

around silently with dead bodies lying on the floor. Outside, ambulances and cars honked and competed for parking space but inside all one could hear was the crackling of dry wood from the burning pyres -- all 50 of them roaring simultaneously.

A few sobs arose over the sound of the fires, and one could hear the unemotional intonations of instructions being given by the crematorium staff. "Apna dead body uthao aur udhar line mein ja ke khade ho jao (Pick up your dead body and go stand in line)," said a younger staffer. A woman in her 40s was so stunned she couldn't make out what was 'nabhi' (navel) or 'chhati' (chest) when a staff member asked her to place sandalwood sticks on the body of her father who had died of Covid. The body was still packed in a white sack, which was placed on the pyre without opening.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PRIYANKA
@PRIYANKACHOPRA

My heart breaks. India is suffering from COVID19 & the US has ordered 550M more vaccines than needed @POTUS @WHCOS @SecBlinken @JakeSullivan46 Thx for sharing AstraZeneca worldwide, but the situation in my country is critical. Will you urgently share vaccines w/ India? #vaxlive



Lactation and its varying experiences faced by new mothers

DR VANSHIKA GUPTA ADUKIA

Breastfeeding journeys come with their own share of highs and lows. While many new mothers begin their breastfeeding journey with a goal of exclusive breastfeeding for a 'set' period of time, several of them face roadblocks that may hamper this process. Even for those planning on

combination feeding of both breastmilk and formula, sometimes the breastfeeding journey can prove to be bumpy.

Contrary to the popular saying that breastfeeding is a natural phenomenon that comes easily to every mother, the reality is it can be far from this.

These are some of the most common breastfeeding challenges that can hinder breastfeeding and prove to be overwhelming for some new mothers:

Sore nipples

Nipple soreness is the most common reason for discomfort during breastfeeding. In the initial days right after birth, hormonal changes post-partum (up to 20 days to a month) makes it natural for the breast nipples to feel some discomfort. However, if this discomfort is prolonged you should reach out to a lactation specialist.

Pro Tip: Sore nipples are often a result of an underlying reason. Ensure you rule out any nipple cracks to prevent future breast infections. Applying breast milk itself is a great way to help heal sore nipples!

Improper latch of the infant

A latch is the way the baby's mouth holds onto the mother's breast to be able to suckle. A correct latch is the

key to a successful breastfeeding journey and this is often the reason behind most breastfeeding challenges. It is imperative to ensure a good and deep latch by keeping the baby as close to the mother's body as possible with majority of the areola in the baby's mouth which should be wide open.

Pro tip: A correct latch will ensure adequate milk supply. The more you latch the baby on to the breast, the more breast stimulation there will be which will eventually help in amping up the milk supply.

Cluster Feeding

This is common with infants especially during growth spurts. It is a time where the infant wants to feed often at the breast for short durations. An overwhelming an exhaustive period for the new mother, one must remember that it is temporary and will definitely end.

Pro tip: Look at power pumping for days when you are exhausted from cluster feeding. The process of power pumping is similar to that of cluster feeding and tricks the body into producing more breastmilk for the increased demand.

Blocked duct / Plugged duct

Most women face this breastfeeding challenge at some point during their journey. A blocked duct results in a milk bleb being formed in the breast channel resulting in improper drainage of milk, therefore causing the breasts to feel tender and even lumpy. It also hampers the milk supply and may result in the baby being fussy at the breast.

Pro tip: The more the breast is drained and emptied the better the milk supply will be. Avoid letting the breast fill up to a point where it may get engorged and result in a

Contrary to the popular saying that breastfeeding is a natural phenomenon that comes easily to every mother, the reality is it can be far from this

m i l k

bleb. Always drain the breast completely before switching over to offer the other side while feeding.

Nursing strike

A situation when the baby refuses to take to the breast. A nursing strike can be faced by new mothers for several reasons that include: baby being unwell, low milk supply/a milk flow that is too fast, an experience that may have startled the baby, change in smell, overstimulation of baby, change in taste of milk due to hormonal fluctuation/medication of mother to name a few. Eventually the baby will go back to breastfeeding once the problem is identified.

Pro tip: When facing a nursing strike, it is best to pump and express milk to ensure the supply is maintained. While the breast must be offered to the baby to end the nursing strike, the expressed milk can be used at a later stage and stored instead.

Low milk supply

Hormonal Fluctuations, an upcoming menstrual cycle, stress, lack of sleep, exhaustion, improper latch, certain medications/birth control are common reasons that impact the breastmilk supply.

Pro tip: Breast milk production depends on the simple concept of demand and supply. The more you latch the baby on to stimulate the breast the more the body gets tricked into making milk for the baby. So, keep trying till you succeed!

QUICK TIP

Conceal under your eyes with a triangle shape

If you want to really brighten your under-eye area, stop dotting on your concealer and try applying it in a triangular shape. Draw the base of the triangle directly under your lash line and the tip pointing toward the apple of your cheek. This helps fully conceal any redness and shadows to create the illusion of brighter under eyes.



Parineeti Chopra: Anything sub-par won't be accepted by audience today

Actress Parineeti Chopra feels the pandemic has changed the way people want to be entertained, and the films being made need to be in accordance to what people want to watch.

"The pandemic has changed the taste of the audience, and we have to respect what they are seeking," she says.

The actress, who has "Animal" coming up with Anil Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor, says that all actors need to take stock of the quality of cinema they are offering before signing films.

"Today is the age of content and anything that's sub-par won't be accepted by audiences, who have access to clutter-breaking content emerging from across the world. We actors and filmmakers have to keep this in mind," she says.

"I have gravitated towards projects that have strong content because I realised that everyone around me, including me, was only watching films or shows that are landmark. So, why should anyone else see anything average," she says. She adds: "All my future projects including 'Animal' are strong subjects that are unique and fresh for audiences to see and love. I will be only looking out for scripts that only offer something new for people to enjoy."

NEWS ROUNDUP

'Janpath Kiss' is a satirical comment on social mores and depicts

Playwright Ranjit Kapoor's 'Janpath Kiss' is a satirical comment on social mores and depicts how a random kiss caught on camera in a bustling market, ends up triggering a massive uproar. The Zee Theatre teleplay, now showing on Airtel Spotlight, further reveals how this one fleeting moment changes the lives of protagonists Sadanand and Meera forever and binds them inextricably to each other.

Well-known theatre, cinema and television actor Aditi Sharma says, "This is the story of two ordinary people to whom something extraordinary happens. I play Meera, a happy-go-lucky air-hostess who is forcibly kissed by Sadanand (played by Zeeshan Ayyub) in Janpath, in full public view. Meera is a small-town girl who is traumatised not just by the incident but by what she is subsequently put through during the police interrogations. Her own family blames her for chasing her ambitions in a big city like Delhi. To complicate matters even more, there is a political pressure upon her to pretend that nothing inappropriate happened to her. The play very incisively depicts the society we live in." Aditi was more than happy to fine-tune her performance with the help of seasoned director Ranjit Kapoor. She says, "I am so glad I got an opportunity

to work with the absolutely amazing Ranjit sir. My co-star Zeeshan and the other actors closely associated with the Delhi theatre scene were also wonderful to work with."

Zee Theatre's contribution towards preserving and popularising theatre is unmatched, says Aditi and adds, "Digitising a play is an incredible way of archiving and disseminating theatrical content. That Zee Theatre is reviving classic and contemporary plays is a blessing especially during the pandemic. This is a movement that I hope will thrive even when things are back to normal." The play also stars Yashpal Sharma, Sunil Upadhyay and Vinit Kumar.



Stop food waste day

Stop Food Waste Day is an international day of action in the fight against food waste which is a serious and growing problem. Roughly one-third of the food produced globally is either lost or wasted every year.

Launched in 2017 by Compass Group the global leader in foodservice, on this day consumers, corporates and influencers across +30 Compass countries will work together to raise awareness of the critical food waste problem and inspire change.

Food waste has become a severe epidemic across the world due to a lack of understanding of how to effectively use food and conserve it. Food waste, however, can be stopped.

Stop Food Waste Day aims to change the statistics of food waste, continuing to decrease it over time. Eventually, the holiday hopes to help those in need get the food they need and stop landfills from filling over. Stop Food Waste Day began back in 2017 by Compass Group, one of the world's largest foodservice companies serving restaurants, cafes, hospitals, schools, and more. Compass Group committed to reducing food waste 25 percent by the year 2020.

This is as part of its mission to create a positive impact on people, the planet, and the food system. They serve 9.8 million meals daily in North America alone. The Compass Group focuses the efforts of its mission by teaching their chefs how to track and reduce waste as much as possible. They also seek to donate more than 250,000 pounds of food each year to local food banks.

Get in the habit of freezing leftovers. Revive wilted vegetables by washing them in water for 5 to 10 minutes. Make sure that when you freeze food, you remove as much air as possible for long-lasting freshness. If you wish to help out more with this cause, then attend a Compass Group event hosted at many communities all over the world.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY
with
THE HANS INDIA

In battered Agra, Covid victims' kin spar with docs over O₂ crunch

AGRA

WITH Agra reeling under an alarming pandemic situation, several families of Covid victims were seen at loggerheads with the healthcare workers over shortage of beds, medicines and oxygen supply.

On Tuesday, one such family members of a Covid victim, attacked the security personnel of a private facility here at the Civil Lines area, while the city's other parts have also witnessed a series of tussles between doctors and victims' kin for Oxygen.

Agra CMO R.C. Pandey, however, said that the district health officials and doctors are doing their best in these trying times.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh sought help from the Indian Air Force (IAF) to transport a compressor here from Ahmedabad for starting an Oxygen plant.

Officials rebuked the families for such commotion and said that they are scrambling for the Oxygen cylinders and there will be an improvement in the supply of Oxygen in the coming days.

However, families of Covid

victims continued to flag shortage of beds, medicines and Oxygen.

"The system has collapsed and there is no accountability. The phone numbers circulated by the government do not respond," said Ram Ratan of Bodla, after his father was allegedly refused a bed in a nursing home.

Agra has recorded 487 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, even as the number of recoveries rose to 460, health officials said on Tuesday.

However, the government has been accused of fudging the

data.

Meanwhile, in a bid to give relief to Covid positive patients, working in government and private organisations, the Yogi Adityanath government has announced 28-day paid leave for them.

The relief also includes employees working at shops, commercial establishments, and factories with 10 or more employees that have been shut due to local administration orders.

"Employees, workmen affected by Covid-19 or who are suspected to be affected by the virus and kept in isolation will

be provided paid leave of 28 days by their employers. Such leave shall be permitted when such workman or employees provide/submit a medical certificate in this regard to their employer or authorized person at the time of joining duty after fitness," read a notification issued by the government last week.

Notably, the Uttar Pradesh government has raised the fine for not wearing a face mask in public places. Those who are caught without a face mask in public will have to pay a fine of Rs 1,000.



Ambulance driver in PPE breaks into dance

DEHRADUN

AT a time when the country's medical fraternity is struggling to cope with treating the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, a dancing ambulance driver from Haldwani (Uttarakhand) is winning hearts. Under pressure from work, the ambulance driver jumped into a 'barat' wearing a PPE kit and shook a leg to the tunes of Bollywood hits.

The incident occurred outside the Sushila Tiwari Medical College on Monday night Haldwani, a city located about 280 km from Dehradun, currently observing Covid curfew. Amid Covid restrictions, a "baraat" (wedding procession) was passing off close to the institution with limited number of baratis. Suddenly a man wearing a PPE kit jumped in and started dancing to the tunes of the hit Bollywood numbers being played by the barat. At first, the "baraatis" were clueless and terrified but soon realised that the uninvited wedding dancer was indeed an ambulance driver waiting outside the hospital. Dressed in a PPE kit, the dancer named Mahesh helped cheer up the mood of the baratis. Mahesh, who had been

working 18-hour-long shifts each day to fight the Covid-19 crisis, said that he and others like him also required a break. Speaking to News18, Mahesh said that he joined the wedding procession and started dancing to pep up his own mood as well as that of the sombre baratis. He noted that only a few of the guests were dancing and that most looked worried or scared. It didn't look like an ordinary wedding procession. But as soon as Mahesh joined, the baratis' spirits lifted and everyone began dancing.

A video of the dancing ambulance driver was shot by one of the wedding guests and has since gone viral on social media.

To curb growing cases of Covid-19, the state government has set an upper limit of 50 guests for marriage functions. The concerned parties are required to seek permission from the local administration. Incidentally, the ongoing month is also purported as the "wedding season". Owing to Covid-19, however, many couples have postponed their weddings while some have preferred to conduct the ceremonies as per protocols set by the state government.



3 Raj Ministers in Delhi to demand Remdesivir, O₂

JAIPUR

AS Rajasthan starts feeling the Oxygen and Remdesivir crunch in both government and private hospitals, a three-member team of ministers from the state including Health Minister Raghu Sharma and two others, B.D. Kalla and Shanti Dhariwal, have been sent to Delhi on Tuesday to demand a higher allocation of medicines and oxygen from the central government.

The ministerial delegation, formed on the instructions of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, will be accompanied by senior

officer Sudhanshu Pant.

They will meet Union health ministers Harsh Vardhan, Piyush Goyal, Nitin Gadkari and Mansukh Mandaviya in Delhi. Gehlot said that the ministerial delegation is going to Delhi to share the plight of people with the union ministers and to demand essential resources from them to save the lives of people in Rajasthan.

A fortnightly review meeting of public discipline was held here on Monday night where it was informed that Rajasthan is also been hit by an Oxygen crisis both in Government and private hospitals. CM Gehlot is

in touch with the central government as well as with other state CMs. He has also spoken to many CMs of other states and is discussing the modalities to arrange for tankers to supply oxygen.

Gehlot said that the shortage of Remdesivir and Oxygen was discussed with the Prime Minister during video conferencing, however, the demand is yet to be fulfilled which is a worrying factor.

This is for the first time when three ministers from any state will reach Delhi demanding the supply of Oxygen and medicines for the state.

FARMER'S SON BRINGS BRIDE HOME IN CHOPPER

ARCHANA SHARMA
JAIPUR

A groom in Rajasthan turned the dream of his bride into a reality by bringing her home in a helicopter post their wedding ceremony.

The groom, Siyaram Gurjar, a resident of Raipur village in Vair subblock in Bharatpur district, hired a chopper and flew to his in-laws place on Monday, got his marriage solemnised, and brought his newly-wed wife back to his village in the same helicopter on Tuesday.

Son of a farmer, Gurjar boarded the chopper with his brother Kartar Singh and brother-in-law Ramprasad. During the take-off, administrative and police officials were seen at the spot to ensure that now Covid guideline was flouted as a big crowd had gathered to catch a glimpse of the helicopter. Gurjar said that his wife,

Rama, had a dream of travelling with him in a helicopter to their "sweet home" and hence he hired a chopper, which cost him a whopping Rs 7 lakh.

Rama also said that it was her dream to take a chopper ride to her in-laws place, which has now been turned into a reality.

Gurjar's wedding was solemnised with Rama, the daughter of Hansraj Gurjar from village Karili in Nadbai.

Initially, the district collector as well as the CMHO had rejected the application of the groom for hiring a chopper for his 'baraat' in view of the rising Covid-19 cases in the region. However, permission was granted later with some set terms and conditions, which were duly followed by the groom.

The unusual 'vidai' ceremony of the bride has become a talk of the town.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the maps have been approved by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority through its letter dated 27-07-2018 on M/s Surdeep Infra Projects Private Limited Plot No-CS-03/GH-01, Sector-04, Builders Area, Greater Noida. In the context, the general public is informed that the map are applying in Authority for the completion and same will be available in Authority's Customer relation cell from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days for the public observation. If any allottee of this project has any objection in the map, then the allottee in self/institution can submit their objection in writing with their allotment letter, name address and telephone number to the Authority's customer relation cell addressing the general manager (Plan/Arch), Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority within 15 days from the date of publication in the newspaper.

General Manager (Plan/Arch)
Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
Plot No-1, Knowledge Park-04, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Police to be deployed at Gurugram hospitals to safeguard doctors, staff

GURUGRAM

AMID complaints of relatives and family members of Covid patients misbehaving with the hospital staff and doctors in Gurugram, the police have decided to deploy personnel at the hospitals round the clock to deal with such situations.

The police have decided to deploy more than 600 personnel across the district, especially at the dedicated Covid

hospitals. The police personnel at the hospitals will not only safeguard the staff and doctors, but will also provide assistance to the Covid patients.

A senior police officer said on condition of anonymity, "In the second wave of the pandemic, the number of patients is increasing. Sometimes the relatives and family members of Covid patients create ruckus at the hospitals

and even manhandle the doctors and staff by accusing them of negligence in treatment.

"Sometimes the situation goes out of control. The security guards posted at the hospitals cannot handle such situations. Keeping all these things in mind, the police department has decided to deploy over 600 personnel at the Covid hospitals. The process has already started at some

places. All the policemen deployed at the hospitals will follow all the Covid guidelines, including using PPE kits and masks."

The officer also informed that the dedicated police helpline number -- 9999999953 -- meant for Covid patients received around 250 calls since Sunday evening. The number of staff manning the helpline will be increased soon, he added.

UP govt asked to submit medical records of journalist Kappan

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to submit medical records of journalist Siddique Kappan who was arrested last year on way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after being allegedly gang-raped.

Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) alleged that Kappan has been chained to a cot in the hospital he was admitted to after falling in the bathroom and later testing positive for COVID-19. The UP government refuted the allegations that Kappan has been chained to a cot at the hospital and said it would file a short reply on his medical records by tomorrow.

A bench of Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and A.S. Bopanna asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, to file the medical records by Wednesday.

At the outset, Mehta said he had preliminary objection to the habeas corpus petition filed by KUWJ as Kappan has been in judicial custody under the judicial order. He said the habeas corpus petition was not maintainable in



the case where an accused is under judicial custody.

Advocate Wills Mathew, appearing for KUWJ, said that on April 20 he fell in the bathroom and on April 21 he was tested positive for COVID-19. He added that besides the reliefs being sought, Kappan should also be allowed to talk to his mother via video conference. The bench, which was facing difficulty in hearing the arguments due to connectivity issue, adjourned the matter for Wednesday. "When we are adjourning the matter for detailed hearing for tomorrow, why are you making arguments now," the bench told Mathew.

It asked Mehta to file medical records of Kappan by Wednesday to which the solicitor general agreed. Kappan's wife recently wrote to CJI Ramana seeking his immediate release

from the hospital, alleging he is "chained like an animal in a cot" there. Raihanth Kappan claimed in the letter written to the CJI that Kappan received injuries on April 20 after falling in the jail bathroom and was reported COVID-19 positive a day later.

She said he was shifted to KM Medical College, Mathura, on April 21, where he is presently "chained like an animal in a cot of the hospital, without mobility, and he neither could take food, nor could go to toilet for the last more than 4 days, and is very critical."

On November 16 last year, the top court had sought a response from the Uttar Pradesh government on the plea challenging the arrest of the journalist. The FIR has been filed under various provisions of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against four people having alleged links with the Popular Front of India, or PFI. PFI had been accused in the past of funding protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act across the country earlier this year. The KUWJ had filed a habeas corpus petition in the top court against his arrest and immediate release from "illegal detention".






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Biz leaders’ support welcome move

THE second wave of Covid pandemic is raging in India. The country is reporting increasing case loads every day with rising fatalities. And critical medical supplies like oxygen and some drugs are in short supply, aggravating the problem. Against this backdrop, the pledge of support of 40 US companies is a welcome move. On Monday, CEOs of some 40 top American companies have come together to create a global task force to mobilise resources to help India fight the battle against Covid-19. The task force has committed to get 20,000 oxygen concentrators to India in the next few weeks. Such support is critical as some States are in dire need of this input. Moreover, it indicates the global business community’s support towards India’s problems. Though done purely on a humanitarian basis, global corporate houses including Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Tesla, Accenture, IBM, and thousands more are increasingly depending on the Indian talent and market for driving business growth. In this perspective, Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced that the tech giant

will be giving Rs 135 crore in new funding for India to support its fight against the deadly virus. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said that Microsoft will use its resources and technology to support India during the crisis. Similarly, Apple’s chief executive Tom Cook said that the company will be making donations and aid relief efforts on the ground. While global corporate houses are lending their supporting hands towards the Indian fight now, Indian businesses are already lifting the weight for last 15 days. Starting from Reliance Industries to JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Adani Group to many small and medium businesses are providing critical support to the central and State governments to meet the requirement of oxygen and drugs. India’s crowning glory, its startup ecosystem is also gearing up. Delhivery co-founder Sahil Barua posted on LinkedIn that the company will be flying charters with its airline partners for carrying oxygen concentrators and other essentials. Shailendra Singh, Managing Director

at Sequoia Capital, tweeted that the fund house is pursuing efforts to import oxygen concentrators to India. ACT Grants, an organisation founded by 34 founders and corporate leaders and 44 mainstream funds, including Accel, Kalaari Capital, also stepped up its efforts and is in the process of raising Rs 75 crore to support India’s action against the pandemic. Not to mention that most Indian corporate houses have announced that they will vaccinate their employees for free. These moves reflect the social responsibility of business houses during the hour of crisis. Enterprises not only thrive at the time of prosperity, they also make room in people’s hearts during the crisis hour. And Indian corporate houses along with the global businesses are discharging their duties during this pandemic, which is a strong signal that society and businesses are inclusive. While there are many business houses adopting this golden rule, there are many individual businessmen, who are trying to profiteer from this crisis by hoarding drugs and other essentials. This is deplorable. When India fights one of its worst crises since independence, we should show resilience as a society by coming together and not by acting as vultures to make a profit out of this crisis.



Telling a tale with soil and iron

SUKANT DEEPAK

WHEN politician Yogendra Yadav called him this month to discuss a memorial at Shahjahanpur on the Delhi-Rajasthan border to honour the farmers who had lost their lives during the agitation, it did not take long for Ahmedabad-based artist Lalon, who had been following the protests closely, to jump into worn out car with his friend Shubham Singh and undertake a 14-hour journey to Delhi. Meanwhile, farmers from across the country were reaching the protest site with soil carried in a ‘kalash’ from their native places.

Although he had conceived something already but owing to paucity of time, it was decided that the pots the farmers were carrying from their native places could be used as part of the installation which has been going viral on the Internet.

Reaching late at night and sleeping in the cold, waking up to see the protesters braving everything with a smile, the NID-pass out recalls remembering Pablo Neruda’s lines... eYou can cut all the flowers, but you cannot stop the spring from arriving.’

Using materials like terracotta and iron --- the former being earthen and latter, known to be sturdy, signifying the agriculturist’s close relationship with earth and undying spirit, he says, “If you look at the structure, it might look fragile, but it is actually quite well-built. It resonates with the protesting farmers. They might appear poor, weak and helpless, but we have seen the strength of their resolve,” says the artist about the installation that was completed on April 14.

Considering it had to be wrapped up in less than three days, as many people were expected during the pre-scheduled date, the artist remembers that initially the farmers around could not fathom what he and his junior were doing. However, when they saw them working under the blazing sunlight, some offered them tea, others chaach. Many also started lending a hand. “Just when I was apprehensive about finishing the work on time, some ten farmers and labourers showed up. They helped us build the walls. And when we needed mud, one of them brought it on a tractor. And magically, the entire base was prepared in merely four hours.”

Just next to the installation, there is police barricade. When they would stay up at night, some of the policemen would always offer them tea. Many confessed, “We are on duty because it is a part of our job. Many of us also hail from an agricultural background.”

Lalon remembers that when one day, when he was working with his shoes on, an elderly farmer asked him to take off his shoes, stressing, “It is a memorial.”

“As an artist, this was the biggest compliment.”

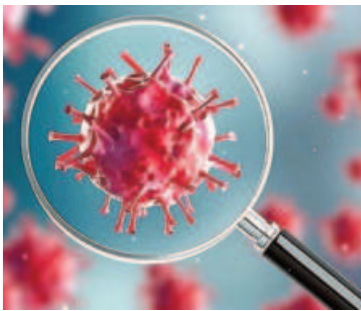
While initially he thought of making the art work figurative or realistic so as to ensure that the common man would be able to comprehend the concept, he decided to follow his artistic vision, trusting the intelligence of the onlookers. “The farmers managed to understand it, in their own ways.”

Although there was a debate if concrete should be used in the installation, the artist was completely against it. “When you create a sculpture depicting the farmers, it should not represent ego, but empathy. So, the material used is very simplistic. And instead of using concrete, we let grass grow at the bottom.”

Originally from Bengal, Lalon, currently a Phd scholar at NID scholar feels that while artists must comment on contemporary social and political, the role of social media when it comes to art is sometimes exaggerated. “Traditional art forms like some sculptures and paintings cannot be effectively communicated through social media. If you make a sculpture, it needs a physical dimension. So yes, I do feel that social media is an effective tool for reaching to the target audience, but I still when it comes to subjects like the farmers’ protests or the CAA-NRC protests, it becomes important to visit the site physically not just to get a firsthand experience, but also conceive things originally.”

Even as more and more younger artists -- photographers, documentary filmmakers and performance artists are thronging protest sites, Lalon feels that the same not only helps in documentation, but also facilitates their connection with the masses at different levels. “When I visited the farmers’ protest site, I gathered stories and gained experience that will probably help inspire me to do artwork for the rest of my life. It has helped me to depict the society from a unique perspective.”

World joins hands to rescue India from second wave of pandemic



NATIONS across the world have come forward to help India in its fight against the raging second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, which is extremely virulent and has ravaged the country in the past few weeks.

As per official sources, the US, the UK, France, Ireland, Australia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, the UAE, Kuwait and Russia have assured medical aid to India with much of the support on its way.

The UK is sending 495 oxygen concentrators, 120 non-invasive ventilators and 20 manual ventilators this week. Out of these, 100 ventilators and 95 oxygen concentrators have already arrived on Tuesday.

France is sending relief material in two phases. In the first phase, eight large oxygen generating units that can be installed quickly, liquid oxygen, 28 respirators and their consumables and 200 electric syringe pushers are arriving this week. In the second phase, five liquid oxygen containers will arrive next week.

Similarly, Ireland is sending 700 oxygen concentrators this week.

Sources said that Germany is sending a mobile oxygen production unit which will be made available for three months along with 120 ventilators and 80 million KN95 masks.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced on Tuesday that his government will send 500 ventilators, one million surgical masks, 500,000 P2 and N95 masks, 100,000 goggles, 100,000 pairs of gloves and 20,000 face shields to India.

Kuwait and Russia have also committed to send medical supplies.

Some of the medical supplies are also coming through private channels from various countries. For example, Singapore is sending 500 Bi-PAPs, 250 oxygen concentrators, four Cryogenic oxygen containers and other medical supplies.

Saudi Arabia’s aid of 80 MT of liquid oxygen is enroute via the sea route, Hong Kong is sending 800 oxygen concentrators, while Thailand is sending four Cryogenic oxygen tanks. India will also get six Cryogenic oxygen containers from the UAE.

Also, India’s Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) is importing 23 mobile oxygen generation plants from Germany.

After US President Joe Biden spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over phone on Monday, the US has committed to provide a range of emergency assistance, including oxygen-related supplies, vaccine materials and therapeutics. (ANS)

Limiting Chinese assertion in SE Asia

DR STEPHEN NAGY

THE world is again in the midst of a great power competition, a competition that has the potential to cascade into conflict or worse catastrophe. The territorial disputes are widespread and occur in both the terrestrial and maritime domains. The re-emergence of China as a global power is reshaping associations and alliances with smaller and mid-sized powers feeling squeezed between China and the US.

What is increasingly clear though is China aims to dominate the Southeast Asian politics through its asymmetric economic relations with its neighbours. China is effectively using its economic prowess for meeting its political and territorial goals.

Since its re-emergence as the dominant economy in the region, China has been laying claims on many territories in the through its domestic legislation and invention of historic claims. The effectiveness of domestic legislation by China in terms of securing its claims in South China Sea and East China Sea is however debatable.

Many such claims aren’t recognized by international bodies and courts such as the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). The most prominent Chinese claims in South China Sea were ruled as not legal by the PCA in a case drawn upon by Philippines in July 2016. China is using its domestic legislation to expand its exclusive economic zones by creating municipalities at the edge of South China Sea which gives legal foundation for the exclusive economic zones; again, the effectiveness of the method is debatable as it has not been tested.

The parallel here can be drawn to compare the control through domestic legislation between the Chinese claim on South China Sea and Japanese control of Senkaku Islands. Japan has controlled the Senkaku Islands for over a century now and there is a continuity via coast guard and environmental management in that control, mostly and mainly through domestic legislation and international partnership; no such continuity of control with regard to

Chinese claim is existent on ground in South China Sea.

The invention of historic claims by China as a tool for foreign policy is even more debatable and problematic. To analyze this one must turn back the pages and search in history any signs of claims of sovereignty by China over the island territories in south China Sea; no such claim can be found.

Bill Hayton, in his book, “Invention of China” writes in detail about how during the Ching (Qing) Dynasty, China showed no interest in the island formation in the south china sea whether be it the islands neighboring Indonesia, Vietnam or Philippines. There is clear evidence in history how Japan and Japanese business interests used the islands for collecting nitrates.

The territorial claims for most nations come after world war II be it Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, etc. as they developed strong national borders under one government after gaining independence. These countries were colonies prior to World war II and thus to trace their sovereign claims to these territories is difficult.

The UNCLOS treaty signed by 117 states which sets the 200-mile limit for Exclusive Economic Zones gives these countries a claim over the island formations in South China Sea. UNCLOS however is not ratified by the US which gives it a loose footing to enforce any such binding on China.

The ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) can play a significant role in resolving the territorial issues in Southeast Asia, but because it is a loose association of nations and doesn’t have the legal capability to challenge and enforce its decisions on China, it has till now not played any decisive role.

In the 2014 ASEAN Summit, a consensus was developed to issue a joint statement with regard to territorial disputes, however Cambodia declined to join the consensus statement after influence from Beijing resulting in no joint statement being adopted. This fracturing of ASEAN unity and division of opinion is mainly achieved through aid and devel-



The ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) can play a significant role in resolving the territorial issues in Southeast Asia, but because it is a loose association of nations and doesn’t have the legal capability to challenge and enforce its decisions on China, it has till now not played any decisive role. In the 2014 ASEAN Summit, a consensus was developed to issue a joint statement with regard to territorial disputes, however Cambodia declined to join the consensus statement after influence from Beijing resulting in no joint statement being adopted. This fracturing of ASEAN unity and division of opinion is mainly achieved through aid and development promises; which again is a smart use of its economic power

opment promises; which again is a smart use of its economic power.

With most of the ASEAN states not claimants in SCS disputes, China has a free hand in manipulating the decision-making capability of ASEAN. The ASEAN members hold mixed views about China, some members perceive China as an economic opportunity and think that China is critical for the development of ASEAN member states, while other see China as a state having dominating and hegemonic interests in the region, thus the relationship of China and ASEAN will always be important but challenging.

The main problem is of the power asymmetry between China and Southeast Asian states. The countries in the region are constantly seeking strategic autonomy to resolve the South China Sea issues peacefully and effectively. The pattern we are seeing at the individual level is to bring

in the extra regional powers to the region to enhance the human capital and other capabilities so that they can push back unilaterally against some of the more assertive behavior of China.

Japan has been most active in establishing strategic partnerships, by providing coast guard vessels, maritime domain awareness and human capital building to strengthen individual members and to enhance the ASEAN’s integration.

Japan’s role is even more important when it comes to Chinese maritime militia (fishermen boat strategy), the militia is trying to instigate the escalations and allowing the China to build an image wherein it is seen as playing a defensive counter. The militia is used to build pressure on the states and in case of Philippines china has already occupied some features in south china sea using this militia forces. The militia

LETTERS

Are judges more equal than others?

IT is shocking that at a time when people in Delhi are scrambling for bed and many are dying for want of bed/oxygen, the news that Delhi SDM has ordered that PSU Ashoka Hotel be converted as a Covid facility for HC Judges and judicial officers and their family attached to Primus Hospital in posh Chanakyapuri. If loss-making PSU hotel is converted into a Covid facility for Judges/judicial officers and their families, why not the government take over all private sector five/four-star hotels and convert them as a Covid facility for ordinary people scrambling for bed and are dying. So why berate at loss-making PSU and then hand over them to a private entity. Of course, a state HC judge living in a residential area has barricaded a link road near his own house and using the space for keeping plants, parking vehicles, etc. No wonder people have stopped respecting and believing the judiciary in India.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

ECI, now a favourite whipping boy

THE Madras High Court has rightly identified ECI’s laxity in not exercising proper vigil over political parties abusing poll protocol, as responsible for Covid-19 second wave. Ironically, none of the political parties always making brouhaha and

hue and cry over nothing, have surprisingly remained calm and united over polls-conduct with the sole selfish target of grabbing power to rule. No concern about our safety and lives. These people, as people’s representatives, are supposed to stand for us and safeguard our interests enshrined in our Constitution. Conduct of polls, opening of cinemas, malls, schools, colleges, etc., are leading to Covid deaths in thousands. What punishment do the EC authorities and others await for the crime perpetrated?

E Sethuramalingam, Kollam

Nation gasps for oxygen

PROPOS ‘Maximum governance fails to give oxygen’ (April 27). The writer came up with impressive data and statistics that were required at the present time in tackling Covid-19 – the pathetic situation of shortage of oxygen in hospitals in the country. Today, as we see Health care situation in all Indian cities has become deplorably suffocating due to covid-19 implications, the situation is compounded by lack of oxygen supply to people in severe stages of complications to get a whiff of oxygen for survival. The blame before being placed on the Centre, there is a need for rethinking the role played by states in coping with the situation that many states could have efficiently managed with existing supply of oxygen at their disposal.

Key strategists, think-tanks forewarned the government on conducting elections/social gatherings/festivals were

not to be a priority during this pandemic. The Election Commission is taken to task in this regard, while the crowd control and restrictions in the gathering is purely a state subject and priority, in which the EC has no role to play. The Centre took their views of the experts seriously, but so much was amiss, in terms of production, supply and distribution of oxygen. Authorities lost no time in procuring oxygen generators from abroad and cryogenic tankers imported to supplement the available ones for the transport of oxygen; and the IAF planes were employed to transport them in ensuring minimal time lapse for the needy patients. Such proactive moves by the Centre often go unreported by the vested media and the Opposition.

The oxygen, by whatever name we may call it is a commodity that is not always in demand except for patients requiring oxygen masks and in the ICUs. In any case, a vital lesson in oxygen has been learnt by the administration to meaningfully stockpile and distribute it at times of emergency in future, losing no time in providing life support for patients gasping for breath.

Venkata Narasimhan K R, Madurai

Modi govt found wanting

THE writer Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu’s redoubtable statement blaming the government for shoddy governance is the reason that led to the precarious and dangerous situation across the country is indisputable. In fact, even after alarm bell ringing aloud in April 2020 cautioning the Centre that life-saving oxygen generated is well short to meet the future

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Priests conducting Chakrasnanam to festive deities on Tuesday on temple premises

Bhadrachalam Brahmotsavams conclude

BHADRACHALAM

MARKING the conclusion of Brahmotsavams at Bhadrachalam temple, priests performed special puja in early hours on Tuesday. In view of the corona outbreak this year the main events of brahmotsavams, celestial wedding and coronation programme were conducted on the temple premises without devotees participating. The Brahmo-

savams were commenced on Telugu New year on April 13 and concluded on Tuesday. During the fifteen days the temple conducted various programmes in the temple. The priests performed special abhishekam to the festival deities, due to Covid-19 effect the Chakrasnanam programme wa conducted on the temple premises. Earlier the priests conducted the programme in the river Godavari amid hymns.

Kishan tears into TRS during Khammam roadshow

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy took part in roadshow for Khammam Municipal Elections campaign in Khammam. Speaking at various public meetings, Reddy came down heavily on the TRS government. He said, the TRS government cheated the people. He alleged the TRS government failed to implement poll promises in the State. He said, the State government failed to give double bed room houses to homeless people.

He also said that the people in the town giving good support to the BJP leaders. The party leaders will win all the divisions with a good majority, he said. The BJP government constructed National highways by spending crores of the rupees in the State, he added. He appealed to the people to vote



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy participating in a roadshow for Khammam Municipal election campaign in Khammam on Tuesday

for BJP candidates in upcoming elections for the development of Khammam town

Party Tamil Nadu State Co in-charge and former MLC Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, Corporation elec-

tion Khammam in-charge, MLA Chintala Ramchandra Reddy, Kisan Morcha State President Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy, leaders Devaki Vasudeva Rao and others were present.



Minister unfurls TRS flag

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURYAPET

MINISTER for Power G Jagadish Reddy had unfurled the pink flag at his residence in Suryapet as per the directions of KTR

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was the warrior who brought fame to the path shown by Gandhi without any disturbance or anarchy. KCR had realized the dream of the Telangana people in a democratic

way by utilising the provisions of Constitution.

He said KCR not only achieved the Telangana through agitation but have been fulfilling the aspirations of Martyrs of Telangana movement and people through his good governance. KCR strived hard for the development of erstwhile Nalgonda district, he asserted. Rajya Sabha members Badugula Lingaiah Yadav, Municipal Chairman Annapoornamma, party state secretary YV and others were present.

BJP bluffing people, says Errabelli

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WARANGAL

A comprehensive action plan with an outlay of Rs 4,126 crore is already in motion for the development of Warangal, said Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao. Speaking to media persons here on Tuesday, he said that in a bid to ensure basic amenities and infrastructure in the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) limits that government has taken up 9,111 works with an outlay of Rs 1,560 crore in last six-and-a-half-year. "The government has already ensured daily drinking water supply in the city under Mission Bhagiratha at a cost of Rs 1,589 crore. Developmental works worth around Rs 173 crore have been taken up by the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA).



Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao addressing a roadshow in Warangal on Tuesday. Warangal East MLA Nannapuneni Narendra (left) is also seen

In addition to this, R&B has taken up the construction of new roads and expansion of existing roads in the city by spending Rs 288 crore," Errabelli said. He said that the government has earmarked

Rs 115 crore for the construction of 4,417 double bedroom houses in the city limits. Even though Warangal has made rapid strides on the development front, the BJP and the Congress were trying

to blame the TRS government. "The BJP leaders were trying to instigate the people to gain political mileage. Instead of resorting to mudslinging on TRS government, the BJP leaders have to exert pressure on the Central government to fulfill the assurances given to Telangana under the AP Reorganisation Act-2014," Errabelli said. He said that BJP MPs who failed to bring turmeric board have to apologise to Telangana people.

The onus is on BJP State chief Bandi Sanjay and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy to convince the Centre in releasing funds, he said. Ministers Satyavathi Rathod, Kopula Eshwar, MPs Pasunuri Dayakar, Banda Prakash and Warangal East MLA Nannapuneni Narendra were present.

MLA hoists TRS flag marking 20th foundation day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

DEVARKADRA MLA Alla Venkateshwar Reddy has unfurled the TRS flag to mark the beginning of party's 20th anniversary celebrations in Bhootpur mandal on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that it's been 20 years ever since the struggle started for a separate Telangana State and this day was memorable one in the history of Telangana State. "It feels proud to each and every Telanganite today, that we could achieve our own State by a tireless struggle started by our Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao 20 years back. Now it's time we all work together to transform this State in to Golden Telangana and I am hopeful by next few years the complete face of Telangana will be changed and each and every farmer, every individual will live a happy and prosperous life in this budding State of India," observed Alla.



Devarkadra MLA Alla Venkateshwar Reddy after hoisting the TRS party flag in Bhootpur mandal on Tuesday

MAHABURNAGAR

DISTRICT Collector S Venkat Rao, disqualified the 4th ward candidate in Jadcherla Municipality from contesting municipal elections.

As it is already know that the District Collector had earlier is-

Collector disqualifies 4th ward candidate

sued show cause notices to the local MLA Laxma Reddy and the TRS contesting candidate Shankar (Deva) for allegedly threatening voters that if they

do not cast votes to TRS they will not be provided drinking water and double bed room houses to their colony, the Collector issued show cause notices to the

TRS leaders for violating the Model Code of Conduct for municipality elections and even appointed a nodal officer to inquire the issue.

State govt has no power to take over Sangam dairy, says TDP

- Party spokesperson Pattabhi alleges that Illegal GO 19 is aimed at benefitting Amul company
- Explains that the dairy is owned by more than 1.2 lakh farmers and the govt has no share in it
- Says that YSRCP regime is attacking Sangam dairy as Amul will not gain any business as long as Sangam stands strong



K Pattabhi Ram

AMARAVATI

TDP national official spokesperson K Pattabhi Ram on Tuesday asserted that the Andhra Pradesh government had no right to meddle in the affairs of the Sangam dairy since it had no shares in the milk producers' company which was being owned by over 1.2 lakh dairy farmers spread over the Krishna and Guntur districts.

Pattabhi clarified that all the lands currently in possession of the Sangam dairy were bought with the funds collected from the lakhs of milk farmers who donated a day's milk collection in those days. At one time, it was true that Sangam received the AP government funds of Rs 81 lakh but the same was repaid by taking a loan from the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 1997 itself.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader asked how the IAS officers were simply giving illegal orders without cross checking the facts. The latest GO 19 was totally in violation of the Companies Act under which Sangam dairy was formed into a producers' company in order to pass on greater benefits to the shareholders. The officers responsible for issuing such unlawful orders would have to face legal consequences in future. They would have to pay a heavy penalty for blindly obeying the orders of an arrogant Chief Minister like Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said.

Pattabhi clarified to the YSRCP government that 367 societies of farmers owned Sangam dairy while Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar became its chairman only after they elected him. It was after Narendra became chairman that the turnover of Sangam dairy increased from Rs 200 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore. The chilling centres also went up from three to 30. In the last 10 years, Sangam dairy has paid a bonus of Rs 206 crore to its share holding milk farmers. It was not a private ltd company nor a proprietary concern. The government had no jurisdiction over it.

The TDP leader questioned the locus standi of the Tenali sub-collector to come and take charge of the Sangam dairy forgetting the fact that the NDDB has formed it into a producers' company. The NDDB has formed many such milk producers' companies across the country. Can the AP government arrest the NDDB officials also? The Jagan Mohan Reddy regime was taking hasty and mindless steps just because it was expecting setbacks from the courts on the issue of the CBI case against Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar, he added.

Pattabhi said that the present illegal attack on the Sangam dairy was only because the Chief Minister fully knew that the Amul company would not be able to gain any business in the state as long as Sangam was strongly in position. There was nothing wrong for

Plot to give away Sangam dairy to Amul alleged

AMARAVATI

FORMER minister and TDP politburo member Nakka Anand Babu on Tuesday slammed the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government for 'hatching a conspiracy' to kill the Sangam Dairy and hand over its business to the Gujarat-based Amul out of sheer political vendetta.

Anand Babu said that lakhs of farmers dependent on the Sangam dairy would now be affected badly because of the government's thoughtless activities.

The Jagan regime was adopting the backdoor methods in order to crush the Sangam dairy even though there was a court case going on right now. In a statement here, the TDP leader deplored that the Chief Minister and his ministers would not care about the farmers at all but they were also destroying other organisations that were helping the dairy farmers. The YSRCP government has not done a single benefit to the dairy sector in the past two years. Instead of encouraging the Sangam dairy to do more farmer friendly activities, the ruling party leaders have attacked it in order to settle misplaced political scores.

Anand Babu recalled how the ruling YSRCP leaders made a promise of giving a special bonus of Rs 4 per litre. After coming to power, they did nothing to implement this. For decades, the Sangam dairy has been taking up many novel activities to give a better deal to the farmers. It has got a very good name in the dairy sector in the entire State. But,

the present government was bent on crushing all such good organisations. Anand Babu criticised that the Jagan regime has made it a single point agenda to demolish, destroy and encroach well-established organisations. The YSRCP began its rule with the demolition of the Praja Vedita convention centre that was built with several crores of public funds. Since then, there have been a series of demolitions and cancellations. The local dairies in Andhra Pradesh were being encroached only to transfer their business to Amul company illegally.

The TDP leaders have lashed out that there has been a deep seated conspiracy going on to transfer the AP companies and property to the Gujarat-based companies. The Chief Minister was doing this only to secure the blessings of the Prime Minister to escape from his CBI and ED cases. In this process, several ports in the State have already been transferred to the management of a Gujarat-based company.

poor farmers. The state government had no shares in the company and hence no say in the matters of its management, he claimed.

State logs over 11,000 Covid cases, 64 fatalities

AMARAVATI

STATE reported 11,434 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to over 10.54 lakh while 64 fatalities pushed the toll to 7,800, the state government said on Tuesday.

As many as 7,055 people recovered from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,47,629, an official bulletin said, giving details during the last 24 hours, ending 9 am on Tuesday.

The total number of positive cases stood at 10,54,875.

The state has 99,446 active cases and over 74,000 samples were tested during the past 24 hrs. Vizianagaram topped the toll chart with eight casualties followed by Anantapur, East Godavari, Guntur, Nellore and Srikakulam six each.

High Court seeks details on oxygen, tests

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE AP High Court questioned the state government on the availability of oxygen in the state. During a hearing on the petition filed by AP Civil Liberties Association, the High Court asked the government whether it opened the oxygen producing units as per Central government directions, what

are the oxygen reserves, how many isolation wards set up in the state and position of Covid tests conducted so far and the time taken for giving test results.

The advocate for the state government informed the court that the Covid test results are being given in 3 to 5 days. The court directed the government to furnish full details in this matter. It posted the hearing to April 28.

COVID CHAOS

Kin carry woman's body on bike

- Son and son-in-law have to take home the body of victim as they can't find any vehicle after she succumbed to Covid at a hospital in Palasa
- Video footage showing the body on a motorbike, wedged between her son and son-in-law, left netizens shocked



A video grab of woman's body being taken on a motorcycle in Palasa on Monday

IN a heart-rending incident in Palasa in the district, a woman's body had to be taken to her native village on a motorbike by her son and son-in-law due to the non-availability of ambulance.

The incident took place on Monday. A video showing the deceased woman on a motorbike, wedged between her son-in-law and son, has left netizens shocked at the prevailing situation in the state.

The victim, aged around 50 years, belonged to the Mandasa mandal in the district. According to local sources, following complaints of sickness, her family

members on Monday took her to a private hospital in Kasibugga town near Palasa for treatment.

On examining her, the doctor informed the family members that her oxygen level was low, and advised a CT scan to ascertain the problem.

However, on their way back to the hospital after conducting the CT scan, the woman passed away. Following this, the autorickshaw driver immediately forced the family to alight from his vehicle and drove away.

Despite their best efforts, the

woman's family failed to secure the services of an ambulance to transport her body to their native village which is about 15 km away.

Finally, they decided to carry her on their motorbike itself. The woman's son-in-law and son placed her body in a seated position between them, and rode to their native village. In the video, they could be seen explaining their predicament to a few policemen, before riding away.

According to local sources, the woman's test result confirmed that she had contracted Covid-19.

In UP, wife’s mouth-to-mouth breathing to husband goes in vain

Three hospitals in Agra had turned the couple away citing oxygen shortage

AGRA

IN Yogi Adityanath’s realm that claims to never run out of oxygen cylinders, the only dispensers of the gas Renu Singhal could find for her critically ill Covid-positive husband were her own lungs.

The 45-year-old Agra resident tried to help husband Ravi, 47, with mouth-to-mouth breathing — not a recommended procedure for a highly infectious Covid patient. But after three hospitals had turned the couple away citing oxygen shortage, she was desperate, according to The Telegraph report.

Ravi, though, died in her arms inside the auto-

rickshaw where she was trying to resuscitate him, a few steps from the emergency ward of a fourth hospital that apparently had oxygen.

Ravi was too weak to get off the auto and walk into the emergency room; and no stretcher, trolley or hospital employee was immediately available to carry him inside, Renu told reporters on Monday.

“He was coronavirus-positive and had high fever. He was in home isolation,” she told the reporters, who had arrived at her Vikas Colony home after seeing pictures that onlookers had clicked of her trying rescue breathing on her dying husband.

“On Saturday morning, he complained of

breathing problems. I decided to take him to a hospital,” Renu said.

When the government’s ambulance helpline (108) failed to respond and Ravi’s condition started worsening, she got him into an auto-rickshaw and began her futile tour of the city’s hospitals.

“None of the three hospitals we visited had any oxygen left. They said they would admit my husband if we came back with an oxygen cylinder,” she said. By the time she reached the fourth, the S.N.



Medical College Hospital, no employee was in sight to wheel Ravi in, she said.

So she sat in the auto, parked on the hospital premises, trying mouth-to-mouth breathing to save her husband.

Eventually, when some hospital staff arrived and took him inside, the doctors declared him dead on arrival, Renu said. Renu is staying in quarantine; it couldn’t be ascertained if she had taken a Covid test.

The auto driver couldn’t be contacted and efforts to get in touch with the S.N. Hospital authorities were unsuccessful.

Dr R.C. Pandey, chief medical officer for Agra district, said he had not heard about the incident.

10 hospitals in Agra were forced to discharge all their Covid patients -- about 1,000 in all -- because of the lack of oxygen, Dr O.P. Yadav, district president of the Indian Medical Association, has said.

Dr Surendra Singh of Yashwant Hospital, Agra, had told reporters: “We were promised 50 oxygen cylinders a week but the government gave us only 5 cylinders over the last 10 days. We discharged our (Covid) patients when we had no option left.”

WINDOWS

Soldier kills self in Ramban

JAMMU: A soldier reportedly shot himself dead on Tuesday in an army centre in Jammu and Kashmir’s Ramban district. Police sources said the slain soldier was identified as Asangeppa Madar belonging to Karnataka. He reportedly used his service rifle to shoot himself inside an army centre in Banihal area.

“After hearing gunshots, his colleagues rushed to the spot where he was lying in a pool of blood.

“He was immediately shifted to the hospital where doctors said he was dead on arrival.



A Covid patient flashes the victory sign after recovering, amid surge in cases in Ranchi on Tuesday

Dalai gets second dose

DHARAMSALA: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has received his second dose of Covid vaccine at his residence, officials said on Tuesday.

The vaccine was administered by a medical team of Delek hospital led by Tseten Dorjee, personal physician to Dalai Lama.

According to his Secretary Tseten Samdup Chhoekyapa, the entire staff and security details of the spiritual leader, including those living in the residence, were also vaccinated.

Dalai Lama had taken his first dose, on March 6, at the government hospital here in a bid to bolster public confidence in the vaccine.

NEW DELHI/RAIPUR/MUMBAI

THE Delhi High Court said that millions of vials of Remdesivir, used in treatment of Covid-19, may have been exported by India, but its own citizens are “suffering due to acute shortage of the drug”. “Statistics show that shortage of the drug in Delhi is acute,” the court said and asked the Centre, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) whether there has been any change in the guidelines with regard to administering Remdesivir.

The court also asked the Centre on what basis it was deciding how much of the drug was to be allocated to the Delhi government and whether anyone can directly approach the manufacturers or suppliers for buying the medicine. The directions came on a plea by a lawyer who is suffering from virus and was able to get only three out of the six doses of Remdesivir required by him.

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Tuesday said the State may receive its supply of ‘Covishield’ vaccine only after May 20. Tope said the availability of anti-COVID-19 vaccines is still a challenge and the state needs a week’s quota delivered at one time in order to vaccinate maximum number of people.

“The Serum Institute of India (SII) has informed the state government that it can supply the ‘Covishield’ vaccine only after May 20,” he said.

Karuna Shukla, a Congress leader and the niece of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, died of Covid-19 in the Ramakrishna Care hospital in Raipur. After testing positive for the virus, she was undergoing treatment at the hospital here.

WHO said on Tuesday India’s death toll is now pushing towards 200,000, and hospitals that do not have enough oxygen supplies and beds are turning away coronavirus patients.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to acquire tankers from all over India as he has been acquiring oxygen plants and allot them to states.

Without tankers, oxygen cannot be sent to states, Gehlot stressed.

“You should allot tankers too the way you are allowing oxygen. This will help redress the grievances of states, no matter if it is Delhi or Rajasthan or any other state,” he told Modi.



Patients at a camp set up by a Sikh religious organisation for free oxygen cylinders for patients, outside a Gurudwara in Kanpur on Tuesday

Vajpayee’s niece Karuna Shukla dies of Covid

Maha to get Covishield only after May 20

Mumbai cops told to use double mask

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale has instructed police personnel working in the field to wear two masks and face shields to protect themselves from the COVID-19 infection, an official said on Tuesday.

The top cop’s instructions have come in the light of police checkpoints set up across the city to crackdown on unnecessary movement of people amid the COVID-19 pandemic, deputy commissioner of police (operation) S Chaitanya said. The police have been monitoring the movement of vehicles and people at many places, including the exit and entry points of the city, to ensure strict implementation of the COVID-19 curbs, the official said.

22 bodies stuffed in 1 ambulance

BEED: The bodies of 22 Covid-19 victims were stuffed in one ambulance while being taken to a crematorium at Beed in Maharashtra, with the district administration citing lack of medical transport vehicles as the reason for it.

The incident took place when the bodies, kept in the mortuary of the Swami Ramanand Teerth Rural Government Medical College at Ambajogai in Beed, were being transported for the last rites.

“This happened because the hospital administration does not have enough ambulances,” the medical college’s Dean, Dr Shivaji Sukre, told PTI on Tuesday. He said they had five ambulances during the first wave of COVID-19 last year.

'Shooter dadi' hospitalised

BAGHPAT: Octogenarian shooter Chandro Tomar, nicknamed 'Shooter Dadi', has tested positive and admitted to a hospital due to difficulty in breathing. The Twitter page of the 89-year-old legendary shooter, hailing from the Baghpatt village in Uttar Pradesh, posted the development. “Dadi Chandro Tomar has tested positive for coronavirus and has been admitted to a hospital due to breathing problem. God protect all - Family,” a tweet on her page read. Chandro was already 60-plus when she picked up the gun for the first time but went on to win many national competitions, even inspiring a Bollywood movie on her life. She is believed to be the oldest woman sharp shooter in the world.

EC BANS ALL VICTORY PROCESSIONS ON MAY 2

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India banned on Tuesday all victory processions on May 2, both during and after the counting of votes. Poll results of five states will be declared on Sunday — at a time when the country has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“No victory procession after the counting on 2.5.2021 shall be permissible. Not more than two persons shall be allowed to accompany the winning candidate or his/her authorized representative receive the certificate of election from the Returning Officer concerned,” the EC order said.

On Monday, the Madras High Court hit out at the commission for being “singularly responsible” for the second wave of Covid-19 with the country setting grim global milestones in daily cases, and remarked that its officers should probably be booked for murder.

Chhota Rajan gets AIIMS bed amid crisis

NEW DELHI: Underworld don Rajendra Nikalje alias Chhota Rajan has tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to the New Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Services (AIIMS), Tihar jail authorities informed a sessions court.

Rajan, 61, is lodged in the high-security Tihar prison in New Delhi since his arrest after deportation from Bali, Indonesia, in 2015. All the criminal cases pending against him in Mumbai were transferred to the CBI and a special court was constituted to try them. On Monday, an assistant jailor of the Tihar jail telephonically informed the sessions court here that they could not produce Rajan via video conference before the judge for hearing in a case as the gangster has tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to the AIIMS.

Rajan is facing as many as 70 criminal cases pertaining to extortion and murder in Mumbai.

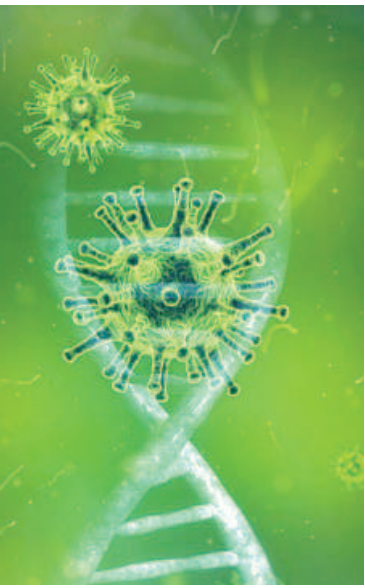
‘Indian strain’ of corona spreads faster: Experts

NEW DELHI: The 'Indian strain' of the coronavirus carries higher transmissibility similar to the UK variant, but there is little evidence so far of it being more lethal than the original virus, experts have said. The B.1.617 variant of SARS-CoV-2, also being called a 'double mutant' or the 'Indian strain', has been found prevalent largely in Maharashtra and Delhi that have been severely hit by a devastating second wave of the pandemic. In many cities in Maharashtra -- the worst-hit state in the country -- the B.1.617 variant was found in more than 50 per cent of samples on which genome sequencing was conducted, while the proportion of the UK variant was 28 per cent in the second week of

March, Sujeeet Singh, the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control, had said in a webinar on genome sequencing last week.

Anurag Agrawal, the Director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), told PTI, “As far as we know, neither the UK variant nor this one (B.1.617) is associated with increased severity of illness or death. The UK strain is proven to have higher transmissibility and B.1.617 may have increased transmissibility.”

“But this (that the B.1.617 variant has more transmissibility) has not been proven and there are several characterises to prove it and the studies have not been completed,” he said.



IAF pilot approaches HC with sexual abuse complaint

JAMMU: A woman Indian Air Force pilot has moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court alleging that she was sexually harassed by her flight commander.

In her petition, the pilot said that she was posted for two years at the Awan-tipora airbase after which she was transferred to Jammu where the accused officer was posted as a flight commander.

Alleging that the accused officer passed lewd remarks whenever he got any chance to do so, she also accused him of repeatedly demanding sexual favours from her and passing objectionable comments against her.

She said in her petition that the accused IAF officer touched her inappro-

priately. In the plea, the woman officer also stated that the inquiry by the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) was conducted in an unfair manner.

She has sought a direction to the ICC to hold a fair inquiry and also prayed for the transfer of the accused person so that he does not harass her and other witnesses.

Hearing the plea, Justice Sanjeev Kumar issued a notice to the Ministry of Defence and Air Force officials asking them to file their responses within four weeks and stayed the proceedings before the ICC.

The case has been listed for the next hearing on May 10.



Syndicate using specially designed undergarments to smuggle gold

NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Top gold smuggling syndicate, using specially designed bras and panties to smuggle gold paste in the country, has been busted. The syndicate had hired women couriers, wearing these special undergarments to smuggle gold in form of paste. One of the key couriers, a 39-year-old woman, was arrested at Lucknow airport on Monday with 1,259 grams of yellow paste, hidden in specially designed bra and panty.

Top sources in Customs (Preventive) unit of Lucknow revealed to IANS that a young woman, originally hailing from Turkman gate, Delhi, travelling from Dubai, landed from flight no FZ 8325 on April 26, 2021. On specific input, she was intercepted while trying to exit from the air-

port. “When the ladies staff searched her, yellow paste was recovered from the bra and panty worn by the courier. The yellow paste, packed in black polythene and stitched in her bra was recovered,” revealed a Customs source.

The accused was produced before the Special Chief Judicial Magistrate (Customs), Lucknow on April 27, wherein she was remanded to judicial custody.

Revealing the unique modus operandi of the syndicate, sources informed that women couriers, in form of passengers were sent to Dubai from where they carried consignments of yellow paste, cleverly hidden in undergarments. The couriers were frequently flying to UAE and returning to India through different airports. For instance, the woman bearing passport



M6779486, arrested at Lucknow on April 26, had flown to Dubai several times. Before landing at Lucknow, she in her earlier journey to UAE, had returned through IGI airport in Delhi on 6 January, 2021. “We are trying to ascertain the kingpin of this syndicate and also the number of women couriers engaged in smuggling activities,” source added.

Earlier on January 14, this year two passengers, who boarded an Air India Express flight, IX 1384 from Sharjah were arrested at Mangalore International airport.

Both passengers were carrying gold paste, worth over Rs 1 crore hidden in their undergarments. “Wherever one hides the gold, in whatever form, liquid or paste, he/she should be clear that we will trace it finally. Some smugglers have

hidden gold paste packets in rectum, but we recovered it,” said a Commissioner rank officer of the Customs.

A confidential report of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) says that big-time crime syndicates operating across India are smuggling gold in a paste form to dodge metal detectors and hi-tech X-ray machines installed at all international airports. DRI report reveals that these syndicates, through this method, smuggle gold by converting the yellow metal into powder and compounds in a paste form. Once the consignment is smuggled, approximately 700 gm of gold per 1,000 gm of paste is retrieved from a chemical procedure.

The gold, in pure form, is then handed over to the concerned party.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Genetec will start remdesivir production


“ GENETEK LifeSciences will start production of remdesivir injections, used in the treatment of Covid-19, in Wardha (Maharashtra) from Wednesday. The company will produce 30,000 vials per day. The steps had taken to streamline oxygen supply in Nagpur and also expressed confidence that the recovery situation will improve more in coming few days
— Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister



WIRELESS TECH

Indians raise investments in tech

THE Covid-19 pandemic has pushed Indian enterprises to raise investments in advanced wireless technologies, with India ranking second only to Japan among nations surveyed in terms of spends planned on wireless networking, according to a Deloitte survey

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	75.4	South	
Euro	90.94	African Rand	5.99
UAE Dirham	20.93	Hong Kong Dollar	11.06
Thai Baht	2.61	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	104.61	New Zealand Dollar	54.35
Australian Dollar	58.61	Saudi Riyal	21.89
Canadian Dollar	60.73	Swedish Krona	10.2
Swiss Franc	82.23	Singapore Dollar	57.4

DELHI WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Sid's Farm's new product

Sid's Farm has launched natural paneer as one of its key offerings in the list of value-added products. The new soft and creamy paneer is made without use of any hormones, antibiotics, or preservatives in the milk and due to which paneer's freshness and softness is maintained. The product is targeted at vegetarians who are conscious to earn proteins in their daily diet and is available in 200 gms at Rs 150. Kishore Indukuri, Founder, CEO, Sid's Farm, said: "Our brand philosophy has been to provide consumers a non-adulterated dairy products and offering consumers to experience the real freshness of dairy products. We are the only company which is introducing healthier dairy products in Telangana and hope to continue adding more products in the consumption basket of the informed consumers."

Vivo donates for relief

VIVO has announced donation of Rs 2 crore to aid Covid-19 relief efforts and help acquire Oxygen concentrators. As the country navigates through these unprecedented times caused by Covid-19, Vivo India wants to do its bit in the fight against the novel coronavirus. As a responsible corporate, the brand in 2020 has donated over nine lakh masks, 15,000 PPE suits and 50,000 litres of sanitizer to the State and Central government agencies. Nipun Marya, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India, said: "We are all in this together, and we must fight as a unit to defeat Covid-19. vivo is committed to providing support to the communities in these testing times. This small contribution will help save many lives. We must show tremendous resolve in responding to these unprecedented times."

Kia launches new logo

KIA has announced the re-launch of its brand in India with a focus on illuminating its transition from an automaker to a provider of advanced and eco-friendly mobility solutions. The company introduces the company's refashioned logo and brand slogan, movement that inspires. The newly stylized logo will be unveiled to the market in the first week of May 2021. The company name has changed from Kia Motors India to Kia India, dropping Motors, which symbolizes Kia becoming an enterprise that invests in and produces more than just vehicles to offer a long range of sustainable mobility solutions. Kookhyun Shim, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Kia India said: "This is a proud and historic moment for us as India becomes the first country to transition to the new brand identity after our headquarters in South Korea."

OneWeb's 6th launch

Bharti group-backed OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, has confirmed the successful launch of another batch of 36 satellites by Arianespace from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. These will form part of company's 648 LEO satellite fleet that will deliver high-speed, low-latency global connectivity, and represents 60 per cent of the constellation required to enable its connectivity solution to reach all regions north of 50 degrees latitude by June 2021. Neil Masterson, CEO, OneWeb, said: "These are exciting times at OneWeb as we get ever closer to bringing our connectivity services to some of the world's hardest to reach places. With this successful launch, we are rapidly building momentum".

Household savings jump to 22.5% of GDP in 2020

MUMBAI

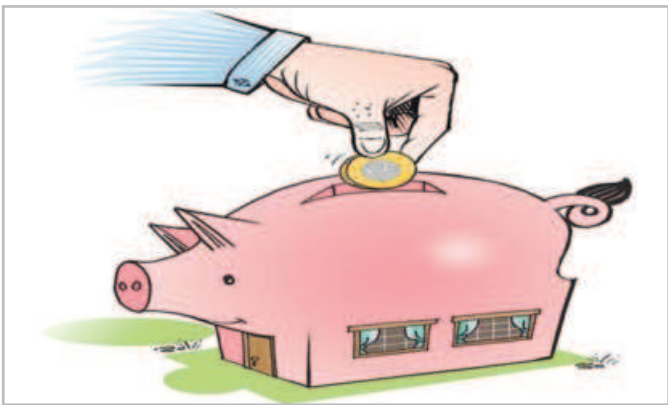
AS people were forced to remain indoors for most of the year due to the lockdowns, there was an unlikely winner in the pandemic-ravaged year — household savings, which rose to 22.5 per cent of GDP from 19.8 per cent in 2019, according to a report.

But households' physical savings fell to a low 5.8 per cent of GDP in the April-June period - when the whole nation was under a strict lockdown - and almost half of the pre-pandemic levels, according to an analysis by brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

However, the same recovered strongly to reach a multi-year high of 13.7 per cent of GDP by the December quarter. According to the latest data from the RBI, household non-financial savings stood at 21.4 per cent of GDP in the June quarter of 2020, and 10.4 per cent in the September quarter, as against 7.8 per cent of GDP in the pre-pandemic period.

However, this fell to 8.4 per cent in the December quarter. The RBI data also shows that gross financial savings fell to 13.2 per cent of GDP, while financial liabilities amounted to 4.8 per cent of GDP in the December quarter. In comparison to the September quarter, households increased their sav-

SAVINGS ACCOUNTED FOR 19.8% OF GDP IN 2019



ings in currency and investments, but savings fell sharply in the form of deposits, pensions, and small savings.

While households borrowed more from banks, their liabilities with non-banks and housing finance companies declined in the December quarter. As against 10-12 per cent of GDP in the past decade, gross financial savings were still higher at 13.2 per cent of

GDP in the December quarter. In contrast, financial liabilities stood at 4.8 per cent of GDP. Consequently, household non-financial savings fell further to 8.4 per cent of GDP in the December quarter, as per the brokerage.

This means that non-financial savings constituted 12.7 per cent of GDP in the last three quarters of the year, against 7-8 per cent in the past decade and an all-time high of 12.1 per cent in FY10. Compared to most developed nations, household savings here are estimated indirectly and are defined and cal-

While households borrowed more from banks, their liabilities with non-banks and housing finance companies declined in the December quarter

FIDC tells RBI: Permit NBFCs to restructure loans

MUMBAI

THE Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has written to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking permission to restructure loans given by NBFCs in the wake of the deep Covid crisis. The NBFC body, in its letter to the RBI Governor, said that the borrower accounts, which are 'standard' accounts as on March 31, 2021, may be allowed restructuring without any downgrade in asset classification, subject, however to the lending NBFCs undertaking fresh credit assessment of the borrowing entity.

It requested the RBI to consider advising banks and financial institutions to allow one-time restructuring of loans given by them to small NBFCs only (NBFCs with total asset size of less than Rs 500 crore). The FIDC further urged the Central bank to increase the overall support outlay to AIFIs from Rs 50,000 crore to at least Rs 75,000 crore. "While the existing allocation for other sectors may continue at their prescribed limits, the addi-



tional Rs 25,000 crore may be made available exclusively to medium and small NBFCs, through SIDBI, for period of three years," it said.

Sonam Chandwani, Managing Partner at KS Legal and Associates said that in the midst of the second wave of Covid-19, the NBFCs are more likely to be knocked back than before, therefore, permission for loan restructuring and liquidity support from the RBI would offload immense pressure off small and medium-sized NBFCs.

"Moreover, considering the fact that NBFCs are highly risk averse, flow of liquidity would undoubtedly enable consumers and small firms to heave a sigh of relief. Though the lockdown has witnessed saving of only a minimal class of the population, cash flow crunch is still evident," she said.

Sensex rises 558 points

Index heavyweights Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and L&T drive mkt

MUMBAI

BENCHMARKS made a winning start to the week on Monday as investors snapped up banking, consumption and energy stocks despite a grim situation on the Covid-19 front.

A rebounding rupee, which climbed 28 paise against the US dollar, added to the momentum, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on the front foot and remained in the positive territory throughout the session, closing at 48,386.51 - up 508.06 points or 1.06 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 143.65 points or 1 per cent to finish at 14,485. Axis Bank was the top performer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.40 per cent. ICICI Bank spurted 3.63 per cent after the

company reported a nearly four-fold jump in March quarter consolidated profit over the weekend. UltraTech Cement, SBI, HUL, PowerGrid, Bajaj Auto and Reliance Industries were among the other prominent gainers.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Maruti, Sun Pharma, TCS, NTPC and ITC were the laggards, dropping up to 2.87 per cent. "Domestic equities shrugged off rising Covid-19 cases and rebounded mainly led by sharp recovery in financials," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities. Barring pharma, most of key sectoral indices traded in green. Strong March quarter performance led ICICI Bank to recovery sharply, while HCL Technologies wit-



nessed sell-off due to subdued 4Q performance, he added. The market may remain volatile in the coming days as Covid cases continue to be high, with April F&O expiry and upcoming FOMC meeting being crucial events this week, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

With 3,52,991 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, the highest so far, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases has climbed to 1,73,13,163 while active cases have crossed the 28-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. The death toll increased to 1,95,123 with a record 2,812 new fatalities.

Sectorally, the BSE realty, metal, basic materials, bankex, energy, consumer durables and finance indices rallied as much as 3.68 per cent, while healthcare ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices spurted up to 0.88 per cent.

Lenskart opens tech centre in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

LENSKART, an eye-wear retailer, inaugurates its new technology centre in Hyderabad, which is equipped with state-of-the-art systems and processes to accelerate innovation on Omnichannel technology. The new tech-hub will provide an employment to more than 100 engineers in various teams across product, design and development, quality engineering, front end developers, mobile developers, data science engineers. The tech-hub also expedite building cutting-edge modern innovations which will enhance customer's buying experience and seamless consumer support system via automated bots for providing post purchase experience to customers.

"Hyderabad team will be at the forefront of engineering, new initiatives and innovation. We want to make Hyderabad a base for quality and consistent engineering to support the high-growth phase of the company," said Rameek Khurana, Co-founder.

GILEAD TO INCREASE REMDESIVIR AVAILABILITY

NEW DELHI CALIFORNIA

DRUG firm Gilead Sciences said it is taking several steps to expand the availability of antiviral drug remdesivir in India and will also be donating a minimum of 4.5 lakh vials of 'Veklury' to the Indian government as Covid-19 cases in the country surge.

"In response to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in India, the company is providing its voluntary licensing partners with technical assistance, support for the addition of new local manufacturing facilities and the donation of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) to rapidly scale up production of remdesivir", Gilead Sciences Inc said in a statement. In addition to providing support to its licensees to expand their local manufacturing capacity, Gilead will also donate at least 4,50,000 vials of Veklury (remdesivir) to help address the immediate needs of Indian patients, it added.

Remdesivir is approved in India for restricted emergency use for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed Covid-19 in adults and children hospitalised with severe disease. Gilead Sciences, Chief Commercial Officer, Johanna Mercier,

Donates 4.5 lakh vials to the Indian government as Covid spreading



Remdesivir is approved in India for restricted emergency use for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed Covid in adults and children hospitalised with severe disease

of Remdesivir by scaling up their batch sizes, adding new manufacturing facilities and/or onboarding local contract manufacturers across the country, Gilead Sciences said on Monday.

To safeguard against disruption of generic remdesivir supply to other low- and middle-income countries included as part of the voluntary licenses, the company is also committed to providing support to voluntary licensees based outside of India to increase their production capacity, Gilead said. The company's planned support will include the donation of API to licensees with a view to accelerate production, it added. "Gilead's voluntary licensing program for Remdesivir, established in May 2020, has already enabled access to the drug for more than 2.3 million people in more than 60 low- and middle-income countries", the statement said. The program provides long-term licenses to nine manufacturers, seven of which are based in India, to enable access to remdesivir

in 127 countries, most of which are low- and middle-income countries, including India, it added.

These licenses remain royalty-free, reflecting Gilead's existing commitment to enabling broad patient access to Remdesivir, it added. The seven licensees based in India are -- Cipla, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Hetero Labs, Jubilant Life Sciences, Mylan, Syngene and Zydus Cadila Healthcare. With 3,23,144 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases has climbed to 1,76,36,307, while the national recovery rate has further dropped to 82.54 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday. The death toll increased to 1,97,894 with 2,771 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The active cases have increased to 28,82,204 comprising 16.34 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has further dropped to 82.54 per cent.

MSD to sign licensing pacts with 5 Indian cos

NEW DELHI

DRUG firm MSD has decided to enter into voluntary licensing agreements for investigational oral antiviral drug candidate 'molnupiravir', which is being studied for the treatment of Covid-19, with Indian drug firms Sun Pharma, Cipla, Dr Reddy's, Emcure Pharma and Hetero Labs, its Indian arm said on Tuesday.

Molnupiravir is an investigational oral antiviral agent, currently being studied in a Phase 3 trial for the treatment of non-hospitalised patients with confirmed Covid-19, MSD India said in a statement. MSD India is a wholly owned subsidiary of Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) and known as Merck & Co., Inc, in the United States and Canada. MSD has decided to enter into non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements for molnupiravir with five established Indian generic manufacturers - Cipla, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Hetero Labs and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries,

it added. These five manufacturers have World Health Organization (WHO) Pre-Qualified Manufacturing facilities and experience as major suppliers to global and key low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) procurers, MSD India said. MSD has entered into these agreements to accelerate availability of molnupiravir in India and in other LMICs following approvals or emergency authorisation by local regulatory agencies, it added. "These agreements, toward which we have been working as we have been studying molnupiravir, will help to accelerate access to molnupiravir in India and around the world," Merck & Co, Inc, US Chairman and CEO Kenneth C Frazier said. "We remain committed to aiding in the global response that will bring relief to the people of India and, ultimately, bring an end to the pandemic," he added. Under the agreements, Merck & Co, Inc, US will provide licences to these manufacturers to supply molnupiravir to India and more than 100 LMICs.

Rahul remains 2nd on Orange Cap table; KKR jump to 5th spot after win over PBKS

AHMEDABAD

PUNJAB Kings (PBKS) captain KL Rahul remains second on the Orange Cap table, 19 runs behind leader Shikhar Dhawan, after he managed just a score of 19 in their five-wicket defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Monday.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Prasidh Krishna stormed into the top 10 of the Purple Cap table with his three-wicket haul during the match on Monday. With a total of eight wickets to his name, Krishna is now sixth, tied on number of wickets with fifth-placed Deepak Chahar.

He is also one wicket behind Rajasthan Royals' Chris Morris in fourth place and Mumbai Indians' Rahul Chahar in third.

Royal Challengers Bangalore's Harshal Patel, remains the Purple Cap holder with 15 wickets to his name. He has four more wickets than second-placed Avesh Khan of Delhi Capitals.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) leaped to fifth spot from the bottom of the table after they beat Punjab Kings (PBKS) by five wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL). PBKS, meanwhile, are down to sixth.

Both teams are level on points with fourth-placed Mumbai Indians but four points behind Royal Challengers Bangalore in third place. KKR's net run rate, however, is significantly higher at -0.305 as compared to the two teams below them -- PBKS (-0.608) and Rajasthan Royals (-0.681).

The top three are locked on eight points with Chennai Super Kings leading the standings due to their higher NRR of +1.612. Second-placed Delhi Capitals have an NRR of +0.334 while RCB have an NRR of +0.096.

After losing four matches in a row, KKR finally pulled off a convincing victory on Monday as they beat PBKS by five wickets in Ahmedabad. The win came on the back of some disciplined bowling from their spinners, which helped restrict the Punjab franchise to 123/9 in 20 overs at the Narendra Modi Stadium. (IANS)

Natarajan undergoes knee surgery

NEW DELHI

SUNRISERS Hyderabad's India fast bowler T Natarajan on Tuesday underwent surgery for the knee injury that ruled him out of the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL).

"Today, I underwent knee surgery - and am grateful for the expertise, attention and kindness of the medical team, surgeons, doctors, nurses and staff. I'm grateful to @bccci and to all that have wished well for me," Natarajan said in a tweet. Natarajan, 30, played two matches in the IPL this season but was then replaced by fellow left pacer Khaleel Ahmed at SRH.

"Wishing you a speedy recovery, @Natarajan_91," tweeted the SRH pace bowler in reply to Natarajan.

The Tamil Nadu pace bowler, who arrived to a grand welcome in his village from Australia after he played a key role in helping India win the series-clinching fourth and final Gabba Test, had picked two wickets in the first two IPL matches this season. He conceded runs at 8.62 an over. (IANS)

In-form CSK favourite to win against inconsistent SRH

NEW DELHI

OPERATING like a well-oiled unit, Chennai Super Kings will start as overwhelming favourites when they clash with struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match, here on Wednesday.

The MS Dhoni-led CSK have bounced back in style after losing the opening match. They are on a roll with four straight wins and will hope that the new venue -- Feroze Shah Kotla ground -- also favours them.

The three-time champions had an underwhelming 2020 season but the team, packed with seasoned players, is now displaying the efficiency it is known for. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been the driving force behind CSK's impressive run so far. His blistering assault on Harshal Patel in the final over shut out RCB on Sunday. He has been among the wickets with his accurate left-arm spin apart from effecting stunning run-outs.

Openers -- Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad -- have found form while Suresh Raina and Ambati Rayudu are due for big knocks. The CSK batters are aware of the Rashid Khan threat but the rest of the SRH attack doesn't inspire much confidence.

Hyderabad rely heavily on their foreign recruits, led by skipper David Warner, opener Jonny Bairstow, Kiwi great Kane Williamson and Rashid, which is a cause for concern. Their biggest weakness is a fragile batting order and over-reliance on the top order. The inability of the team's

IPL POINTS TABLE							
Team	Played	Won	Lost	NetRR	Pts		
1 CSK	5	4	1	+1.612	8		
2 DC	5	4	1	+0.334	8		
3 RCB	5	4	1	+0.096	8		
4 MI	5	2	3	-0.032	4		
5 KKR	6	2	4	-0.305	4		
6 PBKS	6	2	4	-0.608	4		
7 RR	5	2	3	-0.681	4		
8 SRH	5	1	4	-0.180	2		

Indian middle-order to step up has cost SRH more often than not and the think-tank needs to get the combination right if they have to move out of the last spot on the points table which they currently occupy.

Warner needs to shrug off his poor run and for that he needs to negotiate CSK pacer Deepak Chahar, who has impressive ability to strike upfront, well. Apart from Chahar, spin all-rounder Jadeja and veteran Imran Tahir along with Sam Curran form a strong CSK bowling unit. SRH

will need one of Warner, Bairstow and Williamson to go big and hope that the middle-order can make a meaningful contribution to thwart CSK.

The Hyderabad bowling has been patchy with the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar lacking consistency while the absence of yorker specialist T Natarajan due to injury is a huge blow.

It's an onerous task for SRH to revive their fortunes with the limited resources they have at their disposal. (PTI)

Match starts at 7.30pm

SQUADS

Chennai Super Kings
Mahendra Singh Dhoni (c & wk), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, KM Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, R Sai Kishore, Moeen Ali, K Gowtham, Cheteshwar Pujra, Harishankar Reddy, Bhagath Varma, C Hari Nishaanth.

Sunrisers Hyderabad
David Warner (c), Kane Williamson, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Manish Pandey, Sreevats Goswami (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Priyam Garg, Vijay Shankar, Abhishek Sharma, Abdul Samad, Virat Singh, Jason Holder, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Shahbaz Nadeem, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddarth Kaul, Basil Thampi, Jagadeesha Suchith, Kedhar Jadhav, Mujeeb-ur-Rahman.

Warner, Smith could fly back

SYDNEY: Top Australian cricketers, including David Warner and Steve Smith, could soon be flying back to Australia from India as all eyes are set on Australia's National Security Committee of Cabinet meeting on Tuesday which would discuss a reduction or even a complete ban of flights from India.

According to a report in 9News early Tuesday morning, "Australian cricketers including David Warner and Steve Smith are now hoping to be flown home to India before borders shut."

Siddarth Kaul of Sunrisers Hyderabad and captain David Warner celebrates the wicket of Rishabh Pant captain of Delhi Capitals during the Vivo IPL match against Delhi Capitals at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Sunday

Indian women's 4x400m relay team pulls out of World Relays in Poland

NEW DELHI

IN a major setback to India's Olympic Games preparation, the national women's 4x400m relay team has pulled out of next month's World Relays in Poland, said a source in the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday.

"The team is unfit. The fastest runner in the squad, Anjali Devi, is yet to recover from an injury she had sustained in March," the source told IANS, explaining the reason for skipping the World Relays.

One of the athletes said: "Three main runners are unfit. And there is no substitute."

The World Relays, scheduled to be held on May 1 and 2 in Chorzow, is a qualifying competition for Tokyo Olympics as well as 2022 World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA.

As if to further compound the na-

tional team's misery, Jisna Mathew, another key runner of the women's 400m relay team, has also pulled out of the World Relays.

This month, the AFI had short-listed six athletes for the 4x400m relay team. They were: MR Poovamma, S u h b a Venkatesh, Kiran, Anjali Devi, R Revathi, VK Vismaya and Jisna Mathew.

The AFI will, however, send men's 4x400m and women's 4x100m relay squads to Poland.

During the 2019 Doha World Athletics Championships, India's mixed 4x400m relay team had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. The AFI is hopeful the women's 100m relay team would also make the cut during World Relays.

Top 16 relay teams at the end of the qualification period in June will be eligible to compete in the Olympics. (IANS)



Sr. Hockey India tourney official dies of Covid

MEERUT: Virendra Singh, who had officiated in several tournaments under the aegis of Hockey India (HI), died of Covid-related complications here. He was 47.

Virendra had officiated in several All India tournaments and Hockey India national championships, the most recent being the 56th All India Veer Singh Judev Memorial Hockey Tournament in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh last month.

Prior to that, he had officiated in the 5th All India Rajmata Vijay Raje Scindhiya Women's Hockey Tournament at the same venue. In a condolence message to the bereaved family, Hockey India president, Gyanendro Ningombam, said, "We at Hockey India are deeply saddened to learn about the untimely demise of Virendra Singh.

Apart from taking up numerous officiating assignments, he was actively involved in Hockey India's initiatives for umpires and technical officials. His passing away has shocked the officiating community. We share his family's grief in this time of mourning and express our deepest sympathies to Virendra's family." (IANS)



After Cummins, Lee contributes towards India's Covid fight

SYDNEY

FORMER Australia fast bowler Brett Lee has contributed one Bitcoin (worth about Rs 41 lakh) to Crypto Relief to help in India's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The former Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) player is the second Australian after pacer Pat Cummins to donate money to aid India's response to the pandemic. Cummins, the most expensive buy during the IPL 2020 player auction, donated US \$50,000 to the PM Cares Fund for the purchase of oxygen and medical supplies for hospitals across India.

In a letter posted on his Twitter page, Lee wrote: "India has always been like a second home for me. The love and affection that I have got from the people of this country both during my professional career and even after my retirement, holds a special place in my heart. It saddens me deeply to see people

suffering due to the ongoing pandemic.

"I feel privileged to be in a position of making a difference and with that in mind, I'd like to donate 1 BTC (Bitcoin) to Crypto Relief to help with the purchase of oxygen supplies for the hospitals across India," he added.

"Now is the time to be united and ensure we do as much as we can to help the ones in need. I'd also want to thank all the frontline workers who have been working round the clock during these tough times. I request people to take care, stay at home, wash your hands and head out only if absolutely necessary."

Lee also commended Cummins for his gesture saying, "Well done Cummins for the initiative yesterday." (IANS)



Late equaliser denies Goa historic Champions League win vs Al Rayyan

MARGAO: An 89th minute equaliser helped Qatar's Al Rayyan deny FC Goa a historic 1-0 win in the AFC Champions League at the Fatorda Stadium. Jorge Ortiz gave Goa the lead in the third minute of the Group E fixture on Monday, but Ali Ferydoon equalised in the 89th minute of the match. Goa were already out of reckoning for a place in the knockouts after UAE's Al Wahda beat last year's runners-up Persepolis 1-0 earlier in the day. Goa, who have had an impressive debut campaign in the Champions League, were trailing in the possession stats in the first half but Al Rayyan could not convert that into a goal.

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મિ કલચકુ નાકારો

કોન્ક, બંધાવો કોનસાનુત્થાને હંભાવો...