

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 12 APRIL 2020

WEATHER

Max: 36.2°C
Min: 23.5°C
RH: 24%
Rain: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky, Rain or thundershowers likely
Max/Min temp. 37/23°C

CORONA COUNT

CASES (+848)
DEATHS (+42)
8,446 **288**

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+16)
TS: 503 14
(+24)
AP: 405 07

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

1,733,943

DEATHS

106,518

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES

210

worldometers.info/coronavirus



DC wishes its readers a Happy Easter

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvar: Uttaranga
Tithi: Chaitra Bahula Panchami till 5.22 pm
Star: Jyesta till 7.18 pm
Varjyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 4.49 pm to 5.38 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HURRI CALENDAR
Shabana 17, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5:01 am
Zohar: 12:27 pm
Asar: 4:38 pm
Maghrib: 6:37 pm
Isha: 7:46 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:31 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:01 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 11:05 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9:34 AM

COUNTER POINT



Better to stay at home as all arrows are pointed in one direction—up!

IN BRIEF

LIC gives 30 days to pay premiums
Mumbai: Life Insurance Corporation on Saturday announced an extension of 30 days for payment of premium due in March and April 2020 to mitigate the hardships being faced by policyholders in the wake of Covid-19.

Maha is third to extend lockdown
Mumbai: After Punjab and Odisha, Maharashtra has become the third state in the country to extend the lockdown imposed due to the outbreak of coronavirus. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday announced that the ongoing lockdown will be continued 'at least' till April 30.



NATION 5
Centre pulls up WB for diluting lockdown



WORLD 7
Harvey faces new charge of sex assault

TABLOID
A virulence we can do without



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KCR extends lockdown till April 30

Students till Class IX to be promoted; decision on SSC after April 30

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11
Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced that the state Cabinet had unanimously decided to extend the lockdown till April 30. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the state administration in continuing the lockdown to contain the spread of the pandemic.
Making the announcement at a press conference in Pragathi Bhavan after a special meeting of the Cabinet, Mr Rao said that there was every possibility that the state would be coronavirus-free by April 24, going by the present

trend. He said the lockdown will be implemented very strictly.
No religious gatherings including congregations at mosques will be allowed during the period. The Chief Minister said that students from Class I to IX will be promoted to the next grade.
Regarding the SSC exams, which were halted midway, the Chief Minister said, "The parents of SSC students are worried. The state government will take an appropriate decision with regard to the future of the SSC students after April 30."
The Chief Minister announced that rice, flour

● **NO RELIGIOUS** gatherings including congregations at mosques will be allowed during the period of the lockdown.
● **FLOUR AND DAL** mills will be allowed to operate to ensure there is no shortage of essentials.
● **IRRIGATION WATER** will be supplied from all major projects.
● **PM ASKED** to ease repayment norms for state's loans
and dal mills will be allowed to carry on their activities during the lockdown.
Mr Rao said the Cabinet

had unanimously decided to supply irrigation to the crops under the major projects. The Cabinet decision will be informed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the night.
Mr Rao said that he had written a letter to the Prime Minister with certain demands. In his letter, he said, "I wish to flag the impact of Covid-19 on the economy. Though the extent of impact cannot be assessed at this point in time, there is unanimity among analysts and international organisations that there will be a sharp decline in GDP growth in the first two quarters."
He brought to the notice of the PM that the impact

was already being felt in the tax and non-tax revenue collections in the state. As compared to the proportionate monthly revenue of ₹4,000 crore, the actual collections were abysmally low at only ₹100 crore in April.
He said that given the situation in Telangana state, borrowing seemed to be the only option to meet the expenditure. He requested the Prime Minister to defer the debt servicing including repayment of principal and interest on all State Development Loans (SDL) and the loans taken by state public sector units based on the government's guarantee by two quarters.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi wears a protective mask made of cloth during a video conference with Chief Ministers of various states on Saturday. — PTI

2 new deaths in TS, 16 fresh cases take total to 503

BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11
Two more people died in Telangana state from the coronavirus infection, taking the Covid-19 toll to 14 on Saturday.
Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu announced that 16 more cases were registered on Sunday, taking the total to 503. Fifty-one patients who made a full recovery were discharged on Saturday. A total of 96 patients have recovered from Covid-19 so far. Mr Rao told a news conference after a meeting of the State Cabinet that the active cases, or patients undergoing treatment, was 383.
The government, he said, had more than doubled the containment zones — locations where recent cases of the disease were found — to 243, up from the 101 hot spots announced on Friday. Of these, more than half, 123, are in GHMC limits.
Mr Rao said the government will enforce contain-

ment measures even more strictly and thanked the people for their cooperation in following lockdown procedures.
"We have to cut the coronavirus links and its spread at every location where there is a case. We will enforce the procedures very strictly. There are 1,654 persons in government-run quarantine facilities and the number of cases being referred for tests has dropped to near-single digits. If everything goes well and we do not have a fresh burst of cases, the state might not have new cases after April 24," he said.

● **THE GOVERNMENT** has more than doubled the containment zones to 243, up from 101 hotspots on Friday.
● **OF THESE**, more than half, 123, are within the GHMC limits.
● **WITH THE FIGURES** on a sharp rise, states are under pressure to increase isolation and ICU beds.
● **586 HOSPITALS** have been marked as dedicated Covid-19 hospitals.
"We had done an analysis on the rate of growth in cases. We observed the janata curfew on March 22 and went for the lockdown from March 25. According to statistical analysis, in the absence of lockdown and containment measures, there would have been a 41 per cent increase in coronavirus cases and there would have been 2.08 lakh cases by April 10 and 8.2 lakh cases by April 15. With containment measures but no lockdown the cases would have reached 45,370 by April 10 and about 1.2 lakh by April 15," said an official.
With the figures on a sharp rise, states are under pressure to

increase isolation and ICU beds. Officials said 586 hospitals have been marked as dedicated Covid-19 hospitals with a capacity of over 1 lakh isolation beds and 11,500 ICU beds.
An ICMR official said over 1.7 lakh samples have been tested, 16,564 samples on Friday. The Union health ministry has asked state governments to provide security to doctors and nurses who are involved in treating Covid-19 patients. The order came in the backdrop of assault on doctors in some places.
Meanwhile, facing criticism for the non-availability of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) in the open market, a health ministry official said: "₹2.20 crore HCQ tablets are available in the public sector and 2.65 crore in the private sector. We are trying to procure an additional 2 crore tablets and provide them to private sector at the field level."

India on Saturday registered over 848 fresh cases and 42 deaths due to novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 8,446 and toll to 288 as per crowdsourced website covid19india.org.
As per health ministry data, the number of active cases stood at 6,844 while 652 have recovered. PTI put the total at 8,016 cases with 261 deaths and 807 discharged.
The highest number of cases continue to come from Maharashtra — 1,574 (1,666 according to PTI) positive and 110 deaths, followed by Tamil Nadu 911 (969 PTI) and 10 deaths and Delhi 903 cases and 14 deaths. The Union health ministry said these figures could have been as high as 8.2 lakh had there been no nationwide lockdown.

India records 848 fresh Covid-19 cases, 42 deaths

VINEETA PANDEY I DC
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

CMs: Extend lockdown by a fortnight

PM tells CMs to get roadmap ready to lift curbs by April 30

ANIMESH SINGH I DC
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11
The Centre on Saturday indicated that it may extend the 21-day lockdown by another two weeks, till April 30, after speaking to all state Chief Ministers on Saturday. The Prime Minister to do so during a video-conference that lasted over an hour.
Though the government has not taken any formal decision on it as yet, sources privy to developments said that the Prime Minister seemed to be veering towards the suggestion of most chief ministers on extending the ongoing lockdown, which was to end on April 14.
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was the only CM who suggested a partial lockdown. All others were in favour of extending the lockdown as is till the end of April.
Immediately after the meeting, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "PM has taken correct decision to extend lockdown. Today, India's position is better than many developed countries because we started lockdown early. If it is stopped now, all gains would be lost. To consolidate, it is important to extend it..." "If the states decide the length of the lockdown on their own, then the fight against the coronavirus won't be effective."
Later in the evening Maharashtra and West Bengal governments separately announced the extension of lockdown in their states till April 30.
Maharashtra continues to report the highest number of positive cases (1,574) and has recorded 110 deaths till now.
West Bengal, the number of positive cases stand at 126. During the

EXEMPT FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR, SAYS CM
DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 10
Reaffirming the need to extend the ongoing lockdown by at least two weeks, Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, speaking during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video conference with Chief Ministers on Saturday, requested that the food processing industry be allowed to operate.
This would help farmers and also ensure smooth supply of essential commodities to the people. During a four-hour video conference, Mr Rao made several suggestions with regard to agriculture, economy and the people. "We are self-sufficient in terms of food production. To ensure that we continue to remain self-sufficient, farm operations must continue and necessary support should be provided to farmers in these testing times," he said.
Mr Rao insisted that the Centre make all efforts to protect both, rice mills, oil mills and other affiliated industries.

■ **Page 2: Private hospitals** to get role later: CM

Weddings put off, burials rise in MP

RABINDRA NATH I DC
BHOVAL, APRIL 11
The lockdown in Madhya Pradesh has found unlikely victims among others, prospective couples.
"At least two dozen bookings for marriage functions in April-May in my hotel have been cancelled," Atul Sharma, chief manager of a five-star hotel here told this newspaper on Saturday.
The families of the prospective couples had booked hotels and garden wedding venues two months in advance and started cancelling them.



Migrant labourers eagerly wait in the hope that some Good Samaritans will share their vehicles to do some work due to lockdown near the usually busy Hitex stretch in Madhapur on Saturday. — P.SURENDRA

■ **Full report on Page 5**

70-yr-old dies on road, body lies in ambulance

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU AND MADDY DEKSHITH
HYDERABAD, APRIL 11
A 70-year-old man who was summoned by the police. It was only in the morning that it was taken for a post-mortem.
A note on the body of the victim, Shaik Bahadur of Nepal, showed that he had been referred from the King Koti government hospital to the Gandhi Hospital. This led to a piquant situation as the police calling up GHMC to pick up his body as per norms, and the GHMC say-

ing it did not have the men and vehicles to do so at night.
It emerged later that Shaik Bahadur, a watch-

man at a liquor store in Lalaguda, was not suffering from Covid-19.
The incident exposed the extent of fear over coronavirus among staff of government departments designated to deal with either Covid-19 suspects or confirmed cases. According to Narayanguda police, as soon as they received information about the body lying on the roadside they sent a team to check on their officials found a slip on

Bahadur's referring him to Gandhi Hospital for a coronavirus test. The police said they called a private ambulance and shifted the body into the vehicle. Since, as per procedure, bodies found unclaimed have to be picked up and attended to by the GHMC, they could not do more.
GHMC officials said a complaint was filed between the King Koti and Gandhi hospitals possibly led to the loss of pre-

vious hours during which Shaik Bahadur's life could have been saved.
According to the police, Shaik Bahadur went to the primary health care centre in Lalapet on Thursday morning from where he was referred to the Gandhi Hospital as he was displaying some symptoms of Covid-19. He was taken to Gandhi Hospital in an ambulance but there was a large number of people waiting there. Bahadur

■ **Page 2: Link MGRRS** to agriculture: CM

■ **Page 5: PM for balancing** life, economy

■ **Page 2: GHMC took away** body on Saturday

SHORT TAKES

LINK MGNREGS TO AGRICULTURE, SAYS KCR

From Page 1
He reiterated the need to link Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with agriculture for at least two months and support farmers.

As there is adequate godown space was not available, he suggested that the government clear the existing stocks by providing at least three months of ration to people in advance and create necessary space for the fresh harvest.

The Chief Minister explained that the steps initiated by the state government to procure paddy and other food grains in the Rayachoti.

Referring to the financial problems caused by the lockdown, Mr Rao said the RBI should implement a quantitative easing policy. This is called 'helicopter money'.

He requested the Prime Minister to release 5 per cent of funds from the GDP through quantitative easing and to increase the CRR (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act) limit from three to five per cent.

A major treat for stargazers is set to take place on April 26, when an asteroid - measuring four kilometres in diameter - is expected to become bright enough to see with the unaided eyes till May.

PLEA TO HOLD EXAMS ONLY ON COURSE COMPLETED

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Amid uncertainty over the country getting back to normalcy, worried students in Telangana state have appealed to the universities that exams be postponed based only on syllabus that has been completed before the lockdown.

The issue has been highlighted by Telangana Engineering Students Joint Action Committee (JAC).

It said while online classes are being conducted by certain colleges during the lockdown, students from rural and underprivileged areas have been unable to attend these classes as they lacked online access.

The JAC state president further pointed out that online classes have been limited only to a few colleges. And not all students have been able to complete the syllabus.

PVT HOSPITALS TO GET ROLE LATER, SAYS CM

From Page 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao made it clear that the role of private hospitals in treating Covid-19 cases or even conducting tests will arise only when the government capacity to meet these needs are exceeded.

"At present we can test 1,000 samples a day and the government is very clear that every positive case, will be treated at one of our designated hospitals. It does not depend on whether the patient is super rich or poor, we want total control over suspects or confirmed cases so we can ensure containment and prevention of spread of the disease," Mr Rao said.

Experts for random Covid-19 test of elderly

This simple process will allow creation of red zones without which lockdown will not be successful

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Conducting tests for Covid-19 is most important during the lockdown period as they can give appropriate indications about prevalent cases and of hotspots, opined experts from diverse fields. This will help in combating the pandemic to more appropriate levels.

Stargazers rejoice clean, clear skies

T.S.S. SIDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Absence of pollution and decreased artificial lighting due to closed shops and establishments because of the lockdown have made the city sky clearer during nights, making it a stargazers' paradise.

Professional and amateur astronomers say a clear sky following lockdown has provided them a great opportunity. "There has been an increase in sighting of planets and other celestial bodies. This is primarily due to lack of pollution, as there are no or very few vehicles moving about," Dr B.G. Sidharth, director, B.M. Birla Science Centre, told Deccan Chronicle.

"The skies continue to remain clear and there are chances of people getting a clear view of planets like Venus, Saturn and Jupiter in the morning sky. All one needs to do is look east before sunrise," Mr Kumar said.

A major treat for stargazers is set to take place on April 26, when an asteroid - measuring four kilometres in diameter - is expected to become bright enough to see with the unaided eyes till May.

CELESTIAL EVENTS

APRIL 13 The moon will meet Saturn, as the former is about 1.3 degrees away from a few fingerwidth distance from the latter.

APRIL 13A comet designated C/2019 Y4 (ATLAS) is predicted to become bright enough to see with the unaided eyes till May.

Now, apply for AP Eamcet till April 17

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, APRIL 11

The AP Eamcet (Andhra Pradesh engineering, agriculture and medical common entrance test) has been indefinitely postponed.

The exam was to be held online from April 20 to 24. Due to the lockdown, the AP government has extended the last date of applications to April 17 without a fine. However, the students are still facing hardships to apply for the test due to non-availability of internet cafes due to the lockdown period.

"The Eamcet office

50 years of age. Additionally, they must test travellers, their contacts and new cases of severe respiratory distress. Many stated that random testing will be less flawed and easy to carry out. Testing will allow creation of red zones without which the lockdown experience will not be successful.

A senior government health official, on condition of anonymity, explained, "Testing is the only way to contain the disease. The virus is any way going to spread. Even after the best of lockdown measures till at least 60 per cent of the population develops immunity, the virus will not go. For 60 per cent of population to develop immunity, the infection will last around 12 to 18 months. This is from the experience of other less virulent corona siblings, where sporadic cases of infection have been noted from time to time."

Several experts stated that to make effective use of the lockdown period, mass testing in the country is not possible as testing kits are limited and the resources for it would be highly strained, they opined.

Mass testing in the country is not possible as testing kits are limited and the resources for it would be highly strained, they opined. On the other hand, the government is worried about private players leaking data, which is a concern and hence the caution in allowing private players from conducting tests.

A senior doctor explained, "In times of pandemic, data has to be looked at differently. Only data of those infected must be released to public. Deaths have caused scare and that has made it very difficult. Private players,

on other hand, want to test but will not release data as it is a notifiable disease and only government can give the same. This confidence-building is important for fighting the pandemic together."

India ranks lowest in ranking as on Saturday with only 137 cases per million while United States of America is 7,670 per million, Italy 7,593, France 14,989 and China 15,730, according to World Health Organisation statistics.

Meanwhile, the government officials said that it will take time, stated government officials. Even that will take time, stated government officials.

SEVERAL EXPERTS

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GHMC TOOK BODY ON SATURDAY

From Page 1

It was sometime in the afternoon that Bahadur left the King Koi hospital on foot since no ambulance had been arranged for him. He wandered around in the area for a few hours. At about 7 pm, he reached the area near Shanti theatre where he collapsed and died, police said.

While the police claimed that they informed the GHMC soon after, corporation officials said that it was around 11 pm that they received the information. By then, the civic body did not have the staff or the vehicle to shift the body.

It was only at about 7 am on Saturday that the GHMC collected the body from the private ambulance and took it to the Gandhi Hospital. After the hospital authorities said Bahadur was not infected with coronavirus, the GHMC staffers cremated the body in the afternoon. The Narayana group of doctors had called the police to inform about the death under suspicious circumstances and said they are investigating the matter.

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PRECAUTIONS NEEDED

Raise awareness amongst teams about heightened risk of Covid-19-themed phishing attacks.

Share definitive sources of advice on how to stay safe.

Make sure you set up strong passwords, preferably two-factor authentication, for all remote access accounts; particularly Office 365 access.

The members of phishing cases in India have increased immensely, with lots of frauds occurring in the backdrop of Covid-19 threats." A report compiled by KPMG says that since mid-February,

Coronavirus suspect

The body of watchman Bahadur which was found near Shanti theatre, Hyderabad, being brought from Gandhi hospital for cremation at Azzulngra in the city on Saturday.



The body of watchman Bahadur which was found near Shanti theatre, Hyderabad, being brought from Gandhi hospital for cremation at Azzulngra in the city on Saturday.

ASI 'gets' a surprise b'day party from Anjani Kumar

BALI PULPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

For assistant sub-inspector of police Chandhabha of the Banjara Hills traffic police station, Friday night turned out to be a memorable one.

When his evening shift at the police checkpost on Banjara Hills Road No 3 started, he was prepared for a night with his colleagues from the law and order section of the city police, keeping an eye out for people out and about, violating the night curfew.

Mr Chandhabha's the senior-most serving officer at the checkpost. When city police commissioner Anjani Kumar (left) and Rajya Sabha MP Santosh Kumar.

Traffic police ASI Chandhabha (C) in conversation with city police commissioner Anjani Kumar (left) and Rajya Sabha MP Santosh Kumar.

officer as, a few minutes later, TRS Rajya Sabha member Santosh Kumar's vehicle stopped at the checkpost.

The MP got down from his vehicle and inquired with Mr Kumar what was going on. Upon being informed that Mr Chandhabha's birthday was being celebrated, the MP joined the others in greeting him.

While the impromptu birthday celebrations and the presence of the city police chief clearly cheered everyone, the reality of the tough job they were performing was hanging over the spot. When the junior-most member of the team was asked to step forward by Mr Kumar, it was the turn of 24-year-old Sudhakar from Nalgonda district to give the speech.

There was yet another surprise in store for the

OU COLLEGES TOLD TO HOLD E-CLASSES

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Osmania University has sent its constituent, affiliate and autonomous colleges to complete the current academic year's syllabus for various undergraduate and post graduate courses by way of e-learning methods. The decision, taken at a meeting of deans of faculties and principals of colleges on Friday, was announced here on Saturday.

The university said that under the given circumstances, there was no illusion about the task of going back to the traditional physical classroom teaching system and e-learning methods like online lectures, Zoom or any other such facilities. The colleges can also use WhatsApp or other social media platforms of the University Grants Commission on March 25.

The varsity made it clear that efforts must be made by teachers to complete the syllabus by the end of this month. Teachers have been exhorted to create WhatsApp groups of their respective students for completing the remaining academic activities, including syllabus, assignments and internals.

Meanwhile, following the decision, some colleges have begun the process of establishing online platforms.

According to Dr Y. Krishna Mohan Naidu, website which solicits user credentials and passwords. A selection of phony customer advice which experts know vulnerability to run malicious code.

The KPMG report further says these phishing emails attack macro-enabled Microsoft word documents containing health information, which trigger download of Emotet or Trickbot malware. There have been multiple phishing emails luring target users to fake copies of Centre for

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Companies keep the economy running doing business all-out digitally

Thanks to Covid-19, digital life here to stay, forever

concurrent increase in the number of phishing frauds. Large and small businesses, corporate employees working from home, private sector banks requesting customers to use digital means for transactions, apart from ordering of food and essentials online, are all leading to increased digitalisation.

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KPMG's member firms have seen rapid build-up of infrastructure by cyber-criminals, who are launching phishing attacks to spear-phishing attacks to lure targets onto fake websites that seek to collect

Office 365 credentials. A trend most companies have noticed is that Covid-19-themed phishing emails attach malicious documents which exploit known vulnerability to run malicious code.

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SHORT TAKES

KTR LAUNCHES APP TO ASSIST CITIZENS

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

To assist the citizens and government departments in tackling the situation, I minister K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday launched T Covid-19, a single source application developed by the health and ITC&C departments of the Telangana state government. The application has been developed in collaboration with AWS, Cisco and Quantela, a Hyderabad-based start-up company.

Citizens will be able to take approved self-assessment tests to understand medical conditions. The app includes information about approved labs and test centres, isolation wards and quarantine centres. All information related to government orders, media bulletins, government announcements and a list of essential services is included. People will also be able to directly connect with a 24x7 emergency helpline with a single click option in the app.

14 HELD FOR ATTENDING GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Fourteen members who attended a prayer meeting organised at a house in view of Good Friday were arrested by the Bachupally police for flouting lockdown norms. According to the Bachupally police, the meeting was held at the house of a pastor, G. Arun Kumar, 40, at Srinivas Nagar, Nizampet.

Bachupally inspector P. Jagadeeshwar said, "In view of the lockdown, the government has banned any religious congregation. Flouting the norms such as social distancing and self-isolation, they attended the prayer meeting on Good Friday night." They were booked under the Indian Penal Code, the Epidemic Diseases Act and the Disaster Management Act.

TEENAGER HELD FOR BURGLING HOUSES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A 19-year-old teenager was arrested by the East Zone Task Force for burgling houses. Reportedly, a missing complaint has been registered under Gachibowli police station limits against the accused, Jatavath Mahesh.

Police said Mahesh was convicted in a property offence and lodged at the Government Special Home for Boys, Gajulararamam. At that time, he was sent to the National Academy of Construction, Osmania, Hyderabad, to train in plumbing and electrical work, from where he escaped on March 11. According to the police, he was since involved in five offences including three house burglaries and two bike thefts.

On Saturday while the East Zone Task Force was patrolling the Kanchanbagh police was checking vehicles, Mahesh was apprehended while he was travelling on a stolen motorcycle. He was handed over to the Kanchanbagh police.

DOWRY: WIFE, 18 ENDS LIFE WITH SANITISER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A 18-year-old housewife committed suicide by consuming sanitiser, due to alleged harassment for dowry. The KPHB police has arrested her husband, Doni Amar, for dowry harassment.

Police said the victim, Meelaka Deepthi, and Amar were residents of a flat in Sardar Patel Nagar at KPHB Colony. Amar was allegedly harassing Deepthi mentally and physically to bring dowry from her parents. She informed her cousin several times about the harassment over phone.

Following her death, her cousin filed a complaint alleging that due to dowry harassment by Amar, Deepthi consumed sanitiser liquid at about 11.30 am on Friday. The sanitiser had been purchased by the apartment association in view of Covid-19. She was immediately shifted to a private hospital by Amar.

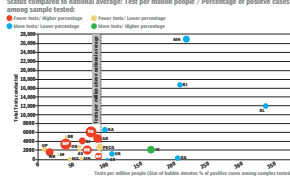
Her condition turned serious and doctors advised that she should be shifted to Osmania General Hospital for better treatment. She died on the way.

India needs better system of data collection, say experts

They say that due to different practices by local gov bodies, data comes with caveats

ADITYA CHANDURU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

COVID-19: Stalewise Testing Status (Cumulative)



Experts who have been crunching the numbers note that India needs a better system of data collection and reporting if it wants to effectively deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. They noted that due to the widely different practices employed by various local government bodies, states and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at the Centre, the published data comes with a lot of caveats.

Ms Shamika Ravi, an economist who has served on the PM's Economic Advisory Council and is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, has been publishing analysis on the number of cases, growth rate and others on a daily basis for many days. She said she collected Mudit Kapoor from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) who was depending on data from Johns Hopkins University for their research.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Ms Ravi said that for any academic study, the data has to be verifiable and traceable to its source. "The reasons we are picking up Johns Hopkins data is because it is a lot more verifiable. They have been consistent," she said, adding that the State should invest to create a rich data source on the same.

Though it has been a little over two weeks since the lockdown began, the effects of the Tablighi Jamaat incident were still visible. "It is still an unfolding event. Numbers have been rising in the past few days because of it," she said. Ms Ravi said the compound growth rate of confirmed cases in the country was still growing (13.4 per cent on Saturday) and this needed to drop.

"It is impractical to make predictions since there are so many factors involved," she added.

LOCKDOWN: WHAT DOES THE COLLECTED DATA INDICATE?

Ms Shamika Ravi, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said it was still a little premature to assess the impact of the lockdown. "It is a complex matter consisting of many variables. From March 23, we saw a slowdown in the number of cases. This was an effect of what had happened two days ago, when we started things such as contact tracing and closing down of schools and colleges," she said.

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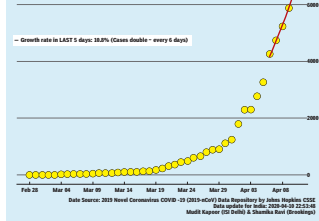
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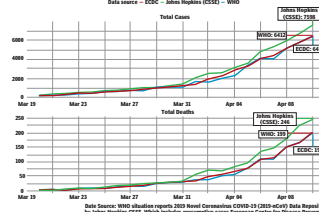
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Active cases in India as of April 10



Moving growth rate chart: Chart shows growing number of Covid-19 cases in the country. Red line denotes growth rate of last five days, at which number of cases is doubling every 6 days. — Credit: Shamika Ravi (Brookings) and Mudit Kapoor (ISI)

Confirmed cases in India based on different data sources as of April 10



Data discrepancy chart: Shows number of cases reported differently by international agencies. — Credit: Shamika Ravi (Brookings) and Mudit Kapoor (ISI)

Mr Kumar has also plotted total tests conducted with testing rates of various Indian states. In this chart, he couldn't plot Telangana state and the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Ladakh as he didn't have enough data. "Telangana state has never provided testing figures. Neither have Chandigarh or Ladakh. Uttar Pradesh has provided since the last week of March. On the other hand,

states like Maharashtra and West Bengal provide their data on daily basis," he said. Ms Ravi said that the government could make good use of data and statistical analysis to handle the situation better. She said since India had limited means — resources, testing kits — it could sample the population on a scientific basis, thereby circumventing the immediate need to test everyone.

Online video classes for CAT 2020. 255+ TIME students into the IIMs in CAT '18. Watch from home on your mobile/computer. Online classes starting on 14th April. Enrol Today! TIME 9121177880. (Or to email online@timesgroup.com or visit www.timesgroup.com)

Wholesalers in Mir Alam Mandi closed

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

With people in wholesale shops gathering in numbers and not following physical distance norms, the police on Saturday shut down wholesale dealerships in Mir Alam Mandi. Even as some traders at the market complained that they were being unnecessarily harassed by the police.

Some traders at Mir Alam Mandi said they were not being allowed to continue business for the past two days. Most of the shops in the market are those of wholesalers which inevitably result in those coming to make purchases spending longer amounts of time than those who visit retail shops where the purchases are smaller and the time taken is shorter.

The traders also complained that unlike other places, police officials at the market were not allowing traders to allow their customers to park their vehicles in front of their shops and that, in some cases, the police were also using force on their customers to disperse them.



Wholesale shops closed due to police orders in Mir Alam Mandi on Saturday.

COP CRITICALLY HURT AFTER CHASE TO STOP VEHICLIST GOES WRONG

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A constable who was on duty at a vehicle checkpoint received serious head injuries when he tried to chase a two-wheeler rider who did not stop. He has since been admitted to a private hospital here in the city and is reported to be on ventilator support.

Constable Ramachandra, 29, was on duty at Bahadurpally along with seven colleagues on Saturday. When the two-wheeler rider attempted to sneak past, Ramachandra asked a civilian who also happened to be on a two-wheeler to chase down the man and got on to the vehicle.

The duo then chased the man for about 2 km before the vehicle fell down at a turning on the road resulting in serious head injuries to Ramachandra.

According to the Dindigul police, the man on whose two-wheeler Ramachandra rode pillion did not suffer any injuries.

The Dindigul police said they were examining footage from the nearest available CCTV cameras to see if they can spot the two-wheeler rider who sped away. Ramachandra was shifted to a private hospital in Somajiguda where his condition is reported to be stable, the police said.

Rules eased for aquaculture biz

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The Union home ministry has amended the country-wide lockdown rules for allowing fishing and aquaculture activities, the key amendment being that workers will maintain social distancing while undertaking operations. In a circular to all states and Union territories, the home ministry has permitted undertaking of operations by the marine fishing industry, aquaculture, including feeding, maintenance, harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing; hatcheries and feed plants; commercial aquaria, and movement of fish, shrimp and fish products, including fish seed and feed. Movement of workers involved in all these operations is also permitted.

As specified under lockdown measures, social distancing and shall be available up to September 30, 2020.

ensured while undertaking each of the activities mentioned and permitted by earlier orders. Heads of organisations and establishments will be held responsible for ensuring compliance of all norms.

Respective district authorities will ensure strict enforcement of these orders, the Union home secretary said. The Union finance ministry has also issued a circular granting exemptions for procurement of ventilators and other items following the coronavirus threat. The circular said the central government is granting exemption to pop a pill every morning to prevent the disease," the late Brig R. Lokaranjan who served in the theatre, had told me. This was in the mid-1980s. I had just finished my undergraduate degree and was searching for employment. The former military officer was also a fellow birdwatcher who was happy to oblige and I was grateful for the opportunity to earn some money working as an office boy/assistant in the small office he had in Domalguda of the city. He was then the managing director of a fertiliser company and was the president of the Hyderabad

Protective gear



Traffic police personnel wear a plastic covering over their masks, at RTC Crossroads to protect themselves from coronavirus. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Army men taking on the Japanese during World War II in Burma fought malaria too. Soldiers feared chloroquine would lead to impotency

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), better known as chloroquine, the anti-malaria drug that India produces in bulk, has emerged as one of the frontline tools in the global battle against the coronavirus disease Covid-19, which been described by many a world leader as a state of affair worse than World War II. Everyone wants this pill. Even US President Donald Trump last week was at his bullying best when he warned India to lift curbs on the export of HCQ saying that if India fails to comply, then it may face "retaliation".

But then, there was a time when men, strong, fit and sometimes full of fancy words, used to prevent the disease," the late Brig R. Lokaranjan who served in the theatre, had told me. This was in the mid-1980s. I had just finished my undergraduate degree and was searching for employment. The former military officer was also a fellow birdwatcher who was happy to oblige and I was grateful for the opportunity to earn some money working as an office boy/assistant in the small office he had in Domalguda of the city. He was then the managing director of a fertiliser company and was the president of the Hyderabad

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IN BRIEF

NIT-W bags big project on virus

Warangal: The National Institute of Technology, Warangal, (NITW) has bagged a project to fight against Covid-19. The project is being run by the Covid-19 High Performance Computing Consortium. It will help researchers by providing access to high performance computing facilities available at Nasa, IBM, Google Cloud, Microsoft and MIT, University of Pittsburgh and University of Illinois, among others. The project was awarded to Dr Soumya Lipsa Rath and Dr Kishant Kumar of the biotechnology faculty.

SCR SETS UP 862 QUARANTINE BEDS IN UNITS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

South Central Railways (SCR) has strengthened its medical facilities located at various zones in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Doctors working in the facilities were briefed and trained on Covid-19 protocols through video-conference, along with nurses, technicians, pharmacists and other staff.

SCR has set up 862 quarantine beds by converting railway institutions, colleges and schools. It has also set up isolation-cum-Covid wards at its hospitals.

To bolster the staff, house-keeping staff has been hired through video or telephonic interviews. Eleven doctors and 36 medical staff were hired on a temporary basis at Guntakal. It has called for applications for temporary positions for 43 doctors and 161 medical staff at the hospital at Lalaguda.

WIFE, LOVER ARRESTED FOR KILLING HUSBAND

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

A woman and her lover who together plotted and killed the former's husband by strangulation were arrested by Medchal police on Saturday.

Police said M. Krishna, 36, was killed by a 24-year-old youth in connivance with his wife of the deceased.

Krishna, a resident of Akbarjaj village, was found dead in his home on April 8, with marks around his neck. Laxmi, told the relatives that he was behaving strangely due to non-availability of toddy and had died a natural death.

The relatives, who didn't buy the story, found several injuries on his body and approached Medchal police and lodged a complaint.

Investigation revealed that Laxmi has been in an extramarital relationship with Balaraju, an ambulance driver, for six years. Her husband got to know about this and started quarrelling with her Laxmi and Balaraju decided to kill him.

On April 7, Laxmi asked Balaraju to come home while her husband was sleeping. When Balaraju and Laxmi were having a conversation, Krishna woke up and allegedly caught hold of her husband and, along with Balaraju, overpowered Krishna.

Both accused strangled Krishna with a wire. He died on the spot.

Laxmi informed the relatives that her husband's death was natural. She covered the injuries on his neck with the help of a handkerchief.

The relatives, who didn't believe her version, approached Medchal police, who booked a case and unraveled the mystery behind the death.

Cops check lockdown violations



Police officials stop the motorists and check documents during lockdown at Mehdiapatnam on Saturday. The GHMC has earmarked 12 containment clusters in Hyderabad following which strict vigil is being maintained by police.

Wild animals rule the forest roads

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

They are back on the roads. Both during night and day. Quarantine procedures are not applicable to them and, in any case, there are no police checkpoints where they roam.

For wild animals in the state's forests, the coronavirus-imposed lockdown has come as an opportunity to reclaim what is theirs. The roads that cut through the forests, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves, normally bustling with vehicular traffic, have been empty since March 22 after the one-day 'janata curfew' and the subsequent lockdown.

At just one spot along the road that cuts through the Amrabad tiger installed along the road between Mannaur and Eagalpentla villages, on two ends of the road through Amrabad. There has been a lot of animal activity, all through the day and night, in the early

mornings and evenings," a forest department official told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Officials hope that the data from the 63 camera traps installed along the 60-odd km stretch through the tiger reserve, particularly the time the animals use the road and the spots that record the most number of crossings, will help them better regulate traffic on the otherwise busy road.

The road leads to the popular temple town of Srisailem across River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh and usually sees anywhere between 500 and 600 vehicles on a week day with the number jumping to 2,000 on weekends.

"We can use the information we are collecting now to prevent road kills as well as help prevent accidents in which people get hurt sometimes when they drive their vehicles into animals crossing the road," the official said.

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Cameras capture leopards walking freely on a road in the Amrabad tiger reserve in Nagarkurnool.

Covid-19 fears puts all transplants on hold

Central guidelines mandate tests in emergency cases

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Organ transplants are not being carried out due to Covid-19 as the risk of infection and the immune compromised state of patients is a concern.

With the disease proving to be fatal more frequently in those with co-morbid conditions and also the elderly, transplants in the state have come to a halt. The Transplant Society (TSS) in the state has recommended temporary suspension of the deceased donor programme and living donor programme for organ transplants in the country.

Guidelines issued by the Union ministry of health and family welfare and Indian Council of Medical Research state that if there is an emergency then the Covid-19 test has to be carried out first before the transplant.

Those who are on the waiting list in Jewar and, a programme of the state government of deceased donors, need testing too. Recipients have to be tested too and the urgency of the transplant has to be mentioned in the form.

Dr K.S. Nayak, a senior nephrologist, said there have not been any trans-

ICMR wants stool test on patients for anal operation

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines to those who perform surgeries in the anal region to test stools for Covid-19 before operating, as stools are also a medium to carry the coronavirus.

Those using western toilets must close the lid and flush after using it as there are chances that due to pressure of water, droplets carrying the virus fall on the body. This has been observed

in cases of e-coli infections and hence guidelines have been issued that people must be careful, especially in hospital settings where there are suspected and positive cases.

Dr Sanjeev Singh Yadav, secretary, Indian Medical Association, Telangana branch, explained, "The cycle of virus shows that it is seen in urine and stools as the cases increase. Now that we have more cases, there is a likelihood of virus in stools too. For this reason, preventive measures

have been issued by the ICMR. Surgeons have to now wear PPE when they are doing procedures in the anal region as virus can spread through that too."

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Snake rescuers get few SOS calls

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Covid-19 lockdown has unleashed lot of problems for many but it is a boon for the slithering creatures as it seems to be keeping snakes in the city safer.

This has been indirectly revealed from the fact that snake rescuers, who used to receive about 100 calls per day before lockdown, are now getting only five to 10 calls about presence of snakes.

This only indicates absence of people out on the roads, who spot the snakes. "There is absolutely no reason to panic on sighting a snake. They are as scared of you as you are of them. Whenever a snake is sighted, the only thing one needs to remember is, not attacking them," Avinash Vishvanathan, general secretary, Friends of Snakes Society (FoSS) told *Deccan Chronicle*.

He did note that despite the lockdown, FoSS has continued to receive calls about snake sightings. "Most of the snakes we have rescued during the

lockdown period so far are either cobras or rat snakes. These reptiles are the most common ones," Avinash says.

He points out that snakes were treated as a major public health hazard, can lead to morbidity or mortality. By rescuing and relocating venomous snakes from human habitation, we are reducing incidence of accidental snakebites. Rescuing and relocating venomous snakes during the pandemic is all the more critical, so that healthcare systems remain focussed on handling Covid-19," the FoSS general secretary remarked.

During the lockdown, the organisation is mostly handling emergency situations, where snakes are biting people in houses or wherever human life is at stake. All rescuers are adhering to strict personal hygiene and maintaining social distancing during rescue operations. Avinash states that Friends of Snakes Society had rescued 6,689 snakes in Telangana state.

CHEST HOSPITAL TAKEN OFF COVID-19 TREATMENT LIST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

More than 30 Covid-19 positive patients were treated at Chest Hospital here in March and April. Ironically the hospital is not in the notified list for treatment of coronavirus patients!

Issued on Friday, the latest notification by the state ministry of health and family welfare has listed eight hospitals which have five beds under Ayush.

The others are Gandhi Hospital, King Koti District Hospital and Gachibowli Hospital. The Ayush hospitals include Govt Nizamia General Hospital near Charminar, Sri Venkateswara Hospital at Eralgadda, Government Ayurveda Teaching Hospital in Warangal and DR Government Institute of Hospital at Ramamthapur. Nature Cure Hospital at Ameerpet, also a notified hospital for Covid-19, will only be used for isolation.

When government officials were asked why they said that according to 'our knowledge' Chest Hospital is a Covid-19 centre. On its non-inclusion in the official list, they maintained, "It is there in our list."

However, the list that is in public domain does not mention Chest Hospital and it is creating confusion. The inclusion of Ayush Hospitals has also caused a misunderstanding as people are asking about the treatment facilities available there.

Dr Abdul Hasan Ashraf, member of Central Council of Indian Medicine of ministry of Ayush explained, "The five Ayush hospitals in the state notified by government are isolation centres. Their inclusion is a good effort as these hospitals will also facilitate in the care of Covid-19 patients."

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PAST PERFECT Travellers from suspected infected areas were isolated to slow down the spread of diseases

Historians recall plague camps set up by the Nizams

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 11

Hyderabad is not a stranger to plagues and epidemics. The government of the Nizams, one time rulers, had put in place extensive mechanisms to deal with such events.

Many decades ago the city had several "plague camps" in times of crisis, the administration would move people to these camps to prevent or slow down the spread of the disease. These camps were used throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century

up until the late 1930s, according to one historian. They were also used to isolate travellers coming from outside the state, especially those from places known to be infected areas. An early mention of this system can be found in the 1909 edition of 'The Imperial Gazetteer of India's Provincial Series: Hyderabad State'. It reads: "(Plague) camps were subsequently established at some frontier railway stations, where passengers were inspected and detained and travellers from infected areas were

MANY DECADES ago the city had several "plague camps". In times of crisis, the administration would move people to these camps to prevent or slow down the spread of the disease.

kept under observation after leaving the camps."

Just a few years after this document was published, these camps would be indispensable in the Nizam's efforts to fight

cholera (locally known as gattara) and later the Spanish flu (1918-20).

Though they were so widespread, very little is available on records about these plague camps. Much of it is remembered through individual accounts of Hyderabad families.

M. Anuradha Reddy, convener of the Hyderabad chapter of Intach remembers her mother's accounts of having to temporarily move residence during a public medical emergency. Her family's social status, however, kept them out of a general camp.

"In the 1930s, my mother's family lived in Bhojapur near Jawahar Nagar. Her father B. Ranga Reddy was the revenue secretary of the state and she worked in a medical emergency; my family moved to a house in Begumpet," she said.

Ms Reddy, a well-known heritage activist in the city, said the camps were located in places such as Bhogilda, Sitaphalmudi and Irum Manzil, since these areas were sparsely populated at the time. "The healthy general public would be asked to live in these camps so that they

wouldn't be cramped all the time. Speaking to the media, Mr Reddy said he had visited Miryalguda municipality four days ago and the sanitisation workers complained of non-payment of salaries for two months. Stating that the situation was no different in Nalgonda municipality, he wondered "is it the way to motivate frontline warriors against coronavirus?"

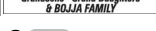
The idea was to facilitate a healthy amount of space for each person," she says. Mr Manzil, a noted historian from the city, remembers a similar incident.

"Roughly the same time as Ms Reddy's mother, his mother's family, used to live at Aghapura near Nampally. "My mother told me of the time when she had to move to a camp near Irum Manzil during an outbreak when she was around seven or eight years old. She, I

He demanded immediate clearance of dues, along with incentives, to the entire sanitisation staff across the state. Mr Reddy said that the promised 12 kg rice and ₹1,500 cash for nearly 67 lakh BPL families did not reach all beneficiaries. Similarly, 10 kg rice and ₹500 cash promised to nearly 3.5 lakh migrant workers were also not delivered fully.

Mr Shahid said that his mother fell in love with the Irum Manzil area during her time there. She loved how sparsely populated it was and the beautiful rock formations. "I had never before time there influenced her and my father's decision to move to the area in 1958. She loved the place a lot though back then it was in the middle of nowhere," he says.

The Nizam's administration took many other steps during such outbreaks.



15th Death Anniversary
BOJJA DHANALAKSHMI
DOB: 07-08-1948 DOB: 07-04-2000
Your loving presence will always be in our hearts. We miss you a lot.
Daughter-in-law
Daughter - Son-in-law
Grandsons - Grand Daughters
BOJJA FAMILY

IN BRIEF

Unable to return, Indian dies in UAE

Dubai: A retired college professor, M. Sreekumar, 70, from India, who with his wife Sreekumari, was visiting his daughter Sreeja, a teacher in the UAE's Sharjah but could not return following flight suspensions over Covid-19, died of heart attack. They were to return on Saturday but that was not possible as the flights were suspended. "He suffered a chest pain on Thursday and was rushed to a private hospital. He passed away on Saturday," his kin said.

African nations, US flay China racism

Guangzhou: African officials are confronting China publicly and in private over racist mistreatment of Africans in the Chinese city of Guangzhou, and the US says African-Americans have been targeted too. Some Africans in the commercial district have reported being evicted or discriminated against amid Covid-19 fears. And a US Embassy security adviser Monday said that "police ordered bars and restaurants not to serve clients who appear to be of African origin" and local officials have launched mandatory testing and self-quarantine for "any and all African contacts." That's in response to a rise in virus infections in Guangzhou, the US said.

Pakistani army kills 7 militants

Islamabad: Pakistan's military raided a militant hideout in a former Taliban stronghold on the country's border with Afghanistan, triggering a fire in which seven militants and two soldiers were killed. The security forces conducted an intelligence-based military operation in North Waziristan on Friday. The operation led to the execution of seven militants, including two "soldier terrorists" while "two others embraced martyrdom" in the Army's view Saturday. The Army says it has destroyed militant hideouts across the country by either killing the terrorists or expelling them after a series of operations.

Taliban meet US general

Islamabad: The Taliban have met with the head of US forces in Afghanistan to call for an end to what they say is an increase in American attacks since a peace deal signed in February. The US military denied on Saturday. A US military spokesman called on the Taliban to stop attacking and said American troops would continue to come to their aid in accordance with the agreement. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. A peace deal is aimed at paving the way for the US to extricate itself from the 19-year war, American officials said. The spokesman confirmed that Gen. Scott Miller met with the Taliban "as part of the military channel established in the agreement" to discuss ways to reduce the violence.

HARVEY FACES NEW CHARGE OF SEX ASSAULT

Los Angeles, April 11: Los Angeles prosecutors have filed a new sexual assault charge against Harvey Weinstein, the film producer serving a 90-day prison sentence in New York for rape. The LA district attorney's office, which is the original case in January, announced on Friday that Weinstein was facing a new felony charge of sexual battery by restraint, stemming from an incident at a Beverly Hills hotel on 11 May 2010. Weinstein "did willfully and unlawfully touch an intimate part of the victim," while said person was unlawfully restrained by Weinstein, the complaint alleged. The woman was held against her will "for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, and sexual abuse." Prosecutors also announced they were declining to move forward with prosecution on behalf of two other women because the "victims did not want testimony." In the New York trial in February, the woman who took the stand faced grueling attacks and cross-examination by Weinstein's attorneys, who belittled and blamed the women for their actions.

US: Record 2,108 deaths in one day

Country toll 19,816, cases 507,534; Italy has 19,468 deaths, Spain 16,353, France 13,197

Washington, April 11: The US has become the world's first country to have registered more than 2,000 Covid-19 deaths in a single day. A total of 2,108 fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours, while the number of infections has reached 507,534, the highest in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University data. China, where the deadly Covid-19 disease started in December last year before spreading across Europe and America killing more than 100,000 so far recorded 81,953 cases and 3,339 deaths. In terms of fatalities, the US has overtaken Italy where 19,468 Covid-19 deaths have happened so far on Friday night, the US had 19,816 recorded deaths, closely behind Italy's 19,468. More than 16,000 people have died in Spain and over 13,000 in France, the university said.



Police officers patrol in the main square during lockdown introduced by the government due to the pandemic of the novel Covid-19 in Nagykanyizsa, Hungary, on Saturday.

By Friday, 2,108 Americans had died and 507,534 were positive. New York has over 1.7 lakh positive cases, which is more than any other country. More than 7,800 people in New York have died. New Jersey has had nearly 100,000 deaths and more than 54,000 confirmed cases. Before the start of the week, members of the White House Task Force on Covid-19 had projected a between 100,000 and 200,000 deaths in the US. While President Donald Trump had said that this was going to be a "terrible, terrible" in terms of deaths, US Surgeon General Jerome Adams said the week was "a good sign" for the country. PTI

Air samples have virus 13 feet from patients

A muted victory for Biden

Washington, April 11: A study examining 100,000 samples from hospital wards with Covid-19 patients has found the virus can travel up to 13 feet — twice the distance current guidelines say people should leave between themselves in public. The preliminary results of the investigation by Chinese researchers were published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, a journal of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report is a growing debate on how the disease is transmitted, with the scientists themselves cautioning that the small quantities of virus they found at this distance are not necessarily infectious. The researchers, led by a team at the Academy of Military

Obama delivered the best of his soaring rhetoric in June 2008 in a passionate speech. "It was the launch pad for an unprecedented and victorious campaign," his former adviser Dan Pfeiffer recalled. Biden's conquering moment in the national spotlight has not materialised. —AFP

and a general Covid-19 ward at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan. They housed a total of 24 patients between February 19 and March 2. They found that the virus was most heavily concentrated on the floors of the wards, "perhaps because of gravity and airflow causing most virus droplets to float to the ground". High levels were also found on frequently touched surfaces like computer mice, trash cans, bed rails and door knobs. "Furthermore, half of the samples from the floor of the ICU medical staff shoes tested positive," the team wrote. "Therefore, the soles of medical staff shoes might function as carriers." —AFP

THE AUBODON Nature Institute in New Orleans welcomed a baby giraffe named Hope. Institute President and CEO Ron Forman said Hope was the perfect name for the calf, especially as New Orleans has been hit hard by the Covid-19.

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AT LEAST 40 INDIANS DEAD IN THE U.S.

Washington, April 11: More than 40 Indian-Americans and citizens of India have reportedly lost their lives due to the deadly Covid-19 and the number of those having tested positive for the disease is likely over 1,500, according to community leaders in the US. Among those who have died in the fight against the Covid-19, at least 17 are from Kerala, 10 from Gujarat, four from Punjab, two from Andhra Pradesh and one from Odisha. Majority of them are more than 60 years of age, except for one who was of 21 years of age. According to a list, deaths are in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Florida. —PTI

Decision tomorrow Pakistan said on Saturday that it will take a decision on whether to extend the ongoing nationwide lockdown or ease restrictions on Monday, as the number of coronavirus patients rose to 4,970. —PTI

PASSENGERS ON VIRUS-HIT SHIP LEAVE FOR OZ

Montevideo, April 11: More than 100 Australians and New Zealanders left Uruguay on a chartered ship on Monday, as the number of coronavirus patients rose to 4,970. —PTI

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Boris taking short walks, Cops 'mask' Czech nudists

India's medicines to reach UK today

London, April 11: The UK will receive a first batch of 3 million paracetamol packets from India today, according to the Indian government for approving this "important shipment" after New Delhi lifted its export ban amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

London, April 11: The UK will receive a first batch of 3 million paracetamol packets from India today, according to the Indian government for approving this "important shipment" after New Delhi lifted its export ban amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Lord Tariq Ahmad, the Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth Office (FCO), on Friday said the shipment is symbolic of the cooperative way both countries have been working through this unprecedented global crisis. "The UK and India continue to work in close partnership to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. My sincere thanks on behalf of the UK government to India for approving this important shipment," Ahmad said. The shipment, set to arrive on a plane by Sunday, will coincide with a series of charter flights laid on by the UK government to ferry thousands of British residents stranded in India's lockdown. The travellers are to be flown out from Goa, Mumbai, Delhi, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram via Kochi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai via Bangalore over the coming week. They will be checked for any Covid-19 symptom before being allowed to board the flights and on landing in the UK, they will be subject to self-isolation and social distancing stipulations. —PTI

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Travelling barber keeps hair trimmed

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Twitterati tears into President after his embarrassing gaffe

Trump tweets 'Happy Good Friday', roasted

Washington, April 11: US President Donald Trump's tweet that he was not going to work as many people slammed the US President for his basic lack of knowledge. "Just another evidence you know absolutely NOTHING about Christianity. There's nothing happy about Good Friday. Wait for Easter Sunday," said one of his followers. "This is not a happy day for Christians, it's not called Happy Friday. Like not knowing what the significance of Pearl Harbor was, I'd suggest the President doesn't know what happened on Good Friday according to the scriptures," wrote another. "Um if you ever walked into an actual church, you'd know today is one of the most sombre days in the church year. You can't even get Christianity right," tweeted another. However, as his daily White House news confer-

ence on Covid-19, Trump on Friday, while giving an update on the war against Covid-19, told reporters that millions of Christians celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Christ. "Thank you very much everybody, and good afternoon. Today is Good Friday. And this Sunday millions of Christians celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Christ. This holy time, we pray that Holy will heal the sick and comfort the heartbroken and bless our heroes. As American families look forward to Easter, we're reminded that our story ends not in despair, but in triumph and renewal. Very appropriate, isn't it?" he said. President Trump is known for his gaffes. In April last year, he erroneously wrote that "138 million people" instead of 138 were killed in a string of blasts in Sri Lanka. Trump is known for using embarrassing nicknames as well as lewd Christmas names of people such as "Jeff Bozo" in reference to Jeff Bezos of Amazon. In March last year, he mistakenly referred to Apple CEO Tim Cook as "Tim Apple", a verbal slip. —PTI

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Volcano spews ash in Indonesia

Jakarta, April 11: Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano spewed a column of ash 500 metres into the sky in the longest eruption since the explosive collapse of the island caused a deadly tsunami in 2018, scientists said Saturday. Closed-circuit TV from Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation showed lava flows on Friday night. The volcano was continuously erupting until Saturday morning. A level 3 alert status remained in place, the second-highest on a scale of four. No casualties were reported.

ANAK KRAKATAU volcano spewed a column of ash 500 metres into the sky in the longest eruption since the explosive collapse of the island caused a deadly tsunami in 2018. The 2018 eruption caused a tsunami along the coast of Sumatra and Java, killing 430 people. Anak Krakatau, which means Child of Krakatau, is the offspring of the famous Krakatau volcano, whose eruption in 1883 triggered global cooling. —AFP



SHORT TAKES

Officials defend Ronaldo training

Lisbon: Portuguese officials have defended Cristiano Ronaldo after he left home and was seen training with other people at a soccer pitch amid a national lockdown to stem the coronavirus outbreak.

The incident occurred on the island of Madeira, his birthplace. He was observed shooting a ball at a goal with someone playing goalkeeper, along with two other people. They all appeared to be several meters away from the pitch.

"Cristiano did solely a few minutes of exercise and from that comes no harm to the world," regional health authority Carlos Ramos said.

"All citizens can go out and do some physical exercise as long as they do not gather in big groups and keep their distance from other people they may encounter while exercising," Ramos said. "So I think that Cristiano did only what we would expect from anyone in a state of emergency for those weeks. — AP

Greece football club helps a fan

Athens: AEK Athens has announced a fan for the lockdown rules during the coronavirus outbreak before paying his fine and handing him a season ticket for the team's 32,000-seat stadium.

The man, aged in his 60s, had taken a stroll near his home in the Athens suburb of Nea Philadelphia to see the construction work being done at the stadium.

However, he forgot to take with him his permission document and was fined 150 euros for breaking the rules.

AEK owner Dimitris Mesisanidis ordered the club to pay the fine and to issue him the first season pass for the next campaign.

"We stay home, we stay healthy and our new pass will be there and we will be waiting for us when we overcome this adventure," a message from the club read. — AFP

Liverpool legend contracts corona

London: Liverpool legend Kenny Dalglish has tested positive for coronavirus but is not showing symptoms since the test, his family said Friday.

The 69-year-old former Scottish international striker was admitted to hospital on Wednesday for treatment for an infection which required intravenous antibiotics.

"He was subsequently tested for Covid-19 despite having previously displayed no symptoms of the illness," a club statement said.

"Unexpectedly, the test result was positive but he remains asymptomatic. Prior to his admission to hospital, he had chosen to voluntarily self-isolate," the statement added.

At Anfield, he captured eight English league titles, three FA Cups and three European Cups during a glittering 12-year stint as a player and in two managerial spells. — AFP

SWISS SET TO DROP A CASE AGAINST SEPP

Geneva: In a legal victory for former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, federal prosecutors in Switzerland plan to drop one of two cases open against him for suspected criminal mismanagement.

The Swiss attorney general's office on Saturday confirmed reports they intend to close an investigation into how Blatter and soccer governing body FIFA awarded World Cup broadcast rights in the Caribbean in 2005.

The decision is the latest example in recent weeks of the Swiss FIFA cases stalling, while the separate and cooperating American investigation pushes Blatter back into life with new indictments and fresh allegations of World Cup bid bribery.

The criminal proceeding against Blatter was opened four years ago and helped remove him from the presidential office. He is serving a six-year FIFA ban from football. — AP

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Don't dump Dhoni

India shouldn't nudge Mahi off track, says Nasser

Mumbai, April 11: The doubting thomases "should be careful" about what they wish for as there is no second coming for a once-in-a-generation player like Mahendra Singh Dhoni if people "push him into retirement", former England captain Nasser Hussain said on Saturday.

Hussain, one of the most respected voices in world cricket feels that the soon-to-be 39-year-old former India captain still has a lot to offer in Indian cricket.

"Once Dhoni is gone, there is no getting him back. There are some legends of the game worth appreciating while around, because they are once-in-a-generation cricketers. Don't push him into retirement too early. Only Dhoni knows his mental state and in the end the selectors select and players turn up when asked to," 52-year-old Hussain told Star Sports on Saturday.

Dhoni last played for India in the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand in July. Since then, he hasn't played any competitive cricket with former records like Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev making it clear that it's getting increasingly difficult for the Jharkhand dasher to make an international return after such prolonged inactivity.

But Hussain, who led England from 1999-2003, feels otherwise.

"Is M.S. Dhoni still good enough to get in the Indian side? It is as simple as that. That should apply for anyone across the board. What I have seen of Dhoni, I still think M.S. Dhoni has a huge amount to offer for Indian cricket," he said.

However, one of England's shrewdest captains admitted that Dhoni did err on a couple of occasions during World Cup where he couldn't force the pace of the innings. While Hussain's comments didn't specify which match he was talking about but it is all likelihood the games against West Indies and England where he failed to force the pace of the Indian innings.

"Yes, it's been one or two occasions where he (MSD) got it wrong in run chases, that was a World Cup game in England where he sort of blocked at the end for some unknown reason, but in general M.S. Dhoni is still a really good talent and be careful what you wish for," elaborated Hussain.

There are some legends of the game who should be appreciated while around, because they are once-in-a-generation cricketers. Don't push him into retirement too early. Only Dhoni knows his mental state. From what I have seen of Dhoni, I still think he has a huge amount to offer for Indian cricket.

— NASSER HUSSAIN
Former England captain on M. S. Dhoni



Former Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni at a railway platform in this file photo.

Azhar recalls Kiwi blitzkrieg

New Delhi, April 11: "Out of my 30 International hundreds, I can hardly remember 10-12 but the whirlwind knock against New Zealand is still fresh in my mind even after 31 years," Mohammed Azharuddin said about the day when "everything clicked for him".

Backing Yuvraj's view, Gambhir said, "I agree with Yuvraj that there is a dearth of role models in the current squad."

Yuvraj had recently said there are not enough role models in the current Indian team besides Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Backing Yuvraj's view, Gambhir said, "I agree with Yuvraj that there is a dearth of role models in the Indian team currently."

Speaking on Star Sports show 'Cricknet Connected', Gambhir, one of the stars of the 2011 World Cup final, said, "Like in the 2000s, we had Dravid, Kumble, Laxman, Sourav and Sachin to guide the team."

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Bhuttia has sights on AIFF top post

New Delhi, April 11: Former India captain Bhaichung Bhuttia has said that he will consider contesting for the post of All India Football Federation (AIFF) president in future. Bhuttia retired in 2011, after being Indian football's posterboy for more than a decade.

"That is definitely something to be considered in future," he said when asked if he wants to become the AIFF president one day, while answering questions on Facebook.

"At the moment I am focussing on grassroots football with United Football School and United Sikkim club and also at district level (in Sikkim). In future, I will definitely consider it (the AIFF president's post)," Bhuttia was known as 'Sikkimese Sniper' for his goal-scoring abilities.

The current AIFF president Praful Patel has effectively been at the helm of affairs since 2008 when then chief Piyaraj Sanjan Das Munshi fell sick. He was elected as president in 2012 and again in 2016, and is unlikely to be eligible to fight for the top job this year under the Sports Code.

The 43-year-old Bhuttia, who was the first Indian footballer to have played 100 international matches, picked India and FC Goa player Brandon Fernandes

as the country's best striker — the legendary striker who was the most gifted striker right now is obviously Sunil Chhetri, there is nobody else. He has been scoring goals and the record itself speaks a lot. "The midfielder who has really impressed me this year is Brandon Fernandes of FC Goa. The way he had controlled the midfield in 2016, and is unlikely to be eligible to fight for the top job this year under the Sports Code.

Shooting range to living rooms

New Delhi, April 11: Some of the world's elite shooters will transform their living rooms into competition ranges on April 15 for a first-of-its-kind international online championship, the coronavirus lockdown triggering another out of the box thinking.

An electronic target setup, beside a mobile phone with internet connection, is all they require to shoot in the championship.

From India, the event has attracted big names such as Manu Bhaker, Sanjeev Rajput and Divyansh Singh Panwar, whose Tokyo Olympics dreams have been put on hold for a year after the Games' postponement last month due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

An initiative of former India marksman Shimon Sharif, the championship, even though it is hosted on the internet, will see about 30 shooters, including double gold medalist at the 2019 World Cup in Delhi Veronika Major (Hungary), Nicolas Praga Corredores (Spain), Ewen Chatfield and Sneedee. I think (Richard) Hadlee didn't play that game," the 49-year-old recalled.

"I had had some great ODI performances but yes, this one will be among the best if not the best. You have to check the record books but this was one of our highest runs in the highest run chase back then. I am not sure but it must be somewhere close," — PTI

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"I had had some great ODI performances but yes, this one will be among the best if not the best. You have to check the record books but this was one of our highest runs in the highest run chase back then. I am not sure but it must be somewhere close," — PTI

Clarke has been harsh on Paine's Test side

Manu Bhaker in action in this file photo.



Ayaz Memon Over The Top

Michael Clarke created a flutter last week by claiming that the Test series Down Under in 2018-19 essentially because the Australian players, worried about their Indian Premier League contracts, showed too much deference to Virat Kohli.

"Everybody knows how powerful India are in regards to the financial part of the game, internationally or domestically with the IPL," Clarke said, adding, "I feel that Australian cricket, and probably every other team over a little period, went the opposite and actually sucked up to India."

Clarke's stinging observations had the cricket world — otherwise in limbo (like all other sports) because of Covid-19 — all agog. While Indian players have kept their counsel, Tim Paine, who captained Australia in that series, strongly refuted Clarke's contention that the players were too scared to sledge Kohli or Indian players.

Going by the circumstances that prevailed then and the evidence in the public domain, I think Clarke is being unduly harsh. Compared to the robust, hardy, confrontational ethos that defines Aussie cricket, Paine's side was admittedly benign.

"A bigger factor was six months before leading into that Indian series the media and everyone commencing on the Aussie side was still mired in disgrace. Forget about the rest of the world, even home fans — from the Prime Minister down — were scrutinising the behaviour of the players. Pace spearhead Pat Cummins admits as much.

insider's view of Australian cricket, dressing room ethos, tactics, team selection et al, and the 2018 series against India features at some length in the program. The crux of the discussion for that series, as the program shows, is Aussie concern of how to tame Kohli.

The strategic decision reached is not give him too much attention. The argument is that Kohli loves a scrap and is a confrontationalist himself. But if he is needed, he may only play better. This is not unsonant and neither unheard of in cricket.

Great players thrive under pressure. Sobers, Richard, Gavaskar, Mianand, Chappell, Tendulkar, Dravid, Sangakkara, Kallis, to name a few, seemed to be at their best resolute in dire situations. Sledges and taunts would only increase their resolve, which opponents resort to their misery.

In being so sweeping and condemnatory Clarke has not only been unfair to the Australian team, but also India who won a historic first-ever series Down Under.

The Indian captain was not as dominant as he had been in earlier series against England and South Africa.

But what the Aussies had not expected was they would run into Cheteshwar Pujara, not their radar initially, who rose to be a colossus.

That, in fact, was the real story of that series which needs retelling.