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HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 18 APRIL 2021

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PAKISTAN TEAM TO TRAVEL TO INDIA FOR WORLD T20

New Delhi, April 17: The Pakistan cricket team, led by Babar Azam, will have no difficulty in travelling to India for the ICC World T20 in October as the government is set to grant visas to the players from the neighbouring nation.

It has been learnt that BCCI secretary Jay Shah has informed the Apex Council about government's decision on giving visas to the Pakistan players. "The visa issue of Pakistan cricket team has been sorted. However whether the fans can travel across the border to watch matches is still not clear," an apex council member said on condition of anonymity.

"It will be decided in due course of time. However we had promised ICC that it will be sorted. The secretary announced during the meeting," India and Pakistan have not played bilateral series for years now due to political tension. The BCCI has also zeroed in on nine venues where World T20 will be held with Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium hosting the final. —PTI

TS runs out of vaccine, halts the drive for a day

To resume when Centre delivers 2.7 lakh doses

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The state government has halted Covid-19 vaccinations all 1,077 state-run centres for a day on Sunday due to a shortage. Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao announced late on Saturday evening that, "There will not be any vaccination at government Covid vaccination centres on April 18. Vaccination will resume on April 19."

Earlier in the day, addressing a press conference, Dr Rao had said that Telangana state was running short of vaccines and was hoping that a promised delivery of 2.7 lakh doses by the Centre would materialise late on Saturday or on Sunday morning. He had said that there were just enough doses for one day. "If the supplies do not come, then we will have just around 2 lakh doses left with us that might last us for Sunday or just spill over a bit for Monday," he had said earli-

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

People visiting bars and pubs and gatherings with just a few hundred people, are among the reasons for the very fast spread of Covid-19 during the current second wave in the state, according to the official at the helm of the battle to contain the disease.

Dr Rao said the nearly 25

Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, director of health services, said that as part of the tracing and tracking of contacts of people found to be Covid positive, his department staff found that 40 Covid cases were linked to just one pub, another 32 cases were linked to one bar.

■ Report on Page 2

lakh first doses represent more than a quarter of the nearly 80 lakh persons aged 45 and above who are eligible to get vaccinated. "If we continue at the current pace, we should be able to vaccinate everyone eligible in the state by the end of June," he said.

■ Page 2: Disruptions due to shortage of vaccines

TS BJP LEADERS IN TROUBLE FOR MEETING KTR

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The BJP central leadership took serious note of a delegation of state party leaders meeting TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao with a request to not field a candidate for the GHMC Lingojiguda division by-election.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJP corporator-elect Akula Ramesh Goud. The state BJP has decided to field his son Akhil Goud. A delegation led by N. Ramchander Rao, who recently lost the Legislative Council polls, met Rama Rao at the latter's residence on Friday and put forth the proposal which the TRS leader immediately agreed to.

Party sources said the development did not go down well with the central leadership which is actively considering issuing showcause notices to the BJP leaders including R. a m c h a n d e r Rao involved in the exercise.

■ Page 4: No tacit pact in TS, says BJP leader

TRS upbeat over high poll turnout

89% polling is highest in 3 Sagar polls

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) is upbeat following the record 89 per cent polling, the highest in the past three elections, recorded in the Nagarjunasagar Assembly by-election on Saturday.

TRS leaders said the higher polling percentage in recent Legislative Council elections had worked in favour of TRS and the same would be repeated in Nagarjunasagar.

They exuded confidence of securing a majority that would be higher than what was recorded in the 2018 December Assembly elections.

In 2018, TRS candidate Nomula Narasimhaiah had won with a majority of 7,726 votes over Congress candidate K. Jana Reddy and TRS is confident that Narasimhaiah's son Bhagat will surpass his father's margin of victory. The leaders claimed that

MINOR VIOLENCE HITS FIFTH PHASE OF WB ELECTIONS

TIRUPATI BYPOLL SEES ONLY 64% VOTER TURNOUT

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, APRIL 17

Barring a few sporadic incidents and Opposition parties raising allegations over the bogus voting, the by-election for the Tirupati (SC) parliamentary constituency remained peaceful on Saturday. Polling was spread over seven Assembly constituencies.

Despite several messages from the ECI, urging the voters to exercise their franchise, Tirupati city pulled down the voter turnout to an all-time low at 64.29 per cent out of 17.10 lakh voters. In the 2019 elections, it was 78.99. The poll percentage could be revised slightly upwards by Sunday when segment-wise figures are available.

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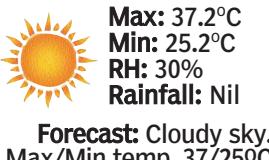


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WEATHER



Max: 37.2°C
Min: 25.2°C
RH: 30%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Max/Min temp. 37/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Suddha Shashthi till

10.31 pm

Star: Arudra till 5 am (Monday)

Varijyam: 11.48 am to 1.33 pm

Durmuhuram: 4.49 pm to

5.39 pm

RahuKalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Ramzan 5,144 AH

PRAVERS

Fajr: 4.55 am

Zohar: 12.25 pm

Asar: 4.38 pm

Maghrib: 6.38 pm

Isha: 7.48 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.32 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 9.28 AM

MOONSET TODAY 11 PM

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR: 6.38 pm (Today)

SEHRI: 4.33 am (Tomorrow)

COUNTER POINT



Let us loot vaccines and oxygen from the hospital!

COVID-19: GOVT CUTS DOWN SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL OXYGEN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The state government has halted all supplies of industrial oxygen and is using all available oxygen manufacturing capacities to meet the increased demand for the life-saving gas for the increasing number of Covid-19 patients as well as ensuring availability to patients suffering from other serious health conditions that require supplemental oxygen.

In pre-Covid pandemic times, the state used to use 1.2-1.3 tonnes of medical oxygen a day. Now the demand is between 2.3-2.4 tonnes a day and to ensure enough oxygen is available, the government has ordered a stoppage of supply of the gas to industries, Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao told reporters.

There is no shortage of oxygen but it is now a national resource and must be used judiciously, he said, adding that there was also wastage of the precious gas when high-flow settings are used on patients who do not require it and when the tubes are moved away from the nose when patients move.

It's just the beginning of deadly 2nd wave

No one should let their guard down till the end of June as Covid is spreading rapidly, says health director

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Even as Telangana recorded its highest ever daily tally of Covid-19 cases at 4,446 on Friday, this may just be the beginning of what is in store in the next few weeks.

"No one, absolutely no one, should let their guard down till the end of June as the virus is spreading extremely rapidly through the population. The government is doing all it can but unless people join in the efforts to curb the spread of Coronavirus, we will lose this battle," Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao warned on Saturday.

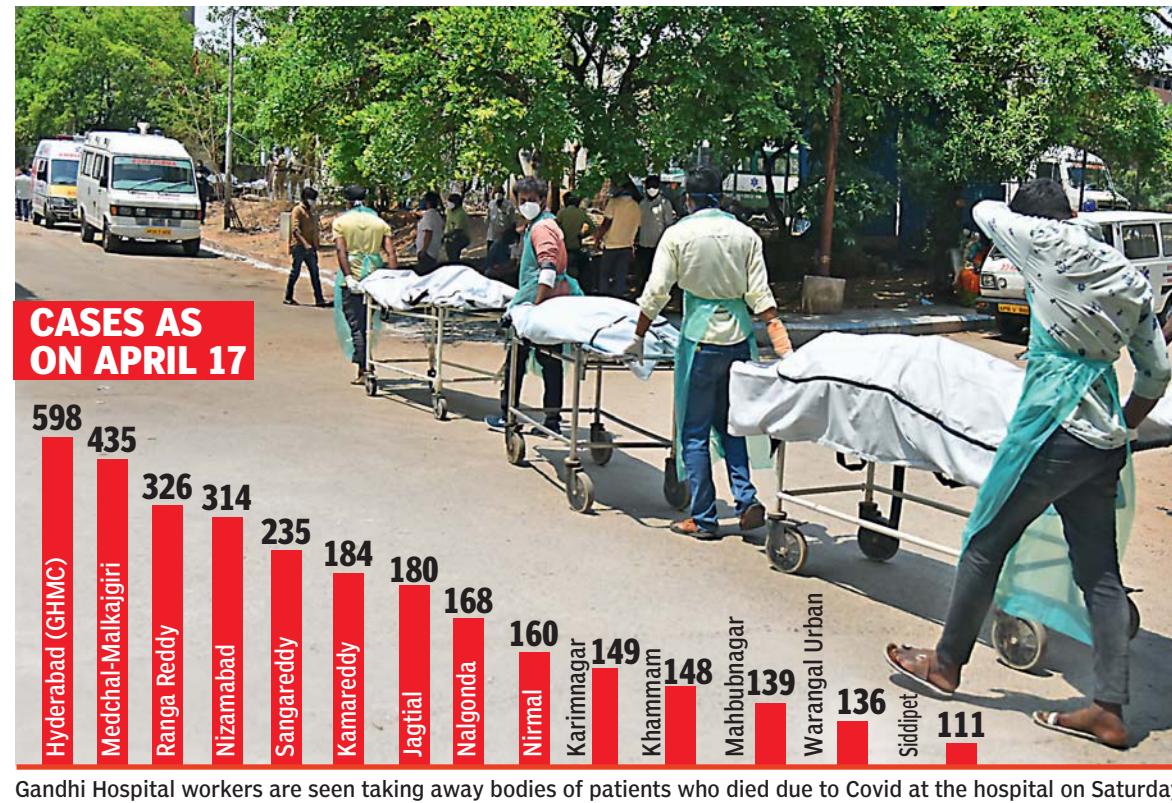
He said if that happens, there may be nothing that can save the people. For the past few months, people have been careless and have been ignoring basic protection measures. The virus is airborne, something he said he warned about four days ago, and a new study published in the medical journal Lancet too points to the same mode of transmission of the virus.

"It is, however, good to see mask-wearing compliance increase over the past few days thanks to the enforcement drive by the police who have been fining every person not wearing a mask ₹1,000. Safety behaviour should be voluntary and it is surprising to see that it has taken steep fines for people to follow the guidelines," he said.

"We must learn lessons from the past. The 1918 Spanish Flu during its first wave killed about 50 lakh people."

Everyone thought it had gone away and when it returned in a second wave up to 7 crore people worldwide lost their lives. Covid-19 is a pandemic. It cannot be cured. It must be done only if people join the efforts," the state's top medical officer said. The infection rate in Telangana state is climbing and along with the cases, the number of people needing treatment in hospitals is rising.

While 80 per cent of those infected are asymptomatic, around 12 per cent of patients are requiring hospitalisation and this is leading to shortage of beds.



Gandhi Hospital workers are seen taking away bodies of patients who died due to Covid at the hospital on Saturday.

— S.SURENDER REDDY

TS records 4,446 new cases Cases double in Nalgonda

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The relentless rise of Covid-19 cases is showing no signs of slowing down, even as it is becoming more deadly with each passing day.

The speed at which the Coronavirus is racing through the population can be gauged by the fact that Friday, April 16, saw three people catching Covid-19 every minute. While on Thursday one out of every 32 people tested was found to be suffering from Covid-19, on Friday, one out of every 28 people tested was declared Covid-19 positive.

In what is expected to become the new 'normal' — a new daily high in cases — the state saw 4,446 new Coronavirus infections on Friday, marking a steep rise of 600 from 3,840 fresh cases on Thursday.

Deaths from Covid-19 too are rising, with the health department reporting that 12 people succumbed to the virus on Friday, the highest single day death toll from the disease this year.

While the daily case-load in Hyderabad and the GHMC area neared

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Nalgonda district, home to the Nagarjunasagar Assembly constituency that went to the polls on Saturday, has witnessed a steep rise in daily Covid-19 cases which doubled in just one week.

The daily Covid-19 cases in the district, which stood at 83 on April 10, shot up to 168 on April 16, according to health department's data.

Campaigning by political parties and the crowds that either gathered on their own to listen to political leaders or were marshalled by the parties for public meetings, with people not following basic safety

norms of wearing face masks properly, are believed to be among the reasons for the increase.

Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, answering questions at a press conference on Saturday, said the standing advice of avoiding crowds, maintaining physical distance between individuals and proper wearing of masks applies to everyone, including political parties.

"We are in a democracy and people have the right to choose. But they should choose carefully and keep themselves safe," he said.

He said the health department has increased surveillance, tracking and testing in all poll-bound

areas in the state to ensure any Covid-19 cases found, are quickly contained before the infected people turn into super spreaders.

To the question on whether it was appropriate for Covid-19 positive patients to leave isolation and go and cast their votes, Dr Srinivasa Rao said this was a choice such individuals have to make on their own.

The question is whether they want to keep the others around them safe or not, he said, adding that as per poll guidelines, every protective measure was in place at every polling booth to ensure safety of polling staff in the event Covid-19 positive voters do turn up to cast their votes.

The state's top health official, Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, said though it is known in many cases that a patient thus transferred to Gandhi will not survive, "We will never send anyone back and will provide care and attention till the very end."

STATE READY TO TREAT ALL CASES AT ITS HOSPITALS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

SSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Private hospitals packing off terminally or critically ill Covid-19 patients, whose prognosis may not be bright, to Gandhi Hospital is nothing. It has always been the case, Gandhi Hospital superintendent Dr M. Raja Rao told reporters on Friday.

He said most private hospitals send patients on their last legs to Gandhi Hospital for various reasons, including fears that families of patients might create a scene or protest or attack doctors and staff in the event of a death.

He said every death recorded in Gandhi Hospital last year was related to Covid-19, adding, "It is not just Covid-19 patients from other hospitals who are sent to Gandhi Hospital.

In 2019, we had three times the deaths we had in 2020. This is because patients from private hospitals arrive at the last minute," Dr Raja Rao said.

When his attention was drawn to some private hospitals, both small and large, exploiting Covid-19 patients and their families, Dr Raja Rao said, "It is sad to see how some hospitals have degenerated and exploited the patients."

The government, he assured, was keeping an eye on private hospitals and would take strict action against any establishment taking patients for a ride.

DISRUPTIONS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF JAB

From Page 1

There were some disruptions because of shortages lately in some of the 1,334 vaccination centres including so-me private ones.

"If a person is unable to get vaccinated on a particular day, please go again, the vaccine supply position will improve," he said.

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

S.N.o : 1. Name of the work with its location : "Composite works (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Telecom) involving construction of Industrial shed, RCC building, Washing Apron, Road work, Boundary wall, Inspection pit, Traverser, Wheel park, Drainage system, Track works, Electricity and illumination of shop & sheds works, supplying & commissioning of specified Mechanical machineries (EOT Cranes etc.) and associated Telecom work in connection with Expansion phase-II of Pratapgarh workshop for MEMU POH Western Railway". E-tender No. 2021-WP-Mech-PRTN-WT-17(Open). 2. Approx. Cost of the work : Rs. 57,79,69,693.02.

3. Earnest money : Nil (B/S Security Declaration (Annexure 'O') in lieu of Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit.).

4. Date and time for closing of tender : 01-06-2021 up to 13.00 hrs. 5. Website

particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website www.reps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at Office at CAO/WP, Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road, Patna-800001.

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document along with full information is available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Dy. CME-II/WP

Workshop Project Organization, Patna State Roads & CRN PR/00098/WP/T/21-22/48

Remdesivir still an experiment

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

because they heard it works.

Dr Raja Rao was addressing a joint press meet with Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao here on Friday.

Dr Srinivasa Rao said government hospitals had 20,000 doses of remdesivir injections that are being used carefully, and only in moderate to severe cases of Covid-19.

The government has placed an order for 2 lakh more doses of the injection and supplies to private hospitals are dependent on their identification as being eligible for such a treatment protocol.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Public Notice U/s. 15(3) of HMDA Act,2008 (S.No. 3225/P/2020-Dated:26.03.2021)

(Government Memo. No.3225/P/2020-Dated:26.03.2021)

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Revised Master Plan-2021 vide G.O. Ms.No.288 MA & UD Dept., Dt.03.04.2008. The site in Sy.No.73/P situated at Jeedimetla(V), Qutubulapur(M), Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. (previously R.R.Dist.), for an extent of 2225.43 Sq.mts., which is presently earmarked for residential use zone as per the revised Master Plan. The site is proposed to be re-zoned as Commercial use zone and may be designated as Commercial use zone. The details of the above are available in websites <https://gazette.telangana.gov.in> and <https://hmda.gov.in>. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Principal Secretary to the Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

R.O.No.:176-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Date:17.04.2021 Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

1. Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one road work under plan in Nizamabad Circle for the year 2020-21 vide Engineer-In-Chief(R&B), State Roads CRN: NIT No.3215/NZB/DCE(R)/DEE-1/AEE-3/2020-21, Dt:16.04.2021. 2. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e., <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 19.04.2021 up to 6.00 P.M. onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 26.04.2021 up to 5.00 P.M. Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e., <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Dt:16.04.2021 Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief (R&B), State Roads & CRN: R.O.No.:176-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt:17.04.2021

any tender which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. The above e-tender document along with full information is available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document along with full information is available on website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Dy. CME-II/WP

Workshop Project Organization, Patna State Roads & CRN PR/00098/WP/T

SHORT TAKES

MAN KILLS HIS EX-WIFE'S LOVER, HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

A man who killed his ex-wife's husband in the city last month for eloping with her was nabbed by the Chikadpally police in Punjab and brought to the city.

Police said Baljeet Kaur, who had a 15-year-old son with Sarwan Singh, eloped with Satnam Singh and came to Hyderabad from Punjab. Satnam Singh used to run a fast food centre in the city.

On learning that his former wife and Satnam Singh were in the city, Sarwan Singh sent his minor son to stay with the couple in March.

Police said the minor son told his father that Satnam Singh sleeps alone in the house as Baljeet Kaur goes to the Afzalgunj gurudwara and lives in the quarters there. Following this, Sarwan Singh along with one Arshdeep Singh reached Secunderabad on March 30. They allegedly murdered Satnam Singh in the house when he was alone, and took away his mobile phone.

They went by train to Delhi and then to Punjab where they were traced by Chikadpally detective inspector H. Prabhakar, and sub-inspector R. Kotesh and arrested.

ESI HOSPITAL REATTACHES WORKER'S ARM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

A 27-year-old worker, whose right hand was severed from under the elbow while he was working on a concrete mixing machine recently, managed to have the severed portion of his arm reattached at the ESI Medical College Hospital at Sanathnagar on April 7. According to hospital dean Prof. M. Srinivas, reattaching the hand was made possible as the hospital had in place 17 super specialties, several of which came together within two hours of the patient arriving at the hospital and performed the complicated surgery.

"If we have the expertise needed we can perform such surgeries. Ours is the only ESI hospital in the country which has so many super-specialties and having them under one roof is paying off for the patients," Prof. Srinivas said.

Prof. B. Mani Kumari, vice-principal of the college who heads the plastic surgery department, said the patient had first gone to a private hospital where the doctors informed him that a portion of his injured arm will need to be amputated as it would not be possible to attach it again.

"It was then he was brought here by his colleagues." The surgery took nine hours and involved vascular, orthopaedic, plastic surgeons with support from several other departments.

Pandemic blues



A man whose leg was in a plaster cast crawls to the bus stand outside Gandhi Hospital after he was refused further treatment. GGH has once again been designated as a Covid-19 hospital. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Water levels drop at reservoirs in state

But officials see no drinking water problem this summer

L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Water levels in major reservoirs across the state have dropped significantly when compared to last year.

However, officials see no drinking water problem in the summer, insisting that the existing reserves can meet the requirements.

"Drinking water is supplied through Mission Bhagiratha. Approximately 10 per cent of water has been allocated in all the projects for Mission Bhagiratha. As such, there will be no problem for drinking water either in Hyderabad or elsewhere," a senior official of water resources department said.

The water levels in Sri-sailam and Nagarjunasagar, the two major reservoirs on the Krishna, that serve the irrigation and drinking water needs of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have fallen significantly over from last year.

The FRL (full reservoir level) and gross storage of Srisailam are at 885 feet and 215 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet). On Saturday, the water stood at 807 feet and the dam had 33 tmc ft. Same day last year, Srisailam had water at 815 ft and storage at 37 tmc ft.

The FRL and gross storage capacity of Nagarjunasagar are 590 ft and 312 tmc. On Saturday, water was at 541 ft and the dam had 191 tmc ft (last year: 543 ft and 195 tmc).

The AP government has sought water from Nagarjunasagar and Srisailam to meet drinking water needs in summer. Accordingly, the Krishna River

Sunkesula makes it easy to get water from Sagar

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Emergency pumping of drinking water from the Nagarjunasagar dam for Hyderabad would soon be a thing of the past.

The state government's proposed construction of an inlet channel at Sunkesula at an estimated cost of ₹1,450 crore would enable the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) to draw water even when the level falls to 461 feet.

This would save the Water Board ₹5 crore to ₹7 crore annually.

Till now, if the water at Nagarjunasagar fell below the 500 feet minimum draw down level

(MDDL), the Water Board would pump water into an open canal in the Krishna basin. An official said from the open canal, the irrigation department would pump the water to Alimineti Madhava Reddy Srisailam Left Bank Canal Project (AMRIP) through which it travelled 9 km to Akkappally reservoir balancing reservoir from where it is supplied to the city.

If the water level reaches below 496 feet, the Water Board used to use emergency pumps. The Water Board has been spending ₹5 crore to ₹7 crore every summer to draw water to the city if the levels fall below 510 feet.

The government has

already planned a new project to bring water from Sunkesula near Nagarjunasagar to Hyderabad and provided ₹725 crore in the annual Budget for the project.

The Water Board has prepared a detailed project report at an estimated cost of ₹1,450 crore to construct an inlet channel which could be used to draw the backwater from the Nagarjunasagar project.

Water Board officials said that once the project is completed, they can draw water from 460 feet from the Nagarjunasagar dam. This might resolve the drinking water needs of the areas in the city supplied by Krishna water at least until 2050.

Management Board on Friday sought the consent of the TS government. The government is yet to respond.

In a meeting held on February 5, it was agreed to restrict release of water up to 834 ft in Srisailam. However, it was observed that both TS and AP had drawn water from Srisailam reservoir even below that level.

As such, it was decided at a meeting on April 9 not to draw water below 808.80 ft as on April 9 and use water judiciously. It was observed that the AP has exhausted its share in common reservoirs on April 9.

However, both governments continue to draw water in Srisailam for

power generation even at the present low level.

On the Godavari, the Sriramsagar, Mid Manair, Lower Manair and Yellampalli projects are the major reservoirs. The water levels in all these reservoirs are lower than last year.

The FRL and gross storage capacity of Sriramsagar are 1091 ft and 90 tmc. These were 1066 ft and 23 tmc as on Saturday as against 1,071 ft and 32 tmc ft last year.

The FRL and gross storage capacity of Mid Manair are 1,043 ft and 25 TMCs. Water stood at 1,022 ft and 13 tmc ft as on Saturday (last year: 1,037 ft and 23 tmc ft).

Water for Mission Bhagiratha for the major part of Telangana is drawn from these projects and as such officials see no drinking water problem in summer, officials said.

Water stood at 901 ft and the project had 10 tmc ft on Saturday (last year: 892 feet and 7 tmc ft).

Yellampalli project's FRL and gross storage capacity are 485 ft and 20 tmc ft. These were 473 ft and 11 tmc ft as on Saturday (last year 461 feet and 5 tmc ft).

Thanks to the Kaleshwaram project, the water levels in Lower Manair and Yellampalli are higher than last year's as Godavari water was lifted from Medigadda barrage.

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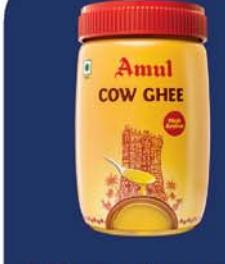
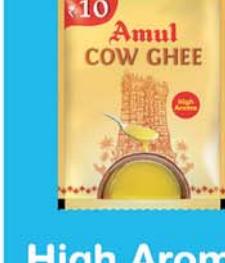
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Mosquito menace plagues Old City

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Residents of Old City have been complaining that they are facing a severe mosquito menace since past three weeks, as Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is not taking sufficient measures to control mosquitoes.

The problem is quite acute in Fateh Darwaza, Himmatpura, Chandul Baradari, Shahgunj, Mehndi and Nampally areas of the Old City, residents said.

● ABDUL QADAR of Fateh Darwaza said there are so many mosquitoes that people cannot stay home peacefully even in the daytime.

Ensuring that GHMC keeps the surroundings clean and hygienic. Fogging operations must also be increased to contain mosquitoes.

Syed Sadiq of Nampally said rising temperatures and mosquitoes have made life miserable for them.

"Though we have mosquitoes, they are of no use since more and more mosquitoes keep entering the house, despite keeping our doors and windows shut in the evening. If we go outside after evening to the market even for a few minutes, mosquitoes start biting, forcing us to return home quickly," Sadiq remarked.

Qadar pointed out that mosquitoes have been mainly breeding in Musi River as well as garbage heaps that abound in the Old City. He appealed to public representatives that they focus on the issue and

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SHORT TAKES

OWASI: ALLOT MORE GARBAGE VANS FOR SPECIAL DRIVEDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

MIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi asked GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar to allot additional garbage lifting vehicles for a special drive during Ramzan and exempt slum dwellers from paying the fee to door-to-door garbage collectors. He along GHMC Charminar zonal commissioner Ashok Samrat inspected various areas in the Old City and took stock of the sanitation and clearing of garbage amidst the complaints over civic issues. He visited Petlabur, Mehndi, Khilwat, Minar Garden and Doodhbowli and instructed officials to ensure prompt lifting of garbage.

Later, writing to the GHMC commissioner, Owaisi said during his inspection of Charminar and Falaknuma GHMC circles he observed many large garbage heaps lying on the roads even after the trash was cleared twice or thrice a day.

He said there are large numbers of slums in the Charminar zone and most of the families are living below the poverty line. They were not in a position to pay the garbage collectors who were ignoring the areas. He suggested that the slums may be exempted from the minimum fee.

NO TACIT PACT IN TS, SAYS BJP LEADER

From page 1

"We were not consulted before they met KTR," a central BJP leader who is involved in Telangana party affairs told this correspondent.

The party was of the view that such meetings would leave an impression among the people that the BJP had adopted a blow-hot-blow-cold approach towards the ruling dispensation. The BJP leaders going to Rama Rao the day before the Nagarjunasagar bypoll also irked the central leadership, sources added.

"We don't have any alliance nor will we have any tacit understanding with any political force in Telangana," the central leader pointed out. On the party's request to the TRS to not field any candidate on sympathetic grounds, he said that going by the same logic the BJP should not have contested the Dubbak or the Nagarjunasagar bypolls which were held due to the death of incumbent legislators.

The BJP central leadership also took note of group rivalries growing in the state BJP unit and its leaders not taking the Nagarjunasagar bypoll with all seriousness. A recent meeting where a few BJP leaders discussed countering state unit president Bandi Sanjay on some of his decisions also went to the notice of the central leadership. The leadership is studying if there is a split between the dominant and emerging castes at the state level and will address the issue before things go out of hands, sources added. "The Nagarjunasagar bypoll is a thing of the past now. We will ensure such mishandling is not repeated," said the central leader.

Meanwhile Ramchander Rao told Deccan Chronicle that he had no information about the central leadership taking serious note of his meeting with Rama Rao. "Our meeting was in the knowledge of and with the approval of the party," he said. Asked if the central leaders overseeing the state affairs were consulted, he said they may not be aware of the development.

Day of the voter

Clockwise from above:
Congress candidate
K. Jana Reddy, TRS
candidate Nomula
Bhagath and BJP candi-
date Dr P. Ravi Kumar
Naik, show their
inked fingers after
casting their ballot
in the Nagarjunasagar
byelection at different
polling stations on
Saturday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

N'sagar bypoll sees record 89% turnout**Voters thronged polling stations despite scorching heat**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

Voter turnout in the Nagarjunasagar by-election crossed 80 per cent for the third consecutive time. While it was 86.62 per cent polling in 2018, it was 80.03 per cent in 2014.

This year, a whopping 89 per cent of voters exercised their franchise out of the total 21,974 voters. 1,10,838 were women.

As many as 41 candidates, including three women, are in the fray from the constituency.

After inspecting a polling station at Pylon Colony in Nagarjunasagar, chief electoral officer Shashank Goel said that all major contestants, including TRS candidate Nomula Narsimhaiah defeated Congress veteran K Jana Reddy with a margin of 7,726 votes

Barring a few stray incidents, polling was peaceful.

Meanwhile, polling was delayed by a few minutes due to technical problems at polling booth number 137 at Thotipeta in Tirumalgiriguda (Sagar) mandal.

Nagarjunasagar constituency has always witnessed a high voter turnout. In the 2018 elections, TRS candidate Nomula Narsimhaiah defeated Congress veteran K Jana Reddy with a margin of 7,726 votes

(4.31%). It was sweet revenge for him as in 2014, he had lost to Jana Reddy.

The constituency comprises seven mandals, including Gurrampode, Tirumalgiriguda, Peddavoor, Nidamanur, Madugulapalli, Tripuraram and Anumula.

Saturday's polling was held in 346 polling stations, including 108 deemed 'critical'. Officials said as there were 41 contestants, three EVM ballot units along with one controlling unit and a VVPAT were used at each polling booth.

● **EACH EVM ballot unit has the capacity of having names of 16 candidates.**

K. Jana Reddy (Congress) and Dr P. Ravi Kumar Naik (BJP) had voted. He said ensuring Covid-19 guidelines at poll stations had resulted in the highest voting percentage. He said that EVMs have been shifted to their strong rooms in Nalgonda in the presence of representatives from all political parties.

Serpentine queues were seen all through the day. Voters thronged polling stations despite the scorching heat.

After the by-election, TRS candidate Nomula Narsimhaiah defeated Congress veteran K Jana Reddy with a margin of 7,726 votes

27 advocates designated senior counsels by courtDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

The Telangana High Court has designated 27 practising advocates of the court as senior counsels, in keeping with the exhaustive guidelines issued by the Supreme Court.

A committee of five judges headed by Chief Justice Hima Kohli assessed around 120 applications it had received before deciding on designating 27 of them as senior advocates. The decision of the five-judge committee was approved by the Full Court.

Those designated senior counsels as per alphabetical order are: Ajay Reddy E., Anjaneyulu V.S.R., Ashok Anand Kumar S., Chandra Shekhar Yamarti, Chandrasen Reddy B., Damodhar Reddy C., Dwarakanath S., Giridhar Rao Aloor, Hariharan V., Hemendranath Reddy R.N., Madan Mohan Rao Erappa, Resu Mahender Reddy, Masthan Naidu Cherukuri, Mohma-Mmed Imran Khan, Gandra Mohan Rao, Nanda S., Pattabhi Venulapati, Pradyumna Kumar Reddy T., Ramakanth Reddy K., Ravi Kiran Rao V., Ravishankar Jandhyala, Simhadri K.V., Srinivas Reddy S., Srinivas Reddy S., Vedula, Vasudeva Reddy N., Vijay Kumar P. B., and Vivek Reddy Kondam.

After the Supreme Court issued guidelines in 'Indira Jaiswal v Supreme Court of India', it is said it has become easier to become a High Court judge than a designated senior counsel. Judges of Apex Court themselves said that conditions for seniority appear to be stricter than those for appointing judges.

Points-based assessment like number of years of standing as an advocate (20 points), reported and unreported judgments, which indicates legal formulations advanced by the advocate in the course of proceedings (40 points), publications by the applicant advocate (15 points), testing of personality, pro-bono matters, and interaction (25 points) are considered for selecting senior advocates.

Police booked a case against Gangaiah and took him into custody.

BUS PASSENGER DIES DUE TO RASH DRIVINGDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

A 23-year-old bus passenger died after accidentally hitting his head on the window due to rash driving, the Sultan Bazaar police said on Saturday. The victim, Pavan Chaitanya, an IT professional from Peddapalli, was travelling on a bus on Route 218D.

Bus driver Gangaiah tried to overtake another bus at Andhra Bank, Koti, and the front tyre fell into a ditch. When the bus halted suddenly, Chaitanya's head hit the window and he suffered a severe injury. He died being taken to hospital at about 12.45 pm, Sultan Bazaar inspector K. Subbarami Reddy.

Police booked a case against Gangaiah and took him into custody.

Why civic elections during Covid, asks UttamDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 17

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday stated that elections to the urban local bodies (ULBs) were being with "political malice." The Congress leader said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had got the State Election Commission to go for the polls fearing an adverse outcome at Nagarjunasagar.

"The Chief Minister wanted the municipal elections process to be completed before the announcement of result of Nagarjunasagar constituency results," he said. He was addressing party leaders and workers at an event where Ramasahay-



— SURENDER REDDY

am Madhavi Reddy, TRS leader from Paleru Assembly constituency of Khammam district, joined the Congress, at Indira Bhawan.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the State Election Commission was organising the polls unmindful of the major surge in Covid cases. "Do we need elections in this time when Covid cases are rising very steeply? Every day lakhs of cases are being found and thousands of patients are joining hospitals. Is there a need to stoop so low for political gains? It is a shame on the officials to brazenly support the government," he said.

The Nalgonda MP pointed out that health minister Etala Rajendar had admitted that there was a shortage of beds for the Covid patients. It was unfortunate that even the courts had not taken notice of the situation.

He said that the Congress would win the elections to the ULBs in spite of conspiracies of the ruling party. Party senior leader K. Jana Reddy would win the Nagarjunasagar bypoll, he said.

Referring to the comments of party senior leader Sambhaji Chandrasekhar earlier, the TPCC chief said that he could understand the feelings. He assured that he would solve the issues being raised by the party leader.

Uttam Kumar Reddy asked leaders of the Paleru Assembly constituency to work together with Khammam leaders in the municipal corporation elections as Paleru covers half the ULB area.

SAGR: 'MISSION CHANAKYA' GIVES THE EDGE TO TRS

From page 1

Mission Chanakya, which predicted BJP victory in 2020 Dubbalk Assembly bypoll, TRS victory in 2018 Assembly polls and 2020 GHMC polls correctly, observed that TRS has the edge over its rivals in Nagarjunasagar. It made these observations after interacting with a voter base of about 80,000 voters. "It was found that there was no anti-establishment wave against TRS. Nagarjunasagar is predominantly an agriculture-based constituency where 90 per cent of voters are farmers and TRS government's pro-farmer policies and schemes helped it to garner the majority support. Besides, there was 'institutional support' for TRS which Congress and others lacked," said Shiv Keshav Amuka from Mission Chanakya.

TRS in-charge for Nagarjunasagar bypoll and MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy expressed confidence that the party will retain the seat with a higher majority compared to the previous election.

"The reports obtained from our cadre from all areas in the constituency indicate that there was a positive vote in favour of TRS and we are confident of surpassing the 2018 majority," Reddy said.

ADVI RAMA RAO
Retired Scientist, Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)
Departed Early Hours of Wednesday, April 7th, 2021
In Eternal Search of Truth

Deeply Mourned by: Advi Hanuma Kumari,
Venkatesh Advi, Aruna Venkatesh & Ashwin Advi,
Padmaja Advi, Subba Rao Maddali, Sai Anusha Maddali &
Anju Gargeya Malkipuram, Sai Deepika Maddali,
Madhavi Advi, Arun Srinivasan, Isha Srinivasan & Adi Srinivasan

ॐ त्र्यम्बकं यजामहे सुगन्धिं पूर्णिवर्धनम् ।
उर्वारुकमिव बन्धनान्मृत्योमर्द्दीय माऽमृतात् ॥

SHRADDHANJALI M. KAMAL NAIDU
IFS (Retired)
D.O.B: 21-08-1939 D.O.D: 18-04-2018
Inserted by:
(Wife) ROHINI NAIDU
Son: SRINATH NAIDU
Daughter-in-Law: PUSHYA NAIDU, Daughter: SWATI GOPISETTY Son-in-Law: Dr. G. HARSHA GOPISETTY Grand Children: NAKSHATRA, HAVISH, RIYANSH, Near & Dear. 9866343081 / 8179691675 / 9885031599

OBITUARY
U. SUDERSHAN YADAV
Ex. Chairman, Kamanghat Hanuman Temple, Date of Birth: 10-05-1946 D.O.B: 16-04-2021 Funeral on 18-04-2021 at 11:00 AM at Saronagar.
Inserted by: U. Vijayalakshmi (Wife), Daughters, Sons-in-law and Grand Children

Smt. SHOBA SHIVPURI
(W/o Late, Sri. Jai Suprakash Shivpuri) Date of Birth: 23-05-1961 DOD: 15-04-2021 We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there. Fondly Remembered by: Shivpuri Family Members Ph: 7032056591, 879063773, 9550373981 (CA-3580)

OBITUARY
Smt. TULJA CHOUDHARY
W/o Sri. Ram Singh Choudhary Date of death: 17-04-2021 Funeral process will be on 18-04-2021 @ 10:30 AM at Flat No: 229, AWHO Colony, Sector-A, Gautham Enclave, Sri Ram Gopalpur near Diamond point, Srikakulam Village, Sebad, to Swarg Vatika Mansarovar Heights.

Smt. Arundhati Waghray
W/o Sri. Narendra Pershad With profound grief and sorrow, we inform her sad demise on 10th April 2021 Choti ceremony will be held Today at 5:30 PM at our residence at Ganeshbagh, Pullibowli, Hyderabad.

In Grief: Narendra Pershad and the bereaved Waghray family.

OBITUARY
PAKANTU RAMESH
Retd. Dy. Keeper (Salar Jung Museum) Passed away on 09-04-2021. 10th Day Ceremony on 18-04-2021 at our residence at Chikkadpally. Inserted By: Suresh, Son-In-Law, Grand Children and Pakantu Family. Ph: 984818181, 9848151777 (S/2122/D00057)

CHOTI CEREMONY
SRI KAKARLA SUBBARAO GARU
With Deep Respect... "TO OUR GUIDING STAR IN KIND HUMAN SERVICE" Staff & Management of SATHYA DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE, Himayathnagar, Dilusuknagar, SATHYA KIDNEY CENTRE, Himayathnagar.

OBITUARY
Mrs. KARNA JAYANTHI
W/o Dr. Karna Omkar Date of Birth: 15-06-1956 D.O.B: 18-04-2016 Inserted by: Son's K Jayakar - Daughter's-in-law Nagasirisha K. Rishikar - Divyavani Grand Daughter - K. Kriti Grand Son: K. Nireksha Ishaan, K. Palaksh, K. Gunav Veer

10th DAY CEREMONY
SRI KAKARLA SUBBARAO GARU
With Deep Respect... "TO OUR GUIDING STAR IN KIND HUMAN SERVICE" Staff & Management of SATHYA DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE, Himayathnagar, Dilusuknagar, SATHYA KIDNEY CENTRE, Himayathnagar.

OBITUARY
Mrs. ARTHUR KHOLHOFF RATHINA
Wife of Mr. Solomon Selvaraj Michael Date of Birth: 11.01.1946 D.O.B: 18.04.2020 From: Alfred Daniel & Family +91 9866786768 Brdill Willington Michael +91 9949221937 (S/2122/D00055)

1st ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BELoved MOTHER
"I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalm 23:6

OBITUARY
T.R. SEETHARAMAN
Ex-Chairman, Kamanghat Hanuman Temple, Date of Birth: 20 June 1937 - 10 April 2021 Inserted by: Brothers: Jagadishwar Yadav, Ganesh Yadav and Sanjeeva Yadav. Sons: Jagadevan, Dinesh, Jayaprakash, Sakthi Krishna, Vamshi Krishna and Ashish. (L2122/D00002)

9th DAY CEREMONY
VELPULA SURYA PRAKASH RAO
S/o Late Mr. Velpula Philemon Nagaraj Rao Retd. Teacher of Stanley Girls' High School. Inserted by: Husband: Mr. DAVID CIGGA, Daughters & Sons-in-Law: DORCAS & SANJAY, CYNTHIA & RUPENDRA, Son & Daughter-in-Law: SAMSON & SWATHI Grandchildren: ROHAN, OLIVE & JOANNE

IN BRIEF
**ARMY POSTPONES
COMMANDERS
CONFERENCE**

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

Indian Army has postponed its crucial Commanders Conference and cancelled retiring officers conference in April due to rising Covid-19 cases.

Indian Army's bi-annual Commanders Conference, which was attended by its top commanders from all over the country, was scheduled to be held from April 26, has been postponed. The Conference which was to be chaired by Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane would have discussed emerging situation at the line of actual control (LAC) with China in Ladakh and the continued friction at other points in the sector.

It would have also discussed the strategy for summer at LAC with troops from both sides expected to move to forward positions. The ceasefire with Pakistan at Line of Control was also likely to be discussed during the meeting.

Indian Army's apex leadership was expected to discuss issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, administration and human resource management.

Last year also Indian Army had postponed its Army Commanders Conference in April and later on it was held in May. This time also the conference could be held in May.

Meanwhile, Army has also cancelled its retiring officers conference in April due to rising Covid-19 cases.

**WOMAN RAPED
IN TRUCK CABIN
FOR 21 DAYS**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 17

A married woman was allegedly raped for 21 days inside a truck cabin in Nayagarh district after being abducted from Jaleswar area in Balasore district. She was rescued in critical condition by the Nayagarh police, inspector Girija Nandan Pattaik informed this newspaper on Saturday.

Following the complaint lodged at the Fategarh police station in Nayagarh district, the husband of the rape survivor took her to their home.

According to the police, the victim who is pursuing her graduation with economics as honours lives with her family that includes her husband, five-year-old daughter and her sister, at a rented house at Jaleswar in Balasore district.

On March 24, while the woman was going to a nearby job-work centre to make photocopies of some documents, a car stopped on her way and one person inside the vehicle asked her for the directions. Seeing her busy talking with the first person, another person inside the vehicle suddenly opened the door that hit on her head following which she fell down and became unconscious.

When she regained consciousness found herself without clothes inside cabin of a truck stationed near a road in Nayagarh district. After she cried for help, two youths threatened to kill her if she shouted for help. Panicked, the woman remained silent. Subsequently, the duo allegedly raped her inside the cabin of the truck for more than 21 days.

**LALU YADAV
GRANTED BAIL BY
J'KHAND HC**

NAYYAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, APRIL 17

The Jharkhand High Court on Saturday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Yadav in the fodder scam case pertaining to the illegal withdrawal of ₹3.97 crore from the Dumka treasury in the 1990s when he was the Chief Minister of Bihar.

He was granted bail by the single bench of Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh on grounds that he has served more than half of his jail term in the Dumka case. He was awarded a five-year jail term in the case.

According to his lawyers, he has been instructed to furnish a bail bond of ₹1 lakh and a fine of ₹10 lakh. He has also been asked not to leave the country without the permission of the court.

"The court granted him bail on grounds that he has served over half of his jail term in the Dumka treasury case," Lalu Yadav's lawyer Prabhat Kumar said.

He also collaborated

With the government in disseminating significant social awareness messages to the public on TV including the latest on preventing coronavirus spread.

It was heart-wrenching to note that his tweets, which he had posted to condole Abdul Kalam's death, went viral.

The post of Vivekh, which is in Tamil, roughly translates as, "A simple, selfless and clean life too will end someday."

However, many die away! But only few will live on even after death".

An admirer of late president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he was actively engaged in planting one crore tree saplings through his Green Kalam initiative.

He also collaborated

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Amid drug shortage, Remdesivir stolen from MP govt hospital

17 boxes containing 853 Remdesivir vials go missing; police suspect insider's job

RABINDRA NATH CHOURASIA | DC
BHOPAL, APR 17

With the cry for Remdesivir getting louder across Madhya Pradesh, unidentified miscreants on Saturday broke into the storeroom of a government hospital here and decamped with boxes containing the life saving drug, leaving the administration as well as police shell-shocked.

The incident came to light when the medical officers of the hospital found the iron gate of the storeroom of the government-run Hamidia hospital here cut open and some boxes containing vials of Remdesivir missing in the morning.

"The matter was immediately reported to the police", hospital superintendent I D Chourasia said.

This was the first incident of theft of life saving drugs in a government hospital in Madhya Pradesh.

State medical education minister Viswas Sarang along with Bhopal deputy inspector general of police Irshad Wali rushed to the spot after learning about the incident.

"It is a serious matter. We ordered a probe into the incident. We are trying to go deep into the incident to find out why the drug was stolen", Mr Sarang said.

"This is a very sensitive matter. We have found nothing in the footage of the CCTV installed in the storeroom.", Mr Wali said.

Preliminary police investigation suggested that it might be an "insider's" job "done with mischievous intention".

"It has been found that a total of 17 boxes containing 853 Remdesivir vials were missing. But, no other drugs stored in the storeroom were touched by the thieves. This gives rise to suspicion that the theft was committed with mischievous intention", a senior police officer told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted.

Sources said the state government has received 42,000 Remdesivir injections from different sources till April 16.



A medic collects samples for Covid-19 tests at KSRTC bus stand, as Coronavirus cases surge in Bengaluru.

Joona Akhara ends its participation in Kumbh Mela

Dehradun, Apr 17: The Joona Akhara, one of the largest sets of seers in the country, announced the end of its participation in the Kumbh Mela

taken in public interest after consultations with seers of the Akhara.

"Immersing the deities, we also pray to all 'teertha and siddhaapeeth' and declare the immersion of Haridwar Kumbh Mela, 2021," it said.

The country on Saturday recorded a frightening single-day spike in Covid cases with over 2.34 lakh fresh infections, crossing the two lakh-mark for the third straight day, as demands for increased supply of oxygen cylinders, vaccine doses and Remdesivir were raised by 11 states and UTs, including Delhi, where the pandemic situation was described as "worrisome" by the chief minister.

As India's tally inched towards 1.50 crore-mark and the death toll climbed above 1.75 lakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union health Harsh Vardhan held meetings to review measures taken by states for prevention, containment and management of the recent surge.

- PTI

Centre is blocking Remdesivir supply to Maha, claims mantri

SONU SHRIVATAVA | DC
MUMBAI, APRIL 17

has issued guidelines for supply of the drug to government and private hospitals treating the Covid-19 patients through the district collectors concerned owing to the short supply of Remdesivir injections.

In another development, a case was registered against two priests of Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain under section 188 (disobedience of government order) of Indian Penal Code on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Central government has entered the shrine while being home quarantined after testing positive for coronavirus.

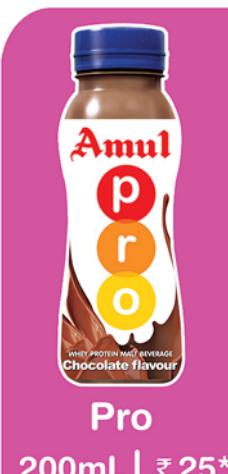
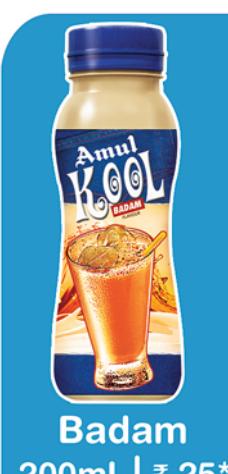
Madhya Pradesh has reported 66 deaths and 11,269 fresh cases of coronavirus positive in the last 24 hours.

Mr Malik said that when Maharashtra asked the 16

export companies for Remdesivir, it was told that Centre has asked the companies not to supply the medicine to Maharashtra. These companies were warned that, if they did, their licenses would be cancelled, he claimed.

The Union ministers expressed shock over Mr Malik's claims. Terming Mr Malik's claim a lie, the Union ministers challenged him to disclose names of 16 companies and stock available with

Amul



5 killed as fire breaks out in Covid hospital

DC CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR, APR 17

A major fire broke out in a private Covid hospital here, killing five patients. While one Covid-19 patient succumbed to burn injuries, four others died due to disruption of oxygen supply caused due to the mishap, officials said.

The fire broke out due to a short circuit, preliminary police investigation suggested.

Eyewitness accounts

said smoke filled the two storied Rajdhani hospital in Pachpadri Naka in Raipur city when the fire broke out, causing suffocation to the Covid-19 patients. The fire soon engulfed different wards of the hospital forcing the patients to run helter skelter. Several patients suffered burn injuries as they tried to escape the fire. Relatives of the patients were seen breaking the glass windows to enter the wards to rescue the patients.

Many patients were brought outside the hospital and administered oxygen. Later, all the patients were shifted to different hospitals in the city. Around 30 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment in the hospital when the incident took place. This was the first fire incident in a Covid hospital in Chhattisgarh.

"The fire broke out at around 4.30 pm," special superintendent of police of Raipur district Ajey Yadav said.

Eyewitness accounts

Colleagues, leaders mourn TN actor Vivekh's death

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | DC
CHENNAI, APRIL 17

The untimely death of popular actor and social activist Vivekh at the age of 59 on Saturday after he suffered a massive heart attack left the Tamil film fraternity and fans in deep grief.

Vivekh breathed his last at 4.35 am. He was cremated with police honours.

The actor, a Padma Shri recipient and who has acted in over 200 films with top Tamil heroes, is known for his work on social issues and the environmental protection front. He actively campaigned and involved himself in planting saplings and afforestation.

According to his lawyers, he has been instructed to furnish a bail bond of ₹1 lakh and a fine of ₹10 lakh. He has also been asked not to leave the country without the permission of the court.

"The court granted him bail on grounds that he has served over half of his jail term in the Dumka treasury case," Lalu Yadav's lawyer Prabhat Kumar said.

He also collaborated

With the government in disseminating significant social awareness messages to the public on TV including the latest on preventing coronavirus spread.

It was heart-wrenching to note that his tweets, which he had posted to condole Abdul Kalam's death, went viral.

The post of Vivekh, which is in Tamil, roughly translates as, "A simple, selfless and clean life too will end someday."

However, many die away! But only few will live on even after death".

An admirer of late president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he was actively engaged in planting one crore tree saplings through his Green Kalam initiative.

He also collaborated



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DECCAN Chronicle

18 APRIL 2021



Ranjona Banerji

Off the beaten track

Being a sport! The story of my fitness journey

After you reach a certain age and size, in my case at least, your thoughts turn to another age and size, largely imaginary. For instance, when I was little, I was very thin. This is true. I have photographic evidence. I also had no actual talent as an athlete, but I was athletic enough to be made to run various races, jump over sandpits and poles and once, with luckily no major casualties, chuck a javelin. The third leg of the "house" team, if you will, and this carried on over three "houses" in three schools and two cities.

Once I was pushed into a race outside my training or comfort zone — 400 m, because there was no one else to make up the numbers. My preferred race was the 100 m sprint. The school's sports consultant, of whom we were in awe because he had been to the 1976 Montreal Olympics and wanted Nadia Comaneci in person, said that my hamstring muscles were not long enough for my legs, so I had a funny stride. Not good for longer runs. Anyway, desperation made the house hamstrung. And in I went. After 300 metres, my heart burst out of my 13-year-old chest and I am not ashamed to say that a friend's sister (in a similar situation for another house) and I, walked the last 100 m together, chatting. Since we finished the race, we were not disqualified. Heads, um, held high!

The one thing I could not do was swim except for an ungainly life-saving dog paddle. Luckily then no one ever threw me into a swimming pool for some greater sporting glory. The swimming coach, whom we called Bumblebee because he had a large yellow and black motorbike and kept bellowing at us in the CCI swimming pool in Bombay (1970s, that was its name then) managed to hammer a mediocre breaststroke into me before we buzzed off to a new school in Calcutta.

School finished and thus finished organised exercise. You may not believe it now but in the 1980s, hardly no one dedicated their lives to treadmills, yoga mats and smoothies. Plus, we were undefeatable. We worked hard and played harder. There was no time for dumbbells.

As it turned out, the dumbbells were us. All that confidence was highly misplaced. And by the time you realized that time and hormones were against you, the tyres on the cars on the roads had nothing on you and your stomach, arms, thighs, hips etcetera. That's when you wake up at the crack of dawn and walked all over Aarey Milk Colony where the best exercise was running away from laughter clubs. I tried a few gyms. A friend found an excellent place in Ahmedabad where all you had to do was lie on a series of moving tables which exercised different parts of your body. Don't laugh. It was brilliant and actually worked.

A couple of close friends and I, in our mid to late 40s, signed up for an exercise regime. This was zeal plus hubris. Also, when your vision goes a bit, you can't really focus on the mirror any more and you miss all those wrinkles. So having scoffed at middle-aged ladies in salwar kameezes and sneakers huffing and puffing in suburban Mumbai's parks, we joined a gym. Not the treadmill sort. But the calisthenics and exercise sort. Why humans put themselves through this is one of life's mysteries. Anyway, we mountain-walked and pulled long rubber bands and cross-trained and then hobbled out after an hour with not one part of our bodies working.

The zeal was such that we were horrified when we attended an afternoon "old ladies" class — all the old ladies were at least five years younger than us — and saw that they spent all their time lying on their mats flirting with the young male instructors. We shuddered in self-righteous wrath as we finished all our exercises, and never went to an afternoon class again. Instead, we sacrificed lunch and went straight from yoga to the gym. Plus, we walked all over suburban Mumbai scorching every hopeful passing auto.

At the end of the year, all we had to show for it were collapsed muscles, dodgy knees, sprained ankles and broken toes. The only worthwhile part of this exercise was the yoga.

In between I did walk up and down some hills around my parents' home, full of self-righteousness.

Now when 60 stares at you in the face and the tyres cannot be dislodged and who the hell wants to carry those dumbbells, and the hills are so pretty to look at, technology comes to the rescue! You install some free fitness app on your phone. You carry your phone everywhere. It counts every useless step you take. From refrigerator to chocolate cake to sofa to put the plate in the sink and at the end of the day, you have walked 5 km, used up 2,500 calories and done 9,622 steps. Or some such nonsense. You are happy. You smile beatifically at the phone. The phone is thrilled at the attention and you reset for the next day. I did away with the "heart points" or whatever because I never collected any.

When my sister and I were younger, teenagers, we used to watch Jane Fonda exercise videos and eat chips.

I am not so callous nor so arrogant now. I don't eat while I watch those exercise ads on Instagram. I just switch to the food pictures after 10 minutes of fit young people contorting into some rebel poses.

Let my fingers do the walking!

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.



You may not believe it now but in the 1980s, hardly no one dedicated their lives to treadmills, yoga mats and smoothies. Plus, we were undefeatable. We worked hard and played harder. There was no time for dumbbells.

Subhani



Second wave gives the lie to Modi's 'decisive' image



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

Shri Krishna in the Bhagwad Gita tells Arjuna to do his duty irrespective of consequences. Our theory of dharma also includes a particular category — aapad dharma — which kicks in times of crisis or emergency...

The time has come to call a spade a spade. And, this spade is about the government's spectacular unpreparedness in anticipating the second wave of the pandemic, and the woeful absence of strategy and planning to cope with it. It is not as if the unexpected happened. Global experience shows that a second wave — more vicious and infectious than the first — was to be expected. A responsible government, not lulled into complacency by its own propaganda of how well it had handled the pandemic, would have — beyond dramatic gestures — diligently prepared for it. The truth is that the government did not.

A key difference between the first and second waves is that now we have vaccines as a significant weapon to fight the onslaught of the virus. The government itself made much of the fact that India is the vaccine capital of the world. What then led to the deplorable condition that when we needed the vaccines the most, they were — and are — in short supply? The government squandered away the natural advantage India had by exporting or gifting millions of vaccines. It did not give the required monetary support in time to indigenous producers like the Serum Institute of India so that they could ramp up vaccine production, even when it had an earmarked budgetary allocation of Rs 30,000 crores to handle the pandemic. And, it unforgivably delayed the introduction of new vaccines like Sputnik and Johnson &

Johnson, by not speeding or abridging trials and approvals. Where imports were planned there are reports of major mess-ups leading to cancellations of major contracts. What we are now seeing is incoherent and improvised action when the crisis is upon us, rather than a planned anticipation that was the need of the hour.

Contrast this with what other governments like the UK and the USA have done. In America the government not only gave credit liberally to vaccine producers, but guaranteed them an assured buy-back at remunerative prices so that they could pay back the loans extended to them. The result is there to see. One-third of Americans are vaccinated, and the entire country will be vaccinated by the middle of the year. The UK, too, imported vaccines from every source that it could. We, on our part, gave away what we had, and did precious little to boost production at home for which we had the capacity.

There is a shortage, too, of oxygen, ventilators, testing kits and hospital beds. While it is true that the demand has gone up exponentially, a wise

It begs all rational thinking why the EC is not agreeing to club the balance three phases of the Bengal Assembly elections and hold them on one day. Mamata Banerjee endorses this proposal. Why doesn't the PM do so, too?

government would have prepared for the demand in anticipation of the inevitable by increasing production and capacity prior to the second wave hitting us. There is little accountability in this bureaucratic muddling, and total opacity in how the money has been spent thus far in the PM Cares Fund.

The administrative listlessness of the government can be seen in its inability to take stern measures even in the face of the second wave. Why else would have permission been given to the Kumbh Mela celebrations at Haridwar, where some 40 lakh sadhus and devotees took the plunge in the long-suffering Ganga? All norms of social distancing or masks were thrown to the wind, even as our netas smiled at the devotion of what they assume is their "vote-bank". Hinduism certainly does not sanction this abdication from duty. Shri Krishna in the Bhagwad Gita tells Arjuna to do his duty irrespective of the consequences. Our theory of dharma also includes a particular category — *aapad dharma* — which kicks in times of crisis or emergency and allows individuals and leaders to take hard decisions for survival. The Modi government likes the label of a "decisive" government, but its actions are quite to the contrary.

The same lackadaisical approach holds true for the government's defence of political rallies in the

ongoing state assembly elections. Both leaders and the crowds they want so desperately to get seem to believe that Covid does not exist. The Prime Minister lectures to the nation about "*do gaz ki doori*" and "*mask hai zaroori*", but when it comes to electioneering all such advice is thrown out of the window. There is no point in saying that other political parties do the same. If you are in the hot seat you have to set the benchmark for Covid-appropriate behaviour and uphold it through your actions. It also begs all rational thinking why the Election Commission is not agreeing to club the balance three phases of the Bengal Assembly elections and hold them on one day. Mamata Banerjee endorses this proposal. Why doesn't the PM do so, too?

The writer, an author and a former diplomat, is in politics

end up playing spoilsport, much to the BJP's delight.

There appears to be no end to the raging battle in the upper echelons of the prestigious India International Centre even four years after eminent jurist Soli Sorabjee was forced to step down as the Centre's president though he retains his position as life trustee on the IIC board. Mr Sorabjee's tenure was cut short in 2017 following a spate of allegations of financial impropriety and bungling in the admission of members. A fresh attempt was made recently at the IIC annual general meeting to depose Mr Sorabjee and Justice Srikrishna Iyer, who was holding any office. It is not clear why this matter was raised after four years. The resolution was, however, not approved as several members pointed out that such a drastic action could not be taken in the absence of the two trustees and without giving them an opportunity to have their say. It must be mentioned that an enquiry committee was set up to probe the charges against Mr Sorabjee but little

LETTERS

MISSING LEADERSHIP

A nation needs a leader during a crisis. Unfortunately, India is missing one today. A layman can tell what is required to tide over the situation but those in power are unable to see beyond their nose. It does not need great intelligence to say that, without affecting the livelihood of the public, all types of congregation needs to be banned. But the question remains. Do we have leaders at the top who are concerned about the public, or just ordinary politicians?

Shashi Karan
Hyderabad

VACCINE SHORTAGE

It is surprising that the government had not foreseen the shortage of vaccines and oxygen and became clueless to control the surge in pandemic (*PM takes stock of oxygen, vaccine output to be hiked, DC, April 17*). The need of the hour is to increase the production of vaccine and oxygen on war footing and save lives.

G.V.N. Murthy
Hyderabad

We have a dense population and poor health care. Meetings, political rallies and canvassing will lead to exponential rise in cases. If elections continued, we must suffer a lot. The uncontrolled situation will force the government to declare an health emergency.

D Kishan Prasad Rao
Thimmapur, Karimnagar

I got Covishield vaccine on March 6 and the second dose was due on April 17. Now there is shortage of vaccine. I request hospital authorities and local political leaders, MLAs and MPs to help procure vaccines for people. It will be a great service to mankind at this juncture. Boasting in election rallies will not help the common man.

Sriraman Kulkarni
Hyderabad

The second Covid wave in 2021 appears to be more severe. Everyone should wear a mask and follow all protocols and be safe.

A. Venkatachary
Secunderabad

SCHOOL FEES

Even during Covid-19 time, corporate schools are collecting excess fees. So many people have lost their jobs and are leading a miserable life. Even though parents raised their voice on this issue, there is no response. The government must look into the matter and take necessary action against these corporate schools.

Saroja Kankipati
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Bangla Desh becomes Republic

KUSHTIA (BANGLA DESH), APRIL 17

The Sovereign Democratic Republic of Bangla Desh came into formal existence today with a historic proclamation of independence by the new nation's acting President, Syed Nazrul Islam.

The proclamation was read out by Mr. Islam for the President, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, at a simple and solemn ceremony under a mango tree at Baidyanathatala in Meherpur sub-division of Kushtia district.

Anita Katyal
Political Gup-Shup



Modi's 'Didi' jibe offends women; what AAP shares with Owaisi

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was personally reluctant to impose a lockdown but he was later

pushed into doing so by his bureaucrats who did some plain speaking to him about the need for drastic measures given the alarming spike in Covid-19 cases in the state. Though Mr Chouhan did go by the advice of his officers, informal instructions were conveyed to the lower rung bureaucracy that the lockdown need not be implemented strictly and that people moving out should not be penalised. And the Damoh constituency where a bypoll was held last week, was deliberately exempted from adhering to the lockdown to allow political parties to organise their election rallies. They were helped in this effort by the local election commission officials who went to town with the slogan, "*Corona se nahi darenge, mardan hum zaroor karenge*", urging voters to come out in large numbers on polling day. Incidentally, while Mr Chouhan was battling the alarming rise in infections, his health minister Narottam Mishra was busy overseeing the Assembly poll in West Bengal. Mr Mishra reached his home state a few days before the bye-election in Damoh which happens to be his stronghold.

Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal has a lot in common with AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi. Either it is deliberate or inadvertent, but the leaders end up helping the Bharatiya Janata Party by entering an electoral fray resulting in the weakening of the Congress. Mr Owaisi did so in Bihar and Mr Kejriwal in the Gujarat local elections. In fact, there is talk that the two parties even receive covert funding from the BJP. Currently, AAP is focusing on expanding its footprint in Uttarakhand. To that extent, it has initiated a vigorous recruitment drive and is positioning itself as a credible alternative in the hill state. Interestingly, Mr Kejriwal is concentrating on the Kumaon region, which is where the Congress has strong roots, and not on Garhwal which is known to be the BJP's fiefdom. Given the anti-incumbency against the BJP in Uttarakhand, the Congress has a chance of coming back to power here. But Mr Kejriwal could well

end up playing spoilsport, much to the BJP's delight.

There appears to be no end to the raging battle in the upper echelons of the prestigious India International Centre even four years after eminent jurist Soli Sorabjee was forced to step down as the Centre's president though he retains his position as life trustee on the IIC board. Mr Sorabjee and Justice Srikrishna Iyer, who was holding any office. It is not clear why this matter was raised after four years. The resolution was, however, not approved as several members pointed out that such a drastic action could not be taken in the absence of the two trustees and without giving them an opportunity to have their say. It must be mentioned that an enquiry committee was set up to probe the charges against Mr Sorabjee but little

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist



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VENKATASAI70MM-KEESARA
LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE
SVC MAHALAXMICOMPLEX
BVK VIJAYALAXMICOMPLEX
OAMB AMB CINEMASGACHIBOWLI
Radhika-Kapra | GPR-Kukatpally
MCUBE-Attapur|Sivaganga
Cinesquare-Uppal
Forum-Kukatpally | RK Plex
Inorbit|Central | Hitech | Preston
Irrummanzil | Moosarambagh
Contact 7013388396

Myanmar pardons prisoners, unclear if coup foes released

Yangon, April 17: Myanmar's junta on Saturday announced it had pardoned and released more than 23,000 prisoners to mark the traditional Thingyan New Year holiday, but it wasn't immediately clear if they included pro-democracy activists who were detained in the wake of the military's seizure of power in Feb.

The releases were announced on state broadcaster

MTV, which said that junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing had pardoned 23,047 prisoners, including 137 foreigners who will be deported from Myanmar. He also reduced sentences for others.

The move comes as daily protests against the Feb. 1 ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi continue, as does the use of deadly force against them. According to the

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests, government forces have killed at least 728 protesters and bystanders since the takeover. The group says 3,141 people, including Suu Kyi, are in detention. Unconfirmed but credible accounts with photos on social media claimed that three people were killed Saturday. —PTI



Refugee cap to be lifted in May

Washington, April 17: Facing swift blowback from allies and aid groups, the White House said President Joe Biden plans to lift his predecessor's historically low cap on refugees by next month, after initially moving only to expand the eligibility criteria for resettlement.

In an emergency determination signed by Biden earlier Friday, he stated the admission of up to 15,000 refugees set by former President Donald Trump this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the nation-

al interest." But if the cap is reached before the end of the current budget year and the emergency refugee situation persists, then a presidential determination may be issued to raise the ceiling.

That set off a deluge of criticism from top allies on Capitol Hill such as the second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, who called that initial limit "unacceptable." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said later that Biden is expected to increase the refugee cap by May 15. —AP

ASIAN CINEMAS	
TODAY SCHEDULE	
WEAR MASK STAY SAFE	
RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY IN THEATRES	
BLOCKBUSTER	
FedEx shooting: Killer identified	
KIN OF KILLED PIOS REACT IN DISBELIEF	
US, JAPAN PUT UP UNITED FRONT AGAINST CHINA	
Indianapolis, April 17: Police scoured a FedEx facility in Indianapolis and searched the suspected gunman's home Friday looking for a motive for the latest mass shooting to rock the US, as family members of the eight victims spent agonising hours awaiting word on their loved ones.	
The shooter was identified as 19-year-old Brandon Scott Hole of Indiana, two law enforcement officials briefed on the matter told <i>The Associated Press</i> . The investigators searched a home in Indianapolis associated with Hole and seized evidence, including desktop computers and other electronic media, the officials said.	
Enough is enough our community has been through enough trauma, Komal Chohan, granddaughter of one of the deceased, said.	
Jaswinder Singh, who lost his life in the shooting, was due to get his first paycheck at the facility this month and was working on the night shift to sort out the mail. He was a simple man. He used to pray and meditate a lot, and he did community service, said Harjap Singh Dhillon, a relative, said.	
Rimpal Girn, Sekhon's niece, said she is struggling to explain her loss of her younger son. —PTI	
Washington, April 17: The United States and Japan vowed Friday to stand firm together against an assertive China and to step up cooperation on climate change and next-generation technology as President Joe Biden made his first summit a show of alliance unity.	
After waiting nearly three months for his first foreign guest due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Biden told Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga that Japan enjoyed the United States' "iron-clad support" on security issues and beyond.	
"We're going to work together to prove that democracies can still compete and win in the 21st century," Biden, affectionately calling the Japanese leader "Yoshi," told a news conference.	
A joint statement called for "candid conversations" with China and did not hold back, raising concerns over Beijing's growing maritime moves, its clampdowns in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and tension over Taiwan. It reiterated that the US-Japan Security Treaty covers the Japanese-administered Senkaku islands. —AFP	
Prince Philip laid to rest in royal service	
'Godzilla' shark gets formal name	
Santa Fe (US), April 17: The 300-million-year-old shark's teeth were the first sign that it might be a distinct species. The ancient chompers looked less like the spear-like rows of teeth of related species. They were squatter and shorter, less than an inch long, around 2 centimetres. "Great for grasping and crushing prey rather than piercing prey," said discoverer John-Paul Hodnett, who was a graduate student when he unearthed the first fossils of the shark at a dig east of Albuquerque in 2013. This week, Hodnett and a slew of other researchers published their findings in a bulletin of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science identifying the shark as a separate species. He named the 6.7-foot (2 metre) monster <i>Dracopristis hoffmannorum</i> , or Hoffman's Dragon Shark, in honour of the New Mexico family that owns the land in the Manzano Mountains where the fossils were found. Hodnett says the area is rife with fossils and easy to access because of a quarry and other commercial digging operations. The name also harkens to the dragon-like jawline and 2.5-foot (0.75-metre) fin spines that inspired the discovery's initial nickname, "Godzilla Shark."	
The formal naming announcement followed seven years of excavation, preservation and study. The 12 rows of teeth on the shark's lower jaw, for example, were still obscured by layers of sediment after excavation. Hodnett only saw them by using an angled light technique that illuminates objects below. Hodnett is now the paleontologist and programme coordinator for the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission's Dinosaur Park in Laurel, Maryland. His fellow researchers come from the New Mexico museum, as well as St. Joseph's University in Pennsylvania, Northern Arizona University, and Idaho State University.	
The recovered fossil skeleton is considered the most complete of its evolutionary branch. —AP	

Afghanistan: US may up troops before recall

Details being worked out: Pentagon chief

Washington, April 17: The US will likely increase its troop presence in Afghanistan temporarily over the coming weeks and months in order to fulfill President Joe Biden's order to safely withdraw all forces from the country by Sep. 11, the Pentagon said Friday.

But he added that it's not clear if there will be an ongoing reason to keep some type of contractor support in the country.

According to the Pentagon, the number of contractors in Afghanistan started to decline over the past year or so. According to the latest numbers, there are close to 17,000 Defense Department-funded contractors in Afghanistan and less than a third of those were Americans.

The total included more than 2,800 armed and unarmed private security contractors, of which more than 1,500 are armed. Of those 1,500, about 600 are Americans.

Defence Department contractors conduct a wide variety of tasks from protecting convoys and serving as security escorts to training, engineering and maintenance duties.

Defense officials and military commanders have been planning for the US troop withdrawal for months, spurred on by the peace agreement and the Trump administration's persistent desire to end the war. The Pentagon, however, was able to successfully argue over the past year or more that a complete pullout was unwise. —AP

FedEx shooting: Killer identified

KIN OF KILLED PIOS REACT IN DISBELIEF

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Prince Philip laid to rest in royal service

'Godzilla' shark gets formal name

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—PTI

Worldwide Covid death toll tops a staggering 3 million

True number is higher because of possible government concealment

\$1.7B US network to track virus variants

Italy health chief stays off from scam

Rio de Janeiro, April 17: The global death toll from the Coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million people Saturday amid repeated setbacks in the worldwide vaccination campaign and a deepening crisis in places such as Brazil, India and France.

The number of lives lost, as compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the population of Kyiv, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; or metropolitan Lisbon, Portugal. It is bigger than Chicago (2.7 million) and equivalent to Philadelphia and Dallas combined. And the true number is believed to be significantly higher because of possible government concealment or the many cases overlooked in the early stages of the outbreak that began 16 months ago in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019.

Around the world, the trajectory of the virus and the race to bring it under control vary widely from country to country.

Even as the US and Britain see their vaccination drives hit their stride and they begin to contemplate life after the pandemic, other places both rich and poor — France and India among them — are lagging

and Prevention and state health departments to ramp up Coronavirus genome-mapping; the creation of six centres of excellence partnerships with universities to conduct research and develop technologies for gene-based surveillance of pathogens, and building a data system to better share and analyse information on emerging disease threats.

Washington, April 17: The US is setting up a \$1.7 billion national network to identify and track worrisome Coronavirus mutations whose spread could trigger another pandemic wave, the Biden administration announced Friday.

White House officials unveiled a strategy that features three components: A major funding boost for the Centers for Disease Control

Rome, April 17: The head of Italy's national health institute distanced himself Friday from a scandal over a spiked World Health Organisation report into Italy's Coronavirus response, saying he had no means to interfere with the UN agency and had never censored even inconvenient information from the public.

Dr Silvio Brusaferro was drawn into the scandal

after a leaked document from Bergamo prosecutors last week revealed transcripts of WhatsApp chats between Brusaferro and a WHO official, Dr. Ranieri Guerra, who is under investigation for having allegedly made false claims to prosecutors about the report. Published in May last year as a guide to help countries prepare for Covid-19, it sparked a nerve.

USTR DISCUSSES TRIPS WAIVER OFFER FOR VAX

Washington, April 17: US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, in a virtual meeting with GAVI's CEO Dr. Seth Berkley, discussed, among other things, the proposed waiver of certain provisions of the WTO's agreement on intellectual property rules for the manufacture of coronavirus vaccines. — PTI

Virus fight: PIO scientist leads team to identify genes

Washington, April 17: US researchers led by an Indian-origin scientist have identified a set of human genes that fight SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes Covid-19, a study that could help in understanding the factors that affect disease severity and suggesting possible therapeutic options.

The study by scientists at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in San Diego, California, was published in the journal *Molecular Cell*. The genes in question are related to interferons, the body's frontline virus fighters. We wanted to gain a



SUPER HIT

DEVI 70MM
(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION WITH DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00am, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15pm

SHIVAPARVATHY 70MM
11.30am, 2.45, 6.30, 9.45pm

TARAKARAMA 70
11.15 & 2.15

BHUJANGA 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

SRINIVASA 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SAPNA 35MM
11.30 & 2.30

ASIAN SWAPNA 35MM 2.15pm & 9.00pm

LAXMIKALA - 11.30am I
SHA - 2.45pm I CINESQUARE - 2.00pm
CINEPLANET - 4.50pm

Cinépolis CCPL - 12.10pm I SUDHA - 4.15pm

PVR FORUM - 1.05pm I

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OAMB AMB CINEMAS GACHIBOWLI

MAHALAXMI-Kothapeta

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

PVR Forum-Kukatpally
RK Plex-Banjara hills
Inorbit mall-Madhapur
Next galleria-Panjagutta
Hitech-Madhapur
Irrummanzil | Preston Prime
Moosarambagh

INOX GVK MALL | GSM MP MALL

Cinépolis CCPL | DSL MANTRA | SUDHA

SHALINI/SHIVANI CHANDANAGAR | BALANAGAR

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SIVASAKTHI 70MM-KAPRA

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(ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS)
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

ARJUN 70MM-KUKATPALLY
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

RAJADHANI COMPLEX
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

TARAKARAMA 70MM
6.00, 9.00PM (2 SHOWS)

OAMB AMB-2.00, 4.50, 10.25PM

Cinesquare - 4.20, 10.15PM
Gpr-1.30, 10.20PM

1.30, 10.20PM MULTIPLEX
11.00, 7.00PM 2.00, 10.15PM

PVR Forum-11.30, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40PM
Inorbit-1.25, 6.35, 9.00PM
Central-10.35, 8.25PM

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

Galleria-11.05, 5.40, 8.05, 10.30PM

Irrummanzil-12.45, 6.05, 10.20PM

Moosarambagh-1.15, 10.00PM

Preston-1.50, 10.15PM

GVK MALL-10.30, 4.30, 10.50PM
MP-10.40, 3.30, 10.40PM
GSM-11.00, 7.00, 10.00PM

CCPL-3.25, 9.30PM
MANTRA-12.00, 5.00PM
SUDHA-1.00, 6.35PM | DSL-1.20, 6.25PM

TIVOLI-11.30, 4.30, 10.10PM

MIRAJ SHALINI-11.40, 8.10PM
CHANDANAGAR-10.15PM
BALANAGAR-11.40, 8.10, 10.40PM

SRLAXMIKALA 70MM-AMANDIR-ALWAL
11.30, 2.30, 6.30, 9.30PM

SAPNA CINEMA-ABIDS
6.00 & 9.15PM (2 SHOWS)

SIVASAKTHI 70MM
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

JYOTHIRCPURAM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

KUMAR 70MM
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.00

ANJALI 70MM
11.15, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15

SENSATION INSO
11.45, 2.45, 6.45, 9.45

SREEPALA 70
TUKKUGUDA
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00

YAKUTHMAHAL-12.30, 3.30, 6.00, 9.00PM

RELEASING THIS WEEK

MUKTA A2 CINEMAS
RAMAKRISHNA 35MM - ABIDS

11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30

SANDHYA 35MM R.T.C X ROAD

ARJUN 70MM KUKATPALLY

MEGA 70MM DILSHUKNAGAR

PRASAD MULTIPLEX - Khairatabad

AMB CINEMAS - Gachibowli

TIVOLI CINEMAS - Secunderabad

FORUM - Kukatpally | **ICON** - Hitech

PVR MOOSARAMBAGH | IRRUM MANZIL
GALLERIA | CENTRAL - Punjagutta
RK - Banjara | INORBIT - Cyberbad

GPR - Kukatpally | **SHA** - Chintal
RADHIKA - Kapra | **M CUBE** - Attapur |
CINEPLANET - Kompaipalli

CINESQUARE - Uppal |
SHIVAGANGA - Dilshukhnagar

LAXMIKALA - Moosapet

SWAPNA - KATTEDAN

INOX - Banjara | **GSM** - Miyapur |
MP MALL - Kachiguda I

DSL - Uppal | **MANTRA** - Attapur |
CCPL - Malkajgiri I

BHUJANGA 70MM JEEDIMETLA

JYOTHI 70MM R.C PURAM

RAJYALAXMI 70MM UPPAL

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VYJAYANTHI 70MM NACHARAM

SAI RANGA 70MM MIYAPUR

AMBA 70MM MEHDIPATNAM

BR HITECH 70MM MADHAPUR

SUPER 70MM BALAPUR

VIMAL 70MM BALANAGAR

SRI SAI POOJA 70 SURRARAM

VLS SRIDEVI 70 CHILKALGUDA

LAXMI 70MM SHAMSHABAD

SRI LAXMIKALA MANDIR ALWAL

TIVOLI catch the stars
TODAY'S SCHEDULE

VAKEEL SAAB
TELUGU U/A 155 MIN
10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM,
4:30 PM, 6:00 PM, 7:30 PM,
10:35 PM

99 SONGS
TELUGU U/A 133 MIN
1:50 PM, 7:10 PM, 10:00 PM

DEYYAM
TELUGU U/A 98 MIN
11:30 AM, 4:30 PM, 10:10 PM

ITLU ANJALI
TELUGU U/A 118 MIN
7:50 PM

RANG DE
TELUGU U/A 130 MIN
2:00 PM, 10:20 PM

JATHI RATNALU
TELUGU U/A 148 MIN
12:00 PM, 4:50 PM

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BOX ARE PLAYING AT
EXTREME**

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• RAJASTHAN ROYALS • ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE • SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

DECCAN CHRONICLE, HYDERABAD, SUNDAY, 18 APRIL 2021

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ORANGE	
Nitish Rana, KKR	137
Sanju Samson, RR	123
Jonny Bairstow, SRH	110
PURPLE	
Harshal Patel, RCB	7
Rahul Chahar, MI	7
Trent Boult, MI	6

Off the field



Ben Stokes bids adieu to his Rajasthan Royals teammates as he returns to the UK for a surgery. — RR

Sams in RCB bubble after negative test

Australian all-rounder Daniel Sams on Saturday joined the Royal Challengers Bangalore's bio-bubble after returning with two negative RT-PCR results more than a week after testing positive for COVID-19. The 28-year-old had arrived in India on April 3 with a negative COVID-19 report but tested positive during the second test on April 7 and was in quarantine since then. "We are pleased to inform that Royal Challengers Bangalore, all-rounder Daniel Sams, has joined the RCB bio-bubble on 17th April 2021 with negative reports for COVID-19," RCB said in a statement.

"RCB medical team was in constant touch with Sams to ensure his safety and declared him fit after all the required examinations as part of the BCCI protocols."

Chahar earns rich praise from Shastri

Deepak Chahar's best IPL performance 4-1-13-4 on Friday earned rich praise from national head coach Ravi Shastri. "Proven fact. Genuine swing both ways with control can undo the best. Super variations. Brilliant," Shastri tweeted.

Chahar recalled how a random fan's social media comment hurt him. "Expectations are high here and you have to perform in every game, so this is for that man, who made the comment, if I would not have played, this performance might have not come," Chahar said.

Padikkal is great talent, says Lara

Devdutt Padikkal needs to "iron out" a few technical things but the legendary Brian Lara is confident that the RCB left-hander would better his performance during this IPL with a few Man of the Match awards. The 20-year-old Padikkal was one of the finds of the last IPL, scoring 474 runs with five half-centuries and contributing handsomely to RCB's campaign.

"A few little things to iron out. I hope he did that in the break and comes back really storming hard for this IPL. What I want to see in 2021 IPL is for him to go on and get a few man of the matches and get a couple of triple figures under his belt. Such a great little player," Lara said.

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Editor: Kaushik Mitter

FIELD DAY FOR MI

Hardik hits bull's eye twice as Mumbai run Sunrisers out

Chennai, April 17: Sunrisers Hyderabad's middle-order continued to misfire as spinner Rahul Chahar and pacer Trent Boult fashioned Mumbai Indians to a 13-run win in their IPL match here on Saturday.

Defending 150, leg-spinner Chahar (3/19) stifled the middle-order before Boult (3/28) polished off the tail as SRH were bowled out for 137 in 19.4 overs.

Opting to bat, MI had a good start but Vijay Shankar and Mujeeb Ur Rahman claimed two wickets each as SRH stemmed the flow of runs in the middle overs.

However, Kieron Pollard managed to lift MI to 150 for 5 with the help of a 22-ball 35 which included two sixes of the last two balls of their innings.

Chasing 151 for a win, Jonny Bairstow smashed a 22-ball 35 to give SRH a rollicking start, while David Warner too managed a 36 off 34 but once the duo were back in the hut, the middle-order again failed to come to the fore.

Back at the top with his opening partner Warner, Bairstow amassed 18 runs from Trent Boult in the third over with the help of three fours and a six.

Adam Milne was then treated with equal disdain, sending him for two maximums and a four as he bled 19 runs.

Krunal Pandya was then handed the ball but the result was the same as he conceded 13 runs with Bairstow and Warner smashing a six and a four respectively as SRH amassed 55 in 5 overs.

Bumrah then bowled a tight over but Warner sent Milne for a six as SRH reached 57 for no loss in powerplay.

Lady luck smiled on MI



Hardik Pandya (second from right) celebrates with teammates after effecting a brilliant run-out to dismiss Sunrisers' David Warner.

— IPL

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Quinton de Kock c sub (J Suchith) b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 40, Rohit Sharma c Virat Singh b Shankar 32, Suryakumar Yadav c b Shankar 10, Ishan Kishan c Bairstow b Mujeeb Ur Rahman 12, Kieron Pollard (not out) 35, Hardik Pandya c Virat Singh b Ahmed 7, Krunal Pandya (not out) 3. Extras (lb 6, nb 1, w 4) 11. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 150. FoW: 1-55, 2-71, 3-98, 4-114, 5-131. Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-45-0,

Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-24-1, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4-0-29-2, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-5-0, Vijay Shankar 3-0-19-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-22-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner run out (Hardik Pandya) 36, Jonny Bairstow hit wicket b KH Pandya 43, Manish Pandey c Pollard b Chahar 2, Virat Singh c Yadav b Chahar 11, Vijay Shankar c Yadav b Bumrah 28, Abhishek Sharma c Milne b Chahar 2,

Abdul Samad run out (Hardik Pandya) 7, Rashid Khan lbw b Boult 0, Bhuvneshwar Kumar b Boult 1, Mujeeb Ur Rahman (not out) 1, Khaleel Ahmed b Boult 1. Extras (lb 3, w 2) 5. Total (in 19.4 overs) 137.

FoW: 1-67, 2-71, 3-90, 4-102, 5-104, 6-129, 7-130, 8-134, 9-135.

Bowling: Trent Boult 3-4-0-28-3, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-14-1, Adam Milne 3-0-33-0, Krunal Pandya 3-0-30-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-19-3, Kieron Pollard 2-0-10-0.

he kept losing his partners as Abdul Samad (7) was sent packing by Hardik with another direct throw and then Boult produced a perfect yorker to rid get of Rashid (0). Vijay too perished in the next over as SRH fell short once again.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma (32 off 25) and Quinton de Kock (40 off 39) scored 53 in the powerplay after Mumbai opted to bat.

— PTI

POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Points	Net RR
MI	3	2	1	0	4	+0.367
RCB	2	2	0	0	4	+0.175
CSK	2	1	1	0	2	+0.616
DC	2	1	1	0	2	+0.195
RR	2	1	1	0	2	+0.052
KKR	2	1	1	0	2	+0.000
PBKS	2	1	1	0	2	-0.909
SRH	3	0	3	0	0	-0.483

SNAP SHOTS

Sports Minister Rijiju is Covid positive

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that he has tested positive for Covid-19 but is feeling "fit and fine". The 49-year-old posted the development on his Twitter page. "After getting repeated test for Covid-19, today my report has come out positive," Rijiju wrote in his Twitter handle.

"I'm taking the advice of the Doctors. I request all those who have come in my contact recently to be observant, exercise self-quarantine and get themselves tested. I'm physically fit and fine," he added.

Rijiju was in Uttarakhand on Friday to inaugurate a Water Sports and Adventure Institute in Tehri.

Ex-footballer Ahmed Hussain no more

The Telangana Football Association (TFA) condoled the demise of former Indian football centre-back Ahmed Hussain who passed away on Friday, aged 89.

Ahmed Hussain made 11 appearances for India. He represented the national team in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where India finished fourth. He was also part of the Indian team at the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo.

A student of Nizam College, Ahmed Hussain also played for the Hyderabad City Police team in the 1950s. TFA president Mohd Ali Rafath and secretary G. P. Palguna expressed their condolences to the bereaved family members.



Ahmed Hussain

BCCI hopeful of domestic season Bangalore look to continue fine run

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, APRIL 17

Royal Challengers Bangalore are riding on a crest of a wave after winning two out of their first two games this season. They would be keen on posting a hat-trick of wins when they lock horns with Kolkata Knight Riders here at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium on Sunday afternoon.

With RCB finding an unlikely bowling hero in left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed and 'million-dollar' Glenn Maxwell ending his five-year drought for an IPL half-century, Virat Kohli's team appear to have the right combination in their playing XI.

Maxwell's dramatic change in IPL fortunes has been credited to Kohli's admirable leadership. Kiwi Kyle Jamieson, who has added teeth to RCB's pace bowling unit, too praised Kohli for helping him adapt to Indian conditions.

"He (Kohli) is such an experienced leader. He is a skilful leader and the way that he approaches the games certainly complements the way I like to go about things. He is competitive, he is aggressive and likes to take the game on, which is something I like to adopt as well," Jamieson said.

The afternoon game (3:30pm start) is expected to change the dynamics at Chepauk which proved to be a nightmare for chasing teams in the previous games. However, spin will

DELHI CAPITALS HOLD EDGE OVER PUNJAB KINGS

Mumbai, April 17: Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant will aim to display better tactical acumen in Catch-22 situations against a 'blow-hot-blown-cold' Punjab Kings in what promises to be a battle of brittle middle-orders in an IPL match here on Sunday.

Both teams are coming into the 'Norther Derby' of IPL after enduring defeats in their previous games but Delhi Capitals are definitely a better side on paper.

Pant, relatively inexperienced in terms of IPL captaincy, lost the plot in the last game where he didn't finish his best bowler Ravichandran Ashwin's quota and instead used Tom Curran's friendly medium pacers.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, suffered an inexplicable batting collapse against Chennai Super Kings with Deepak Chahar's extra bounce and slight seam movement causing the damage.

This was after a healthy 200 plus total in the opening game. The nature of the Wankhede track is posing a few questions under lights for top-order batsmen as the last two games have shown with underlying moisture aiding quality fast bowling. — PTI

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches 26

PBKS 15 DC 11

FOR THE RECORD

• KL Rahul who has scored 4,938 runs in 141 innings needs 62 runs to become the 11th Indian and 70th batsman overall to score 5,000 runs in T20s.

• R. Ashwin who has taken 249 wickets in 246 innings needs just one wicket to become the third Indian and 33rd bowler overall to take 250 wickets in T20s.

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

• Delhi beat Punjab in Super over after the match ended in a tie at Dubai.

• Punjab beat Delhi by 5 wickets at Dubai.

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

Live on TV

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 3:30 pm; Delhi Capitals vs Punjab Kings from 7:30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD1

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches 26

KKR 14 RCB 12

FOR THE RECORD

• Eoin Morgan who has scored 6,921 runs at an average of 29.81 in 295 innings needs 79 more to become the fourth Englishman and 22nd batsman overall to score 7,000 runs in T20 matches.

• Virat Kohli who has scored 5,944 runs at an average of 38.10 in 186 innings needs 56 more to become the first batsman to complete 6,000 runs in IPL.

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

• RCB beat Knight Riders by 82 runs at Sharjah.

• RCB beat Knight Riders by 8 wickets at Abu Dhabi.

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

remain the most potent weapon on a slow surface.

Kolkata are coming off a disappointing result after dominating the game for a major part of it. KKR would be eager to see skipper Eoin Morgan hitting the top form. He hasn't touched the double-digit this season. West Indian all-rounder Andre Russell, who was brilliant with the ball hasn't performed well with the bat for KKR either.

Having scored back-to-back half-centuries, left-handed opener Nitish Rana is KKR's biggest contributor.

Kolkata's spin trio of Harbhajan Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy and Shakib Al Hasan managed to keep the opponent batsmen at bay in powerplays.

Amul