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VOLUME 11, ISSUE 21 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 | 2021

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leisure



AIR CONDITIONING GIVES WRINKLES, SAYS CAMPBELL

Model Naomi Campbell believes air conditioning gives her wrinkles, so she makes sure she switches it off when she goes to bed. "We have air conditioning but I don't personally sleep in air conditioning. It gives wrinkles, I believe," Campbell said during a tour of her luxury villa in Malindi, Kenya, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

JESSICA BIEL'S LIFE WITH TWO KIDS IS 'A WILD, WILD RIDE'

Actress Jessica Biel admits that life has changed after she was blessed with her second baby. Calling it a 'wild, wild ride', she says two children are a lot of work.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
With your substantial inter-personal abilities, you will accomplish a great deal today, says Ganesha. Your power of expression will impress many people. Financial rewards are on the cards, but be cautious about minor accidents and illnesses.

TAURUS
You have a very pleasant day ahead. Though you are, by nature, restless and excitable you will be very steady and focused in whatever you do today. So says Ganesha. Later you will desire to enjoy the company of your friends and will call them over to chat and gossip with them.

GEMINI
There is a possibility of conflicts brewing at your home today. The demands made by your family members will increase and you may struggle to cope to meet them. This could make you ill-tempered. You will encounter large expenses in meeting these demands.

CANCER
A wondrous beginning of the day! A unique vibrations in romantic life. Ties with life partner will be cordial. Blissful moments of married life are indicated. Peace and happiness prevail in the family. The whole day will be blooming and jovial, says Ganesha.

LEO
You may have arguments with your family members today. You need to adopt an accommodating attitude today, since it is not a very promising day for you. Otherwise nothing may go in your favour.

VIRGO
Family matters will matter today. They hold more weight in your thoughts than everything else, says Ganesha. Business will be good today. Spend the evening relaxing and chilling out. On the cards is a visit to a place of worship.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you shall pay more attention to your family and family issues. You will want to renovate and change the interior of your house or go in for purchasing new gadgets and décor for the home. You will spend time today with your family members.

SCORPIO
It's time to influence people and win their hearts whether it's your crush, love or your boss. You may be eager to express your feelings for them. At work, you are likely to work actively and kick start the projects in the pipeline. Ganesha, advises you to keep your eyes and ears open.

SAGITTARIUS
The way you keep your interests alive will keep your mind occupied. Leisure activities and by-lines will by-pass the mundane routine today, foretells Ganesha. Pamper yourself by doing what you like, be it gardening, cooking or even plain old reading.

CAPRICORN
You'll be popular today at your workplace. Your honesty and efforts will be recognised, which will be fulfilling for you. But, tomorrow will be a different day and times may not be favourable for you. It is, therefore, necessary for you to understand the importance of today and utilise it to the maximum, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Flash warning signals to your arch rivals as you will be in a mood to prove you metal and give them a run for their money. Doubts and inhibitions - all will vanish in the air and you will be determined to make your mark, feels Ganesha. While on your path to success you will win the hearts of one and many.

PISCES
There is a thick chance that your day will be profitable on the monetary front. Money may pour in from business or even through overseas investments. Your knack for good public relations and networking will work to your benefit and good deals will come from far and unexpected sources as well.

When Sri, Jaya were locked in a room

Mumbai: Veteran actress Jaya Prada has recalled an amusing incident involving her and the late superstar Sridevi, from back in the day when the two actresses were considered top competitor to each other. The year was 1984 and the two heroines were shooting for the film *Maqsad* with Rajesh Khanna and Jeetendra. Realising Sridevi and Jaya Prada wouldn't speak to each other, the two lead actors devised a plan. "It's never been that we had any personal grudge against each other but it is just that

our chemistry never matched. Every single time we met we were first introduced on set, and we would say namaste to each other and move ahead," Jaya recalled. She went on to reveal: "I still remember, during the shoot of *Maqsad*, Jeetu ji and Rajesh Khanna ji locked us in a makeup room for an hour but we both did not even say a word and everyone gave it up on us!" However, Jaya Prada says does miss Sridevi, who passed away in 2018. She regrets not talking to her enough.



Anupam sees himself Sunny spreads warmth on Instagram

Mumbai: Actor Anupam Kher has been there, done it all - from B-Town to Hollywood. His secret of survival over the decades, he would tell you, lies in his knack at identifying with the youth. "I always see myself in the new people. That is why I understand them. I try to be kind and compassionate to them. I came to this city on the 3rd of June, 1981, which is 40 years back. This is a very dignified bald look. To come at a time in the early 80s, when half my hair was coming out from here and from there, and I was

so thin that I could see through a keyhole with both my eyes! At that time, to dare to be an actor in cinema was unheard of," he recalls. He says his early struggle was tough, and he hopes no one has to go through it. Kher was recently on the jury panel for the BAFTA Breakthrough India Initiative, which selected 10 winners from the fields of television, films and games.



Sunny spreads warmth on Instagram. **Mumbai:** Sunny Leone shared a string of sun-kissed images Tuesday that capture her basking in golden glow. In the Instagram pictures, Sunny sits in a denim short dress paired with a tan jacket. To complete her look, she wears sneakers and chunky sunglasses. Rays of the sun fall on her skin adding radiance to her face. "Sun-kissed," she posted as caption. Sunny is currently in Kerala to shoot of her upcoming film, the psychological thriller *Shero*. She had recently shot for the reality TV show *MTV Splitsvilla* in the state, too.

Shero is directed by Sreejith Vijayan and will release in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam. Sunny is all set to make her debut on the digital space with the fictional web show *Anamika*, which is billed as a 'gun-fu' action thriller and is directed by Vikram Bhatt.



OTT looks to books for inspiration

Based on Aravind Adiga's Man Booker Prize-winning novel of the same name, 'The White Tiger' has been nominated at the upcoming Oscars in the Best Adapted Screenplay category

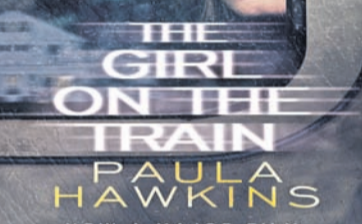
Mumbai: With OTT platforms experimenting with genres and content, there are a host of projects that are based on books. Here are a few notable shows that have been inspired from books:



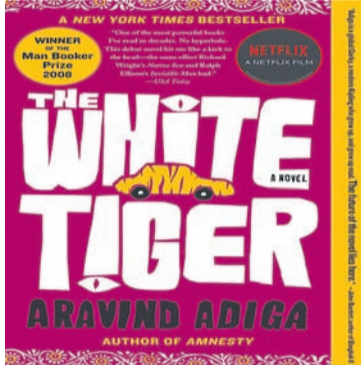
Cobalt Blue
Cobalt Blue is a drama film that has been written and directed by Sachin Kundalkar. It is based on the debut novel of Kundalkar of the same name. The story revolves around a brother and a sister who happen to fall in love with the same person.



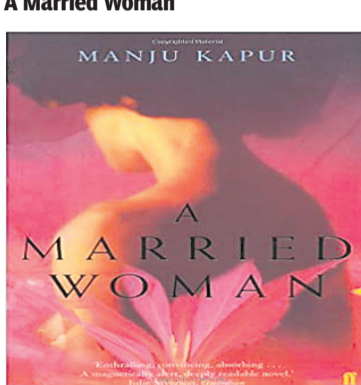
The Girl on the Train
Starring Parineeti Chopra, Kriti Kulkarni, Aditi Rao Hydari and Avinash Tiwary, the film based on Paula Hawkins' 2015 novel of the same name was released a while back, and received mixed reactions. The Ribhu Dasgupta film is a murder mystery and a psychological drama.



The White Tiger
Based on Aravind Adiga's Man Booker Prize-winning novel, the film has received wide acclaim. Starring Adarsh Gourav, Priyanka Chopra and Rajkumar Rao, the film is also executive-produced by Priyanka. The film's Iranian-American writer-director Rami Bahrani has been nominated at the upcoming Oscars in the Best Adapted Screenplay category.



Bahrani was also nominated in the category at the recent BAFTAs, as was Adarsh Gourav as Lead Actor, but both of them lost out.



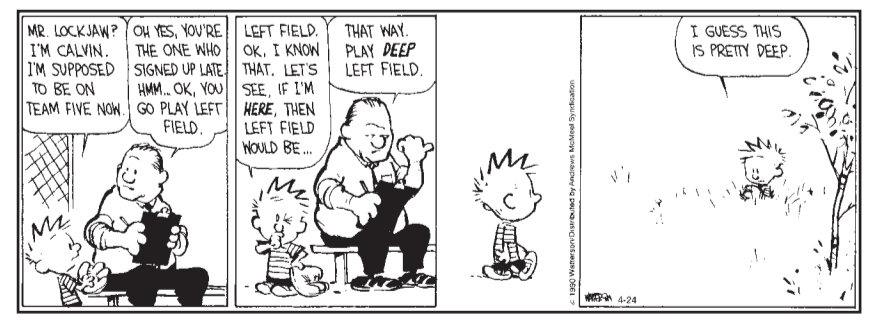
The Bestseller She Wrote is a novel by Ravi Subramanian, revolving around love, betrayal and redemption. It will reportedly star Mithun Chakraborty and Shruti Haasan.

FUN post

PEANUTS



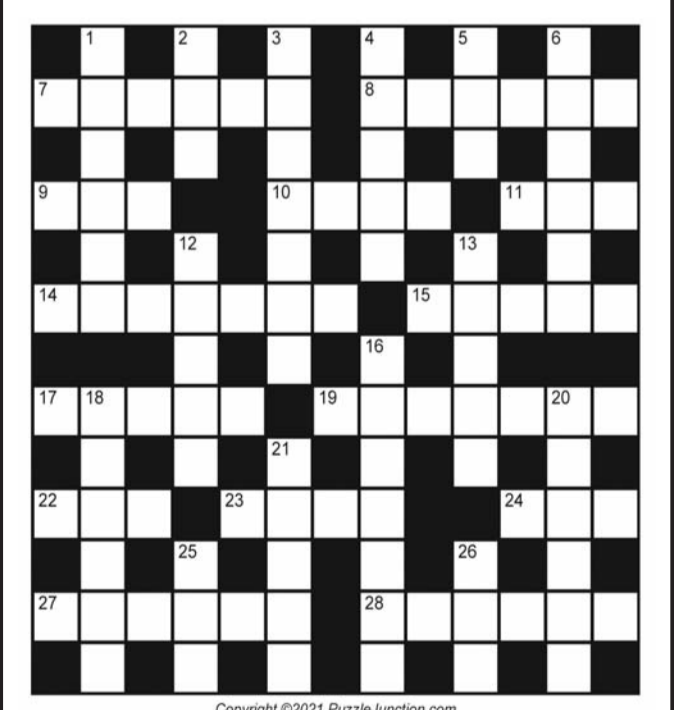
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
7 Reserved
8 Beat
9 Taxi
10 Like a sad sack
11 Subside
14 Hold back
15 Perfect
17 Original
19 Thief
22 Hotel amenity
23 Wolf's sound
- Down**
1 Stay
2 Car wash option
3 ___ Khan
4 Quarrel
5 Swedish shag rug
- 24 Gibbon, for one situation
27 Dangerous
28 Inveigle
- 6 Anxiety disorder
12 Frogman
13 Maxim
16 Put down, as a riot
18 Primitive wagon
20 Llama kin
21 Beam
25 Consume
26 Greek vowel

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

1	7				4			
4	2					6	9	
		3			7		1	
					2			
		6			5			
		3				5	8	
					1			
		2	9			6	3	
8	5	6	3					

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	A	F	A	R
A	L	I	B	A	B	A	E	G	R	E	T
V	C	A	R	N	M	A					
A	L	T	O	S	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T
T	I	Y	L	E							
A	D	A	P	T	F	L	E	A	S		
H	R	I	C	U	R	E					
E	P	I	C	U	R	E	T	I	T	L	E
L	Z	Z	F	P	A	V					
M	E	Z	Z	O	A	F	F	A	B	L	E
E	L	S	R	A	O	L					
T	R	E	K	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S

SUDOKU

9	7	1	4	6	3	2	5	8
5	8	6	7	2	9	4	1	3
3	4	2	8	1	5	9	6	7
4	5	3	2	8	1	6	7	9
1	2	9	5	7	6	3	8	4
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	2	5
7	3	4	1	5	2	8	9	6
2	9	8	6	4	7	5	3	1
6	1	5	9	3	8	7	4	2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SPREADING WARMTH

Sunny Leone has shared a string of sun-kissed images that capture her basking in golden glow

LEISURE



XI LASHES OUT AT US

Chinese Prez Jinping asks the US to stop 'bossing' and 'meddling' in the internal affairs of other countries

INTERNATIONAL



DOUBLE-HEADER TODAY

Chennai Super Kings take on Kolkata Knight Riders after the Punjab Kings-Sunrisers Hyderabad match

SPORTS

BACK PAGE

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I have stopped visiting Mrityulok long ago. Outsourced my work to the govts.

SHORT TAKES

No LL, DL tests

Bhubaneswar: With a rapid surge in Covid-19 infections, the government suspended Learner's License (LL) and Driving License (DL) tests across the state from April 22. "It is ordered that all learner's license and driving license tests are hereby suspended wef 22.04.2021 till further orders to prevent transmission of infection in the state," the State Transport Authority said in an order, Tuesday. All regional transport offices have been asked to reduce quota per slot or cancel the existing slots for all driving related and VAHAN related services in their respective regions.

UGC-NET put off

New Delhi: The UGC-National Eligibility Test (NET) scheduled to be held from May 2 to 17 was postponed in view of the COVID-19 situation, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said. An order of the National Testing Agency said, revised dates for the exam will be announced later, at least 15 days before the examination. "Keeping in mind the safety and wellbeing of candidates and exam functionaries during COVID-19 outbreak, I have advised @DG_NTA to postpone the UGC-NET Dec 2020 cycle (May 2021) exams," Nishank tweeted.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	47705.80 ↓ 243.62
NIFTY	14296.40 ↓ 63.10
DOLLAR	75.44 ↑ ₹0.20
EURO	90.52 ↑ ₹0.31
GOLD	₹47,781 ↑ ₹388
SILVER	₹69,072 ↑ ₹748

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	39.7°C	37.4°C
TEMP. MIN	26.5°C	25.4°C
Humidity	91%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Stock up on O₂, beds: CM

OFFICIALS TOLD TO ENHANCE COVID PREPAREDNESS TO FACE EVENTUALITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: Echoing concern over the acute shortage of hospital beds and oxygen in other states, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday asked officials in the state to ramp up hospital beds with oxygen system. "Although there is no problem of beds and oxygen in the state now, still then we will have to remain prepared," he said while holding a high-level review meeting on Covid management through videoconferencing with Collectors and senior officials.

The second wave of Covid infections has seriously affected many states. The health system in some cities is under severe strain due to rapid increase in the number of Covid positive patients, he said.

Stating that the number of cases in Odisha has been increasing over the last few days, Patnaik said, "Due to our alert preparedness and pro-active measures, we have been able to manage the situation to a large extent. However, we need to be prepared for a worst-case scenario and ensure that every patient is treated with dignity and we put in best efforts to save precious lives."

The Chief Minister sought an increase in the number of beds in Covid hospitals and Covid Care Centres across the state. "Special focus should be given on providing maximum possible number of beds with oxygen support. The system has to work on war-footing to ensure this within committed timelines," he directed the officials.

The officials were instructed to closely monitor the oxygen supply situation and ensure that all related accessories at the hospital level are available on priority.

As many states are facing a shortage in critical medicines, the CM said, "Even though we have sufficient medicine stock, we must ensure a buffer stock to tackle higher demand in coming weeks."

Patnaik further directed the offi-



cial to scale up the awareness campaign and enforcement activities.

The local community, Mission Shakti group, PRI members will be involved to create awareness among people on the dangerous spread of the second wave and the need for active adherence to Covid protocols.

With lockdowns having been imposed in seriously-affected states, the Collectors were asked to be prepared for the return of the migrants. They have been told to reactivate the protocols followed earlier immediately based on the existing database. "The quarantine norm and testing should be ensured for all the returnees from other states. Senior officers were assigned as observers and told to put in their best efforts like last year," he said.

The Chief Minister once again appealed to the people of Odisha to cooperate with the government to manage the Covid situation without lockdown. "We are facing grave danger and unless the people cooperate and act responsibly, it will be very difficult to tackle the situation," he added.

Fresh hospital norms out

Bhubaneswar: The state health department Tuesday released a new set of norms for government as well as private hospitals to thwart the spread of Covid-19 in healthcare facilities.

"In order to reduce such risks of hospitals getting converted to Covid hotspots, the norms are to be strictly adhered to both by the hospital management and staff of all government and private hospitals," it said. The hospitals have been asked to create separate fever clinics and isolation zones where health check-ups and testing of persons with flu like symptoms could be done. They have been asked to make special provisions for entry and exit of symptomatic persons.

The health setups will ensure mandatory screening and triage of incoming patients. "All hospitals are to ensure adequate hand washing, hand rub facilities and enforce use of

masks and social distancing. There should be adequate rational use of PPE by healthcare professionals. There should be safe handling and disinfection of equipment/instruments," the norms read. The guidelines also said that only dedicated Covid ambulances could be used to transport Covid patients to hospitals. The government has asked hospitals to ensure they have adequate infrastructure to fight the pandemic.

"Hospitals must have facilities to deal with all types of emergency procedures for Covid patients including maternity care, safe delivery and childcare. No life threatening procedure/treatment shall be denied or deferred on the ground of suspicion of Covid infection or non-availability of Covid test report, the hospital shall undertake such treatment taking all universal precaution as per guidelines," the norms said.

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Control rooms for migrants reopen

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 20: Even as reverse migration has already started owing to Covid-19 resurge and subsequent curbs imposed by state governments, the labour and employment ministry reactivated 20 control rooms, including one in Bhubaneswar to mitigate the problems of migrant workers.

Aggrieved workers can access these control rooms set up last year through email, mobile and WhatsApp. Aggrieved workers in Odisha can contact the control room in Bhubaneswar through email and phone numbers provided by the ministry: Shakuntala Patnaik, Deputy (Chief Labour Commissioner) (C) dylcbbbsr.od@nic.in, Harmandeep Singh (Assistant Labour Commissioner) (C) 9971279209, Santosh Sethy (Regional Labour Commissioner) (C) 8777544846, Rajesh Kumar Gupta ALC (C) 7489696885 and Anil Kumar Jena LEO (C) 8910237856.

"These control rooms are being managed by labour enforcement officers, assistant labour commissioners,

ODIA WORKER DIES DURING TRANSIT

BERHAMPUR: A 39-year-old migrant worker, who was returning from Surat to Ganjam, died in a train, the Government Railway Police said Tuesday. GRP personnel recovered the body of the deceased, Biswanath Jena of Khandadeuli village in Ganjam block, from a coach of the Ahmedabad-Puri Express train when it reached the Berhampur railway station Tuesday morning. P3

regional labour commissioners, and deputy chief labour commissioners of the respective regions. The functioning of all 20 call centres is being monitored by the chief labour commissioner (C) at headquarters on daily basis and also reviewed with concerned regions during the state visit by CLC (C) & other officers personally," the ministry said.

The ministry further said all officials have been advised to adopt a humane approach to "assist the aggrieved workmen to maximum extent and ensure delivery of timely relief to the needy." Lakhs of workers used this facility last year, the ministry said.

GOVT SURRENDERS TO ISLAMIC RADICALS

Pak to expel French envoy



AGENCIES

Islamabad/Lahore, April 20: Succumbing to Islamists' demands, Pakistan's Imran Khan-led government Tuesday decided to introduce a resolution in Parliament to expel the French ambassador and quash all criminal cases filed against the banned radical Islamist party TLP after they reached a deal following a marathon round of talks.

The agreement came a day after Prime Minister Khan said that the expulsion of the French ambassador was not a solution to stop

the incidences of blasphemy in the western world, noting that "it will only trigger incidents of blasphemy in other countries as in the West they call it freedom of expression".

"Under a marathon round of talks and an agreement reached with the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a resolution on the expulsion of the French ambassador will be presented Tuesday in the National Assembly," Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said in a video statement.

The cases against TLP workers, registered under terrorism charges, will also be quashed. Besides, the names of TLP leaders from the Fourth Schedule will also be taken off, Rashid said. The expulsion of the French ambassador is one of the main four demands of the radical Islamist party, which was banned last week after its members staged violent anti-France protests across the country.

FAITH AMID FEAR



Servitors and police are pulling the Rukuna Rath of Lord Lingaraj amid Covid restrictions Tuesday. Pulling of the chariot for which the Commissionerate Police has issued a traffic advisory will continue Wednesday. PIC: MAUSAM NANDA

ICSE CLASS X BOARD EXAMS CANCELLED

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 20: The ICSE Class X board exams have been cancelled in view of the worsening Covid-19 situation and the option for students to appear later has been withdrawn, board secretary Gerry Arathoon said Tuesday. Last week, the board had postponed both Classes X and XII exams.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations had announced that Class 10 students will get an option to either write the exams later or get evaluated on the basis of an alternative criteria.

"Given the present worsening situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the ICSE has decided to cancel the class 10 examination. The option for students announced earlier, stands withdrawn. The safety and wellbeing of our students and teaching faculty is of topmost priority," said Arathoon, Secretary and Chief Executive of the CISCE.

"We are committed to devising a fair and unbiased criterion for declaring Class 10 results. The criterion as well as the date of declaration of results will be announced later," he said. The ICSE has advised schools to begin the admission process for Class 11, if not already started.

"In addition, schools should prepare a schedule to begin online classes for the class 11 students at the earliest," Arathoon said, adding that the status of Class 12 exams remains same. Last week, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had cancelled its Class 10 board exams and deferred the Class 12 board exams. Several state boards have postponed or cancelled their exams too.

The ICSE exams last year had been cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were evaluated based on internal assessment.

Queen enters 'twilight' of reign after farewell to Philip

SHE HAS ALREADY STARTED TURNING OVER RESPONSIBILITIES TO PRINCE CHARLES, 72

AGENCIES

London, April 20: Now that the Royal Family has said farewell to Prince Philip, attention will turn to Queen Elizabeth II's 95th birthday on Wednesday and, in coming months, the celebrations marking her 70 years on the throne.

This combination of events is reminding the United Kingdom that the reign of the queen, the only monarch most of her subjects have ever known, is finite. That has triggered speculation about how long she will remain on the throne, what the monarchy will look like in the future and, for some, even whether it should continue to exist.

"The queen is certainly moving now into the twilight of her reign and a new phase of her reign," said Anna Whitelock, director of the Centre for the Study of Modern Monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London. "She now is a widow, and it remains to be seen how she's going to respond to that."

While most observers say the queen is unlikely to abdicate given her lifelong commitment to public service, she has already started to turn over more responsibilities to Prince Charles, 72, her eldest son. That process is likely to accelerate following Philip's death.

Charles' increased role began gradually, when the queen began cut-



ting back on long-haul flights, resulting in Charles taking her place at a 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sri Lanka.

Then in 2017, he represented the queen at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony marking the end of World War I, laying the monarch's wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph

in London. It was the first time the queen hadn't performed the solemn ritual, other than when she was pregnant or out of the country.

Since then, Charles has taken on an increasing number of public engagements and been named the queen's designated successor as head of the Commonwealth, a vol-

untary association of 54 nations with links to the British Empire.

"Symbolically, the transition towards the succession is already underway," said Ed Owens, a historian and author of "The Family Firm, Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public 1932-53." "I anticipate that we're going to see a lot more of Prince Charles in the next couple of years so that we, as a people, start to see him in his future role as king." For now, the longest serving monarch in British history continues to reign. But she will do so without Philip, the man the queen called her "strength and stay," a source of emotional support in her often lonely job.

Her loss was underscored by Saturday's funeral at St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle, where the figure of a widow

in black sitting alone offered a glimpse of the next solitary phase of the queen's reign. "Constitutionally, Prince Philip's death doesn't change anything. But, of course, at a time when the queen is approaching her 95th birthday, she's vulnerable and aging," Whitelock said. "Clearly, Prince Philip's death has begun this transition to the future and the beginning of the end of this phase of monarchy." Questions about the end of the queen's reign will also fuel the debate over the long-term future of the monarchy, seen by many as a symbol of national unity but by others as an obsolete vestige of the past. The BBC received more than 1 lakh complaints about its decision to pre-empt popular TV programs for round-the-clock coverage of Prince Philip's death.

State records 4,761 fresh Covid cases, 5 fatalities

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 20: State's Covid-19 tally soared to 3,77,464 Tuesday as a record 4,761 more people tested positive for the virus, while five fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 1,953, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

As many as 2,785 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,976 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 820, followed by Sundargarh (673), Nuapada (534), Bolangir (322), Jharsuguda (234), Bargarh (198), Puri (193) and Sambalpur (183), said the official.

Meanwhile, health officials said that 23 Kumbh Mela returnees, including 13 from Cuttack and 10 from Rayagada, are among the new patients.

Khurda has so far reported the highest number of 59,337 Covid cases followed by Cuttack (31,318), Ganjam (22,260), Sundargarh (22,112)



Swab sample being collected from a passenger at Cuttack railway station

23 KUMBH MELA RETURNEES, INCLUDING 13 FROM CUTTACK AND 10 FROM RAYAGADA, HAVE CONTRACTED THE VIRUS

NUAPADA REPORTED 3 FATALITIES, WHILE KEONJHAR AND RAYAGADA REGISTERED ONE DEATH EACH

In the case of fatalities, five districts have registered over a hundred deaths. Khurda has topped the list with 341 deaths followed by Ganjam (241), Sundargarh (177), Cuttack (142) and Puri (119).

Odisha now has 27,821 active cases, while 3,47,637 people have recovered from the disease so far.

The recovery rate among the coronavirus patients in the state stands at 92 per cent.

The coastal state has thus far tested over 96.68 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 32,349 Monday

and Puri (15,940). Nuapada reported three fatalities, while Keonjhar and Rayagada registered one death each.

Surge linked to Chhattisgarh

Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, director Ajay Parida said coronavirus transmission from neighbouring Chhattisgarh is one of the major reasons behind the surge in infections in Odisha.

According to Parida, people residing in the bordering districts of Odisha frequently visit Chhattisgarh where an average of 14,000 fresh cases is being reported. The infection is getting transmitted to Odisha.

"This apart, people from other Covid hotspot states are also returning to Odisha, causing a rise

in fresh cases," he said.

ILS, Bhubaneswar, is doing genome sequencing of the coronavirus. The state does not have coronavirus mutants like those found in Brazil, South Africa, Punjab and Maharashtra, he pointed out.

"Odisha has a negligible 3-4 per cent of double mutation which is mainly the UK variant," Parida said.

He said more genome sequencing, however, is being done to ascertain the type of strain responsible for the alarming surge in fresh cases in the state.

In view of a record rise of Covid cases this year, the state government has declared night curfew in all the districts as well as clamped weekend shutdown in all the urban areas of the coastal state.

The state government has appointed senior IAS officers as in-charges of the districts worst hit by the coronavirus. The officials would

monitor the situation regularly and take appropriate measures so as to contain the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) has postponed the prestigious 'Kalahandi Cup' in view of the current situation of the Covid-19. The tournament will be back in action when the situation improved, OCA sources said.

Students seek clarity over Class X exam

POST NEWS NETWORK



The students sat on a dharna near Forest Park and demanded cancellation of the Class X exam

Bhubaneswar, April 20: A large number of Class X students marched towards Naveen Niswas here Tuesday seeking clarity on the conduct of matriculation examination amidst the pandemic.

The students also met School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash at his residence to clear the confusion surrounding the exam. After failing to get a satisfactory answer from the minister, students marched towards Naveen Niwas. They sat on dharna near Forest park and demanded that like CBSE and ICSE, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) should also cancel the Class X exam instead of just postponing it.

The Odisha government April 15 postponed all state board examinations including the Class X and XII tests in the wake of spiraling Covid-19 cases in the state. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik made the announcement after reviewing the coronavirus situation in Odisha, where active cases have surpassed

the 14,000-mark.

"The Plus II examinations scheduled to be conducted by Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha from May 18 have been postponed. Similarly, the matriculation examination, scheduled to be conducted by Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha from May 3, has been postponed. Decision of holding the test will be taken after improvement in the pandemic," the Chief Minister said.

Woman attempts self-immolation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: A woman Tuesday tried to end her life by pouring kerosene on her as the police allegedly refused to accept her complaint. The victim lady has been staying at Kalayn Mandap slum under Chandrasekharpur police limits.

According to sources, the lady who used to work at a spinning mill at Mancheswar came in contact with one Shyam Sundar Rao a few years ago over popular social media site, Tiktok. Later, she married Rao reportedly with the approval of her in-laws. However, she came to know about the criminal record of Rao after marriage. Earlier, Rao had been arrested by police on charges of sexually abusing a minor.



Chandrasekharpur police had again arrested Rao along with two others for snatching the mobile phone of a person at Patia last week. Following Rao's arrest, his mother and other family members started torturing the victim. They have been forcing her to leave Rao's residence. On April 13, the victim's mother-in-law agreed to allow the victim to stay in the house after police intervention. Sources revealed that police assured the lady of taking stringent action against her in-laws after registering a case.

WASSUP TODAY

BALIANTA
■ Installation of Sai Baba idol, Pandara, 8am

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Heat-wave makes a comeback

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: After a brief lull, heat-wave made a comeback to the state with mercury breaching 40 degrees Celsius mark at 12 places, Tuesday.

According to Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, Sonepur became the hottest place of Odisha recording a maximum temperature of 42.1 degrees Celsius Tuesday while Boudh recorded 42 degrees. Angul recorded a day temperature of 41.9 degrees whereas Sundargarh, Titlagarh and Sambalpur have recorded a temperature of 41 degrees each.

The temperature was 40.6 degrees at Bhawanipatna, 40.5 degrees at Malkangiri and 40.4 degrees at Jharsuguda. Phulbani, Nayagarh and Baripada recorded 40 degrees Celsius each, the Met Centre said.

Twin city of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded a day temperature

of 39.7 degrees and 37.4 degrees, respectively. There will be no large change in the maximum temperature over the state during next 4-5 days, it said.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain will continue to occur at some places of the state till April 25 morning. The weather forecasting agency has also issued thunderstorm warning for a few places for next two days.

Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely to occur at one or two places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts, Wednesday.

Similar condition would prevail at Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Angul and Dhenkanal April 22.

SOLACE AT LAST



Police handover the stolen goods to rightful owners in Cuttack, Tuesday

Police constable, jail warder held in Hyder escape case

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, April 20: The Odisha Police Tuesday arrested a constable and a jail warder, in connection with a case relating to the escape of gangster Sk Hyder from SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack while in judicial custody, an officer said.

With this, the number of persons arrested in this case went up to six, the officer said.

The Mangalabag police in Cuttack arrested police constable Md Mousim, who was the lone guard on duty at the time when Hyder managed to escape during treatment at the SCB Hospital here April 10 evening.

Mousim is the complainant in the case registered against Hyder in connection with his escape from

BGU holds webinar on 'Global Digital Economy'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: Birla School of Management of Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar conducted an international conference on 'Global Digital Economy - Management Challenges and Opportunity' from April 15 to 16 in collaboration with Ljubljana University, Slovenia on virtual mode.

Renowned marketing management guru and former Dean of Kellogg School of Management, USA and INSEAD, France and currently the President (European), China Europe International Business School, China, Dipak C. Jain inaugurated the conference and delivered the inaugural address. He emphasized on humanising the business by recognising people as the source of differentiation and value cre-



He advised the delegates to keep 'eyes on the horizon and feet on the ground'.

In six highly engaging technical sessions, a number of research papers were presented and high level intellectual deliberations were made on gig-economy, new age technology, hybrid work environment, transitioning from industry 4.0 to industry 5.0, entrepreneurship and marketing in digital economy.

The conference highlighted the rapid digital transformation that has created momentum for all-round social development and digital economy globally.

Health dept all set to vaccinate citizens above 18 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: The Health department Tuesday said it is ready to roll out the vaccination drive for people above the age of 18 years from May 1.

Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) director Bijay Panigrahi said that the state is all set to add new beneficiaries to the vaccination drive.

"We are faring well in vaccinating people above the age of 45 years. The new beneficiaries will be in the age group of 18 to 44 years. We have adequate systems in place for smooth conduct of the drive," Panigrahi said.

On raising the number of vac-

ination centres in state, Panigrahi said, "We will definitely increase the number of centres. We will have to increase sessions too. We can do that in accordance with the guidelines. There would not be much problem in this regard."

Panigrahi said people coming in the age group of 18 to 44 can register through the COWIN portal to choose their date and place of vaccination.

The official said that all the works relating to vaccination will be done through COWIN website.

Panigrahi said that all the procedures followed for the vaccination of people above 45 years will be retained for the vaccination of people above 18 years.

12% OF ODISHA'S POPULATION INOCULATED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: The Health department Tuesday claimed that more than 52 lakh persons from the state have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

The feat was achieved after almost three months of rigorous vaccination drive undertaken by the state government with the assistance of the Union government and the manufacturers of the vaccines in India.

Data suggested that out of 4.37

crore population (2011 Census) of Odisha, a total of 52,57,387 persons were vaccinated by Tuesday - around 12 per cent of the total population. The Health department data claimed that till Tuesday 95.7 per cent of the health workers received their first dose while a total of 86.8 per cent of them have received their second doses.

Nevertheless, the state government Tuesday undertook the vaccination drive at a total of 941 sites against 1,500 declared vaccination centres across the state.

The department has planned to conduct the vaccination drive in a total of 838 vaccination centres Wednesday. The department said that by 8pm of Tuesday, the government had a total stock of 3,63,090 doses of Covishield and 2,03,830 doses Covaxin.

"One lakh more doses are expected to arrive in the state late Tuesday night. With the total stock, we can now continue our vaccination drive for three more days," Bijay Panigrahi, State Health and Family Welfare Director said.

21-yr-old drowns in Kuakhai river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 20: A 21-year-old youth drowned while bathing in Kuakhai river at Bankuala under Sahid Nagar police limits here Tuesday, sources said.

The deceased was identified as Biswaranjan Swain of Brahmeswarpatna here. According to sources, the incident took place when Swain had gone to take a bath in the river after being invited by a few of his friends around 1.30pm.

"Biswaranjan was under the influence of bhhang when he entered the river and drowned," the youths who accompanied Swain said, adding that they alerted the Fire Services personnel who rescued a 'lifeless' Swain after around an hour-long effort.

He was later rushed to the Capital Hospital where the doctors declared him 'brought dead'.

Swain's inconsolable mother, on the other hand, alleged that the youths have pushed Swain deep into the river after making him drink bhhang. "They [Swain's friends] had a fight with my son a few days back. It's a pre-planned murder. I'll approach the police and lodge a complaint against them," the woman said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

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Bihar liquor traders head for Balasore

Bhograi, April 20: Liquor traders and mafia from Bihar are heading towards Odisha to carry on their business. Most of them, tainted with crimes, are found in Bhograi area of Balasore. They find the coastal region safe for liquor trade, a report said. A notification had been issued by the Excise department inviting applications for opening new liquor shops in the state. During the draw of lots for liquor trading licenses, many Bihar traders and mafia obtained permission for opening outlets in the state. Over 10 non-Odia people have got licenses to open liquor outlets in Balasore alone. Most of them hail from Bihar. They have opened foreign liquor off-shops at Talsari, Deulahat, Batagram near Thana Chhak under Bhograi block; one at Karmarda; seven shops in Jaleswar and two in Baliapal. It was learnt that most of the liquor shop owners are blacklisted and tainted in Bihar. Various outfits, social activists and intellectual groups have expressed concern over this trend in the liquor trade. It was also learnt that most of the liquor shop owners have been black-



if the allegation is proved that licensed liquor shop owners have earlier been blacklisted or involved in crimes, their licenses will be scrapped SHEKH ASAF ALI DISTRICT EXCISE SUPERINTENDENT

DURING THE DRAW OF LOTS FOR LIQUOR TRADING LICENSES, MANY BIHARI TRADERS AND MAFIA OBTAINED PERMISSION FOR OPENING OUTLETS IN THE STATE

OVER 10 NON-ODIA PEOPLE HAVE GOT LICENSES TO OPEN LIQUOR OUTLETS IN BALASORE ALONE. MOST OF THEM HAIL FROM BIHAR

THEY HAVE OPENED FOREIGN LIQUOR OFF-SHOPS AT TALSARI, DEULAHAT, BATAGRAM NEAR THANA CHHAK UNDER BHOGRAI BLOCK; ONE AT KARMARDA; SEVEN SHOPS IN JALESWAR AND TWO IN BALIAPAL

listed by the Bihar government for adulteration of liquor. In the past, scores of people have reportedly died from consuming hooch and adulterated liquor. People apprehend that these blacklisted liquor traders from Bihar may sell adulterated liquor in the area too. Hooch-induced deaths can't be ruled out in coming days in the district as the liquor trade has been handed over to the people of tainted and criminal background, locals alleged. Apprehending cases of liquor deaths, various outfits have demanded scrapping the licenses of the Bihar liquor traders. Social activist Har Narayan Rout said that no state in the country resorts to lot drawing method in the matter of granting liquor trading licenses, but Odisha is an exception. "By this policy, dreaded criminals and black listed traders have been invited to push hooch and adulterated

liquor and cause mayhem Asked about it, district excise superintendent Sheikh Asaf Ali said that if it is proved that licensed liquor shop owners have earlier been blacklisted or involved in crimes, their licenses will be scrapped. Notably, in March 2021, the state government decided to settle all existing sanctioned IMFL 'Off' and country liquor shops for 2021-22 onwards through lottery by inviting applications on fixed monthly consideration money basis. The dates for lottery had been fixed by district Collectors.

Tragic end: Surat returnee dies in train



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, April 20: In a tragic incident, a migrant worker from Ganjam district died on-board the Ahmedabad-Puri Express while returning home from Surat Monday night. The deceased was identified as Biswanath Jena, 38, a native of Khandadeuli village under Rambha police limits in the district. He was returning home with his friends inhabitants of a place near his village when the mishap occurred. The incident took place amid Covid-19 scare gripping the state and the country. The matter came to fore after the arrival of the train at Berhampur railway station. One of his friends Susant Goud got down from the train and informed the station authorities about his death, who in turn informed the Government Railway Police (GRP). The GRP sent the body for post-mortem and registered a case in this connection. Later, the members of his in-laws' family received the body after post-mortem in MKCG Medical College and Hospital. Reports said, Jena's health condition deteriorated while he was travelling in the train and breathed his last at around 11 pm Sunday night. Jena was travelling along with three others. Sources said Jena was working in a cotton mill at Surat. However, he was returning home with some of his friends due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic. He was supposed to alight at Khalikote station. The exact cause of his death is yet to be ascertained. A relative said that Jena reportedly developed some health issues in the train and later died. The exact reason behind the passenger's death will be known only after completion of the post mortem, GRP sources said.

MASTERMIND BEHIND ABDUCTION OF IAS R VINEEL KRISHNA

MAOIST LEADER SURRENDERS

Makangiri, April 20: The Maoist leader, who was the brain behind the kidnapping of the then Malkangiri Collector R Vineel Krishna, surrendered before the police in Vijaywada Tuesday. He was identified as Jalandhar Reddy, alias, Venkatakrishna, Maoist leader of Andhra-Odisha Border Zonal Committee and organisational head of the Swabhiman Anchal. This was stated by Andhra Pradesh DGP Goutam. Jalandhar, who is carrying Rs 20 lakh on his head, had been exercising his sway for the last 25 years on the Odisha-Andhra borders.



He was in-charge of Maoist organisation in Swbhiman Anchal since 2008. Maoists led by Jalandhar had kidnapped the then Malkangiri Collector

for nine days. Later, he was released on certain conditions. In 2008, Jalandhar was led the ambush that claimed the lives of 34 jawans at Alampakka in Chittrakonda area. He was also involved in several incidents of violence in Swabhiman Anchal. After surrendering, the Maoist leader said, "Maoist organisation is no longer following its main principles, while local people are not supporting them anymore. People are keen to return to the mainstream and participate in the development process. They are no more attracted towards Maoist movement. I decided to include myself in the social mainstream to do social service,"

SU contractual staff immolates self over job regularisation

Victim sustained 90 per cent burns, died on way to Cuttack

Sambalpur, April 20: A contractual employee of Sambalpur University here immolated himself over job regularisation and alleged misbehavior of the Vice-Chancellor at the university gate, Tuesday. The employee, identified as Dinabandhu Mishra, 50, was working as a casual computer assistant. He set himself on fire after pouring diesel on his body when the academic council meeting was underway. Mishra sustained 90 per cent burns and was first rushed to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Burla and later shifted to Cuttack. He, however, succumbed to his burns at Jarpada in Angul district on way to Cuttack, Burla IIC BB Bhoi said. Mishra is reported to have taken the extreme step after relentlessly struggling for regularisation of his job for the last 27 years. His son Abhishek Mishra alleged that his father was pushed to severe mental stress as the authorities did not regularise his service. He had lodged a complaint with the Chief Minister, Governor, Collector, RDC and even before the 5T authorities. All the previous Vice-Chancellors of the



university had ignored his complaints despite having all the merit for regularisation. Moreover, the newly appointed VC abused him using slangs after calling him to his chamber Tuesday, Abhishek alleged. Mishra's lawyer, Manoj Mohanty, said that despite a High Court order, the university authorities had not regularised his job within two months. SU Employees' Union president Satyanarayan Kar alleged services of many employees are not being regularised. VC Sanjiv Mittal denied receiving any plea from Mishra for his job regularisation. He was discussing with Mishra about the theft of scrap items from the university premises for which he had lodged a complaint with the Registrar. He said that a complaint will be lodged with police on behalf of the university following which Mishra attempted self-immolation.

28 TEST COVID +VE AFTER TAKING PART IN SANKIRTAN

Laikera, April 20: Even as Covid-19 positive cases have been spiraling in parts of Jharsuguda district, people seem to be utterly disregarding the protocols announced by the government. Though congregations and gatherings have been restricted, social distancing has been tossed to the winds, a report said. Disregard to Covid guidelines have helped the virus to spread at Pakelpada under Laikera block. According to reports, a group of 30 villagers from Pakelpada had traveled by a mini truck to a village in Sundargarh district to take part in sankirtan, a religious programme. After staying there for two days, they returned to the village. There they mingled with locals and gradually, most of them were down with fever. They got themselves tested for Covid and the reports of 28 of them were positive. Such sudden spurt in Covid infection has caused panic in the region, as the people who had taken part in the sankirtan have come in contact with numerous people in the area. The local administration has declared the village a containment zone and night curfew has been imposed. The administration is keeping sharp vigil on the situation. Contact tracing has been started. Reports from Sambalpur said that the administration has started registration of migrant returnees as Covid-19 cases are spiraling. A cluster care centre was made functional at Ainthapalli Sevashram School to record the details of the migrant returnees.

Healthcare left in sordid state in Kalahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, April 20: At a time when COVID-19 cases are spreading like wildfire, medical facilities are of prime importance. Unfortunately, people of Kesinga block in Kalahandi district are deprived of this for several years. A primary health centre, which was set up in 1988, functions at Utkela village in Kesinga block. The health centre initially started functioning from a panchayat building and was later shifted to a building specifically constructed for it in 2010. Around 25,000 people from six gram panchayats namely Utkela, Chanher, Kundabandh, Deogaon, Kikia and Gokuleswar depend on this sole PHC. Local residents said Ashok Kumar Patra was appointed as a pharmacist at the PHC in 1998. They, however, complained that he rarely visited the centre. Medical officer of the PHC, Dr Pratibha Majhi, visits the



PHC only for 10 to 12 days in a month. "Patients brave the scorching sun to visit the centre for treatment but most of the time, the journey turns out to be futile as there are no qualified physicians present," alleged some residents. Besides the pharmacist and medical officer, AYUSH doctor Dr Itishree Pradhan has also been appointed at the PHC. She mainly supervises child-

births. However, she refuses to carry out her job unless she is given an addition amount of Rs 1,500 alleged other residents. They also said that the only auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) at the centre has been transferred to Bhawanipatna a long time back. However, she still continues to work at the PHC. The picture at Kesinga community health centre (CHC) is no different. Some staff nurses are allegedly still working at the CHC despite being transferred. The quarters for staff nurses and other female employees have been completed eight years back, but are yet to be handed over to CHC. Similarly, the construction of the labour room has been completed four years back and the contractor has already handed it over charge to the Health department. However, it is yet to be functional. So, approximately 25-30 deliveries are being carried out daily in the old and dilapidated labour room. In the recent past, four pregnant women and three newborns breathed their last at the CHC. When asked about it, Dr Majhi said she is working as per the instructions of the chief district medical officer (CDMO). When contacted CDMO, Dr Pratap Kumar Behera said he will investigate into the allegations and take stringent actions against those found guilty.

Official gazette notice from India regarding land acquisition in NABARANGPUR. Includes title 'भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India', date '23rd February, 2021', and a detailed schedule of land parcels with columns for SI.No., Survey/Plot Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area (in Local Unit), and Area (in Hectare).

FOCUS NATION

THE DISEASE THAT KILLS US



It is true that COVID-19 is a terrible disease that is killing us but the disease that allows this disease to thrive and spread with impunity is the disease that we have had for long – a longing to live by a mythical story of a much-told greatness of yesterday to bring on an air of celebration today before we go crashing down tomorrow

distribution of vaccines has become a bone of contention between the Centre and non-BJP ruled States. In Maharashtra, for example, no one can miss the fact that vaccines are in short supply. Several vaccination centres have closed. Yet, this has led to the lowness of a Trumpian twitter war, not a fix of the problem at hand. New Delhi is as fast as ever with tweets, and terrible with building trust. What does it take to keep away pettiness, to take decisions that are simple yet bold and to let the nation see and feel that this is a government geared to fight the pandemic, not merely to win the next election round the corner? We can see Covid-19 is the disease but just beneath the surface is the real disease that kills us – narrow mindedness, one-upmanship and the turning away from an evidence-based approach that allowed the government to endorse a holy bath and a gathering of lakhs – devotees duly facilitated with 12 pairs of special trains and welcomed with front page ads featuring the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. The announcement to end the mammoth Kumbh Mela gathering came over the weekend – too late in the day. The announcement is significant because it tells us that belief, faith and ritual are not contradictory to the scientific approach. Yet, the former has been put to work and exploited at the cost of the latter. An Associate Professor at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, has been funded by the Department of Science and Technology to run a pilot to study the "effect of Gayatri Mantra and pranayama in terms of inflammatory markers in hospitalised Covid-19 patients." The official record states: "...Scientists are racing against time for a miracle cure/vaccine to fight this pandemic which has gripped the world. In this scenario, role of pranayama and Gayatri Mantra chanting which has been used in other diseases and has shown promising effects becomes vital." Millions of Indians who chant the Gayatri Mantra, Hindus and non-Hindus alike, will understand that this is not the best way to respond to the pandemic. On the other hand, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (named INSACOG) comprising 10 labs identified to study variants of the virus in India, launched in December 2020, had received no funds till at least as late as March-end. This was a critical activity because variants are thought to have delivered the new wave. Yet, the nation has been too slow to launch this kind of sustained, planned and coordinated activity to sequence the virus genome. On 24 March, the health ministry reported that "though VOC (variants of concern) and a new double mutant variant have been found in India, these have not been detected in numbers sufficient to either establish or direct relationship or explain the rapid increase in

cases in some States." That begs the question: What has caused the current spike? Where is the epidemiological insight? As of 16 April, only 13,614 Whole Genome Sequenced samples were processed at the 10 designated INSACOG labs. Sequencing was targeted for 5 per cent of total positives beginning December 2020; what was sequenced cumulatively as of mid-April is barely 5 per cent of daily rise in infections! Meanwhile, there is a daily release on vaccination numbers that look large in absolute terms but offer the true picture of the task at hand when we see that barely 1.2 per cent of India is fully vaccinated, according to data from the University of Oxford. This compares to 25 per cent fully vaccinated in the US, 14 per cent in the UK and 3.8 per cent in Brazil, which India overtook this month to have the second largest number of infections in the world, after the US. It is true that COVID-19 is a terrible disease that is killing us but the disease that allows this disease to thrive and spread with impunity is the disease that we have had for long – a longing to live by a mythical story of a much-told greatness of yesterday to bring on an air of celebration today before we go crashing down tomorrow.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

There is no escaping the death and destruction of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that is upon us in a second disastrous wave. Experts tell us we will hit a peak soon. The numbers will then begin to climb down as a majority of Indians are exposed to the virus and/or the variants that are thought to have caused the havoc in this round. With nothing more left to burn, even the wildest of fires die. Nature would have found a way to bring some calm – we did precious little, and can only pray that there will be no third wave.

But right now, we are submerged. And yet, we may ask: is it Covid-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, that is killing us? Or is it something more that has left us so exposed, so vulnerable and so helpless? Images of ordinary people begging for a hospital bed, queues for Remdesivir and a shortage of oxygen and vaccines have become all too common. In neighbourhoods across the nation, the myth of India as a would-be superpower in charge of its destiny stands busted as a defeatist resignation takes hold. The virus has exposed us as the backward, bottom-of-the-heap and almost irrelevant player we have been, unable to respond to a crisis that has come upon us not once but twice in the last 12 months.

Even if we may excuse the poor response during the first hit last March, there can be no excuse for doing worse the second time around. Consider that we can claim to fight at the borders but die in the tens of thousands within our borders. The nation has been described in recent days by senior functionaries of the government variously as a space superpower, knowledge superpower, economic superpower, manufacturing superpower, even a vaccine superpower. We can get people to come together to beat empty vessels and light lamps and lakhs march out with a leap of faith to the Kumbh Mela but we can't arrange hospital beds when a pandemic we know is around and flares up.

Examples of how badly we fought this war come from all directions. It is difficult to get ambulances. Remdesivir is being black-marketed, the latest being the BJP seeking to procure these vials in a private operation in Mumbai, leading to the arrest of two directors of a manufacturer. The



Jagdish Rattanan

EVEN IF WE MAY EXCUSE THE POOR RESPONSE DURING THE FIRST HIT LAST MARCH, THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR DOING WORSE THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Covid & Judiciary

Peace in the storm, calm in the effort, joy in the surrender, a luminous faith, and you will become aware of the Lord's constant presence.

THE MOTHER



It is a matter of concern that the judiciary has to intervene and dictate the executive what it needs to do and when. This is valid even to deal with a colossal public health disaster such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Both the Central as well as most State governments wasted the past year and did not focus on building up a fairly good health support system and assisting infrastructure. Due to this the governments' response has been woefully inadequate when thousands of people are dying and hundreds of thousands getting infected daily during this current second wave. The Centre continued its inept handling after the Delhi High Court, in a recent ruling, gave it a rap on the knuckles for following an opaque policy on the production of the two vaccines - Covaxin and Covishield. The Telangana government has been forced to impose a night curfew in the state from April 20 only a day after the Telangana High Court, headed by Chief Justice Hima Kohli, threatened to pass orders in 48 hours if the state government didn't take a call on night curfew or weekend lockdown. Similarly, claiming that there are 'serious issues of importance', the Bombay High Court has sought response from Center and State while dealing with a PIL that claimed mismanagement in handling of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Allahabad High Court too ordered on April 19 a weeklong lockdown in the badly hit Prayagraj, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh till April 26.

It passed the order saying that the rising Covid cases had 'virtually incapacitated' the medical infrastructure of UP.

Hearing a PIL on the 'inhuman' condition at quarantine centres and the state of Covid treatment, a Division Bench of Justices Ajit Kumar and Siddhartha Varma of the Allahabad High Court said that while ordering a lockdown was the government's prerogative, it was disappointed by the measures taken since its last order, calling them an eyewash. On April 13 the High Court had asked the state government to look into the viability of a complete lockdown in districts where the Covid situation was alarming.

The insensitive Uttar Pradesh government refused to abide by the HC order and moved the Supreme Court against it instead. The Supreme Court, promptly and within 24 hours, on April 20 has, unsurprisingly, gone in the state's favour. Although some may term this as government-guided, it must also be appreciated that in a democratic system, HCs should not be instrumental in breaking the glass ceiling. It is improper on the part of Courts to command an elected government to do its biddings, even if it is in greater public interest. The need to control the pandemic, no doubt, should be the first priority for any and every part of the Establishment.

There is not a shred of evidence that disproves the allegation that today the executive in this country stands totally paralysed in the face of the pandemic. It has no idea on how to handle the catastrophe. The bureaucracy, which is the mainstay of governance in India, is at a complete loss to understand how to bring the government apparatus to grapple with and subdue the crisis. It is, therefore, understandable that the judiciary feels, especially the High Courts, that they have to din it into the governments' ears what the administration has to do.

The Division Bench of the Allahabad HC has laid bare the hollowness of the government's spurious argument of keeping the economic life stable which is but a ploy to hide its abysmal failure to protect lives and health of the people under attack by the coronavirus. Yet the judiciary must not overstep in its eagerness to be perceived as a do-gooder. The SC overturning the HC's order seems anti people and still may seem democratic and proper for this time. If the HCs are permitted to carry on with their present sense of being correct and the government is forced to obey, it could set a very dangerous trend for the future. On the other hand, any act of any wing of society or System that proves beneficial to people, especially a large number of citizens, must be considered democratic. Today the demarcating line between democratic and undemocratic acts may have become invisible at many places and instances.

WISDOM CORNER

Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death. **ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER**

Every day is a new day, and you'll never be able to find happiness if you don't move on. **CARRIE UNDERWOOD**

We imagine that we want to escape our selfish and commonplace existence, but we cling desperately to our chains. **ANNE SULLIVAN**

WORDSWORTH

■ Moonshine

Professor Richard Borcherds of Cambridge University was awarded the Fields Medal, the mathematicians' equivalent of a Nobel Prize, for proving a highly abstruse result in number theory called the moonshine conjecture. It seems it was given this name because it was based on a coincidence between a result in number theory and the number of symmetries in an exotic concept called the Monster object. It was thought so unlikely that two such distinct areas of mathematics should have anything in common that the conjecture was described as moonshine, and the name has stuck. Professor Borcherds was quoted as saying, "I was over the moon when I proved the moonshine conjecture", a nice conflation of two of the common evocations of the Moon in the language. Moonshine originally meant the same as moonlight. In A Midsummer Night's Dream, Snug asks whether the moon will shine the night they perform their play, and Bottom replies in a brief panic: "A calendar, a calendar! Look in the almanack; find out moonshine, find out moonshine!" It still has this literal meaning in poetical or elevated contexts but we no longer use it in that way in daily life, unlike the matching sunshine. Instead, it commonly means something insubstantial or unreal, and so foolish or visionary. The word for working at a second job, usually at night, moonlighting, is actually a modern re-use of an older term describing some nocturnal expedition or illicit action. And there is a wonderful British expression, now somewhat long in the tooth but still understood: a moonlight flit. A person who does one of these decamps or moves house under cover of darkness to avoid a debt, usually paying the landlord his rent. Another such expression, long defunct, is moon-curser or mooncusser. This was originally a link-boy, a person who carried a torch of flaming pitch to guide pedestrians at night before towns had street lights. The moon-curser pretended to guide people to their destinations but actually led them into the hands of robbers. Moonlight was no good to such rogues, for then the link-boy wasn't needed to help people find their way about. Later, the same word was applied to wreckers in England and on the eastern seaboard of America, particularly around Cape Cod, who were accused not only of salvaging what was washed up on shore from genuine accidents, but of bringing disaster about by shining lanterns from the shore to confuse seafarers. At one time Wiltshire people were thought excessively slow and stupid and a story was told in neighbouring counties to illustrate this. A group of local yokels were found raking a pond at night. When asked what they were doing, one explained that they had seen this big white cheese in the pond and were trying to get it out. The word moonraker was for long applied generally as a term for a simpleton. Even today, by that tendency people have of taking ancient insults to their hearts, some people from Wiltshire use it to describe themselves. But as you might expect they have a different explanation of the story. The moonrakers were indeed found in the pond, but by Excisemen. They pretended to be drunk and told the story to divert attention from their real intention of combing the pond to retrieve the barrels of smuggled brandy they had hidden there. Which brings us back to moonshine again, this time in the sense of illicitly made alcoholic drink. It's commonly said that such liquor is so called because it was distilled at night to evade the attention of the Revenue.

IN JEST THIS

Mothers want the best for us



Melvin Durai

IF IT WEREN'T FOR OUR MOTHERS, WE WOULDN'T KNOW ALL OUR FAULTS

There's something special about a mother. I was reminded of this the other day when I visited my mother. Looking at me in a loving way and speaking as only a mother can, she said, "You're going bald!" "Thanks for bringing that to my attention, Mom," I felt like saying. "I hadn't yet noticed that my hair was falling out. But now that your eagle eyes have discovered my bald spot, I'm going to keep tabs on it and perhaps encourage the remaining hair to hang on for a few more years. I'm sure you'll lend your assistance by giving me annual baldness reports."

First report: "Son, you're so bald, Ruskin Bond might soon refer to you as 'grandpa.'"

Second report: "Son, you're so bald, the reflection off your head is blinding people in China."

Third report: "Son, you're so bald, the Taj Mahal is beginning to suffer from dome envy."

What would we do without our

mothers? On Mother's Day and other days, we should show our gratitude to them not just because they've loved and supported us, but also for another major reason: If it weren't for our mothers, we wouldn't know all our faults. We'd be deceived into believing we're almost perfect. Yes, we'd be living a lie.

Self-deception is how many of us get through life. We believe we are bigger than we are, better than we are. Some of us think that it's just a matter of time before those geniuses in Stockholm, Sweden, come to their senses and award us the Nobel Prize. Anytime I get too full of myself, I just have to speak to my mother and she'll bring me down to earth faster than a Russian jet flying over the White House. She'll say something to make me realise that I'm a long way from achieving any goals, especially the ones she has set for me.

Mother: "Melvin, did you go to church on Sunday?"
Me: "Yes, Mom, I did. I even

stood awake during the sermon without taking a single pill."

Mother: "What about Wednesday? Did you go to church on Wednesday?"

Me: "Wednesday? Is Wednesday a holy day now? Someone forgot to tell me. First Sundays, now Wednesdays. Why not have services on Fridays, too? That way, we can all go to church to Thank God It's Friday!"

We need mothers partly because our spouses and friends have learned to lie to us. You can't blame them. They're concerned about their safety.

Woman: "Honey, does this dress make me look fat?"

Husband: "No, darling, it makes you look as slim as Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt." (Yes, Deepika and Alia combined.)

A mother would be a little more honest:

Daughter: "Mom, does this dress make me look fat?"

Mother: "No, sweetheart, YOU

make the dress look fat. I never thought fabric could stretch like that!"

Of course, most mothers mean well. They want the best for us. And they know exactly what's best for us, because they've spent countless hours thinking about it, even before we were born. Why won't we listen? Why won't we take advantage of their endless wisdom?

My mother: "You should have become a doctor. You are so intelligent."

Me: "I don't want to be a doctor. I like being a writer."

Mother: "If you had become a doctor, you would have something to write about. And you could have done something about that bald spot. You could have afforded a hair transplant."

Mothers are so wise. You've gotta love them. I certainly love mine. Mother's Day is just a few weeks away, and I hope to visit her again. This time, I will remember to wear a hat.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rissagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Vax for all adults

Sir, This refers to the news "From May 1, Vax for all above 18" published in Orissa POST of April 20, 2021. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's suggestion to make vaccine available in the open market is accepted by the Centre. Further, to increase production capacities of both the vaccine manufacturers, the Centre has agreed to give bank guarantee free advance of ₹4,500 crore to them. Bharat Biotech will produce 70 crore doses in a year and Serum Institute of India too will increase its production. Other companies are also in line to produce vaccines in India. This will increase availability of vaccine in the open market. However, India will need around 150 crore doses to vaccinate all above 18 years of age.

Gopal Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

No lessons learnt

Sir, The second wave of Covid-19 has led to a sharp surge in demand for hospital beds, medicines, and, crucially, oxygen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed the authorities to ensure the movement of vehicles carrying medical oxygen. The government prohibited the supply of oxygen for industrial purposes to divert the stock for medical use, began a process to import 50,000 tonnes of medical oxygen. While these steps are welcome, the scarcity of oxygen could have been avoided with better planning and proactive governance. It is pathetic the situation demands the intervention of court to examine the availability of oxygen. According to some reports, it took the Centre eight months to invite bids for new oxygen generation plants after India declared the pandemic to be a "disaster" on March 14, 2020. Surprisingly, the delay was not due to a lack of funds. The outlay for 162 oxygen plants is ₹201.58 crore, which had been allocated from the PM-Cares fund. However, only 33 plants are operational, according to the health ministry. This postponement, which is leading to the loss of lives, was a result of administrative inertia, and a flawed tendering process that awarded contracts to companies that are ill-equipped to do the work required. In some cases, state governments failed to provide the infrastructure to set up plants. Last year, a harsh lockdown was imposed to ramp up the health infrastructure. The acute shortage of oxygen shows that a lot of critical infrastructure is yet to be set up, not just due to administrative incompetence but also misreading of the potency of Covid-19's second wave.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Raj orders vaccination of vegetable sellers, grocers

The state is under lockdown but essential services are allowed to operate and hence, the government wants to ensure those engaged in them don't become super spreaders



Jaipur, April 20: In view of a steep rise in Covid cases, the Rajasthan government Tuesday issued directions that those selling vegetables, milk, groceries and medicines and are 45 or above will be vaccinated on priority basis.

The state is under lockdown but essential services are allowed to operate and hence, the government wants to ensure those engaged in them don't become super spreaders.

The order, signed by Medical & Health and Family Welfare Secretary Siddharth Mahajan and issued to all District Collectors, calls for bank employees, workers employed in industries, fruit and vegetable and milk vendors, medicine sellers, newspaper hawkers and media people be vaccinated first.

Apart from these, front line workers (police, revenue, drinking water, electricity department workers) who have not yet been vaccinated but are deputed in hotspot areas/containment zones should be vaccinated on a priority basis to ensure their life is not threatened.

Since January 16, 1.13 crore people have been vaccinated in the state.

Rajasthan reported a record spike of 12,201 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday, taking the infection tally in the state to 4,38,785, even as efforts to contain the disease are underway.

The state also reported 64 more fatalities, pushing the death toll due to the viral disease to 3,268, according to an official bulletin.

Rajasthan has imposed lockdown-like restrictions in the state from Monday. Called "Public Discipline Fortnight", the curbs will be in place till May 3.

While routine traffic was seen plying on roads, shops, except those dealing in essential services, remained shut.

The number of active cases of the disease in the state now stands at 85,571. Of the new infections, 1,875 are in Jaipur, 1,545 in Jodhpur, 1,382 in Kota, 932 in Udaipur, 650 in Alwar, 475 in Bhilwara, 439 in Ajmer and 401 in Bikaner. According to the bulletin, a total of 3,49,946 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the state so far.

lented & taken decision to allow everyone above 18 to be vaccinated. The Central govt should now ensure adequate availability of vaccines so that people above the age of 18 years can be vaccinated asap," he tweeted.

"We look forward to a rational & transparent strategy for vaccine distribution among states in the coming days," he added. The Centre announced Monday that everyone above 18 years of age will be eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 from May 1 and allowed states, private hospitals and industrial establishments to procure the doses directly from manufacturers.

Under the third phase of the national vaccination drive commencing next month, the vaccine manufacturers would supply 50 per cent of their monthly Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) released doses to the central government and would be free to supply the remaining 50 per cent doses to state governments and in the open market.

Ensure adequate vax: CM Gehlot tells Centre

With the Centre deciding to open vaccination for all above 18 years from May, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Tuesday said the government should ensure adequate availability of vaccines. "Finally the Central govt has re-

Andhra credits ₹128cr to 6L farmers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, April 20: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Tuesday credited Rs 128.4 crore into the bank accounts of 6.2 lakh farmers under YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme for the 2019-20 rabi season.

These farmers earlier availed loans of up to Rs 1 lakh and repaid them in the stipulated time. "Sixty per cent of the world's population is dependent on agriculture and promoting agriculture would create employment for 62 per cent of the population in the state," said Reddy as he transferred the funds.

The chief minister said that the state government's objective is to prioritise farmers' and farm labourers' welfare and cleared the pending arrears left by the previous government.

Since the time the government led by Reddy came into being in June



2019, a total of Rs 1,132 crore was paid to 61.2 lakh people under the zero interest subsidy scheme.

The CM urged farmers to enroll in the e-crop database to avail interest free subvention from June 2021.

Likewise, he said that the government is providing nine hours of free power to farmers during the day, benefiting 18.7 lakh farmers at an expenditure of Rs 8,800

crore annually.

"Through this scheme, each farmer will be saving a minimum of Rs 46,000 every year. The government has completed capacity building of feeders to provide free power to farmers with a cost of Rs 1,700 crores," Reddy noted.

Sixty per cent of the world's population is dependent on agriculture and promoting agriculture would create employment for 62 per cent of the population in the state

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | CHIEF MINISTER

Reiterating that farmers' welfare is the top priority of the state government, Reddy stated that almost all the promises given to farmers have been fulfilled in the 22-month governance.

Even corona warriors struggle for drugs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, April 20: This is the story of a 37-year-old corona warrior, who is a doctor by profession and is currently battling for life on a ventilator, awaiting medicines which could have improved his health. However, the delayed availability of the drugs is raising questions on the respect and regards shown to corona warriors by both the central and the state government.

Anuj Sharma, father of a six-year-old girl, was admitted April 14 in Fortis Hospital of Jaipur after Covid struck him April 13. His wife, a senior official with the Railways, and daughter, are also infected, and isolated.

His parents, based in Jalandhar, were informed of his critical health Sunday and they reached midnight. They are staying in a railways guest house but unable to meet their daughter-in-law, son or granddaughter, as all three are infected.

April 14, Anuj's CT score was 7, on 15th, he wanted Remdesivir, but the injections were not available.

"After running from pillar to post, he got the injection the next day, however his CT score went up to 13 and again Remdesivir was not available when required," said his friend, Rateesh who is a doctor as well.



Family members, wearing protective suits, perform the last rites of a person who died of COVID-19, at Adarsh Nagar Moksha Dham in Jaipur. PTI PHOTO

"Corona warriors have been discussed far and wide but look at their plight. They can't even avail medicines when required. If this is the plight of a doctor, imagine the plight of a common man. The government has floated a policy to hold the medicine stock, but why can't the hospital like Fortis be trusted at this time?"

"There are no beds in RUHS and hence we can't take a critical patient there. What should we do in such a situation, leave our patient to die?" he questioned, saying it would have been better "had we not been doctors."

"Anuj has been testing patients since September... being from a pathology background and after nine months, he too got infected, however, there is no one now to save his life," he added.

"He is critical and we badly need Tocilizumab 400 mg iv. We were asked to go to SMS Hospital and then to Rajasthan University Hospital Services but we could not

State needs more medical-use oxygen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur: Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma Tuesday requested the Centre to ramp up the supply of medical-use oxygen to the state to meet the heightened demand due to the spike in the number of coronavirus cases. He said the state has adequate number of beds as of now and can raise the number further up to three lakh, but it needs more oxygen to treat coronavirus patients. He said the state requires 136 MT of oxygen, but it has been allocated 124 MT. "Of the 124 MT too, only 65 metric tonne is being supplied to Rajasthan," he said. He said the plant in Bhiwadi generates 120 metric tons (MT) of oxygen but Rajasthan is getting only 65 MT from there as the Centre has taken control of the plant and distributing the life-saving medical item to other states.

get the medicines despite travelling 30-40 km," he lamented.

Meanwhile, a Fortis Hospital staff member said: "There is a huge demand for Remdesivir and its supply is limited. There is a shortage of these medicines and injections... we can't deny it but have been providing our patients the best to our availability," he added.

AP promotes all students between Classes I and IX

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Amaravati, April 20: Besides cancelling classes for all students from classes I to IX, Andhra Pradesh government has also promoted all the students falling in this bracket.

"All students of classes I to IX in all schools under all managements shall be treated as pass and promoted to their next class, duly cancelling summative assessment - II examinations for the academic year

2020-21," ordered principal secretary B. Rajsekhar Monday.

In the light of this development, summer vacation has been declared from Tuesday for these students.

However, classes and examinations shall proceed as usual for 10th standard students as per the schedule already given, following all coronavirus protocols.

"All teachers dealing with Class 10 shall attend the schools on all working days as per the schedule

given by the headmaster concerned," said Rajsekhar.

Meanwhile, the state government will distribute dry rations to eligible students of classes I to IX and serve mid-day meals to Class 10 students at the school to meet the nutritional requirements of children, aimed at safeguarding their immunity amid Covid.

GEHLOT GOVT BETS BIG ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, April 20: In the first Board of Investment (BOI) meeting chaired by CM Ashok Gehlot Monday, Rajasthan government cleared the customised package of incentives for investment worth over Rs. 1,67,000 crore in the state, of which the major contributor sector is renewable energy.

With these investments nearly 40,000+ new employment will be added in the state. Out of these investment opportunities, only renewable sector will provide 90% of jobs and that too in the barren land areas of the state, which are less fortunate due to being non-agricultural lands.

Jaisalmer, Jalore, Barmer are the districts to name a few. Adani Green Energy, Renew Power, Greenko Energies and JSW Solar are investing nearly Rs. 1,64,540 Cr in total and will be providing employment opportunities to 37000+ in the renewable energy sector in the next couple of years.

Gehlot said, "It should be ensured that new projects are started in a time bound manner by removing bottlenecks in investment in the state. In the last two years, the state



government has implemented many important policies and programs to increase investment in the state. Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS 2019), Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy 2019, through One Stop Shop System and Single Window System and many facilities are being provided to investors."

He instructed the officers that every effort should be made to increase investment in the state.

Other than RE, projects from Sahasara Semiconductors in the Electronics, Mewar Polytext in the Textile, ASI Industries in the Engineering Manufacturing Stone, Hemdha Medisources in the Medical & Health and Kanchan India in Textile have also been cleared by the Board. Also, issues pertaining to projects of A Kajaria Group in the Bathware Mfg and Ceramic Tiles, JCB in Earth Moving Machines, Saint-Gobain in the Glass manufacturing sectors were cleared for smooth operation of these projects. Collectively the total investment from these companies is estimated to be Rs. 3200+ Cr and employment to 5600+ persons are expected.

The BOI has been constituted under the Rajasthan Enterprises Single Window Enabling and Clearance Act. The State Government through an amendment in the act in year 2020 had provisioned the board for fast track clearance of proposals related to customized packages under RIPS 2019.

Ashutosh A. T. Pednekar (IAS), Industries

Secretary, Rajasthan Government said, "Investment scenario in the State has changed in recent times. Corporates are entrusting the policies and support being extended by the State Government for setting up their ventures in Rajasthan. We have some major proposals lined up which will soon be taken upto appropriate level for decision."

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. ETCPMIVSKP2021019
Dated: 12.04.2021

NAME OF WORK : JAGDALPUR - KORAPUT DOUBLING PROJECT : CONSTRUCTION OF 6 (SIX) NOS. TUNNELS (T-1 FROM CH.1680M TO 2000M, T-2 FROM CH.3160M TO 3500M, T-3 FROM CH. 4400M TO 4660M, T-4 FROM CH.5120M TO 5440M, T-5 FROM CH. 6140M TO 6440M AND T-6 FROM CH.10070M TO 10400 FROM JARATI) INCLUDING TUNNEL APPROACHES AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS BETWEEN JARATI - MALLIGURA STATIONS OF WALTAIR DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) : 8585.41 Lakhs, Completion Period of the Work: 30 (Thirty) Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 Hrs. of 13.05.2021.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-C / G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con),
PR-05/CE/21-22
Bhubaneswar

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
TENTULIA SASANDEBASTHAN COLLEGE**
At/P.O.- Bijaya Dhanurjaya Pur, Dist.- Ganjam
Odisha (PIN - 761120)

Corrigendum Notice No. TSD/OHEPEE/02/2021 Date: 20.04.2021

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

In continuation to the Tender Notice No. TSD/OHEPEE/01/2021 Date: 31.03.2021, it is for information to all concerned that, the last date of the receipt of the bids has been extended to 05.05.2021. Bidders are requested to visit the College website: tsdcollege.in for further information.

Sd./- Principal
T.S.D. College, B.D. Pur Gm)



Today, India is reporting another spike of COVID-19 in many states. It is an extremely challenging task to contain a virus as contagious as this in a country like ours which has a very high population density in big cities and towns

FADNAVIS FACES FLAK

Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis came under severe fire Tuesday after it emerged that his 22-year-old nephew managed to get a Covid vaccine jab, allegedly violating the Centre's norms.



of the day quote

Due to the lack of coordination among administrative officers, the situation (COVID surge in UP) is worsening day by day

I hope we may see an early end to challenges the coronavirus pandemic poses as it threatens every nation across the world

Although there was an unnecessary political war of words that ensued to a non-political request, I am thankful that the government has chosen to reduce the eligibility age to 18

Mamata writes to PM over 'faulty' vax policy

AGENCIES

Kolkata, April 20: A day after the Central government announced the 'universal' Covid vaccine policy West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday criticised the Central government, terming policy as "hollow", "without any substance" and "regrettable show of evasion of responsibility by the Centre at the time of crisis".

In a letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Banerjee said, "The announcement doesn't address the major issues like quality, efficacy, stable flow of supply of the required vaccines by the manufacturers and also the price at which the vaccines are to be purchased by the states."

"It is apprehended that the announced policy might lead to unscrupulous mechanisms in the market, including the prices of vaccines as it appears to be based on market prices which may put the common people under huge financial burden."

ARMED FORCES ROPED IN TO TACKLE SOARING COVID CASES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVIVR

New Delhi, April 20: The government has roped in its armed forces to tackle soaring Covid-19 cases across the country.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will review the Covid situation on Tuesday afternoon with all the service chiefs - Chief of Defence Staff, all Secretaries, Defence Research and Development Organisation Chairman and Director General Armed Forces Medical Services.



Singh had Monday urged the forces to be on war footing in fight against Covid, providing all medical help to the affected people.

He also directed the army to open up medical facilities for local people and directed that forces top commanders to get in touch with chief ministers of the states.

The states unable to control the Covid-19 situation were looking upon the Central government for help. A senior Defence Ministry official said that the defence minister spoke to the Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane and asked him to instruct commanders in state capitals to reach out to chief ministers and provide all possible assistance.



duction capacity to the desired levels to meet the nationwide demand," she added. Reminding the Prime Minister of her letter dated February 24, she said, "I had requested your intervention to allow our state to purchase vaccines directly with the state resources and give free vaccination to the people of the state."

The Chief Minister alleged that no reply from the Centre has come so far. "Now when the number of cases in the state is spiralling like

anything, the Centre has chosen to tactically indulge in making an empty rhetoric and shy away from the responsibility for making vaccines available to the people of the country," she said in a statement. Banerjee also asked the Prime Minister to take steps so that the vaccines become available in the market. "I would like to mention once again that, presently, the required vaccines are not available in the market and I request that steps

Cong slams new vax policy

A day after the government tweaked its COVID-19 vaccination policy to widen the coverage, the Congress Tuesday alleged the changes will worsen the inequality between states as well as between poor and rich Indians, and demanded uniform pricing for the jabs at all health facilities. Questioning the pricing modalities under the new policy, which allows manufacturers to fix the prices of their shots, the Congress said the plan was "regressive, inequitable and anti-competitive".

may immediately be taken to ensure the availability of vaccines at the earliest," she said. This is the second letter the Chief Minister sent to Modi in three days. She had requested the Prime Minister Sunday to make available the supply of vaccine, medicine and oxygen so that the state can scale up the vaccination process and provide adequate treatment to the people.

MIGRANTS FEAR 2020 REPLAY

After the Delhi government announced a week long lockdown, Anand Vihar and Kaushambi bus stands of Delhi and UP are once again abuzz with migrant labourers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 20: Geeta Kumari, a migrant daily wager from Nepal, fears that the six-day-long lockdown in Delhi might turn to be a repeat of last year and her family will run out of work and resources soon.

Waiting with her family at the Kaushambi Bus depot, ready to leave the city, Kumari says, "We fear that it will be a repeat of last year. What if the lockdown is extended? What if they completely stop construction activities for a longer period? What will we eat then? Last time we waited for the situation to get better but ultimately had to go back home anyway."

"I have seven members in my family, including a senior citizen. During the last lockdown, we went to Nepal after the situation became worse. We returned around four to five months ago. We work as a daily labourers and do not have work due to the ongoing situation. We have no work back in our native place so we will have to come back but not sure when as the lockdown could be extended," she told PTI.

Scenes similar to last year's migrant exodus could be seen replaying at interstate bus terminals

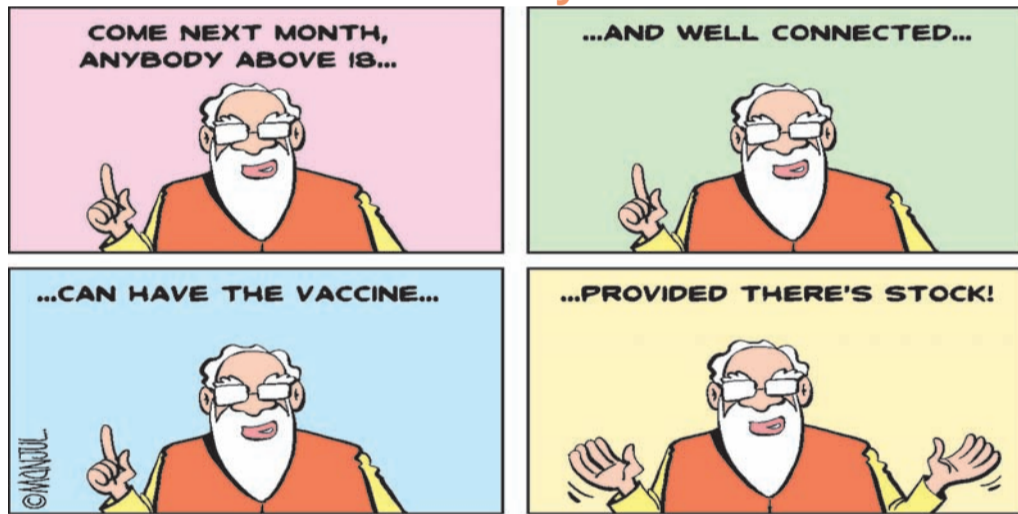
with thousands of migrant workers gathering there to catch a bus home, hours after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a week-long lockdown and appealed to them with folded hands not to leave Delhi while sounding a word of assurance -- "Main hoon na" (I am here for you).

The Chief Minister appealed workers to not leave Delhi, saying the short period of lockdown would need not be extended. At present, there is no restriction on inter-state movement during the lockdown.

Chandan Siroj, a native of Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, said that during the last lockdown, he travelled in a truck to reach his home. "We were stuck for over one month here last year during the lockdown. The food was not an issue, but we were scared for our lives. We reached Jaunpur after travelling in a truck."

"We came back around two months ago. On Monday, we told our employer that we are leaving for Jaunpur and requested him for some money. He only gave Rs 500 each to us. Its not going to be the same this year, nobody will help," Siroj said who works, along with his four friends from Jaunpur, at a factory in north Delhi's Anand Parbat area.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



'Wastage of vaccines a criminal offence'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 20: The Delhi High Court Tuesday said wastage of even a single shot of the COVID-19 vaccine was a "criminal waste" and directed the Centre to vaccinate whomsoever it can to ensure each vial is used fully.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli said that according to news reports there is a daily wastage of six per cent of vaccines and till now 44 lakh vaccines out of 10 crore have been wasted, maximum in Tamil Nadu. "This is a huge wastage. Give it to those who want it. Whomsoever you can vaccinate, please vaccinate. Whether 16 year old or 60 year old, all need vaccination. The pandemic does not discriminate," the court told the Centre.



The bench said the wastage was occurring due to the restriction with regard to age and categories of persons who are entitled to take the vaccine.

It said that the Centre recently announced that from May 1 all above the age of 18 years would be entitled to take the vaccine.

"In our view, wastage of a single dose of vaccine, which has proven to be life saving, is a criminal waste," it said and directed the central government to find a way to ensure full utilisation of the vaccine, if not utilised by the age/category for which it is permitted by 5pm each day. It said that the Centre can de-

vising ways and means to register volunteers between the ages of 18-45 years who can be called to take the vaccine, if some doses are left after 5pm each day.

"That would ensure all doses are fully utilised and not wasted. For this purpose the Centre should modify its COWIN application (meant for registering people who want to get vaccinated)," the bench said.

The observations by the bench came during the hearing of a disposed of petition related to COVID-19 tests which was revived April 19 (Monday).

The high court Monday noted that the virus has raised its "ugly head" once again and the pandemic is raging with much greater intensity and "it is evident that the healthcare infrastructure is at the stage of imminent collapse".

Serious oxygen crisis persists in Delhi: Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 20: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday urged the Centre "with folded hands" to provide medical oxygen to Delhi, saying some hospitals are going to run out of it in a few hours.

"Serious oxygen crisis persists in Delhi. Some hospitals are left with just a few hours of oxygen," he tweeted. In another tweet he said, "I urge the Central government with folded hands to urgently provide oxygen to Delhi."



Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said they have just eight hours of oxygen left. The hospital has 485 COVID beds, of which 475 are occupied. Around 120 patients are currently in the ICU.

Its chairman D S Rana said, "6,000 cubic meters of it is left, which at the rate of current consumption will last till 1 am. Need urgent replenishment." Kejriwal had on Sunday termed the shortage of oxygen for coronavirus patients an "emergency". He had also written to Union Minister of Commerce and Industries Piyush Goyal, seeking his intervention in the matter.

The Delhi government Monday set up a 24-member committee to ensure "rational" use of oxygen for treatment of COVID-19 patients. An order issued by the Health Department said the 'Oxygen Audit Committee' will identify areas of wasteful consumption.

\$14,000 prize for idea on ocean sustainability

WITH 10,000 POUNDS (\$14,000) IN PRIZE MONEY TO BE WON, THE COMPETITION WILL ENCOURAGE ENTRANTS TO UTILISE AND EXPLORE THE INFORMATION AND CONNECTIVITY AVAILABLE FROM SATELLITES AS PART OF THEIR IDEAS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 20: To celebrate Earth Day April 22, the Commonwealth Secretariat and Satellite Applications Catapult are launching the first-ever 'Hack the Planet' competition, in search of innovative, impactful and scalable ideas that will tackle the threats facing communities around the world, linked to ocean degradation and the climate crisis.

The virtual ideas competition will advance outstanding home-grown solutions from across 54 Commonwealth countries, targeting some of the world's most pressing ocean-related challenges, such as eliminating plastic pollution, accelerating sustainable energy uptake, climate change, developing sustainable 'blue' approaches for the ocean economy and protecting na-



ture in marine areas.

Announcing the initiative, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: "The Commonwealth is an extremely diverse group of 54 countries, including some of the smallest and most vulnerable in the world, that have made a shared commitment under the Commonwealth Blue Charter to work together to tackle

ocean-related challenges.

"I am, therefore, encouraged by the sheer range of possibilities this competition will open up to identify new and improved ideas on how to address ocean sustainability. We look forward to receiving ideas from individuals, teams, and organisations from across our regions, which we could then support and amplify globally."

Lucy Edge, Chief Operating Officer at the Satellite Applications Catapult, added: "We are very excited to launch Hack the Planet today (April 19) and look forward to the innovative ideas we will see from around the world. Satellites provide a unique view of our planet earth - they are vital for meaningful monitoring and mitigation of the effects of climate change and will be an important part of any solution looking at the world's oceans.

"It's a wonderful and rare opportunity for people around the Commonwealth to come together and develop innovative ideas into world-changing concepts that take significant and measurable steps towards solving some of the world's biggest ocean challenges."

An official launch event will be held virtually on April 22. The deadline for online submissions is May

31. The theme of the competition is closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 (ocean), 13 (climate) and 7 (energy).

Specific examples of issues that could be addressed include those covered by the Commonwealth Blue Charter: marine plastic pollution; coral reef protection and restoration; mangrove ecosystems and livelihoods; marine protected areas; ocean acidification; ocean and climate change; ocean observations; sustainable aquaculture; and sustainable coastal fisheries.

In the second phase of the competition, 30 shortlisted teams will be invited to participate in a knowledge exchange programme where they will learn about satellite technologies and elements of design thinking that could support their ideas, and hone these into robust, compelling pitches.

SHORT TAKES

K'taka cancels Class I-IX exams

Bangalore: Students of Class 1-9 affiliated to state board will not be asked to appear for the physical examinations and they will be promoted under the continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE) programme, said Karnataka Education Minister S Suresh Kumar Tuesday after chairing a high-level meeting. As per the CCE programme, schools are expected to complete their result process by April 30 while the summer vacations will begin May 1.

Rahul tests Covid positive

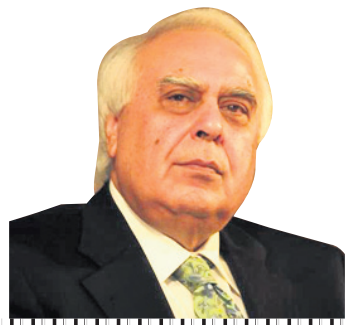
New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 and has mild symptoms. "After experiencing mild symptoms, I've just tested positive for COVID," the 50-year-old posted on Twitter. "All those who've been in contact with me recently, please follow all safety protocols and stay safe," he wrote. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished him a speedy recovery. "I pray for the good health and quick recovery of Lok Sabha MP Shri Rahul Gandhi ji," he tweeted.

Vax shortage hits Tamil Nadu

Chennai: Tamil Nadu, which is seeing Covid cases mounting, is now hit by a shortage of vaccines. Several people who have taken their first shots are being sent back from hospitals when they reach for their second shot after four weeks. C. Rajeev, Director, of Chennai think tank Centre for Policy and Development Studies, told IANS: "I had taken the first shot of the vaccine and was planning to take the second shot this week... when I enquired at the hospitals, they said that there is no vaccine in stock and hence I have to wait further. I don't know what is happening as far as shortage of vaccine is concerned."

Night curfew in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Night curfew came into force in Kerala Tuesday as the state reported the highest single day surge of over 19,000 COVID-19 cases. In the state capital, many busy areas, including Thampanoor and the Statue area in front of the Secretariat wore a deserted look by 9 pm as vehicles were off the roads. Shops were also closed. Malls and cinema houses in the state functioned only till 7.30 pm.



Modiji, you use all your might, muscle power, lung power, resources to win elections. Why not the same passion to win the war against coronavirus for our people? KAPIL SIBAL | CONGRESS LEADER

PLEA AGAINST MOVIES ON SUSHANT S RAJPUT

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the producers of various proposed and upcoming films on the life of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput to respond to a plea by his father seeking to restrain anyone from using his son's name or likeness in movies



of the day quote

Is the Centre behind these companies drastically dropping their supply quantity? Is the Centre putting people's lives in danger just to defame the Maharashtra government? NANA PATOLE | MAHA CONG CHIEF

I request to the people in the media...You are everyday showing piles of dead bodies of COVID-19 victims, suffering and agony of dying patients. This is creating panic among common people KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP GENERAL SECY

Notwithstanding the fact that the detention of top party leaders is illegal in the first place, the government has given up even on the basic pretence of empathy and humanism when it comes to political prisoners of J&K even in the holy month of Ramzan G N LONE HANJURA | PDP GENERAL SECY

SHORT TAKES

PM's Portugal visit called off

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to Portugal to attend the annual India-European Union summit next month has been called off in view of the coronavirus crisis, and the deliberations will be held virtually. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Tuesday that the decision to hold the summit in a virtual format May 8 was taken in consultation with EU and Portuguese leadership. The 16th India-EU summit was scheduled for May 8 in Porto, a prominent city of Portugal.

2 held for selling fake Covid reports

Mumbai: Police have arrested two persons here for allegedly preparing fake COVID-19 negative reports and selling them to people at a high cost, an official said Tuesday. The duo was arrested by the Mumbai police's Crime Branch Monday from Jogeshwari in western suburbs, he said. Acting on specific information, sleuths from Unit-10 of the Crime Branch raided a 'chawl' (old row tenement) and unearthed the racket, the official said. The police identified the arrested duo as Bilal Farukh Shaikh (24) and Rashid Shakil Shaikh (32).

2 migrants killed as bus overturns

Gwalior: Two migrant labourers were killed and eight others injured after an overcrowded bus overturned on a highway near Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district Tuesday, a police official said. The bus was on its way to Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh from Delhi, Gwalior's district Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi told reporters. "While the driver was negotiating a turn, the bus overturned at the Jaurasi Ghat on Gwalior-Jhansi highway around 9 am.

Russian engineer found dead in hotel

Agra: A 55-year-old Russian engineer was found dead inside a room of a five-star hotel in Agra. He had been staying there for the last 17 days. The deceased, identified as Oleg Filippov, was reportedly associated with aircraft maintenance and had arrived in India with his friend Aleksandr Khramtsov April 2. Filippov came on a business visa which was issued March 5 this year and was valid for six months.

COVID RESURGE

More states opt for lockdown-like curbs

THE CENTRE STRESSED THAT THE NEXT THREE WEEKS WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THE COUNTRY REELING FROM THE WORST MEDICAL CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 20: More states went for partial-to-full lockdown, night curfew and other restrictions Tuesday as India's active COVID cases crossed 20 lakh after 2,59,170 new coronavirus infections and a record 1,761 new fatalities.

The Centre stressed that the next three weeks will be critical for the country reeling from the worst medical crisis as it announced a series of measures to shore up medical infrastructure and supplies and scale up vaccination in the country.

After Delhi, Jharkhand declared a one-week lockdown from April 22, while Maharashtra indicated a similar step soon. Telangana announced night curfew while Uttar Pradesh ordered a weekend lockdown.

The decision by the Uttar Pradesh government came as the Supreme Court granted an interim stay on its plea against the Allahabad High Court order directing lockdown till April 26 in five cities.

The state government held that it has taken several steps to contain the spread of coronavirus the high court order would create immense administrative difficulties.

Night curfew has already been imposed in Uttar Pradesh and several other states including Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, parts of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. However, there was no sign of the COVID wave ebbing as several states like Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala recorded the highest daily rise Tuesday.

Registering a steady increase for the 41st day in a row, the active cases increased to 20,31,977, comprising 13.26 percent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has dropped to 85.56 percent. In the last 11 days, the



daily count of cases has almost doubled from 1.31 lakh reported April 9 to 2.73 lakh April 20.

Expressing concern over the worrying scenario during a review meeting with Union Territories, Member (Health) NITI Aayog V K Paul pointed out the criticality of the next three weeks for COVID response measures.

In Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren announced the decision to enforce a lockdown from April 22 to April 29 and said the period will be observed as "health safety week".

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the state cabinet favours a "strict lockdown" and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is likely to make an announcement in this regard Wednesday.

He said the cabinet decided to cancel class 10th exam of the state board. Scores of other states have also scrapped the class 10 exams this year. The CBSE too had cancelled the class 10 exam while another central board ICSE announced the decision today.

Maharashtra has been reporting over 50,000 coronavirus cases every day during the last two weeks but people are flouting the existing restrictions on movement and gatherings, the minister said.

The Telangana government an-

Lockdown should be 'last resort': PM

NEW DELHI: Amid a staggering surge in COVID-19 cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said a lockdown should be the "last resort" to deal with the raging pandemic and asked states to convince migrant workers to stay put at their places of work with a guarantee for their lives and livelihood. In an address to the nation, he also called upon all stakeholders, including the pharmaceutical industry, to deal collectively with the immediate challenge of the shortage of oxygen cylinders. Outlining a number of measures taken by his government, including ramping up of the production and supply of oxygen and medicine for allowing vaccination for everyone above 18 years of age from the next month, Modi said he also empathises with the pain of those having lost their family members.

He also announced a night curfew in the state between 9 PM and 5 AM till April 30, following a surge in coronavirus cases.

SC STAYS HC ORDER ON LOCKDOWN IN UP CITIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 20: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted an interim stay on the Allahabad High Court order directing lockdown in five cities of Uttar Pradesh in the backdrop of the worsening Covid-19 situation.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Uttar Pradesh government, said the state government has accepted several directions of the High Court, but imposing lockdown in five cities would not be appropriate.

Mehta added that the state government has issued several directions to contain the spread of Covid-19 and it has been taking adequate precautions. A bench headed by



Chief Justice S A Bobde queried, it would be as rigorous as a lockdown, but the High Court had observed that they are nowhere close to a complete down After hearing in the matter, the bench said In these circumstances there would be interim stay of the order. The top court observed that Mehta had submitted that the blanket lockdown imposed by the High Court in five cities in terms would create immense administrative difficulties.

The top court also appointed senior advocate P S Narasimha as amicus curiae while directing the state government to submit a report on steps it has taken and that it proposes to take to contain the pandemic. The next hearing in the matter will be held after two weeks. The Uttar Pradesh government had moved the Supreme Court challenging the order passed by the Allahabad High Court imposing a near total lockdown in five cities in the state.

Earlier, during the day, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice seeking urgent listing. Mehta submitted that a virtual lockdown has been imposed by way of a judicial order in cities like Prayagraj and Lucknow.

Real time satellite monitoring of Himalayas to avoid disasters

THE IIT KANPUR TEAM SUGGESTS THAT EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE GLOF EVENTS IN THE FUTURE SHOULD INCLUDE THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF SATELLITE-BASED MONITORING STATIONS THAT COULD PROVIDE IN SITU AND REAL-TIME DATA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 20: To avoid the Chamoli mishap from recurring, the Ministry of Science and technology with IIT Kanpur has conducted a study on how the satellite-based real-time monitoring of the Himalayan glacial catchments would improve understanding of flood risk in the region and help inform an early flood warning system that could help curb disaster and save human lives.

"The integration of monitoring devices with satellite networks will not only provide telemetry support in remote locations that lack complete cellular connectivity but will also provide greater connectivity in coverage in the cellular dead zones in extreme topographies such as valleys, cliffs, and steep slopes," the authors explained.

"This should be the future strategy to reduce loss of human lives during glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF)," said a study carried out by scientists from IIT Kanpur.

The study was carried out by Dr Tanuj Shukla and Prof Indra Sekhar Sen, Associate Professor from IIT Kanpur, with support from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, has been published in the international journal 'Science'.

The IIT Kanpur team suggests that efforts to help mitigate GLOF events in the future should include the creation of a network of satellite-based monitoring stations that could provide in situ and real-time data on GLOF risk.

Temperature and the numbers of extreme rainfall events are rising at an increased rate because of cli-



mate change. Suitably called Earth's "Third Pole", the Himalayan region is home to the largest ice mass outside of the planet's Polar Regions. The glaciers in the Himalayas are melting at a faster rate creating new lakes and expanding the ex-

GLOFs occur when either a natural dam containing a glacial lake bursts or when the lake's level suddenly increases and overflows its banks, leading to catastrophic downstream destruction.

For example, in 2013, an avalanche caused the glacial moraine holding back Chorabari Lake in northern India to give way, releasing a sudden torrent of water, boulders, and debris that scoured the river valley below, resulting in the deaths of more than 5,000 people. With climate change, these events are likely to increase in frequency and magnitude throughout the Himalayas.

However, the remote, challenging Himalayan terrain and the overall lack of cellular connectivity throughout the region have made the development of early flood warning systems virtually impossible.

"In their recent work, the Scientists also point out that the surge of meltwater in mountain streams is most commonly caused by cloud-burst events during the monsoon season (June-July-August) time frame." However, the recent (February 7, 2021) sudden surge of meltwater in the river tributary of the Ganga, Dhaulti Ganga, during the dry season suggests that this time frame needs to be expanded.

The catastrophe in the upper Dhaulti Ganga basin is linked to processes other than precipitation events, such as snow avalanches, rock landslides, or other unidentified drivers, and therefore determining all of the potential major and minor drivers behind sudden surges of meltwater into headwater streams is vital for understanding the hazard profile of the region.

J&J seeks nod for vax trial in india

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 20: Global healthcare major Johnson & Johnson Tuesday said it has sought an approval from the India's drug regulator to conduct a bridging clinical trial of its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine in the country. The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) had in February approved Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine that works with just one dose for emergency use.

"Johnson & Johnson is partnering with health authorities and the world's best scientists to provide the safety and efficacy data necessary to support worldwide emergency use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine candidate," the company said in a statement.

This comes close on the heels of the central government last week deciding to fast-track emergency approvals for all foreign produced coronavirus jabs that have been given a similar nod by the World Health Organization or regulators in the United States, Europe, Britain or Japan.

Such vaccines will be given emergency use approval mandating the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial in place of conduct of local clinical trial under the provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019, the health ministry had said.

"In line with this commitment, we have submitted an application to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) requesting approval to conduct a bridging clinical study of our single-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India to comply with local regulations", the statement added.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine can be stored at refrigerator temperatures.

So far, two vaccines -- one developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca and the other developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Virology -- are being used in India. Both the vaccines are being manufactured within the country by domestic firms.

SC lays guidelines for appointment of ad-hoc judges in HCs

Significantly, the Supreme Court made it clear that the recourse of Article 224A is not an alternative to regular appointments

The powers under the Article 224A can be invoked if the vacancies in the High Courts are more than 20 percent of the sanctioned strength



Article 224A was only invoked three times by Madras High Court, Madhya Pradesh High Court and Allahabad High Court

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 20: In order to address the challenges of huge backlog of cases in the High Courts, the Supreme Court Tuesday passed certain guidelines with respect to appointment of retired judges as ad-hoc judges in the High Courts under the Article 224A of the Constitution.

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde emphasised upon activating the "dormant provision of the constitution - Article 224A - for the appointment of ad hoc Judges to deal with the backlog of cases pending in the High Courts, which has now crossed the figure of 57 lakh coupled with the consistent ratio of vacancies of almost 40 per cent."

In order to exercise the power of the Article 224A in a transparent manner, the bench also comprising Justices S K Kaul and A Surya Kant held that the powers under the Article can be invoked if the vacancies in the High Courts are more than 20 percent of the sanctioned strength. The bench also said that in the scenario where the cases in a particular category are pending for over five years or more than 10 per cent of the backlog of pending cases are over five years old or the percentage of disposal of cases are lower than the appointment of ad-hoc judges shall be made. Significantly, the Supreme Court

made it clear that the recourse of Article 224A is not an alternative to regular appointments. The bench held that if recommendations have not been made for more than 20 per cent of the regular vacancies then the trigger for recourse to Article 224A would not arise.

The Supreme Court ruled that the past performance of recommendees in both quality and quantum of disposal of cases should be factored for selection as the objective is to clear the backlog. The bench also held that the Chief Justice of High Court should prepare a panel of judges, on the anvil of retirement, and former judges who have retired within a period of one year. However, the bench said, the Chief Justice can also recommend a judge retired earlier but his expertise is required in a particular subject matter after holding an interaction with the concerned judge.

The Supreme Court held that since the Judges are already appointed to the post through a warrant of appointment, the occasion to refer the matter to the IB or other agencies would not arise in such a case, which would itself shorten the time period. The bench said three months should be sufficient to process a recommendation under Article 224A and thus, ideally a Chief Justice should start the process three months in advance for such appointment.

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN



A family walks through a market, closed in view of Covid-induced lockdown, in Pahargunj area of New Delhi, Tuesday

international



Climate is not only the right thing it is the right business. And so, what I believe is that India certainly has the opportunity to lead on climate. It is in India's interest. And in the interest of all of humanity we need to address this crisis that is on our doorstep
PUNIT RENJEN | DELOITTE CEO

RUSSIA TO LAUNCH OWN SPACE STATION IN 2025

Russia's space agency said Tuesday it hoped to launch its own orbital station in 2025 as Moscow considers withdrawing from the International Space Station programme to go alone



of the day quote

This declaration of a state of emergency is not about fighting COVID-19. Not at all ... It is about a weak government wanting to stay in power



MAHATHIR MOHAMAD | FORMER PM, MALAYSIA

I believe it is important for me to speak directly with my new colleagues in the Biden administration in Washington about the current state of bilateral relations between the United States and Russia



JOHN SULLIVAN | AMBASSADOR, US

The population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development theme is of critical importance at all times. But even more so now as the world is trying to rebuild itself while emerging from the challenges posed by COVID-19



DR HARSH VARDHAN | MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

SHORT TAKES

200 fighters killed in Syria

Berlin: At least 200 fighters were killed in an airstrike on a rebel camp in Syria by Russian fighter jets, according to military sources in Moscow. In addition, large quantities of ammunition and other combat material were destroyed at the camp near Palmyra, reported the TASS news agency, citing Russian military leaders in Syria.

Walter Mondale dies at 93

Minneapolis: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, a liberal icon who lost one of the most lopsided presidential elections after bluntly telling voters to expect a tax increase if he won, died Monday. He was 93. The death of the former senator, ambassador and Minnesota attorney general was announced in a statement from his family. No cause was cited.

14 Hefazat leaders meet B'desh HM

Dhaka: Fourteen top leaders of the Hefazat-e-Islami militant outfit met Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and members of intelligence agencies in an effort to find a "compromise" following the widespread violence in the country.

Cuban Prez elected head of PCC

Havana: Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has been elected as the new First Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), as the successor to Raul Castro. The announcement was made Monday during the final session of the Eighth Congress of the PCC as the island nation marked the 60th anniversary of the victory against the US-backed Bay of Pigs invasion.

Quake jolts Indonesia

Jakarta: A 6.4-magnitude earthquake jolted North Sumatra province in Indonesia Tuesday with no preliminary reports of damages or casualties, officials said. The earthquake did not potentially trigger a tsunami, the meteorology and geophysics agency said.

Xi challenges US global leadership

There should be no "bossing" and "meddling" in the internal affairs of other countries as Beijing is increasingly coming under pressure from Washington, says Chinese President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, April 20: Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday hit out at the US, saying there should be no "bossing" and "meddling" in the internal affairs of other countries as Beijing is increasingly coming under pressure from Washington and its allies over issues of human rights violations, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"Bossing others around or meddling in others' internal affairs would not get one any support. We must advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are common values of humanity, and encourage exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations to promote the progress of human civilization," Xi said, without directly referring to the US.

"What we need in today's world is justice, not hegemony," he said addressing the annual Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), a China promoted influential think tank based in Hainan via video link.

"Big countries should behave in a manner befitting to their status and with a greater sense of responsibility," he said.

His snide remark against Washington came as US President Joe Biden vigorously pursued a strong China containment policy initiated by his predecessor



by Donald Trump.

Biden united US allies like the UK, the EU and Japan over his China policy. He also held the first quadrilateral summit of the emerging alliance called Quad, which included US, Australia, Japan and India.

The US, the European Union, Britain and Canada have imposed coordinated sanctions on China over alleged human rights violations against Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang, a charge Beijing denied.

These countries have also taken united position on China firming up its control over Hong Kong with its new national security law subduing the massive pro-democracy agitation in the former British colony.

Xi, in his address, also called on all countries in Asia and beyond to



Big countries should behave in a manner befitting to their status and with a greater sense of responsibility
XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

answer the "call of our times", defeat the pandemic through solidarity, strengthen global gover-

nance, and keep pursuing a community with a shared future for humanity.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the BFA, this year's annual conference is themed "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."

"Global governance should reflect the evolving political and economic landscape in the world, conform to the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation, and meet the practical needs in addressing global challenges," Xi said.

On creating a future of health and security with solidarity and cooperation, Xi said the key role of the World Health Organization (WHO) must be given full play in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

On climate change, Xi stressed the importance of following the philosophy of green development, advancing international cooperation and doing more to implement the Paris Agreement.

Efforts should also be made to boost the digital economy, and step up exchanges and cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, biomedicine and modern energy, to turn the fruits of scientific and technological innovation into greater benefits for people in all countries, he said.

Russia detains Navalny allies, raids offices

REUTERS

Vladimir, April 20: Russian police detained several allies of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny Tuesday and raided two of his regional offices, a protest monitoring group said, a day before his supporters plan to stage mass protests over his deteriorating health in jail.

Navalny, 44, President Vladimir Putin's staunchest critic, declared a hunger strike three weeks ago to demand access to better medical care. He was moved Sunday to a prison with a hospital. His supporters say they fear for his life.

The state prison service has said his condition is satisfactory and that he has agreed to receive "vitamin therapy". His allies say he has still not had proper care and plan to take to the streets Wednesday evening in protest.

Authorities have issued warnings that the demonstrations are illegal, setting the stage for a confrontation and the possibility of mass arrests. Police detained thousands of people at rallies earlier this year over Navalny's jailing.

Police conducted raids at Navalny's regional offices in the southern city of Krasnodar and the central region of Chelyabinsk, according to OVD-Info, which mon-

Navalny's doc denied access to prison hosp

A team of medics including ailing Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's personal doctor were denied access Tuesday to a penal colony where he is being treated at a prison hospital. Russia's prison service, which has repeatedly prevented Navalny's doctors from visiting him, Monday moved him from his penal colony in the Vladimir region some 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of Moscow to a medical facility at another colony in the same region. A team of physicians including his personal doctor Anastasia Vasilyeva has made multiple attempts to see him but been rejected each time. On Tuesday morning the team was once again barred from seeing him, but was told to try again later in the day. "This is super disrespectful to people who came to fulfil their human duty, a medical duty to help a patient," Vasilyeva told AFP outside the colony. "We are talking now only about health and life." Navalny's team has called on supporters to take to the streets on Wednesday -- when Putin is due to deliver his annual state of the nation address -- to protest how he is being treated.

itors protests and activist detentions. Five Navalny activists in different regions were detained on various charges, it said.



RAGING INFERNO



Flames are seen close to the city fanned by strong winds after a bushfire broke out on the slopes of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa

REUTERS

MYANMAR COUP

EU sanctions Myanmar individuals, companies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Brussels, April 20: The European Union (EU) has imposed fresh sanctions on 10 individuals and two companies in Myanmar for their alleged involvement in the February 1 military coup.

The individuals "are all responsible for undermining democracy and the rule of law" in Myanmar, and for "repressive decisions and serious human rights violations", the Council of the EU said in a statement Monday following a virtual meeting of the bloc's Foreign Ministers.

In the statement, it said the two entities, Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic



Corporation Limited (MEC), were large conglomerates "owned and controlled by the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw), and provide revenue for it". Pre-existing EU restrictive measures also remain in place, said the press release.

EU citizens and companies are forbidden from making funds available to the listed individuals and entities. A one-year state of emergency was declared in Myanmar

after President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, along with other officials from the National League for Democracy (NLD), were detained by the military on February 1.

The military had claimed that there was massive voting fraud in the country's November 2020 general elections, which saw the NLD win a majority of seats in both houses of parliament.

The February coup has prompted widespread protests, to which soldiers have responded with a violent crackdown on the population.

Nearly 2,850 have been arrested, and at least 598 have been killed, including 48 children, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a non-profit organization.

CHAD'S PREZ KILLED ON BATTLEFIELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

N'Djamena, April 20: Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno, who ruled the central African nation for more than three decades, was killed Tuesday on the battlefield in a fight against rebels, the military announced on national television and radio.

An 18-month transitional council will be led by Deby's 37-year-old son, Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the military said, also imposing a nightly curfew of 6 pm.

The stunning announcement came just hours after electoral officials had declared Deby the winner of the April 11 presidential election, paving the way for him to stay in power for six more years.

The circumstances of Deby's death could not immediately be independently confirmed due to the remote location of the battlefield. It was not known why the president would have visited the frontlines in northern Chad or participated in ongoing clashes with the rebels who opposed his rule.



Deby, a former army commander-in-chief, first came to power in 1990 when his rebel forces overthrew then-President Hissene Habre, who was later convicted of human rights abuses at an international tribunal in Senegal.

Over the years Deby had survived numerous armed rebellions and managed to stay in power until this latest insurgency led by a group calling itself the Front for Change and Concord in Chad.

'Slowdown caused by Covid not putting brake on climate change'

The economic slowdown, because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, temporarily depressed new greenhouse gas emissions, but had no discernible impact on atmospheric concentrations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, April 20: The Covid-19-related economic slowdown failed to put a brake on climate change drivers and accelerating

impacts, said a UN report.

The year 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, with the global average temperature being about 1.2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level, said the report on the State of the Global Climate 2020, compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and an extensive network of partners, Xinhua reported.

Concentrations of the major greenhouse gases continued to increase in 2019 and 2020, the report, released Monday, noted.

The economic slowdown, because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, temporarily depressed new greenhouse gas emissions, but had no discernible impact on atmos-



pheric concentrations; the report quoted UN Environment Program as saying. Meanwhile, the global

mean sea level continued to increase in 2020 and at a higher rate recently, partly due to the increased

melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. Ocean acidification and deoxygenation have continued, affecting ecosystems, marine life and fisheries.

The increasing climate-related disasters, such as floods, droughts and storms, combined with the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 in a double hit to more than 50 million people, the report said, quoting data from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Driven by conflict and economic slowdown as well as climate variability and extreme weather events, food insecurity, after decades of decline, is now increasing.

According to UN Food and

Agriculture Organization and UN World Food Program, the number of people classified under crisis, emergency and famine conditions had increased to almost 135 million people across 55 countries in 2019.

"This report shows that we have no time to waste. The climate is changing, and the impacts are already too costly for people and the planet," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the launch of the report.

"This is the year for action. Countries need to commit to net zero emissions by 2050... And they need to act now to protect people against the disastrous effects of climate change," he added.

business



I am pushing other countries, particularly some big countries, saying 'Look, please keep the (vaccine) raw materials flowing for the vaccines to be made in India'
S JAISHANKAR | INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

CLUBHOUSE VALUATION HITS \$4BN

As tech giants like Twitter, Spotify, Facebook, Telegram, Discord and LinkedIn go after it, invite-only audio chat app Clubhouse has reportedly raised fresh funding in Series C round, taking its valuation to \$4 billion



of the day quote

Climate is not only the right thing, but the must do thing, it is the right business. And so, what I believe is that India certainly has the opportunity to lead on climate. It is in India's interest



PUNIT REMIEN | DELOITTE CEO

China's population is set to peak in just four years' time and the milestone will be marked by a significant downturn in consumer demand



CAI FANG | MEMBER OF PEOPLE'S BANK OF CHINA'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE

We firmly believe that India as a market has phenomenal business potential over the long term



SANKET ROY | PRESIDENT, COCA-COLA INDIA AND SOUTH WEST ASIA

SHORT TAKES

Finance Bill 2021 amendments

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet Tuesday gave ex-post facto approval to the official amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021, which were aimed at clarifying and rationalising tax proposals for 2021-22. The amendments were essential to clarify and rationalise the proposals further and address stakeholders' concerns arising out of the proposals enumerated in the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill became the Finance Act, 2021 on March 28, 2021 after receiving the President's nod.

Icra cuts its FY22 GDP estimate

Mumbai: Domestic rating agency Icrs Tuesday cut its 2021-22 growth estimate by 0.5 per cent on the upper end, as a newer spate of lockdowns and restrictions get imposed in pockets to arrest the rising COVID-19 cases. The agency now expects the economy to grow 10-10.5 per cent in 2021-22, against the 10-11 per cent estimated earlier. Starting with Maharashtra, a slew of other pockets in the country like Delhi have been taking to localised lockdowns to arrest the climbing COVID-19 cases, which derails economic activity.

Petrol, diesel rates steady

Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices remained steady Tuesday across the four metro cities. In the national capital, petrol is priced at Rs 90.40 per litre and diesel is sold at Rs 80.73 per litre, according to Indian Oil Corporation. Currently, fuel prices are the highest in Mumbai among all four metro cities, where petrol is being sold at Rs 96.83 per litre and diesel is at Rs 87.81 per litre, according to the state-run oil refiner. Petrol and diesel prices vary across states in India due to value-added tax (VAT).

Twitter expands team in India

New Delhi: Microblogging platform Twitter Tuesday announced the appointment of former Uber executive, Apurva Dalal as Director of Engineering. Twitter is also hiring for several other positions across engineering, product, research and design. "Starting April 20, 2021, Apurva will become the senior-most member of Twitter's Engineering team in the country, based in Bangalore, and will be responsible for strengthening the company's engineering capacity," Twitter said in a statement.

India to waive import duty on COVID-19 vax

The waiver would be given as and when foreign vaccine manufacturers approach the govt seeking import of vaccine

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 20: The government is likely to waive 10 per cent customs duty levied on imported vaccines in a bid to keep low the cost of overseas vaccines that are being eyed to supplement domestically made shots ahead of opening COVID-19 vaccination to all citizens over 18 years of age, sources said.

While Russia's Sputnik V vaccines are due to arrive this month or latest by next month, manufacturers like Moderna and Johnson and Johnson have been urged to seek emergency use approval in India. The government presently levies 10 per cent customs or import duty plus a 16.5 per cent I-GST and social welfare surcharge on vaccines coming from overseas. These taxes would make the imported vaccines costlier than the ones made by Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech.

"A customs duty waiver is being considered," a source aware of the matter said.

Another source said a decision is likely to be made "very soon."

As and when, foreign vaccine manufacturers approach the government with a formal proposal for allowing import of vaccine, the waiver would be given, government sources explained.

No proposal has been made so far, Finance Ministry sources added.

The government earlier this month allowed emergency use of



THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO WAIVE 10 PER CENT CUSTOMS DUTY LEVIED ON IMPORTED VACCINES IN A BID TO KEEP THE COST OF OVERSEAS VACCINES LOW

THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND ITS INDIRECT TAX COLLECTION ARM HAD DONE SOME PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF A DUTY WAIVER

THE GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY LEVIES 10 PER CENT CUSTOMS OR IMPORT DUTY PLUS A 16.5 PER CENT I-GST AND SOCIAL WELFARE SURCHARGE ON VACCINES COMING FROM OVERSEAS

imported vaccines to curb spread of coronavirus infections. With 2.59 lakh new infections, the case-load has crossed 1.53 crore, making India the second-worst affected nation after the US, which has reported more than 3.1 crore infections. India's deaths from COVID-19 rose by a record 1,761 to over 1.8 lakh.

Sources said discussion on duty exemption on vaccines started sometime in December last year when overseas manufacturers such as Pfizer sought approval to supply its vaccines to India.

The Finance Ministry and its

indirect tax collection arm had done some preliminary calculations on the implications of a duty waiver but a decision was put off until the government approved use of imported vaccines, they said.

The government, which Monday allowed citizens over the age of 18 years to receive COVID-19 vaccinations from May 1, currently regulates the sale and purchase of all COVID shots in the country.

Under the third phase of its vaccination strategy, manufacturers will be required to supply 50 per cent of their monthly doses

US non-committal on lifting ban on vax raw material exports

New York: US President Joe Biden's spokesperson Jen Psaki has refused to say if the US will allow the export of COVID-19 vaccine raw materials to India, a shortage that could impact global supply or set a timeline for dealing with the requests for relaxing the vaccine patent rights. At her briefing in Washington Monday, she side-stepped a question about reports that at a virtual meeting Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar the US had indicated that it was considering the request for lifting the raw materials ban. She instead spoke about the reaction of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to the request from India and South Africa for waiving the intellectual property rights for the vaccine, sounding optimistic. "We are, of course, working with WTO members on a global response to Covid. That includes a number of components, whether it's \$4 billion committed to COVAX (the international consortium for vaccine distribution), or discussions about how we can aid and assist countries that need help the most."

to the government and the rest to state governments or the open market.

'Power under GST law to order provisional attachment draconian'

The Top Court emphasised that this power of attachment can't be used as an "unguided discretion" by the authorities

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 20: The Supreme Court Tuesday said the rule of law in a constitutional framework is fulfilled when law is substantively fair, procedurally fair and applied in a fair manner; as it held that the power to order a provisional attachment of property, including a bank account, of a taxable person, under the GST law is "draconian in nature".

The top court emphasised that this power of attachment can't be used as an "unguided discretion" by the authorities.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said: "The power to order a provisional attachment of the property of the taxable person including a bank account is draconian in nature and the conditions which are prescribed by the statute for a valid exercise of the power must be strictly fulfilled."

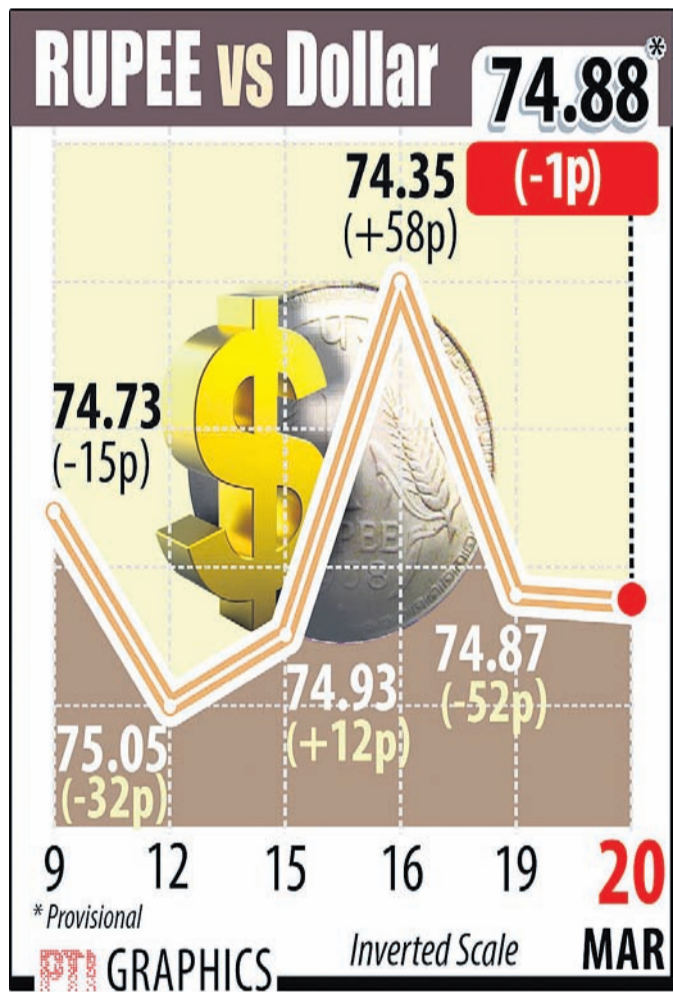
The bench noted a provisional attachment under Section 83 is contemplated during the pendency of certain proceedings, meaning thereby that a final demand or liability is yet to be crystallised. "An anticipatory attachment of this nature must strictly conform to the re-



quirements, both substantive and procedural, embodied in the statute and the rules," said the bench.

In the 61-page judgement, the bench observed the formation of the opinion must be based on tangible material which indicates a live link to the necessity to order a provisional attachment to protect the interest of the government revenue. "The commissioner must be alive to the fact that such provisions are not intended to make pre-emptive strikes on the property of the assessee, merely because property is available," the bench said.

The top court allowed an appeal by Radha Krishna Industries, challenging the Himachal Pradesh High Court order of January 1, 2021. The High Court had dismissed its plea against the order for provisional attachment of properties.



Auto firms fear impact of COVID-19 on sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 20: Leading automobile companies such as Maruti Suzuki India (MSI), Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Honda Cars said they feared a dent in sales as COVID-19 cases surged across the country.

The country's largest carmaker MSI said auto sales were correlated closely with economic growth and also - being a discretionary purchase - with consumer sentiment.

"The COVID-19 situation... is obviously a negative for customer sentiment and thus has an... impact on sales," MSI executive director (Sales and Marketing) Shashank Srivastava said.

Lockdowns made it physically impossible to deliver cars; but, even the deterioration in the COVID-19 situation without lockdowns also psychologically dents consumer propensity to buy, he noted.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Senior VP Naveen Soni acknowledged that localised restrictions have hit order flow and delivery schedules.



"We will be able to access trends and define numbers only by the end of the month depending on the severity and (extent) of the restrictions. As of date, we have had a good number of pending orders that had to be carried forward from the month of February and March to April. Therefore, we are striving to meet customer demand in spite of local restrictions and lockdowns," he noted. On manufacturing operations, Soni said the company continued to cautiously proceed with vehicle production.

"Our immediate focus is to

streamline the demand and supply processes with more accuracy and manage production, along with faster deliveries, [thus] reducing delivery time," he added.

"As responsible corporates, we are continuously monitoring the situation carefully and will take accurate actions, as and when required. More importantly, this time we have precious lessons from last year to learn, unlearn and reflect upon," he noted.

Honda Cars India said it was keeping a close watch on the emerging situation.

Centre okays subsidy policy for TFL urea

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 20: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for the formulation of an exclusive subsidy policy for urea produced through coal gasification route by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL).

According to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, it has been decided to go ahead with the Talcher fertilizer plant by considering the strategic energy security and urea self-sufficiency of the country.

"The project shall improve availability of fertilizer to the farmers and thereby boost development of eastern region. This will save transport subsidy for supply of urea in eastern part of the country. It will also assist in reducing urea imports to the tune of 12.7 LMT per annum leading to savings in the foreign exchange," the ministry said.

It further stated that the project will also give boost to 'Make in India' initiative and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' campaigns. It will help in development of infrastructure like roads, railways, water and others.

"Coal gasification plants are strategically important as coal prices are non-volatile and coal is abundantly available. Talcher plant shall also reduce dependence on natural gas for production of urea leading to reduction in LNG import bill. The gasification process adopted in Talcher unit is a clean coal technology producing negligible SOx, NOx and free particulate emissions as compared to directly coal fired processes," the ministry said.

BIZ BUZZ

Bajaj Auto launches Pulsar NS 125 motorcycle

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Tuesday launched its new Pulsar NS 125 motorcycle priced at Rs 93,690 (ex-showroom Delhi). The Pulsar NS 125 is powered by a 125cc BS-VI DTS-i engine that delivers power of 12 PS and a peak torque of 11 Nm and comes with "Nitrox" mono-shock absorbers offering stability even at high speeds, the company said in a statement. Commenting on the launch, Bajaj Auto president - Motorcycles Sarang Kanade said, "The thrill that the new Pulsar NS 125 is built to offer, will appeal to a large segment of customers with its multiple class leading features. The Pulsar 125 has been very well received by consumers and we are confident that the new NS 125 will further strengthen the brand's position in the Entry Sport Bike segment."



Maruti Suzuki dispatched over 7.2L units in 5 yrs

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Tuesday said it has transported over 7.2 lakh vehicles using Indian railways over the last five years. In the last fiscal alone, the country's largest carmaker transported 1.8 lakh units using the rail route. It was the company's highest ever dispatch since transporting 88,000 units in 2016-17 via railways, the automaker said in a statement. The increased focus on using railways has helped the company offset over 3,200 MT of CO2 emissions cumulatively, it added. The company said the 1.8 lakh units dispatched last fiscal via railways route accounted for nearly 13 per cent of total sales in the same period, MSI noted.



E-commerce, OTT, gaming saw over 100% growth in 2020

AS THEATRES AND OFFLINE ENTERTAINMENT AVENUES REMAINED SHUT CONSUMERS TURNED TO INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 20: Amid the pandemic, online payments, indoor entertainment and gaming witnessed over 100 per cent growth in India last year, a new report said Tuesday.

As theatres and offline entertainment avenues remained shut consumers turned to indoor entertainment, the OTT segment witnessed an incredible 144 per cent increase in the number of transactions and a 139 per cent increase in expenditure between 2019 and 2020, according to on-

line payments solution provider PayU.

The pandemic gave a huge boost to online payments, seen in the 24 per cent increase in the number of transactions and 23 per cent increase in expenditure across the PayU platform, year on year.

"PayU is committed to partnering with merchants to facilitate adoption of digital infrastructure," said Hemang Dattani, Head- Data Intelligence, PayU.

Interestingly, during the festive season (October-December 2020) there was a 45 per cent spike in the number of online transac-



tions vis-a-vis the same period in the previous year.

The number of UPI transactions grew by 288 per cent and

expenditure through UPI grew a phenomenal 331 per cent between 2019 and 2020. The gaming segment saw a phenomenal 100 per cent increase in expenditure and a 154 per cent increase in average ticket size between the two years.

"For gaming and entertainment, the number of transactions made at night increased by 34 per cent while the number of transactions made during the day decreased by 11 per cent in 2020 vs. 2019, an indication of the increased dependence on indoor entertainment while working from home,"

the findings showed.

Travel and hospitality were some of the most impacted sectors with an 86 per cent drop in the number of transactions and expenditure between pre and post-COVID quarters (January-March vs April-June 2020).

Compared to 2019, there was a 46 per cent drop in the number of transactions and a 52 per cent drop in expenditure in '20.

"Edtech emerged as a winner, with a 78 per cent increase in the number of transactions and a 44 per cent increase in expenditure," the report mentioned.

MISHRA SPELL SINKS MI

I don't want anyone to say I'm unfit: MSD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 19: Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni Monday said it is hard to "keep up" with younger players in the squad but it will be a "big positive" for the 39-year-old if they are not able to point fingers at him over his fitness.

The 39-year-old Dhoni, who retired from international cricket last year, admitted that "getting old and being fit are two difficult things".

"When you are playing, you don't really want anyone to say he's unfit. I have to keep up with the younger guys, they are very fast, it's good to challenge them," Dhoni said after CSK beat Rajasthan Royals by 45 runs in their IPL match.

"Performances are something that's guaranteed. I wasn't guaranteeing performances when I was 24. I can't guarantee when I am 40, but at least if people can't point finger at me that he's unfit then

that will be a big positive for me."

Talking about the match, he said he was glad CSK scored 180-plus, though he said they could have got more. "I felt Sam bowled really well. Deepak, there was a bit of miscalculation with the knuckle delivery. So I felt a good start was important. Even the wet ball was spinning."

"I don't really mind Jos playing reverse sweep. If the wet ball was turning then the chance of the dry ball turning is high."

Dhoni said it was good to have Moeen Ali, who took three wickets from seven runs from three overs, as the wicket was turning a bit and becoming more sticky. "The first six balls I played could have cost us in another game."

He said a lot has changed since last year when they finished seventh out of eight teams. "The way we have prepared. The bowlers have been under the pump last year also, so they're used to the conditions."



the 15th over with the scoreboard reading 100/3 in 14.5 overs.

It was a one-way traffic for Delhi with only 38 required off 31 balls. However, they had to deal with another hiccup when skipper Rishabh Pant (7) got out while playing an unnecessary shot off Jasprit Bumrah (1/32) in the 17th over. But Lalit and Shimron Hetmyer (14 n o) calmly finished the game for Delhi.

Earlier, Mumbai suffered a middle-order collapse on a sluggish Chepauk track after they were 67/2 at one stage as Delhi led by Mishra made a spectacular comeback. After losing Quinton de Kock (1) early, Suryakumar Yadav (24) joined Rohit Sharma (44). The duo rallied the innings with their 58-run stand.

Mumbai raced to 55/1 after six overs. However, Delhi pegged back the defending champions by grabbing three quick wickets.

First Avesh Khan (2/15) dismissed

Suryakumar, who nicked one to Pant and then Mishra removed Rohit and Hardik Pandya (0) in the ninth over as Mumbai slipped to 77/4. Both Rohit and Hardik holed out at long on.

Mumbai then lost half their side for 81 as Krunal Pandya (1) chopped an under-cutting arm ball by Lalit (1/17) onto his stumps. Mishra then used his googly to trap Kieron Pollard (2) in front of the wicket, as MI was teetering at 84/6. In the end, a responsible 26 from Ishan Kishan, who became Mishra's fourth wicket, coupled with Jayant Yadav's 23 took the side beyond the 130-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians 137/9 (Rohit Sharma 44, Ishan Kishan 26, Suryakumar Yadav 24, Jayant Yadav 23; Amit Mishra 4/24, Avesh Khan 2/15) **lost to Delhi Capitals 138/4** (Shikhar Dhawan 45, Steve Smith 33, Lalit Yadav 22 n o; Kieron Pollard 1/9) by 6 wickets.

AGENCIES

Chennai, April 20: Experienced leg-spinner Amit Mishra (4/24) spun his web and snared four crucial wickets to help Delhi Capitals script a comprehensive six-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians in their Indian Premier League encounter here, Tuesday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, Mumbai Indians could muster only a below-par 137

for nine. In response, the Delhi franchise completed the chase with five balls to spare.

Delhi Capitals had not of the best starts as in-form opener Prithvi Shaw (7) was dismissed in the second over by Jayant Yadav (1/25), who shared the new ball with Trent Boult (0/23).

However, the other opener Shikhar Dhawan (45, 42b, 5x4, 1x6) found an able ally in Steve Smith (33, 29b, 4x4) as the duo orchestrated

the innings with caution. They rotated strikes as well as finding the boundaries at regular intervals during their 53-run stand for the second wicket.

As the partnership was looking dangerous, Kieron Pollard (1/9) came to bowl and broke the stand getting rid of the Australian. Lalit Yadav (22 n o) then joined Dhawan at the middle. The pair added 36 runs for the third wicket before Rahul Chahar (1/29) dismissed well-set Dhawan in

the mix in the non-friendly conditions here. In their chase of 189, Jos Buttler had

KKR TEST AHEAD OF CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 20: On a roll after back-to-back wins, the vintage Chennai Super Kings would look to extend their winning run when they clash with struggling Kolkata Knight Riders in their next IPL match here Wednesday.

After their abject campaign in UAE last year, the CSK started the season in an ominous fashion, losing to Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in a one-sided affair.

But since then, the MS Dhoni-led side has come on its own with the 'Captain Cool' making the most of his resources at the batting-friendly Wankhede stadium.

Deepak Chahar's brilliance handed them their first win of the season against Punjab Kings it's been a tale of two Englishmen - Moeen Ali and Sam Curran for the CSK.

Explosive all-rounder Ali has embraced the No.3 spot with knocks of 24-ball 36 (vs Delhi Capitals), 31-ball 46 (Punjab Kings) and 20-ball 26 in his match-winning show against Rajasthan Royals Monday.

He is also quietly doing the job with his off-spin with Dhoni cleverly bringing him

TODAY'S MATCHES

PBKS VS SRH
TIME 3.30 PM

KKR VS CSK
TIME 7.30 PM
Telecast: Star Sports channels

started to look ominous and sent a good-length ball from Ravindra Jadeja into the stands as the ball had to be replaced.

Well aware that the dry ball would turn more than the dew-laden wet ball, Dhoni stepped up his attack with Jadeja and Ali from both ends.

While Jadeja dismissed the dangerous looking Buttler and Shivam Dube in one over, Ali accounted for David Miller, Riyan Parag and Chris Morris in his match-turning 3/7.

The only brightspot of their abysmal campaign in UAE, youngster Sam Curran has also made some impact both with the bat and ball. Be it his 15-ball 34 against in a losing cause to Delhi Capitals, or his bowling in the Powerplay, Curran is giving Dhoni many options.

Against a side which will play their first match of the season at the Wankhede, smarting from two successive defeats, the Dhoni-led CSK will start as overwhelming favourites against KKR as Eoin Morgan is all set to ring in some changes to revive their campaign.

After their emphatic start against Sunrisers Hyderabad, KKR has slipped to fifth spot with defeats to Mumbai Indians

and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

And in both the defeats, the Morgan-led side had the upper hands but could not capitalise on their starts. Varun Chakravarthy had dismissed Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar in five balls to have RCB in a spot with 9/2 inside two overs. But in a bizarre decision, Morgan took the mystery spinner out of the attack and brought in Shakib-Al-Hasan as Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers powered them to 204/4.

It remains to be seen if Morgan persists with Shakib or bring in seaming Aussie all-rounder Ben Cutting in the less spin-friendly conditions.

Morgan also has persisted with the veteran Harbhajan Singh and gave him the opening overs in all the three matches. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav could be a better option. Head coach Brendon McCullum has already hinted of making some changes after their 38-run defeat to RCB.

As for CSK, opener Rituraj Gaikwad is enduring a terrible form with scores of 5, 5 and 10 and it remains to be seen whether he is given a longer rope by Dhoni who is not known to tinker his XI much.



CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
MS Dhoni (C & wk), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, KM Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Rituraj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, Josh Hazlewood, R Sai Kishore, Robin Uthappa, Moeen Ali, Krishnappa Gowtham, Cheteshwar Pujara, M Harisankar Reddy, K Bhagath Varma and C Hari Nishanth.



KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Eoin Morgan (C), Dinesh Karthik, Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, Tim Seifert, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Kuldeep Yadav, Shivam Mavi, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Sandeep Warrier, Prasad Krishna, Rahul Tripathi, Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, Sheldon Jackson, Vaibhav Arora, Harbhajan Singh, Karun Nair, Ben Cutting, Venkatesh Iyer and Pawan Negi.

WTC final to go ahead as planned, says ICC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, April 20: The World Test Championship (WTC) final between India and New Zealand will go ahead as planned in Southampton from June 18, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has assured after Britain added India to its travel 'red list' following a massive surge in COVID-19 caseload.

India's entry into the 'red list' effectively bans all travel from the country and makes a 10-day hotel quarantine compulsory for UK residents arriving back home.

However, the ICC expressed confidence in staging the WTC final in a bio-secure environment. "The ECB and other members have demonstrated how we can stage international cricket safely in the middle of a pandemic and we are

confident that we can continue to do that and that the WTC Final will go ahead as planned in June in the UK," said the ICC in a statement Monday night.

"We are currently discussing with the UK Government the impact of countries being on the 'red list'," it added.

A BCCI source told this agency that it's difficult to say anything at this point in time and the Board is hoping that India will not be in the 'red list' by the time the team leaves for UK in early June for the WTC final.

Media reports in the UK said that in case it is required, the Rose Bowl in Southampton and its on-site hotel could be cleared for 'red list' arrivals by reverting to the full bio-secure set up that saw it successfully stage international fixtures last season.

Liverpool held at Leeds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leeds, April 20: Liverpool conceded an 87th-minute equalizer to draw at Leeds 1-1, denying Jurgen Klopp's team a spot in the top four of the English Premier League.

Which position Liverpool finishes might not matter anymore, given the team is one of the 12 clubs behind the creation of a controversial Super League that is threatening to split the historic structure of European football.

The breakaway league could potentially launch as early as next season, rendering meaningless the race for Champions League qualification

that currently involves Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham — three of the six rebel English clubs.

Liverpool stayed in sixth place, outside the Champions League places, after Spain defender Diego Llorente scored with a header from an inswinging corner to earn Leeds a point that the team's second-half fightback might have deserved.

Sadio Mane Monday stroked the ball into an empty net in the 31st minute from a squared pass from Trent Alexander-Arnold to give Liverpool the lead and put the deposed champion on course for a fourth straight victory.

A win would have lifted Liverpool

above West Ham and into fourth place. Liverpool came in for lots of criticism ahead of the game — from their own fans and those of rival clubs — for being greedy and damaging the integrity of the English and wider game because of its role in the Super League plans. The club's American ownership bore the brunt of the criticism but the players were jeered and verbally abused as they arrived at Elland Road.

Leeds' players wore T-shirts during the warm-up, which had the words 'Earn it' on the front and "Football is for the fans" on the back — seemingly a message to the rebel clubs.



Diego Llorente (2nd from L) wheels away in celebration after scoring Leeds' equaliser, while Liverpool players wear a dejected look, Monday

7 Indian pugilists in Youth Worlds semis

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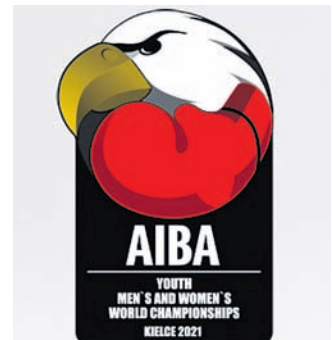
New Delhi, April 20: Babyrojisana Chanu outclassed defending European champion Alexs Kubicka as seven Indian boxers stormed into the semifinals at the youth world championships for men and women in Kielce, Poland.

Along with Chanu (51kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Ankit Narwal (64kg), Vishal Gupta (91kg), Bishwamitra Chongtham (49kg) and Sachin (56kg) assured themselves of at least a bronze by advancing to the last-four stage on Day 7 of competitions.

With the confirmation of seven more medals, the 20-member Indian contingent is now assured of 11 medals from the ongoing championship. Earlier on Day 6, Vinka, Alfiya, Gitika and Poonam had advanced to the semifinals.

In a clash between two strong gold contenders in women's 51kg category, Asian youth champion Chanu put up a strong tactical performance to overwhelm her Polish opponent Kubicka 5-0. The Manipuri boxer will now take on Lucia Ayari of Italy.

Arundhati and Sanamacha were also dominant during their quarterfinals. While Arundhati out-punched Ukraine's Anna Sezko 5-



0, Sanamacha sent Russian Margarita Zueva packing with referee stopping the contest in the second round.

In the men's category, Asian junior champion Bishwamitra and Asian youth championship silver medallist Narwal also lived up to expectations and notched up easy 5-0 victories against Serbian Omer Ametovic and Brazil's Ezequiel Da Cruz respectively. Manish (75kg) and Sumit (69kg) were the only two Indian boxers who suffered defeats in the quarterfinals.

With seven women in the semifinals, India is placed at the top of the table alongside Russia with highest number of boxers qualifying in the last-four stage. In the men's section, India is placed fourth on the standing with four boxers in the semifinals.