above

the south Indian Ocean. Two hours after the process was completed, Endeavour's quartet posed for photos with the last crew of four sent by SpaceX, and three Russian cosmonauts — making the ISS unusually crowded with 11 people in total.

CHAUVIN TO BE SENTENCED ON JUNE 16

Minneapolis, April 24: Sacked US police officer Derek Chauvin will be sentenced on June 16 for the murder of African American George Floyd in a case that sparked nationwide anti-racism protests. The Hennepin County District Court in the Midwestern city of Minneapolis, where handcuffed Floyd died last May, said in its online schedule that the white ex-cop will be sentenced at 1:30 pm (1830 GMT).

The ex-officer — who knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes — faces up to 40 years in prison after being found guilty of all charges Tuesday over the death of the unarmed man.

The crime was recorded by a bystander whose video shocked the world, triggering mass protests across the United States and beyond, while also prompting a national reckoning on racial injustice and

police brutality. Last year's killing of Floyd as he lay face down and handcuffed saying repeatedly "I can't breathe" has prompted some police reforms, but advocates, including President Joe

Biden, say more is needed. While the Chauvin trial progressed, Minneapolis was rocked by the police shooting of yet another African American.



New Zealand band Six60 perform at Eden Park in Auckland, on Saturday. Six60 is being billed as the biggest live act

Clot: US lifts J&J vax pause

Washington, April 24: US health officials lifted an 11-day pause on Covid-19 vaccinations using Johnson & Johnson's single dose shot, after scientific advisers decided its benefits outweigh a rare risk of

The government uncovered 15 vaccine recipients who developed a highly unusual kind of blood clot, out of nearly 8 million people given the J&J shot. All were women, most under age 50. Three died, and seven remain hospitalised.

But ultimately Friday, the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decided that J&J's one-and-done vaccine is critical to fight the pande mic and that the small clot risk could be handled with warnings to help younger women decide if they should use that shot or an alternative.

Above all else, health and safety are at the forefront of our decisions, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said. Our vaccine safety systems are working. We identified exceptionally rare events out of millions of doses" of the J&J shot and will continue to monitor them.

The US decision similar to how European regulators are rolling out J&J's shot comes after CDC advisers earlier Friday voted 10-4 to resume vaccination ons but panelists made clear that they must come with warnings about the but ultimately steered cle-ar of outright age restrictions. This is an age group that is most at risk (of the clotting) that is getting vaccine predominately to save other peoples' lives and morbidity, not their own. And I think we have a responsibility to be certain that they know this," said Dr. Sarah Long of Drexel University College of Medicine, who voted against the proposal because she felt it did not go far enough in warning women. The panel members all agreed the J&J vaccine "should be put back into circulation, chairman Dr. Jose Romero, Arkansas' health secreta-

New, more potent virus strain in Lanka

Colombo, April 24: A new Coronavirus strain that is airborne and more potent than all those found previously in Sri Lanka has been discovered in the island nation.

The variant, which is highly transmissible, can remain airborne for nearly an hour and is spreading fast, Neelika Malavige, the head of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Sciences of the Sri Jayawardenapura University said.

This variant of Coronav-

ities feared that the new variant is spreading rapidly after last week's New Year celebrations with more younger people getting infected. In the next two incuba-

irus is more highly trans-missible than all found so

far in the island. The dr-

oplets can remain airbor-

ne for nearly an hour, Ma-

lavige said. Health author-

tion periods, the disease can progress to a third wave, Upul Rohana, of the Public Health Inspectors

ment on the New Zealand

government website said.

Earlier on Friday the Perth and Peel regions

were sent into a three-day

lockdown after Western

Australia recorded its fir-

st community transmissi-

NZ PAUSES TRAVEL BUBBLE WITH W. AUSTRALIA AFTER VIRUS CASE

Wellington, April 24: New Zealand on Friday paused arrivals from Western Australia, temporarily excluding the state's travellers from a quarantine-free bubble between the countries due to a Covid-19 outbreak

"As set out in our Trans-Tasman bubble protocols, travel between New Zealand and Western Australia has been paused, pending further advice from the state government," a state-

GERMANY

BERLIN RESTRICTS

'HIGH-RISK' INDIA

Berlin, April 24: Germa-

ny will shut out all trav-

ellers arriving from India

apart from its own citize-

ns, Health Minister Jens

Spahn said Saturday, as a

new variant has made the

South Asian country the

latest Coronavirus hots-

pot. "We're very worried

about the new mutation of

the virus discovered in

India. So as not to endan-

ger our vaccination pro-

gramme, India travel has

to be significantly limit-

ed," Spahn told the Funke

newspaper group.

TRAVEL FROM

on of the virus in 12 months. A man in his 50s, who recently left hotel quarantine, flew into Melbourne from Perth on Wednesday and tested positive for the Coronavirus earlier Frid-**KUWAIT ALL COMMERCIAL**

FLIGHTS FROM INDIA SUSPENDED

Dubai, April 24: Kuwait on Saturday suspended all direct commercial flights from India due to the worsening Covid-19 situation in the country.

The move came after instructions from health authorities. Kuwait's directorate general of civil aviation said that it had suspended all direct commercial flights from India, effective April 24. Passengers arriving from India or via another country will be banned from entering unless they have spent 14 days out of India. — PTI

Merkel defends new law

Bwelin, April 24: Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday defended a fiercelyopposed new law imposing tough Coronavirus restrictions across Germany, including night curfews and school closures.

With many of its neighbours lifting restrictions despite higher virus rates, Europe's biggest economy is bucking the trend with the new national law dubbed the "emergency brake". Passed amid huge protests in Berlin this week, the law prescribes uniform national restrictions

GERMANY

and is designed to end a tug of war between the federal government and Germany's 16 states. The law "is something new in our fight against the pandemic. And I'm co-

her weekly video podcast. cantly and quickly reduce infections, gradual opening-up will be possible in the near future," she added. Tough measures will apply from Saturday in all regions with incidence rates of more than 100 new infections per 100,000 people over the last

nvinced that we need it urgently," Merkel said in "If we manage to signifi-

Islamabad, April 24: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday expressed solidarity with the people of India battling the deadly wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying we must fight this global challenge confronting humanity together.

PAKISTAN

IMRAN EXPRESSES

SOLIDARITY WITH

INDIA OVER CRISIS

In a tweet, Khan said: Our prayers for a speedy recovery go to all those suffering from the pande-mic in our neighbourhood and the world. His tweet came after Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed support to the people of India.

MALLORCA MAN INFECTS 22 WITH COVID, ARRESTED

SPAIN

Madrid, April 24: A Mallorca man who infected 22 people with Covid-19 has been arrested on suspicion of assault for going to work and the gym despite signs he had the virus, police said Saturday.

Police on the Spanish island began investigating at the end of Jan. after an outbreak in the town of Manemployee had "become infected but hidden his illness", a statement said. Days before the outbreak

was detected, he began to show symptoms.

IRAN

TEHRAN BANS FLIGHTS FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN

Tehran, **April 24:** Iran's state-run *IRNA* news agency is reporting the country's civil aviation agency has banned all flights to and from India and Pakistan because of the dramatic surge in Coronavirus cases in the two nations.

IRNA says the decision was made by Iran's Health Ministry and it takes effect Saturday at midnight.

Mohammad Hassan Zib akhsh, spokesman for Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation noted there are no routine flights between Iran and India and flights are operated occasionally. He said flights to and from 41 countries were prohibited in Iran, while those who want to fly to other countries listed as high risk are required to have a

Lost submarine sank: Indonesia

Says vessel went down, cracked open April 21

Banyuwangi (Indonesia), April 24: Indonesia's navy on Saturday said items were found from a missing submarine, indicating the vessel with 53 crew members had sunk and cracked open, and that there was no hope of

finding survivors.

Military chief Hadi Tjahjanto said the presence of an oil slick as well as the discovery of debris near the location of KRI Nanggala 402's last dive on Wednesday off the island of Bali were clear proof the vessel had sunk. Indonesia earlier consid-

ered the vessel to be only missing. Navy Chief Yudo Margono told a press conference in Bali, "If it's an explosion, it will be in pieces. The cracks happened gradually in some parts when it went down from 300 metres to 400 metres to 500 metres...If there was an explosion, it would be heard by the sonar." The navy previously said it believes the submarine THE NAVY previously said it believes the submarine sank to a depth of 600-700 metres (2,000-2,300 feet), much deeper than its collapse depth of 200 metres (655 feet), at which point water pressure would be greater than the hull could withstand.

sank to a depth of 600-700 metres (2,000-2,300 feet), much deeper than its collapse depth of 200 metres (655 feet), at which point water pressure would be greater than the hull could withstand. The cause of the disappearance was still uncertain.

The navy had previously said an electrical failure could have left the submarine unable to execute emergency procedures to resurface. Margono said in the past two days, searchers found parts of a torpedo straightener, a grease bottle believed to be used to oil the periscope, debris

from prayer rugs and a broken piece from a coolant pipe that was refitted on the submarine in South Korea in 2012. "With the authentic evidence we found believed to be from the submarine, we have now moved from the sub miss' phase to sub sunk," Margono said at the press conference, in which the items were displayed.

Margono said rescue

teams from Indonesia and other countries will evaluate the findings. He said no bodies have been found so far. Officials previously said the submarine's oxygen supply would have run out early Saturday. An American reconnaissance plane, a P-8 Poseidon, landed Saturday and was set to join the search, along with 20 Indonesian ships, a sonar-equipped Australian warship and four Indonesian aircraft. Singaporean rescue ships were expected Saturday, while Malaysian rescue vessels were due Sunday.

Israel, Gaza engage in exchange of fire

Jerusalem, April 24: Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired some three dozen rockets into Israel overnight Saturday, while the Israeli military struck back at targets operated by the ruling Hamas group. The exchange came as tensions in Jerusalem spilled over into the worst round of cross-border violence in months. The barrage of rocket fire came as hundreds of Palestinians clashed with Israeli police in east Jerusalem.
The clashes, in which at

least four police and six protesters were injured, have become a nightly occurrence throughout the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and show no signs of stopping. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he held talks with top security officials about Gaza and Jerusalem. He said he instructed officials to be ready 'for every scenario' in Gaza. In Jerusalem, he tee 'freedom of worship' for everyone, and he appealed for calm.

"We ask now for people to obey the law and I call for a calming of tempers on all sides." The UN envoy to the region, Tor Wennesland, condemned the violence and said the United Nations was working with all sides to restore calm. "The provocative acts across Jerusalem must cease. The indiscri-

kets towards Israeli population centres violates international law and must stop immediately," he said. "I reiterate my call upon all sides to exercise maximum restraint and avoid further escalation, particularly during the Holy month of Ramadan and this politically charged time for all." Meanwhile, Israeli chief

of staff, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, is weighing "a series of steps for possib-le responses," and preparations if the situation continued to escalate, the military said in a statement. He also postponed a trip to the United States that was scheduled for Sunday. The US also appealed for calm, while neighbouring Jordan, which serves as the custodian for Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites, condemned Israel's actions. Jerusalem, home to holy

sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, has the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In 2014, similar tensions erupted into a 50day war between Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group.
The Israeli military said

a total of 36 rockets were fired into Israel throughout the night. It said six rockets were intercepted, while most of the others landed in open areas. There were no reports of

BORIS EX-AIDE'S WAR OF WORDS AGAINST UK PM

London, April 24: Dominic Cummings, once Boris Johnson's top aide and closest ally as his Chief Strategy Adviser, has unleashed a fierce war of words against his former boss after Downing Street pointed to him as the leak behind a controversial text message exchange between the UK Prime Minister and vacuum cleaner entrepreneur James Dyson.

In a lengthy blog post published on Friday, Cu-mmings vehemently de-nied leaking any text messages and goes on to reveal several of Johnson's actions during his time as his aide as being foolish and unethical and ends by questioning his "competence and integrity". Downing Street has responded to deny any impropriety and stressed the adherence to all codes of conduct and

transparency norms. It is sad to see the PM and his office fall so far competence and integrity the country deserves, writes Cummings.

I am happy to meet with the Cabinet Secretary (Simon Case) and for him to search my phone for Dyson messages. If the PM did send them to me, as he is claiming, then he will be able to show the Cabinet Secretary on his own phone when they were sent to me, he writes.

Biden: Atrocities against Armenians were genocide

Washington, April 24: President Joe Biden has formally recognised that the systematic killings and deportations of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces in the early 20th century were "genocide" — using a term for the atrocities that his White House predecessors have avoided for decades over concerns of alienating Turkey. With the acknowledge-

ment, Biden followed through on a campaign promise he made a year ago Sa• WITH THE acknowledgement, Biden followed through on a campaign promise he made a year ago Saturday — the annual commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day - to recognise that the events of 1915 to 1923 were a deliberate effort to wipe out Armenians.

turday — the annual commemoration of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day — to recognise that

the events of 1915 to 1923 were a deliberate effort to wipe out Armenians.

Biden used a presidential proclamation to make the pronouncement. Whiprevious presidents have offered somber reflections of the dark moment in history via remembrance day proclamations, they have studiously avoided using the term genocide out of concern that it would complicate relations with Turkey — a Nato ally and important power in the Middle East

OUT OF THE CAVE

One of the sensors was a thermometer inside a capsule

French isolation study ends after 40 days

no clocks and no sunlight

Lombrives Cave, April 24: Ever wonder what it would feel like to unplug from a hyperconnected world and hide away in a cave for a few weeks? Fifteen people in France found out.

After 40 days in voluntary isolation in a dark, damp and vast cave, eight men and seven women who took part in a scientific experiment emerged Saturday from their self-segregation in the Pyrenees. With big smiles on their pale faces, the 15 participants exited the Lombrives cave to a round of applause and basked in the light of day while wearing special glasses to protect their eyes after so long in the dark. "It's really warm!"

plored the cave without a

sense of time. There were

inside, where the temperature was 10 degrees Celsius (50 F) and the relative humidity stood at 100 per cent. The cave dwellers had no contact with the outside world, no updates on the pandemic or any communication with friends and family above ground. For 40 days and 40 nights, the group lived in and ex-Scientists at the Human

ect say the experiment will help them better understand how people adapt to drastic changes in living conditions and environments, something much of the world can relate to because of Coronavirus pandemic. In partnership with labs in France and Switzerland, scientists monitored the 15-member Adaption Institute leading group's sleep patterns, the 1.2 million-euro \$1.5 social interactions and million) "Deep Time" projbehavioural reactions via

sensors. One of the sensors was a tiny thermometer inside a capsule that participants swallowed like a pill. The capsules measure body temperature and transmit data to a portable computer until they are expelled naturally. The team members followed their biological clocks to know when to wake up, go to sleep and

LANKAN EX-MINISTER, BROTHER ARRESTED OVER EASTER ATTACKS Colombo, April 24: Sri

Lankan Police on Saturday arrested a former minister and his brother for allegedly aiding and abetting the suicide bombers responsible for the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks in which 258 people, including 11 Indians, were killed. Rishad Bathiudeen, the leader of a minority Muslim party that is part of the main Opposition party, the SJB, and his brother Riyaj Bathiudeen were arrested from their respective residences.

"They have been arrest ed under the provisions of the prevention of terrorism Act based on direct. circumstantial and scientific evidence," Ajith Rohana, the senior deputy inspector general, said

In May last year, Riyaj was nabbed for making contacts with suicide bombers and given bail in Oct. Rishad, a former Minister of Industry and Commerce, was nabbed in Oct and given bail in Nov. over misappropriation of state resources.

DECCAN CHRONICLE | NELLORE | SUNDAY | 25 APRIL 2021

Chronicle

25 APRIL 2021



Hope and sorrow in the time of C-virus

does not take up space. It refuses food and drink, and speaks only when spoken to. I consult it when I need to identify my feelings. For my benefit, it keeps a record of them. For some reason, strange or otherwise, I alone was never an adept at that.

The only time the ghost speaks to me of its own accord is when I am

tired. Whenever I expend myself beyond my lung capacity, it tells me: This is how it felt for him, too, when, for instance, he resumed breathing for your sake, twice coming out from under ventilation. And the cold fin-

ger of guilt grips my heart.

The first time I heard the ghost speak was when I was perspiring over the griddle a full year after Baba died.

Baba went under ventilation three Marches ago, in the late spring of 2018. The lone tree tucked away at the back of the interstate bus terminus

Baba did not die of the coronavirus. Following cardiac and kidney failure, he died of septic shock. Between the two illnesses, the pneumonia was the common factor.

Baba, a doctor, has missed out on the whole pandemic plus the vaccine

I have given up exercising for fitness. There is no one to perform for, vie against, show off. It puts me on a better footing than the children in my neighbourhood, fretting because they want to but cannot play. Less than a month ago, I saw a desi mother

Less than a month ago, I

supervising their games

in the park as I silently applauded her. To me,

saw a desi mother

she was the pith of

society, salt of the

earth. That was then,

though. This is now.

exploded and is now

spreading furious and

In-between, the

coronavirus has

supervising their games in the park as I silently applauded her. To me, she was the pith of society, salt of the earth. That was then, though. This is now. In-between, the coronavirus has exploded and is now spreading furious and fast.

Despite its no-pussyfooting bravado and stupendous majority, the government did not declare a lockdown on Holi. The Kumbh continued uninterrupted. The virus, meanwhile, reached the interiors and the second wave has since surpassed the first one. The daily case count is over three lakhs. Experts say the peak is many weeks away. India is notorious for its non-existent chains of primary and secondary medical infrastructure. My husband held that these omissions on the part of the government — failing to declare a curfew, call off the Kumbh and so on — fell on its policy

Well, one didn't. The decision to hold an eight-phase legislative assembly election, ongoing in the present, was deliberate. My home state, West Bengal, was chosen for this singular punishment.

Our leaders thus dropped the ball when our severely constrained health workers had almost won the match. The latter slogged away alone. Many did not return home in days. The hospitals were full of despair.

A young man asked a photographer to click the smoke coming out of his mother's pyre. She was there.

The high courts stepped in. They bore upon the Centre to direct uninterrupted transport of oxygen across state borders. India is the world's largest producer of industrial grade oxygen. But earlier, state governments had refused to come on the same page on this simplest of measures.

Eventhough I am his eldest, I am not going to my hometown to perform Baba's annual rite. My younger sister will fill in for me. The coronavirus is a factor. But what made the decision for me is my awareness from the start that I have not been a good child. While he never needed me to, I did not help Baba take care of the family. No one took care of him, on the other hand. I spurned his wish for me to become a doctor. For the sake of

my journalistic quest, I abandoned him. My rishirin to Baba will be paid when I complete my memoir of our differences. Baba was a flawed man. But no one, including a never-genuinely exceptional me, had a mind like Baba's.

Periodically, the seed of my guilt bursts on my skin in angry hives. When I work very hard and accomplish a minuscule amount of good it goes away. I risk losing a bit of my memory of Baba whenever that occurs.

The young child I know in our condominium has started school. But school is online and she does not speak a word, and I worry that the lack of physical contact with classmates and peers will further rob her of that incentive. Whenever we meet, I am infected by her boundless energy. But she is more poised than I ever will be and never exposes her weak spots. Like her inability to articulate. Her absence of vocabulary

I, too, had once chosen certainty over sharing, but I had been pushed to

I dream of her growing up. To being from nothingness, darkness to light. Like Vak, daughter of Ambhrin, she will give a name to all existence, one by one, that will, in turn, give rise to noun, thought, knowledge and identity. That day, should I be around, she will probably look into my eyes with those great big ones of hers and there will be a reckoning. Or there





An AWOL government



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

t is like a nightmar-ish deja-vu moment for me. Opening the debate on the demands for grants for the ministry of health and family welfare in the Lok Sabha on March 17, 2021, I, at the outset, stated: "Mr Speaker Sir, this discussion is taking place at a point in time when the world is being engulfed, if not overwhelmed, by the second wave of coron-avirus infections." These words have unfortunately proven to be prophetic in the case of our nation.

The last two weeks have been a nightmare for India as the second wave of Covid-19 hit the nation in all its fury. Overflowing hospitals, oxygen scarcity, hoarded life-saving drugs being sold on the black market, diagnostic centres stretched to a breaking point and hospitals approaching the courts to maintain oxygen supplies. The worst is even cremation and burial grounds not being able to cope with inflow of dead bodies and death numbers literally being fudged. People are being cremated on makeshift platforms set up on public pavements - denied dignity even in death.

The imagery of the past fortnight could not have been more bizarre. On one hand, the Prime Minister and home minister were addressing frenzied supporters in West Bengal and, on the other hand, sick and even dying people were being turned back from hospitals for lack of

government is The AWOL— absent without

leave. What is, however, even far more felonious if it turns out to be true is that the Indian-origin double mutant strain, B.1.167, that is responsible for the current rampage, was first detected as way back on the $5^{\hbox{th}}$ of October 2020. Since both earlier mutations, E84Q and L425R, were discovered in the virus' crucial spike pro-tein, its devastation potential should have been sequenced on a war footing. Instead, it was consigned to the back burner and never taken seriously because Covid infection had numbers started declining.

How could we have missed the second wave of Covid-19 with all the empirical evidence of hundred years of history staring us straight in the face?

Downright negligence, coupled with hubris, made the governments, both at the Centre and some in the states, let their guard

Surprisingly, when the Prime Minister addressed the nation on Tuesday night, he said lockdown should we used as a measure of the last resort. On March 23, 2020, when India was at 341 cases and only seven dead, he was the most enthusiastic champion of a national lockdown.

All through the whole of last year, ministers and spokespersons of the NDA/BJP alliance kept touting it as the magic bullet that had saved millions of lives. Jan Hai To Jahan Hai (If there is life there would be paradise) — they sang in chorus. One year later, the Prime Minister and his band of not-somerry men are singing an entirely different tune.

With a 32 lakh crore hole in the Union budget spread over two fiscals, 2020-21 and 2021-22, and no cushion to fall back upon, for the economy has been grossly mismanaged going back to the illogical demonetisation in November 2016, livelihoods are

With a 32 lakh crore hole in the Union budget spread over two fiscals, 2020-21 and 2021-22, and no cushion to fall back upon, for the economy has been grossly mismanaged, livelihoods are now being prioritised over lives

now being prioritised over lives. If the wheels of the economy do not keep ticking, the Union government stares at the spectre of bankruptcy. It is, therefore, not trite that even in times of a rag-

ing pandemic, the allocations in the Union budget for health in the current fiscal are at best tardy. I had pointed this out during the Parliament debate.

In 2020-21, the ministry received an allocation of ₹67,112 crores. This is an increase of a measly 3.9 per cent over the revised estimates of 2019-20 — ₹64,609 crores. In 2019-20, the cumulative public health expenditure of all the states put together was a meagre ₹1,96,659 crores. The Union government's performance was even worse at ₹36,339 crores.

We all know India's health system is in shambles. Last year in these columns, I had argued that what we need is a new health deal for India. I had calculated that India requires an infrastructure investment of ₹6 lakh crores to rebuild its public health system bottom upwards. The human resource cost to staff it is separate.

Given this state of play, a second wave meant that it would be each to their own. One would be primarily responsible for saving one's own life and those of one's loved ones.

Had we not experienced the same a year back? The disadvantaged sections of our society — the millions of internal migrants who keep the wheels of our economy turning — were compelled to walk home as they were doused with

with chlorine water, canecharged and made to suffer a million other ignominies by a callous state to prevent them from reaching their home and hearth. Once again as states announce lockdowns and curfews, you see the same stampede at bus stands and railway stations as people make a beeline back to their villages. The clock has turned a full

It, therefore, begs a question; Should people themselves not have come together to enforce Covid-appropriate behaviour during the lull when cases had come down? But given our intrinsic sense of fatalism — it is all in God's hands — we threw all caution to the winds. This, even when it is known that there is never a govern-ment when it is required the most.

Maybe, given the handto-mouth existence of the bulk of our people who need to migrate to urban agglomerations to keep their body and soul together, it is not even humanly possible to think beyond the next meal. They are thus destined to play the Russian roulette, for the choice is a really a binary between death by hunger or death by virus.

Will this situation ever change? Can we build a state-of-the-art education and healthcare system for our people? The answer is yes. However, it would first and foremost require population control. With 135 crore people and grow ing by the minute, it is just not possible for any system to provide even the basic level of amenities required for a decent living. A broad national consensus regarding the need to contain population needs to be created at the earliest. How many more tragedies would it take to understand this?

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

LETTERS

VACCINES

The nation is in the darkest days of the pandemic and still darker days are not ruled out (No time to lose, ramp up vaccine production now, DC, April 24). There has been an astronomical surge in Covid cases. The Centre and all states need to pool in resources to meet the demand without political bickerings. The ruling dispensation has to scale up production of vaccines immediately. Medical infrastructure has to be declared as the "thrust area" in the country as Coronavirus will be there for long.

Dr C. Ghanshyam Visakhapatnam

SECOND WAVE

Though various reports predicted a second wave of Coronavirus more virulent than the first, the Centre could not wake up from slumber. As a result the nation is facing shortage of vaccine and emergency drugs like remdesivir. It is heart-breaking to read 25 patients dying due to lack of medical oxygen. The Union government's lack of coordination to ensure oxygen supply is becoming so clear. Why is the vaccine not being provided for free when there is a budget provision of ₹35,000 crore for it?

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala Tiruvuru, Krishna district

The second Covid-19 wave has not yet reached its peak. Experts says careless people and governments have led to the rise of a new "double mutant" variant of Coronavirus in samples collected from India. Pace of vaccination should rise as it is a sure shot solution and people should maintain simple preventive measures known to everyone. Refusal to take vaccine is not a good sign as the risk of dying from Covid is higher than when one is vaccinated.

Vani Venkatesh

MODI'S CALL

It is well-known that Indian business people are always ready to exploit any emergency and adept at "managing" their escape through political clout. While this is a fact, there is no point in asking states to act against hoarders. The Centre should first declare a national health emergency. Paramilitary and Armed forces should be deployed urgently to tide over the situation.

Govardhana Myneedu



Russia's 2-year lead over U.S.

HOUSTON, April. 24 American space officials today conceded that Russia would have atleast a two-year lead over the United States if its Soyuz-10 cosmonauts were preparing to man an orbiting space station.

America's first prototype space station, basically a converted Apollo rocket called Skylab, is not due to be launched until 1973. It will house teams of three astronauts for an initial period of 28 days followed by two 560day missions.

Pradeep S. Mehta and Prashant Tak

Haryana law a bad example: Populism won't create new jobs

aryana is the latest addition to the growing phenomenon where Indian states are formulating laws and policies to reserve jobs for locals in the private sector. Other states that have undertaken such measures, though with negligible implementation, include Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Is it a race to the top or the bottom? It is certainly petty, immoral and may not achieve its objectives.

The Haryana government recently enacted the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act 2020, which requires private establishments that employ 10 or more workers to reserve 75 per cent of new jobs with a monthly salary of less than ₹50,000 for domiciles of Haryana.

It has resulted in a rift between the state government and the private sector, as evident from the backlash it has received from private entrepreneurs and industry bodies. Many private sector firms have threatened to

This practice of regional protectionism has a ripple effect, that is likely to push other states to follow suit due to populist considerations, or a race to the bottom. It will end up restricting the freedom of workers to migrate and access better employment opportunities. It may also push employers to leave places where such laws are applicable. Most critically, it will lead to the erosion of national unity. The perceived economic rationale of

such laws — to generate jobs for locals and boost local industrial ecosystems - seems to get defeated. To govern a commercial ecosystem,

the state government is entitled and mandated to enact laws concerning land, labour, capital and energy.

These laws are meant to ensure

smooth commercial activity. Each or both of the objectives forms the economic rationale towards formulation of a law. Additionally, under the new paradigm of stakeholder capitalism, the government, private sector, labour and civil society need to work in a compact over each other's actions for inclusive and mutually beneficial

governance.
While enacting this law, the Haryana government failed to do adequate pre-legislative exercises to test its economic rationale. It also undermined its compact of cooperation with the private sector. The law restricts the opportunities of migrant workers and disrupts the industrial ecosystem of Haryana. It seems like an expression of the state government's insecurity towards unemployment and a classic example of ad hocism in law-

making, driven by populism.

There already exists a trust deficit

between the government and private sector, as each has avoided accountability towards the other on various occasions. The private sector knowingly failed to adequately distribute its acquired wealth and institutionalise precarious jobs. The government has overregulated the private sector, leading to a high compliance burden. The world is debating stakeholder capitalism vs shareholder capitalism: to ensure that every enterprise works for society, not just its owners.

In both instances of state supervision of business, however, labour has borne the brunt of the adverse consequences. What is unfortunate is that self-interest, rather than mutual interest, drives the solution of modern economic problems.

There is nonalignment between the problem statement specified in the statement of objects and reasons of the Haryana law and its objectives.

The statement specifies the influx of migrants competing for low-paid jobs as the prime reason for the adverse impact on local infrastructure and housing, and proliferation of slums. It further attributes these factors to the rise of environmental and health issues, thus affecting the quality of life and livelihood.

low-paid jobs in Haryana or the entire National Capital Region as it is in Mumbai or Kolkata. There can be two possible reasons. First, availability of abundant work opportunities under different industry segments; and second, lack of work in the states where the workers migrate from.

It's true there is migrant influx for

However, the primary reason for the burden on local infrastructure, housing and proliferation of slums is not the presence of migrants. It can be attributed to factors like lack of state capacity in undertaking welfare measures, non-availability of decent jobs in the private sector. Further, the quality of life and livelihood is affected for the same reasons.

Therefore, the solution to address this doesn't lie in reserving jobs for locals but in enhancing the invest-ment on local infrastructure, welfare measures and strengthening skill development initiatives. The solution also demands ensuring decent work for low-paid workers in particular. Decent work implies that the primary needs of workers, including health, food, shelter and clothing, are fulfilled. It also places a worker in a position where monetary savings are ensured and there is an opportunity for skill

enhancement. Ensuring decent work is a goal in itself and has an economic rationale of increased productivity and development of human beings. Working towards it requires the efficient performance of the compact between the government, labour and the private

The state governments also need to realise such quota enabling measures are accompanied by newer compliances for enterprises. The proliferation of compliance responsibilities dilute the state's agenda of facilitating the "ease of doing business" and also reduces the governance deficit.

The policies enabling employment quotas for locals is driven by populism. It has far-reaching consequences which goes beyond the direct impact on labour, the government and the private sector. It adversely affects the investment prospects for a commercial ecosystem, urban mobility of workers and has an immense opportunity cost. Therefore, any state action towards enhancing employment must be anchored through an economic rationale. This will be clear when the compact between the government, labour and the private sector is evidently functional.

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Officer shoots man

who had charged

at him with knives

HRW WELCOMES RELEASE OF THAI

Bangkok, April 24: A leading human rights group on Saturday welcomed the release on bail of two Thai activists charged with insulting the country's monarchy, but repeated its contention that the apparent use of pretrial detention to punish anyone who criticizes the royal institution is unjust.

Jatupat Pai Dao Din Boonpattararaksa and Somyot Pruksakasemsuk were released Friday evening from Bangkok Remand Center. They had been held on lese majeste charges of defaming the monarchy in connection with their involvement in a political rally last September. They have also been charged with sedition and several minor offenses.

Lese majeste carries a penalty of three to 15 years' imprisonment. The legal assistance group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said the two men each posted 200,000 baht (\$6,400) bail and were released on the condition that they must not leave the country or be involved in any activities that could damage the monar-

chy's reputation. Holding pro-democracy activists in detention prior to trial and conviction on charges of aimed to punish them, in total disregard of fair trial procedures and the right to the presumption of innocence, said Sunai Phasuk, a senior resear-

cher for Human Rights Watch. It sends a clear message that not only are demands by prodemocracy groups for monarchy reforms not tolerated, but they would result in harsh

Jatupat and Somyot are prominent figures in a prodemocracy movement that started last year and held street demonstrations with three core demands: The resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and his government, amending the constitution to make it more democratic and reforming the monarchy to make it more

Dispute over Russian pipeline tests Biden's Europe outreach

Pressure on Prez to act, stop Moscow getting leverage over US allies

Washington, April 24: Pressure is growing on President Joe Biden to take action to prevent the completion of a Russian gas pipeline to Europe that many fear will give the Kremlin significant lever-age over US partners and

Yet such action could provoke an enormous rift in trans-Atlantic relations. notably with Germany, at a time when Biden has made restoring good ties with Europe a priority.
As the Nord Stream 2

pipeline nears completion, U.S. lawmakers from both parties have stepped up demands on a reluctant White House to impose new sanctions on Russian and European companies to halt the project.

But prospects of that happening would seem slim: Germany continues to support the project as it steps up consumption of natural gas, and the pipeline is roughly 95% finished.

Biden has said he opposes the pipeline, which is owned by Russian state company Gazprom, with

Biden's Georgia rally next week to promote jobs

One of his next top pri-

orities is a massive \$ 2.3

plan, which provides funds to update the nation's

infrastructure, shift to gr-

een energy and expand ca-

regiving options for older

It will mark Biden's sec-

ond visit to the state since

becoming president. His

first visit was to promote

his Covid-19 relief pack-

age, but those plans were

derailed by a series of sho-

otings at Atlanta-area spas

that killed eight people,

and disabled Americans.

infrastructure

trillion

President Joe Biden is heading to Georgia next week to mark his first 100 days in office and promote his infrastructure and jobs plan with a drive-in rally in Atlanta.

The White House said the president and his wife, Jill Biden, will travel to the state on April 29, a day after he delivers his first address to a joint session of Congress. In his address, he's expected to tout the accomplishments of his first 100 days in office and lay out his agenda for

investment from several European companies. He has been keen to portray himself as tough on Russian President Vladim-

ir Putin while being a str-

ong supporter of Eastern

Poland and Ukraine that are dead set against it as it

Of potentially greater concern to the US, the Russia-to-Germany pipeline would increase Western European countries like Europe's already heavy

bypasses both

dependence on Russian energy while US-Russian tensions are soaring over a number of issues, including Ukraine, election interference, cyber intrusions and the crackdown on opposition figure Alexei

including six Asian wo-men. Biden instead spent

his visit meeting with co-

mmunity leaders and state

lawmakers from the Asian

American and Pacific Isla-

nder community to discu-

amid an outbreak of anti-

Asian violence nationwi-

de during the Coronavirus

His second visit comes

as Georgia's controversial

new voting law has put the

state's election system in the spotlight. Biden has

called the law Jim Crow in

the 21st century.

pandemic.

Navalny and his supporters. At the same time, the administration is seeking broad European support, especially from Germany, the continent's economic powerhouse, for its plan-ned withdrawal from Afghanistan, climate change counter China's increasingly global assertiveness. It's not clear if sanctions

targeting businesses from Germany and elsewhere would undermine efforts to advance those goals and repair relations that were frayed during Donald Trump's presidency.

On Wednesday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously signed off on legislation that would require the administration to either impose sanctions on 20 companies involved in the pipeline's financing and construction or explain why they

deserve exemptions. In January, the Trump administration hit several Russian firms and ships with penalties for their involvement, but Biden has not expanded the list.

Nashville (US), April 24: about 25 yards from his po-A Tennessee police officer lice car, Aaron said. Royer fatally shot a man who could be heard on the video requesting backup, telcharged at the officer with knives during a traffic stop early Saturday, ling the passenger to drop the knives and saying, I authorities said. don't want to shoot you. Metropolitan Nashville

The man continued running at Royer, who fired three times, the video Police Department Officer Christopher Royer has been placed on adminisshowed. The man fell onto trative assignment after the street. Dude, what are you doi-

hville road, department ng, man, come on, Royer spokesman Don Aaron said. I did not want to have to do that. Police Chief John Drake said five offictal, Aaron said. He was not ers rendered aid to the man. Drake said Royer re-Royer was on patrol in treated and and he asked his police car when he ran the man to drop the knife a license plate for a white Mercedes sedan, but the several times in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. He continued charging at him, and he was left with no choice, Drake said. Drake said officers After the officer stopped the Mercedes, the passenger ran out of the car holdregularly run licence tags to determine if vehicles ing a knife in each hand, are stolen. Nashville police are issued stun guns, Drake said, but Royer did The passenger began not appear to attempt to use it, according to the

video. That's a lethal situation, Drake said, calling the

Officials say carrier to help protect Afghan pullout

Washington, April 24: The Pentagon has decided to keep an aircraft carrier in the Middle East to help provide protection for American and coalition during troops planned withdrawal from Afghanistan in coming weeks, United States defence officials said on

Also, two United States

deployed to Afghanistan as part of the pre-pullout bolstering of security.

The moves back up Pentagon officials' public assurances that United States forces will be prepared to meet whatever resistance the Taliban might present during the withdrawal of more than 10,000 United States and coalition troops starting

About 2,500 to 3,500 of those troops are American. I would advise the

Taliban that we will be well-prepared to defend ourselves throughout the withdrawal process, Gen. Frank McKenzie, the head of United States Central Command, said Thursday at the Pentagon. Prior to President Joe

Biden's announcement last week that he would com-

Toffees add to Gunners misery

Own goal from Arsenal goalkeeper gifts Everton first win in seven games

THE TALIBAN had insisted that Washington stick to a February 2020 agreement the militants had reached with the Trump administration to complete the United States withdrawal by

plete the United States withdrawal by September 11, the Taliban had insist- the pullout of troops and

ed that Washington stick to a February 2020 agreement the militants had reached with the Trump administration to complete the United States withdrawal by May 1.

United States officials said after Biden's announcement that extra military personnel would likely be positioned in Afghanistan to facilitate

Pentagon typically beefs up its military presence as a precaution when executing a sizeable withdrawal.

he shot the man on a Nas-

said at a news conference.
The man died at a hospi-

plate was actually registe-

red to a green 1998 Chev-

running around and brie-

fly entered the driver's side door of Royer's police

car, police body camera

footage released at the

The man then ran towa-

rd Rover, who retreated

news conference showed.

rolet, Aaron said.

Aaron said.

immediately identified.

When the United States pulled troops out of Somalia in January it kept an aircraft carrier in the region as a precaution.

Officials on Friday said USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier that is operating in

SNAP SHOTS

 ${f F}^{
m ormer}$ Hyderabad fast bowler Ashwin Yadav died

after suffering a cardiac

arrest in Hyderabad on Saturday. He was 33 and is survived by his wife and three

Ashwin played 14 first class

matches and took 34 wickets

after making his Ranji Trophy

debut in 2007 against Punjab

in Mohali. His best figures

were 6 for 52 against Delhi at

missed," Sridhar said in a tweet.

Rajiv

International

Mumbai in 2009.

before he joined SBH.

Also, two United States

bomber aircraft will be deployed to Afghanistan, along with hundreds of Army Rangers to provide security during the pullout, the officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss moves that had not vet been announced.

Ashwin Yadav

Nadal surges into

Barcelona semis

Barcelona: Rafael Nadal stepped up his bid for a 12th Barcelona over Cameron Norrie in the quar ter-finals on Friday, while Stefanos Tsitsipas will play Jannik Sinner in the last four. Nadal, who captured his first Barcelona title as an 18-year-old at the 2005 tournament, will face Diego Schwartzman or Pablo Carreno Busta in

Saturday's semifinals. Tsitsipas swept aside Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-3, the Canadian who recently teamed up with Toni Nadal, the uncle and former coach of the 20-time Grand Slam winner. Tsitsipas extended his winning run to

Barty battles past Pliskova in QFs

Stuttgart, Germany: World number one Ashleigh Barty fought back to reach the semifinals of the WTA Stuttgart clay-court tournament with a 2-6, 6-1, 7-5 win over Karolina Pliskova on Friday. Barty faces fourth seed Elina Svitolina in Saturday's semifinal after the Ukrainian staged a remarkable comeback in her 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 6-2 win over Petra Kvitova. Second seed Simona Halep is yet to drop a set in Stuttgart as she reached the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Ekaterina Alexandrova. In her semifinal, Halep will face either fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka or Anett Kontaveit. - AFF

Persepolis hammer

FC Goa in return leg

thrashed 4-0 by Iranian champions Persepolis FC in their returnleg AFC Champions League Group E match here on Friday. Shahriar Moghanlou (24th minute). Mehadi Torabi (43rd). Issa Alkasir (47th) and Kamal Kamyabinia (58th) scored for the winners in a completely one-

The result saw Persepolis, with 12 points from four games, extending their 100 per cent win record while FC Goa suffered their second consecutive defeat after the 1-2 loss to Yahya Golmohammadi's side on

Tuesday. — PTI

own-goal from Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno handed Everton a 1-0

Premier League win on Friday as around 2,000 fans protested against Gunners owner Stan outside Kroenke Emirates Stadium. With both sides chasing

places in Europe next season, it was Carlo Ancelotti's side who came out on top with a first win in seven games. German keeper Leno

turned a Richarlison cross into his own goal in the 76th minute to give the Toffees victory Arsenal supporters had

gathered outside demanding Kroenke stand down after the club's attempt to join the doomed Super League project.

The result left Everton in eighth place, three points off the Champions League places after their first league win at Arsenal since 1996.

Arsenal are ninth, nine points off the top four. "It was really important

to stay attached to the top of the table," Ancelotti "The performance was

LEAGUE CUP FINAL

April

bombshell revelation that

City and Tottenham were

among 12 clubs plotting

League, they will contest the first major silverware

Alarmed by the furious

public backlash against

the Super League, City's

owners were the first to

of the English season.

Super

the breakaway

Man City look to end title drought

confidence for the next games. Finally I can say we are back. The game produced few

lose their nerve when they

remain furious at the cyn-

have been calls for sanc-

tions against the six Premier League teams.

Against that backdrop, it

is ironic the League Cup

will be the focus of atten-

tion for two of the Super

League founders this weekend. -AFP

betrayal and there

Everton's

Gylfi Sigurdsson saw a 30-yard free-kick come back off the crossbar Arsenal were furious when a second-half penal-

MARSEILLE TO

Paris, April 24: Dimitri Payet scored two goals and set up Arkadiusz Milik for another as Marseille came from behind to defeat Reims 3-1 away in Ligue 1 on Friday.

Reims took the lead when Nathanael Mbuku powered a header in at a corner, but Marseille levelled almost immediately as Payet swept in a pass from Pol Lirola.

Payet then delivered a fantastic low cross for Milik to tap in from close range in first-half stoppage time.

Marseille Steve Mandanda turned an effort from Senegal striker Boulaye Dia onto the post in the second half while Reims were reduced to 10 men. Payet was denied a hat-trick by an excellent stop from Predrag Rajkovic, with Milik ruled offside as he poked in the rebound.

domestic leagues, govern-

ments and Champions

 ${f R}$ ecurve women's team of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari assured India of its first medal in the Archery World Cup Stage 1 after

Women archers storm into WC final

Hyderabad cricketer Ashwin no more

Gandh

Cricket

Stadium in Hyderabad in the 2008-09 season.

Ashwin's last Ranji Trophy match was against

He, however, continued to play for State Bank of Hyderabad and then SBI in the local league. Ashwin

played for the Evergreen cricket club for many years

Indian team's fielding coach R. Sridhar condoled Ashwin's demise. "Devastated to hear the news of

#Ashwinyadav passing away. A Very jovial and fun loving guy, team man to the core, punched way above

his skills as a fast bowler. I pray to God for strength to

his family. #gonetooearly #OmShanti You will be

cruising into the final with a straight-set win over Spain in Guatemala City. However, the men's team, which qualified as third

seed, lost in the quarterfinals to their Spanish rivals 26-27 in a shoot-off after both teams were tied 4-4.

India are also in the medal hunt in three more events with newly-wed Atanu Das and Deepika advancing into the mixed pair bronze playoff. The duo will also vie for individual medals, having made the last-four in their respective sections.

In the women's semifinal, Spanish trio of Elia Canales, Ines De Velasco and Leyre Fernandez Infante were no match to the top seeded Indians, who drilled in consistent scores of 55, 56 and 55 to seal a 6-0 win and make their first World Cup final since

Zimbabwe beat Pakistan in T20

Harare, April 24: Zimbabwe beat Pakistan for the first time in a Twenty20 international Friday, with four-wicket Luke Jongwe the star of a shock 19-run triumph at Harare Sports Club.

A maiden victory in 16 attempts seemed unlikely when the tourists restricted the hosts to a meagre 118-9 with Tinashe Kamunhukamwe (34) the only bats-

man to impress. But right-arm medium pacer Jongwe (4-18) wreaked havoc and Zimbabwe bowled out Pakistan for 99 in

It was the lowest total defended in a T20 international in Harare and victory for Zimbabwe levelled the three-match series at 1-1 ahead of the decider at

the same venue on Sunday. Pakistan arrived in Zimbabwe brimming with confidence after completing a double in South Africa, winning a one-day international series 2-1 and a T20

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 118/9 in 20 overs (Tinashe Kamunhukamwe 34, Mohammad Hasnain 2/19) beat Pakistan 99 in 19.5 overs (Babar Azam 41, Luke Jongwe 4/18, Ryan Burl 2/21).



good. It's all good news tonight and this gives us

ty, awarded for a foul by Richarlison on Dani Ceballos, was overturned by VAR for an offside in

Super League fiasco gives clubs open goal to reset with UEFA lapsed amid a ferocious The decisions backlash from fans and

UEFA made on

Monday for a

Geneva, April 24: Purged of most of its leaders in the Super League fiasco this week, the group representing European soc-

ened to tear apart soccer's traditional fabric.

The decisions made on Monday for a Champions League revamp in 2024 — of 36 teams each playing 10 games in a single standings — clearly favour the

ried clubs is one gift that

Two wild cards for sto-

can be taken back now

they no longer dominate a key UEFA committee.

Hours earlier around Marshall's bosses until midnight on Sunday, the 246-member ECA lost 12 of the most influential — and most demanding — when they left to announce their own Super League.

The project quickly col-

the early hours Monday. They led ECA through talks with UEFA to shape the Champions

triumphed.

League's future while plotting a rival to usurp it.

The "worst" was done by

clubs and people that were

Champions League Treble-chasing pulled out on Tuesday. League organizer UEFA, Margao: Starting with as many as eight fresh faces, FC Goa were face City's exit sparked a chester City cer clubs was given a revamp in 2024 handing the ECA a chance Tottenham side desperate chance to reinvent itself. chain reaction that saw to restore trust. of 36 teams each to end their trophy "Over the past week, we withdraw along Now the European Club Spurs playing 10 games in drought in the League fellow Premier have seen the worst but with Association is free to push a single standings Cup final as two members League teams Liverpool, for reversing Champions also the best of football, Chelsea, League changes that favour the wealthiest and ECA chief executive Charlie Marshall said in a statement Friday. of the failed European Manchester - clearly favour the United and Arsenal. But Super League clash at rebels. Wembley on Sunday. amid grovelling apologies more powerful who threat-Just seven days after the from owners, supporters "Ultimately, the best has

• CHENNAI SUPER KINGS • DELHI CAPITALS • KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS • MUMBAI INDIANS • PUNJAB KINGS • RAJASTHAN ROYALS • ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE • SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

DECCAN CHRONICLE, NELLORE, SUNDAY, 25 APRIL 2021

ORANGE

Shikhar Dhawan, DC

> KL Rahul, **PBKS**

Rohit Sharma, MI

PURPLE

Harshal Patel, RCB

Rahul

Chahar, MI Chris Morris, RR

Off the field



Delhi Capitals opener Shikhar Dhawan plays volleyball in the

Sachin says he will donate his plasma

Former India captain Tendulkar on Saturday said he has recovered from COVID-19 and will donate plasma when he is eligible. Tendulkar, celebrating his 48th birthday on Saturday, tested positive for the virus on March 27 and had to be briefly hospitalised as a precaution-ary measure. "Last year, I had inaugurated a plasma donation centre and their message, if plasma is given at the right time, patients can recover faster. I personally, when permissible, will donate it and I have spoken to the doctors, Sachin added.

Kumble all praise for leggie Bishnoi

Punjab Kings head coach Anil Kumble was all praise for the team's 20-year-old spinner, Ravi Bishnoi, who flummoxed the Mumbai Indians batsmen and took two crucial scalps in the nine-wicket win against the defending champions on Friday. "I thought he was not the

same bowler we had seen last year. I worked on his run-up and a few other things because he was drifting down the leg side even in practice games. That's why he didn't start the tournament earlier. But, I think, over the last week or so, his commitment, his focus is now sorted; he's back. It's wonderful to see him (bowl so well)," Kumble said.

Stokes criticises Chepauk track

England all-rounder Ben Stokes has criticised the slow track of Chennai's Chepauk Stadium and hoped that teams competing in the IPL do not end up regularly scraping to low scores because of wickets that are "trash". Stokes feels that for an enjoyable T20 contest, a score in the range of 160 to 170 is paramount.

"Hope the wickets don't get worse as the IPL gets deeper into the tournament..160/170 minimum not scraping to 130/140 cause the wickets are trash," Stokes tweeted after Mumbai Indians painstaking-ly reached 131 for 6 which was chased down by Punjab Kings.

Till Friday, Chennai has hosted nine IPL games and only twice has the team batting first scored in excess of 170.

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Editor: Kaushik Mitter

MORRIS BARRAGE

Chris bombards Knights with 4/23 as Royals win by 6 wickets

Mumbai, April 24: Chris Morris (4/23) was effec-tive at the death yet again as Rajasthan Royals thrashed Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets in an IPL game on Saturday. Royals pacers combined accuracy and guile to restrict Kolkata Knight

Riders to 133 for nine. Chasing the modest otal, Royals skipper Sanju Samson (42 not out) played a responsible

It was Royals' second win of the season in five matches while KKR have managed to get just one win under their belt, thus

Royals pacers, who were smart with change of pace pace, stifled the KKR batsmen who could not find a way to deal with it after being put in to bat.

KKR skipper Eoin Morgan said the batsmen let the team down. "We lacked a lot of intent throughout the whole innings. We were behind the eight ball right from the get-go. Possibly, we were 40 short which is a lot in a T20 game. The bowlers had too much to do. It's a stark contrast to the last game. The wicket hasn't been as good as it has been in the previous games and we couldn't overcome the challenge.

"It left us with a lot to do, which we couldn't do. Ultimately, one guy needs to play free-flowing cricket. Two sides struggling to gain momentum in the tournament and we missed big two points," added Morgan.

Morris, the most expen-

sive player in the IPL auction history, proved his worth with a brilliant four-wicket haul.

The other pacers, Jaydev Unadkat (1/25), Chetan Sakariya (1/31) and Mustafizur Rahman (1/22), were also impressive. KKR were not able to find rhythm in their

underwhelming innings. The highly rated Shubman Gill (11) disapdropped before his uncomfortable stay in the middle finally ended with a run out off a brilliant



direct hit from Jos Buttler. The Royals pacers were impressive with their variations and did not offer the batsmen any freebies in the powerplay as KKR laboured to 25 for

one in six overs room to cut a wide ball off Sakariya but the extra bounce led to his downfall as he ended up edging it to the wicketkeeper.

Skipper Eoin Morgan sent Sunil Narine ahead himself to give the innings a much needed the eighth over when Gill's opening partner departing after hitting Nitish Rana (22) made one boundary, leaving KKR at 55 for three in 10

KKR's troubles worsened after Morgan got run out without facing a ball following a bad mix-up with Rahul Tripathi (36

Their most destructive had to wait till the 16th over to get into the middle with the innings not going anywhere at 94 for five.

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Nitish Rana c Samson b Sakariya 22, Shubman Gill run out (Buttler) 11, Rahul Tripathi c Parag b Mustafizur Rahman 36, Sunil Narine c Jaiswal b Unadkat 6, Goin Morgan run out (Morris) O, Dinesh Karthik c Sakariya b Morris 25, Andre Russell c Miller b Morris 9, Pat Cummins c Parag b Morris 10, Shivam Mavi b Morris 5, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 0. Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 1, w 5) 9. Total (for nine wickets in 20 overs)

FoW: 1-24, 2-45, 3-54, 4-61, 5-94, 6-117, 7-118, 8-133, 9-133.

Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-25-1, Chetan Sakariya 4-0-Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-22-1, Chris Morris 4-0-23-4, Rahul Tewatia 3-0-24-0, Shivam Dube 1-0-5-0. Rajasthan Royals: Jos Buttler Ibw b Varun 5, Yashasvi Jaiswal c sub (KL Nagarkoti) b Shivam Mavi 22, Sanju Samson (not out) 42, Shivam Dube c Prasidh Krishna b Varun 22, Rahul Tewatia c sub Nagarkoti) b Prasidh Krishna 5, David Miller (not out) 24. Extras (lb 7, nb 1, w 6) 14. Total (for four wickets in 18.5 overs)

FoW: 1-21, 2-40, 3-85, 4-100. **Bowling:** Shivam Mavi 4-0-19-1, Pat Cummins Chakravarthy 4-0-32-2, Sunil Narine 4-0-20-0, Prasidh Krishna 3-0-

Dinesh Karthik (25) came up with some badly needed boundaries in his bid to improve the scoring rate. Russell smashed a straight six off Morris in the fifth ball he faced but that remained his only big

Morris removed both Russell and Karthik in the same over. — Agencies

+0.426 - 0.681 - 0.228

Capitals to lock horns with SRH

Chennai, April 24: Rishabh Pant's brute power will be put to test against Rashid Khan's bagful of tricks in an IPL encounter where Delhi Capitals will start as favourites against Sunrisers Hyderabad due to their better bowling

resources. The much-criticised Chepauk track will host its 10th and final IPL game of the season in which both Pant and his opposite number David Warner would pray for a decent surface for their flamboyant batters.

With only a couple of first innings total in excess of 170 across nine games here, the slow and gripping surface at the MA Chidambaram Stadium tests the skills of the batsmen in a different manner.

Possibly, it's the ability to muscle the ball that will come in handy on this track and hence the DC skipper's role as a batsman will become all the more important. While Shikhar Dhawan is

in good form and Prithvi Shaw in not so great touch after the first game, the willow-wielders, depend on sheer timing compared to power may struggle. In fact, Hyderabad, after

playing all its four games

in Chennai, has only now started to crack the code of a slow track, evident during the team's comfortable victory over Punjab Kings after a hat-trick of defeats. With Kane Williamson back in the mix, SunRisers seemed to have got a better

balance in a set-up which is acutely short of quality India internationals. bowling unavailable for this season and Manish

Pandey only able to man-

age a strike-rate of 112 odd,

SRH 11 DC **FOR THE RECORD** • David Warner with 3,949 runs at an average of 51.28 in 91 innings needs 51 runs to become the first

Matches

Live on TV

Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals

from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD to HEAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman to complete 4,000 runs in IPL. Shikhar Dhawan with 195 fours in 51 innings needs five more fours to become the second Delhi Capitals batsman after Virender Sehwag (266 fours in 79 innings) to complete

a double century of fours in IPL **LAST YEAR'S MATCHES**

Sunrisers beat Delhi by 15 runs at Sunrisers beat Delhi by 88 runs at

Delhi beat Sunrisers by 17 runs at Abu Dhabi (Qualifier 2) STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

bulk of the responsibility is on overseas recruits Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Williamson and Rashid.

The wily Afghan has again been very consistent and his duel with Pant could be one of the most eagerly-awaited match-ups that can send the TRPs soaring. SRH's weak link is certainly its bowling attack with none among Sandeep Sharma, Siddharth Kaul or all-rounder Vijay Shankar inspiring any sort of confidence whatsoever. So DC will have 12 overs out of 20 upon if one takes away the eight bowled by Rashid and

Bhuvneshwar Kumar.



CSK head coach Stephen Fleming (from left), fielding coach Rajiv Kumar, opener Faf du Plessis and batting

Kohli vs MSD in Sunday matinee

Mumbai, April 24: It would be nothing short of a clash of the titans when Virat Kohli's on-a-roll Royal Challengers Bangalore takes on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in a top-of-the-table IPL showdown here on Sunday with two points and momentum at stake.

RCB has won all its four matches so far and sits on top of the standings. CSK, on the other hand, has hit back after losing its opener to claim three straight wins for the second spot in the points table.

RCB, boosted by a 10wicket hammering of Rajasthan Royals, will be keen to continue its winning streak. However, the task is easier said than done as CSK is riding high with three good results of its own. Kohli and the highly-

toyed with the Rajasthan Royals bowling the other day and will look to lay a strong foundation again for RCB against a varied CSK bowling attack.

RCB, which has more often not under-per-formed amid high expectations, has started well. And, Kohli will be aware of the importance of maintaining the intensity in a long league. The RCB

batting appears to be top heavy and reliant on the performances of Kohli, South African maestro AB de Villiers and Australian maverick Maxwell. Glenn Padikkal's good form also augurs well for the team. However, the RCB batting unit will front up to Deepak Chahar, who is known for his ability to

strike early.

Live on TV

Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bangalore Star Sports 1, HD1

It remains to be seen if the team has what it takes to bounce back in case there is lose of wickets early in the innings.

The RCB bowling has done the job so far with Mohammed Siraj being impressive. However, they come up against a formidable CSK which bats deep and the importance of early wickets can't be emphasised enough.

Ruturaj Gaikwad emerged from three failures with an impressive knock against Kolkata Knight Riders and forms a strong opening partner-ship with Faf du Plessis.

A good start will help their cause and with an in-form Moeen Ali pen-cilled in at No.3 and Suresh Raina to follow, CSK has the firepower to strike late as well.

Skipper Dhoni is yet to hit his straps but coach Stephen Fleming believes he would get better with every outing.

While Chahar has been in the thick of things at the start, spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali have also struck crucial blows. Shardul Thakur has proved expensive at times

but is a vital cog in the CSK bowling unit. Add to this the fact that the Wankhede stadium has seen mostly highscoring games and the team that holds its nerves is likely to come up trumps on a track like

GAVASKAR SAYS BANGALORE CAN RELY ON MAXWELL

Mumbai, April 24: Former India captain Gavaskar ha spraised RCB's new signing Glenn Maxwell for easing the pressure off Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers within the batting department.

"It's great that Maxwell has come good. It has taken the pressure off Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers. They know that they can rely on one more batsman to get the runs. Last time, there was Padikkal at the start of the innings who was get-ting the runs but this time, Maxwell has been batting extraordinarily, Gavaskar said.

"You could possibly say that now, RCB have anoth-er 360-degree player in Maxwell," he added.

— Agencies

HEAD to HEAD

26 Matches

CSK 16 RCB 9

No result

FOR THE RECORD

 Devdutt Padikkal's century off 51 balls against Rajasthan Royals in the previous match was the fastest century by an uncapped player in IPL.

Suresh Raina with 199 sixes in 192 innings needs just one more to become the seventh batsman to complete a double century of sixes

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES RCB beat CSK by 37 runs at Dubai.

 CSK beat RCB by 8 wickets at STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

Allrounder Axar Patel's return has bolstered Delhi

AXAR'S RETURN LENDS PERFECT BALANCE: KAIF

Chennai, April 24: Delhi Capitals assistant coach Mohammad Kaif feels how his team plays star Sunrisers Hyderabad spinner Rashid Khan on a slow Chepauk surface will hold key in their IPL match here

"The way we play Rashid Khan is going to be the key for us on this pitch," said Kaif in a team release. Kaif added that batting on the pitch in Chennai has been difficult, but the experienced their batting lineup is certainly up for the challenge. "Shikhar has been batting really well and Smith batted well in the last game. Amit Mishra bowled beautifully in the last game, and we have Ravichandran Ashwin as well. Marcus Stoinis bowled well with the new ball in the last match and the way Rishabh has been leading the side, especially on a turning track, has been a great

When asked about all-rounder Axar Patel's return, Kaif said, "The balance of the Delhi Capitals squad is now perfect. He has been a key member of this fran-