

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 20 APRIL 2021



WORLD | 10

Russia forced to take Navalny to hospital



SPORTS | 12

Murali discharged after angioplasty



TABLOID

Non sexual affair is cheating too

WEATHER

Max: 37.1°C
Min: 23.8°C
RH: 34%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Rain likely in evening.
Max/Min temp. 38/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Ashtami till 12.39 am (Wednesday)
Star: Punarvasu till 6.51 am
Varjyanam: 3.12 pm to 4.52 pm
Durmuhuram: 8.30 am to 9.20 am; 11.05 pm to 11.51 pm
Rahu Kalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
Hijri Calendar
Ramzan 7, 1442 AH

Prayers
Fajr: 4.54 am
Zohar: 12.25 pm
Asar: 4.39 pm
Magrib: 6.39 pm
Isha: 7.48 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.32 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.57 AM
MOONRISE NA
MOONSET TOMORROW 12.43 AM

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR: 6.39 PM (TODAY)
SEHRI: 4.32 AM (TOMORROW)

Muslims across India are marking the start of the holy month of Ramzan.

COUNTER POINT



It is running late by 12 hours, doctor!

SHORT TAKES

UK PM cancels India tour again

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

■ Full report on Page 7

India is red list country for UK

London: Britain on Monday added India to its Covid-19 travel "red list," which bans all travel from the country and makes a 10-day hotel quarantine compulsory for UK residents arriving back to the country. Health secretary Matt Hancock confirmed the move in the House of Commons as he revealed that 103 cases of the so-called Indian variant had been identified in the UK, of which the "vast majority have links to international travel".

HISTORY | CREATED

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

Didi cuts rally time, BJP for mini meets

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

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

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

aign in the state citing Covid cases.

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

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

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

India on Monday reported 2,74 lakh cases and 1,619 deaths.

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

given flexibility to customise to local needs.

However, vaccines in the government sector will continue to be administered free of cost.

■ Page 3: Private players free to fix jab price

HC: Are you making people sitting ducks to Coronavirus?

Govt not keen on curbs till April 30

L. VENKAT
RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Coming down heavily on the state government for not taking steps to reduce gathering of people in public places, the Telangana High Court on Monday asked the government to take a call on the matter in 48 hours.

If the government does not do so, the court would be compelled to order enforcement of night curfew or weekend lockdown in view of the steep spurt in Covid-19 cases, a division bench of the court said.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijay sen Reddy, referred to the court's earlier advisories to the government, and reiterated that the number of participants in marriages should be no more than 50 and at funerals 20.

Occupancy in the cinema halls should be half or one-third, the bench said, and added that steps should be taken to reduce the footfalls in pubs, malls, celebrations, functions etc.

"Keeping in view public health and safety, we have

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao a report recommending night curfew to slow down the spread. The proposal, however, is still pending with the CM.

During a video conference held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, Chief Ministers were advised to consider implementing night curfew to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. He asked them to refer to it as 'Corona curfew' to spread awareness among people about the infection.

■ Page 2: Covid curbs in GHMC area likely soon

been asking the government to issue circulars or GOs. But it appears that the government is hesitant. Obviously, priority should be given to public health. Do whatever you can in the next 48 hours. If not, this court will take a

call," the bench told the government. The court said: "We are refraining from directing the government to impose night curfew or weekend lockdown.

■ Page 2: Is public health not important to govt: HC

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

Giant leap: Copter flies on Mars

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

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

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

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

Grip, his voice breaking as his teammates erupted in applause. It was a brief hop — just 39 seconds — but accomplished all the major milestones.

Project manager MiMi Aung was jubilant as she ripped up the papers holding the plan in case the flight had failed.

"We've been talking so long about our Wright

Brothers moment, and here it is," she said.

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

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

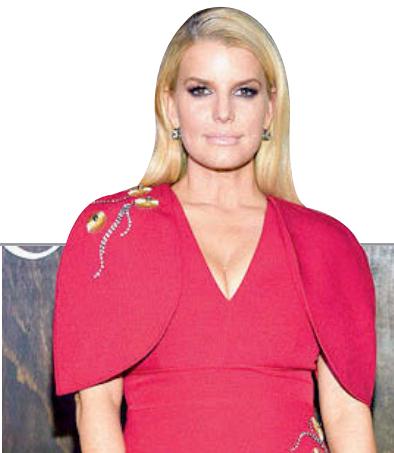
■ Page 10: Tech takes a giant stride with 19-inch chopper



Nasa's experimental Mars helicopter Ingenuity (circled) lands on the surface of Mars on Monday. The little four-pound helicopter rose from the dusty red surface into the thin Martian air on Monday, achieving the first powered, controlled flight on another planet.



— Nasa via AP



CM KCR tests Covid+, has mild symptoms

Being treated at farmhouse; advised home isolation for 9 days

Manmohan Singh tests Covid positive

New Delhi, April 19: Former prime minister

Manmohan Singh tested positive for Covid-19. The doctors are monitoring his condition. Singh had taken both the doses of Covid vaccine.

They said Singh had a mild fever in the morning and later tested positive for Covid-19. The doctors are monitoring his condition. Singh had taken both the doses of Covid vaccine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, and several other leaders wished the former prime minister a speedy recovery.

The Chief Minister has not taken the Covid vaccination though his daughter K. Kavitha and his nephew and Rajya Sabha member Jogenapally Santosh Kumar took the Covid jab.

The CM's son and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Monday Tweeted, "Hon'ble CM KCR garu has tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms. He is currently isolated & being monitored by doctors. Been receiving a lot of messages with concern for his well-being. He is a gritty man & a fighter. Am sure he will recover soon with all of your prayers (sic)."

AICC incharge for Telangana Manickam Tagore tweeted, "Wishes for speedy recovery of Telangana CM Shri K Chandrashekhar Rao garu (sic)."

Two more CMs tested positive for Covid so far — B.S. Yediyurappa (Karnataka), Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh).

TS ignores HC, omits key figures

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

COVID TAKES DEEP ROOTS IN HYD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

On Monday, the Telangana health department, and the state government, yet again received an earful from the Telangana High Court over Covid-19 management. Earlier in the day, however, the health department tweaked its daily Covid-19 bulletin yet again, this time removing the information on the number of Covid-19 patients advised

to be in isolation.

This is not the first time that the health department

has made changes to the bulletin, or the information provided in it, or the

format in which the information is provided.

Earlier this year, in what now appears to be a very premature move, the department decided to suspend the daily publication of the bulletin saying the cases were too few.

This plan was withdrawn after just one day after the High Court pulled up the government over the move.

■ Page 2: Isolated Covid patients roaming freely

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HC: IS PUBLIC HEALTH NOT IMPORTANT TO GOVT?

HC issues directions to state govt regarding strict implementation of Covid norms

From Page 1

THE COURT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- Occupancy rate in cinema halls should be 50 per cent or even 1/3rd of the hall capacity depending upon the situation.
- Tabulated statement showing number of tests conducted for the last one week through RT-PCR, RAT etc.
- Steps be taken to monitor cases at airports, railway stations, inter-state bus terminals.
- A decision on putting a curb on the passengers coming from neighbouring states.
- A decision to be taken by the government to impose night curfew or partial lockdown during the weekends in the state and the districts where the cases are more.
- Directions to be issued to the Kumbh Mela returnees to get themselves tested, quarantined etc.
- The next status report should be filed within two days and PILs have been adjourned to April 23.



ducks!" the court said.

"Sorry for being tough with the government, as this is a question of life and death of the citizens. Your monitoring is not good enough. The state government perhaps expects of the High Court to do the R&D work for the state. The state has left it to us to collate and tabulate the entire data sought for, and we take strong exception to the report filed by it. The report is beautifully silent on the number of issues and details sought by the court," observed Chief Justice Hima Kohli.

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy asked whether the revenues and finances are more important to the government than public health. "Why delay in imposing restrictions when the cases are largely increasing? How are the hospitals asking for positive reports from the patients who deserve to be in hospitals? Your report only says that 84 per cent of the cases are asymptomatic. Then how they are compelled for a positive report?"

"What is the state going to make of the public of the Telangana state? Sitting

Amid steep rise in Covid cases, people stand in queue at Fever Hospital to get tested without maintaining social distance on Sunday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Covid patients roaming freely, not in isolation

From Page 1

The government on its part had already declared that it will not set up containment zones and will only have 'micro-containment' — a house or a housing complex with cases — with advice to the residents to stay put inside.

It is to avoid questions on what is being done to keep such persons in strict isolation that the data on the number of people in isolation was removed from the bulletin, it was learnt.

Following the PM's advice, 15 states have imposed restrictions such as night curfew, weekend lockdown, partial lockdown etc. However, the TS government did not impose any restrictions on the ground that the Covid situation was not as alarming as in other states.

Health minister Etala Rajendar, who visited MGM Hospital in Warangal on Monday, also stated that, "There are no plans to impose any restrictions or lockdown in Telangana. The situation is not that serious in Telangana that warrants lockdown."

However, official sources said the state government may consider imposing

DATE IN HOSPITAL

DATE	IN HOSPITAL
April 9	6,926
April 10	6,818
April 1	7,433
April 1	8,013
April 13	8,567
April 14	9,176
April 15	10,279
April 16	13,396
April 17	12,881
April 18	14,061

Leaders wish CM speedy recovery

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Covid-19 on Monday. Reactions poured in from various quarters wishing CM a

IN BRIEF
Teen booked for vandalising idol

Hyderabad: The Bahadurpura police booked a 13-year-old for allegedly damaging an idol at the Mallanaswamy temple on Sunday night. Police said the scaled the temple wall at about midnight, went inside the complex, damaged the idol and took away an article. Police said the incident came to light when the temple priest came to conduct the morning prayers.

2 cops succumb to Covid-19

Hyderabad: Two city police personnel died while undergoing treatment for Covid-19 on Monday.

According to the police, Bowenpally assistant sub-inspector Radhakrishna passed away on Monday at a private hospital. "The ASI was admitted on April 8 after he tested positive for Covid-19. He was fighting other health issues as well," an official said.

In the second incident, T. Jitender, Dabeerpura head constable, passed away due to Covid-19 at a private hospital. He had tested positive earlier this month.

19-yr-old held for harassing cousin

Hyderabad: A 19-year-old alleged cyber stalker, Nagilla Yashwant, who harassed his cousin was arrested by the Rachakonda cybercrime police on Monday. According to the police, Yashwant borrowed ₹2,000 from his cousin's husband and didn't return it. The cousin's parents informed his parents, To take revenge, Yashwant allegedly posted the cousin's phone number on social media in a defaming manner, said police. The victim was harassed by a stream of phone calls and messages from strangers.

GHMC to set up virus control room

Hyderabad: In view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, the civic body has planned to have a Covid control room in its head office. Arvind Kumar, municipal administration and urban development principal secretary, said the control room would operate 24 hours on all seven days of the week. Senior officers of the GHMC and health department would be in charge.

Minorities dept to give Ramzan gifts

Hyderabad: The minorities welfare department has sanctioned a proposal to distribute 4.5 lakh Ramzan gift packets to the poorest of the poor. The government could not implement the scheme last year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Ahmed Nadeem, secretary minorities welfare department, issued orders for distribution of 2.24 lakh gift packets (cloths) through 448 masjids in the twin cities. Another 1.83 lakh packets will be distributed through 367 masjids in the rest of the state. Each masjid will get 500 packets. The Wakf Board has constituted six teams and a mobile squad apart from security teams to supervise the process. The disbursement of gift packets will be started from April 25

At Gandhi Hospital, mortuary is full, bodies kept on 4th floor

Low quality PPE kits, uncertain future are making it all the more difficult for nurses

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

AFTER A recruitment drive, the number of nurses at the hospital had risen to 600, but may be getting infected by the Covid-19 virus. In the last 10 days, 15 nurses caught Covid-19 and are now admitted in Gandhi itself, a nurse revealed.

a nurse revealed.

The nurses the DC spoke with also complained of the low quality of PPE kits. "What we are being provided with now are made from plastic. These kits are very suffocating than the ones they gave us in the past. There is also a shortage of face masks," according to one nurse.

They also said they were not being paid risk allowances, extra leaves, and food. Even the 15 days' quarantine period after 15 days of work is no longer in force and this is exposing them to more risk of catching the disease, the nurses said.

"Compared to last year, we are seeing cases that are more severe, and most of those coming in require oxygen. The fatality rate is also more," the nurse said.

Many of the nursing staff are in a dilemma whether to continue with the job or leave, out of a concern for their safety. Even the government has failed to deliver any of its promises made to the frontline warriors like nurses last year. The government looked the other way after the cases went down.

After a recruitment drive, the number of nurses at the hospital had risen to 600, but may be getting infected by the Covid-19 virus. In the last 10 days, 15 nurses caught Covid-19 and are now admitted in Gandhi itself,



People form long queue to get the Covid-19 test done at Vijayanagar Colony, Picket, in Secunderabad, on Monday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

TIMS staff holds body for Covid tests

**ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

Families of Covid patients have complained that they are facing trouble in getting the bodies of the deceased released for last rites.

Syed Shareef Mehdi of Chanchalguda complained that the TIMS did not hand over his nephew's body until a letter from the local police

was furnished. On Friday 8.30 pm, he brought his nephew Syed Nisar Mehdi to the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences, Gachibowli, in a critical condition.

At the hospital, no one was ready to attend to the patient for over an hour and finally one male nurse came to the ambulance and checked the pulse. After this, doctors declared that the patient

was dead.

"When we tried to return home with the body, the hospital staff did not allow this and took the body to inside the hospital. They told us that the body would be handed over to us only if the tests suggested the cause of death was not Covid-19. Else, they would send the body directly for cremation," he said.

Shareef Mehdi said that after his family raised a furore, the authorities asked them to furnish a letter from the concerned police station, permitting the hospital to hand over the body to the parents.

"The Dabeerpura Police cooperated with us and the body was handed over to us on Saturday evening after we furnished a permission letter from the SHO there."

AT THE hospital, no one was ready to attend to the patient for over an hour and finally one male nurse came to the ambulance and checked the pulse. After this, doctors declared that the patient was dead.

COVID VACCINATION CENTRES TURN BACK PEOPLE STATING SHORTAGE

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

The resumption of Covid-19 vaccination drive in the state on Monday, after a day's break on account of lack of stocks, began in fits and starts with many centres turning back people saying they did not have vaccine.

On Sunday, the state received 2.7 lakh vaccine doses, mostly Covishield, which were meant to be distributed as per a plan based on vaccination data thus far, and the numbers of people expected to turn up on Monday at each centre to receive their second shot.

However, at many vaccination centres in the city, and in several districts, hundreds of vaccine seekers were turned away by the staff who expressed helplessness saying that they either did not receive the stocks, or they did not have the particular brand for giving the second shot to those who already received either a Covishield or a Covaxin shot.

Health department authorities said there were some problems on account of the stock situation and rushing of supplies and these will be sorted out.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT authorities said there were some problems on account of the stock situation and rushing of supplies and these will be sorted out.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

VIJAYA KUMAR - ABITHA
You Two Inspire Every One And That Is Huge. Happy Anniversary Have Another 50 Years Together Near and Dear.
9866974111, 9491324222

(A/2122/D0041)

Bandi hits out at KCR for going lax on pandemic

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

alleged that companies and distributors had deliberately created an artificial scarcity.

He alleged that the state government did not care even after knowing the matter and said that the Centre has taken steps to reduce the MRP so that the price of remdesivir is available to all.

Sanjay stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conducting review meetings with industries, railways and medical departments every day and urging them to make oxygen available to all sections of people.

He said Rao was responsible for the artificial shortage of remdesivir in the state.

He demanded the state government to conduct a high-level review on the issue of hospitals, medical personnel and medicines. He alleged that the Rao had so far not told them about vaccination

3 nabbed for illegal sale of vital drug

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

Amid the shortage of remdesivir, the North Zone Task Force police arrested a three-member gang for blackmarketing the generic versions of the medicine on Monday, and seized 12 100-mg injections from them.

The arrested were identified as officials of the Hetero Healthcare officials — Shaik Saleem Jaffar, 32, area business manager, and Bathala Venkatesh, 27, field sales officer and Jonnala Sharani Sai, 26, medical representative from Alkem Pharmacy.

P. Radhakrishna Rao, DCP of Commissioner's Task Force, said the accused persons, along with seized material, were handed over to the Begumpet police for taking further action.

He demanded the state government to conduct a high-level review on the issue of hospitals, medical personnel and medicines. He alleged that the Rao had so far not told them about vaccination



NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4-Parliament Street, New Delhi – 110001

F.No. NHIDCL/2(8)/Rect Fin & HR/2021/HR



National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction/ up-gradation/ widening of National Highways in the North - Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Applications are invited from dynamic, effective and experienced eligible retired Officers from Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, BRO (GREF), Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings on Engagement on Contract basis on the Terms & Conditions indicated below:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dy. General Manager (HR)

earmarked for states or from the open market.

Private vaccination providers will have to declare their self-set price of the vaccination.

The government will allow the imported ready-to-use vaccines to be utilised in the private sector and state facilities.

The government has been scrambling for a response as the second wave has exposed the country's weak and uncaring health care system more than the first wave.

With Covid-19 cases shoot-

ing, and the situation getting worse each day, harrowing stories have been emerging of hospitals overflowing with patients, patients suffering and dying due to shortage of medicines, oxygen and hospital beds.

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

Long queues form for remdesivir vials

**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19**

The announcement that, beginning Monday, patients requiring remdesivir injections as part of their Covid-19 treatment can purchase the

drug directly from the office of the Drug Controller, resulted in long queues with people lining up right from midnight of Sunday, soon after the health minister's announcement, made the rounds. Hundreds of people lined up

at the Drug Controller's office in Kukatpally in the hope of getting the prescribed doses of the injection but had to wait for hours in the hot sun as the staff at the outlet said they were expecting fresh stocks to arrive.

It may be recalled that health minister Etala Rajendar had on Sunday announced that in a bid to make remdesivir easily available for patients admitted in private hospitals, direct sales would begin on Monday.

From Page 1

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

Vaccine manufacturers can scale up their production as well as attract new national and international players.

SHORT TAKES

BJP TO PROBE LEADERS' MEET WITH KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

The BJP state leadership has constituted a committee under the leadership of former MLA Yendala Lakshminarayana to inquire into some party leaders meeting with TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao without prior permission from the party high command, and take disciplinary action against the leaders.

Last Friday, former MLC N. Ramchander Rao, senior leader Perala Shekar Rao along with the family members of Ramesh Goud, the deceased corporator-elect of the BJP, met Rama Rao at Pragathi Bhavan. They requested that the TRS pull out of the bypoll at the Lingoijiguda GHMC ward, from where the BJP as fielding a family member of Ramesh Goud.

The party leadership took a serious view of the meeting and the state leadership asked the leaders how they had proceeded without the party discussing the matter. Party sources said that the leadership decided to enquire into the intention of the meeting and leaders' role. It will take action after Lakshminarayana submits his report.

Sources said that the party would likely issue show cause notices to Ramchander Rao and Perala Shekar Rao.

PUVVADA'S WIFE NOT TO BE IN RACE FOR MAYOR'S POST

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, APRIL 19

Puvvada Vasantha Laxmi, wife of transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar will not be in the race for the Khammam mayor post.

The minister said here on Monday that she was not interested in politics. "Being a follower of the Brahmkumari ideology, she is following a different path," he said and added that she will not contest the polls in any KMC division.

He said the people of Khammam are intelligent and they will vote for the TRS. "Development of Khammam is fast-paced and spread over to all four sides. The people know about this and the projects that were executed in the town had become a topic of discussion among the citizens."

Lawyer Vasantha Laxmi quietly filed her nominations for the 20th ward two days ago. She did so without any fanfare. There was no rally and no procession. As such, the statement of the minister on his wife's contest surprised TRS leaders in Khammam. It is recalled that Khammam Mayor post was reserved for general women and the TRS leadership had promised to give the post to a Kamma.

Meanwhile, the programmes for the minister's birthday celebrations organised by Khammam Poura Seva Samithi led by TRS leader P. Prasad were cancelled after a word from Ajay on Monday. Ajay Kumar may have felt embarrassed. The minister called Jeswanth, TRS corporator in the 21st division and discussed the matter.

KTR: BJP playing cheap politics

Says party is provoking youth in name of religion

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, APRIL 19

WHILE PAYING The minister accompanied by zilla parishad chairperson Nyalakonda Aruna, MLA Rasamai Balakishan and MLC Naradasu Laxman Rao participated in several developmental activities in Ellanthakunta mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district on Monday.

AFTER INAUGURATING newly constructed Rythu Vediika, Rama Rao came down heavily on BJP state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar. "Did Bandi Sanjay bring even a single rupee for the development of Karimnagar parliament segment as an MP?" he asked.

After inaugurating newly constructed Rythu Vediika, Rama Rao came down heavily on BJP state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar. "Did Bandi Sanjay bring even a single rupee for the development of Karimnagar parliament segment as an MP?" he asked.

Rama Rao said, "Bandi Sanjay speaks only when there are elections. When the BJP is boasting about its Dubbakk win, it must also explain why had the BJP candidates lost two MLC polls. In the Nagarjunasagar by-elections, the BJP will lose its deposit and the TRS would win the seat hands down. We will also win the upcoming municipal elections," he said.

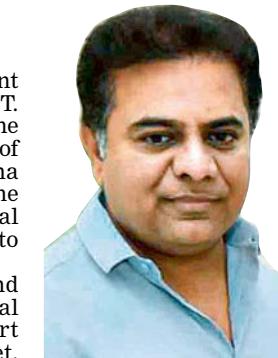
Rama Rao said the state government is getting ready to establish a

30-bed hospital at the mandal headquarters of Ellanthakunta. The construction works would begin at the earliest. "The government would soon take up the construction work on a four-lane road from Ellanthakunta to Siddipet and would sanction new ration cards to the people along with pensions," he said.

ABVP and Congress activists tried to protest the convoy of the minister, demanding that the state government fulfill the promise of setting up a 30-bed hospital in Ellanthakunta and fill all vacant government posts. They were taken into custody by the cops.

A heated argument took place between the leaders of TRS and ABVP outside the police station, which led to a clash. Two cars parked at the police station were damaged in the clash. The police intervened and brought the situation under control. District collector D. Krishna Baskar, SP Rahul Hegde, TESCOB chairman K. Ravinder Rao, farmers' coordination committee president G. Narasaiah, libraries department chairman A. Shankaraiah and rural development officer Srinivas were among those present at the minister's functions.

KTR to lead TRS campaign in urban local bodies' polls

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

K. T. Rama Rao

charges of their respective areas. Their job will be to ensure victory of TRS candidates in their corporations and municipalities.

The entire elections process, right from selection of candidates to devising and executing party's strategy for winning the elections, has been assigned to ministers of respective districts and party local MLAs, MLCs, MPs and senior leaders.

It is learnt that the Chief Minister will not be campaigning in these municipal corporations.

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SHORT TAKES

THREE ARRESTED FOR MISHAP THAT KILLED 7

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

A police constable and two others in a car that caused a major accident on Sunday have been arrested by Cyberabad police. Seven guest workers had died in the mishap as they fell from a lorry carrying them to their workplace when it collided with the car run allegedly by drunk men and overturned.

The arrested were the occupants of the car — police constable Giri Prasad and home guard Sangameswar, both working in Madhapur police station under Cyberabad Commissionerate, as also Mallesh.

DCP Prakash Reddy from Shamshabad said, "All the three went to Yadadri and were returning to the city. Mid-way through the journey, they stopped at a place and consumed alcohol. Giri Prasad was at the wheel when the accident took place."

"According to the statement from the driver of the lorry, the car was over-speeding and he tried to avoid hitting the car. The lorry brushed past it. In the process, he lost control and the lorry overturned," Prakash Reddy said.

The DCP said, "After the accident, the three occupants of the car escaped from the spot but were arrested early on Sunday. When we conducted a breath test, Sangameswar was confirmed to have consumed alcohol. Giri Prasad and Mallesh tested negative. We took their blood samples and sent them to a laboratory for tests."

Police suspect that Giri Prasad was drunk at that time and have sent his blood samples to the laboratory.

The police booked a case against the lorry driver for illegally plying people. All the three arrested were sent to judicial custody. The dead were mostly guest workers from Odisha.

AP GOVT TO READY 5K COVID BEDS IN A WEEK

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 19

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

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

Authorities maintained that when the spread of the Coronavirus reached its peak last September, they had arranged over 37,000 beds in 261 hospitals. As the virus has started spreading again, the authorities intend to enhance the bed-strength to 45,000 from the present availability of 17,000 beds in 126 hospitals.

Officials are trying to trace people showing corona symptoms within three hours of receiving a call on 104 toll free number. In case the patient shows mild symptoms, the individual will be placed in home isolation under the supervision of an ANM. If the patient shows moderate symptoms, he or she will be shifted to the nearby Covid care centre and if the symptoms are severe, the patient will be shifted to Covid hospital. Presently, 35,465 patients are in home isolation and 7,535 patients are taking treatment in hospitals.

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

MAN VS WILD

People should stay safe, be responsible

Authorities not controlling those with symptoms in city

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

Instead of following safety norms and staying isolated, many Covid-19 positive people or those are awaiting results of tests following symptoms, are roaming around freely in the city, with authorities not putting any curbs on their movements or monitoring them.

Deccan Chronicle tracked some people who had tested for the virus. Some of them were found flouting all safety norms and moving around freely.

Bharti (name changed), according to one of her close friends, contracted the virus when she attended a party in a pub. Bharti gave a throat swab sample for testing at a diagnostic lab. On her way home, she stopped for lunch at a restaurant. The next day, her test result showed she was Covid-19 positive.

"During that time, she must have spread the virus to many people in the restaurant including the staff. How irresponsible can people be and put lives of others in danger," Bharti's friend asked.

Sangeeta (name changed) said that her 58-year-old mother-in-law, despite having symptoms, went about attending kitty parties this week. "We were not sure

DC SPOKE TO A CROSS-SECTION OF SOCIETY ABOUT COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS



How irresponsibly can people behave? When the colleges were functioning last month, students used to come in groups in cars without wearing masks. They were reckless and resented being questioned on their behaviour.

— RADHIKA ATMAKURY,
Engineering college assistant professor



People have thrown away Covid-19 protocols. Even those who are positive are moving out in the markets. In spite of so much information about the spread of the disease, they are taking human lives for granted.

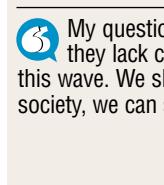
— AMIT GOENKA,
Businessman



It's a disease. If one is infected, it's not a sin. But when you do not warn people coming to your place when you are infected, it is a sin. People should be responsible.



— D.K. GEETHA REDDY,
Senior citizen



My question to Covid-positive people roaming around is, do they lack compassion? People are getting infected faster in this wave. We should be more responsible. We cannot endanger society, we can stop socialising and unnecessary shopping.

— SANYA ANSARI,
Attorney

of her health and got her tested. We urged her to stay home and isolate herself for the time being. She did not listen. Yesterday, test results have shown she has contracted Coronavirus,"

Sangeeta said. In yet another case of irresponsible behaviour, the family of a girl who tested positive, kept the development a secret. Even as the girl was recovering, they put no

restrictions on visitors, mostly relatives including senior citizens, who visited the family. Even the maid servant was not warned about the girl being virus positive.

ACB nabs Manohar for bribery

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU I DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 19

The case of Gajawada Manohar who was recently nabbed by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on graft charges is a classic example of how government officials who are caught red-handed while accepting bribes allegedly bypass prosecution and even manage to go scot-free.

This is the second time Manohar was caught by the ACB. In 2006 while he was working as assistant divisional engineer, he was caught while taking a bribe of ₹10,000. Subsequently two cases, including graft and disproportionate assets were

booked against him. Ironically, he was not only re-induced and was also promoted as division engineer (commercial) taking a salary of over ₹3 lakh.

On April 15, Manohar was caught red-handed in his chambers at Mint compound while accepting ₹35,000 from a contractor. "Usually if a government official is caught red-handed by the ACB the official will be suspended for up to a maximum of two years. He can approach the tribunal for disciplinary proceedings, commission of enquiry or departmental enquiry," said an ACB official.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Secretary of Forum for Good Governance (FGG), M. Padmanabha Reddy said, "Months of painstaking enquiry by ACB and considered opinion of Vigilance de-

sioner who in turn sends it to the section officer of the respective department. The tainted official can submit a representation request for the case to be taken to tribunal for disciplinary proceedings, commission of enquiries.

In the case of Manohar he went to commission of enquiries and got the case closed. Subsequently, he urged the respective principal secretary for his job and he was obliged, said another ACB official.

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He added that once the case is sent for departmental enquiry, nothing would happen and the tribunal does not even head as the government has not appointed anyone since the formation of Telangana State. The Commission of Enquiries takes its own sweet time to close the case, alleged Reddy.

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DECCAN Chronicle

20 APRIL 2021

China giving India the runaround

The Chinese were giving the Indians the runaround in the matter of negotiations for disengagement from friction points in eastern Ladakh until the Indian Army, in an audacious late night action in late August last year that caught the Chinese troops unawares, captured key peaks in the Kailash Range south of the Pangong Lake. From the position of advantage thus gained, the Indian forces commanded a strategically panoramic view of the Chinese deployments stretching far, and could deal with them as they wished. However, a military advantage of such significance was surrendered by New Delhi in February this year in negotiations.

The expectation was that a show of reasonableness in this area would persuade the Chinese to be accommodating in the Depsang Plains to the north, and in Gogra and Hot Springs in the broad Galwan area. Currently, Chinese armour has rapidly raced forward more than 15 kilometres inside the Indian demarcation of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and can threaten our military airfield at Daulat Beg Oldi, which is practically within hailing distance from the Karakoram Pass that links China and Pakistan overland. Depsang has critical value for India and the Chinese are not budging from there.

The Chinese appear to have lost interest in any further meaningful talks. They have got back what they were really after in the Rezang La area. With this, and along with their staying put in territories inside the Indian side of the LAC, some estimates suggest that China may have got nearly 90 per cent of its dream demarcation that had been proposed to India in 1959-60. Remember, on the north bank of Pangong, Chinese soldiers

left the area from Finger 4 to 8, but under the settlement Indian patrols are not permitted beyond Finger 4. This was not the case a year ago.

The upshot of this is quite clear — the Chinese are not going back to status quo ante which existed in March, 2020 any time soon, as demanded by India. Instead of starting facts in the face, defence minister Rajnath Singh and General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of Defence Staff, appear to be launched on a propaganda spree to distract public opinion. The minister has more than once echoed the Prime Minister in saying that India has not lost one inch of territory to China in eastern Ladakh. The establishment seeks to garner praise from the public for standing up to the might of the Chinese military. But the world knows better. So do our own security professionals. If there won't be "disengagement" by China in Depsang and Gogra-Hot Springs, there can be no "de-escalation" by India in Ladakh. This has the makings of the 38th parallel, the militarised border between north and South Korea.

Castro, a beacon of strength

To a question during his visit to the United States if he would want a Muammar Gaddafi or Yasser Arafat or a Fidel Castro to be the future president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela replied: "One of the mistakes which some political analysts make is to think that their enemies should be our enemies." In one stroke, the anti-Apartheid warrior, newly released from prison after 27 years, decimated the white arrogance that believed it has the power to decide the politics of the world, and also marketed a brand of politics that challenged the US hegemony in the northern hemisphere for decades.

That tiny island nation and its iconic leaders, brothers Fidel and Raul, were a beacon of strength to revolutionaries who fought impossible imperialists around the world.

Raul succeeded his elder brother as President of Cuba in 2008 and as party chief in 2011; quit as President in 2018 and handed over the charge to Miguel Diaz-Canel, who is expected to succeed him as the party chief as well. In the last six decades of the Communist rule, Cuba has achieved tremendous progress in two key human development indices: health and education. Cuba's ratio of physicians to 10,000 people is the highest in the world; at 99.9 per cent, the literacy rate of Cuba is one of the highest. But the Cuban dispensation faces the same challenge every Communist country does: the need to change with the times, democratise the systems and institutions and meet the aspirations of their free-minded people. The revolutionaries will have to reinvent themselves if they were to remain a beacon of strength for their comrades outside as well as their own people.

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How the world sees India is changing... not for the better

What sort of India is the present generation growing up in and what will they live through? I am over 50 and with good health and good luck might see another couple of decades or so but in productivity terms my best years are behind me. The future belongs to those who are today children and young adults. What do they have in store for them? Having looked at the data and the facts of the last seven years in detail for my next book, I can see a little bit into the future and what it has in store.

Economically, the future is slightly different from what it was when I was coming into the job market. India had liberalised its economy in the year that I turned 21 and in the few years after that the market for jobs vastly improved in the cities. Even people with a generic college degree with no specialisation could get a white-collar job in an airconditioned office if they had just basic knowledge of English.

This greatly benefited the middle class which had always had access to quality schools but not that many op-

tions in terms of work (which is why parents kept insisting on specialisation in education and asking children to become doctors and engineers). Now it was possible even for a BA, BSc or BCom woman or man to access an upper class lifestyle. I was one who benefited from this, as did lakhs of others.

The majority of Indians did not benefit from this, of course, because they had access neither to the big cities or to a decent education. But they had hope, and this explains the thousands of private educational institutions that sprang up in India's towns and semi-urban spaces that attempted to replicate what was happening in the cities. This period is now over. India's urban unemployment is at a historic high and, more important, the participation rate of India's labour force — meaning those who are employed or looking for work — is at a historic low. This means scores of Indians of working age (15 and above) have given up hope of finding a job. This was the case even before the Covid-19 pandemic and the position has been steady for over

three years, meaning that it is not cyclical and will not change on its own. The lack of work will in time result in a lack of hope and this will have consequences. One of them will be an increase in crime and lawlessness.

Long term trends globally are also negative in terms of both trade and employment and so, unlike in the past when some of us benefited, the future does not hold out hope for those who are today young. Socially also, the India that I grew up in and knew has changed. India has always had a problem of reconciling its theoretical secular status with the reality that communal tensions existed. The 1980s and 1990s give us enough evidence to prove this was the case. This communal impulse was dampened by efforts from the government. However poor these efforts may have been, the government did not actively inflame the impulse as has happened since 2014. This has consequences both internally and, less important, externally. Within India our politics has become dark and election campaigns are run by the dominant political party

actively targeting Indian Muslims. Because this is electorally rewarding as we have seen, we will see more of it. The consequence is that it has damaged Indian society and produced violence in neighbourhoods. To give one clear example, there were zero beef lynchings before 2015. We have introduced a new category of violence.

This will have downstream consequences also, such as economic, which will affect the wider population, but there is no point talking about that today. Externally, our love for hate has brought the world's attention on us. Just to give an example from this week, this is what the European Parliament said on April 14: "Members have expressed concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in India, echoing comments by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and several UN Special Rapporteurs. This includes reports that human rights defenders and journalists in the country lack a safe working environment. The report also voices alarm regarding India's Citizenship Amendment Act, which according to the

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is fundamentally discriminatory in nature against Muslims and dangerously divisive."

This text was approved by 61 votes in favour and six votes against. India's attempts to stop it or soften the criticism failed. The Indian government will brush it off as it has several other reports this year, but again, this comes with consequences. You cannot expect to be given a position on the UN Security Council, as India does, when the world sees what you are doing with distaste.

India was viewed from the outside as a place which was chaotic and noisy but likeable. This was so when I first went abroad at the age of 16. This has now changed in the view of those who study and observe India. It will change soon for the rest of the world also. The optimism has gone. It is disappointing as an Indian to record this, but one cannot look away from what one has found.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Subhani



US Afghan exit a pyrrhic victory for Pak generals?

Indranil Banerjee

Conventional wisdom has it that America's decision to end its military presence in Afghanistan signals total victory for Pakistan's artful generals. How-

ever, this might not necessarily be the actual long-term denouement.

To begin with, the US withdrawal decision was inevitable and sensible. For, there was no favourable end state in sight for the United States. US President Joe Biden did well to announce the formal end to the 20-year-old "Afghan War". All US combatants are to leave Afghanistan by September 9, 2021, the twentieth anniversary of the attacks on America in 2001.

The generals in Rawalpindi are gloating over what is generally being viewed as America's worst military defeat. The US invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago with the aim of annihilating the terrorist organisation Al Qaeda and driving out its Pakistani ally, the Taliban.

Al Qaeda was pretty much decimated, and the Taliban fled to safe havens inside their mentor's backyard while remnants of the Pakistan Army were allowed an honourable exit. For a while, in the initial years, it had appeared that the US military campaign had done wildly well.

Smug officials and legislators in Washington drew up ambitious plans to install a Western-style democracy in Afghanistan. A former CIA contact, Hamid Karzai, was pulled out from hiding and installed as President in Kabul. Thereafter things started going downhill.

President Biden though is determined not to go down that route and the September 9 deadline seems to be hard and final. The Stars and Stripes will be lowered over the dusty Afghan landscape for the last time on that day.

Gradually the Taliban and their murderous allies gained the upper hand while the Americans and their Nato allies retreated.

That there could be no satisfactory endgame for the United States had dawned upon American Presidents a long time ago. Former US President Donald Trump vowed to bring back all US troops from Afghanistan but had prevaricated and ultimately thrown up his hands. For all military experts agreed that any US military withdrawal would enable the Taliban backed by the Pakistan Army to quickly bring the present Afghan regime to its knees and undo the sacrifices of thousands of US servicemen.

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Strategic experts in India are worried. And for good reason too. The last time the Taliban had taken over Afghanistan, some 26 years ago, India's historical presence in Afghanistan was forced to abruptly end. Almost overnight, Indian diplomats and others had to flee in specially chartered flights, leaving behind a grand embassy building that was later to be converted to an ammunition dump by the victorious Taliban forces.

This time too there is no guarantee that India's presence and influence in Afghanistan will not end with the anticipated victory of the Taliban. Pakistan's generals, who own and control the Taliban, want more than anything else to forcefully and completely eject all Indian presence from Afghanistan. If the Indians are allowed to remain, it will at best be a token presence.

This is a stated objective and Rawalpindi's generals have even complained about the humanitarian and development work carried out in that country by the Indian government. With Afghanistan out of bounds for Indians, the general hope they will convert that country into their backyard for military and terrorist activities much of which would be directed against India.

However, such a favourable outcome could well elude the generals this time. For global strategic equations are changing, and the primary focus of the Western powers has moved away from the Middle East which has been their principal obsession since the end of the Second World War.

The importance of oil in global geopolitics and economics compelled the Western powers to evolve a strategy to maintain domi-

Pakistan is bound to face increased economic difficulties as it consumes more and more of its limited resources to keep the fighting going in Afghanistan and on the borders with India.

Pakistan internally too is not exactly a picture of serenity or economic health. There is a heavy price to pay for sponsoring egregious violence.

Pakistan's generals may raise their glasses to celebrate their victory in Afghanistan, but those glasses might well turn out to be empty.

The writer is an independent commentator on political and security issues

LETTERS

PANDEMIC CONTROLS

We are heading towards a very serious crisis unless we aren't already in one. It is high time the state government showed leadership by putting in place very strict preventive controls. Offices where people are working in closed spaces are turning out to be super spreaders. We will be heading the Maharashtra, Delhi or Kerala way if steps are not taken immediately. I request Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to give strict instructions to all institutions to re-introduce the work from home arrangement except for essential services.

L. Prabhakar
Secunderabad

KUMBH MELA

Religious heads heeded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice, but he interfered too late. It is like closing the stable door after the horses have run away.

Buddhavarapu Golakarishna
Hyderabad

RESTRICT RALLIES

The Election Commission should restrict political rallies due to Covid. All political parties are not following guidelines. The EC should penalise parties who violate guidelines. The BJP must help in this regard if they come in power. Political parties must restrict people at rallies. Police must penalise those who violate rules, even if they are leaders.

Mohammed Sarwar Ahmed
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Key airfield falls to Bangla forces

SHILLONG, APRIL 19 In significant gains today, Bangla Desh forces captured the strategic Shalutikor airfield near Sylhet town in Kushtia district as also Quasba.

Reports from across border spoke of heavy casualties among the Pakistani troops in all the three actions.

With the fall of Shalutikor field, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's men were said to be virtually in control of the entire Sylhet district.

Quasba was lost to the Pakistani army in a pre-dawn action by the liberation forces, reports said.

SHORT TAKES

EX-MINISTER SUCCUMBS TO COVID IN BIHAR

NAYYAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, APRIL 19

Former Bihar education minister and JD(U) MLA Mewal Chaudhary passed away on Monday due to Covid-19 complications. Party sources said Chaudhary had tested positive for Covid-19 a week earlier and was being treated at a private hospital in Patna where he succumbed to the viral infection.

Mewal Chaudhary was the sitting JD(U) MLA from Tarapur constituency. He was among the 14 ministers who were sworn in on November 16, 2020, as part of Nitish Kumar cabinet. He was allocated education portfolio.

However, he had to resign from the post three days after his oath following allegations from the RJD-led opposition over corruption charges against him. Describing the deceased legislator as a "distinguished educationist, politician and social worker" Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in a statement said "his death was an irreparable loss for the education sector and politics. His last rites will be performed with full state honours".

Leader of the opposition Tejashwi Yadav, HAM Chief Jitan Ram Manjhi and several other NDA leaders were among those who also condoled Chaudhary's demise on Monday.

Concerned over the unprecedented rise in Covid cases in the last few days, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday had announced night curfew and other restrictions in the state to control the surge in infection.

MANTRI FEARS COMMUNITY SPREAD IN C'GARH

RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPAL, APRIL 19

Chhattisgarh health minister T.S. Singhdeo on Monday indicated that the state may have entered the phase of community spread of the virus.

Singdeo told reporters here that in many Coronavirus positive cases, sources of infections could not be found; indicating that community spread of the virus may have begun in the state.

Source of infection is tapped through contact tracing. He said the threat of community spread of the virus usually increased when the rate of infection grew by five per cent.

"But, in some districts the rate of infection has been found to be more than 30 per cent, while in some other districts it was even more than 50 per cent. Hence, the chances of community spreading appeared real in these districts", he added.

Singdeo predicted that the active cases in the state may increase to 1.5 lakh to two lakhs from the current 1,28,019 by the end of this month.

"We need to be more careful", he added.

WEARING TWO TIGHT-FIT MASKS IS SAFER: STUDY

New Delhi, April 19: Wearing two tightly-fitted face masks can nearly double the effectiveness of filtering out SARS-CoV-2-sized particles, preventing them from reaching the wearer's nose and mouth and causing Covid-19, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, shows that the reason for the enhanced filtration is not so much adding layers of cloth, but eliminating any gaps or poor-fitting areas of a mask.

"The medical procedure masks are designed to have very good filtration potential based on their material, but the way they fit our faces isn't perfect," said Emily Sickert-Bennett, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in the US, and lead author of the study.

To test the fitted filtration efficiency (FFE) of a range of masks, the team filled a 10-foot by 10-foot stainless-steel exposure chamber with small salt particle aerosols.

The researchers wore a combination of masks to test how effective they were at keeping particles out of their breathing space.

Each individual mask or layered mask combination was fitted with a metal sample port attached to tubing in the exposure chamber that measured the concentration of particles entering the breathing space underneath the researcher's mask.



Family members mourn the death of Covid-19 victim at a mortuary, amid rise in Covid cases across the country, in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

Delhi locks down for 6 days as cases continue to surge

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

Meghalaya bans entry of tourists to curb spread

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, APRIL 19

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

Assam,

Meanwhile

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SHORT TAKES

AIR FORCE CHIEF
ON FIVE-DAY
VISIT TO FRANCEPAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Even as India is expecting next batch of Rafale aircraft later this month, Air Force Chief R.K.S. Bhaduria on Monday left for France on a five day official visit. The visit of Indian Air Force Chief will be a significant step in further enhancing mutual cooperation.

The Air Chief will hold meetings and discussions with senior military leadership of France and visit operational facilities and airbases. The visit comes after Gen Philippe Lavigne, Chief of Staff, French Air and Space Force (FASF) visited India in February 2020. He will also take stock of delivery of the rest of the Rafale aircraft to the Indian Air Force.

Dassault Aviation has till now delivered 14 jets to the Indian Air Force. India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around ₹58,000 crore. The two Air Forces have seen significant operational interaction in the recent past. IAF and FASF engage in the bilateral air exercise series 'Garuda', as well as hop exercises, the last being Exercise Desert Knight 21 held at Air Force Station Jodhpur in January 2021.

NAVY SEIZES
NARCOTICS
WORTH ₹3,000 CRDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

Indian Navy on Monday said that it has seized narcotics of ₹3,000 crore in Arabian Sea. Indian Naval Ship Suvarna, whilst on surveillance patrol in the Arabian Sea, encountered a fishing vessel with suspicious movements, said Indian Navy in a statement.

To investigate the vessel, the ship's team conducted boarding and search operation, which led to the seizure of more than 300 kilograms of narcotics substances.

The boat with its crew have been escorted to the nearest Indian Port of Kochi, Kerala for further investigation. "The approximate cost of the catch in the international market is estimated to be ₹3,000 crore," said Indian Navy. This is a major catch not only in terms of the quantity and cost but also from the perspective of disruption of the illegal narcotics smuggling routes, which emanate from the Makran coast and flow towards the Indian, Maldivian and Sri Lankan destinations. Apart from the human costs from drug addiction, the spoils of narcotics trade feed syndicates involved in terrorism, radicalisation and criminal activities.

FRESH POLL DATE
FOR TWO WEST
BENGAL SEATSPRANMOY BRAHMACHARI
& RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC
BERHAMPUR/KOLKATA,
APRIL 19

The Election Commission on Monday rescheduled the Assembly election at Shamshergunj and Jangipur constituencies in Murshidabad of West Bengal from April 26 to May 13 in wake of the deaths of two candidates — Rejaul Haque of the Congress and Pradip Nandi of the RSP of the Left Front under the Sanjukta Morcha — due to Covid-19 in those two seats.

While Haque, contesting at Shamshergunj died on April 15, Nandi, fighting at Jangipur, died the next day. The Assembly polls at both the seats were countermanded. The new date, which is after the announcement of the Assembly polls in the state on May 2, however is likely to coincide with Eid-ul-Fitr at the end of Ramzan which has irked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Left Front also.

"We will send a letter to the EC later in this regard. Calender needs to be checked while scheduling the poll dates which never clash with other festivals like Durga Puja," the Trinamul Congress supremo said at a press meet in Maita when asked about it.

The Left has also appealed to Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal Arif Aftab to consider a new date for the polls at the two seats due to Eid.

State BJP vice president Joyprakash Majumdar however appealed the CM and the Left to accept May 13 as the fresh date.

MP HIGH COURT
PULLS UP
SHIVRAJ GOVTRABINDRA NATH
CHOURDHY | DC
BHOPAL, APRIL 19

The Madhya Pradesh high court on Monday pulled up the Shivraj government for its failure to solve the crisis of oxygen and life saving drug Remdesivir in the state.

"The situation is grim. We cannot remain mute spectators", a division bench of the high court observed while issuing a 49-page directive to the state government to comply with them.

The court also directed the state government to file an action report on its directive containing 19-point guidelines on May 10, the next date of hearing in the case.

In its directive, the court asked the state government to ensure supply of Remdesivir drug to the needy patients within one hour and go for import of the life saving drug, if needed.

Meanwhile, the state government has started providing liquid oxygen through tankers to different hospitals. Besides, the life saving drug has also been supplied to different districts by choppers.

Meanwhile, the Army threw open its hospitals in Madhya Pradesh for the civilian Covid-19 patients. Earlier in the day, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan talked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh seeking their intervention to help the state overcome the crisis.

While the PM assured to ensure steady supply of oxygen and Remdesivir drugs to the state, Mr Singh accepted the chief minister's proposal to open the army hospitals in the state for treatment of Covid-19 patients, a government spokesman here said.

Madhya Pradesh on Monday reported 12,897 fresh coronavirus positive cases taking the tally of the cases to 4,20,977.

The state on Monday recorded 79 deaths taking the tally of the toll to 4,636.

● THE ARMY has thrown open its hospitals in MP for the civilian Covid-19 patients.

● THE STATE on Monday recorded 79 deaths taking the tally of the toll to 4,636.

Couple without mask misbehaves with cops when stopped, held

New Delhi, April 19: A man and his wife were arrested after they allegedly misbehaved with policemen when they were stopped for not wearing masks in central Delhi's Daryaganj, officials said on Monday.

While the man was arrested on Sunday, his wife was arrested on Monday, they said.

A purported video of the incident was shared on social media platforms, wherein the couple could be seen misbehaving with Delhi police personnel when they were asked the reason for not wearing masks.

Police said they registered a case against Pankaj, a marketing



Migrants board buses for their native place at Kanpur bus stand amid the rise in Covid-19 cases across the country in Kanpur on Monday. - PTI

Afraid of 2020 rerun, workers begin mass exodus from TN

MSMEs, other companies also fear total lockdown-like situation in state

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR &
D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, APRIL 19

A fear of the government clamping a total lockdown in the State gripped many sections of people, prompting thousands of migrant workers to pack their bags and leave for their hometowns in other States on Monday.

The announcement of a night curfew every day from Tuesday and lockdowns on Sundays was seen as a measure to slow down the second wave of the Coronavirus that has started taking a heavy toll, but it rang the alarm bells for migrant workers, particularly from Bihar and West Bengal.

With memories of the problems migrant workers and their families faced in 2020 when the Centre announced a lockdown without any prior warning still fresh in their mind, the migrant workers did not want a recurrence of the same situation as they saw the new set of restrictions as a harbinger to a total lockdown.

In fact, even the owners of the MSMEs and other companies that employ these workers in large numbers feared the same and allowed their workers to leave.

Since the workers were given small amounts to undertake the journey back home they started booking tickets in trains.

Hundreds of migrants landed in Chennai from places like Coimbatore, Tirupur and Tiruchy to catch trains that would take them home. But since the Southern Railways, under the new regulations, would allow only passengers with reserved seats in trains to enter the city who went home for the weekend did not return for work on Monday after the night curfew was announced as they too did not possess reserved tickets to leave the station.

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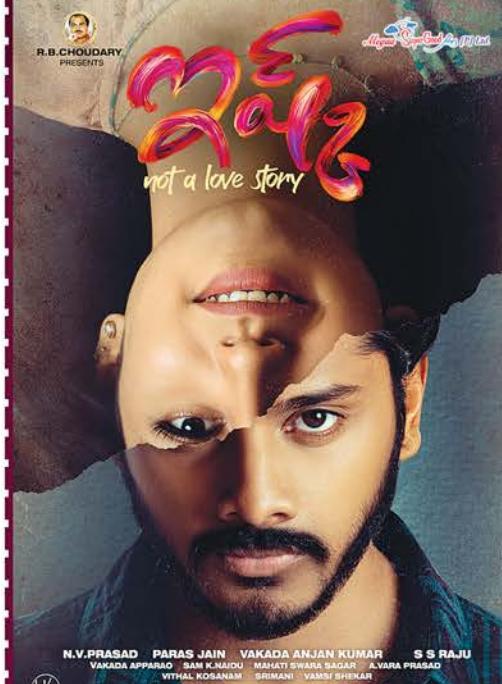
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RELEASING 23rd APRIL

**SANDHYA 35MM**

R.T.C X ROAD

ARJUN 70MM

KUKATPALLY

MEGHA 70MM

DILSHUKNAGAR

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairtabad

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli

TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad

FORUM - Kukatpally | ICON - Hitech
MOOSARAMBAGH | IRRUM MANZIL

GALLERIA | CENTRAL - Punjagutta

RK - Banjara | INORBIT - Cyberbad

GPR - Kukatpally | SHA - Chintal

RADHIKA - Kapra | M CUBE - Attapur |

CINEPLANET - Komppally |

CINESQUARE - Uppal |

SHIVAGANGA - Dilshukhnagar

LAXMIKALA - Moosapet

SWAPNA - KATTEDAN

INOX - GV - Banjara | GSM - Miyapur |

MP MALL - Kachiguda |

DSL - Uppal | MANTRA - Attapur |

CCPL - Malkajgiri |

BHUJANGA 70MM JEEDIMETLA

JYOTHI 70MM R.C PURAM

RAJALAXMI 70MM UPPAL

SREERAMANA COMPLEX AMBERPET

SAMPOORNA 70 VANASTALIPURAM

VYJAYANTHI 70MM NACHARAM

SAI RANGA 70MM MIYAPUR

AMBA 70MM MEHDIPATNAM

BR HITECH 70MM MADHAPUR

SUPER 70MM BALAPUR

VIMAL 70MM BALANAGAR

SRI SAI POOJA 70 SURRAM

VLS SRIDEVI 70 CHILKALGUDA

LAXMI 70MM SHAMSHABAD

SRI LAXMIKALA MANDIR ALWAL

**SANDHYA 35MM**

(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ARJUN 70-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM**RAJADHANI COMPLEX**

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TARAKARAMA 6.00, 9.00PM

AMB-2.00, 4.50, 10.25PM

Cinesquare-4.20, 10.15PM

Gpr-1.30, 10.20PM

1.30, 10.20PM

11.00, 7.00PM

1.50, 10.15PM

Forum-11.30, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40PM

Inorbit-1.25, 6.35, 9.00PM

Central-10.35, 8.25PM

RK-2.55, 11.00PM|Hitech-4.50, 10.10PM

Galleria-11.05, 5.40, 8.05, 10.30PM

Irrummanzil-12.45, 6.05, 10.20PM

Moosarambagh-1.15, 10.00PM

Preston-1.50, 10.15PM

GVK MALL-10.30, 4.30, 10.50PM

MP-10.40, 3.30, 10.40PM

GSM-11.00, 7.00, 10.00PM

CCPL-3.26, 9.30PM

MANTRA-12.00, 5.00PM

SUDHA-1.00, 6.35PM|DSL-1.20, 6.25PM

TIVOLI-11.30, 4.30, 10.10PM

SHALINI-11.40, 8.10PM

CHANDANAGAR-10.15PM

BALANAGAR-11.40, 8.10, 10.40PM

SRILAXMIKALA MANDIR-11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30

SAPNACINEMA ABIDS-6.00 & 9.15PM

SIVASAKTHI70 - RAJALAXMI

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

JYOTHI CPURAM - AARADHANA70

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

KUMAR70MM - METRO70MM

11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

ANJALI70MM - AMBA70MM

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SENSATIONINSO - TALLURI70MM

11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SREEPREMA70 - LAKSHMI70MM

11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

YAKUTHMAHAL-12.30, 3.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

CONTACT: 9030161717

WORLD

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 20 APRIL 2021

pg | 9

IRAQ ROCKET ATTACK INJURES 5

Samarra, April 19: Five diers, wounding two foreign contractors and three Iraqi soldiers. —AFP

RELEASING ON 23rd



SANTOSH/SAPNACOMPLEX ABIDS

KUMAR70MM-KACHIGUDA

METRO70MM-BAHADURPURA

ANJALI70MM-SECUNDERABAD

SV CINESQUARE70-PATANCHERU

VENKATASAI70MM-KEESARA

LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE

SVC MAHALAXMICOMPLEX

BVK VIJAYALAXMICOMPLEX

AMB AMB CINEMASGACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally

MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga

Cinesquare-Uppal

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex

Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston

Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh

Contact 7013388396

IN BRIEF
NZ distances from 'Five Eyes'

Wellington, April 19: New Zealand said Monday it would not let the 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance dictate its dealings with its largest trading partner China, in the latest distancing from the US-led group's approach to tensions with Beijing.

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta told the New Zealand China Council that the Five Eyes — the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand — should not stray from its scope of intelligence-sharing between member nations.

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

Baerbock may succeed Merkel

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

PIO brothers buy UK food chain

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

The Issa brothers, whose parents moved to the UK from Gujarat in the 1970s, own the Euro Garages chain of petrol stations as part of their EG Group business. Last year, they acquired leading UK supermarket chain Asda from US owners Walmart as part of the strategy to expand their non-fuel business. The acquisition is said to be worth an estimated £100 million.

Dulux dog breed faces extinction

London, April 19: The Old English Sheepdog, one of Britain's most recognisable dog breeds, has been listed for the first time as vulnerable to extinction after a drop in popularity. The Kennel Club said Monday.

The move by the club, Britain's biggest organisation devoted to dog health, welfare and training, follows declining numbers since the breed's heyday in the late 1970s.

The Kennel Club recorded just 227 puppy registrations in 2020 for the dog — instantly recognisable for its shaggy coat and long used in adverts for paint manufacturer Dulux.

It is the lowest number in 60 years, it said, marking a "steep decline" in the breed's popularity, the club said.

The dog has since 2009 been on the club's "At Watch" list, which monitors breeds.

FLOYD SOUGHT HELP WITH 'VERY LAST BREATH'

Minneapolis, April 19: George Floyd pleaded for help with his "very last breath" but was not shown any compassion by Derek Chauvin, prosecutor Steve Schleicher said Monday in closing arguments at the murder trial of the former police officer.

"George Floyd begged until he could speak no more," Schleicher told the jury in a Minneapolis courtroom. "All that was required was a little compassion and none was shown on that day." He asked for help with his "very last breath but the officer did not help," Schleicher said.

"He didn't follow training, he did not follow the department's use of force rules, he did not perform CPR," he said.

"George Floyd was not a threat to anyone, he was not trying to hurt anyone," Schleicher said.

Chauvin, who is white, was seen on video kneeling on the neck of Floyd as the 46-year-old Black man lay face down handcuffed on the ground for more than nine minutes.

Chauvin, 45, is charged with murder and manslaughter for Floyd's May 25, 2020 death, which sparked protests across the United States and around the world against racial injustice and police brutality.

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

Passengers can fly across Tasman Sea without undergoing quarantine

Sydney, April 19: Emotions ran high Monday as excited passengers set off on the first flights to take advantage of a quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, allowing families split by the pandemic to finally reunite.

"(I'll) yell, scream, cry, hug, kiss, (feel) happy — all of these emotions at once," Denise O'Donoghue, 63, told AFP at Sydney airport as she prepared to board her flight.

The arrangement means that for the first time in almost 400 days passengers can fly across the Tasman Sea without undergoing mandatory Covid-19 quarantine when they arrive.

"It's a very big day and exciting for families and friends," said New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who hailed the success of both countries in containing the virus as a key factor in allowing the travel corridor.

Australia was New Zealand's largest source of international tourists before the pandemic, accounting for about 1.5 million arrivals or 40 percent of total visitors in 2019.

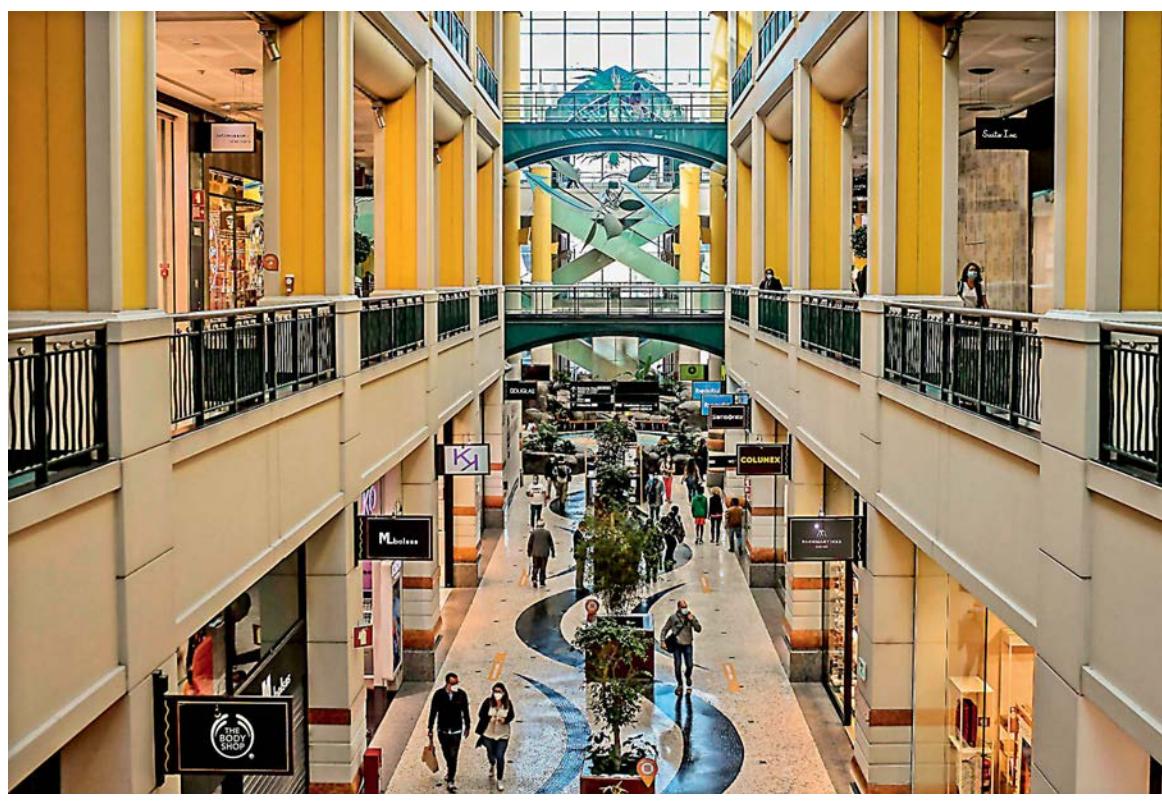
The bubble's opening received saturation coverage from media in both countries, with live television reporting from airports providing regular updates on the progress of flights.

On a grass embankment at the foot of Wellington Airport's runway, the words 'WELCOME WHANAU' (family) were spelled out in giant letters.

Lorraine Wratt, a New Zealander stranded by the pandemic while visiting family in Australia, told AFP it was "wonderful" to be able to travel again.

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

"We came to Australia on December 11 to spend Chr-



People go shopping at the re-opened Colombo shopping centre in Lisbon on Monday. Portugal rolled back Covid measures, including reopening shopping centres, high schools and universities and allowing indoor dining, after — AFP

Canada to send support to virus-hit province

Ottawa, April 19: Canada is expected to channel funds into childcare, wage subsidies and other pandemic recovery measures as the government presents its new budget Monday ahead of possible snap elections.

The 2021 budget is the first full fiscal plan from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration

since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and is expected to outline Canada's recovery as virus infections surge.

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland has promised Ottawa "will continue to do whatever it takes" to fight the spread of the Coronavirus and support the economy as it emerges from a recession.

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

— AFP

istmas with our children... planning to go back in February, it's been a bit of a nightmare." Australia is

home to hundreds of thousands of expatriate New Zealanders and before Co-ronavirus many regularly

shuttled back and forth across the Tasman on three-hour flights.

— AFP

Technology takes a massive stride with a 19-inch chopper

From Page 1

Scientists cheered the news from around the world and even from space.

"A whole new way to explore the alien terrain in our solar system is now at our disposal," Nottingham Trent University astronomer Daniel Brown said from England.

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

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

When the news finally came, the operations centre filled with applause, cheers and laughter. More followed when the first black and white photo from Ingenuity appeared, showing the helicopter's

shadow as it hovered above the surface of Mars.

"The shadow of greatness, #MarsHelicopter first flight on another world complete!" Nasa astronaut Victor Glover tweeted from the International Space Station.

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

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

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

— to generate this otherworldly lift.

More than six years in the making, Ingenuity is just 19 inches (49 centimetres) tall, a spindly four-legged chopper. Its fuselage, containing all the batteries, heaters and sensors, is the size of a tissue box. The carbon-fibre, foam-filled rotors are the biggest pieces: Each pair stretches 4 feet (1.2 metres) tip to tip.

Ingenuity also had to be sturdy enough to withstand the Martian wind and is topped with a solar panel for recharging the batteries, crucial for surviving the minus-130 degree Fahrenheit (minus-90 degree Celsius) Martian nights.

Nasa chose a flat, relatively rock-free patch for Ingenuity's airfield, measuring 33 feet by 33 feet (10 metre by 10 metre). Following Monday's success, Nasa named the Martian airfield "Wright Brothers Field."

"While these two iconic moments in aviation history may be separated by time and 173 million miles of space, they now will forever be linked," NASA's science missions chief Thomas Zurbuchen announced. The little chopper with a giant job attracted attention from the moment it launched with Perseverance last July. Even Arnold Schwarzenegger joined in the fun, rooting for Ingenuity over the weekend via Twitter. "Get to the chopper!" he shouted, re-enacting a line from his 1987 sci-fi film "Predator."

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

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

— AP

WHITE SUPREMACY

BLM protests urged govt, institutions to face up to the legacy of the British Empire

UK's 'no systematic racism' report slammed by UN

London, April 19: A body of experts that advises the United Nations on human rights concerns has widely criticised British government-backed report that concluded there was no systemic racism in the country.

The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent said Monday that it found it "stunning" that the report "repackages racist tropes and stereotypes into fact" and urged the British government to reject its findings. "The report cites dubious evidence to make claims

that rationalise white supremacy by using the familiar arguments that have always justified racial hierarchy," the Geneva-based working group said.

"This attempt to normalise white supremacy despite considerable research and evidence of institutional racism is an unfortunate sidestepping of the opportunity to acknowledge the atrocities of the past and the contributions of all in order to move forward," it added.

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which was set up by Br

ish Prime Minister Boris Johnson after last year's Black Lives Matter protests, published its report into racism last month. Its conclusions that Britain is not "institutionally racist" or "rigged" against minorities have been widely vilified, with some critics even arguing that the report downplayed the country's historic role in slavery.

Citing strides to close gaps between ethnic groups in educational and economic achievement, the report said race was becoming "less important" as a factor in creating disparities that are also fuelled by class and family backgrounds. Many academics, lawmakers unions and anti-racism activists were skeptical of the findings in the 258-page report, with some claiming the commission ignored barriers to equality, while others said it downplayed the ongoing legacy of Britain's colonial past as well as its role in slavery. Johnson's spokes-

man, Max Blain, said the UN working group's statement "misrepresents the findings" of the UK racism report.

"This report in no way condones racist behaviour, and in fact it highlights that racism and inequality are still problems for our country," he said. The commission, which was made up of 11 members from a broad cross section of ethnic backgrounds, has also previously defended itself against the charges, arguing that some of the criticism has "tipped into misrepresentation"

Banned party releases 11 Pak police hostages

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

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

The TLP has announced a protest march to Islamabad on Tuesday if the government does not expel the French envoy.

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

Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed in a video message said: Talks have started with the TLP. The TLP has released 11 policemen who were taken hostage by it and kept at its headquarters in Lahore. The first round of talks with the TLP went well and the second will take place in the evening.

The minister hoped that

Release journo, Myanmar told

Tokyo, April 19: Japan's government said Monday it is asking Myanmar to release a Japanese journalist who was arrested by security forces in its largest city of Yangon the previous day.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told reporters that his government is asking Myanmar authorities to explain the arrest and release him as soon as possible.

He did not identify the detainee, but Japanese media said he is Yuki Kitazumi, a former Nikkei business newspaper reporter currently based in Yangon as a freelance journalist. "We will continue asking the Myanmar side for his early release, while doing our utmost for the protection of Japanese citizens in that country," Kato said.

Japan's Foreign Ministry later said the journalist was arrested at his home on Sunday night and is being detained at Yangon's Insein Prison, where political prisoners are frequently held. It said Japanese Embassy officials have not been given access to him.

Kyodo News agency reported that he was arrested on suspicion of spreading 'fake' news.

Kitazumi has posted reports and views about developments in Myanmar on Facebook. Hours before his arrest, he posted a video showing Myanmar citizens gathering at a Tokyo temple to pay tribute to people killed in the Myanmar military's crackdown on protesters against its Feb. 1 seizure of power from an elected government.

On Saturday, the junta released more than 23,000 prisoners to mark the traditional new year's holiday. At least three had been political prisoners, but it wasn't immediately clear if any activists detained during the crackdown were freed.

— AFP

Lives Matter protests across the UK was for the government and institutions to face up to the legacy of the British Empire and the country's extensive profits from the slave trade.

The toppling of a statue of 17th-century slave trader Edward Colston in the city of Bristol in June prompted a pointed debate about how to deal with Britain's past. Many felt such statues extol racism and are an affront to PoC Britons. Others, including the PM, argued that removing them was erasing a piece of history.

— AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

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

* As of 8:30 PM IST

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

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

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Market turns volatile; FPIs net sellers Sentiments sour as C19 cases rise

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

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

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

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

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

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

₹ SHEDS 53 PAISE ON LOCKDOWN FEARS

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

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

India reported its tenth record daily increase in Covid cases in 11 days, with the capital city of New Delhi announcing a

complete curfew till next Monday. Maharashtra had imposed stringent curbs, effective April 15.

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

MACROTECH TANKS ON MKT DEBUT

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, APRIL 19

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

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

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

The fall was bigger in the broader market with Nifty Mid-cap 50 and Nifty Mid-cap 100 indices down by 1.93 per cent and 2.12 per cent respectively and the BSE Mid-cap down by 1.93 per cent.

Oxford study to reinfect recovered C19 patients

TODD GILLESPIE

APRIL 19

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

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

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

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

—Bloomberg

SC stays HC proceedings in Future-Amazon case

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, APRIL 19

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GLENMARK LIFE PLANS IPO

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

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

—FC Bureau

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

—PTI

M&M SELLS 1,000 E-CARGO AUTO

Pune, April 19: Mahin-dra & Mahindra on Monday said its Mahindra Treo Zor electric three-wheeler (cargo) has crossed the sales milestone of 1,000

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

—Michel Gonsalves

WHATSAPP IN PINK IS A VIRUS

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

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

—Michel Gonsalves

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Covid cases surge delays India Open

New Delhi: The India Open Super 500 tournament, one of the last three qualifying events for the Tokyo Olympics, was on Monday postponed due to raging Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

The \$400,000 India Open was scheduled to be held behind closed doors in the national capital from May 11 to 16.

"Considering the current challenges, BAI left with no option but to announce the postponement of the tournament for the time being," Badminton Association of India (BAI) general secretary Ajay Singhania said. Delhi has emerged as the worst hit city with 25,462 cases reported on Sunday. —PTI

Vaccinate athletes at earliest: NRAI

New Delhi: The National Federation of India (NRAI) has requested the government to vaccinate its Olympic-bound shooters at the earliest, taking into account the unprecedented spike in Covid-19 cases. As per the data updated by the union health ministry, India reported 2,73,810 new positive cases in the last 24 hours, the highest single-day surge taking the country's caseload past the 1.5 crore mark.

As many as 1,619 people succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours.

Considering the grim situation, the NRAI is keen that its athletes are vaccinated soon. —PTI

'Super clubs' in different league European heavyweights face criticism over 'cynical' Super League

With predictions that they will share billions of euros.

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

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

"This is unforgivable. Enough is enough," it added.

The ESL said the founding clubs had agreed to create a "new midweek competition" to start "as soon as practicable" but that they would continue

to play in their domestic leagues.

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

UEFA THREAT

Under the plan, two groups of 10 will play each other home and away, with the

top three qualifying for the quarter-finals. The fourth and fifth-based teams would play off for the two remaining spots.

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

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

"We... Will remain united in our efforts to stop this cynical project," read a joint statement.

—AFP

Advantage Atletico after Real held



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

JUVENTUS' CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AT RISK

Milan, April 19: Andrea Pirlo conceded Juventus missed Cristiano Ronaldo's "killer instinct" as the Italian champions fell to their first league defeat in two decades to Atalanta on Sunday leaving their participation in next season's Champions League at risk.

Leaders Inter Milan edged towards the Serie A title despite a 1-1 draw at Napoli, to pull 13 points ahead of Juventus who dropped to fourth place.

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

Spurs sack 'Special One'

London, April 19: Jose Mourinho was sacked by Tottenham on Monday just six days before they play Manchester City in the League Cup final as the Portuguese boss paid the price for a turbulent campaign. Mourinho, 58, was dismissed after only 17 months in charge, even though he could have led the club to their first silverware since 2008.

Tottenham have been struggling in their bid to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League. Spurs are currently seventh, five points behind fourth placed West Ham, and suffered a shock Europa League last-16 exit against Dinamo Zagreb.

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

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

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

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said: "Jose and his coaching staff have been with us through some of our most challenging times as a club."

"On a personal level I have enjoyed working with him and regret that things have not worked out as we both had envisaged."

"He will always be welcome here." —AFP

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

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

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



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

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, 20 APRIL 2021

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Off the field



Pandya brothers having a whale of a time at a shoot.

Blake wants ABD to make SA comeback

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

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

Murali discharged from hospital

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

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

"He would resume his normal activities."

Muralitharan would rejoin the Sunrisers Hyderabad squad after undergoing the mandatory seven-day quarantine period, sources said.

Hardik nurses a shoulder niggle

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

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

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JAADUJA TRICK

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

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

Jadeja had an outstanding day as he also took four catches.

Cameos from Faf du Plessis (33 off 17), Dwayne Bravo (20 not out off 8), Ambati Rayudu (27 off 17) and Ali (26 off 20) helped CSK post 188 for nine after being put in to bat.

Royals made a promising start in the run chase courtesy Jos Buttler (49 off 35) before the batsmen succumbed to the spinners on the Wankhede pitch which offered more turn than earlier games. CSK won the game by 45 runs after Royals' innings ended at 143 for nine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MS Dhoni, in his 200th match as CSK captain, came in to bat at No.7 but could not get going as



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

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

Not afraid to take risks, says Shikhar

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

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

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

The left-hander said he has also been working on his stroke play.

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

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant said he has started to enjoy captaincy.

"Coming from a loss, winning the next match was

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

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

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

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

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

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



Chennai pitches are tricky: Mahela

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

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

The match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals was a high-scoring affair on Sunday when Virat Kohli-led side posted 204 for four to win the match by 38 runs.

"They are not unplayable wickets. They are good, competitive wickets. And adapting to challenges is always the key for any batsmen or any team. We have been consistent with that approach, it is challenging, but our bowlers have adapted pretty well."

— MAHELA JAYAWARDENE
MI coach



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

— MI

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

Another important cog in the wheel is left-arm spinner Krunal, who played the 2020 final against the same opposition.

Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar, whom bowling

Capitals, the biggest positive has been the form of Shikhar Dhawan, who is the leading scorer so far in the tournament with 186 runs.

Dhawan and young Prithvi Shaw form a lethal opening combination, but the Mumbaikars needs to convert his starts into big scores.

Delhi opted for Australian Steve Smith on Sunday but, as they are next playing on the slow Chepauk track, they might go back to Ajinkya Rahane, who is looking better suited for such tracks.

Skipper Rishabh Pant has the ability to take any attack to the cleaners. The DC team management would be hoping that the top-order fires in unison against the defending champions, to whom they had lost in the final last year.

DC also possess quality all-rounders in Marcus Stoinis and Lalit Yadav, who would be keen to play their roles well.

Their pace attack is led by South African Kagiso Rabada and Chris Woakes, and the two have been impressive so far.

They have options in the experienced Amit Mishra, Pravin Dubey and new recruit Shams Mulani, who can complement Ravichandran Ashwin. — Agencies

Live on TV

Mumbai Indians vs
Delhi Capitals
from 7.30 pm on
Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches 28

MI 16 DC 12

FOR THE RECORD

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

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

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

• Mumbai beat Delhi by 57 runs at Dubai.
• Mumbai beat Delhi by 5 wickets at Dubai.

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

PRITHVI WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS TECHNIQUE

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

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

leg-spinner has shown every year.

"When we started playing him (Chahar), I believe it was the 2019 season, where he had a breakthrough season. Even in the UAE in the last season, he bowled well but he had his ups and downs, he wasn't consistent in execution, but every year we see improvement in Rahul."

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