



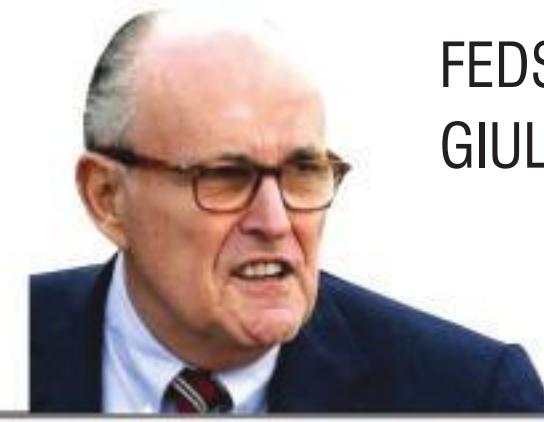
WORLD IS AFRAID OF INDIA: KAMAL NATH

P5



'AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY IS RISING ANEW'

P10



FEDS RAID GIULIANI'S HOME

P10



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

WHY DE VILLIERS IS LICKING HIS CHOPS, AGAIN



P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 40 and 23 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

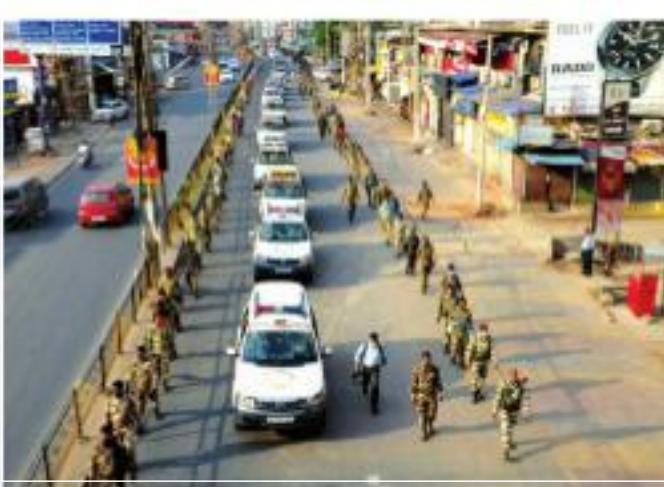
Max: 63% Min: 23%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 42.1°C (+3) Min: 23.3°C (-1)
SUN RISES 05:41 hrs MOON RISES 22:48 hrs

SUN SETS 18:56 hrs MOON SETS 09:13 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Police personnel conduct a flag march to enforce implementation of Covid-induced lockdown, in Ranchi on Thursday. AGENCIES

'Delhi govt responsible for Capital healthcare': The Centre on Thursday said the Delhi government is responsible for handling the present Covid-19 crisis in the national capital as providing healthcare to the people of the city continues to be under its domain. The clarification from the MHA came after the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into force from Tuesday. The MHA also said the amendments to the GNDT Act will in no way alter the constitutional, legal responsibilities of the Delhi government. P5

Delhi sees record 395 Covid deaths: Reeling under a devastating Covid storm that has unleashed sufferings, deaths and despair on an epic scale in the national capital plagued by grave crises of oxygen, hospital beds and essential medicines, the city Thursday logged 24,235 Covid cases and 395 deaths, its highest-ever single-day tally, while the positivity rate was 32.82 per cent.

Biotech slashes Covaxin price for states to ₹400/jab

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Bharat Biotech on Thursday announced a cut in price of its Covid-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' it plans to sell to the states to Rs 400 per dose from the earlier Rs 600.

This follows a widespread criticism of its pricing policy as it sold Covaxin to the Central government at Rs 150 per dose. "Recognising the enormous challenges in the public healthcare system, we have made Covaxin available to state governments at a price of 400/dose," Bharat Biotech said in its announcement.

We are deeply concerned with the critical pandemic that India is facing at this time, it added. Serum Institute on Wednesday slashed the price of its Covishield vaccine to Rs 300 per dose from the earlier Rs 400 for states. SNS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Exit polls on Thursday forecast a tight contest between the incumbent Trinamul Congress and the BJP in the high-profile West Bengal Assembly polls and put the saffron combine ahead in Assam, while projecting a win for the ruling Left alliance in Kerala and for the DMK-led opposition in Tamil Nadu.

The exit poll numbers were largely a setback for the Congress, which while falling short in Assam and Kerala may also lose its government in the Union territory of Puducherry to the Opposition alliance of AIURC-BJP-ALADMK.

The exit polls were, however, divided in their forecast for the West Bengal polls, where the BJP ran a high-octane campaign in its bid to end chief minister Mamata Banerjee's 10-year old reign and capture power in the state for the first time.

The Republic-CNX poll gave the BJP a slight edge by protecting 138-148 seats for the party in the 294-seat assembly and 128-138 to the TMC.

However, Times Now-C Voter predicted a clear majority for the TMC, projecting 158 seats for the party and 115 for the BJP.

Jan Ki Baat exit polls, however, predicted a strong majority for the BJP in Bengal, giving it 162-185 seats, against 104-121 to the ruling TMC. The TMC had won 211 seats in 2016 and the BJP only three in the 294-member West Bengal assembly.

The Left-Congress alliance was forecast to be further marginalised in the fiercely bipolar contest.

In Assam, India Today-Axis My India predicted 75-85 seats for the BJP-led combine in the 126-member assembly and 40-50 to the Congress-led opposition.

Today's Chanakya forecasted 61-79 seats for the saffron alliance and 47-65 for the Congress-led opposition in Assam. Republic-CNX gave the ruling saffron alliance 74-84 and the opposition 40-50, while Times Now-C Voter gave them 65 and 59 seats respectively.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan may defy the norm in his state of the two main alliances alter-

nating in power by leading the CPI(M)-led alliance to another spell in power, going by various exit polls.

AxismyIndia predicted a big win for the LDF by projecting 104 seats for it in the 140-member assembly and predicting only 20-36 seats to the Congress-led UDF.

Today's Chanakya forecasted 93-111 seats for the LDF and 26-44 for the UDF in 140-member Kerala assembly. CNX predicted a closer fight but still projected a majority of 72-80 seats for the ruling alliance against 54-64 for the opposition.

In another key southern state, Tamil Nadu, AxismyIndia and CNX forecast a big win for the DMK-led alliance that also includes the Congress. They gave 175-195 and 160-170 respectively for the DMK-Congress-led alliance in the 234-member assembly.

The AIADMK-led alliance, which includes the BJP, was projected to get 38-54 and 58-68 respectively.

Today's Chanakya predicted 164-186 seats for the DMK combine and 46-68 for the incumbent AIADMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu.

Restricting intermingling of peoples is to be undertaken for a period of 14 days for breaking the chain of transmission duly following epidemiological principles," the MHA said.

The local containment will focus on three strategic areas of intervention, which include Containment, Clinical Management and Community Engagement, the advisory said.

The Union health ministry also issued the "Revised guidelines for home isolation of mild/asymptomatic Covid-19 cases", in which it advised against attempting to procure or administer Remdesivir injections at home, underlining that it should be administered only in a hospital setting. The guidelines stated that systemic oral steroids are not indicated in mild cases.

He said India also hoped to procure 400,000 units of Remdesivir from Egypt apart from exploring the possibility of getting the anti-viral drug from the United Arab Emi-

rates, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan. The government, he said, has been focusing primarily on procuring oxygen generators, concentrators, oxygen cylinders, cryogenic tankers as well as liquid oxygen. The supplies were being sourced through direct procurement and other modes.

Mr Shringla said two special aircraft carrying large quantities of medical supplies from the US were expected to reach India by tomorrow and another plane was likely to arrive by 3 May.

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Over 40 countries have pledged their support to India in dealing with the surge in coronavirus cases in the country, foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said today, even as the country added 3,79,257 new infections over the previous 24 hours and active cases crossed the 30-lakh mark.

India was primarily looking at this stage at receiving about 550 oxygen generating plants, 4,000 oxygen concentrators and 10,000 oxygen cylinders from different countries to tackle the current situation.

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HARSH VARDHAN SHR



I have requested PM Modi to include Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri in the list of hospitals where PSA plants will be installed

RAJU BISTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DARJEELING

ON THE CENTRE'S PLANS TO SET UP 551 DEDICATED PSA MEDICAL OXYGEN GENERATION PLANTS

Delhi doesn't have Corona jabs for 18-44 yrs now: Jain

CM says plan is ready to vaccinate all above 18 in 3 months; 3L Covishield doses to be delivered by 3 May

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Amid exploding coronavirus infections and deaths convulsing the national capital for the past few weeks, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain today said the city "does not have vaccines" for the inoculation of persons against Covid in the 18-44 age group and that purchase orders have been placed with manufacturers for it.

The minister, however, said preparations to give jabs to this category have been completed. "At present, we don't have vaccines. We have requested the companies to provide it," Jain told reporters when asked if there were enough vaccines available for the 18-44 age group.

"We will tell you in a day or two, he replied to another query about starting the inoculation drive for this category on 1 May as per the national schedule.

He also said that the manufacturers are yet to provide a schedule of vaccine supply to the Delhi government.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, however, tweeted to state that a plan has been formulated



ed to vaccinate all persons above 18 years in Delhi against coronavirus within the next three months. "Had a meeting with the officials on vaccination drive in Delhi. Prepared a plan to vaccinate all above 18 years in the next 3 months," Kejriwal stated. "We will set up vaccination centres on a large scale. All eligible people must come forward to get vaccinated," he added. The Delhi government will procure 67 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine from Serum Institute of India (SII) and the first tranche of three lakh shots will be delivered by 3 May, official sources said. The Delhi

government has also sought a supply schedule from the manufacturer for the remaining doses which are to be delivered over the next three months. An official source said a purchase order has been issued in the name of Prakash Kumar Singh, director, government and regulatory affairs at the Pune-based SII.

The CM had on Monday said that everybody aged above 18 in Delhi would be administered Covid shots free of cost. He had said that his government had approved the procurement of 1.34 crore vaccine doses from various manufacturers in

this regard. A government official had said yesterday that inoculation of the 18-44 age group is likely to have a moderate start and will be ramped up gradually in Delhi. The vaccine will be delivered to the Delhi government in phases. Private hospitals will have to procure vaccines directly from manufacturers, he had said. The Centre will continue to provide vaccines for those aged above 45. At present, jabs are being given at around 500 centres across the national capital.

Today, Jain attributed the dip in the number of Covid tests over the past several days to the restricted movement of people due to the lockdown.

Health facilities in Delhi have been conducting about 70,000-75,000 Covid tests a day on an average over the last few days. Before that, the average number of tests was around 1 lakh. On the Opposition parties pointing to a big difference in data related to Covid deaths compiled at city crematoriums and graveyards and those released by the Delhi government, Jain said, "This is not the time to play politics. They had raised the issue six months ago also... Who has

Why MP, Maha got more O2 than they asked, but Delhi less: HC asks Centre

PTI
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Delhi High Court Friday questioned the Centre as to why various states, including Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, were being allocated more oxygen than they demanded while the national capital was not getting even the quantity necessary for treating COVID-19 patients. A bench of justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli made it clear that it was by no means interested in securing more oxygen for Delhi than required and that too at the cost of any state or Union Territory. Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the Delhi government, said that while the national capital's requirement was 700 MT per day, it was allocated 480 and 490 MT and the Centre has not increased it.

Mehra and senior advocate Raj Shekhar Rao, who is amicus curiae in the case, informed the court that as per the national allocation plan, Maharashtra demanded 1500 Metric Tonnes (MT) of oxygen per day and was allocated 1661 MT; similarly, Madhya Pradesh demanded 445 MT and it was allocated 543 MT and that the situation was similar for several other states. The court said that if the information provided was to be accepted, it would appear that the central government needed to



forgiving more oxygen to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, if that is the case. "There are states which received less than what they had asked for. We have been rationalising," he said.

During the hearing, when the court asked a senior central government officer as to why Delhi's supply was out of line while MP and Maharashtra were given more oxygen, Mehta said the population of MP was more than the national capital. He then told the officer, You cut from MP and give it to Delhi. It would be at the cost of some lives in MP but let us do it for Delhi. This was objected to by the judges who said, "Don't give it an impression as if we are asking something extra for Delhi. Don't project like this. We don't appreciate this. We are asking this on the basis of facts and figures. You can't be emotional about it. You have to take this head on, you can't duck it."

Delhi government counsel also projected before the court, the position of ICU and non-ICU beds here. Mehra said there are currently 16,272 non-ICU beds and 4,866 ICU beds and they are in the process of adding more beds. The existing oxygen demand in hospitals is 704 MT per day and after further augmentation, the daily oxygen demand will be around 1000 MT, he said, adding that

The court is hearing the matter on the oxygen crisis and other issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic which the national capital is presently grappling with. The hearing started at 11.30 AM and is continuing.

AAP govt informs HC of withdrawing order on Covid facility for judges in 5-star hotel

PTI
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

A PIL was moved in the Delhi High Court on Thursday seeking lodging of an FIR and CBI investigation into politicians being able to procure and distribute Remdesivir used for treating COVID-19 patients, even as patients were running pillar to post to get the medicine.

The plea questions how politicians are able to procure large stocks of the medicine without having the requisite permission under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, when the normal public was not getting it.

Petitioner Deepak Singh, the chairperson of Hrudaya Foundation and a national level shooter, has contended that "denying access to medicines for one's own political gain is a crime of very serious nature,

and affects COVID patients all over India".

Singh, represented by advocate Virag Gupta, alleges in his plea that politicians have been involved in large scale hoarding, transfer and distribution of crucial medicines like Remdesivir.

"Political parties, most of which are invariably headquartered in Delhi are taking advantage of their political powers and are giving patronage to the medical mafia," alleged the petition, filed through advocate Gaurav Pathak. Besides lodging of FIR and CBI probe, the plea also seeks "detention of persons indulging in black-marketing of COVID-19 medicines as per National Security Act, 1980" and "disqualification of MPs and MLAs found to be hoarding and illegally distributing COVID-19 medicines".

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order in this regard was very misleading. "This is very very misleading. The high court has not made any such request for setting up beds in any such five star hotel," the bench had said and added that the order passed by the sub-divisional magistrate was wrong as the state cannot create a facility exclusively for a class. It had said when the Delhi government was unable to provide oxygen to everybody, it was talking of providing a 100-bed facility for the high court judges. It had said the government cannot create a facility exclusively for a class, therefore, the SDM's order was wrong.

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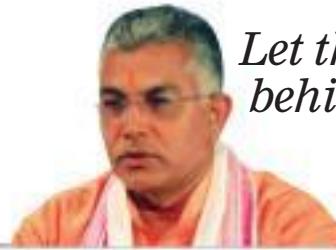
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Let there be more in-depth studies about the reasons behind the sudden spike in Covid cases

WEST BENGAL BJP CHIEF DILIP GHOSH
ON TMC LINKING COVID-19 SPIKE WITH THE EIGHT-PHASE ASSEMBLY POLL

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 30 APRIL 2021

03

HP imposes more curbs post highest Covid spike

Thakur govt bans community feasts during marriage functions, reduces cap on number of persons in social gatherings from 50 to 20

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 29 APRIL

After recording the highest single day spike of 2,534 Covid cases and 33 deaths in the last 24 hours, the Himachal Pradesh government on Thursday imposed new restrictions such as a ban on community feasts (dham) during marriage functions as well as reduction in cap on number of persons in social gatherings.

The decision to impose new restrictions was taken in a high level meeting held in Shimla today under the chairmanship of chief minister Jai Ram Thakur.

"In the wake of a sharp surge in the number of Covid-19 cases, the government has decided to impose a complete ban on community feasts (dham) during the marriages and other celebrations in the state. The government has also decided to reduce the number of persons to 20 in social gatherings from earlier 50 persons," the CM said, adding all the educational institutions in the state will now remain closed till 10 May.

Thakur said the sharp increase in Covid-19 cases in the state was a matter of concern and that the state government was making all out efforts to curb the spread



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur presiding over a high level meeting on Covid situation, in Shimla on Thursday.

of this pandemic by taking stringent steps.

Now, all the temples will also remain closed for devotees till 10 May. Besides, all the government offices will have 5-day week and 50 per cent of total employees of Class-III and Class-IV categories will be ensured in the government offices till 10 May, he stated.

He said that steps would be taken to increase bed capacity, particularly in heavy load districts such as Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Una, Sirmaur etc. In addition, testing capacity will be enhanced in the state and the time for getting test reports will be reduced.

Effective mechanisms will also be evolved to check and regulate entry of people visiting the state from other parts of the country, the CM said. He further stated that people coming from other parts of the country will have to remain under home isolation for 14 days and also give information regarding their arrival to the local authorities as well as elected representatives of PRIs and ULBs.

Thakur also urged the Union health minister to provide 5000 D-Type oxygen cylinders and 3000 B-Type oxygen to ensure that there was no dearth of oxygen in the state.

4 panels constituted to tackle virus crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 29 APRIL

additional bed capacity where as a Covid-19 patients/ambulance management committee has been constituted to ensure creation of triage space at all facilities and proper inter district movement of patients etc.

The corporate social responsibility coordination/contribution committee has been constituted to mobilise corporate and

CSR contributions to HPSDMA Covid-19 Fund and with all prospective donors and industrial associations.

The 4th committee, media /IEC committee has been constituted to disseminate up-to-date data and correct information to the media besides eliminating information gaps at all levels.

around 2,561 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine for further vaccination.

"Now, it is the duty of the state to procure the vaccine and plan successful vaccination of the larger population.

Pharmaceutical companies are in the process of expanding their capacities and a third vaccine will also be introduced soon for which many states have placed orders with manufacturing companies," the CM said, adding the vaccination will start as soon as the vaccine is received. He stated that the state will require 5 lakh vaccines per week for vaccination drive for persons in the 18-44 year age group.

Himachal had received 19,19,710 lakh doses of vaccination for three phases and till date 16,65,781 lakh persons had been vaccinated.

The state had a stock of

through a health crisis and the state government is taking effective steps to strengthen health infrastructure and to meet social challenges.

A vast country like India, with a high density population, the containment of the spread of virus is a difficult task, yet the first wave didn't cause much damage but the second wave is testing our capacity to the limit," he added.

He added efforts were being made to fulfill the demand of hospital beds, oxygen, medical equipment etc. As vaccines and vaccination play an important role in Covid-19 protection, India was fortunate enough to have two indigenous vaccines prepared in the country as a result of the efforts of the scientific community, pharmaceutical industry.

All this was possible due to the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he claimed.

U'khand HC issues directives to state govt to control Covid surge

PTI
NAINITAL, 29 APRIL

The Uttarakhand High Court has issued a slew of directives to the state government on controlling the rising cases of COVID-19 and sought a detailed action taken report (ATR) from it on compliance with its orders by May 7.

The high court said the Director General of Health should provide full benefits of government health cards issued to people in both government and private hospitals equipped with

testing facilities. It further directed increasing testing in Haldwani, Dehradun and Nainital to 30,000-50,000 people per day, putting emphasis on sample collection from homes.

Hearing a PIL filed on behalf of advocate Dushyant Mainali on Wednesday, Chief Justice R S Chauhan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma passed orders on more than a dozen points.

Taking cognizance of problems faced in the cremation of people dying of coronavirus, the court has



engaged in COVID-19 care at Haldwani's Sushila Tiwari Hospital should be provided accommodation near the facility for the safety of their family members.

The Court held that it is the constitutional and moral obligation of the state government to save the lives of its people.

Therefore, in the context of the action taken in compliance with the orders passed by the court on all the points, a detailed report from the Health Secretary must be filed before May 7, it said. The court also expressed its concern over the upcoming chardham yatra and suggested that the government should make appropriate arrangements and restrictions for it.

'Vaccination for all above 18 in Pb may get delayed due to vaccine shortage'

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 29 APRIL

The vaccination drive for all above 18 years in Punjab may get delayed as the state does not have enough doses of the anti-coronavirus vaccine, its Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said on Thursday.

The inoculation drive for those between 18 and 45 years of age was scheduled to start from May 1. "We are not getting adequate doses of vaccines. That is why we are facing problems.

We have staff and required infrastructure for vaccination, Sidhu said addressing the media here.

Asked whether the state health authorities will be able to start the vaccination drive for the 18 plus age group from May 1, the minister said, "I feel that we may not start by that time."

The state government had placed an order for 30 lakh Covishield doses with the Serum Institute of India for vaccination of the 18-45 age group.

"On Wednesday, we got two lakh doses and prior to that day, we received 1.50 lakh doses. But we do not have any information how much we are getting today and tomorrow. If we get at least 10 lakh doses of vaccine, then we can start this programme, Sidhu said. "If we have the vaccine, then we will be able to vaccinate people, he added.

Punjab had earlier also complained of shortage of vaccine for the 45 plus category and had urged the Centre to give 15 lakh doses a week for the state.

Due to a shortage of the vaccine, the state government even had to suspend the vaccination drive at several centres. The health minister on Thursday said the state is also facing a shortage of medical oxygen.

Against the requirement of 300 metric tonnes per day, the state is getting 105 MT from the Centre and 36 MT from other sources, he said.

"There is a big gap, he said, adding that the state government was making all efforts to arrange medical oxygen for COVID-19

patients. The Punjab government has already ordered the closure of industrial operations in order to divert oxygen for medical use.

Amid a surge in coronavirus cases and fatalities, Sidhu appealed to people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour.

Punjab on Wednesday had reported 142 deaths, the highest ever fatality count in a day since the outbreak of COVID-19, pushing the toll to 8,772.

The infection tally on Wednesday stood at 3,58,186.

HC says order on taking over O2 refilling plant by Delhi not to impact H'yana supply

PTI
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Delhi High Court made it clear on Thursday that its order on Delhi government taking over the supervision of an oxygen refiller plant, which also supplies to neighbouring states, will not adversely affect the oxygen supply to Haryana.

The court's order came on an application filed by the Haryana government seeking clarification regarding the April 27 order of taking over charge of Seth Air' which is situated in Palwal and supplies oxygen cylinders in Delhi and Haryana.

We make it clear that the direction to take over super-



vision of Seth Air' plant by officers of Delhi government would not have adversarial effects in the supply of oxygen to Haryana in terms of the allocation. Application is

disposed of, a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli said.

An advocate for a hospital in Gurgaon said he approached the Punjab and

hospitals here and probably selling it in black market, and made it clear that the same action should be taken with regard to other suppliers who refuse to fall in line.

The refiller had claimed that he was ready to supply oxygen cylinders to several hospitals, but the institutions were said they had arranged it from some other vendor or that the Delhi government was not sending him the details of the hospitals where he has to make the supplies.

The court, however, refused to agree with him and threatened to arrest him and hang him in case any death occurs due to his negligence.

HPCL-MITTAL PIPELINES LIMITED

CIN: U60101PB2008PLC031563

(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of M/s HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited)

Registered office: Village Phulokhan, Taluka Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, Punjab - 151301

Corporate office: Inox Towers, Plot No. 17, Sector 16A, Noida, U.P. - 201301

Tel: +91 120 4634914; Fax: +91 120 4634999

Extract of Financial Results for the six month and year ended 31 March 2021
(All amounts are in INR million, unless otherwise stated)

S. No.	Particulars	For the six month ended		For the year ended	
		31 March 2021	31 March 2020	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
1	Total income from operations	4,644	5,830	9,743	11,125
2	Net profit/(loss) for the period/year (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	978	294	2,413	1,480
3	Net profit/(loss) for the period/year before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	978	294	2,413	1,480
4	Net profit/(loss) for the period/year after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	723	294	1,794	1,065
5	Total comprehensive income for the period/year [comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	725	294	1,796	1,063
6	Paid up equity share capital (face value of INR 10 per share)	12,230	12,230	12,230	12,230
7	Paid up debt capital	2,130	2,230	2,130	2,230
8	Reserves	1,784	(12)	1,784	(12)
9	Net worth	14,014	12,216	14,014	12,216
10	Debenture redemption reserve	-	-	-	-
11	Earning per share (in INR) (Basic & Diluted) - not annualised	0.59	0.24	1.47	0.87
12	Debt-equity ratio	1.73	1.79	1.73	1.79
13	Debt service coverage ratio	3.72	1.95	4.01	2.58
14	Interest service coverage ratio	4.66	2.20	4.84	2.76

Notes:

1. The above audited financial results for the six month period ended 31 March 2021 (the financial year) have been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 29 April 2021.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of audited annual financial results filed with the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the audited annual financial results are available on the websites of the NSE and the Company.

3. For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the NSE and can be accessed on its URL www.nseindia.com.

4. The figures for the six month period ended 31 March 2021 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the financial year ended 31 March 2021 and the unaudited published figures for the six month period ended 30 September 2020, which were subjected to a limited review.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
HPCL-Mittal Pipelines Limited

Prabh Das
Managing Director
DIN: 00164799



Jai Ram hints at delay in next phase of Corona vaccination

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 29 APRIL

Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday hinted at delay in the next phase of Covid vaccination in the state and said the government will start the vaccination drive as and when the vaccines are received.

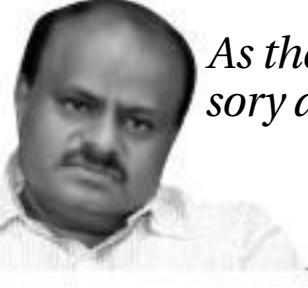
Talking to media, Thakur said the Centre government had given free hand to states to carry out vaccination drive for persons in the 18 to 44 year age group as per the demand of various CMs in last 3 months to give liberty in choice of vaccines and planning.

"Now, it is the duty of the

state to procure the vaccine and plan successful vaccination of the larger population.

"The state government is making all out effort for making the next phase of vaccination a success and a detailed plan will be prepared that will be announced accordingly to ensure smooth conduct of vaccination drive," he stated.

He further stated that the Centre government had given independence to the states for purchase of vaccine and preparation of plan, hence the state government was determined to take it forward with responsibility to overcome the health crisis.



As the state is under curfew, take advantage and start compulsory door-to-door vaccination of the 18-plus population

FORMER KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER H D KUMARASWAMY

AS 18-44 AGE GROUP CONSISTS OF ABOUT 37% OF THE STATE POPULATION

THUMBNAILS



Medics with an oxygen cylinder outside the Shehnai Banquet Hall in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Eminent poet Bechain dies: Iconic Hindi poet Dr Kunwar Bechain (78), who was battling Covid, passed away at a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Noida on Thursday, officials said. Bechain was popular for his range of works that included songs, dohas and ghazals. PTI

Gas cylinder blast: A fire in a transformer in Delhi's Brijwasan area spread to two shanties nearby, leading to a gas cylinder explosion in which six members of a family, including four minors, were killed early Thursday, officials said. PTI

Maha phone-tapping case: Senior IPS officer Rashmi Shukla has been summoned again by the cyber cell of Mumbai Police to record her statement in the alleged phone-tapping case, an official said in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

Fire at Dimapur camp: One person was charged to death and more than 100 thatched houses were destroyed in a devastating fire that broke out at Burma camp in Nagaland's Dimapur district, a fire department official said. PTI

Court directs setting up of Cov care fund on Adv Puri's suggestion

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Delhi government is facing shortage of providing the basic medical equipments to its citizens and has virtually given up.

Sacchin Puri, Senior Advocate, today appearing in a writ Petition filed by advocates Praveen K Sharma & Dhananjay Grover entitled Ramesh Khosla Vs GNCTD during the hearing of said writ petition and other similar petitions had suggested to a bench of HMJ Vipin Sanghi & HMJ Rekha Palli that Covid Relief Fund to be created were NHIs, NRIs & foreign nationals, can support people without any hardships.

On basis of the suggestions of Puri, the Court has instructed the Delhi government to set up a portal on their website for all those who want to contribute for medical equipment.

It was also directed to the government to ensure that there are no taxes, cess etc. on these items and products be put in priority shipment.

PTI

Exit polls predict DMK's win in TN

Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu were held on 6 April

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 29 APRIL

Results of various exit polls that were released late this evening predicted huge victory for the DMK in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections held on 6 April.

Ahead of the counting of the votes on 2 May, results of exit polls conducted by various organisations were released after 7 pm today.

Republic-CNX opinion poll predicted that the DMK alliance would win 160-170 seats of the total 234. The AIADMK combine would get 58-68 seats and AMMK of TTV Dinakaran would win in 4-6 seats and Kamal Hasans MNM in 0-2 seats.

The P-Marq exit poll says DMK will win 165-190 seats, AIADMK in 40-65, AMMK in 1-3 and MNM in 1-3. 'APBC Voter Exit Poll' said

No need for full lockdown on 1 May, TN govt tells HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 29 APRIL

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday told the Madras High Court there was no need to clamp a lockdown in the state on Saturday, a day ahead of counting of votes polled in the April 6 assembly elections, saying May 1 is already a holiday account of May Day.

Advocate General Vijay Narayan made the submission to the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy when the issue of alleged shortage of

DMK would emerge victorious in 160 to 172 seats, AIADMK in 58-17 and MNM in 0-2.

Remdesivir vaccine, beds and ventilators and diversion of oxygen cylinders to other states came up for further hearing. The court had taken up the matter on its own.

The submission also comes in the wake of the first bench's suggestion to the Tamil Nadu government and Puducherry administration to consider declaring complete lockdown on 1 May and 2 May. The EC and the state government had seriously considered the suggestions of the bench on April 27 and the directive to strictly observe protocols on May 2, the AG said.

Long queues for vaccination in Mumbai: Long lines were seen outside vaccination centres in the city with the doses in short supply and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation allowing walk-in facility for all eligible persons. Though the vaccination for those above 45 years of age begins at 12 noon, at several centres people queue up from six in the morning. PTI

Amended GNCTD Act does not alter elected govt's duties: MHA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today clarified that amendments to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, 1991 do not alter the Constitutional responsibilities of Delhi's elected government in respect of subjects like health and education.

Responding to fears on the notification of the amend-

ed Act during the raging Covid-19 pandemic, the MHA said there was no change in the elected government's legal responsibilities in respect of the "transferred subjects" as per the State and Concurrent Lists in the Constitution.

"The amendments to the GNCTD Act, 1991, in no way alter the Constitutional and legal responsibilities of the elected government to take necessary action, in respect of the subjects transferred to

them in the State and Concurrent Lists of the Constitution of India, including subjects such as health and education," MHA said.

MHA said the objective of the Amendment Act, which declares Lt-Governor as "the government" in Delhi's administrative structure, "is to make it more relevant to the needs of the Capital; further define the responsibilities of the elected government and the LG; and, create a harmonious rela-

tionship between the Legislature and the Executive, MHA said. "The Amendment would ensure better governance in the NCT of Delhi and lead to improved implementation of schemes and programmes meant for the common people of Delhi," MHA said. A said the GNCTD Amendment Act, 2021 has come into force after being passed by the Lok Sabha on 22 March, 2021, and by the Rajya Sabha on 24 March, 2021.

World is afraid of India: Nath

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 29 APRIL

Madhya Pradesh Congress President and former CM Kamal Nath today derided PM Narendra Modi over India's distressing Covid situation, saying sarcastically that India had now become a world power under Modi, as the whole world was afraid of it. On 27 April, the World Health Organization (WHO), had said in its weekly epidemiological update that the 'Indian Strain' of the coronavirus, also referred to as a 'double mutant' or B.1.617 that is causing the current Covid havoc in India, is feared to have spread to at least 17 countries.

"Now the world is afraid of India. Modi ji has succeeded in making India a super power and the world is afraid of it," Nath said.

Nath also pointed out that Indian media needs to play a vital role and bring out facts. He said that almost all reputed media outlets abroad have been highlighting India's dismal handling of Covid's second wave. He also took a jibe at the PM's claim that India had become self-reliant in many fields, including

Centre's vaccination programme callous, discriminatory: CPM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

The CPI (M) today said the government's vaccination programme is "the most callous, discriminatory and iniquitous policy designed," and it must be scrapped, and a policy based on free and universal vaccination be announced.

In an editorial in its journal People's Democracy, the party said the Centre has abdicated its responsibility and pushed the burden of procuring vaccines for the 18 to 45 age group on to the States, which do not have

resources to do so. "By declaring that 50 per cent of the vaccine production will have to be directly procured by the state governments and private hospitals, the way has been opened for a debilitating competition among States to get hold of the limited production of vaccines," the party said.

Under the Prime Minister's direct approval, the duopoly of the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech companies have got the licence to profit and earn super profits at the expense of the people, the party said.

the resources to fight against Covid. "The present situation in India has become so worrying that even Pakistan and Bangladesh are offering us help," Nath averred.

"The politics of glorification has proved too costly for us," Nath said. "The country that was taking pride in exporting vaccines to the whole world, just to get praises for its PM, is now struggling to vaccinate its own people," he lamented.

"It is criminal negligence. This is murder," Nath exclaimed. Charging that there were no facilities

like beds, oxygen, medicines and vaccines available in the state, Nath alleged that the state government was under-reporting the number of deaths.

"BJP workers in MP are black marketing Remdesivir in the state," he accused. He also alleged that the ruling party was providing the antiviral drug to only 'their people'. He claimed there was no management of coronavirus in MP and the entire system has collapsed. "The only management being done is that of headlines and media," Nath maintained.

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After suffering from chest pain around 2 am on Thursday, he was immediately rushed to a private hospital in Manjeri. However, his life could not be saved due to the health complications created by the heart attack.

Following the death, a pall of gloom descended in the Congress circles with Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala saying: "We are all completely devastated by this tragic news." KPCC president Mulappally Ramachandran said the death was a great loss to the Congress.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Congress leader Shafi Parambil and Muslim League leader P K Kunhalikutty condoled the demise of Prakash. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "The untimely demise of Malappuram DCC president and UDF Nilambur candidate VV Prakash Ji is extremely tragic.

Cases against people protesting is curb on freedom of speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Filing of cases against people protesting against government is curtailment of freedom of speech and expression, former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur said.

In recent past there has been an alarming increase in speech related sedition cases. Sedition is a very serious charge. We have had freedom fighters like Gandhiji, Lok Manya Tilak who have been accused of sedition and today the common man is being accused of sedition," Justice Lokur said.

Yesterday, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria had briefed the PM on the assistance being provided by his force to civilian authorities in dealing with the ongoing Covid crisis.

place in Hathras, 22 cases of sedition were filed against 23 persons. Can anybody objecting to gang rape and murder be accused of sedition?", he said. Justice Lokur was speaking at the inaugural Madhu Babu Memorial Lecture organised by Odisha Diologues on Wednesday on topic, 'Can India's Judiciary Rescue Her Democracy?'

He cited a recent incident in Uttar Pradesh involving a man who tweeted for help seeking oxygen for his ailing 88-year-old grandfather and the Amethi police booked him under the Epidemic Act, accusing him of creating fear among the people. So if a person seeks help on social media, he is committing an offence. These are ways and means by which freedom of speech and expression are being curtailed, he said.

When there were protests against Citizenship Amendment Act, 25 cases of sedition were filed against 3700 persons. When gang rape and murder of young girl took



Family members wearing PPE suits, wait for cremation in New Delhi.

MP Women Congress president dies of Covid: Madhya Pradesh Women Congress president Mandvi Chauhan succumbed to Covid while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhopal on Thursday. The senior Congress leader had tested positive more than 20 days ago. On Wednesday, her condition suddenly worsened. SNS

Long queues for vaccination in Mumbai: Long lines were seen outside vaccination centres in the city with the doses in short supply and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation allowing walk-in facility for all eligible persons. Though the vaccination for those above 45 years of age begins at 12 noon, at several centres people queue up from six in the morning. PTI

No warning from Centre over Covid 2nd wave: T'gana

to 76,060. Pointing out that the Centre was not prepared for the second wave given the inadequate supply of oxygen, drugs and vaccine, the minister said: "They alerted us about the second wave but did anyone say it would be so serious? You would not have held elections. How did they give permission for the Kumbh Mela?" He went on to say it was irresponsible on the part of the Centre to blame the states saying they are not using allotted resources. The health minister went on to blame the Centre for mishandling and failing to regulate and ensure availability of oxygen, Remdesivir and even vaccines even though it has huge resources at its disposal like the railways and army. Instead, the Centre should declare health emergency so that facilities can be upgraded in BJR ruled states.

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi too took a dig at the Centre on the Twitter saying: "How can the Centre warn (Modi government) when the Chowkidar himself slept which led to the present carnage?" Kerala logs highest single-day spike with 38,607 new cases: Kerala on Thursday recorded the highest single-day spike with 38,607 new cases, pushing the caseload to 15,34,084. The test positivity rate was recorded at 24.5. With 48 deaths being reported on Thursday, the state's death toll has risen to 5,259.

TN extends Covid curbs till further orders

CHENNAI, 29 APRIL

The Tamil Nadu government has extended the Covid restrictions which had been in force since April 20 till further orders. As per the decision on 2 May, the day of vote counting for the Assembly elections, the state will be locked down completely.

However, there shall be no restrictions on the movement or transport of officials, party functionaries, candidates, agents and food suppliers in connection with the counting of votes for the elections, said the order.

The government said the night curfew between 10 pm and 4 am will continue without any relaxations. Further, the government prohibited movement of all international air passengers except those permitted by the Union Home Ministry. Big format shops (showrooms with a size of 3000 square feet and above), shopping complexes and malls shall not be permitted to operate. Fish markets, fish stalls, chicken stalls and other meat stalls shall remain closed on Saturdays, added the order. Religious festivals are allowed with 50 persons if the permission was already granted before 10 April. However, the government said no members of the public can be allowed to participate in any religious functions.

Fresh curbs have been imposed on the functioning of retail fruit and vegetable shops in the Koyambedu Market Complex. Similarly, retail outlets in wholesale markets in all the districts will be closed. SNS

FIR registered against Param Bir Singh over cop's complaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 29 APRIL

Maharashtra Police have filed an FIR against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh after a police inspector levelled corruption charges against him, a senior official said on Thursday.

The FIR was registered at Akola in Vidarbha region against 33 persons, including 28 policemen, an official said.

The city Kotwali police in Akola registered the FIR under various sections ranging from criminal conspiracy, destruction of evidence and sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1998.

Those named in the FIR include DCs Parag Manere, San-

jay Shinde and Sunil Bharadwaj, ACs Vijay Pulkar and D B Kamble and senior PI Dilip Suryavanshi, a former law officer and assistant chemical analyser of Forensic Science Lab have also been named, the official said.

Akola police filed a Zero FIR (mode of lodging FIR in any police station irrespective of the offence committed in that area or any other area) at the Kotwali police station and it has been transferred to the Thane city police.

Police inspector Bhimrao Ghadge in his complaint had made a series of allegations of corruption against Singh and other officers, in the period when the former Mumbai CP was posted with the Thane police.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 08th March of 2021

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

OA NO. 804/2018

PUNJAB AND SIND BANK

VERSUS

SH. SACHIN PANDEY AND ORS.

1. M/s Alpine Real Tech Private Limited Through its Directors HRA-12/B, Suraj Pur, Site-C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201306 (Defendant No. 3)

Also At: D-18, Sector-7, Noida Utam Pradesh-201301

Also At: D-117, Sector-63, Noida-201301

Also At: B-1/46, Lane No. 3, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi

Home & abroad

If there is one aspect which marks the foreign policy approach of the Joe Biden administration as it completes 100 days in office, it has to be the much spoken of 'Foreign Policy for the Middle Class' which the US President has argued for. It lays a far greater emphasis on the connectivity between US foreign affairs and American domestic politics than any other in recent memory. Making domestic economic renewal the top priority of America's actions abroad speaks to this worldview directly and underlines the way in which domestic political considerations and opinions drive policy objectives for President Biden. Though it may be too early to speak of a 'Biden Doctrine', the release of the US Administration's Interim National Security Strategic Guidance (INSS) ~ which will be followed by the official National Security Strategy (NSS) in due course ~ just about 60 days after taking office has certainly got the policy establishment in Washington all excited as it maps the likely shape of US foreign policy in the years ahead. Two crucial highlights of the INSS are causing strategic thinkers' antennae to stand up. The first is a reference to "elevating diplomacy as our tool of first resort" in promoting US interests across the globe conjoined with a more responsible use of military power. Second is the clear recognition that America's strength abroad requires "the United States to build better back at home." These two points, experts point out, taken with the articulation in the document of the new administration's desire to reinvigorate American leadership within international institutions, join allies in strengthening shared values, and confront the technology revolution "that poses both peril and promise", do hint at the contours of an emerging Biden Doctrine. That the President has appointed to his Cabinet leaders who are not only aligned with his perspective but have the relevant foreign policy experience and expertise to implement the eponymous doctrine is significant as it signals his determination to carry through on his intent. US Secretary of State Tony Blinken, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, Central Intelligence Agency Director Bill Burns, United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and likely USAID Administrator Samantha Power, are all heavy-hitters with domain knowledge and extensive global exposure. The 'America First' policy of President Donald Trump seems suddenly well in the past as the Biden Administration moves to strengthen multilateral relationships and international institutions, and reassure allies that US leadership on the world stage is back. President Biden's announcement that he intends to bring together the world's democracies for a "Summit for Democracy" is a reflection of this priority, which includes a push back against the global rise of both authoritarianism and radicalism. But balancing these two phenomena, where the exigencies of geopolitics often result in a grudging support for the former to take on the latter as Washington well knows given its utilitarian foreign policy choices in the past, is tougher than it looks through the rose-tinted prism of the first 100 days.

Sub Sinks, Splits

While submarine disasters are not unknown to modern navies, it is indeed rare a vessel to be lost undersea. In an incident reminiscent of the disappearance of an Argentine Navy submarine in 2017, it has now been confirmed that the Indonesian navy submarine, that sank off the coast of Bali last Wednesday, has been found split into three pieces on the sea bed, with all 53 crew declared dead. Navy officials said they had received signals of the submarine's location from a depth of more than 2,600 ft early on Sunday. An underwater rescue vehicle loaned by Singapore was sent down to obtain visual confirmation of the wreckage. The KRI Nanggala disappeared after requesting permission to dive during a torpedo drill. A week after the disaster, the reason for the vessel's sinking is far from clear. An escape suit believed to be from the sunken submarine was shown to the media in Bali on 25 April. Sunday's statement was issued a day after the Indonesian military confirmed that debris from the submarine, including prayer mats, had been found in the area where it went missing. The why and wherefore of the sinking remains a puzzle, however. Indonesia's Navy Chief of Staff, Yudo Margonoro, said more items from the submarine had been recovered, including an anchor and crew safety suits. "The KRI Nanggala is divided into three parts ~ the hull of the ship, the stern, and the main parts are all separated, with the major component cracked," he told reporters. The head of Indonesia's military, Hadi Tjahjanto, confirmed that there was no chance of finding any of the crew alive. "With deep sadness I can say that all 53 personnel on board have died." According to experts, the depth at which the submarine was found was well beyond its survivable limit and it was only carrying enough oxygen for three days. The families of the missing crew members had held out hope that they would survive. Indonesia's President, Joko Widodo, described the crew as Indonesia's "best patriots", adding: "All Indonesians convey their deep sadness over this incident, especially to the families of the submarine crew." The KRI Nanggala's disappearance led to an international search operation with India, the United States, Australia, Singapore, and Malaysia providing help. Though the German-built vessel was more than 40 years old, it underwent what they call a "refit" in 2012. Indonesia had earlier claimed that the vessel was missing. "We have now moved from the 'sub miss' phase to the decidedly 'sub sunk'." There is uncertainty too whether an explosion had caused the disaster. The cracks happened gradually when it went down from 300 metres to 400 metres to 500 metres. Life hangs by a fragile thread, one that can be snapped as easily by disease as by accident.

Helping to Know

A constructively oriented curriculum presents an emerging agenda based on what children know, what they are inquisitive about and the teachers' learning goals. The individual learner has an important role in determining what would be learned. The learner actively creates, interprets and reorganises knowledge in individual ways



As the assumption that coronavirus has come to stay gains ground, the shifting of education to a digital realm is a natural choice. It seems as if the model of virtual learning is now all set to gain a degree of permanence. Even the government intends to set up virtual universities which will ostensibly help in letting the teaching-learning process go on.

However, it is feared that critical thinking fostered by a collaborative learning environment, which is the benchmark of a productive education system, may be sacrificed at the altar of online learning. At this crucial juncture, it is time to seek a paradigm shift in the basic process of education ~ from "teaching to learn" to "helping to know".

Constructivism is the theory that says that learners construct knowledge rather than just passively take information. This theory asserts that students learn best when engaged in learning experiences rather than passively receiving information. Because knowledge cannot be directly imparted to students, the goal of teaching should be to provide experiences that facilitate the construction of knowledge.

Constructivist view of learning usually means encouraging students to use active techniques such as experiments, real world problem solving etc. to create more knowledge and then to reflect and talk about what they are doing and how their understanding is changing. The teachers encourage them to constantly assess how the activity is helping them gain understanding. By questioning themselves and their strategies, students can become expert learners.

The concept of constructivism has its roots in classical antiquity. Socrates' dialogues with his followers in which he asked directed questions that made his students realise for themselves the weaknesses in

their thinking are still an important tool in the way constructivist educators assess their students' learning and plan new learning experiences.

The psychological roots of constructivism began with the developmental work of Jean Piaget who proposed four stages in human development ~ the sensorimotor stage, the preoperational stage, the concrete operational stage and the formal operational stage. Learners learn the best when they are at their proximal stage of development. Learning involves metacognition which reflects on one's learning process.

The nature of the learning task is crucial for learning to take place. For Piaget, the development of human intellect proceeds through adaptation and organisation. Adaptation is a process of assimilation and accommodation where external events are assimilated into existing understanding, but unfamiliar events which do not fit with existing knowledge are accommodated into the mind, thereby changing its organisation.

Piaget's hypothesis that learning is a transformative rather than a cumulative process is still taken to be of prime importance. Children do not learn a bit at a time about some issue until it finally comes together as understanding. Instead, they make sense of whatever they know from the very beginning. This understanding is progressively reformed as new knowledge is acquired, especially new knowledge that is incompatible with their previous understanding. This transformative view of learning has been greatly extended by neo-Piagetian research. The

implication of this theory and its application have shaped the foundation of constructivist education.

Constructivists like Driver, Posner, Novak and Osborne assume that learning is an adaptive process in which the learners' conceptual schemes are progressively reconstructed so that they are in keeping with a continually wider range of experiences and ideas. The learners must actively construct new information into their existing mental framework for meaningful learning to occur.

Constructivism provides a new theory of learning as also a new theory of teaching. This theory calls for a major change from teacher-centred direct interaction to student-centred, understanding-based teaching. In contrast to the traditional conceptualisation of teaching, constructivist teaching considers the student as an active learner and the teacher as the guide in the learning process. The theory is based on the idea that children learn better by actively constructing knowledge and by reconciling new information with previous knowledge.

A constructively oriented curriculum presents an emerging agenda based on what children know, what they are inquisitive about and the teachers' learning goals. The individual learner has an important role in determining what would be learned. The learner actively creates, interprets and reorganises knowledge in individual ways. The teacher has to provide a eugenic learning environment and facilitate negotiations. Thus, children can learn more and enjoy learning more when they are actively involved,

rather than passive listeners.

Constructivist teaching can be an interesting and exciting way to teach because students would be engaged in learning activities they appear to enjoy. Learners would work harder and what they learn would mean more to them if they are discovering their own ideas and devising their own questions.

Out of negotiations will come a sense of ownership in learners for the work they are to do, and, therefore, a commitment to it. Rejecting the common practice of telling students what to do, a constructivist teacher would engage their trust and invite them to participate in a common process that would allow them to be involved in decisions about their learning.

Constructivist assessment engages the students' initiatives and personal investments in the journals, research reports, physical models and artistic representations. Engaging the creative instincts develops their ability to express knowledge through different ways. Students are also more likely to retain and transfer the new knowledge to real life experience.

Student empowerment may be aided by encouraging them to be active learners. By asking their own questions, the students acquire more consciousness of and control over their thinking. Constructivist teachers also develop the skill to empower the students and to make them feel competent.

The constructivist propositions suggest a set of instructional principles that may guide the practice of teaching and design of learning environments in virtual mode too. It is important that mere accommodation of the constructivist perspective will not suffice. It should also be supported by the creation of powerful virtual learning environments that optimise the value of the underlying epistemological principles.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES
Where are women in the digital age?

Hailing from Indonesia's eastern region of Papua, entrepreneur Aksamina Woisiri is one of the very few Indonesian women CEOs who established and runs her own start-ups in digital business. Despite not having much knowledge of IT, last year the Economics graduate set up Bajalan, an android-based mobile application which connects potential customers with hospitality operators in Papua, known for its marine and inland biodiversity.

The 27-year-old Woisiri is one of UNDP's beneficiaries in our entrepreneurship programme, Youth Co: Lab, a joint initiative with CITI Foundation. In many ways Woisiri embodies the spirit of the International Day for Girls in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which aims to galvanise a global movement to increase the number of girls and women in the ICT world.

And as the world becomes increasingly digital, we must recognise a crucial area that has largely been unexplored ~ the role of girls and women in establishing digital information as the new driver to fast-track Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement.

In his message marking the International Day for Girls in ICT today, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres noted that there is a 17 per cent gender gap in internet use globally. Indonesia features better compared to the global average. Latest figures from the Association of Internet Providers

The Jakarta Post
show internet penetration for women stands at 48 per cent against men at 52 per cent. Still, this five per cent gender gap in access to technology carries serious repercussions because it marks the systemic gender inequality in the ICT world, with far-reaching consequences in limiting women's and girls' opportunities to access education, land well-paid jobs, and start new businesses.

At a time when women's hard-won gains have been reversed by the Covid-19 pandemic due to restrictions on movement and access to essential services ~ we cannot afford further setbacks. Ironically, the Covid19 pandemic has exposed more opportunities for information technology to help communities stay connected and businesses survive.

Many businesses in Indonesia, particularly the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) ~ the backbone of the country's economy ~ turn to online platform as a way to innovate amid social distancing restrictions.

The relationship between gender and ICT is even more critical as UNDP works with Indonesia to achieve the SDGs. As the government works on policies and programs to be more gender-inclusive, it is imperative that women also have equal access to the tools and capacities offered by advanced technology in order for us to achieve full development.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Hybrid approach needed

SIR, I refer to your report 'Set up more private centres before Covid jabs for 18 plus, States told' (25 April).

With the nation's coronavirus vaccination programme set to open from May 1 to all above the age 18, numbers are set to swell for vaccination over the next few months. States must open mass vaccination centres capable of delivering thousands of vaccinations to eager citizens. To achieve herd immunity our government in vaccinating 1.3 billion people. The current approach of restricting to hospitals and nursing homes

may prove totally inadequate. A hybrid approach using conventional vaccination sites for large-venue mass-vaccination sites ~ stadiums, clubs, convention centres ~ have proved helpful. In Europe, UK and USA, temples, churches and other religious centres have also joined the effort to administer the vaccine. Pharmacy chains are playing a key role in administration. India too should with the help of RWAs and social institutions ~ in coordination with health officials ~ reach the vaccines to millions. Many volunteers and retired health-

care professionals like nurses and doctors will be happy to offer their services.

Social service clubs like the Rotary played a significant role in helping make the polio vaccine reach many children. The caveat of only "Online" registration may not be right and should be waived as the poor and less literate may not be digitally savvy. Lastly for the success of the programme and its goal of protecting the citizens, adequate stocks of the vaccine should be available at all times.

Launching a programme that fizzles out midway due to shortages will increase citizens' scepticism towards vaccines and vaccination drives.

HELP THE POOR

SIR, In today's scenario across the country, when queues of Covid patients are getting longer by the day outside hospitals, we badly need Samaritans to come forward and help the needy in terms of medical care as well as food and monetary support. The situation has got so bad one has to wait hours to perform the last rites of victims.

Although everyone amongst us should extend a helping hand to needy persons at this critical time, industrial houses, celebrities including film stars and sportspersons along with other rich people must come forward in a big way to assist the government in tackling this deadly pandemic. They can offer financial help as well as by way of creating additional medical infrastructure with oxygen, ventilators and ICU beds, arranging life saving medicines, ambulances and also creating shelters for attendants of patients outside various hospitals. They can also bear the cost of vaccinating the poor.

Although, Ambanis, Tatas and few other business leaders have come forward to supply oxygen to hospitals from their manufacturing facilities, much more is needed. There are many things the rich in India can do. Helping the poor should be on top of their list.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 27 April.



will increase citizens' scepticism towards vaccines and vaccination drives.

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru, 25 April.

TOILET PAPER

SIR, It is said that 27,000 trees are cut down everyday to supply the world with toilet paper. This can be drastically reduced, and almost completely eliminated, if the rest of the world follows our Indian system to clean oneself, that is by using water. I am sure it would be healthier too. In several Indian toilets, we are now using what is called 'Health Faucets' for this purpose, and if we use them properly, there would

be no need for toilet paper, or if at all it is required to be used, its usage is likely to come down to at least 10 per cent of what is being used now. This way we can save thousands of trees from being cut down, and also help in improving our environment.

Yours, etc., Richard Saldanha, Bengaluru, 18 April.

EC'S FAILURE

SIR, Apropos your editorial 'Court, Covid & Circulars' (April 25), I am sorry to ask how the Election Commission can be so casual in implementing the Covid-19 protocols during elections? Armed with enormous pow-

ers to prevent mass gatherings and processions, the Election Commission miserably failed to appreciate the gravity of the situation, resulting in an abnormal surge of Covid cases. The lapses of the EC deserve strong condemnation. The Modi government was equally responsible for not improving the infrastructure of both government and private hospitals to provide effective treatments to Covid patients. Lack of farsightedness of the government was palpable, which did not escape the notice of both Delhi and Calcutta High Courts.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 25 April.

Empty stands, game on

ATANU BISWAS

In the midst of the Australian Open in February, the state of Victoria was compelled to impose a snap lockdown. After covering the first few days from the stands and then watching the matches on television during the 'snap lockdown', Matthew Futterman of *The New York Times* wrote a piece titled '*Trust me, sports without fans is not sports*'. It's not that other stakeholders don't understand that. In fact, while announcing the lockdown, Victoria's Premier Daniel Andrews said: "...sporting events will function as a workplace but not for entertainment because there will be no crowds."

Isn't the roar of the crowd as vital to sports as a ball or a bat? Undoubtedly, sports cannot be the same amid eerily quiet and ghostly empty stands. Artificial crowd noise or cardboard cutouts of fans in the stands were used in sports events such as the Major League Baseball, the NFL, the NBA and the NHL, to recreate the feeling of packed stadiums, but it was like playing a video game!

Audience participation is believed to be a powerful impetus for athletic performance. This is conceptualised within the theory of 'social facilitation' – a term coined by American psychologist Floyd Alport in 1924 – defined at the intersection of athlete and audience. Its cognitive mechanisms are studied by various researchers. The presence of co-actors/audience was shown to improve the quality of performance in John Dashiell's 1935 book. Robert Zajonc's seminal paper (1965), however, remains the single most critical factor in the development of 'social facilitation', which 'examines the consequences upon behavior that derive from the sheer presence of other individuals'.

Zajonc's model describes the 'audience effects', where the mere presence of passive audience has the effect of increasing (drive) in performance. The increased arousal may prompt the skilled performer to utilise peripheral cues that may be necessary to solve complex tasks. Even hostile crowds might help champions to excel. "No crowd there to egg me on," Australian batsman Steve Smith said about playing in front of empty stadiums in England during the pan-



demic.

Games without spectators became the only viable option in the pandemic-hit world. But, didn't we, the fans, believe that connecting with the spectators is the magic that the athletes primarily play for? Well, even Tiger Woods has conceded it's difficult to play with the same intensity without fans in attendance. "Having a game without fans is just – what is the word 'sport' without 'fan'?" LeBron James, American professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers, asked.

But, how was 'sport' without 'fan' in reality? In an article published in 'PLOS ONE', Daniel Memmert of the German Sport University Cologne, and his colleagues used data on the outcomes of more than 36,000 games played under normal circumstances from 2010-11 to the start of the pandemic, and also 1,006 games played without onlookers in 2020, in 10 professional soccer leagues across six countries – Spain, England, Italy, Ger-

many, Portugal and Turkey. They observed a small but statistically insignificant drop in the home advantage. While the proportion of wins, draws and losses was, on average, 45, 27 and 28 per cent, respectively, prior to the pandemic, home teams won, drew and lost 43, 25 and 32 per cent of the time, respectively, during the pandemic, without spectators. Interestingly, however, amid empty stands, referees were less likely to penalize visiting teams by yellow or red cards. Also, as measured by the number of direct attempts to score a goal, the home teams had less match dominance.

However, in an article available at <https://psyarxiv.com>, Dane McCarrick of the University of Leeds, who is also a professional soccer referee, and his colleagues examined games played in 15 European soccer leagues spanning 11 different countries during the 2019-20 season; 6,976 games in the presence of audiences and 2,552 in the Covid period without

audiences. They observed that teams won on average 0.39 points per game more at home than away in the pre-Covid era, but the teams won only 0.22 points more at home than away in the Covid period. And the home teams scored on average 0.29 goals more per game than away teams in normal circumstances, while it was only 0.15 goals more than the visitors when the audience was absent.

McCarrick's study might give us some mental comfort, at least. Well, Virat Kohli was doubtful whether the magic of playing with a packed crowd watching can be re-created when cricket is played in empty stadiums. He thought that while games would still be competitive, the energy players feed off supporters in the ground would be lost. Still India had a lightning series with England, and the glitter of IPL is very much on. After all, the players are professionals working in their workplaces. "We've got to be self-motivated in this environment," American basketball star and Portland

Trail Blazers forward Carmelo Anthony said.

The broader question is: have sports learned to survive without connecting with the audience? Will the importance of a home crowd largely diminish in the post-pandemic world? Will the dynamics of sports be redefined? Matthew Futterman, however, dreaded the largely empty version of sports that the pandemic has wrought, and concluded in a harsh note: "All those star athletes who have always insisted they are so locked in that they do not hear the crowd? Well, it seems pretty clear they have been lying."

Really? Is professionalism then exulting over passion? Is that the new paradigm – a contribution of the pandemic itself? Or, had the change already happened earlier that we couldn't realise? The pandemic might have helped us to understand a harsh reality.

The writer is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

The secrets of living long

LEE KYONG-HEE

Hester Ford passed away peacefully at her home in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 17. She was recognized as the oldest living American before she died, though there is a disagreement about her age, 115 or 114.

Her obituary said Ford (in photograph) was born in August 1905 (her family claims she was born in 1904) in Lancaster County, South Carolina, to Peter and Frances McCordell. That was the year Theodore Roosevelt began his first full term as US president; the Russo-Japanese war ended with Japan's unexpected victory, cementing its hegemony over Asia; and the Wright brothers' airplane stayed in the air more than half an hour for the first time.

Ford grew up working on a farm. She planted and picked cotton, ploughed the field and cut wood. She married John Ford in 1921, at age 15. The next year she had the first of their 12 children, of whom four remain alive. They moved to Charlotte in 1953, after a family member was brutally killed. Ford's husband died at the age of 57 in 1963. She never remarried and worked as a nanny for more than half a century.

Ford reportedly had as many as 68 grandchildren, 120 great-grandchildren and 126 great-great-grandchildren, though sources vary as to the precise numbers. She suffered from dementia, but was still able to recite Psalm 23 on her 112th birthday. She was a devout Christian and spent many years volunteering at her local church.

At the time of her death, the



supercentenarian was the sixth-oldest living person in the world, as validated by the Gerontology Research Group. When asked for the secret to her longevity in a press interview, she responded, "I just live right, all I

"She was a pillar and stalwart to our family and provided much needed love, support and understanding to us all," said Tanisha Patterson-Powe, her great-granddaughter. "She was the seed that sprouted leaves and branches which is now our family. God saw fit to make her the matriarch of our family and blessed us to be her caretaker and recipient of her legacy."

Reading media reports on Ford's passing, I found some intriguing par-

allels between her life and that of my mother, though they lived through different events and sociocultural environments on different continents. My mother, Kim Yu-jung, passed away in September 2019, some six months into the 12th decade of her life.

She was born in March 1909. That was the year before the end of the Joseon era and before Japan's colonization of Korea. She lost both her parents as a child: Her father went abroad to participate in the Korean independence movement, when she was 4 years old; and her mother passed away in a household accident when she was 10. She married my father at age 15 and had eight children, of whom she lost four while she was alive. My father died in 1965, at

age 56.

My mother counted "three big wars" in her life. The first, she said, was the March 1 Independence Movement, the second was World War II, and the third the Korean War. Each caused her tragic losses, the third carrying one of her daughters away. My third-eldest sister went missing during the Korean War and for years thereafter, before dawn every morning my mother went out to the courtyard and prayed there for her safety – rain or shine, hot or cold.

My sister ended up in North Korea, it was learned decades later. In September 2009, my mother met my sister in an inter-Korean family reunion at Kumgangsan across the border. They spent several hours together, catching up on six decades of separation. That was all. There was no further contact or any information about my sister afterward.

My mother never openly grieved or complained. All her life it appeared to be her unwavering credo: She never expressed her emotions impulsively, joy or sorrow, but calmly persevered. She obviously internalized Confucian teachings. Indeed, she performed all ancestral rites with religious devotion up to a year before her death.

What came next was a lifelong effort to maintain peace and harmony in the family, quietly giving support to everyone in need and removing seeds of conflict wherever found.

Considering this, I would say, living with and through difficulties may not necessarily affect one's lifespan. In their 2011 book "The Longevity Project," psychologists Howard Friedman and Leslie Martin discuss the findings of an eight-decade study on how stress and worry affect longevity.

The study, begun by psychologist Lewis Terman in California in 1921, had 1,528 participants.

"It was not those who took life easy, played it safe, avoided stress that lived the longest," the authors explain. "Instead, those who live longer had an often-complex pattern of persistence, prudence, conscientiousness, hard work, and close involvement with friends and communities. Because of their perseverance, they found the way back to these healthy paths each time they were pushed off the road."

Jeanne Louise Calment (1875-1997) of France, the oldest person ever recorded according to Guinness World Records, also had her share of tragedy.

As the wife of a well-to-do shop owner in Arles, Calment never had to work, but her life wasn't without hardships. Her husband died in 1942 after consuming a spoiled dessert. Their daughter, Yvonne, had one son, Frederic Billot, whom Calment raised after Yvonne died of pneumonia at age 36. In 1960, Frederic died, also at age 36, without children in an automobile accident.

When Calment died at age 122, her secret to staying young as reported in her obituary was a stunningly unconventional list of diet and lifestyle habits. They included drinking port wine, eating 900 grams of chocolate per week, treating her skin with olive oil, taking up fencing at 85, riding her bike until she was 100 and smoking until she was 117.

It seems that one's mind and attitude toward life matter more than eating habits and lifestyle in staying young and healthy.

The Korea Herald/ANN

NO 28899

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Both the Malegaon and Giridih rioting – the two zones are separated by nearly a thousand miles of country – exhibit non-cooperation in an identical light. In the one case lathis were forbidden by due authority. That authority was defied by non-cooperators and several Indian policemen were murdered and burnt with the concomitants which invariably accompany this kind of outbreak in India. At Giridih non-cooperators instituted a boycott which extended apparently to the victim's wife. An arrest under due process of law followed, but the mob, as at Malegaon, though with less brutality, defied the authority of the constituted guardians of the law. Does the vast law-abiding element in India really desire that the constituted authority of the Government shall be thus defied or does it repudiate the Gandhi-ite suggestion that governments is all a blunder and that the unregulated human conscience can settle these matters? In view of the anarchical consequences which invariably follow the practical exemplification of the Gandhi-ite theory there can be but one answer to this question. The constituted Government must rule, and the mass of public opinion in India desires that it should rule. Explicit declarations that, both at Malegaon and Giridih, constituted authority has duly re-asserted itself are, we fully believe, anxiously awaited by all the reasonable members of Indian society.

NEWS ITEMS

STRIKE ON THE BURMA RAILWAYS

Rangoon, Apr 29
Menials of the Burma Railways, a good number of subordinate staff of the traffic department from Rangoon and Malagon, and menials and foremen of the loco department, numbering about 1,000 in all, went on strike last night. Express trains are leaving as usual. Local passenger traffic, however, is being worked on an emergency time table. Great difficulty is being encountered in getting firemen and Anglo-Indians are doing the work. One of the reasons for the strike is said to be the dismissal of three men who were present at the meeting on April 17 of the loco and carriage department menials to discuss grievances. The men also want an increase of pay. Booking of goods has been cancelled until further notice.

ALLEGED SEDITION SPEECHES

In Dr. Cholkar case, Hariram Trurkram Athale, Oriental Translator, examined by Mr. Dick, Government Advocate, said the translations of Dr. Cholkar's speech as read and amended in court were correct. In cross-examination by Mr. Abhyankar witness said he checked and certified the translations. He went through them cursorily and took them to be correct because the persons who made them were capable of making correct translations. Witness was then questioned with regard to section 124A Indian Penal Code, and said that he understood by a Government established by law in British India, the de facto British Government established in India. By established by law he understood de facto, but he agreed that the de facto Government did not mean a Government established by law.

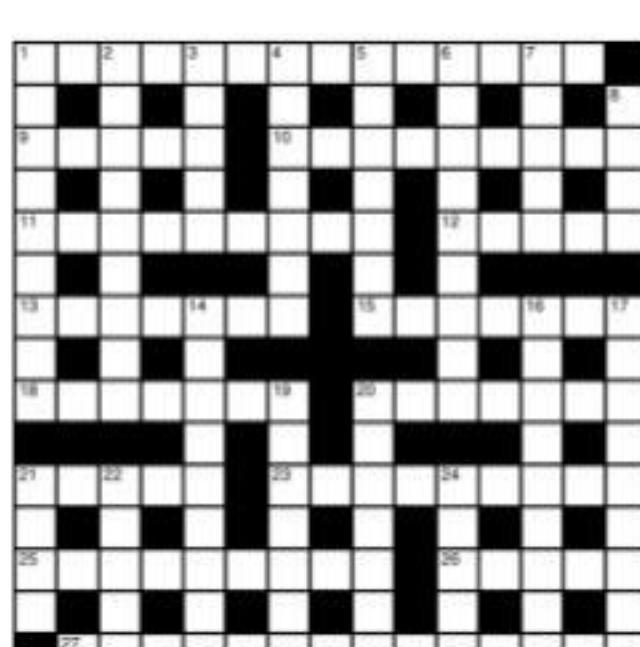
PAGODA TRUSTEES OBJECT TO MILITARY

The trustees of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda have presented two memorials to the Lieutenant-Governor objecting to further military occupation and the continuation of the arsenal in the Pagoda precincts and asking for consent to construct a terraced roofing over the eastern stairway. In the first memorial they ask that the arsenal and fort be removed from Shwe Dagon Hill at an early date, that military occupation of the area around might be relinquished and the land belonging to the Pagoda before the occupation be restored to the Pagoda Trust at the same time and that the western approach to the Pagoda be reopened to the public immediately, preparatory to the removal of the arsenal and fort from the hill.

COTTON PLANTER AND SLAVERY

John Williams, a Georgia cotton planter, has been found guilty of causing the death of Negroes on his plantation, and sentenced to imprisonment for life. Evidence was given of eleven Negroes having been murdered at Williams' plantation, which was known as "the death farm," in order to prevent their giving evidence of the state of slavery existing there. It is almost without precedent for a verdict to be given against a Southern white man accused of murder by Negroes. The jury in this case made a recommendation to mercy. Direct evidence against Williams was furnished by his Negro foreman. Some of the Negroes were killed with an axe, after having been forced to dig their own graves, while others were placed in sacks and thrown in the river.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1 SLIDE BY SIDE ETCH | 18 Salesman born in Idaho felt discontent (7) | 14 Admit nine Euros went oddly missing in collection plates (6,3) |
| A E R H I H A | 20 Without nurse regularly around, must reset bone (7) | 16 Close friend of Tory worker seen outside bar (9) |
| D I S C O O B S E S S I O N | 21 Two leading characters dropped from pleasant story (5) | 17 Think nostalgically about car having small coupé's shell (9) |
| C K W P T S D | 23 Pen sort of language that's found on UK banknotes (5,4) | 19 Tactful individual must sacrifice time to get qualification (7) |
| Q U E U E D M I G R A T E S | 25 Cake that was to help neither side during World War II reportedly? (5,4) | 20 Crushing retort from second schoolmaster to Billy Bunter (7) |
| U N N D R E L | 26 Head of society chasing supporters for money (5) | 21 Mouldy smell caused commotion, so to speak (4) |
| A I D E D D I C A T E E S | 27 A charge that is concocted to arrest international author (6,8) | 22 Former Welsh politician avoids criticising fancy jewellery (5) |
| F S S T M T | 1 Desktop image that is cut | 24 Name major road in Middle Eastern city (5) |
| F E L T T I P P E N A B B A | | |
| I R O D S E G | | |
| F O G B O U N D U P D A T E | | |
| O H K D S L R | | |
| R O T T E N E S T A L I E N | | |
| C E N E S N A | | |
| E A R L S T O P T H E G A P | | |

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with *The Independent*, London)



The private sector of the country has to be the key driver of growth. Earlier, the public sector used to drive the growth engine, but not now.

RAJIV KUMAR
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF NITI AAYOG



THUMBNAILS

Hike in insurance: The labour ministry has implemented a decision of retirement fund body EPFO's trustees to hike the maximum sum assured payable under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976, to Rs 7 lakh from the existing Rs 6 lakh. Labour minister Santosh Gangwar said that the ministry of labour and employment issued a notification on Wednesday (28 April) to implement the decision to hike the maximum sum assured payable under the EDLI scheme to Rs 7 lakh.

PTI

Vedanta commitment: Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta, has pledged Rs 150 crore to help the country in its fight against the rapidly spreading second wave of Covid 19. This is over and above Rs 201 crore that was spent by Vedanta Group last year, according to a Press release. Speaking on the initiative, Agarwal said: "I am deeply concerned and anguished to see the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 and loss of precious lives. Vedanta Group has come forward to pledge Rs 150 crore towards our commitment to fight the pandemic and we stand firmly with our people and the government at this difficult time."

SNS

Axis Bank MD: Axis Bank on Thursday said its board has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhary as its managing director and CEO for three years with effect from 1 January 2022. "The board of directors of the bank... considered and approved the proposal relating to re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhary as the managing director and CEO of the bank, for a further period of 3 years, with effect from 1 January 2022 up to 31 December 2024," Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

PTI

MF disclosure: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said mutual funds will have to make a disclosure about scheme risk-o-meter, performance and portfolio details to investors only for the particular plans in which they have invested. This is aimed at enhancing the quality of disclosure with respect to risk and performance and portfolio of the schemes without creating information overload on the investor, Sebi said in a circular. The new framework will be applicable with effect from 1 June 2021.

PTI

Route Mobile purchase: Route Mobile, a cloud communication service provider, on Thursday said it will acquire Phonon Communications Pvt Ltd for Rs 29 crore. The acquisition of PCPL, which is a communications automation platform provider, will allow Route Mobile to leverage Phonon's customer experience platform and enable brands to deliver personalised experiences across digital touchpoints, a statement said.

PTI

HUL reports 13% rise in profit at ₹2,190 crore

Sees strong growth across categories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) today reported a 13 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,190 crore for the fourth quarter ended 31 March 2021, riding on strong volume growth across categories.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,938 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, HUL said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated total income in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 12,542 crore, as against Rs 12,235 crore in the year-ago period.

During the quarter, HUL said it witnessed an "underlying volume growth of 16 per cent".

► Hindustan Unilever Ltd has reported a 13 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,190 crore for the fourth quarter ended 31 March 2021.

► Consolidated total income in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 12,542 crore.

► During the quarter, HUL said it witnessed an "underlying volume growth of 16 per cent".

company said its consolidated net profit was at Rs 7,999 crore, as compared to Rs 6,756 crore in fiscal 2019-20, a growth of 18 per cent.

Consolidated total income for FY'21 was at Rs 47,438 crore, as against Rs 40,415 crore in FY'20, the company said.

"Our in-quarter performance was strong on both the top-line and bottom-line. Despite challenging times, in FY'21 our business ecosystem has withstood the disruption and demonstrated agility and resilience across the value chain," HUL said.

Addressing a virtual Press conference, he said despite the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic hitting India, rural growth has managed to keep up its momentum.

"In the last two weeks, there has been turbulence but it is not as bad as what we saw last April, because containment has been localised and we have not gone in for a general lockdown (this time)," Mehta said.

In the fourth quarter, beauty and personal care grew by 20 percent with skin cleansing, hair care and oral care achieving high double-digit growths. Skin cleansing performance was led by "Lifebuoy" and the premium segment, it added.

On the impact of rising commodity prices, HUL said: "A calibrated approach towards price increase has helped protect our business model even as vegetable oils continue to inflate at record levels."

For the fiscal 2020-21, the

All the company's factories are running. The supply chain is still operating but there could be some disruptions because of mobility issues, he added.

Only the essential staff will be working at all com-

Bajaj Auto Q4 net rises 15% to ₹1,551 crore

NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Bajaj Auto today reported a 15 percent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,551 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2021 on the back of robust sales across domestic and international markets.

The Pune-based company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,354 crore in the January-March quarter of 2019-20.

Total revenue from operations rose by 26 per cent to Rs 8,596 crore in the fourth quarter, from Rs 6,816 crore in the same period of FY20, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.

During the period under review, the company sold a total of 11,69,664 two-wheelers and commercial vehicles, up 18 percent compared to 9,91,961 units in the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal, it added. For fiscal 2020-21, the company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 4,857 crore.

PTI

Overseas Pakistanis have, over the years, kept our economy afloat

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN
UNVEILING NEW SCHEMES FOR OVERSEAS PAKISTANISThe Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 30 APRIL 2021

09

China says population grew in 2020 after decline report

Developed economies like Japan are also trying to figure out how to support aging populations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING, 29 APRIL

China's population grew last year, the government said Thursday, following a report that a census might have found a surprise decline, possibly adding to downward pressure on economic growth.

The National Bureau of Statistics gave no details in its one-sentence statement and said the population figure would be reported later. But the unusual decision to respond to the report by The Financial Times reflected the issue's political sensitivity.

It said people familiar with China's 2020 census expect it to show the population, which edged above 1.4 billion in 2019, declined for the first time since famine in 1959-61 killed millions of people.

The ruling Communist Party has enforced birth limits to restrain population



School children wearing masks cross a busy traffic intersection in Beijing on Thursday. AP

growth since 1980, but an outright fall would reduce the flow of workers into the economy when it is trying to shore up growth and reduce poverty.

According to our understanding, in 2020, China's population continued to grow, the NBS said on its website.

China's population has long been expected to peak and decline in line with trends in

while China has less wealth and its industries need young workers.

Researchers at the Chinese central bank argued in a report in March that the birth rate is lower than official estimates suggest, though they didn't say total population had declined. To avert a labor shortage, they said, Beijing needs to make it easier and cheaper to raise children.

Compared with developed countries, the demographic transition happened faster in our country, the transition period is shorter, and aging problems and sub-replacement fertility are severer, the report said.

Developed economies such as Japan and Germany also are trying to figure out how to support aging populations with shrinking workforces. But they can draw on decades of investment in factories, technology and foreign assets,

2050.

China's population rose by 4.7 million people in 2019 to just above 1.4 billion, according to government data. That was growth of just 0.3 per cent.

If China's population is peaking already, that may not change much about the outlook this decade, but it could have major economic implications further ahead, Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics, said in a report. The International Monetary Fund is forecasting Chinese economic growth of 8.4 per cent this year following a rebound from the coronavirus pandemic.

The ruling party says it wants to double output per person from 2020 levels by 2035, which would require annual growth of about 4.7 per cent. China is on track to be overtaken by India before 2025 as the most populous country.

EU extends Myanmar sanctions, including against junta leader - (A)

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 29 APRIL

The European Union has extended for a year sanctions against senior officials in Myanmar, including junta leader Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, and others involved in the military coup in February.

EU headquarters said in a statement Thursday that the sanctions, which include asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargo and restrictions on the export of equipment that can be used for military and police repression, will remain in place until at least April 30, 2022.

The sanctions target high-ranking officials from the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and the borderguard police, as well as civilian members of the State Administrative Council and the chairman of the Election Commission, the statement said.

The EU continues to stand with the Burmese people and will continue to provide humanitarian assistance, it said, noting that the 27-nation bloc has provided 20.5 million euros (\$24.8 million) in aid to Myanmar so far this year.



humanitarian assistance, it said, noting that the 27-nation bloc has provided 20.5 million euros (\$24.8 million) in aid to Myanmar so far this year.

Rockets fired at Myanmar's two air bases

NEW DELHI, 14 NOVEMBER

Unidentified attackers fired rockets at two Myanmar air bases on Thursday but there were no casualties and only minor damage in another sign of deteriorating security since the military overthrew an elected government three months ago.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attacks, which the military confirmed.

In the first attack, four rockets were fired at an air base near Magway in the early hours. Three of the rockets hit farms and one fell on a road. One building at the base was slightly damaged. Later, five rockets were fired at one of the country's main air bases at Meiktila.

AGENCIES

Members of hardline Islamist group arrested in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, 29 APRIL

killed as the group demanded the enactment of a blasphemy law, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Dozens of Hefazat leaders and activists have been arrested in recent weeks after the hardline Islamist group waged anti-government protests.

Maulana Abdul Qaium, member of Hefazat-e-Islam's dissolved central committee, was arrested from a madrasa in northern Netrokona district on Wednesday. Qaium is a key accused in the 2013 riots in Narayanganj, where the group demanded the enactment of the blasphemy law.

Lahore HC calls Pak Army biggest land grabber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, 29 APRIL

In a rare rebuke of Pakistan's powerful Army, the Lahore High Court has called it the country's biggest land grabber" and said its uniform is for the service to the nation and not to rule as a king.

Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Mohammad Qasim Khan, during the hearing of a land grabbing case on Wednesday, said that he does not want to say anything wrong about the Army, but the way it occupies the properties of people is nothing but land grabbing.

"The Army seems to have

become the biggest land grabber in the country, he said. "The uniform of the Army is for service and not to rule as a king," he said while hearing petitions of three citizens seeking an order against the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), which is under the Army, to not disturb their lawful possession of the land

they had obtained on lease from the Evacuee Trust Property Board.

Regretting that the Army had also grabbed a piece of land owned by the High Court, Justice Khan said that he would instruct the LHC registrar to write a letter to the Chief of the Army Staff (Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa) on the

issue. The bar also remained indifferent to the issue, he lamented.

The chief justice said the Corps Commander of Lahore could be summoned to verify the land grabbing facts.

The Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the several matters of security and foreign policy.

He observed that the Army had an attractive post-retirement welfare plan for its officers, which other institutions like police and judiciary lacked.

China successfully launches core module of space station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, APR 29

of-the-art Long March-5B launch vehicle, *Tianhe* meaning Harmony in Heaven reached the designated orbit after a flight of around one hour, state-run *Global Times* reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulated the successful launch of the core module of China's space station.

The Long March-5B Y2 rocket, carrying the *Tianhe* module, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan. Encased in the extra-large fairing of the country's state-

Young women, grown up sans Taliban, dread their return

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL, 29 APRIL

their dreams will come to an end if the hard-line militants regain any power, even if peacefully as part of a new government.

With the return of Taliban, society will be transformed and ruined, Karimi said. Women will be sent into hiding, they'll be forced to wear the burqa to go out of their homes.

She wore a bright yellow blouse that draped off her shoulders as she worked, a style that's a bit daring even in the all-women space of the salon.

It would have been totally out of the question under the Taliban, who ruled until the 2001 US-led invasion.

But they all worry that

'Clean out our insides': Ethiopia detains Tigrayans amidst war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, 29 APRIL

Ethiopia has swept up thousands of ethnic Tigrayans into detention centres across the country on accusations that they are traitors, often holding them for months and without charges, the AP has found.

The detentions, mainly but not exclusively of military personnel, are an apparent attempt to purge state institutions of the Tigrayans who once dominated them, as the government enters its sixth month of fighting in the Tigray region. Detainees, families and visitors spoke of hundreds or even more than 1,000

people in at least nine individual locations, including military bases and an agricultural college.

The government of Nobel Peace Prize winner Abiy Ahmed acknowledges that it has locked up a small number of high-level military officials from the Tigrayan minority. But the AP is reporting for

the first time that the detentions are far more sweeping in scope and more arbitrary, extending even to priests and office workers, sometimes with ethnic profiling as the sole reason.

A military detainee told the AP he is being held with more than 400 other Tigrayans, and lawyers are not allowed to contact them. Even families can't visit. The AP is not using his name for his safety but has seen his military ID.

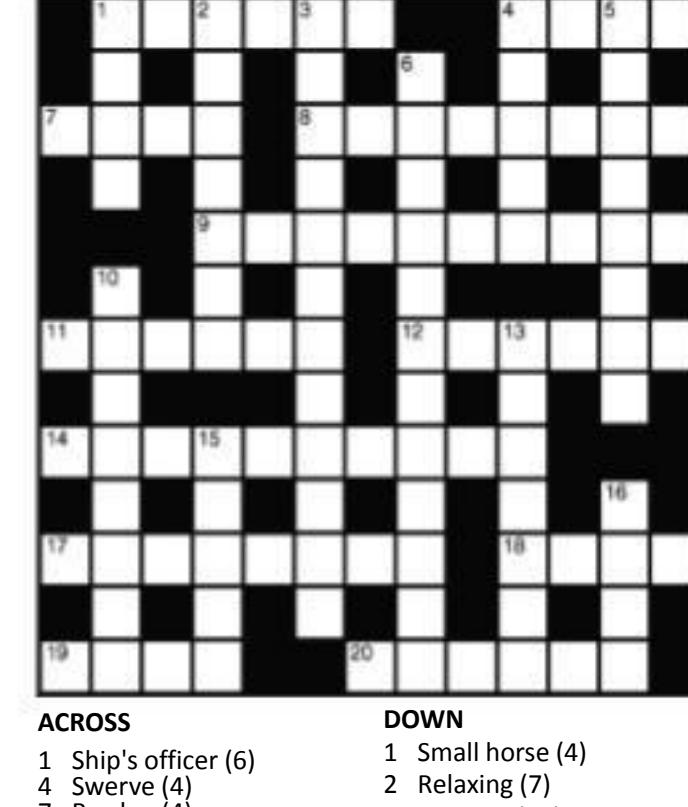
They can do what they want, he said on a smuggled phone. They might kill us. We are in their hands, and we have no choice but to pray.

Many of the military personnel were not combatants but held jobs such as teachers and nurses, according to interviews with 15 detainees and relatives, along with a lawyer and a camp visitor. Civilian employees of state-owned companies also have been held.

With fewer means to challenge their detention, detainees say they feel helpless, their fate in the hands of the people who accuse them of treason.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1. Ship's officer (6) 2. Swerve (4) 3. Burden (4) 4. The art of clock-making (8) 5. Dentures (5,5) 11. Hawker (6) 12. Large wasp (6) 14. Unremitting (10) 17. Finnish capital (8) 18. Horse's gait (4) 19. Feline mammal (4) 20. Ancient (3-3) DOWN 1. Small horse (4) 2. Relaxing (7) 3. Thrilling (12) 4. Worth (5) 5. Number of holes on a golf course (8) 6. Coasting (12) 10. Graveyard (8) 13. Italian rice dish (7) 15. English county (5) 16. Crucifix (4)

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

Haryana Roadways: 23861262

City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383333,

25496320, 25494403

Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 0901801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383333,

25496320 (Airport)

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

Qatar Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

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FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

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SUGARLANDS Inc. An American Trademark

RACK 1 = 13 RACK 2 = 63 RACK 3 = 60 RACK 4 = 67 JUDGE TOTAL = 223

SUGARLANDS Inc. An American Trademark



We need policies and progress that bring us closer together. But three months in, the actions of the president and his party are pulling us further apart.

UNITED STATES REPUBLICAN SENATOR TIM SCOTT

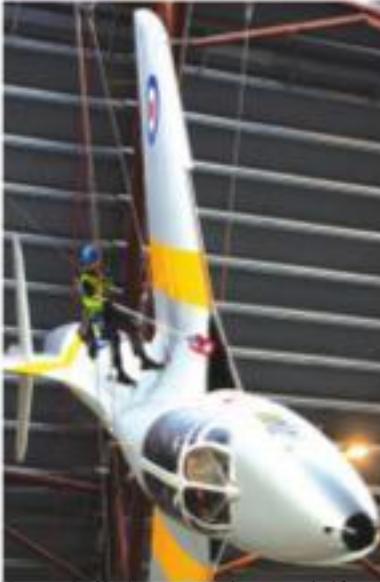
CITING THE PARTISAN BATTLE OVER BIDEN'S \$1.9 TRILLION COVID-19 RELIEF BILL

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	34	26 H
HONG KONG	29	23 H
TOKYO	18	16 R
LONDON	12	02 H
DUBAI	34	27 S
SAN FRANCISCO	18	09 H
NEW YORK	22	16 R
MOSCOW	11	06 H

S=sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



Specialist operators at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, clean a Hawker Hunter aircraft displayed within the museum's National Cold War Exhibition, in Cosford, England.

AGENCIES

Spain recovers migrant bodies: The bodies of 24 sub-Saharan migrants, among them two minors, who are believed to have died of thirst and hunger as they tried to cross from the west coast of Africa to the Canary Islands, were brought to land by Spain's Maritime Rescue Service Wednesday evening. According to Spanish Air Force rescuers speaking to local television, survivors reported they had spent 22 days at sea.

AP

Mexicans' exposure to Covid: As many as one-third of Mexicans may have been exposed to the coronavirus by the end of 2020, according to a study of random blood samples taken between February and December. There have been over 216,000 test-confirmed deaths related to COVID-19, but Mexico does so little testing that many people die without having been tested.

AP

'America's democracy rising anew'

Joe Biden proposed a \$1.8 trillion investment in children, families and education to help rebuild an economy devastated by the virus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 29 APRIL



Declaring that "America is rising anew" under his leadership, President Joe Biden has told China that the US will maintain a "strong" military presence in the Indo-Pacific "not to start conflict, but to prevent one" as Beijing became more assertive in the strategically vital region.

Using his maiden address to the joint session of Congress on the eve of his 100th day in office to make a strong case for huge new investments and tax reforms to overhaul the US economy and rebuild the middle class, Biden said, "we have acted to restore the people's faith in our democracy to deliver."

In a historic moment, Vice President Kamala Harris - the first woman to hold the second highest office - and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi both sat behind Biden during Wednesday night's prime time address. It was the first time two women appeared behind the president during a speech to Congress.

After addressing Harris in

his opening remarks as Madam Vice-President, Biden added: "No president has ever said those words from this podium. And it's about time."

In his 65-minute address, Biden spent the majority of his time to discuss his economic and infrastructure plans for the nation, his foreign policy vision for America's role in the world and the coronavirus pandemic and other health care issues.

"Life can knock us down. But in America, we never stay down. In America, we always get up. And today, that's what we're doing: America is rising anew," he said.

"After 100 Days of rescue

and renewal, America is ready for takeoff. We are working again. Dreaming again. Discovering again. Leading the world again. We have shown each other and the world: There is no quit in America," he said.

Biden then went on to describe a two-hour conversation he had with Chinese President Xi Jinping upon taking office in January.

"I told President Xi that we will maintain a strong military presence in the Indo-Pacific just as we do with NATO in Europe, not to start conflict, but to prevent conflict," he said.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea.

Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade.

Biden said that he also told Xi that "we welcome the competition - and that we are not looking for conflict." "But I made absolutely clear that I will defend American interests across the board," he added.

He said America will stand up to "unfair" trade practices that undercut American workers and industries, like subsidies for state-owned enterprises and the theft of American technologies and intellectual property.

He's (President Xi) deadly earnest on becoming the most significant, consequential nation in the world. He and others, autocrats, think that democracy can't compete in the 21st century with autocracies. It takes too long to get consensus, he said.

Biden also said that he told Xi what he has said to many world leaders - that America won't back away from its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

No responsible American president can remain silent when basic human rights are violated. A president has to represent the essence of our country, he added.

Biden offered stern words for his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, saying he made it very clear to him that while the US doesn't seek escalation, their actions have consequences. "I responded in a direct and proportionate

way to Russia's interference in our elections and cyber attacks on our government and businesses and they did both of those things and I did respond, Biden said.

"But we can also cooperate when it's in our mutual interests," he said.

Biden also said that the climate crisis is not America's fight alone, but a global one as he asserted that he pushed for the US to meet its international obligations to slow the impact of climate change.

He said that the US accounts for less than 15 per cent of carbon emissions while the rest of the world accounts for 85 per cent. "That's why I kept my commitment to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement on my first day in office," he said.

While former president Barack Obama signed the Paris Climate Accord his successor Donald Trump pulled the US out, calling it unfair to American coal miners and the energy industry. Biden has rejoined the landmark accord soon after assuming office.

"Kept my commitment to convene a climate summit in

America of all the major economies in the world, China, Russia, India, European Union. I started doing it in my first 100 days, Biden said.

"I wanted the world to see that there is consensus that we are at an inflection point in history. And the consensus is if we act, we can save the planet and we can create millions of jobs and economic growth and opportunity to raise the standard of living for everyone in the world, he added.

Assuring fellow citizens that his administration will maintain capabilities to suppress future threats to the homeland, Biden said that after 20 years of American valour and sacrifice in Afghanistan, it's time to bring troops home. But make no mistake the terrorist threat has evolved beyond Afghanistan since 2001 and we will remain vigilant against threats to the United States, wherever they come from," he said.

Biden also touted the success of his administration's Covid-19 vaccine rollout and urged everyone to get vaccinated against the deadly disease that has claimed over 574,000 lives in the country.

LAMENTING LOSS



Wearing masks and paper suits to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, people protest demanding the government's help in resolving their housing problems, in front of the Ministry of Housing in Santiago, Chile.

US eyes major rollback in Iran sanctions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 29 APRIL



The Biden administration is considering a near wholesale rollback of some of the most stringent Trump-era sanctions imposed on Iran in a bid to get the Islamic Republic to return to compliance with a landmark 2015 nuclear accord, according to current and former US officials and others familiar with the matter.

As indirect talks continue this week in Vienna to explore the possibility of reviving the nuclear deal, American officials have become increasingly expansive about what they might be prepared to offer Iran, which has been driving a hard line on sanctions relief, demanding that all US penalties be removed, according to these people.

American officials have refused to discuss which sanctions are being considered for removal.

But they have said they are open to lifting any sanctions that are inconsistent with the nuclear deal or that deny Iran the relief it would be entitled to should it return to compliance with the accord. Because of the complex nature of the sanctions architecture, that could include non-nuclear sanctions, such as those tied to ter-

rorism, missile development and human rights.

Biden administration officials say this is necessary because of what they describe as a deliberate attempt by the Trump administration to stymie any return to the deal. Under the 2015 agreement, the United States was required to lift sanctions tied to Iran's nuclear programme, but not non-nuclear sanctions.

Administration officials deny they will remove all non-

nuclear sanctions, but have declined to identify those which they believe Trump improperly imposed on terrorism and other grounds.

Any return to the JCPOA would require sanctions relief, but we are considering removing only those sanctions that are inconsistent with the JCPOA, said State Department spokesman Ned Price.

Even if we rejoin the JCPOA which remains a hypothetical we would retain and continue to implement sanctions on Iran for activities not covered by the JCPOA, including Iran's missile proliferation, support for terrorism, and human rights abuses. Iran is demanding the removal of all sanctions. If the US doesn't lift at least some of them, Iran says it won't agree to halt its nuclear activities barred by the deal known as the JCPOA.

Top ally announces closing Alexei Navalny's offices amid crackdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 29 APRIL



A top ally of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Thursday that the network of the politician's offices in Russia is being closed as authorities seek to have it and Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption outlawed as extremist groups.

The Moscow prosecutor's office petitioned a court this month to declare both the regional offices and Navalny's anti-corruption organization as extremist groups, a label that would outlaw their activities, expose members and supporters to lengthy prison terms, and pose a major challenge for Navalny's embattled group.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to work in these conditions.

Navalny set up a network of offices in dozens of regions.

The regional headquarters, as the team called them, began their own investigations of graft by local officials and recruited activists, some of whom later ran for public office themselves.

The offices also were instrumental in organizing nationwide rallies in support of Navalny this year.

impossible because of the extremism charges but rebranding them wouldn't help either.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to work in these conditions. We're officially demanding the network of Navalny's headquarters, Volkov said on the messaging app Telegram.

Volkov's statement comes amid a sweeping crackdown on Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critic, and his organizations. The politician is currently in prison, and

German court orders govt to set goals for greenhouse gas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 29 APRIL

Germany's top court ruled Thursday that the country's government has to set clear goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions after 2030, arguing that current legislation doesn't go far enough in ensuring that climate change is limited to acceptable levels.

The foundation's director, Ivan Zhdanov, said the organisation will continue to work despite the restrictions.

Earlier this week, the prosecutor's office issued an injunction ordering the offices to suspend their activities pending the court ruling, and a court in Moscow imposed restrictions on the Foundation for Fighting Corruption.

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MEMENTO MOMENT

Roger Federer (in photo, left) fans might be salivating at the prospect of owning some mementos of his incredible career after he announced he was auctioning off a collection of personal items. He is putting various items under the hammer in two sales in June and July at Christie's to raise money for his foundation.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Olympic doubt: Malaysia's ban on flights from coronavirus-swept India Orange cap: Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis ended Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan's reign at the top of the Orange cap table in the Indian Premier League. Du Plessis' 38-ball 56 against SunRisers Hyderabad took his runs tally for the season so far to 270.

Boycott planned: The England and Wales Cricket Board, along with all 18 counties, the eight women's regional teams and the Professional Cricketers' Association, will stand by the football community in a social media boycott to protest against online racial abuse.

Demerit point: The International Cricket Council has given Palkeleke International Cricket Stadium in Kandy one single demerit point after match referee Ranjan Madugalle of the First Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh rated the pitch below average.

'Not guilty': Ex-Manchester United footballer and manager of Wales Ryan Giggs appeared in court on Wednesday to plead not guilty to charges of assault against two women. The 47-year-old is charged with causing bodily harm and coercive and controlling behaviour.

Tokyo tactics: Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics rolled out stricter coronavirus countermeasures on Wednesday, including a plan to test athletes daily, as they tried again to reassure a Japanese public made increasingly sceptical by the resurgent pandemic.

Bach supportive: Thomas Bach, head of the International Olympic Committee, on Wednesday said he understood the decision to declare a state of emergency in Tokyo to fight the coronavirus pandemic, and was committed to holding a safe, successful Games.

Inoculation drive: About 100 South Korean athletes and coaches travelling to Tokyo for the Olympics this year were to receive their first doses of Covid-19 vaccine on Thursday as the country struggled to keep its inoculation drive on track amid supply shortages.

Barca relief: Barcelona "note-holders" agreed to relax some debt terms, granting a measure of relief to the Spanish football giants as they grappled with a collapse in revenues caused by the pandemic. The investors will permit the club to remove limits on indebtedness.

Formula One: Turkey will replace Canada on this year's Formula One calendar after the 13 June race in Montreal was cancelled on Wednesday for the second year in a row due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Formula One said Turkey had been picked to supplement it.

Russell's 45 not out takes KKR to 154/6 vs DC

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, 29 APRIL

Kolkata Knight Riders suffered another familiar batting collapse before late fireworks from Andre Russell (in photo) lifted them to 154 for six in their IPL match against Delhi Capitals here on Thursday. Put in to bat, KKR were at a decent position at 69 for one in the 10th over but slumped to 82 for five in the 13th before Russell saved them with a 27-ball 45 not out.

Russell's blistering innings had two boundaries and four sixes. Struggling opener Shubman Gill top-scored with a 38-ball 43, and his knock was studded with three boundaries and one six, but he failed to convert his solid start into a big score. For DC, Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav were impressive with two wickets. KKR were 45 for one at the end of powerplay overs after Nitish Rana was stumped out for 15 in the fourth over bowled by Axar. Gill

the



was going strong as he took on Ishant Sharma and Axar by hitting a few boundaries but lost Rahil Tripathi to Marcus Stoinis in the 10th over. KKR's familiar batting slump came to

an end in the 13th over when he hit a six off Axar. Gill

SCOREBOARD

Kolkata Knight Riders Innings: N Rana c Pant b Axar 15 S Gill c Smith b Khan 43 R Tripathi c L Yadav b Stoinis 19 E Morgan c Smith b Lalit Yadav 0 Sunil Narine b Lalit Yadav 0 Andre Russell not out 45 Dinesh Karthik lbw b Axar 14	Pat Cummins not out 11 Extras: (LB-6, W-1) 7 Total: (6 wkt, 20 Overs) 154 Fall of Wickets: 25-1, 69-2, 74-3, 75-4, 82-5, 109-6. Bowler: Sharma 4-0-34-0, Rabada 4-0-31-1, Yadav 3-0-13-2, Stoinis 1-0-7-1.
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Printed and published by VINOD KUMAR GUPTA for THE STATESMAN LTD, Statesman House, 148 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi ♦ Editor: RAVINDRA KUMAR ♦ Executive Editor: ARYA RUDRA ♦ Printed at Vibha Publication Pvt Ltd, D-160 B, Sector 7, NOIDA 201301 (UP). © The Statesman Ltd. RNB REG. No. M-8905, RNI No. 507/57

The Statesman Sport

Postal Reg. No. DL (ND)-II/6088/2018-19-20

De Kock shines in MI win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

Opener Quinton de Kock (in photo) roared back to form with a blistering 50-ball 70 as Mumbai Indians beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in their IPL game here on Thursday.

Put in to bat, Rajasthan rode on 42 by skipper Sanju Samson and Jos Buttler's 41 to post a competitive 171 for four but their efforts were overshadowed by de Kock, who struck six fours and two maximums to complete the task in 18.3 overs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Krunal Pandya also played a useful cameo, smashing 39 off 26 balls with the help of two fours and many sixes. Mumbai openers Rohit Sharma (14) and de Kock put up 49 for the first wicket. The South African fetched his first boundary, a coverdrive, and then launched into left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman (1/37) for a four and a maximum. While Rohit played his trademark



pull-shot to get a six in the fifth over. De Kock hammered Chris Morris (2/33) for another maximum but Rohit perished in the sixth over, giving a dolly to Chetan Sakariah at mid-on.

Leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (0/30) conceded three boundaries in the seventh over, two by Suryakumar Yadav (16; 3x4) and one by de Kock, as Mumbai got 14 runs.

However, Morris brought back Rajasthan by removing Surya, as Mumbai slipped to 83/2. Krunal joined de Kock,

who completed his half-century in 35 balls and then got a life. Krunal smashed a six over the sight-screen off Tewatia, in the 15th over, which fetched Mumbai 12 runs as they needed 41 runs from the last five overs. De Kock and Krunal added 63 runs for the third wicket and brought the side closer to a win. A profligate Morris conceded 16 runs in the 18th over, as Kieron Pollard (16 not out) and de Kock took them on the cusp of a win.

Earlier, Samson blazed his

way to 42 off 27 balls as Rajasthan Royals posted a competitive 171 for four. Put in to bat, Rajasthan openers Buttler (41 off 32) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (32 off 20) laid the foundation with their 66-run stand in 7.4 overs.

Buttler started with a first-ball boundary, a flick to the fine-leg fence. The Englishman then fetched his second four, off Jasprit Bumrah (1/15), a cheeky hit to the third man boundary.

Jaiswal picked his first boundary in the third over off Trent Boult (1/37), a pull to the backward square-leg boundary.

Buttler, who got a life, then

upped the ante. He took on off-

SCOREBOARD

Rajasthan Royals Innings: J Buttler c de Kock b Chahar 41 Jaiswal c and b Chahar 32 S Samson b Buttler 42 S Dube c and b Bumrah 35 D Miller not out 7 R Parag not out 8 Extras: (LB-2, W-3, NB-1) 6 Total: (4 wkt, 20 Overs) 171
Fall of Wickets: 66-1, 91-2, 148-3, 158-4
Bowler: Bumrah 1-0-37-1, Unadkat 4-0-15-1, Yadav 3-0-37-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-35-0, Chahar 4-0-33-2, K Pandya 1-0-6-0.
Mumbai Indians Innings: Rohit Sharma c Sakariah b Morris 14 De Kock not out 70 S Yadav c Buttler b Morris 16 K Pandya c Mustafizur 39 K Pollard not out 16 R Parag not out 8 Extras: (LB-15, W-2) 17
Total: (3 wkt, 18.3 Overs) 172
Fall of Wickets: 49-1, 83-2, 146-3
Bowler: Sakariah 3-0-18-0, Unadkat 4-0-33-0, Rahman 3-0-37-1, Morris 4-0-33-2, Tewatia 3-0-30-0, Dube 1-0-6-0.

spinner Jayant Yadav (0/37), hammering a four and then a maximum, in the fifth over.

Jaiswal too changed gears, as he struck a four and a maximum, his trademark pull-shot, off successive deliveries off pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile (0/35), as his team amassed 14 runs in the sixth over and raced to 47/0 after power-play.

Buttler, who was in his elements, smashed Jayant for another six in the seventh over.

Buttler hit yet another maximum, this time off Rahul Chahar (2/33), but the leggie dismissed him the very next ball,

stumped by de Kock.



Tendulkar donates Rs 1 crore: Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday donated Rs one crore to procure oxygen concentrators for COVID-19 patients in the country as it battles a severe second wave of the global pandemic. PTI

It's advantage Royal Challengers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, 29 APRIL



After four losses and two wins, Punjab Kings are sixth in the Indian Premier League standings and Royal Challengers Bangalore are second with five wins, ahead of their match here tomorrow. Punjab will have to play out of their skins to get their stuttering campaign back on track. Smarting from a five-wicket defeat by Kolkata Knight Riders, it will not be an easy task for them to stand up to RCB, firing on all cylinders.

Despite losing to Chennai Super Kings, RCB have emerged as strong contenders for a first IPL title, with many of their players striking form as the tournament progressed.

Punjab's inconsistent batting has been a letdown so far. In six games, the KL Rahul-led side have made the three low totals batting first: 106, 120 and 123. Rahul, who has scored 91, 5, 61, 4, 60 not out and 19 so far, has been their most successful batsman this season. He will once again be

expected to give his side a solid start. Mayank Agarwal has mostly tended to lose his way after beginning well. Chris Gayle has managed only two good scores in six matches. Nicholas Pooran slumped woefully, managing just 28 runs in the five innings, inclusive of three ducks. The team could replace him with David Malan. With not enough runs on the board against KKR, Punjab bowlers could not do much. But the bowling unit has lacked aggression. It was unable to defend 195 against Delhi Capitals and almost conceded the game to Rajasthan Royals while defend-

ing 221, snatching a four-run victory in the end. RCB will be high on confidence after they held their nerves to pip Delhi Capitals by one run. While it was AB de Villiers (in photo) who delivered once again with the bat, the bowlers put up a collective effort.

The RCB batting is top-heavy and excessively reliant on the performances of Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, de Villiers and Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell. RCB's bowling has been impressive, led as it is by pacemen Harshal Patel, the Purple cap holder, and Mohammad Siraj.

Match starts at 7.30 pm

'Australians anxious about getting home'

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, 29 APRIL

Australians involved in the Indian Premier League are anxious about how they will get home from the tournament as the Covid-19 crisis continues in India but they are not looking for any free rides, the head of the players' union said yesterday.

Three Australian players have pulled out of the IPL but others remain stranded in India following Australia's decision to suspend flights from the Asian nation until 15 May.

Nearly 40 Australians remain involved in the IPL as players, coaches, officials and commentators, but Prime Minister Scott Morrison said they would not be allowed to jump the queue whenever repatriation flights resumed.

The regular IPL season ends on 23 May, with playoffs to follow before the final on 30 May. "As you'd imagine, they're all pretty anxious," Australian Cricketers' Association chief executive Todd Greenberg (in photo) told Sydney radio station 2GB.

"They're in probably one of the biggest hotspots that we've seen since Covid so we're just trying to make sure that they're all safe and secure and they can fulfil their commitments and ... we can get them home as soon as we can."

India recorded 323,144 new Covid-19 patients on Tuesday and 2,771 deaths, taking the total death toll to 197,894, but the IPL was ploughing on despite the health crisis. Former Australia fast bowler Andrew Tye, who was with the Rajasthan Royals, flew home over the weekend but compatriots Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson, teammates for Royal Challengers Bangalore, had been unable to

travel arrangements.

Zampa said his decision to cut his IPL season short was about prioritising mental health over money.

"I feel like for anyone leaving halfway through a tournament, it's definitely a financial sacrifice," the 29-year-old told Nine Network newspapers. "But from my point of view I wanted to put my mental health first. Obviously the Covid situation over here is pretty dire. (There were) a few other things like bubble fatigue and the chance to get home, once all the news broke about the flights and everything."

Menon out

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

One of India's most senior umpires, Nitin Menon, has pulled out of the Indian Premier League after his family was hit by Covid-19 while his Australian counterpart Paul Reiffel's attempts at going home have so far been unsuccessful because of his country's suspension of air travel with this country.

Menon, a resident of Indore, has left the IPL bio-secure bubble after his wife and mother tested positive for Covid-19.

Menon is the only Indian on the International Cricket Council's elite panel of umpires and was recently praised for his supervision during India's home series against England.

"Yes, Nitin has left as his immediate family members have Covid-19," a source in the Indian cricket board said.

Royals donate 7.5 crores for COVID-19 relief

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 29 APRIL

IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals on Thursday said it has raised Rs 7.5 crore to provide immediate support to people affected by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in India through its foundation.

India is witnessing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 infections with the country recording a single-day rise of 3,79,257 new cases on Wednesday, pushing the total tally to 1,83,76,524.

"Rajasthan Royals is pleased to announce a contribution of INR 7.5 Crores (over USD 1 million) towards COVID Relief to

help with immediate support to people in India impacted by the surge of COVID-19 virus," the franchise said in a statement.

"Players along with the team owners and team management have come forward to raise funds and have been working along with the Rajasthan Royals' philanthropic arm Royal Rajasthan Foundation (RRF) in partnership with the British Asian Trust (BAT)," a release issued by the franchise said. "The funds raised by Rajasthan Royals will help pan India, with an initial focus on the state of Rajasthan, where the RRF, Chaired by Ranjit Barthakur, has numerous initiatives it continues to support."

defender has now scored in both the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the Champions League in back-to-back seasons. It was not until the 42nd minute that the visitors really had a chance. Bernardo Silva teeing up Phil Foden for the shot that Navas saved. PSG could have doubled their lead early in the second half, but the stretching Marco Verratti was just unable to connect with Mbappe's low ball across the face of the goal.</