

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 14 APRIL 2021



WEATHER

Max: 35.2°C
Min: 24.8°C
RH: 34%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Light rain likely
Max/Min temp. 36/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava; Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Shuddha Vidiya till 12.48 pm
Star: Bharni till 5.22 pm
Variyam: Nil
Durmuhratam: 11.51 am to 12.41 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Ramzan 1,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 4.49 am
Zohar: 12.26 pm
Asar: 4.38 pm
Magrib: 6.37 pm
Isha: 7.47 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 6 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.24 AM
MOONSET TODAY 8.26 PM

DC WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY



RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTR: 6.37 pm (Wed)
SEHRI: 4.36 am (Thurs)

COUNTER POINT



It's a free and fair elections!

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon to remain normal this year

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

Sushil Chandra takes over as CEC

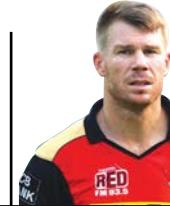
New Delhi: Sushil Chandra assumed charge as the 24th Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday. He was appointed as the CEC on Monday, the day Sunil Arora demitted office. Chandra was appointed as an election commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He would demit office on May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

Kerala min quits after indictment

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala's higher education minister K.T. Jaleel resigned on Tuesday, days after the Lokayukta indicted him for nepotism, abuse of power and breach of oath of office. Jaleel has sent his resignation to the Chief Minister and it has been forwarded to the Governor, CMO sources said. The resignation has been accepted by Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, Raj Bhavan said.

NATION | 6

Didi calls off dharna as EC acts on 3 BJP leaders



SPORTS | 10

Sunrisers to meet RCB today

TABLOID

Covid widens gender divide in companies



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KCR meet to give big boost to TRS in bypoll

L. VENKAT
RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13



All eyes are on Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's high-stakes public meeting in Halia on Wednesday. The TRS has pinned all its hopes on the CM's rally to boost the ruling party's chances of a win in the Nagarjunasagar assembly bypoll scheduled for April 17.

Rao will give the final, decisive push for the TRS poll campaign by addressing an estimated turnout of one lakh people, mostly of beneficiaries of the state government's welfare schemes.

This is the second public meeting to be addressed by the Chief Minister in the poll-bound constituency. On February 10, Rao kick-started the campaign by addressing a public meeting in Halia.

Arrangements for the grand finale of the TRS campaign were made over a plot of 50 acres with adequate space to ensure the Covid norms on social distancing are adhered to by

gation projects, laying of roads and provision for other facilities to the people in the region.

Arrangements for the grand finale of the TRS campaign were made over a plot of 50 acres with adequate space to ensure the Covid norms on social distancing are adhered to by

the participants. The public meeting will be held over a space of 20 acres and the remaining 30 acres will be left for the parking of vehicles.

Circles were drawn on the ground to ensure a mandatory six-feet distance between participants.

EC officials have warned people and the organisers that cases will be booked and penalties imposed if they flouted Covid norms on the mandatory wearing of masks, sanitisation and social distancing. Special observers were deployed to examine whether the Covid regulations were followed or not at the meeting.

Ministers G. Jagadish Reddy, Talaosani Srinivas Yadav, Mohd Mahmood Ali, V. Srinivas Goud and dozens of TRS MLAs, MLCs, MPs and other local leaders have camped in Nagarjunasagar for the past two weeks to make arrangements fool-proof for the public meeting.

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

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

The SEC noted that the

safety and immunogenicity data presented by applicant Dr Reddy's from the Indian study was comparable with that of the Phase III clinical trial interim data from Russia.

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

The first doses of Sputnik V are expected to be available through

direct import by the end of April.

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

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

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

More reports on Page 5

Full report on Page 8

EVERYTHING BUT ESSENTIALS SHUT IN MAHARASHTRA FOR 15 DAYS

Mumbai, April 13: As Maharashtra reels under a severe Covid-19 wave, the MVA government on Tuesday announced over a 15-day-long statewide curfew from April 14, entailing stricter curbs on public activities, to stem the infection spread and flagged a "shortage" of medical oxygen and beds.

Stopping short of announcing a full-scale lockdown, as was being speculated, Chief Minister

Uddhav Thackeray, in his address to the state via social media, said the curfew, which excludes essential services, will come into effect at 8 pm on April 14 and remain in force till 7 am on May 1. Section 144 of the CrPC, dealing with gatherings and assembly of people, will be in force till the "lockdown-like" restrictions are in place, he said.

More reports on Page 5

Full report on Page 8

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

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

More reports on Page 5

Full report on Page 8

NGT CANNOT STRIKE OFF A LAW, SAYS SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

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

"Prima facie we are of

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

The court's observation on the limits of the powers of the green tribunal came in the course of the hearing of a petition by NGO Environment Support Group.

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

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

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

The court had in its February 18, 2019, order said: "It is clear, therefore, that under the NGT Act, the tribunal exercising appellate jurisdiction cannot strike down rules or regulations...

Therefore, it would be fallacious to state that the tribunal has powers of judicial review akin to that of a high court exercising constitutional powers under Article 226 of the Constitution...

We must never forget the distinction between a superior court of record and courts of limited jurisdiction."

More reports on Page 5

Full report on Page 8

Experts warn spitting in public could risk cause Covid, but cops remain silent

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Hyderabad | HABIT

Public spitting goes unabated despite a ban

Page 2: People will have wasteful expenses this year

Page 2: Paan Mandi sees no effect on its business

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PAAN MANDI

SEES NO EFFECT ON ITS BUSINESS

From Page 1

After a dip, Covid-19 cases see 3K a day

GHMC area reports 406 cases, highest in the state

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

After the weekend testing slump that saw a dip in fresh Covid-19 cases in the state on Sunday, fresh Coronavirus infections were back in their 3,000 plus a day category on Monday.

The state health department reported 3,052 new cases for the day compared to 2,251 on Sunday. The number of tests were up from 79,027 on Sunday to 1,13,007 on Monday.

Meanwhile, seven more people lost their lives to Covid-19 in the state on Monday, taking the total deaths from the disease in Telangana to 1,772 even as the total cases rose to 3,32,581.

The number of people who are currently suffering from Covid-19 in Telangana state, according to the department's Covid-19 bulletin, as on Monday, was 24,131, of whom 8,013 were in various government and private hospitals. Of the patients in hospitals, a

NEO SCHOOL Aliza (CBSE) 16-4-1, New Malakpet, requires experienced Trained, qualified B.Ed teachers. Fluency in English a must. Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary Subjects: Mathematics, Science, Hindi, Pasht, English, Art & Craft, IT & Computers, Librarian, Pre-Primary, Counsellor. Walk-in interview 10th April onwards. Bring handwritten application & testimonials. Call: 9063062040. Email: operations@capitalsector.in Ph: 9966707707 (HYMM/2122/C00469)

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PAAN MANDI

SEES NO EFFECT ON ITS BUSINESS

From Page 1

The Paan Mandi in Darussalam, the only one of its kind market for Betel leaves in Telangana, stays open three days a week. "We get the leaves from Kadapa and West Bengal," says P. Murli, of P.V.S. Paan Company, which has been in this business for more than 50 years. He said: "There are around 25 shops in this market and it is from here that the leaves go everywhere in the state."

Shek Rasheed, a paan maker at a premium paan shop said, "Ten people work in my shop, in two shifts, paan prices start at ₹4 and go up to ₹65 each. We sell anywhere between a thousand and 1,200 paans a day." Some of his customers, he says, are habitual zarda (tobacco flavoured with spices) pan eaters. "There are some who eat as many as 20 paans a day," he said.

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State receives additional 4.6 lakh doses of vaccine

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Covid-19 vaccination in Telangana state is continuing at a fairly rapid pace with more than 1.2 lakh people above 45 years, lining up to take their first dose in the state on Monday. Even as the health authorities, in a focused drive, are mopping up the leftover healthcare and frontlin

workers' vaccination, as many as 1,22,712 people above 45 years received their first dose of the shot, the health department has said.

Along with them, 772 healthcare workers, and 19,096 front line workers got their first dose of the vaccine on Monday.

Director of health services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said that on Monday, the

state received 4.6 lakh additional doses of the vaccine which would be sufficient, along with the pre-existing stock for about a week. "We expect to keep receiving regular supplies of the vaccines," he said.

As on Monday evening, a total of 19,79,534 people in the state got their first vaccine dose, while 3,09,834 also got their second dose.

Campaigns add to spike in cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Covid-19 cases in Nalgonda district, in which the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency that has been witnessing a high decibel election campaign over the past couple of weeks, on Monday reported that the number of new Covid-19 cases have topped the one hundred mark.

According to the state health department, the district reported 109 new cases, almost four times the 28 cases reported from Nalgonda on April 3.

Covid-19 cases in the district have been steadily rising over the past 10 days with dips only on two days that coincided with drop in testing numbers, that appears to regularly occur

NALGONDA COVID-19 CASES

DATE	CASES
April 3	28
April 4	16
April 5	45
April 6	40
April 7	54
April 8	88
April 9	89
April 10	83
April 11	31
April 12	109

during the weekends in the state.

Deaths surpass March total toll

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Deaths from Covid-19 in Telang

IN BRIEF
**HOME GUARD
ENDS LIFE DUE TO
HEALTH REASONS**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A Home Guard working in Hyderabad Commissionerate ended his life by suicide at his residence under Narsingi police station limits owing to health issues on Monday night.

The Home Guard, identified as Rajender Prasad, 41, deployed at Tappachabutra police station of Hyderabad Commissionerate and is a resident of Narsingi village.

According to the family Prasad was addicted to drinking and was suffering from high BP, diabetes and other other health issues.

"For three years he has been suffering with health issues. He tried to end his life by dousing himself with kerosene and setting himself ablaze. Although he sustained severe injuries, he recovered after treatment," said the family.

**WOMAN CHEATS
PEOPLE OF
₹50 LAKH**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A woman running a chit fund duped several people and absconded along with family under the Uppal police station limits.

The accused cheated several people to the tune of around ₹50 lakh. Based on the complaint from one of the victims Mohammad Mannan, the Uppal police booked a case.

According to the complainant Mannan, he invested ₹1.50 lakh lakh in the chit fund run by K. Rama Devi her family members.

Thirteen others also invested around ₹50 lakh.

Rama Devi of Beerrappagadda has been running the chit fund along with her family.

However, Rama Devi stopped payment to customers and even tried to avoid them.

**TRS SCHEMES
PAYING OFF FOR
MUSLIMS: CM**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said many schemes and programmes of TRS government for welfare of Muslims over the last six years are now bearing fruits, bringing a qualitative change within the community.

In his message to mark the beginning of Ramzan month, he wished that "Ganga Jamuna tehjeeb" within TS would increase manifold, strengthening the spirit of brotherhood among people. He pointed out that the state government has been officially observing Ramzan as part of its plan to celebrate all religions and ensure harmony among people of all communities.

On the occasion, the CM recalled several schemes implemented by the state government for welfare of economically backward classes among Muslims. He said schemes like Shaadi Mubarak have brought in a qualitative change in lives of young Muslim women. Programmes implemented for educating Muslim students have also been successful and residential schools for them are yielding good results.

In view of the second wave of Coronavirus the Chief Minister urged Muslim brethren to follow all Covid guidelines while offering their prayers.

SCHEMES LIKE
Shaadi Mubarak have brought in a qualitative change in lives of young Muslim women. Programmes implemented for educating Muslim students have also been successful and residential schools for them are yielding good results.

Special kids hit as e-classes are back

Internet, online learning remain a challenge

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Over a year after school closure, students of the schools for the visually impaired continue to face difficulties due to the switch from classrooms to online schooling. This, though they are better placed and equipped with proper infrastructure now.

The state government's Disabled Welfare Department has provided smartphones to students of Classes 8-10 in the four government-run blind schools in the state in Mahbubnagar, Hyderabad and Karimnagar.

O. Ramulu, principal of the Mahbubnagar school, said students who have returned home are hard-pressed over the online style of education. "For our students in Classes 8-10, the government provid-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

ed over 30 smartphones to help them take lessons over voice notes and calls. But this process is easy for them."

"Students in junior classes have been provided with Braille books. Yet, the absence of an environment they were used to is missing for them," said another teacher.

Access to internet and getting used to online learning still remain a challenge for these students as also their parents.

"We have been trying to help our kid with his lessons on phone with support from his teachers. At school, someone is always around to help him with each and every doubt. But, overall, these are not of much help to the student," said Srinivas, a parent from the Darulshifa government school for the blind.

Thunderstorms likely in TS today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

The Indian Meteorological Department has issued a 'Level Orange' warning for Telangana state for Wednesday saying that some places in the state can expect to experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, gusty winds with speeds between 30 and 40 kilometres per hour along with some hail.

Such weather, it said, is likely to occur over Ranga Reddy, Yadadri-Bhongir, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam, Bhadravati-Kothagudem, Jangaon, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Medak and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts on Wednesday. While similar weather has been predicted for isolated places over the state for Thursday, the two days can see thunderstorms with lightning at isolated places in Telangana, it said.

'LEVEL ORANGE' warning means there is a 'medium' threat of such predicted weather and calls for preparation to meet any eventuality arising from such weather, a red warning means a high probability of predicted weather playing out and is also a call for taking immediate action.

A 'Level Orange' warning means there is a 'medium' threat of such predicted weather and calls for preparation to meet any eventuality arising from such weather, a red warning means a high probability of predicted weather playing out and is also a call for taking immediate action.

A yellow and green warnings stand for low and very low probability of predicted weather actually occurring, and are also calls for people to stay updated on weather forecasts, and no action needed respectively.

'DRDO JOB' ASPIRANTS DUPED OF ₹10L

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

A person duped job aspirants to the tune of ₹10 lakh under the pretext of providing jobs in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The issue came to light after a 37-year-old job aspirant approached the Vanasthalipuram police station and lodged a complaint.

The complainant said that he had met the accused, Rayabagi Sainath, a neighbor, who informed him that he was an employee of DRDO.

"The complainant believed Sainath who assured him a job in DRDO.

Further, Sainath said due to lockdown job notification has been delayed and promised that he will provide job in DRDO and asked for ₹5 lakh.

Sainath also assured to provide job to the complainant's wife and demanded another ₹5 lakh," said Vanasthalipuram police inspector K. Murali Mohan.

Since November 2020 the complainant paid ₹10 lakh on different occasions to accused Sainath. The accused also handed over appointment letters to them, stating it as an official letter from DRDO.

Upon inquiry the complainant realised that letters are fake, and created by Sainath, added the police.

After realising that they got cheated the complainant approached Vanasthalipuram police and lodged a formal complaint. The police booked a cheating case and started investigation to nab the accused Sainath who is absconding.

LAKE CLEANING

HMDA's deal with Bengaluru-based firm's was terminated

H'sagar contract back with NACOF

MADDY DEEKSHIT | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has once again handed over the Hussainsagar cleaning project to NACOF, a Bengaluru-based company. Incidentally, the authority had terminated this company's contract in 2018 on grounds that its work was not satisfactory.

As part of cleaning the Hussainsagar, NACOF had used effective microorganisms (EM) technology by spraying EM solution and inserting Bokashi balls

AS PER CPCB standards, DO in water should at no point be less than 3-4 mg/l for survival of aquatic life. Water bodies having DO less than 2 mg/l are known as "dead zones" as per National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.

(EM mud balls) in the lake. The outcome was satisfactory for a while as the foul smell reduced, dissolved oxygen (DO) varied from 3.6 to 6.4 mg/l and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) was between from 30 to 36

mg/l. Though ₹3 crore were spent on the project, the water quality deteriorated.

However, the HMDA has again shortlisted the same company for awarding a contract of ₹2.21 crore for the bioremediation project.

The contract is for one year with the work being halted during the monsoon. Officials maintain that NACOF is using the best technology available to enhance the water quality, though the same may not have yielded expected results earlier.

Bioremediation is a process used to treat contaminated media, including water, soil and subsurface material, by altering environmental conditions to stimulate growth of microorganisms and degrade target pollutants. However, officials have now decided to use the remediation technique, where the water would be treated using external chemicals for neutralisation, which could also arrest odour and improve quality of water in the Hussainsagar Lake.

As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) standards, DO in water should at no point be less than 3-4 mg/l for survival of aquatic life.

Water bodies having DO less than 2 mg/l are known as "dead zones" as per National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.

BOD levels should ideally be 3 mg/l but have always been high in the polluted Hussainsagar, usually ranging from 45 to 50 mg/l. Authorities use EM.1 (Effective Microorganism) solution and bokashi balls, which contain fermented organic matter to kill microorganisms and arrest algal blooms and bad odour.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Government of India

Inviting nomination for Vayoshreshtha Samman

National Award, 2021

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India invites nominations for conferment of "Vayoshreshtha Samman (National Award)", 2021 for eminent senior citizens and institutions involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens, under the following categories:-

S.No	Category	Description/ Eligibility	Nature of Awards
INSTITUTIONAL CATEGORY			
1.	Best Institution for Research in the field of Ageing	For institutions with a record of outstanding work in research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of ageing.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of five lakh Rupees.
2.	Best Institution for providing services to Senior Citizens and Awareness Generation	For institutions with a record of providing services to the elderly, especially indigent senior citizens.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of five lakh Rupees.
3.	Best District Panchayat in providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens	To the district Panchayats, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of ten lakh Rupees.
4.	Best Urban Local Body in providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens	To municipal bodies, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of ten lakh Rupees.
5.	Best State or Union Territory which has taken a lead in implementing various provisions of the Act and has highest percentage of settlement of claims of maintenance or best security programme for elderly.	To the State or Union Territory which has taken a lead in implementing various provisions of the Act and has highest percentage of settlement of claims of maintenance or best security programme for elderly.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento.
6.	Best Private Sector Organisation in promoting the wellbeing and welfare of Senior Citizens	Corporate Houses, addressing the problems of elderly either by providing them gainful employment, or utilising their skills and experience to the benefit of the society or creating infrastructure in geriatric medical care or any other similar step for the benefit of senior citizens as a community. The activities taken for benefit of senior citizens should be away from the mainline business of the organization.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento.
7.	Best Public Sector Organisation in promoting the wellbeing and welfare of Senior Citizens	Public Sector Undertakings undertaking service to the community through activities under corporate social responsibility and also through programmes for retired employees.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento.

S.No	Category	Description/ Eligibility	Nature of Awards
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY			
8.	Centenarian	For renowned individuals who are above ninety years and are still physically active, independent and contributing to the society	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.
9.	Iconic Mother	For women senior citizens who in the face of great odds, brought up their children and supported them in being high achievers in the field of their choice.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.
10.	Lifetime Achievement	To senior citizens, preferably above seventy years, who have worked in the field of ageing and made significant contribution in the field.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.
11.	Creative Art	For winners of National/international acclaim for their contribution to literature, theatre, cinema, music, dance, painting, sculpture, photography, etc. and who continue to be active in their field well into their old age.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.
12.	Sports and Adventure (one each for Male and Female)	To senior citizens who have won international acclaim and who continue to contribute in the field of sports and adventure.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.
13.	Courage & Bravery (one each for Male and Female)	To senior citizens who have displayed extra ordinary courage in the face of grave danger.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees.

2. The following agencies or individuals are eligible to make nominations of suitable persons/institutions for the Awards:-
(a) The Ministries or Departments of the Government of India and their autonomous organisations.
(b) The State Governments or Union Territory Administrations.
(c) Past recipients of Padma Awards, Vayoshreshtha Samman and other National Awards in both individual and institutional categories.
(d) Members of the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSnC) constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
(e) Renowned Apex Chambers like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) etc.
(f) Any other category of persons or institutions authorized by the Ministry from time to time.
3. Detailed eligibility criteria, proforma for nomination for the Awards and the procedure for nomination etc., are available on the website of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as indicated : <http://socialjustice.nic.in>.
4. Nominations in the prescribed proforma complete in all respects with the requisite supporting documents of the nominee, photograph and bio-data of the nominee (in case of individual category), may be sent to the following address: Shri Bharat Lal Meena, Director (Social Defence) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Room No. 637 A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi -110001.
5. The last date for receipt of nominations is 15th May, 2021. Self nominations and applications from individuals or institutions not recommended by the prescribed agencies/individuals shall not be entertained and shall be liable to be summarily rejected.

davp 38101/11/0001/2122

SHORT TAKES

CM PAYS TRIBUTES TO AMBEDKAR ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on his 130th birth anniversary on Wednesday. In his message on the occasion, he pointed out that efforts put in by Dr. Ambedkar had made the country secular with no caste or religious bias.

The CM said it was due to Dr. Ambedkar's foresight that Telangana could be formed constitutionally. He said taking inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar, the state government is implementing several schemes and programmes for welfare and development of oppressed classes.

Chandrashekhar Rao recalled that TS Pride programmes for entrepreneurs among

Dalits have yielded good results. He pointed out that the state government is providing funds at 25 paisa interest rate to Dalit industrialists for setting up food processing units. Dalits are also being given reservation in works taken up in market yards.

The Chief Minister recalled good results being produced by residential educational institution exclusively set up for SCs and STs. Besides quality education, these institutions provide SCs and STs special skills and training. He said it is a matter of pride for him that students of these residential institutions are not only showing their merit in academics, but also in various sports and co-curricular events both nationally and internationally. He pointed out that under Videsh Vidya Nidhi, students from these communities are provided financial support to pursue their studies abroad.

AP WILL VACCINATE FOUR LAKH PEOPLE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Andhra Pradesh will take up a massive Covid-19 vaccination drive on Wednesday with a target to vaccinate four lakh beneficiaries.

Though the centre announced Tika Utsav from April 11 to 14 and AP targeted to administer vaccine to 24 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of six lakh doses per day, there was no vaccination on April 12 and 13 as doses were not available. On the first day of Tika Utsav too on April 11, AP vaccinated only 2.38 lakh beneficiaries.

However, as the state government has received from the centre 6.40 lakh doses including 4.40 lakh doses of Covishield and two lakh doses of Covaxin on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon, the state government has come up with plans to take up a massive vaccination programme on the last day of Tika Utsav.

Accordingly, state health authorities will provide the jab at 1,400 Covid vaccination centres by deploying additional health personnel. 500 persons on an average will be administered the vaccine at each centre from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday with the main target of covering people aged over 45 and 60 years, apart with healthcare and frontline workers.

Authorities have directed all district medical and health officers and also district immunisation officers to gear up for the occasion by making all necessary arrangements, including mobilisation of beneficiaries. So far 82-83 percent of healthcare workers and 50 percent frontline workers have been administered the dose. Remaining have been advised to take their dose on Wednesday. State health director Dr. T. Geetha Prasadini said, "We are taking up a special Covid-19 vaccination programme to administer the vaccine to nearly four lakh targeted beneficiaries on the last day of Tika Utsav on Wednesday."

People who cannot take it on the day can take their jab on Thursday. After that, based on the available stock, we will continue the vaccination programme in the state."

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

Ugadi celebrations



Union minister G. Kishan Reddy and BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar being offered the Ugadi Pacchadi by women party workers after the Panchanga Sravanam at the BJP office Nampally in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— R. PAVAN

Check power abuse in N'sagar, EC urged

Congress alleges TRS is using money and liquor

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

liquor" by the ruling party.

The Congress leader said, "Unless Covid guidelines are implemented, there is every chance of a spread of the pandemic. Thousands of people from local and other places would be mobilised for the public meeting of chief minister Chandrashekhar Rao there on Wednesday. All outsiders should be asked to leave the constituency immediately."

"EC officials should seize thousands of vehicles being used for the campaign of TRS that are not included in the candidate's election expenditure register. Urgent action should be taken against violation

of Covid guidelines. Central forces must be deployed at the check posts and vehicles checked for cash and liquor," he pleaded.

The TPCC president urged the EC to deploy central forces at all polling booths. It must be ensured that Covid-19 guidelines are followed in the CM's public meeting on April 14. He wondered how EC could put the lives of the people at risk with the huge spike in Covid-19 cases in Telangana. He pleaded that the borders of the constituency be sealed to restrict outsiders from entering the constituency.

The TPCC chief told the EC that the TRS party had distributed cash and liquor on a

large scale during the MLC elections from the Graduates constituency last month. TRS workers have publicly distributed ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 per vote and liquor even on the polling day, he alleged.

"Despite written complaints made by me with supporting evidence to the chief electoral officer of Telangana and district officials, there was no preventive action. The Congress has submitted videos of TRS leaders distributing money. It is presumed that as high as Rs100 crore has been distributed by the TRS in the MLC elections," the TPCC chief said, adding, the same situation now prevailed in Nagarjunasagar.

Bandi spreading rumours on Jana Reddy: Bhatti

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

U-turn after Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao meeting Prime Minister Modi in Delhi. After the Delhi tour, the TRS party did not make a single statement opposing the farms laws."

He criticised TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao for the "unparliamentary" language he used against TPCC president Uttam Kumar. "It was the TRS party that began using foul language in Telangana politics," he said.

Congress working president A Revanth Reddy wondered how the Chief Minister held a mammoth public meeting on Wednesday as it would mean a victory of the Covid-19 guidelines. "KCR foresaw Nomula Bhagat's defeat and has offered a ticket to him. Why did KCR offer a ticket to him when multiple surveys

claimed that the Congress candidate's victory there would be inevitable," he asked.

Reddy said Rao had been messing up with the political career of late leader KCR did not give a single opportunity to Narsimhaiah to address his constituency issues in the legislative assembly.

"CM KCR, after Narsimhaiah's death, did not directly offer the ticket to his family members. After conducting surveys and exploring multiple options, he as a matter of strategy offered the ticket to his son to insult Nomula's family through an eventual defeat."

"I urge voters to use their discretion and vote for Jana Reddy who has been instrumental in developing the constituency since decades," he added.

The CM said that despite the financial difficulties due to Covid, there was no delay in implementation of the welfare schemes.

JAGAN UNVEils GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has, in a first-of-its-kind gesture, released a government calendar detailing the implementation schedules of the state's welfare schemes for the 2021-2022 fiscal. The release was done to mark the Ugadi celebrations.

At the event held at the camp office here on Tuesday, the chief minister stressed that his government is implementing various schemes and programmes for the welfare and development of all sections of the society. He has fulfilled more than 90 per cent of the poll promises in one year's time after his takeover in 2019, he claimed.

The CM said that despite the financial difficulties due to Covid, there was no delay in implementation of the welfare schemes.

Atchannaidu video clip blames Lokesh for mess

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 13

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

The veteran TD leader was seen saying: "17th tarvata (Tirupati bopoll day) andaru khaleeye party ledu bokka ledu (everyone in the party will be free after April 17 as party will have no future). We are carrying on with the party as we are associated with it from the very beginning." The video has surfaced as a major embarrassment to the principal Opposition party, which is facing shock after shock in the series of elections

— the 2019 assembly poll defeat, followed by the worst drubbing in the civic polls.

The party is seen losing its confidence as is also evident from the decision by party chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu to keep the TD out of the Zilla and Mandal Parishad polls.

The poll boycott has further demoralized the party cadre and raised doubts over the future of the party.

Notably, the present video got leaked a few days before the Tirupati bopoll. The video, apparently shot with a secret camera, carried a conversation between Atchannaidu and a TD leader Venkat Rao.

Their chat began over a land deal in Hyderabad and payment thereof, but went on to other matters and

the party president making sensational observations about the party and Lokesh's leadership.

Deccan Chronicle dismissively, "Too many people are indulging in mischievous things and this could be one of it."

He tweeted that the video was the handiwork of chief minister Jagan who, he said, was resorting to "stone throwing and circulating a distorted version of my conversation," out of fear of the YSRC losing the Tirupati bopoll.

"Nobody can spoil my relationship with Lokesh," he said.

The conversation begins with Venkat Rao complaining to Naidu that Lokesh was neglecting his repeated request to help him get ₹3 crore from builder K.L. Narayana.

— the party president making sensational observations about the party and Lokesh's leadership.

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OBITUARY

LATE KANUKUNTA PRAKASH GOUD

Congress Party Senior Leader

DOB : 18-01-1951 DOD : 13-04-2021

Funeral to be held on 14-04-2021

at 12.00 pm onwards

From Chikkadpally to Bansilalpet

Inserted by :

K. JANGAM RAO GOUD, K. YUGESH GOUD

SRI. MALI VEERAIAH

DOD : 12-04-1994

Your blessings will always be with us, your

memories will always remain in our hearts

Inserted by : Son : Malli Pradeep Kumar

MALLI VEERAIAH & SON

WHOLE SALE CLOTH MERCHANT

Shop No. 2-1-35, Tobacco Bazar, Sec'd.

Ph:(S) 27812669, 27846727, (R) 43662030

FURNISHINGS ANNEXE

Shop No. 2-1-29, Tobacco Bazar, Sec'd.

+91 9446266924

S. P. RAMAELLA

DOD : 14-04-2021

Your blessings will always be with us,

memories will always remain in our hearts

Inserted by : K. Sasidhar, S. K. Sudha Rani

S. K. Chandra Rekha (USA),

K. Revanth Raghuram (USA),

& Family Members

Ph: 9346266924

+91 9446266924

Smt. Jaya Lakshmi (Mother) & Family.

SHORT TAKES

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

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 13

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

Puri superintendent of police (SP) Samarth Verma took to his Twitter handle and shared the news. "We have fined our own Traffic constable of ₹2,000 for not wearing a mask. And he, as a responsible citizen has paid," the SP tweeted.

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

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

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

K.J. JALEEL QUILTS AFTER LOKAYUKTA INDICTMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
APRIL 13

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

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

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

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

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

It was the Muslim Youth League leadership which had first alleged that Jaleel's cousin Adeeb, was appointed general manager, flouting rules.



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

Maha govt imposes stern curbs till May 1

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, APRIL 13

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday announced imposition of prohibitory orders — the section 144 of CrPC (sanchar-bandh) from 8.00 pm on Wednesday to 7.00 am May 1 in order to break the chain of the Coronavirus.

The Chief Minister also said he will speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request him to provide the Indian Air Force's assistance in the supply of oxygen for medical use from nearby states. Petrol pumps, financial institutions associated with SEBI, ATMs, and construction work would also continue.

Tuesday.

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

The Chief Minister also said he will speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request him to provide the Indian Air Force's assistance in the supply of oxygen for medical use from nearby states. Petrol pumps, financial institutions associated with SEBI, ATMs, and construction work would also continue.

Corrigendum No.2
Tender No. EL-CON-NFR-EPC-14-RE-RT published vide Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/CON/RE/MLG/06/2021; Dated: 01-04-2021. Please read as: Closing date of Tender is 12-05-2021 at 14.30 hrs instead of 27-04-2021 and Bid start Date on 28-04-2021 instead of 13-04-2021. Other terms and conditions will remain same.
Dy.CEE/CON/RE/Malgao Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation)
SRV SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Mistakes of past need not constrain our thinking: PM

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

Congress, Sena fear Kumbh returnees may worsen crisis

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, APRIL 13

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

that the people returning from Kumbh mela in Haridwar will turn out to be potential carriers of Covid.

Without taking the name of the BJP, Shaikh said that the same people who accused the Tablighi Jamaat of spreading Covid in the country have allowed lakhs of people to gather at Kumbh Mela in Haridwar.

He claimed that the number of Coronavirus patients are increasing by four times in Haridwar.

reduced in people's lives" and that "with a number of proxy wars and unending terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present".

The Prime Minister was delivering an address at the four-day sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogue conference in the Capital that began in Virtual format on Tuesday. Calling upon the participants "to emerge as a powerful voice for a human centric approach", he reminded them that "while we may be used to having Plan A and plan B, there is no Planet B, only planet Earth" and that "we must

remember that we hold this planet merely as trustees for our future Generations".

The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, held annually since 2016" and is "jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the (think-tank) Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

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

The Congress leader said that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat should be held accountable for Cobid spread. "When many states are invoking section 144 to avoid the gathering of more than five people, the Uttarakhand CM is giving opportunity to gather lakhs of people," Shaikh said.

Raut raised the apprehension that the infections in Maharashtra are increasing because of Kumbh returnees.

cooperation has been forgotten. After the end of the second world war over the next few decades many structures and institutions were created but under the shadow of the two wars they were aimed at answering only one question, how to prevent the Third World War? Today, I submit to you that this was the wrong question, as a result all the steps taken were like treating a patient symptoms without addressing the underlying causes. Or to put it differently, all the steps taken were to prevent the last war not the next one."

In the last couple of days, Surat city reported 18 to 19 deaths due to Covid-19 every day.

"Before the outbreak last year, around 20 bodies were cremated at the Kurukshetra Crematorium every day. Now, there is a sudden rush of bodies. At present, we are handling about 100 bodies per day," Kamlesh Sailor, president of a trust which manages the crematorium, said. — PTI

GUJ: FRAMES OF CREMATORIUM FURNACES MELT**RECRUITMENT OF SPORTSPERSONS AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA IN GROUP-'C' GRADE FOR THE YEAR 2020-21**

South Eastern Railway invites applications from eligible sports-persons for filling up of 21 posts in various disciplines in Grade Pay Rs. 2,400/2,800 & 1,900/2,000.

Notification with complete details will be available in Railway Recruitment Cell, South Eastern Railway's official website www.rrcsr.co.in from 16.04.2021.

Filled in applications along with all necessary documents and participation certificates, should be made available at the Railway Recruitment Cell, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043, by post or in hand, on or before 18.00 hrs. on the closing date as mentioned.

Opening Date : 16.04.2021 • Closing Date : 17.05.2021

Closing Date 27.05.2021 for candidates belonging to special areas as mentioned in the main Notification

Employment Notice No. : SER/Pers/Sports Quota/OA/2020-21

Chairman, Railway Recruitment Cell (PR-09)

South Eastern Railway

We serve with a smile

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road, Lucknow - 226014 (U.P.) India, www.spgi.ac.in
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FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

The Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow invites applications on prescribed form, from suitable Indian citizens of all categories for appointment as Assistant Professors and Associate Professor on contract basis for a period of one year or till regular appointment, whichever is earlier in various Departments. Last date for receipt of applications is 26th April, 2021. For detailed information, kindly visit the website www.spgi.ac.in

Advt. No. I / 01/DIR/DC/ 2021-22

Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecommunication)/Northern Railway/Lucknow division/Lucknow, for and on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders in

Two packet system from the experienced & established contractors satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Tender No.	05/S&T/T2020-21 (3rd Call)
Name of Work	"Signalling work in connection with turnout renewal (TWS) work over Lucknow Division."
Approximate Cost	Rs. 11,73,20,479.56
Cost of tender form	NIL
Earnest Money	NIL (BID Security Declaration)
Completion period	Eleven Months
Last date and time of submission of tender document	07.05.2021, 15.00 Hrs.
Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in Office of the Sr. DSTE, DRM office Complex/Northern Railway, Lucknow

• The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

• For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

• No manual offers are acceptable.

Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable online through net banking or payment gateway only. T. Notice No. 713-Sig/TN-05/S&T/20-21 (3rd Call)

Dated: 12.04.2021

839/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (C.G.) NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT (Two-Envelope Bidding process with e-Procurement) e-PROCUREMENT REQUEST FOR BIDS eProcurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in/app>

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

In Tender ID No. 2021_WRCWB_624787-/RFB_No.19/SAC/2020-21/Rudri/Drip-II Dated 30.03.2021 G.No. 60005 and In Tender ID No. 2021_WRCWB_624791-/RFB No. 20/SAC/2020-21/Rudri/Drip-II Dated 30.03.2021 G.No. 60006 (B) Contents of Bidding Document ITB 7.4 & Qualification Criteria is amendments. Detail amendments upload in (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
E&M H.E.M.M. Division Rudri
for Chief Engineer
Mahanadi Project Water Resources
Department Raipur

G-60185/8



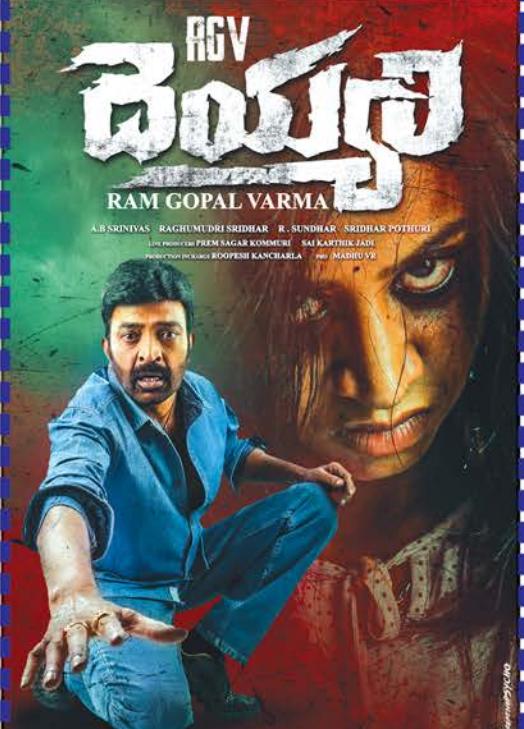
Babasaheb's Vision, Our Mission
Shaping a New India built upon Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

- Over 3000 Safai Mitras trained in desludging operations in 69 Municipalities across India.
- 13,128 SC majority villages taken up under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.
- 5000 copies of Babasaheb's writings and speeches published in both Hindi and English.
- Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is being implemented vibrantly. Women and young adults are actively involved.
- Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) & Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) launched in 2014-15.
- Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for Denotified Tribes (DNTs) launched in 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.
- Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to EBCs launched in 2014-15.

"Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar made indelible contributions towards India's progress. His efforts to further social empowerment, harmony and equality are inspiring."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Floral Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary



SANDHYA 35MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
RTC X ROADS

ARJUN 70-KUKATPALLY
RAJADHANI COMPLEX
TARAKARAMA 70MM

OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur | Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal

Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit | Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh

Next galleria

INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL
CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA
SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR PLATINUM

BIG CINEMAS PRASAD'S MULTIPLEX

SIVASAKTHI 70MM-KAPRA **RAJYALAXMI 70MM-UPPAL**

SRLATHA 70MM-R.C.PURAM **METRO 70MM BAHADURPURA**

KUMAR 70 KACHIGUDA **MAHALAXMI 70MM KOTHAPETA**

ANJALI 70 SEC'BAD **AARADHANA 70MM-TARNAKA**

LAXMIKALA 70MM MANDIR-ALWAL **LAXMI 70MM SHAMSHABAD**

CONTACT: 9030161717



DEVI 70MM
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00pm

KONARK 70MM
11.15am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm
MALLIKARJUNA 70
11.15am, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30pm

INDRA VEKATARAMANA - 3.00pm

SRI LATHA 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRINIVASA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SUSHMA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

PRASADS - 12.30, 2.45, 5.45, 8.00 I

O AMB - 10.40, 1.55, 4.35, 7.25, 7.40, 10.35

PVR

CENTRAL - 11.05, 7.10, 10.20 I

GALLERIA - 10.10, 1.20, 4.30, 7.40, 10.50 I

PRESTON - 1.10, 7.20 I **ICON - 1.00, 7.10, 10.20**

FORUM - 10.00, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40 I

INORBIT - 1.00, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30 I

MUSARAMBAGH - 4.20, 6.05, 9.15 I

IRRUM MANZIL - 1.05, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00 I

MIRAJ - Shalini - 1.10, 1.50, 4.20, 5.00, 10.50

MIRAJ - Balangar - 1.25, 4.30, 10.50pm I

MIRAJ - Balangar - 3.15 I **RK - 1.35, 7.30 I**

S2 - Mallapur - 10.35, 2.10, 4.55, 7.30 I

DSL - 2.30, 5.50, 9.10 I

MANTRA - 10.00, 1.15, 7.10, 10.25 I

CCLP - 10.10, 1.45, 10.30 I

SUDHA - 1.40, 7.35 I

CINESQUARE

10.35, 1.35, 4.40, 7.25, 10.20 I

CINEPLANET - 10.45, 1.40, 4.35, 7.30, 10.30 I

GPR - 1.20, 7.25 I **LAXMIKALA - 11.20, 6.20 I**

RADHIKA - 10.50, 1.30, 4.30, 10.15 I

MJR - 1.35, 4.35, 7.30, 10.25 I

M CUBE - 1.30, 7.30, 10.30 I **SWAPNA - 2.15 I**

SHA - 2.45, 9.45 I **SHIVA - 2.15 I**

INOX GVK - 10.30, 1.50, 6.50, 10.20 I

GSM - 12.25, 3.50, 5.00, 7.15, 10.40 I

TIVOLI - 11.10, 2.00, 4.50, 7.40, 10.30 I

PLATINUM - 10.00, 2.50, 8.00, 10.45 I

BRIDGE FILMS

Central forces in Bengal told to show restraint

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

Bengal during the Assembly elections. Home Ministry has directed all officers of central para-military forces of the rank of Deputy Commandant and above to ensure personally that forces display maximum restraint while dealing with the crowd. Importantly, officials have been very specifically directed that "firing should be avoided at all cost unless there is grave provocation and use of firm arms becomes unavoidable."

Bengal has seen an unprecedented deployment of nearly one lakh security personnel in the longest eight-phase election that the state has ever witnessed. Home ministry sources claimed that they were estimating some trouble during the Assembly elections as they are being stretched over a month and there is considerable competition as being witnessed among all major political parties like TMC, BJP, Left and Congress.

Both Election Commission and home ministry is now watching the situation even more closely now and are working over time to ensure that Cooch Behar incident is not repeated again.

Didi calls off Dharna as EC acts against 3 BJP leaders

Mamata was protesting EC's ban on her campaign for 24 hours

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, APRIL 13

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

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

From 11.45 am Banerjee, in her wheelchair, began her silent protest, also a rare scene, sitting there alone.

As she was seen talking on her mobile before getting busy at painting, it came to light that her party's application to the defence ministry for permission for her demonstration at the venue was yet to be cleared.



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

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

Meanwhile the EC, in wake

of the TMC's questions on its impartiality, ordered a 48-hour campaign ban, starting from 12 noon on Tuesday, on Habra BJP candidate Rahul Sinha for his inflammatory remarks on the killings of four persons by the Central paramilitary forces at Shitalkuchi in Cooch Behar during the fourth phase of the polls.

"Not four, eight people should have been shot dead

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

of the people over caste, creed and religion to trigger communal disharmony and hatred. TMC even branded us as "Outsiders" and Vote Katua here."

Rejecting the TMC's slogan, the AIMIM chief told the crowd, "We are not here before the Lok Sabha Election in 2019. How could the BJP bag 18 seats here then? The reason is that the Congress is weak while the TMC is corrupt and it failed to bring development here. We are not outsiders or guests here. We are here to stay to fight in Panchayat to Parliament polls for the betterment of poor Muslims."

He also argued, "Murshidabad has been ruled by the Congress despite the enactment against Triple Talaq. TMC, CPI(M). Then why are people not getting pure drinking water and education? Why are the poor villagers compelled to go to Kashmir and get bullets of terrorists? Why aren't the victims' family members getting Insaaf (Justice)? Why are 38% of the poor Muslims languishing in jails? Why are the Bidi workers not getting wages? What did the local TMC MLA do in the last 10 years?"

For an increasing communal hatred, the AIMIM chief also blamed politics of the BJP and a weak performance of the Congress. He complained that the Muslim women were yet to get justice despite the enactment against Triple Talaq.

SHAH TRIES TO WOO GORKHAS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC

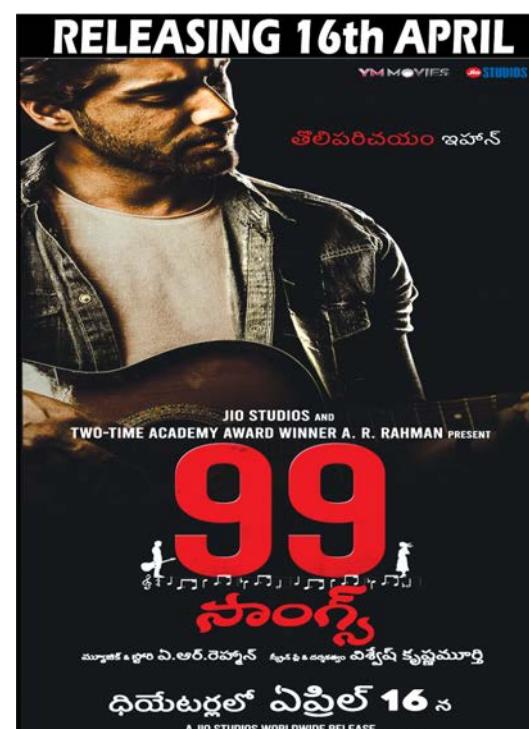
KOLKATA, APRIL 13

In his desperate bid to woo the Gorkhas about their separate statehood demand of Gorkhaland ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal, Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assured them in Darjeeling that "two governments of the BJP" — one at the Centre and another in West Bengal, if the saffron party comes to power in the state — would work out their "permanent political solution" under the ambit of the Constitution."

He also made it clear that the Centre does not have any plan to implement the National Register of Citizens.

"I know you are worried about the permanent political solution for the Gorkhas. But our constitution is also vast. There is a solution for every problem in our constitution. I promise you today that the permanent political solution for the Gorkhas will be worked out by two governments of the BJP, one at the Centre and state. You do not need any movement for this," Shah told a rally in the hills.

Though Shah did not spell out the word "Gorkhaland" in his speech, this was perhaps the first time when any senior BJP leader gave a reference to the use of constitutional provisions to sort out the issue which has slipped out the saffron party's hands.



IN BRIEF
Record-holding rabbit stolen

London, April 13: Police say one of the world's biggest bunnies has been stolen from its home in central England.

Darius, a Continental Giant rabbit, disappeared from his enclosure in a backyard in the village of Stoulton over the weekend, the West Mercia Police force said. They did not elaborate on why they thought it was a theft instead of an escape. The force appealed for any information about or sightings of Darius, who is gray-brown and 129 centimetres (4 feet, 3 inches) long at full stretch. He holds the Guinness World Records citation for the world's longest rabbit.

Egypt impounds Ever Given

Cairo, April 13: Egyptian authorities impounded a massive cargo vessel that blocked the Suez Canal last month amid a financial dispute with its owner, the canal chief and a judicial official said Tuesday. Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie said the hulking Ever Given would not be allowed to leave the country until a compensation amount is settled on with the vessel's Japanese owner, Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd.

"The vessel is now officially impounded," he told Egypt's state-run television late Monday. "They do not want to pay anything." There was no immediate comment from the vessel's owner. Rabie did not say how much money the canal authority was seeking.

Ramzan begins



Muslim worshippers gather for prayers around the Kaaba, the holiest shrine in the Grand mosque complex in the Saudi city of Mecca during the first day of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramzan on Tuesday.

India invited for Afghan, Taliban talks this month

Istanbul Conference to be held from April 24 to May 4

United Nations, April 13: The United Nations, Turkey and Qatar are convening a high level and "inclusive conference" this month between representatives of Afghanistan and the Taliban, aimed at accelerating the ongoing intra-Afghan negotiations on achieving a just and durable political settlement. Turkey will host the Istanbul Conference on the Afghanistan Peace Process in Istanbul from April 24 to May 4 between representatives of Afghanistan and the Taliban, the UN said on Tuesday.

"Participation in the Conference and its agenda have been the subject of extensive consultations with the Afghan parties. The Conference will focus on helping the negotiating parties reach a set of shared, foundational prin-

ciples that reflect an agreed vision for a future Afghanistan," it added. India is among the over 20 nations that have been invited for the talks. The UN said that the overriding objective of the Istanbul Conference on the Afghanistan Peace Process is to accelerate and complement the ongoing intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha on the achievement of a just and durable political settlement.

"Participation in the Conference and its agenda have been the subject of extensive consultations with the Afghan parties. The Conference will focus on helping the negotiating parties reach a set of shared, foundational prin-

the UK, the US, Pakistan and Russia. EU High Representative Josep Borrell, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation Yousef Bin Ahmad Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Othaimeen have also been invited to the talks.

In Feb. 2020, the US and the Taliban signed an agreement under which the militant group agreed to halt attacks and hold peace talks with the Afghan government, in exchange for a US commitment to a complete withdrawal by May 2021.

—PTI

Biden urged to set climate goal

Washington, April 13: More than 300 businesses and investors, including such giants as Apple, Google, Microsoft and Coca-Cola, are calling on the Biden administration to set an ambitious climate change goal that would cut United States greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2050.

The target would nearly double the nation's previous commitment and require dramatic changes in

the power, transportation and other sectors.

President Joe Biden is considering options for expected carbon reductions by 2030 ahead of a virtual climate summit the United States is hosting later this month.

The so-called Nationally Determined Contribution is a key milestone as President Biden moves toward his ultimate goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Biden has promised to

reveal the nonbinding but symbolically important 2030 goal before the Earth Day summit opens on April 22.

A bold 2030 target is needed to catalyze a zero-emissions future, spur a robust economic recovery, create millions of well-paying jobs and allow the United States to build back better from the pandemic," the businesses and investors said in a letter to Biden.

—AP

Washington, April 13: Urging American lawmakers to pass a legislation that ends the archaic per country quota for legal permanent residency in the US, a group of frontline Indian-American healthcare professionals, stuck in the 150-plus-year Green Card backlog, held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Capitol.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently in the country. In a joint statement on Monday, the Indian-American doctors said that they are in a 150-plus-year Green Card backlog

due to archaic country caps that allows no nation to get more than seven per cent of employment-based green cards.

"India is a land of a billion plus people but the number of green cards it gets is the same as Iceland. There is no cap on H-1B visa though and Indians make 50 per cent of the H-1B work

force. This discrepancy between H-1B and green cards has created an inhuman backlog that is adversely affecting our professional and personal lives," they said. Indian IT professionals are the worst sufferers of the immigration system which imposes a seven per cent per country quota on allotment of Green Card. —PTI

PIO healthcare staff strike work

Washington, April 13: Urging American lawmakers to pass a legislation that ends the archaic per country quota for legal permanent residency in the US, a group of frontline Indian-American healthcare professionals, stuck in the 150-plus-year Green Card backlog, held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Capitol.

POWERFUL HIT



SUDARSHAN 35MM
 { ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS }
 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

KUKATPALLY

VISWANATH 70MM
 11.45am, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45pm

BRAHMARAMBA 70
 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

ARJUN 70MM
 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30pm

DILSHUKNAGAR

KONARK 70MM
 11.15am, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15pm

RAJADHANI DELUXE
 11.00am, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00pm

SVC

MAHALAXMI, 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

EESHWAR, 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SANGEETHA, 11.15, 2.15, 6.00, 9.00

SRI LAXMI, 12.00, 3.00, 7.00, 10.00

PRASADS LARGE - 10.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45pm

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - 10.00, 10.15, 12.00, 1.00,

PRASAD - 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 4.15, 6.30, 7.30, 7.75, 9.00, 10.00, 10.15, 10.45pm

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli
 9.30am, 12.45, 3.45, 3.55, 6.50, 7.05, 7.20, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 10.10, 10.15pm

TIVOLI CINEMAS - Sebad - 12.90am, 12.40,

1.30, 3.50, 4.40, 7.00, 7.50, 10.10, 10.50pm

SLM - 8.25, 9.00, 8.30, 10.00, 11.00, 11.25, 1.55, 2.30, 3.00,

4.00, 4.45, 7.00, 7.40, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 10.30, 10.40, 11.00

TALLURI 11.00, 11.15, 2.00, 2.15, 6.00, 6.15, 9.00, 9.15

Cinépolis

DSL - Uppal - 12.15, 12.25, 12.35, 12.55, 1.05, 3.30,

3.40, 3.50, 4.10, 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 7.25, 7.35, 10.00, 10.10,

10.20, 10.40, 10.50pm

MANTRA - Attapur - 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50,

12.15, 12.25, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 3.30, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 6.45,

7.00, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 10.00, 10.10, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50

CCPL - Malkajgiri - 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 12.30,

1.15, 1.40, 4.15, 4.30, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 10.15, 10.30,

10.45, 11.00pm

SUDHA - 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 12.15, 12.45, 1.00,

1.15, 1.30, 3.30, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30,

7.45, 10.00, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00

MIRAJ - Shalini Shivani - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30,

1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 7.30, 7.40,

7.50, 8.00, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10

MIRAJ - Balanagar - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10,

1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50,

8.00, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm

MIRAJ - Chandanagar - 11.00, 12.00, 2.30, 3.30, 6.00,

7.00, 9.30, 10.30pm

2021'S BIGGEST HIT



SUDARSHAN 35MM
 { ENJOY 4K PROJECTION AND DOLBY ATMOS }
 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

PVR

FORUM - Kukatpally - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.00, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20pm

INORBIT - Cyberabad - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.20, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.30, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20pm

CENTRAL - Punjagutta - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10pm

RK - Banjara - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 1.10, 2.20, 1.30, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00pm

ICON - Hitech - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 2.40, 3.00, 3.20, 4.00, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40pm

GALLERIA - Punjagutta - 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 7.10, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 10.20, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20pm

IRRUM MANZIL - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 2.20, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 4.00, 4.20, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40, 11.00pm

MOSARAMBAGH - 11.20, 11.40, 12.00, 12.20, 12.40, 1.00, 2.20, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 4.00, 4.20, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 9.20, 9.40, 10.00, 10.20, 10.40, 11.00pm

10.20, 10.40, 11.00pm

PRESTON PRIME - Gachibowli - 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30, 12.50, 1.00, 2.20,

IN BRIEF

Egypt releases activist: Lawyer

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

Biden dog goes back to school

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

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

Tennessee school shooting: 1 dead

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

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

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

Vatican probe: U.S. Bishop quits

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

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

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

HK's LEGISLATIVE POLL TO TAKE PLACE IN DEC.

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

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

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

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

Iran to enrich uranium to highest level**JAPAN'S MOVE TO RELEASE N-PLANT WATER: CHINA OBJECTS**

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

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

500 troops to be added by US in Germany: Austin

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

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

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

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

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

"These forces will strengthen deterrence and defense in Europe. They

will augment our existing abilities to prevent conflict, and, if necessary, fight and win," Austin said in prepared remarks.

"This move will also create more space, more cyber, and more electronic warfare capabilities in Europe," he added, and he said it will "greatly improve our ability to surge forces at a moment's notice to defend our allies."

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

"I fear the situation in Myanmar is heading towards a full-blown conflict," Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in the statement.

"States must not allow the deadly mistakes of the past in Syria and elsewhere to be repeated." Myanmar is in chaos and its economy paralysed since the military seized power from civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1.

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

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	48,544.06
Nifty 50	14,504.80
S&P 500*	4,133.82
Dollar (₹)	75.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.11
Euro (₹)	89.33
Gold (10g)* (₹)	46,093 ▼130
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	63.99
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.011
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.661
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	-0.015

* As of 8:30 PM IST

China's March exports rise 30.6% as demand revives

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

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■ Dues to Centre, states, staff extinguish with plan passage SC: Dues not payable if not part of IBC resolution plan

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

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

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



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

As per the amendment made in 2019 in section 31 of IBC, any debt in respect of the payment of dues arising under any law for the time being in force, including the ones owed to the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, which does not form a part of the approved resolution plan, shall stand extinguished.

Once a resolution plan is duly approved by the adju-

dicating authority, the claims as provided in the resolution plan shall stand frozen and will be binding on the Corporate Debtor and its employees, members, creditors, including the Central Government, any State Government or any local authority, guarantors and other stakeholders, Justice Gavai, who wrote the 139-page judgment, said.

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

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

The top court was faced with the question whether any creditor, including central or state governments, was bound by the Resolution Plan once it is approved by an adjudicating authority under IBC.

The other issue was as to whether after approval of the resolution plan, all claims, which are not a part of the resolution plan, shall stand extinguished and no person will be entitled to initiate or continue any proceedings

— PTI

FB, Instagram users can now appeal to Oversight Board

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

social media platforms.

Facebook, which has

faced flak in many parts of

the world over various

issues, including data breaches and handling of content decisions for the social networking platforms.

"Enabling users to appeal

content they want to see

removed from Facebook is

a significant expansion of the Oversight Board's

capabilities," Thomas

Hughes, director of the

Oversight Board

Administration, said in a statement.

The Oversight Board

said this new capability

represents an important step toward delivering a

more principled and transparent model of content moderation.

— PTI

Star-studded field for India Open Marin, Momota among top entries as badminton action returns to India



On May 3," BAI said in a release.

"... Players and officials from rest of the world can arrive on May 6 and undergo a 4-day quarantine period and have to report in the capital city

On the court, three-time world champion Marin will lead the women's singles category along with other Top-10 shuttlers such as Akane Yamaguchi, 2019 world

champion P.V. Sindhu, Korea's An Se-Young and Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong.

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

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

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

Among the men, two-time world champion Momota, defending champion Viktor Axelson, Anders Antonsen and reigning All England Open champion Zii Jia Lee will be in the fray.

Srikanth Kidambi will lead the Indian charge along with B. Sai Praneeth, H.S. Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap.

The last date for withdrawal of entry is April 19 while the draw will be announced on April 20.

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

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

— PTI

SA WOMEN CRICKETERS STUCK IN BANGLADESH AFTER POSITIVE TEST

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

Seventeen other members of the South Africa Emerging team left Bangladesh late Monday before the country imposed a ban on international flights over a surge in new cases there.

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

"All members of the South African team gave Covid-19 test samples before their departure from Sylhet. Five of them tested positive," said Himangshu Lal Roy, deputy director of the

— AFP

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

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

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

Documents seen by AFP indicated that team manager Matshipi Marcia Letsalo and players Sinalo Jaffa, Leah Jones, Nobulumko Baneti and Robyn Seale had been left behind.

— AFP

London, April 13: The Indian women's cricket team will play a historic one-off Test against England in Bristol as part of a multi-format series that will also feature three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals across June-July.

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

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

"All members of the South African team gave Covid-19 test samples before their departure from Sylhet. Five of them tested positive," said Himangshu Lal Roy, deputy director of the

in Chelmsford.

After announcing its home fixtures, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive officer Tom Harrison, said: "We're really looking forward to a busy summer in what is a huge year for our England Women's team, and we're very excited about hosting India and New Zealand."

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

— PTI

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

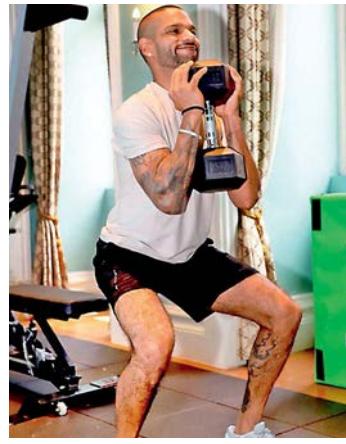
DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021

pg 10

ORANGE	
Nitish Rana, KKR	137
Sanju Samson, RR	119
KL Rahul, PBKS	91

PURPLE	
Andre Russell, KKR	6
Harshal Patel, RCB	5
Rahul Chahar, MI	4

Off the field



DC opener Shikhar Dhawan works out at the team hotel.

Archer's IPL return remains uncertain

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

Rohit wants to maintain fitness

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

When Harshal felt insulted

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

RUSS HOUR CHAOS

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

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KKR's Andre Russell celebrates a Mumbai Indians wicket.

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma b Cummins 43, Quinton de Kock c Tripathi b Varun 2, Suryakumar Yadav c Shubman Gill b Shakib Al Hasan 56, Ishan Kishan c Prasidh Krishna b Cummins 1, Hardik Pandya c Russell b Prasidh Krishna 15, Kieron Pollard b Karthik b Russell 5, Krunal Pandya c Prasidh Krishna b Russell 15, Marco Jansen c Cummins b Russell 0, Rahul Chahar c Shubman Gill b Russell 8, Jasprit Bumrah c Shakib Al Hasan b Russell 0, Trent Boult (not out) 0. **Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7. Total (In 20 overs) 152.**

FW: 1-10, 2-86, 3-88, 4-115, 5-123, 6-125, 7-126, 8-150, 9-150.

Bowling: Harbhajan Singh 2-0-17-0, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-27-1, Shakib Al Hasan 4-0-23-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-24-2, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-42-1, Andre Russell 2-0-15-5.

Kolkata Knight Riders:

Nitish Rana st de Kock b Chahar 57, Shubman Gill c Pollard b Chahar 33, Rahul Tripathi c de Kock b Chahar 5, Eoin Morgan c Jansen b Chahar 7, Shakib Al Hasan c Yadav b KH Pandya 9, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8, Andre Russell c & b Boult 9, Pat Cummins b Boult 0, Harbhajan Singh (not out) 2. **Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 1, w 2) 12. Total (In 20 overs) 142/7.**

FW: 1-72, 2-84, 3-104, 4-122, 5-122, 6-140, 7-140.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-27-2, Marco Jansen 2-0-17-0, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-28-0, Krunal Pandya 4-0-13-1, Kieron Pollard 1-0-12-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-27-4, Rohit Sharma 1-0-9-0.

and landed on the canopy.

Suryakumar, however,

had to depart soon after

being caught at long on.

The partnership between

Suryakumar and Rohit —

76 — was the highest of

Mumbai's innings.

As Pat Cummins dealt a

double blow by removing

Ishan Kishan and Rohit

(43 off 32 balls), Mumbai

were reduced to 115 for

four.

De Kock who replaced

Mumbai's previous match

top-scorer Chris Lynn was

out for two.

After a slow start,

Mumbai stepped on the

gas with Suryakumar

Yadav taking over the

control. His fifty came off 33

balls and reached the

landmark in style with a

big six over off Pat

Cummins. The ball sailed

over the deep square-leg

gently. Morgan unleashed

a three-pronged spin

attack with Harbhajan

Singh, Varun

Chakravarthy and Shakib

Al Hasan operating in the

powerplay.

As the slow Chepauk

pitch had something for

the spinners, Mumbai had

to play out with caution.

They made 42 runs having

lost Quinton de Kock

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Earlier, Russell who was

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wiped out the bottom half

of the Mumbai line-up in

just 12 deliveries. His West

Indies team-mate Kieron

Pollard was his first victim.

Pollard nicked a full and

wide delivery to be

caught behind.

KKR skipper Eoin

Morgan deserved praise

for using his bowlers dili-

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Singh, Varun

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Al Hasan operating in the

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