



HARSH TRUTH

Actor Gayathri says one needs to be in the 'inner circle' of the Hindi film industry to get good work

LEISURE P2



MANHAS STILL ALIVE

Picture of abducted CoBRA commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas by Maoists has surfaced on social media

NATIONAL P8



VACCINE BOOST

President Joe Biden has said all adult US citizens will be eligible for vaccine from April 19

INTERNATIONAL P10

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Goonda raj will be over after elections. Goons have time till poll results are out... to switch sides!

SHORT TAKES

UP minister quits supporting farmers

Muzaffarnagar (UP): UP BJP leader and minister Priyamvada Tomar resigned from the party Wednesday in support of the farmers' agitation. She also resigned as member of the Uttar Pradesh Women Commission ahead of the panchayat polls. In her resignation letter, Tomar said that the BJP-led government at the Centre and in UP had been neglecting the demands of the farmers. She said that she took this decision due to the BJP's 'anti-farmer' policy.

Ambani brothers fined ₹25 crore

New Delhi: Sebi imposed Wednesday a penalty of ₹25 crore on Mukesh Ambani, Anil Ambani, other individuals and entities for non-compliance with takeover norms in a Reliance Industries case dating back to 2000. Others penalised include Nita Ambani, Tina Ambani, KD Ambani and other family members. Nita is wife of Mukesh and Tina is wife of Anil. RIL's promoters and Persons Acting in Concert (PAC) failed to disclose the acquisition of more than five per cent stake in the company way back in 2000, Sebi said in its 85-page order.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	49661.76	▲ 460.37
NIFTY	14819.00	▲ 135.50
DOLLAR	74.79	▲ ₹0.88
EURO	88.63	▲ ₹1.63
GOLD	₹46,390	▲ ₹471
SILVER	₹66,699	▲ ₹802

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	34.6°C	35.2°C
TEMP. MIN	25.2°C	24.0°C
Humidity	73%	68%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

Over 700 vax centres shut

Centre asks Odisha to start workplace vaccination from April 11

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: In a major jolt to the ongoing vaccination drive in Odisha, the state government Wednesday was forced to shut down over 700 centres due to the shortage of Covishield vaccine.

Alarmed that the stock of Covishield vaccine will be exhausted in the next two days, Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das wrote Wednesday to Union Minister Harsh Vardhan seeking the latter's intervention.

"Odisha is vaccinating approximately 2.5 lakh persons daily. Due to shortage of vaccine, we have had to close nearly 700 vaccination centres in Odisha (out of over 1,400 sites, only 755 could be made active today)," the minister said in his letter to Vardhan.

"As of 7th April (10.00am), we have stock of 5.34 lakh doses of Covishield. With this stock, we will be able to continue vaccination for the next two days. By April 9, the entire state will exhaust the stock of Covishield. This will adversely impact timely administration of second dose of vaccine as well as delay in vaccination of citizens (45 years and above)," the minister said.



"Therefore I would to draw your kind attention to this matter and request you to take necessary steps for supplying at least 10 days stock i.e. 25 lakh doses of Covishield to Odisha immediately," the minister said.

In a separate development, the Union government said it has decided to start COVID-19 vaccination sessions at workplaces from April 11. However, each of the centres where the programme will be launched must have a minimum of 100 eligible beneficiaries who are aged

45 and above.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan in a letter to Odisha Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said a substantial proportion of the population aged 45 years and above is in the organised sector of the economy and is involved in formal occupation at offices (government and private) or manufacturing and services.

"In order to increase the access of vaccine to this section of the population, vaccination sessions may be organised

HIGHEST SPIKE IN ODISHA, INDIA

NEW DELHI/BHUBANESWAR: The number of new coronavirus cases in India reported the highest single-day spike since the outbreak of the pandemic with over 1.15 lakh infections in 24 hours. The single-day rise in coronavirus cases breached the one-lakh mark for the second time in three days. The rising trend was noticeable in Odisha also with 791 cases being reported in the last 24 hours, the highest this year. One more person succumbed to the virus taking the state's tally to 1,923. Sundargarh (147) and Khurda (118) reported the highest number of cases. The total active cases in Odisha now stand at 4,255, from just 694 March 7. **MORE P4**

at workplaces with 100 or more eligible beneficiaries, by tagging these with an existing Covid Vaccination Centre (CVC)," Bhushan said in his letter.

Asked about Odisha's preparedness for this programme, state Nodal Officer for vaccination, Bijay Panigrahi, said, "Today the guidelines were issued by Centre. Very soon, the state government will hold a meeting in this regard."

PLAYING POWER GAMES



The Centre is expressing grave concern regarding the spike in daily COVID-19 cases. However, at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's road show in West Bengal's Singur Assembly constituency, BJP supporters were seen flouting guidelines with impunity. There was no social distancing and very few of the participants wore masks

"It also unanimously decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward," Das informed. He added that the MPC unanimously voted for keeping the interest rate unchanged.

The RBI also retained the economic growth projection for the current financial year at 10.5 per cent. However, the Central Bank cautioned that the recent surge in COVID-19 infections has created uncertainty over the economic growth recovery.

Taking various factors into consideration, it said,



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

₹50,000 crore additional liquidity facility to NABARD, NHB and SIDBI for fresh lending

RBI will continue to do whatever it takes to preserve stability and to insulate financial firms from global spillovers

RBI enhances maximum balance limit at end of the day from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh per individual customers of payments banks

"the projection of real GDP growth for 2021-22 is retained at 10.5 per cent consisting of 26.2 per cent in Q1, 8.3 per cent in Q2, 5.4 per cent in Q3 and 6.2 per cent in Q4". In its last policy review, the RBI had projected a GDP growth rate of 10.5% for FY'22.

The RBI said that though the firms engaged in manufacturing, services and infrastructure sectors were optimistic about a pick-up in demand, 'consumer confidence, on the other hand, has dipped with the recent surge in COVID-19 infections in some states imparting uncertainty to the outlook'.

Tourism dept to lease out 7 properties

These will be developed by the lessees in fixed time to attract tourists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Odisha government has decided to lease out seven tourism properties in various locations across the state for development, augmentation, operation and maintenance through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The properties are - Yatriniwas (Satapada), TRC (Jharsuguda), Panthaniwas (Panchalingeswar), part of Yatriniwas (Konark), tourist complex (Daringbadi), BN Palace

Private players will have to develop more than 50 rooms at most of the facilities

Lessees will have to develop a 3-star multi-cuisine restaurant at Panthika in Dhauli

(Paralakhemundi) and Panthika (Dhauli). The Tourism department has recently floated tenders inviting private players for leasing out these properties.

As per the tender document, these

properties will be given to the selected private players for a period of 30 years, which can be extended by another 30 years subject to mutual agreement. After the properties have been leased, the lessees will have to design, redevelop, upgrade, finance, manage, market and maintain those at their own cost.

For the first year, the rent will be paid at the time of signing. For the remaining years, the annual amount will have to be paid within seven days from the starting date.

Das rules out border closure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das said Wednesday that the state government is not planning to shut its borders with neighbouring states. However, other initiatives are being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We are not planning to seal borders as of now. However, we are asking the administration to discourage people travelling from one state to another just for the sake of it. As of now we have imposed night curfews in 10 districts and our efforts are to increase the rate of vaccination to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, vaccine shortage is affecting our plans," Das said.

The minister also informed that currently there is no plan to increase the number of COVID-specialised hospitals. "District collectors have been asked to hold discussions with the private hospitals to keep the health infrastructure ready. They and police chiefs of different districts have been asked to stay alert to counter the pandemic in a better manner," Das stated.

"Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been reviewing the COVID sit-



uation in Odisha at regular intervals. He has directed the top officials of the Health department to tour western Odisha and monitor the situation there to prevent spread of the disease," Das pointed out.

ACCESS RESTRICTED

Meanwhile, the General Administration & Public Grievance department has issued an order restricting access to government offices particularly in the state capital and Cuttack because of the high COVID-19 case load in these two places. "In view of resurgence of the COVID-19 infection in the state, it is felt necessary that COVID appropriate protocol should be strictly implemented in all offices. There shall be restriction on public access to the government offices particularly in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack cities that have reported high infections," the order said.

Mumbai migrants face same predicament again

TSUNAMI-LIKE 2ND WAVE OF COVID-19 IN MAHARASHTRA PUTS WORKERS IN PERIL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 7: COVID-19 is back to haunt the migrant workers again here. Barely six months after they returned, thousands of migrants working in this city and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) are now re-packing their bags to go back home as Maharashtra is in the grip of a tsunami-like COVID-19 second wave. With night curfews, stringent day-time restrictions and a weekend



A migrant worker leaves Mumbai with family as Covid cases rise PTI PHOTO

lockdown imposed across Maharashtra, migrants from different parts of India working here are in a state of semi-panic, as daily new infections in the state soar in half-lakh-plus range.

A majority of them, especially the skilled and semi-skilled workers, were brought back from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat and Odisha by their employers after the phase-wise

'unlock' that started in August 2020. They were employed in small or medium industries, factories, workshops, warehouses, restaurants and delivery chains. However, they are staring at a bleak future again.

"Last year, the migrants experienced first-hand the tortures of fleeing to their towns or villages surmounting great hurdles. This time, they are mentally prepared and are planning to clear out before the situation worsens," Dharavi Leather Goods Manufacturing Association president Rajesh Sonawane said.

Sonawane informed that migrant crowds are swelling at various railway stations in MMR region with many resorting to hiring touts to get them confirmed tickets to board the outbound trains.

Mulund hotelier CD Shetty said with the current norms permitting only home delivery of parcels, the employees are facing an uncertain future again. Most of them want to go back.

"We don't want them to return and are ready to care for them, but for how long. Without income, how can we keep bearing the expenses with absolutely no financial help from the government," rued Shetty.

A diamond polisher working with a Mumbai firm, Aseem Shah said that he returned to the city post-Diwali, but did not expect things would deteriorate again so rapidly.

"I am waiting and watching. However, I have saved enough to ensure safe and comfortable return of me and my family," Shah stated.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

TAURUS

You may feel suspicious about the people around you, feels Ganesha. You are also likely to emerge victorious in visa matters. You will take time to let your loved ones know how much you care for them. Have a positive attitude and it will win many hearts for you, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI

You are likely to take a break from daily routine. A pleasure trip to recharge your batteries is on the charts, predicts Ganesha. Winning favours from members of the opposite sex comes naturally to you. If you love someone, you will make your move today.

CANCER

Ganesha portends that you will remain invincible and unbeatable throughout the day. However, today will be as boring and uneventful as it gets. It will be just another day at office, and an equally simple day at home. There will not be any low points, but no high points either.

LEO

Love, respect and quality time together – this might just be the perfect recipe for a happy family life, says Ganesha. So on this day, make it a point to spend time with your loved ones, and show them just how much you care for them and what they mean to you.

VIRGO

Pay due attention to your innate feelings. A small tour may be in the offing. You will get along famously with people today, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will receive your sincere feelings and emotions. Work your magic to improve relationships more.

LIBRA

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! You don't want to be Jack, now, do you? It's high time you took a break from your busy work schedule. Go on a vacation to recharge your batteries. There are chances that evening could bring with it some hurtful remarks from loves ones.

SCORPIO

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesha. But do not to be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Wisdom in words and hero in deeds – this may well be your avatar today. Expect good news at work, especially related to a thicker pay package or an increase in office floor area. Accountants and franchisees – expect to crunch good numbers today!

CAPRICORN

The wait for some good news may have been too long, but it will surely find its way to you today, says Ganesha. Your focus will remain fixed on work, and you may feel like you are finally starting to like your job. This, in turn, will lead you to take some well-informed decisions about your future.

AQUARIUS

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

PISCES

Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesha.

IGGY WAS SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT MOTHERHOOD

Rapper Iggy Azalea has shared that she took her time to come to terms with motherhood, adding that in the beginning she felt self-conscious about some of her parental duties. Azalea announced the arrival of her son Onyx with former-beau Playboi Carti last year.

EVA NEVER THROWS HER SHOES AWAY

Actress Eva Longoria has revealed that she never gets rid of any of her shoes. She has a special closet for her old pairs. "My husband says, 'Why do you keep all these shoes?' I'm like, 'I'm a shoe collector.' It's a thing," she told *People* magazine.

Actors talk about a film's biz only in India: Sayani

New Delhi: Actress Sayani Gupta feels the concept of star worship can only be prevalent in India, and she claims it is bizarre that actors here talk about the business a film has done.

"I don't think as an actor you should think about any of this... Your job is not to think of any of this. Your job is to do your job well. Box office is not in your control, and I hate it when actors talk about numbers and say

their films have done 100 crore. How does that matter?" Sayani said.

"It is bizarre and it is only in our country that actors talk about business a film has done," she added.

She stresses that in cinema, the actor is the smallest part.

"In our country we make them big. This is star worship, but honestly I am as important as the DoP (director of photography) of the film. Half of the acting happens on the edit table. Cinema is not just an actor's medium but also a director's medium," added the actress. **IAN S**

'Have to be in inner circle to get work'

Mumbai: Actress Gayathri, who will be seen in Abbas-Mustan's upcoming film *Penthouse*, doesn't mince words while stating that a 'cabal' and 'groupism' exist in the film industry.

The actress adds that there is an 'inner circle' that exists in the Hindi film industry, and one needs to be in the circle to get good work.

"I won't try to paint a rosy picture. I am going to say the truth, no matter how bitter it is. Well, there is an ecosystem. There is a cabal, there is groupism. There is definitely nepotism and inner circles and gangs definitely do exist. I don't know how difficult it is to get a place in the inner circle because I have never tried to do that because that's not me," she said.

"I want to do good work and the hard truth is you have to be in the inner circle to get work. No matter how hard I try it's impossible for me to focus my energies to being in a circle rather than focusing on getting good roles," added the *Raid* actress. **IAN S**

Babushaan blessed with a baby boy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Top Odia cine actor Babushaan Mohanty and wife Trupti welcomed a baby boy Tuesday evening, nearly seven years after their marriage. Trupti gave birth to the child at a private hospital in Patia area of the City.

Wishes poured in for the couple and Babushaan's parents, veteran actors Uttam Mohanty and Aparajita Mohanty from the fans and col-

leagues. On the professional front, the actor is busy shooting

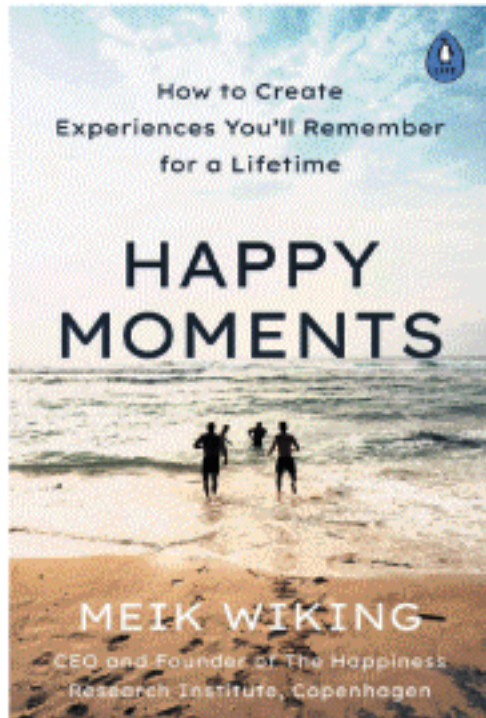
for his upcoming movie *Bidyaran* also starring Sivani Sangita. The shooting of the movie had been postponed indefinitely following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic all over the world last year.

Earlier, the team had released the poster of the film in a single screen cinema hall in January.

Books to read this April

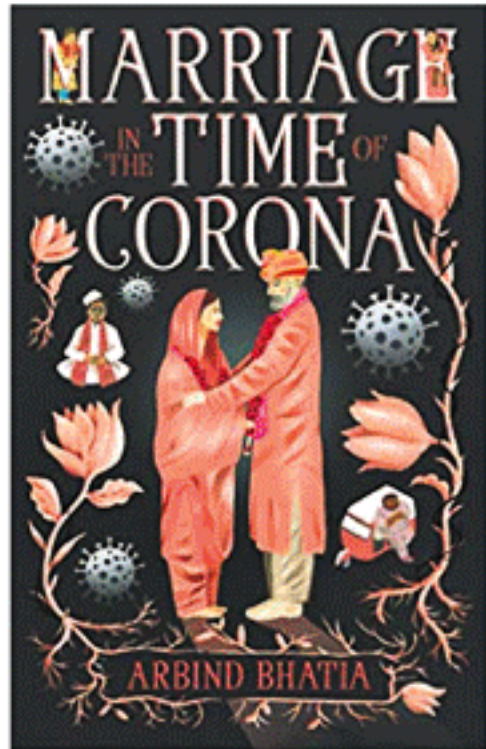
As the year heralds the season of warmth, one may be tempted to spend sunny afternoons inside, in the company of good storytelling. Here goes a list of reads you can curl up with this summer.

Happy Moments by Meik Wiking



Based on the data gathered by The Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, Meik shows how ordinary experiences can be turned into something extraordinary. Whether you are indulged in daily chores, or planning to celebrate your small wins, this book will help you create memories you will cherish forever.

Marriage in the Time of Corona by Arbind Bhatia

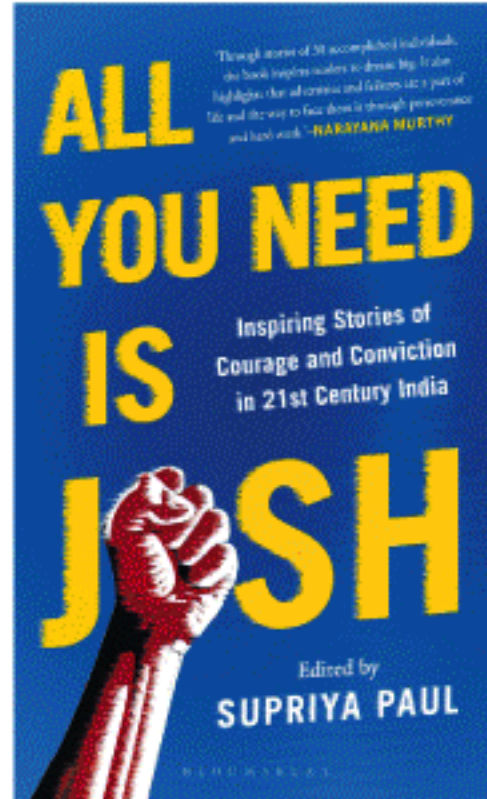


The book follows the travails of a Buddhist Thai girl with a Christian schooling background and her third attempt to marry a westernised Sikh boy of Indian descent as the spread of Covid-19 becomes uncontrollable. A love story for the ages filled with a potent

mix of adventurous humour in North India as its backdrop of inter-religious marriages, lack of acceptance in India, even in these turbulent times.

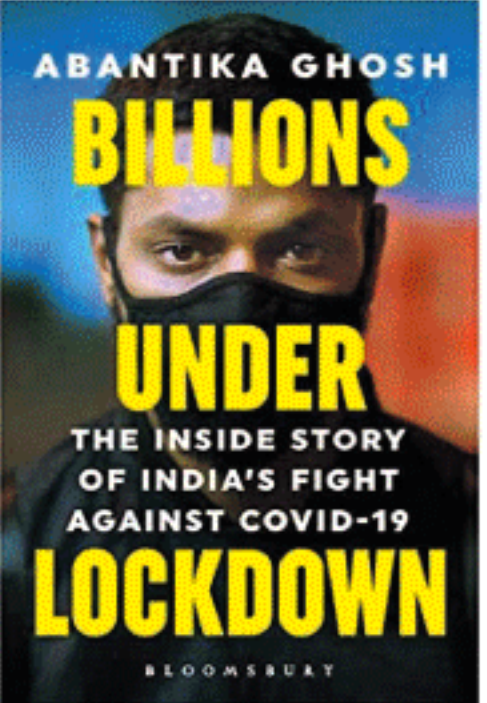
All You Need is Josh by Supriya Paul

Supriya's narrative captures the grit, determination and lessons which will help you to take charge of your own destiny - the incredible powerful stories of 'Josh' inspire each one of us to determine our true potential. Through stories of 30 accomplished individuals, the book encourages readers to dream big. It also highlights that adversities are a part of life.



Billions Under Lockdown by Abantika Ghosh

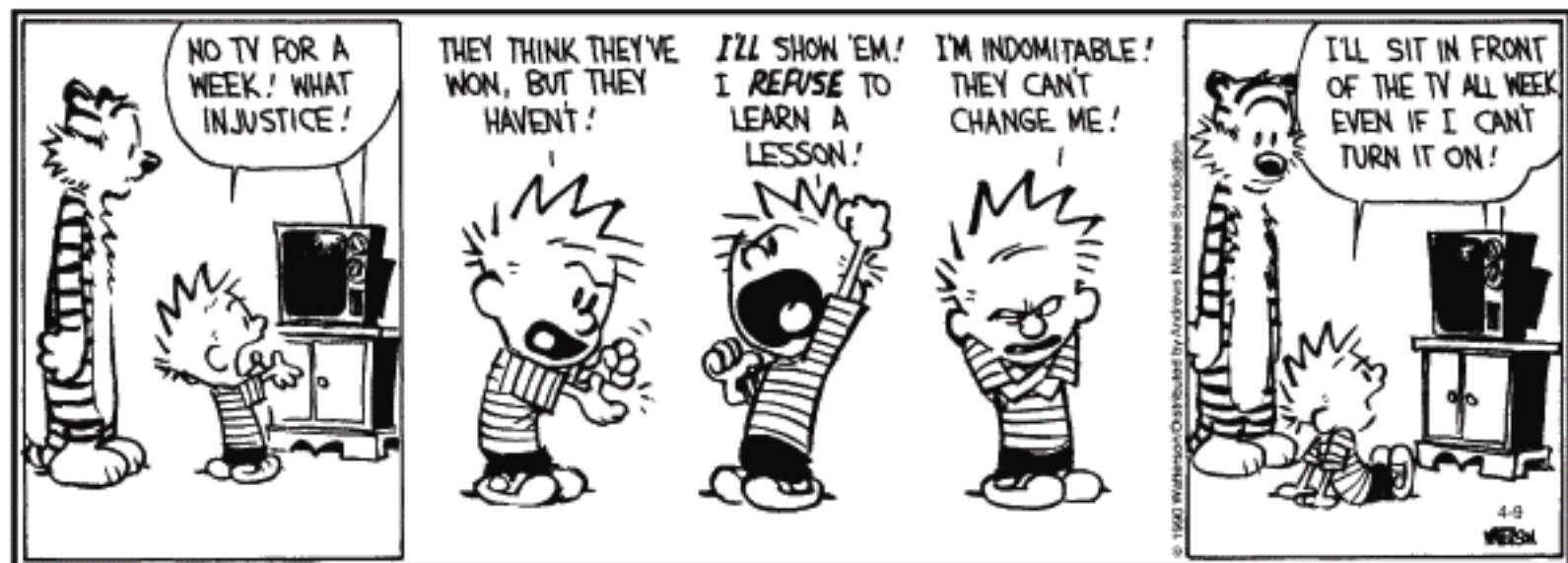
Through the eyes of a reporter, this book traces India's fight against Corona. A stirring tale of unnamed thousands battling against a little-understood virus from the frontlines. Despite obstacles India conquers what has been the greatest challenge the world has encountered in decades.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

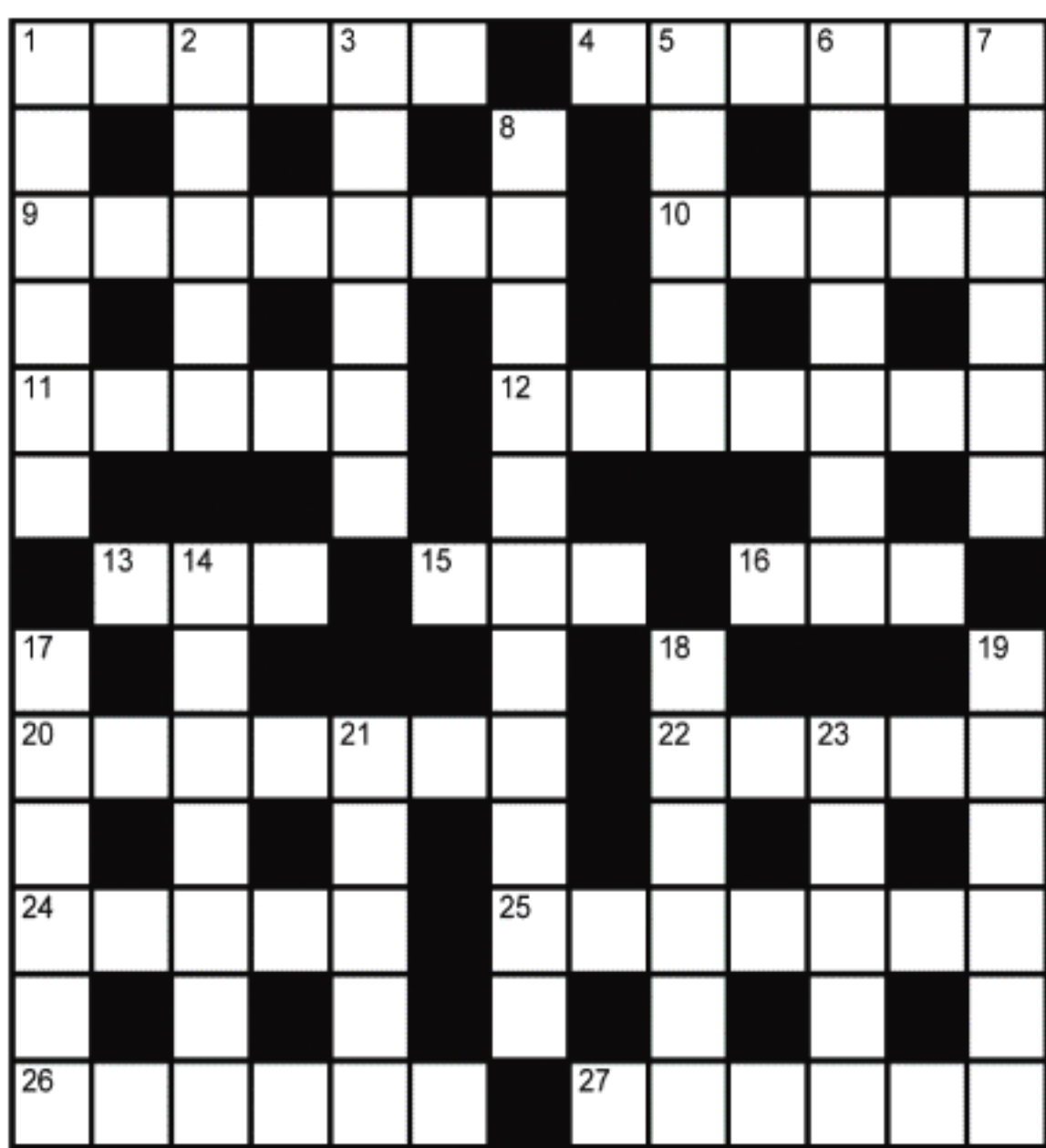


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Luge or pung
- 4 Wetlands
- 9 Pasta dish
- 10 Italian seaport
- 11 Vast chasm
- 12 Kitchen set
- 13 Medicinal amt.
- 15 Reef dweller
- 16 Small number
- 20 Jam ingredient
- 22 Lustrous fabric

Down

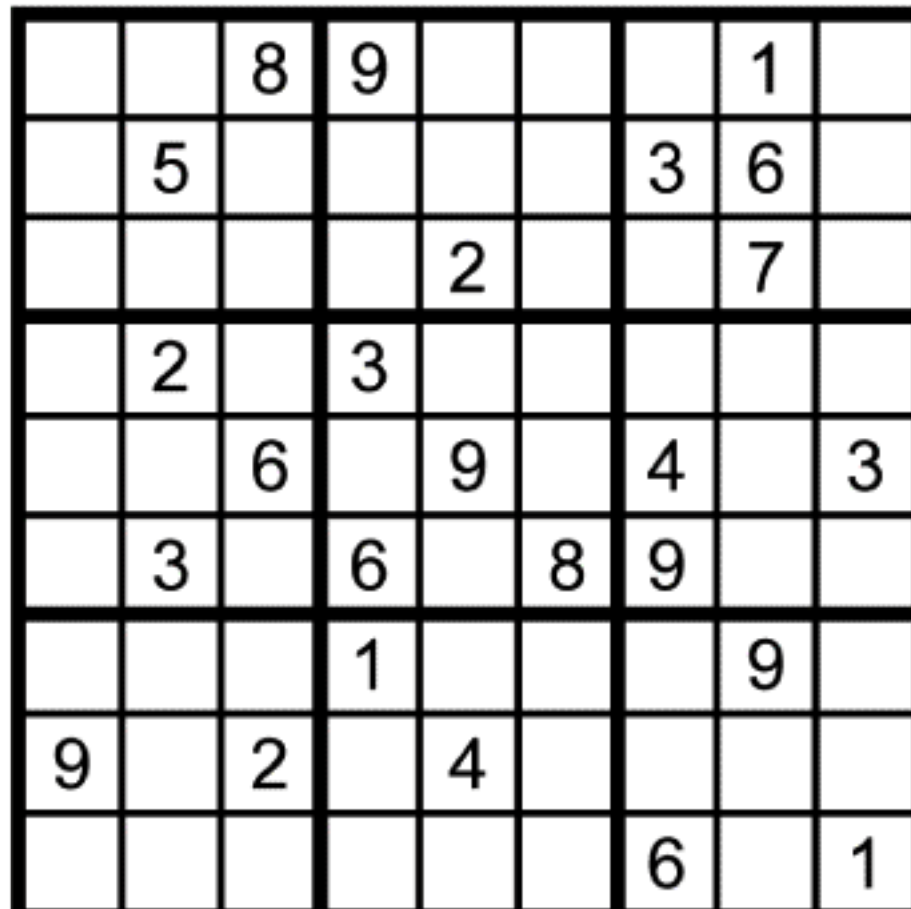
- 24 Annoyed
- 25 Forestalled
- 26 Scandinavian kingdom
- 27 Mooch
- 1 Shriek
- 2 Emissary
- 3 Game bird
- 5 Police van
- 6 Sea cow

7 Charred

- 8 Musical sand creature? (7,4)
- 14 Handcuff
- 17 Beer mugs
- 18 Out for the night
- 19 Antsy (2,4)
- 21 Soft creamy candy
- 23 Moon of Saturn

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.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



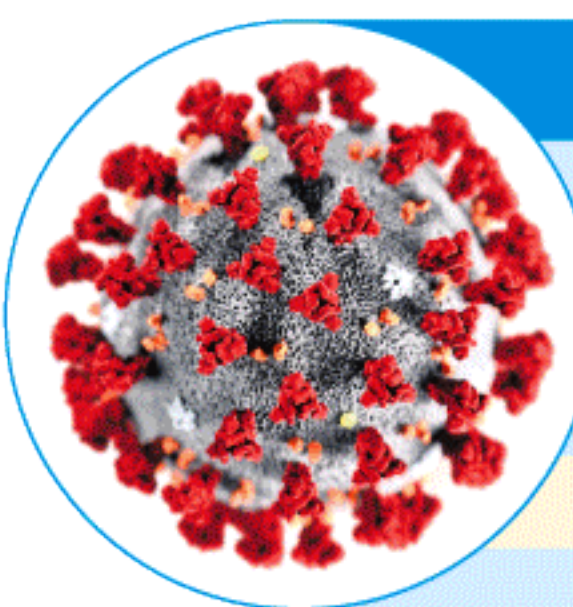
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SUMMER BLUES

College girls protect themselves from a scorching sun in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	13,32,70,274	10,74,72,514	28,90,973
India	1,28,01,785	1,17,92,135	1,66,177
Odisha	3,44,647	3,38,662	1,923

Sagarmala to turn state into logistics hub: CM

STATE MARITIME BOARD WILL ACT AS A CATALYST FOR OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME SECTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Chairing the first meeting of the State Sagarmala Committee, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday said the project can further enable Odisha to emerge as a major logistics destination.

Patnaik said that port-led development through industrialisation and connectivity are major focus areas of Sagarmala project. "We will also be prioritising the coastal community development as an integrated part of this initiative," he said.

Stating that Odisha has the advantage of being strategically located with a long coastline, he said, "We have a rich cultural heritage of maritime trade. We can become India's gateway to South East Asian countries."

Apart from Paradip port, he said, the state government has been facilitating the development of various ports along Odisha's coastline.

The Chief Minister further said that the State Maritime Board is expected to be fully functional in the coming months. Hopefully, the Board will act as a catalyst for overall de-

PORT-LED DEVELOPMENT



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik chairs the meeting of State Sagarmala Committee, Wednesday. 5T Secretary VK Pandian is also seen

velopment of the maritime sector in the state.

He asked for close coordination with various departments and resolving the issues for timely completion of projects under Sagarmala. He urged all the departments concerned to prioritise these projects.

Commerce & Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera said that Sagarmala programme aims at port-led development and improvement of waterways. For the success of the programme, state needs cooperation of the Centre and local authorities, the minister added.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra

Mahapatra said that all departments need to prepare projects under the Government of India guidelines and maximise project approval.

Welcoming the members, Commerce & Transport Secretary Madhusudan Padhi made a presentation on the Sagarmala project in the state. As per the presentation, the state has three ports in operation - Paradip, Dhamra and Gopalpur. As many as four ports - Subarnarekha, Astarang, Riverine port at Kendrapara and Jatadhari Muhan port - are in the pipeline. Besides, there are eight potential locations for development of ports.

The Sagarmala project has a vision of port-led development across the coast of India. It aims at port modernisation, port connectivity, port-led industrialisation and coastal community development. The projects will get 50 per cent funding from the Centre.

Under this programme, the state government has submitted 14 project proposals of various departments including Fishers and Animal Resources Development, Chilika Development Authority (CDA), Commerce & Transport and Works department.

Out of these, only two projects of Commerce & Transport department, Ro-Pax Jetty and Allied Infrastructure in Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Balugaon and Puri districts, have been sanctioned by the Centre, official sources said.

Idco's CMD Sanjay Singh said three logistic park projects at Dhamra, Gopalpur and Subarnarekha are under preparation. The proposals will be submitted to the Union government soon. Other departments were asked to finalise projects under Sagarmala project.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Parties all set to intensify campaign for Pipli battle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Even as all the major political parties are planning to intensify their campaign in the poll-bound Pipli Assembly constituency, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other senior leaders of the party would hit the campaign trail to woo the voters of the high-profile constituency.

"On April 13, a large rally will be organised by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Pipli to seek vote for the BJP in the upcoming byelection. The state leadership of the party has planned to make it a big success," BJP leader Prithiviraj Harichandan said.

The BJD on the other hand is also likely to see a scaled-up campaign with the entry of party president Naveen Patnaik. The Chief

Jethwa reviews security arrangements

Cuttack: Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) YK Jethwa, along with other senior police officials, Wednesday reviewed the election arrangements at Pipli and Delang areas of Puri. Apart from emphasising on strict enforcement of model code of conduct and adherence to the ECI guidelines, the top cop stressed on compliance with Covid protocol as well as security arrangements, including visits of VIPs and VVIPs, sources aware of the developments said. "Jethwa emphasised on intensifying prophylactic measures, including bounding down of persons U/s 110/107 CrPc, seizure of illegal arms, seizure of illicit liquor and execution of NBWs," they said, adding that the senior IPS official discussed regarding deployment of adequate personnel in the locality. The Puri superintendent of police has been asked to ensure fool-proof arrangements as well as handle the law and order situation.

Minister has planned to campaign for the party through virtual mode. His interaction has been planned through LED TVs which would be placed in different parts of the constituency to boost the party's image.

The Congress, on the other hand,

has been planning to bring Odisha in-charge of the party A Chellakumar to campaign for the party candidate Ajit Mangaraj. Several MLAs and MPs of the party are likely to hit the campaign trail and canvass votes for the party.

MAJESTIC BIRD



A peacock with its fully fanned feathers caught by OP shutterbug Bikash Nayak in Naraj area of Cuttack, Wednesday

Sonepur sizzles at 42 degrees C

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: There was no respite from the heat-wave condition in state as nine places recorded temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or above, Wednesday.

As per the evening weather bulletin of Bhubaneswar MeT Centre, Sonepur district became the hottest place in the state with a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius while Titilagarh recorded 41.5 degrees, followed by Bolangir (41.3), Boudh (40.8), Malkangiri (40.5), Talcher (40.3), Bhawanipatna (40.2) and Jharsuguda & Sundargarh (40 each).

The MeT Centre said there will be no large change in maximum temperature in state during next 4-5 days. However, the daytime temperature is likely to be more than 40 degrees at a few places of Bolangir, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Boudh, Sonepur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur district during next two days, it said.

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack remained comparatively cooler at 36.4 and 35.2 degrees Celsius respectively. The weather forecasting agency said thunderstorm will occur in some places of the state during next two days.

Diet, environment key to a healthier world: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Despite continuous efforts to improve the healthcare facilities, occurrence of various communicable and non-communicable diseases has become a major cause of concern for the human society, opined several experts while participating in a webinar on the occasion of World Health Day, Wednesday.

The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) organised the webinar on the theme of 'Building a fairer, healthier world'.

OES president Sundara Narayan Patro said the World Health Organisation (WHO) has defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

"Thus, for eradicating various health problems and attaining the



state of wellness, we not only have to deal with the disease-causing pathogens but also think of healthy diet as well as the quality of our environment. Food being the source of energy and nutrients for carrying out basic functions of the body and for sustenance of life, right kind of food and balanced diet, including fresh fruits, leafy vegeta-



bles, fish, egg and milk are very much essential to stay fit," Patro added.

Patro also stressed on the need to eradicate the occurrence of non-communicable diseases, which are byproducts of the modern civilisation.

ICMR-RMRC, Bhubaneswar, Director Sanghamitra Pati, who

■ OES president Sundara Narayan Patro stressed on the need to eradicate occurrence of non-communicable diseases, which are byproducts of the modern civilization

■ ICMR-RMRC Director Sanghamitra Pati said health is a multi-factorial issue and is influenced by individual as well as environmental determinants

was the chief speaker of the webinar, elucidated the significance of observing the World Health Day in the prevailing scenario of Covid-19 pandemic.

She opined that health is a multi-factorial issue and is influenced by individual as well as environmental determinants. Overall health is achieved through a combination of

physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental well-being. The inequalities existing in the society among different groups of people and the discrimination experienced on the basis of gender, ethnicity should not be reflected while providing quality healthcare services to the people. Universal health coverage can be accomplished through improving the environmental health, she said.

Other health experts who participated in the webinar are: former Health department Director Seba Mohapatra, cardiologist T Badrinarayan and Bipin Bihari Panda. They emphasised on nutritious food, pollution-free environment and active lifestyle for maintaining good health.

OES secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi highlighted the deterioration in the quality of environment, and its impacts on disease occurrence and human health.

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Virtual court to clear pending pension cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The state government has set up a special court to expedite pension related cases of its retired officers and employees.

General Administration and Public Grievances department additional chief secretary Sanjeev Chopra said that the special court would function online as per Covid protocol.

Chopra added that the procedure and system of approval of pension has been accomplished through Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). The IFMS will help in processing pension papers of government employees. Many cases and reports of cases were found where the pensioners have not got the pension money on time due to



Retired employees and officers have to apply between April 8 and 30 through the portal, <http://pension.hrmsodisha.gov.in>

non-approval and other reasons. The online special court has been opened for resolving these problems.

Those officers and employees who are not in Vigilance net or against whom other major penalty proceedings are not pending can apply to this court. The retired employees and officers have to apply between April 8 and 30 through (<http://pension.hrmsodisha.gov.in>) portal.

The court will approve applications sent between the mentioned dates.

The court will then take decisions on all the cases by June 30, 2021. The cases for which decisions would be pending would be forwarded to the respective departments. The chief secretaries and additional secretaries of the concerned departments would form their own special courts for resolution.



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PM to release Hindi version of Mahtab’s Odisha Itihaas

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Friday release the Hindi translation of the book ‘Odisha Itihaas’ written by former Chief Minister of Odisha Dr Harekrushna Mahtab.

According to the Prime Minister’s office, the Hindi translation of the ‘Odisha Itihaas’ will be released at Ambedkar International Centre here by the Prime Minister. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Lok Sabha MP Bhartruhari Mahtab will also be present on the occasion. The event marking the release of the Hindi version has been organised by Harekrushna Mahtab Foundation.

The book, available in Odia and English so far, has been translated into Hindi by Shankarlal Purohit. Harekrushna Mahtab wrote the book ‘Odisha Itihaas’ in Ahmednagar Fort Jail, where he was imprisoned for more than two years during 1942-1945. The book gives an elaborate description of formation of Odisha. It also highlights the amalgamation of princely estates into one state.

Significantly, Dr Mahtab was a notable figure in the Indian Independence movement. He was born in Bhadrak district of Odisha and studied in Ravenshaw University. He joined the independence movement in 1921 and was imprisoned on sedition charge in 1922. He had taken part in the salt satyagraha, movement against untouchability and Quit India Movement.

He had served as Chief Minister of Odisha from 1946 to 1950 and from 1956 to 1961.

Five held with ganja

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 7: A special squad of the Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested five persons, including three women, after recovering around 120 kg of ganja worth around ₹12 lakh from their possession.

Police sources said that acting on specific information, the special squad conducted a raid at Ghatikia under Bharatpur police limits in the City and recovered the contraband.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR
■ Odissi Mahotsav by Sangeet Sudhakara Balakrushna Foundation, Soochana Bhawan, 6.30pm

SAKHIGOPAL
■ Sagarsnana Yatra, Balapur and Suanda ghat, 2pm

Programmes/announcements for **wassup** today may be sent to **opwassup@gmail.com** for record, it must also carry the sender’s mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Jyotsna Das, at 72A, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 710009 am also known as Jotsnarani Das. I say that Jyotsna Das and Jotsnarani Das is one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as Jyotsna Das for all purposes vide affidavit dated 30.03.2021 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar.

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Drinking water going down the drain worrisome

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, April 7: Large-scale wastage of drinking water in the Silver city here may push the residents into a severe water crisis in the coming days.

Around 30 to 40 per cent of the drinking water supplied by the Public Health Engineering Organisation (PHEO) is being wasted away on a daily basis here, sources said.

With 6 lakh inhabitants, the Silver City requires 92.85 million litres of drinking water every day. However, the PHEO is supplying 107.7 million litres of potable water to the residents every day. The drinking water is being sourced from 195 bore wells, sources added.

It is learnt that altogether 78,000 households in Cuttack have drinking water connections from the PHEO while the city has 3,000 stand



COLOSSAL WASTE

■ Around 30 to 40% of drinking water supplied by the Public Health Engineering Organisation is being wasted away on a daily basis

■ Leaking pipelines, overflow from rooftop tankers, damaged stand posts and above all carelessness of the people are blamed for large-scale wastage of drinking water

■ Water cess to the tune of ₹16.85 crore is pending with various business entities, apartment complexes, industries and common people in the city

posts cater to the need of lower middleclass and poor people. “We are supplying adequate drinking water to the residents of

Cuttack. But, several lakh litres of water are being wasted away due to several reasons,” said PHEO executive engineer Sushant Ghadei.

Leaking pipelines, overflow from rooftop tankers, damaged stand posts and above all carelessness of the people are blamed for large-

10-day spl drive to thwart virus spread

ODISHA REPORTS RECORD 791 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 1 MORE FATALITY



Police commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi, along with other officials, inspects the enforcement of Covid protocols at Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Odisha Police Wednesday launched a 10-day special drive to strictly enforce the Covid safety protocols even as the state reported 791 fresh cases of the novel coronavirus, the highest count of 2021 so far, pushing the tally to 3,44,647.

The death toll rose to 1,923 after one more patient from Puri succumbed to the disease, he said.

Of the new cases, 459 were reported from quarantine centres and 332 detected during contact tracing. Sundargarh district reported the highest number of fresh cases at 147, followed by Khurda (118), Bargarh (48), Cuttack (46)

and Sambalpur (45). Efforts are being made to trace contacts of the fresh patients, the official said.

Active cases in Odisha jumped to 4,255, from just 694 March 7, and 3,38,416 patients have so far recovered from the disease, he said.

The district administration in Puri has made it mandatory for travellers from five states to produce Covid-19 negative certificates in view of spiralling cases.

People travelling from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Kerala to the pilgrim town must produce RT-PCR negative reports at the railway station and bus terminus, a district official said.

The Odisha Police Wednesday

BMC, BDA offices shut for public

Bhubaneswar: In view of rising Covid cases, the access of general public to the BMC and Bhubaneswar Development Authority’s (BDA) offices has been restricted. “General public can get their grievances redressed through unified portal of bhubaneswar.me and also through telephone numbers and e-mail,” the BMC said.

launched a 10-day special drive to strictly enforce the Covid safety protocols.

The state government has started imposing night curfew from 10 pm to 5 am in Sundargarh, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Balangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangpur districts to contain the spread of the disease.

Health and Family Welfare department’s additional chief secretary PK Mohapatra had Tuesday written to the Union health ministry, requesting it to provide 15 to 20 lakh doses of ‘Covishield’ vaccine to continue the inoculation drive smoothly.

More than 35.67 lakh doses of vaccine have been administered to health professionals, frontline workers and people above 45 years of age.

The state has so far conducted over 92.44 lakh sample tests for Covid-19, including 31,531 Tuesday, and the positivity rate stands at 3.73 per cent.

Fresh norms for hostel inmates

BHUBANESWAR: Taking cognisance of the galloping Covid-19 cases in Capital city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday issued guidelines for higher education institutions in the City.

The civic body directed the institution authorities to ask students to vacate the hostels immediately who have already appeared in their examinations after intimating their parents. The students whose examinations are due shall be asked to vacate the hostel premises as soon as their examinations are over.

“The students who are likely to stay for their examinations may be allowed to stay on the hostel premises preferably in single rooms in strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour like proper use of masks, social distancing and hand hygiene, particularly in mess, corridors and common rooms,” the BMC said. The institution authorities will be fully responsible for ensuring Covid protocols and well-being of their students.

City banquet hall, engg college sealed



Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday sealed function/convention halls at Janpath and Hotel Presidency for violating the civic authority’s instructions on the pandemic.

Carrying an enforcement drive, the BMC officials found that the function hall at Ram Mandir on Janpath, was found conducting a birthday party without prior permission of the civic body. While the guests were vacated immediately, a penalty of ₹5,000 was col-

lected from the birthday party organisers. Similarly, the convention hall of Hotel Presidency was closed for holding meeting without prior permission.

Meanwhile, the BMC’s South West zone enforcement team Wednesday sealed Oxford College of Engineering and Management at Pallaspalli for violation of Covid guidelines.

“It came to notice that even after issuance of clear-cut order regarding celebration of non-essential cultural celebrations hotels, Kalyan Mandaps, guest houses are continuing to host the same. Such celebrations are unauthorised and can be responsible for further spread of the virus. Thus, you are requested to follow the guidelines or else strict action will be taken,” the BMC had warned Tuesday.

It can be mentioned that the civic authority had reduced the number of people to be allowed at marriage-related functions from 200 to 100.

Odisha seeks stay on AP’s poll move

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, April 7: Odisha Wednesday filed an application in the Supreme Court imploring the court to stop Andhra Pradesh from conducting polls for Mandal Parishad and Zila Praja Parishad in the disputed areas of Kotia group of villages in Koraput.

In an application filed through advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra, Odisha pleaded the apex court to initiate second contempt against AP if it conducts elections in disputed villages by violating the undertaking given to the SC in 2006.

Odisha contended that the State Election Commission of Andhra Pradesh had issued notification April 1 to conduct elections in Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency and Zila Parishad Territorial Constituency. Odisha submitted that AP is again violating the undertaking given to the SC.

“The officials of Andhra Pradesh are alluring local villagers in disputed areas to participate in the elections conducted by them. The situation in Koraput has become very volatile. The local authorities have been taking all steps to maintain peace in the area. However, such attempts of conducting elections would act as a provocation and will potentially threaten the fragile peace and law & order in Koraput,” Odisha submitted.

scale wastage of drinking water, said a source.

It is learnt that water cess to the tune of ₹16.85 crore is pending with various business entities, apartment complexes, industries and common people in the city here.

“A total of ₹23.90 crore was pending as water cess. We have managed to collect ₹7.05 crore in the current fiscal. We are creating awareness among people to clear their dues. Warnings have been issued to snap water supply to the defaulters,” Ghadei said.

PHEO sources, meanwhile, claimed that several projects are being implemented in the city to source drinking water from rivers. “There is excess iron content in water collected from bore wells. The state government is implementing several projects to purify river water and supply it to the people,” Ghadei said.

NHRC seeks ATR on ‘gangrape’ in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Wednesday sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the twin city commissioner of police (CP) as well as the district magistrate of Khurda within four weeks in connection with the alleged gangrape of a woman on separate occasions in the City here in February and the indifference of the police towards the victim.

The NHRC’s move came in response to a petition filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak March 21.

Nayak had informed the apex rights body that a married woman was abducted and gang-raped by miscreants twice in the City. Although the victim approached the police to report the incident, she received a cold shoulder from the law keepers.

“The woman was walking down from her father’s place in Buddheshwari Colony to her in-laws’ house in Haladipadia around 10pm February 26 when four miscreants offered her a lift. They took her to a deserted location near Canal Road and took turns to outrage her modesty before fleeing

Transferred teachers asked to join new places

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Higher Education department Wednesday directed all the transferred teachers of non-government aided colleges to join the new places of posting immediately.

The move came after it was noticed that many teachers of these colleges, even after their transfer orders were issued, have not been relieved of their present place of posting.

Similarly, many college teachers who have been relieved have not yet joined their new places of posting.

HE department joint secretary Surendra Kumar Panda said that if the transferred teachers of non-government aided colleges do not join the new places of posting within seven days, they shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension.

The victim had gone to Laxmisagar police station to file an FIR but the cops refused to receive the complaint, the petitioner said

the scene. The hapless woman initially mustered courage and approached the Laxmisagar police to report the torment, but later she returned from the police station fearing night,” said the rights activist.

The next day, three more men sexually abused her. The woman went to the police station to file an FIR, the cops, however, refused to receive the complaint, Nayak’s plea said, pointing out that a case (100/21) was registered only in March after the victim met the police commissioner who directed the Laxmisagar police to take note of the shame.

Alleging that the police have failed to arrest the accused, Nayak requested the rights body to ensure compensation to the victim, and stringent action against her tormenters.

HITTING THE STREETS



Members of several online auto-rickshaw and taxi associations demonstrate at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to press for fulfilment of their demands

Konark Special timings revised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: The Railways has decided to revise the timings of Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT)-Bhubaneswar Konark Special between Visakhapatnam and Bhubaneswar in East Coast Railway jurisdiction.

The Mumbai CSMT-Bhubaneswar Konark Special from Mumbai w.e.f. April 12, 2021 will arrive at Visakhapatnam at 15:45hrs and leave at 16:05hrs instead of 15:35hrs & 15:55hrs, respectively.



This train will also reach Bhubaneswar at 23:20hrs instead of the existing timing at 23:15hrs. The timings for this train at Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Sompeta, Ichhapuram, Brahmapur, Chhatrapur and Balugaon have also been changed. The timings for this train at other scheduled stations will remain unchanged. The timings

of Bhubaneswar-Mumbai CSMT Konark Special will remain unchanged. Earlier, due to operational point of view, ECoR decided to revise the timings of Howrah-Puri-Howrah Special train.

Meanwhile, Puri-Sambalpur Special will originate from Khurda Road instead of Puri, Wednesday.

Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Special has been cancelled partially between Khurda Road and Puri from both the directions. This was due to late running of connecting train in view of public agitation in Talcher area and for time adjustment.

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Migrants' return sparks infiltration fears in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 7: Migrants returning homes here has sparked fears of a rise in infiltration by the Bangladeshi immigrants into the area, a report said. The return of migrants due to the spread of Covid-19 last year is being reenacted this year following a resurgence of the pandemic in Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. Fearing that the government might reimpose lockdown, they have started returning home. On the other hand, the number of positive cases has started rising in the district.

Residents apprehend that the immigrants taking advantage of the situation might infiltrate into remote and seaside areas. They claim that as several immigrants have settled down in remote corners of the district the second wave of the pandemic might prove opportune for them to enter the area.

They demanded the district administration intervene and thwart the infiltration attempts by the immigrants. Reports said Ashok Das, a native of Niala village under Aul block, recently returned home from Surat along with his family. Das said the Covid infection is rapidly spreading in

Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The disease is expected to pick up in Gujarat which lies close to Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the situation is alarming as 60,000 people were identified as Covid positive on a single day. Both the state governments have reimposed restrictions to check the spread of Covid infections.

The migrants fear the respective government might impose lockdown in coming days and are rushing back home, he said. Roshan Kumar Singh of Pattamundai said his brother working in Kerala has come back with his family from Kerala due to a sharp rise in Covid infections in that state.

Senior citizen Pratap Kumar Padhi, social activists Amarbar Biswal and Debashis Samal said after Ganjam, the maximum number of people working outside the state is from Kendrapara as the area lacks industries or mines.

According to a survey carried out by a private agency, over 50 per cent of the Odia workforce outside of the state comprises youths and women from Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Aul and Pattamundai. The second wave of the Covid infection has panicked them pushing them to return home.

Official sources said 10,768 mi-

Covid-19 surges in Sundargarh fringe areas



SUBDEGA/JAMTIKRA: Amid a surge of Covid-19 infections across the country, the fringe areas of Sundargarh district bordering Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have been witnessing an upsurge, a report said.

According to a report, the number of Covid-19 infection cases is fast

increasing in Banadega, Sagarbahal, Kartabahal, Lulakidiha, Murukia and Phalasa under Balishankara block. Meanwhile, the administration has declared Banadega and Murukia as containment zones.

Subdega weekly market and the main bazaar were shut down Wednesday so as to ward off

congregation of people.

Police and administrative officials visited market places Tuesday and apprised people of wearing masks and maintaining social distance as the second wave of Covid is gradually gripping the fringe areas.

"Further preventive measures will be taken up in various areas to halt the spread of the Covid infection," said the Subdega BDO.

Reports from Jamtikra in Bargarh district said that due to the second wave of Covid-19, infection cases are surfacing fast in Attabira area, even as people are allegedly violating Covid restrictions. At different villages, people are seen organizing religious activities like sankirtans with large gatherings in violation of night curfew. Community feasting is part of these sankirtans.

Such activities have triggered the possibility of Covid infections in the area.

grants returned to the district last year but in reality, over 3 lakh migrants returned home. Even Bollywood actor Sonu Sood had to

intervene to facilitate return of 130 women stuck in Kerala last year. When contacted, ADM Basant Rout said the administration has

made all arrangements and stress is being led on mass vaccination, social distancing, wearing of masks to check the spread of the virus.

3 DIE IN SEPARATE JUMBO ATTACKS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada/Joda, April 7: Two persons were killed in Patakamunda panchayat under Chhendipada police limits of Angul district after an elephant attacked them in two separate incidents in wee hours of Wednesday. One was killed in Champua area of Keonjhar Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Kathia Panigrahi and Suhagi Sethi - both from Chandrapur village in the district.

According to sources, Suhagi had gone to Dhubadanda creek behind her house in the morning when she was attacked by a tusker and died on the spot in the mishap.

Later, Kathia was confronted with the tusker at Debinali canal road while he was on his way riding a bicycle. The tusker picked up the man with its trunk and crushed him leading to his death, a villager said.

On other hand, the tragic deaths triggered tension in the village. The residents staged a roadblock demanding adequate compensation for the kins of the deceased persons.

On being informed, Bagadia outpost In-charge Ashish Kumar Das



reached the spot with a police team and held discussions with the agitators. Police have assured the villagers of taking the matter to their departmental higher-ups.

Notably, residents are in panic as the tusker has been wandering near the village. They have appealed forest personnel to drive it away.

Reports from Joda said, elephants have trampled a man to death in Jamupasi forest under Champua range in Keonjhar. The deceased was identified as Daba Champia. He was in the forest to collect mahula flowers when he accidentally encountered a herd of elephants in the forest.

He was rescued in critical condition by locals but succumbed on the way to the district headquarters hospital.

COP SUSPENDED FOR 'CELEBRATING' HOLI INSIDE PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, April 7: Jajpur Superintendent of Police Rahul PR Tuesday suspended assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Sanjay Dash for alleged dereliction of duty.

According to sources, five cops including a female Home Guard in uniform were dancing to the tune of a popular Odia number to celebrate Holi inside a police station in Jajpur district.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media. The gross dereliction of duty had taken place at Panikoli police station, an official said.

The faces and uniforms of the dancing police personnel were seen in the viral video smeared with colours. Moreover, other employees of the police station were seen clapping and cheering the dancing cops.

"The incident which violated rules may have taken place on the occasion of Holi. ASI Sanjay Dash was placed under suspension after preliminary inquiry," the district police chief said.

An unknown person captured the video on a mobile phone and posted it on social media a few days ago. Various quarters condemned such conduct of police and demanded action.

"We have launched a probe and action will be taken against the other police personnel involved in the incident on the basis of the inquiry report," the SP said.

Complainants assaulted inside PS in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, April 7: A mob allegedly attacked two complainants inside a police station in Balasore district Tuesday night, leaving them grievously injured.

According to police, the bizarre incident took place at around 11 pm inside Remuna police station in the district.

Around 150 villagers in a group barged into the police station and attacked the complainants.

The injured were identified as Raghunath Sahu and Pramita Das. Their houses were allegedly ransacked by the group of villagers. The duo had visited Remuna police station in the district to lodge an FIR seeking intervention of the police.

A source said, the scuffle between the two groups, one from Mandarpur and another from Nianbag area under the same police limits, took place over a past enmity. At that time around 150 people suddenly arrived at the police station. We immediately closed



the gate but by the time 20-30 people barged into the police station and attacked the complainants leaving them critically injured. No complaint has been registered from either side over the incident," Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of the Remuna police station Sriballav Sahoo said.

The injured were rushed to Remuna public health centre (PHC) for treatment. Later, they were shifted to Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital (FMMCH) in Balasore as their condition deteriorated.

Based on CCTV footages, a team of Remuna police has initiated a probe and launched a manhunt. Police are yet to arrest the attackers. Keeping in mind the palpable tension prevailing in the villages, two platoons of police have been deployed at the site, a police official said.

Minors beaten up at AP brick kiln

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, April 7: Andhra Pradesh police detained Wednesday a middleman from Kantabanji area of

Bolangir district for allegedly beating up two minor boys at a brick kiln in the southern-state.

The minors were severely beaten after the duo refused to work owing to illness. The incident has triggered a massive public outcry in Bolangir after a video went viral on social media, a couple of days back.

According to a source, the middleman was identified as Raja Khan. The man is seen in the video beating the minor workers with a wooden plank and scolding the duo with slang.

Khan had sent the minor boys to work at a brick kiln in neighbouring Andhra. As the boys did not come to their workplace after falling sick, the owner of the brick kiln called Khan. The middleman then reached the brick kiln



and started torturing the minors, the source added.

"We saw the video in which Raja Khan was seen beating a child mercilessly. It is absolutely inhuman. He needs to be arrested immediately," chairperson of Bolangir Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Yogeswar Mohanty has demanded.

Stringent action should be taken against the middleman for his inhuman behaviour, Mohanty urged Bolangir district administration. Notably, Khan has been detained for interrogation.

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Date and Time schedule:

Start	End	Opening
11.00 AM on dt. 09.04.2021	5.00 PM on dt. 16.04.2021	4.00 P.M. on dt. 22.04.2021

Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Executive Engineer, City Division-II, CMC
OIPR-13031/11/0003/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR, AT: CHATRAPUR
Phone: 06811-263909, FAX: 06811-263950, E-mail: eephchpr@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. 01/03/SPH(C)/2021-22 Dt.06.04.2021
Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Documents for Online Bidding From To	Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid
1	Laying of Pipe line in uncovered areas of Kabisuryanagar NAC under State Plan 2020-21	Identification No. 01-1/03/SPH(C)/2021-22 Dt.06.04.2021	36.36	4 (Four) Calendar Months	11.00 hrs. of 13.04.2021 17.30 hrs. of 27.04.21	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur
2	Laying of Pipe line and Jointing of Missing link for improvement of Water Supply to G.Udayagiri NAC under State Plan 2020-21	Identification No. 01-2/03/SPH(C)/2021-22 Dt.06.04.2021	40.48	4 (Four) Calendar Months	11.00 hrs. of 13.04.2021 17.30 hrs. of 27.04.21	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur
3	Laying of Distribution Pipe line for universal coverage of house connections in Bellaguntha NAC under State Plan 2020-21	Identification No. 01-3/03/SPH(C)/2021-22 Dt.06.04.2021	14.40	4 (Four) Calendar Months	11.00 hrs. of 13.04.2021 17.30 hrs. of 27.04.21	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur
4	Construction of Storage reservoir with Jointing of Pipe line and ancillary works for improvement of water supply to Damodarpur & adjoining areas of Ganjam NAC under State Plan 2020-21	Identification No. 01-4/03/SPH(C)/2021-22 Dt.06.04.2021	20.78	6 (Six) Calendar Months	11.00 hrs. of 13.04.2021 17.30 hrs. of 27.04.21	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur

The technical bid shall be opened on Dt.29.04.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tenderorissa.gov.in>.
OIPR-13013/11/0001/2122

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar, Chatrapur

Transformation for high schools

Sundargarh: The state government has taken some initiatives to ensure that quality education is made available in government schools as well in Sundargarh. It has undertaken a High School Transformation programme under the 5T and Mo Sarkar in the district so as to boost infrastructure and improve educational environment in 40 high schools in the first phase. The administration has drawn up a draft proposal in this regard. Collector Nikhil Kalyan discussed modalities at a preparatory meeting.

The Aditya Birla Group: Enriching Lives, Enabling Growth

A \$46 billion MNC, the Aditya Birla Group is in the League of Fortune 500. It is anchored by an extraordinary force of 1,20,000 employees, belonging to 42 nationalities, spanning 36 countries. Nearly 50 per cent of its revenues flow from its overseas operations.

Hindalco, UltraTech Cement, Grasim Industries, Essel Mining and Industries, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail, and Aditya Birla Capital operate in Odisha, driven by a 12,000 strong workforce. Its investment in the state exceeds ₹30,000 crore.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR COMPANIES ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY WORK IN ODISHA (2020-21)

We reach out to more than 5 lakh people annually in 6 districts of Odisha.
Touch 2,15,000 lives across 212 villages.

HEALTHCARE

400 Awareness Camps on Covid-19; Over 5 lakh masks, soaps, sanitisers distributed in the villages.
Running of the 22-bedded state-of-the-art Utkal Hospital at Tikiri in Rayagada district with Multi-Disciplinary Healthcare Services. Also recognised as Covid Hospital & Covid Vaccination Centre.
An IT-enabled Vision Care Centre at Aditya Aluminium servicing more than 10,000 people.
Over 755 medical camps organised benefitting more than 75,000 people.
Immunised 40,000 children.

EDUCATION

Assigned 100 teachers to 85 primary schools and provided study material to 4,200 students.
Organise computer literacy programmes every six months.
Set up a centralised midday meal kitchen in Keonjhar district in partnership with the Odisha Government. Midday meals given to 30,000 children every day.
Solar Lamps given to 1 lakh school children.
Through the NGO Swabhimani, we support the differently abled children.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Kitchen Gardens empowered 500 families.
In partnership with the Government, implemented commercial vegetable farming in 178 acres of 480 farmers under 'Project Samridhhi'.
More than 155 SHGs formed, empowering 2000 women.
Worked in collaboration with the NABARD on project Wadi for tribal farmers in 424 acres and 68 goat rearing units for landless families.
Introduced Lemon grass cultivation project (with aromatic and medicinal value) in 165 acres of 131 farmers in 16 villages.
30 SHGs are engaged in Project Saksham, a sustainable livelihood initiative at Utkal Alumina.

INFRASTRUCTURE


Constructed a 50,000 kilo liter overhead tank to supply drinking water to residents of Champua subdivision in Keonjhar district.
Constructing and maintaining approach roads and internal concrete roads, drains, check dams, borewells, water harvesting structures and river steps.
Maintaining bathing ghats, culverts, playgrounds, health centres and community halls.
Aditya Birla Group has ploughed in ₹20 Crores to help make a difference to the lives of the underprivileged in Odisha.

Because We Care.

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP
Engage. Uplift. Empower

“Peace is the first condition, without which nothing else can be stable.”

SRI AUROBINDO



Animal welfare

Five years ago, I requested the Head of the Bar Council of India to get animal welfare introduced as a subject in the law colleges. He did it immediately. The result has been much more sensitive and informed lawyers, an annual moot court that is hosted by NLU Bangalore, PhDs in animal welfare (the first one was in NLU Cuttack), more people aware of animal welfare activism and far more sensitive judges. A big thank you to Manan Kumar Mishra!

Twenty-two years ago, at the instance of AtalBehari Vajpayee, who supported all new ideas, we built the National Institute for Animal Welfare in Ballabgarh. Unfortunately, the government fell when it was ready. The Congress shut it down, and now the BJP is in its 7th year without restarting it. The Minister for Environment gave it to JNU. They fooled around for two years and then returned it to the Ministry, who slept on it for two years and then handed it to LalalajpatRai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, who have ignored it for three years and only now have appointed a retired vet to make a course. I have lost all hope. In 2002, I wrote out all the courses, made some textbooks, contacted Oxford, Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh, for teachers, got a Grant from the UNEP for the library. But nothing has happened and nothing ever will. The magnificent 7 acre centre now houses 10 people of the Animal Welfare Board of India and runs 'awareness' courses of three days each for the student vets of LUVAS.

But there are huge job opportunities for trained animal welfare people: shelter managers, gaushala managers, laboratory managers, forest and wildlife officers, city management of animals, elephant rescue centres, city snake rescuers, poultrys, slaughterhouses, to begin with and hundreds of others. I simply cannot understand why it has taken so long for even one course to begin.

A huge thank you to the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, Prof. NageshwarRao, and to Professor PVKSasidhar, for starting the first degree related course in India for animal welfare. Prof. Sasidhar has been labouring at the modules for over three years now. The first session itself has over 800 students!

It is a PG Diploma in Animal Welfare (PGDAW) and the admissions are open for the January 2021 Session. The Online Admissions Link: www.ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in/.

The PGDAW programme is meant for animal welfare volunteers and professionals across India, and for graduates / post-graduates interested in studying animal welfare.

The IGNOU course has four core components: Animal welfare science and ethics, Animal welfare issues, Animal welfare laws and policies, and Animal welfare practices and standards.

Animal welfare is concerned about the welfare of all animals that are managed in some way by humans. Farm animal welfare means the care of animals grown for milk and meat, and that is where animals suffer the most. Welfare issues, pertaining to working, performing, companion, zoo, lab and street animals, need a great deal of attention as well. The PGDAW programme, in 85 modules, has covered welfare, science, ethics, issues, laws and standards, of all farm and draught animals – cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, working animals like donkeys and horses, performing animals, pets, zoo and lab animals. These modules have been developed in collaboration with The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education, University of Edinburgh, UK.

It's a one year course, and graduates from any discipline can take it. It has two objectives: To impart science based animal welfare education through open and distance learning. To build the capacities of stakeholders to take socially responsible decisions concerning animal welfare. The total fee of the course is Rs 5,400.

Who should take this course: Obviously all young people interested in animals, Employees Working in Animal Welfare Organisations / NGOs / Gaushalas, Faculty, Researchers, Technical Staff & PG / PhD Students in Universities, Research Organisations and Veterinary Colleges, Veterinarians / Para-veterinarians in State / Central Government / RVC & Para-Military Forces, Members of State Animal Welfare Boards / SPCAs, Members of CPC-SEA / Institutional Animal Ethics Committees / Animal House Facilities, Civil Servants, Officials and Researchers Working in Forest Departments, Zoos and Wild Life Institutes, Faculty and Research Scholars under Zoological Survey of India and Zoology Departments, Law Professionals and Police Personnel dealing with Animal Welfare Laws and their Enforcement, Graduates Seeking Career as Animal Welfare Professionals.

Ideally, I would make it compulsory for all schools – if we want a better India.

The Programme Coordinator, Prof. PVK Sasidhar, School of Extension and Development Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi (e-mail: pvksasidhar@ignou.ac.in), has great credentials himself. He has been in the Agricultural Research Service of ICAR (2003-09), a Norman Borlaug Fellow of USDA, Tuskegee University, USA (2008), USAID Fellow, Michigan State University, USA (2015), and an OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Evaluator, OIE (2018).

If you want to join this, now is the time. Also, if you have suggestions to make it better, write to the Professor. I would recommend it for activists in Sri Lanka and Nepal as well, as the issues are the same.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

WISDOM CORNER

- “Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster.”

SUN TZU
- “Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.”

LAO TZU
- “If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.”

CONFUCIUS

WORDSWORTH

Misanthrope

A misanthrope dislikes the human race and avoids human society as far as possible. He – most people called misanthropes are male – isn't an easy person to get along with, and he would greatly prefer you didn't try. Misanthrope is from the classical Greek misanthropos. It shares with misogyny and a few other words a beginning from misein, to hate. The second part is from anthropos, a human being, which we also have in words such as anthropology. From the same source, philanthropy is the opposite of misanthropy, literally a love of mankind that expresses itself in active efforts to help other people. History and fiction record many misanthropes. The best-known fictional one is Alceste, in Molière's comedy Le Misanthrope of 1666, which helped to popularise the word.



Brahma Chellaney

BY FORCING THE AMERICANS TO LEAVE AND SEIZING KABUL, THE TALIBAN WOULD INSPIRE JIHADIST GROUPS ELSEWHERE TO ESCALATE THEIR TERROR CAMPAIGNS



Maneka Gandhi

The PGDAW programme is meant for animal welfare volunteers and professionals across India, and for graduates / post-graduates interested in studying animal welfare.

SPECTRUM HEALTH

Follow nature's diktat to stay hale & hearty

Unless we exercise discretion, there shall be little to keep us safe, hale and hearty. Polluted environment, unhygienic ambience at work, living or moving places, poor knowledge of basics of health and diseases, sedentary lifestyle, inappropriate food stuff, severe dearth of medical specialists, costly treatment, avoidable referrals, unwarranted diagnostics and procedures, hospitals & dispensaries without doctor, can render us vulnerable to a plethora of diseases. This is besides unimagined onset and lingering threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite all such odds one can stay hale & hearty through basic knowledge and awareness about health and body functions.

Your response to health issues likerushing to a doctor or a health facility or getting vaccinated for Covid-19, if 45 plus, is a reflection of your health awareness, which is abysmally low in our country. Professional integrity is certainly a moot issue but ignorance about basic health issues is rampant at ground level. Many don't distinguish between BAMS or any non-descript degree and MBBS. My medico friend practicing in countryside tells that his patients report ineffectiveness of same medicine when the company changes

the colour of capsule or its packing.

Admittedly we cannot ignore our health to live meaningfully. “When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot become manifest, strength cannot be exerted, wealth is useless, and reason is powerless,” said the Greek physician Herophilos. Nature provides best options to keep living beings in shape, apropos of dogs and other animals eating specific shrubs when sick. When we take too much of something, the body resists. Listening to one's body is vital for good health. Interestingly, any living entity is endowed with systemic capability to heal itself when in disorder thus minimising the need for professional consultation. Baba Ramdev's highly knowledgeable associate Rajiv Dixit often asserted that cure for all our maladies lies in shrubs & plants naturally grown in our vicinity of which village folks have had good understanding. Early Swiss doctor Paracelsus also wrote, “All that man needs for health and healing has been provided in nature, the challenge of science is to find it.”

The other day, when I consulted a doctor for a mild bruise by a cat at my leg without an iota of bleeding, he said: “If you ask me, I shall advise taking full anti-rabies course, a must for dog, cat or monkey bite.”

We all are witness to cases of a medically insured person heading to hospital with complaint of diarrhoea where the attending doctor persuades not to take risk, and be admitted. Corporate hospitals charge around Rs 40,000 for this gimmick. Ditto with avoidable caesarians that fetch Rs 50-80 thousand, something the new generation does not mind due to ignorance. The chargeable amount depends on the perceived status of client and salesmanship of doctor, an art they have honed up. The medicos working in best interest of patient (and not employer) may be sacked; indeed some quit the workplace. ‘Voices of Conscience from the Medical Profession’ authored by medical veterans Dr. Arun Gadre & Abhay Shukla released in 2016 brings to fore several such malpractices in vogue. No wonder, street doctors earn more from diagnostic referrals and property dealing than from consultation. Sterling medical professionals suggest that human organs and processes should be minimally invaded, and discourage cosmetic surgeries, caesarian deliveries, etc. unless in exceptional cases.

Neglect of mental and emotional make-up and physical movement is impinging on public health. The spiritual and mental aspects of

ganising ideological movement that unites diverse jihadist groups, without the need to coordinate action. The Taliban militia may not have a global mission, but it is a critical link in an international jihadist movement that whips hostility toward non-Sunni Muslims into violent rage against modernity.

By forcing the Americans to leave and seizing Kabul, the Taliban would inspire jihadist groups elsewhere to escalate their terror campaigns. The perception that jihadists vanquished the world's most powerful military would nurture the belief that American power is in irreversible decline. Simply put, the Taliban wielding absolute power in Afghanistan would pose a greater jihadist threat to the free world than any other group, including al-Qaeda or ISIS remnants.

To avoid this outcome, the US must keep residual forces in Afghanistan to continue providing reassurance and air support to Afghan forces, as well as logistics aid to about 7,000 NATO and allied troops. The US now has just 2,500 troops in the country, compared to some 100,000 at the height of the war. America's financial costs and casualties have fallen dramatically since its combat role ended, with no US fatality in the past 14 months.

Biden must choose between a complete US withdrawal, which could well unleash chaos and undermine the Afghan state, and maintaining a small residual force to avert civil war and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a terrorist hub. The first option, far from offering America a face-saving exit from a 20-year war, would make it an accomplice of the Taliban, whose control of Afghanistan would cause lasting damage to the interests of the US and its friends.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

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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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

GST collections

Sir, We all feel good to hear that the March GST collection has touched an all-time high of Rs1.23 lakh crore. This raises the question of whether there is any relief for small-scale retailers and businesses who are still struggling to recover despite a year having passed without any relief from the government. No rent relief in lockdown, no relief on bank loan interest for small scale retailers and businesses. Small scale retailers may not be happy to hear this.

Rajesh Sahoo, DHENKANAL

An actor & a man

Sir, One actor who richly deserves every honour and acclaim is Rajinikanth. The Tamil superstar is a phenomenon. His rise from humble beginnings, as Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, to the very top as Rajinikanth, is the stuff legends are made of. From a bus conductor to the darling of fans, Rajini has seen it all. Perhaps, this transformation has aided him in his life and career. Surprisingly, Rajini's persona was considered not favourable for a matinee idol's role, but the man cast a spell on the audience with his captivating style so much so that he grew into a huge brand. Hard work and foot firmly on the ground, the demigod of Tamilians achieved everything an actor could aspire for. That all the fame and fortune did not get to his head, an inspirational quality, was what centered his place in people's hearts. Along with Akkineni Nageshwar Rao, Dr Rajkumar, MG Ramachandran, NT Rama Rao, Rajini put south India on the map of all-India cinema. Though a section of the society was disappointed when he said a final 'no' to politics, Rajini's die-hard fans were obviously elated because they would have more of him as an actor.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

A role model

Sir, Rebecca Welch - the highest-ranked female referee in English football - should be hugely congratulated for becoming the first female referee to take charge of an English Football League match, creating history. She recently officiated the Easter Monday's game between Harrogate Town and Port Vale in League Two. Undoubtedly, by achieving this amazing feat, she has become a role model for many and would surely encourage several of them to follow in her footsteps.

Sourish Misra, KOLKATA

DELHI
RIOTS

Trial court to send unredacted statements

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi High Court Wednesday directed a trial court to place before it the unredacted statements of protected witnesses in a sealed cover. This direction came regarding a case related to larger conspiracy in the northeast Delhi riots last year in which Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha is facing prosecution.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani said the statements be placed before April 14, the next date of hearing.

“The trial court is directed to forward the original unredacted statements of protected witnesses in a sealed cover to this court on or before the next date of hearing, that is, April 14,” the bench said.

With this direction, it allowed and disposed of an application by Delhi Police seeking to call for unredacted statements of protected witnesses in a sealed cover from the trial court. Names and personal details of protected witnesses are redacted in their statements.

The high court, which had on March 18 reserved its order on Tanha's plea seeking bail in the case, had asked the police to file written submissions, unredacted copies of witnesses' statements and other relevant documents.

When the court asked how it was



Asif Iqbal Tanha was arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case in May last year for allegedly being part of a “premeditated conspiracy” in the riots

The trial court, in its order of October 26 had said that since there were reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against Tanha were prima facie true, the embargo created by Section 43D of UAPA applied for grant of bail to the accused and the bail application was dismissed

possible that the prosecution did not have copies of statements of its witnesses, Special Public Prosecutor Rajat Nair, representing the police, said these were protected witnesses and the unredacted copies are with the trial court only.

He said when the investigating officer (IO) had applied for protection of witnesses, the statements were signed and sealed by the trial court judge and redacted copies

were given to the IO.

Tanha was arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case in May last year for allegedly being part of a “premeditated conspiracy” in the riots.

Tanha has challenged a trial court's October 26, 2020 order by which his bail application was dismissed on the ground that he allegedly played an active role in the

entire conspiracy and that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the allegations against him were prima facie true.

In the high court, the bail plea was opposed by Delhi Police on the contention that the riots were premeditated and a conspiracy was hatched, of which Tanha was a part. The counsel for police had said the accused should not be granted bail as there were statements of protected witnesses in the case which clearly showed the alleged role of Tanha in the conspiracy.

Tanha's counsel had submitted that they had challenged the refusal to grant him bail and added that the accused should be granted the relief as he had been in custody since May 2020 and even the charge sheet had been filed.

Under section 43 D of UAPA, an accused should not be released on bail or on his own bond if the court was of the opinion that the accusation against such person was prima facie true.

Tanha's counsel had claimed before the trial court that he was not present in Delhi during the riots and did not visit any of the protest sites where rioting and violence occurred.

The counsel had further contended that there was no physical evidence connecting Tanha to the riots and the allegations with respect to any funds being received by him for terrorist activities.

Night curfew imposed in Delhi to curb parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Wednesday said that night curfew was imposed in the national capital following reports that parties and social gatherings were being organised in spite of rising Covid-19 cases.

Interacting with reporters, he also feared that if the positivity rate escalated and safety norms were not followed by people, the new cases could breach the last single-day spike record registered in November last year.

However, he added that it will be too early to speculate on that as of now, and government efforts are to contain the incidences as effectively as possible.

Jain's remarks on the pandemic situation came a day after the Delhi government imposed a night curfew in the national capital from 10 pm to 5 am till April 30 in view of rising Covid-19 cases.

According to the Delhi health department, the city had recorded 5,100 fresh cases on Tuesday, while 17 more people fell prey to the infection taking the death toll to 11,113.

Over 1 lakh tests were conducted Monday, and the positivity rate Tuesday stood at 4.93 per cent.



A worker walks past closed shops at Connaught Place during night curfew, imposed by Delhi government to curb COVID-19 spread

PTI PHOTO

“We took the decision to impose a night curfew in the city, as reports were coming about parties and gatherings being held in various parts of the city. Given the situation right now, one person can infect everyone else in a gathering. So we took the step,” Jain said.

However, it is “not a harsh step” and there are various categories of exemption, he said, adding that restaurants in the city usually operate till 11 pm, so in view of public safety they have to close only one hour early.

Asked about the efficacy of night curfew in curbing cases, he said, “Let's wait and watch.”

On e-passes procurement issues faced by people, the minister said,

it is a “teething problem” and should be sorted soon.

He reiterated his demand that vaccination should be made open to all adults, except those who are not medically compliant with the norms for inoculation against Covid-19.

On the issue of rising cases in the city, he said, “About 2,000 beds have been escalated in the last few days at various hospitals, and another 2,000-2,500 beds will be added in the next couple of days.”

Over 84,000 people were vaccinated in Delhi on Tuesday till 10 pm, out of which 21,388 got the shots at private hospitals and 62,825 received the jabs at government hospitals, Jain said.

TOILING FOR TASTE



Workers carrying baskets pluck tea leaves Wednesday, at Amguri in Sivasagar district, Assam

PTI PHOTO

IIT-G brings advanced tech for lithium ion battery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, April 7: Researchers of IIT-Guwahati have developed an advanced technique to boost the overall performance of rechargeable lithium ion batteries used in electric vehicles, the premier engineering technology institute said Wednesday.

The technique can precisely estimate the state of charge (SOC), which reflects the remaining capacity of the battery. This helps in knowing how much more charge can be withdrawn before the battery gets fully discharged, a release issued by the institute said.

The knowledge of the remaining capacity helps optimize the battery's capacity utilisation, prevents overcharging and undercharging of the battery, increases its lifespan, reduces cost and ensures the safety of



■ In recent years, lithium ion batteries have been widely recognised in various applications due to their low carbon emission, high energy density, low self-discharge rate and low maintenance cost

■ The proposed technique shows highly robust characteristics and works accurately even in the presence of various external disturbances such as sensor inaccuracy and temperature variation

■ These batteries have been widely used in various important applications such as cell phones and laptops, electric vehicles and in renewable energy sources integrated smart grids and microgrids

the battery and its surroundings.

The research team comprises of research scholar Gautam Sethia, associate professor Sisir Kumar Nayak and professor Somanath Majhi from the department of electronics and electrical engineering, IIT Guwahati.

SOC cannot be directly measured by any sensor and can only be inferred by using the available measured quantities such as battery terminal voltage and current, said

the release.

As the highly non-linear characteristic of the lithium ion battery makes it difficult to estimate the SOC accurately, a well-developed estimation algorithm is crucial in ensuring precise, reliable, and cost-effective SOC estimation.

The research findings were recently published in ‘IEEE Transactions on Circuit and System I: Regular Papers’, a highly reputed international scientific journal.

It not only increases accuracy but also reduces the computational time and hence needs a cost effective microcontroller chip for its implementation and commercialisation, another researcher said.

“The research team is currently working on other important battery issues such as cell balancing, monitoring the state of health, state of power and other things,” the IIT Guwahati release said.

NOTICE

I Birendra Panda, aged about 44 years, S/o Khirodra Panda, R/o-Sarsara, P.O-Sarsara, P.S./Tah/Dist-Bargarh declared that, I have purchased an area of Ac.0.05 dec. through Regd. Sale deed vide No. 10151501366 dt. 20.07.2015 from Geetanjali Panda, W/o-Mahendra Kumar Panda of Mouza- Bargarh, P.S./Tah/Dist- Bargarh (Odisha). That, it's previous original link R.S.D. vide No. 390 dt. 20.02.2007 has been misplaced somewhere. Further I declared that I have never mortgaged the above R.S.D. in any Bank or Financial Institutions. Now I am applying for a loan from the Canara Bank, Bargarh Branch, P.S./Tah/Dist-Bargarh by mortgaging the same. If anybody has any objection may kindly draw notice before Canara Bank, Bargarh Branch within 30 days of publication of this notice. Later on no Objection or Claim will not acceptable in any circumstances.

Birendra Panda,
S/o- Khirodra Panda,
R/o- Sarsara, P.O- Sarsara, P.S/
Tah/Dist- Bargarh

M.V.C. NO. 218/2004

IN THE COURT OF
ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND
SESSION JUDGE AT GADAG

Petitioner: Pandurang
S/o Basavantappa Sonar
V/S

Respondents: 1) Smt. Harajeet Kaur,
W/o Haracharan Sing
Age: Major, Occ: Business
R/o. Haripur Chouk, New Colony
Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha

NOTICE U/O V RULE 20 CPC

Whereas the above named petitioner has made application to the court that 'compensation for damaged caused in motor vehicle accident'.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 23rd day of April 2021 at 10.30 A.M. in the forenoon to show cause against the application, failing which the said application will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 5th day of April 2021.
Gadag.

Date: 05.04.2021

By Order of the Court
Sd./- Chief Administrative Officer
PRL District & Sessions Court, Gadag
Sd./- (C.R. Vadakannavar)
Advocate for Petitioner

1st wildlife census in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary in July



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The Delhi forest department will conduct the first-ever wildlife census in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the national capital this year. One of its “focal points will be leopards”, according to officials.

The census is scheduled to

start in July and will take at least three months to complete. “It is one of the priorities for the department this year. We will try and make it a regular affair. Yearly censuses will help ascertain changes in wildlife in the area,” Deputy Conservator of Forests (South Division), Amit Anand told the media.

The wildlife sanctuary covers 32.71 sqkm area on the southern Delhi ridge of Aravalli hill range on the Delhi-Haryana border.

“Sometimes, jackal sightings are restricted to a particular area. It could be due to

some physical barrier or disturbance. Scientific interventions will be made to resolve such issues and to improve wildlife habitat with the help of census data,” he said. The official said leopards will be one of the focal points of the census, but other species and birds are equally important.

Sohail Madan of the Bombay Natural History Society said several leopard sightings have been recorded in the sanctuary by their staff and forest officials over the last two years.

Anand said there is sufficient manpower available to take up the counting. Besides, the department will involve volunteers from schools and colleges. The sanctuary will be divided into grids and teams will be formed, one for every grid, he said.

The department will rope in Bombay Natural History Society and Wildlife Institute of India for training of manpower, he said.

DSPL-02

ATTENTION

Online Payment for
Registration of Ultrasound Centre

As per RBI circular dated 15th January 2020 :

“Existing cards which have never been used for online (Card not present) /International /Contactless transactions shall be mandatorily disabled for this purpose”.

Therefore, the following payment modalities may be used to make online payment for seeking registration under PC&PNDT-

1. Challan in favour of the District Appropriate Authority
2. Net Banking
3. UPI-BHIM etc.
4. Debit Card / Credit Card approved by Bank for Online Payment.

This is for information of all concerned.

Sd/-
Director of Family Welfare, Odisha

Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

Quality healthcare is a fundamental right of every human, like water and shelter. We are working in line with this vision to develop basic infrastructure in the health sector

K SUDHAKAR | HEALTH MIN, KARNATAKA

Whatever assistance the Centre provided to Bengal, from funds to ration supplies, was swindled by TMC leaders. After the BJP comes to power in the state, each paisa will be recovered and spent on development works

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

We thought EC would learn from its mistakes, but we were wrong. It proves that EC functions as per the instructions of the BJP. It is not neutral

RIPUN BORA | ASSAM CONGRESS PREZ

SHORT TAKES

Local journalist kidnapped, killed

Pune: A 49-year-old journalist of a local weekly was allegedly kidnapped and killed in Rahuri town of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, police said Wednesday. Rohidas Dattar was allegedly abducted from the College Road area where he was travelling on his two-wheeler Tuesday afternoon and his body bearing multiple injury marks was found in the same locality late at night, sub-inspector Ganesh Shelke of Rahuri police station said. The victim used to run a weekly in Rahuri and was also an RTI activist, the official said.

Illegal arms factory busted

Balrampur: An illegal arms factory was busted and two wanted criminals were arrested in this Uttar Pradesh district Wednesday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the illegal arms factory in the Utrala area here and arrested Wasim and Chhutkai, they added. A .32-calibre revolver, five countrymade pistols and several semi-prepared weapons, machines and equipment were seized from the site, Superintendent of Police Hemant Kutiyal said. Wasim has 11 criminal cases pending against him while Chhutkai was wanted in nine cases, he added.

Youth League worker killed

Kannur: A 22-year-old Youth League activist, who was seriously injured in a post-poll clash between workers of the CPI(M) and the IUML in Koothuparamba constituency, died in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. The clash broke out in Paral area around 8 pm Tuesday over allegations of bogus voting, they said. The Youth League worker, Mansur, had suffered injuries to his leg and was rushed to a private hospital in Kozhikode. He succumbed to the injuries, police said.

Man burns self

Bareilly: A 22-year-old married man died in a village here Wednesday, two days after he allegedly set fire on himself outside the house of a woman he was in love with, police said. The deceased, Akash, allegedly self-immolated after dousing himself with kerosene in Jokhanpur village of Baheri tehsil on Monday, they said. He took the extreme step after the woman refused to meet him, the police said, adding that she was staying at a relative's place.



“Didi recently asked all Muslims to vote en bloc for her. It shows that the Muslim vote bank is slipping out of her hands. Had we said the same thing that all Hindus should unite, everybody would have criticised us. We would have been censured

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

EC NOTICE TO MAMATA

The Election Commission issued a notice to West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee Wednesday for allegedly making an appeal to voters along communal lines during campaigning in Hooghly. She has been asked to respond to the notice within the next 48 hours



ISI TERROR MODULE BUSTED; 3 ARRESTED



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, April 7: The Ahmedabad crime branch Wednesday arrested three persons for allegedly setting ablaze seven shops here as part of a larger conspiracy of Pakistan's spy agency ISI to spread terror by luring unsuspecting petty criminals in need of money, officials said.

They have been booked under IPC sections for waging war against the government and provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), they said.

An unidentified ISI agent, without revealing his true identity or motive, had allegedly lured the three men to set the shops on fire here in Gujarat as part of the ISI's plans to spread terror, jeopardise internal security and cause economic losses to India, the police said.

Those arrested have been identified as Bhupendra Vanzara, Anil Khatik and Ankit Pal, they said. Pal was admitted to hospital under police protection as he had tested positive for coronavirus.

As directed by the ISI handler, who used to identify himself as Baba Bhai and has several Facebook profiles with similar names, the three accused set ablaze seven cloth shops in Kalupur area here on the night of March 20, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Premvir Singh told reporters.

“After the incident, we received intelligence inputs that the shops were deliberately set on fire by some men at the behest of the ISI. Following a detailed probe into the matter, we nabbed the three men,” he said.

“The three accused received Rs 1.5 lakh from the ISI agent via Dubai-Mumbai ‘angadia’ (courier) route for setting the shops on fire,” he said.

13-fold jump in cases in 2 months

OMINOUSLY, THE DAILY INCREASE HAS TOPPED 100,000 TWICE THIS WEEK. THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY TO POST SUCH NUMBERS HAS BEEN THE UNITED STATES

REUTERS

New Delhi, April 7: India's second wave of coronavirus infections continued to swell as it reported a record 115,736 new cases Wednesday, a 13-fold increase in just over two months and raising pressure on the government to expand its vaccination campaign.

The federal government has asked states to decide on local curbs to control the spread of the virus, but has so far refused to impose any national lockdown after the last one in 2020 devastated its economy and left millions of people penniless. The total number of cases since the first recorded infection in India just over a year ago now stands at 12.8 million, making it the third worst hit country after the United States and Brazil.

Deaths rose by 630 - the most in four days - to 166,177, according to data from the health ministry.

Ominously, the daily increase has topped 100,000 twice this week. The only other country to post such



numbers has been the United States.

Daily infections in India have also passed the peak of the epidemic's first wave, seen in

September. The country had reported a multi-month low of 8,635 cases in early February.

And as the second wave gath-

India administering vax at fastest rate

NEW DELHI: India has surpassed the US to become the fastest COVID-19 vaccinating country in the world with an average daily rate of 30,93,861 vaccine doses, the Union Health Ministry said Wednesday. The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 8.70 crore. Cumulatively, 8,70,77,474 vaccine doses have been administered through 13,32,130 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 am. These include 89,63,724 health care workers (HCWs) who have taken the 1st dose and 53,94,913 HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, 97,36,629 frontline workers (FLWs) who have received the 1st dose, 43,12,826 FLWs who have taken the 2nd dose. Besides, 3,53,75,953 and 10,00,787 beneficiaries more than 60 years old have been administered the 1st and 2nd dose respectively while 2,18,60,709 and 4,31,933 beneficiaries aged 45 to 60 were given the 1st and 2nd dose respectively. More than 33 lakh vaccination doses were administered in the last 24 hours. As on Day-81 of the vaccination drive (6th April), 33,37,601 vaccine doses were given. Out of which, 30,08,087 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 41,396 sessions for 1st dose and 3,29,514 beneficiaries received 2nd dose of vaccine.

ered momentum, authorities in many states including hardest hit Maharashtra have ordered new local restrictions to contain the virus, some of whose variants have become more infectious.

“The pandemic isn't over and there is no scope for complacency,” Health Minister Harsh Vardhan

said on Twitter, urging people to get “vaccinated on your turn and follow COVID-appropriate behaviour scrupulously!” But many states have criticised the federal government as India, the world's biggest vaccine maker, has restricted its immunisation drive to front-line workers and people aged over 45 years.

ELECTION SCENES



Kani tribals from the Puravimala settlement colony show their voters ID cards, after casting their votes for the Kerala Assembly Polls in Thiruvananthapuram

PTI PHOTO

PAK INTRUDER GUNNED DOWN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, April 7: A Pakistani intruder was neutralised by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Punjab Police in a joint operation along the International Border in the Amritsar sector Wednesday, the police said. Twenty-two packets of heroin and two AK-47 along with ammunition were seized.

“One Pakistani neutralised in @AmritsarPolice & @BSF India joint operation. 22 packets of heroin, 2 AK-47 with 4 magazines, 45 live cartridges, Pakistani currency and more...recovered from a Pak smuggler,” the police informed in a tweet. The intruder could not be identified as no proof of identity was recovered, a police official told IANS.

The intruder kept moving towards the border fence and did not stop despite warnings, the official said. A piece of plastic pipe, one mobile phone and 210 Pakistani currency was recovered from the possession of the Pakistani drug smuggler, he added.

Family of abducted jawan stage protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, April 7: Relatives of a CoBRA commando held hostage by Naxals after a recent gun battle with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district blocked the Jammu-Poonch highway Wednesday, demanding an assurance from the government for his safe release.

He is the responsibility of the government, which should take immediate action to ensure his safe return to us. We want the government to inform us about the action it is taking for his release, Meenu, wife of abducted jawan Rakeshwar Singh Minhas, said in a fervent appeal from the protest site.

Thirty-one jawans were injured while CoBRA commando Minhas, belonging to its 210th battalion, went missing after the gunfight that took place along the Bijapur-Sukma border on Saturday and was stated to have been taken hostage.

Twenty-two personnel from various security forces like the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) of the Central Reserve Police Force, its Bastariya battalion and those from the District Reserve Guard and STF of the Chattisgarh Police were killed in the ambush.

In Jammu, dozens of relatives and neighbours of Minhas took to the streets and blocked the main road outside his Burnai residence Wednesday, raising slogans of Bring

JAWAN'S PHOTO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BIJAPUR: A photograph of Rakeshwar Singh Manhas sitting in a hut is purportedly released by Naxals who abducted the CoBRA commando after the fierce gun battle in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh April 3 in which 22 security personnel lost their lives. In this photograph, which is being circulated on social media, Manhas, a commando with the 210th CoBRA battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is seen sitting in a hut alone without any Naxal in the frame. When asked about this photograph, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P told PTI Wednesday, We are closely monitoring the situation. All best possible efforts are being made to secure the safe return of the jawan.

back our hero, Long live India and Shoot the traitors of the nation.

Officials said a police party was at the scene trying to persuade them to allow normal movement of traffic, which had to be diverted to another route.

A purported statement released by the Maoists Tuesday claimed that they have abducted a jawan during the gun battle in Bijapur and sought nomination of some mediators for his release.

Asked about the statement, Meenu questioned the central government's silence on the issue.



Abducted jawan's family on protest



Abducted jawan

Covid costs changed India's attitude towards health insurance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Rising health-care costs in general and reports of astronomical Covid-19 treatment costs at private hospitals have changed India's attitude towards health insurance.

As per a survey by Policybazaar, most consumers are purchasing health plans with a bigger cover, showcasing an uptick in demand for higher sum insured health policies (more than Rs 25 lakh cover) by 40 per cent over the last financial year.

Coming to Rs 1 crore health covers, the findings suggest the share of these plans bought by consumers has now grown to 35 per cent. People

in the age-group of 31-40 year hold the highest share in buying Rs 1 crore health plans i.e. 19 per cent, followed by the age bracket of 18-25 years i.e. 18 per cent.

Another trend is the preference of EMI by customers for purchasing Health Insurance policies. This was earlier almost non-existent and has now become the preferred payment option for 40 per cent customers. The IRDAI has done a commendable job in ensuring EMI based options are available to customers from all Insurers. Focusing on the claims filed, our survey findings revealed that in April'20, of the total claims reported, only 4 per cent were Covid-19 related claims.



However, as the pandemic peaked in the month of September, the proportion of Covid-19 related claims

increased to approximately 40 per cent of the total claims. The number of claims steadily increased

from 8 per cent in May to 23 per cent in July and to 34 per cent in August. The overall trends depict how health insurance in FY20-21 was amongst the most sought-after investment instruments leapfrogging all other insurance categories.

Another very encouraging step by the regulator was the launch of Corona specific products (Kavach and Rakshak), both of which saw significant volumes as an affordable protection against Covid-19. Now that affordability concerns are subsiding, there is an increasing trend of more and more customers migrating to comprehensive health insurance plans. Corona plans have been instrumental in increasing aware-

ness of insurance overall.

Commenting on the study findings Amit Chhabra, Head Health Insurance, Policybazaar.com said, "The pandemic has acted as a catalyst for increased awareness of health insurance. People have realized its importance for unforeseen health-related situations and are now investing more in high sum insured plans for advanced treatments."

Highlighting yet another prominent trend, the survey depicted that the share of policyholders porting their existing health policies with lower sum insured, i.e., 5 - 10 lakh to plans with higher sum insured (more than 25 lakh) has increased by a significant margin.

Now, the BJP and RSS have adopted Gandhi ji, they have adopted Sardar Patel and are adopting everybody. Time will come when they will adopt Pandit Nehru

ASHOK GEHLOT | CM, RAJASTHAN

During the interaction with people, some of them raised concerns about the price and availability of Remdesivir injections. I directed the officials to procure this injection at the government-level to deal with its shortage, so that the poor and middle-class people can be provided the injection free of cost

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | CM, MADHYA PRADESH

The COVID-19 vaccines being made in India are being shared with over 80 countries through our vaccine maitri initiative, a key step towards addressing inequities in vaccine distribution across the world

HARSH YARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MIN

SHORT TAKES

Body of missing woman exhumed

Shimla: The body of a 22-year-old woman missing for the last four days was exhumed in a village in Himachal Pradesh's Una district Wednesday, police said. A man has been arrested for allegedly burying the woman after killing her, they said. The situation became tense in the Jadla Kohri village under the Gagret sub-division after recovery of the body as the villagers demanded handing over the accused to them. Una Superintendent of Police Arit Sen Thakur, who also visited the spot, told PTI that the woman had been missing since April 3 and the matter was reported at Gagret police station the next day.

Woman, daughter charred to death

Jammu: A woman and her daughter were charred to death in a fire at their residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. Posh Devi (50) and Neetu Bala (25) were trapped inside their kutcha house in Manzgam-Tagood village in Chhatroo area when the fire broke out around 1 am, a police official said. The house was completely gutted, he said, adding that the two women were sleeping and could not escape along with other family members, who made frantic efforts to save them. Their charred bodies were recovered by rescue teams comprising police, fire and emergency services personnel, the official said, adding that the cause of fire was accidental.

Police constable found dead

Jaipur: The body of a 44-year-old police constable bearing burn injuries in the face was found in his car in the city's Banipark area, officials said Wednesday. Constable Chandrapal Chaudhary was stationed at the Jaipur Police Line and lived in a government quarter allotted to him, Station House Officer of Banipark police station Naresh Kumar said. The body was found Tuesday night, he said, adding there was no suicide note in the possession of the deceased. The exact [cause of death will be known after an autopsy, the officer said.



It's ridiculous to debate needs and wants. Every Indian deserves the chance to a safe life
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Vaze opens Pandora's box for MVA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, April 7: Arrested Mumbai Police crime branch officer Sachin Vaze has opened up a Pandora's Box for the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, accusing former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Transport Minister Anil Parab and others of pressuring him to extort money from the contractors of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and illegal tobacco factories and bars in the city.

In a handwritten letter dated April 3, a copy of which has been viewed by IANS, Vaze has claimed that NCP chief Sharad Pawar was against his reinstatement into Mumbai Police in 2020 and wanted it to be revoked. However, senior officials of the NIA remained tightlipped on the authenticity of Vaze's letter.

In the letter, Vaze said that Deshmukh had told him that if he paid Rs 2 crore to him, "he would convince Pawar to allow him back into the force".

"I had expressed my inability to pay such an amount. On this, the home minister asked me to pay it in a later course," Vaze wrote.

Vaze further claimed that Deshmukh had called him to the Sahyadri Guest House in October 2020 and asked him to collect Rs 3-3.5 lakh each from 1,650 bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

"I refused by saying that it was not within the scope of my capability," Vaze claimed in his letter, adding that as far he knew, there were only 200 bars in Mumbai and not 1,650, as anticipated by Deshmukh. Vaze also alleged that soon after he came out of the meeting with Deshmukh, his PA Kundan



had advised him that he must comply with the instructions of the minister if he wished to keep his job and post intact.

Vaze also said that Deshmukh made the same demand again in January 2021, when the two met at the former minister's official bungalow. Vaze in his letter also claimed that Maharashtra Transport Minister and Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab had asked him to extort money from him.

"In July-August 2020, I was called by Minister Anil Parab at his official bungalow... At the meeting, Parab asked me to look into the complaint under preliminary inquiry and bring the trustees of the SBUT to him for negotiations about the inquiry. He also insisted to initiate primary talks to get Rs 50 crore from SBUT in order to close the said inquiry. I had expressed my inability to do any such thing as I do not know anybody from SBUT and also I did not have any control over the inquiry," Vaze told NIA in his letter.

Vaze further claimed that Parab called him again in January 2021 and asked him to look into an in-

CBI to quiz Singh, Vaze

New Delhi: The CBI will question former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and suspended police officer Sachin Vaze in connection with its preliminary enquiry into alleged corruption by former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, officials said. The agency had Tuesday registered a preliminary enquiry into allegations of bribery against Deshmukh on the orders of the Bombay High Court, they said. A team of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers from Delhi have gone to Mumbai to carry out probe into the matter, they said. Vaze was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the case related to the recovery of an SUV with explosives near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house March 25 and subsequent murder of its owner Mansukh Hiran.

quiry against some contractors listed in the BMC and collect Rs 2 crore each from them.

Govt issues Tribunals Reforms Ordinance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: The government has issued an ordinance which does away with certain appellate tribunals, including the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) set up to hear appeals of filmmakers, and transfers their functions to other existing judicial bodies.

The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, was notified Sunday. It has made amendments to the Cinematograph Act, Copyright Act, Customs Act, Patents Act, Airports Authority of India Act, Trade Marks Act, Geographical Indications of Goods (registration and protection) Act, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, Control of National Highways (land and traffic) Act, and Finance Act.

In the Cinematograph Act, the appellate body will now be the high court.

The FCAT was a statutory body constituted to hear appeals of film-

makers aggrieved by Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

In February, the government introduced a bill to abolish some tribunals where the public at large is not litigant.

The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur.

With a view to streamline tribunals, the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 is proposed to be enacted to abolish certain tribunals and authorities and to provide a mechanism for filing appeal directly to the commercial court or the High Court, as the case may be, the statement of objects and reason of the bill had said.

Since the bill could not get parliamentary nod, an ordinance was issued.

The Government of India began the process of rationalisation of tribunals in 2015. By the Finance Act, 2017, seven tribunals were abolished or merged based on functional similarity and their total number was reduced to 19 from 26.



RICHES FROM RAGS



Ragpickers search for reusable items from a heap of garbage, at Sevapura dumping yard in Jaipur, Wednesday

Mukhtar brought to Banda jail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Banda (Uttar Pradesh), April 7: After an arduous journey of more than 14 and a half hours, mafia don and BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari was brought to Banda jail Wednesday morning.

The convoy bringing Mukhtar reached Banda around 4.30 am and the ambulance carrying the don and three vehicles with senior police officials entered the jail premises.

Vehicles belong to media houses

that had been tailing the convoy were stopped at a distance from the jail.

The high voltage drama in bringing Ansari from Ropar in Punjab to Banda in Uttar Pradesh finally ended with the safe shifting of the don to Uttar Pradesh.

Immediately after he was brought to Banda jail, a team of four doctors medically examined him and he was then shifted to the barrack.

Official sources said that the panel of four doctors has been asked to remain on call by the Banda jail.



Earlier, the convoy bringing the don from Punjab was briefly stopped Tuesday evening at Jewar for refueling and then again at Agra, for change of drivers.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath,



changed and how parents can help children to eat healthy food rather than junk food, and how to sharpen

their memories. The PM interacted with students, parents and teachers regarding the

NCOV TUNES DOWN KUMBH

Officials say they do not expect huge turnout of devotees due to the Covid-linked restrictions imposed amid the spike in infections. This year's Kumbh has been curtailed to just one month from April 1 to 30 due to the surge in Covid cases in Uttarakhand



BJP's grand plan: 50 lakh Covid vaccinations daily

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is planning to make vaccination against Covid-19 a grand success story. For this, the party is going to launch a mass campaign like last year when it provided relief packets to millions of distressed people when a nationwide lockdown was imposed to contain the pandemic. The party is targeting 50 lakh vaccinations per day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party President J.P. Nadda asked party leaders to make it a mass movement.

Party's Rajya Sabha member Anil Jain has set up a team to make the campaign a grand success. Jain, a doctor himself, is currently overseeing the vaccination drive in 31 states and Union Territories including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. This mass vaccination campaign will be launched after the present election process in five states gets over.

Jain told IANS that the party is helping general public get the vaccine by setting up help desks at 57,000 locations including 20,000 government vaccine centres.

People are being informed about the Covid-19 vaccines at help desks set up at five to six places in each division. In each state, several teams of conveners, co-conveners have been constituted from district and block level to the state level to oversee the drive.

Jain hopes that everyone will get the first dose of the vaccine at least by the next three months i.e. July. He said currently people above 45 years of age are getting inoculated. Later, all above 18 years of age



with co morbidities will get the vaccine. Then, people above the age of 35 are likely to be vaccinated. In the next phase, all types of people over the age of 18 will be given a chance to get vaccinated. Thus, by July, everyone over the age of 18 is expected to get a jab.

Jain gets the daily report on the progress of vaccination in all states - from state conveners, MPs, MLAs, and volunteers. He holds meetings at regular intervals via video conferencing. So far he has held video meets with teams from 22 states.

The BJP will also carry out vaccination campaigns in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry when the election process is over. The BJP has directed all its MPs and MLAs to urge and motivate the public to come to the vaccination centres. He has also asked the cadres to help remove the fear about the vaccines from the minds of the people.

AstraZeneca sends legal notice to SII

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Adar Poonawalla's Serum Institute of India (SII) has been served a legal notice by AstraZeneca over delays in supplying the Covid vaccine.

Poonawalla has mentioned that the existing production capacity to manufacture Covishield in India is under pressure due to increased demand in India.

Poonawalla has also mentioned as per reports that the Indian government's pause on major Covishield shipments to other countries and the 'first claim' deal with India were difficult to explain abroad, where the vaccine was sold at a higher cost per dose.

In March, AstraZeneca had announced supply to 142 countries underway as part of the unprecedented effort to bring broad and equitable access to the vaccine.

held a late-night meeting with senior officials to monitor the transfer of the accused which was done under full media glare.

The transfer of Ansari to the UP jail, meanwhile, is being touted as a major victory for the Yogi Adityanath government which has embarked on 'Mission Mukhtar' when it began a crackdown in May 2020 against Ansari and his gang.

According to the UP police, Ansari faces 52 cases in the state and elsewhere, and 15 of them are at the trial stage.

upcoming Board exams virtually and shared tips on how to deal with academic stress. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced to conduct Class 10 and 12 Board Exams 2021 from May 4.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is an event where the Prime Minister responds to questions related to examination stress and related areas posed by students in his uniquely engaging style in a live programme.

The first edition of the Prime Minister's interaction programme with school and college students 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 1.0' was held at Talkatora Stadium February 16, 2018.

of the day quote

Around the world, countries are facing a very serious third wave of this pandemic. And right now, so is Canada. This isn't the news any of us wanted, but hospitalizations are surging. ICU beds are filling up



JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PRIME MINISTER, CANADA

These are early days; we don't anticipate any immediate breakthrough. We don't anticipate being in a position to provide any sort of live commentary on these discussions. We know these will be tough talks



NED PRICE | STATE DEPT SPOKESPERSON, US

Improving the people's living standards ... Even in the worst-ever situation in which we have to overcome unprecedentedly numerous challenges depends on the role played by the cells, the grassroots organizations of the party



KIM JONG UN | NORTH KOREAN LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Covid-19 death toll crosses 4k in Brazil

Sao Paulo: Brazil reported a 24-hour tally of COVID-19 deaths exceeding 4,000 for the first time, becoming the third nation to go above that daily threshold. Many governors, mayors and judges are reopening parts of the economy despite lingering chaos in overcrowded hospitals and a collapsed health system in several parts of the country. Brazil's health ministry Tuesday said 4,195 deaths were counted in the previous 24 hours, with the nation's pandemic toll quickly approaching 340,000, the second highest in the world.

126 dead, dozens missing in Indonesia

Lembata: The death toll from mudslides in eastern Indonesia has risen to 126 with dozens still missing, officials said Wednesday, as rain continued to pound the region and hamper the search. East Flores district on Adonara island suffered the highest losses with 67 bodies recovered so far and six missing. Mud tumbled down from surrounding hills early on Sunday, catching people at sleep. Some were swept away by flash floods after overnight rains caused rivers to burst their banks.

Cholera outbreak in Nigeria, 50 dead

Abuja: At least 50 people have been killed in a suspected cholera outbreak this year in Nigeria, local health authorities confirmed. Some eight states across the country had reported the suspected cholera outbreak, Xinhua news agency quoted the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), which is currently monitoring the situation and coordinating the national response, as saying Tuesday.

59 killed in 24 hrs in Afghanistan clashes

Kabul: At least 59 people were killed in insurgent activities and clashes in Afghanistan in the past 24 hours, a local independent war monitoring group said Wednesday. "Within the past 24 hours, our team has documented 59 deaths, including eight civilians, nine Afghan National Defense and Security Forces members, and 42 Taliban militants," Xinhua news agency quoted. The group said that there were also 30 civilians, 38 Taliban militants, and 7 security forces members wounded in the cited period.



India is a major player on a global stage. Decisive action from India now, in partnership with the rest of the world will determine what this transformation will mean for all generations to come

JOHN KERRY | SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE, US

HARRY, MEGHAN'S FIRST NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY

UK's Prince Harry will produce a multi-episode documentary about the Invictus Games for disabled military veterans -- the first series under a lucrative deal he and wife Meghan Markle signed with Netflix



All adults eligible for vax by April 19: Biden

"Let me be deadlly earnest with you: We aren't at the finish line. We still have a lot of work to do. We're still in a life and death race against this virus"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, April 7 : President Joe Biden has announced that he's bumping up his deadline by two weeks for states to make all adults in the US eligible for coronavirus vaccines.

But even as he expressed optimism about the pace of vaccinations, he warned Americans that the nation is not yet out of the woods when it comes to the pandemic.

"Let me be deadlly earnest with you: We aren't at the finish line. We still have a lot of work to do. We're still in a life and death race against this virus," Biden said in remarks at the White House.

The president warned that "new variants of the virus are spreading and they're moving quickly. Cases are going back up, hospitalizations are no longer declining." He added that "the pandemic remains dangerous," and encouraged Americans to continue to wash their hands, socially distance and wear masks.

Biden added that while his administration is on schedule to meet his new goal of distributing 200 million doses of the vaccine during his first 100 days, it will still take time for enough Americans to get vaccinated to slow the spread of the virus.

But he expressed hope on his Tuesday announcement, that every adult will be eligible by April 19 to



sign up and get in a virtual line to be vaccinated, will help expand access and distribution of the vaccine. Some states already had begun moving up their deadlines from the original May 1 goal.

"No more confusing rules. No more confusing restrictions," Biden said.

Biden made the announcement after visiting a COVID-19 vaccination site at Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. During his visit, he thanked everyone for administering the shots and for showing up to receive them.

"That's the way to beat this," Biden said. "Get the vaccination when you can."

The president also said no one should fear mutations of the coronavirus that are showing up in the US after being discovered in other countries. He acknowledged that the new strains are more virulent and more dangerous, but said "the vaccines work on all of them."

Biden also announced that 150 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been shot into arms since his inauguration January 20. That puts the president well on track to meet his new goal of 200 million shots administered by his 100th day in office April 30.

Biden's original goal had been 100 million shots by the end of his first 100 days, but that number was reached in March.

Taiwan rolls up sleeves as China sends more jets

REUTERS

Taipei, April 7 : China sent more fighter jets into Taiwan's air defence zone Wednesday in a stepped up show of force around the island Beijing claims as its own, and Taiwan's foreign minister said it would fight to the end if China attacks.

Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu attends a news conference for foreign journalists in Taipei, Taiwan April 7, 2021.

The democratic self-governed island has complained of repeated military activities by Beijing in recent months, with China's air force making almost daily forays in Taiwan's air defence identification zone. Monday, China said an aircraft carrier group was exercising close to the island.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said 15 Chinese aircraft including 12 fighters entered its air defence identification zone, with an anti-submarine aircraft flying to the south through the Bashi Channel between Taiwan and the Philippines.

Taiwan's air force sent up aircraft to intercept and warn the Chinese away, the ministry added.

Speaking earlier in the day, Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said the United States was concerned about the risk of conflict.

"From my limited understanding of American decision makers watching developments in this region, they clearly see the danger of the possibility of China launching an attack against Taiwan," he told reporters at his ministry.

"We are willing to defend ourselves without any questions and



we will fight the war if we need to fight the war. And if we need to defend ourselves to the very last day we will defend ourselves to the very last day." China's Taiwan Affairs

Office and the U.S. State Department did not respond to requests for comment on Wu's remarks. China has said its activities around Taiwan are aimed at protecting China's sovereignty. The United States has expressed concern about China's movements, and said its commitment to Taiwan is "rock solid".

Adding to the stepped up military action near Taiwan, the U.S. Navy said the guided missile destroyer USS John S. McCain conducted a "routine" transit of the Taiwan Strait Wednesday.

1 of 3 Covid survivors diagnosed with neuro or mental disorders

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, April 7 : One in three people who survived Covid-19 have been diagnosed with anxiety and mood disorders, within six months of infection, according to a large study published in the science journal The Lancet Psychiatry.

For the study, researchers from the University of Oxford in the UK looked at 14 neurological and mental health disorders in 2,36,379 Covid-19 patients mostly from the US.

The findings showed 34 per cent were diagnosed with a neurological or psychiatric condition within six months of infection.

The most common condition was anxiety (17 per cent) and mood disorders (14 per cent).

Neurological diagnoses such as

stroke and dementia were rarer, but people among admitted to intensive care, 7 per cent had a stroke and almost 2 per cent were diagnosed with dementia.

"These are real-world data from a large number of patients. They confirm the high rates of psychiatric diagnoses after Covid-19, and show that serious disorders affecting the nervous system (such as stroke and dementia) occur too. While the latter are much rarer, they are significant, especially in those who had severe Covid-19," said lead author Paul Harrison, Professor at the University of Oxford.

"Although the individual risks for most disorders are small, the effect across the whole population may be substantial for health and social care systems due to the scale



Iran's ship 'Saviz' attacked in Red Sea

REUTERS

Dubai, April 7 : Iran's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday an Iranian ship, the Saviz, had been attacked in the Red Sea, a day after media reports that the vessel had been hit with limpet mines.

"The explosion occurred Tuesday morning near the Djibouti coast and caused minor damage with no casualties. The vessel was a civilian ship stationed there to secure the region against pirates," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

"The issue is under investigation".

It is the latest in a series of reported attacks on Israeli- or Iranian-owned ships since late February, for which the two sides have each accused the other of being responsible.

Israeli officials declined to comment Tuesday's reported attack on the Iranian ship.

When asked by reporters Wednesday for comment on the attack, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz declined. But he added, according to the Maariv news website: "We have offensive systems operating 24/7, 365 days a year and they are ready to go into action in any arena and over any distance."



IN MEMORIAM



A man paints red hearts on the COVID-19 Memorial Wall mourning those who have died, opposite the Houses of Parliament on the Embankment in London, Wednesday.

PTI PHOTO

AstraZeneca's trial on kids halts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, April 7 : A trial of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine on children in the UK has been paused even as the country's medicines regulator probes a possible link of the vaccine with rare blood clots in adults, the media reported.

The trial, which started in February, is evaluating whether the vaccine generates a strong immune response in those aged between 6 and 17.

While the trial has been paused, Professor Andrew Pollard from the University of Oxford ruled out safety concerns with the trial itself, the BBC reported Wednesday.

What the scientists are waiting for is more information, said the report.

"Whilst there are no safety concerns in the paediatric clinical trial, we await additional information from the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) on its review of rare cases of thrombosis/thrombocytopenia

Pak FM talks with Russian counterpart



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, April 7 : Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Wednesday held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov here and the two leaders are expected to focus on strengthening bilateral economic and defence ties and discuss the Afghan peace process.

Pakistan Television footage showed that Lavrov, the first Russian foreign minister to visit Pakistan since 2012, arrived at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was welcomed by Qureshi.

Lavrov planted a sapling in the premises of the ministry and then went inside the building for a joint photo session, followed by the delegation-level talks.

Officials said that the two foreign ministers will hold in-depth discussion on various topics of bilateral interest with the aim to expand the multi-faceted ties.

The issues of Afghan peace will also be prominent in the parleys.

During the visit, the Russian foreign minister will also call on Prime Minister Imran Khan and have interaction with other dig-

nitaries. He is also expected to meet Pakistan Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Qureshi said ahead of Lavrov's arrival that there was a lot of scope for economic cooperation. He said that Russia was playing a role in the Afghan peace process.

He later on tweeted that the Russian Foreign Minister's visit is in line with the commitment of Islamabad and Moscow to further strengthen their bilateral ties and deepening the growing bonds of cooperation and collaboration.

Separately, the Russian Foreign Ministry, in an official statement on Lavrov's visit to Islamabad, said that Pakistan is an important foreign policy partner of Russia and fruitful interaction is maintained at international organisations, primarily in the UN and its specialised agencies.

"The cooperation between Moscow and Islamabad is based on the coincidence or similarity of positions on most of the problems of the world community, including issues of strategic stability and countering terrorism," according to the statement.

MYANMAR PROTESTS

Junta kills 13 protesters; Chinese factory set ablaze

REUTERS

Yangon, April 7 : Myanmar troops fired at anti-coup protesters Wednesday, killing at least 13 people and wounding several, media said, as a series of small blasts hit the commercial capital Yangon and a Chinese-owned factory was set on fire.

The country's military ruler said the civil disobedience movement was "destroying" Myanmar.

More than 580 people have been killed, according to an activist group, in the turmoil in Myanmar since a Feb. 1 coup that ended a brief period of civilian-led democracy. Nationwide protests and strikes have persisted since then despite the military's use of lethal force to quell the opposition.



Security forces opened fire Wednesday on protesters in the northwestern town of Kale as they demanded the restoration of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, domestic media said.

A resident of the area and the Myanmar Now news outlet said 11 people were killed and several wounded.

Two protesters were killed in the town of Bago near Yangon, Myanmar Now said.

The study by University of Oxford in UK showed 34 per cent patients were diagnosed with a neurological or psychiatric condition within six months of infection

of the pandemic and that many of these conditions are chronic. As a result, health care systems need to be resourced to deal with the anticipated need, both within primary and secondary care services," Harrkson said.

The study also found 44 per cent greater risk of neurological and

mental health diagnoses after Covid-19 than after flu, and a 16 per cent greater risk after Covid-19 than with respiratory tract infections.

This shows that Covid-19 does lead to a greater risk of neurological and psychiatric disorders than these other health conditions, the researchers said.

However, there was no clear evidence that Covid-19 led to an increased risk of Parkinson's or and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

"Our results indicate that brain diseases and psychiatric disorders are more common after Covid-19 than after flu or other respiratory infections, even when patients are matched for other risk factors. We now need to see what happens beyond six months," said co-author Max Taquet, from the University of Oxford.

business

of the day quote

One of the main digital habits that has become prominent today is our inclination to shoot long videos and multiple pictures, which exhausts the internal storage in our phones much faster than expected

JAGANATHAN CHELLIAH | DIRECTOR (MARKETING - INDIA), WESTERN DIGITAL

As expected, the RBI has kept the policy rates stable and will likely continue holding the rates steady as there are significant risks to inflation moving up. Intermittent supply-side disruptions and gradual demand revival will keep the pressure on prices

RUMKI MAJUMDAR | ECONOMIST, DELOITTE INDIA

With MEIC we aim to tap the talent to continue to innovate for India and beyond. This partnership with the government of Telangana for the expansion of MEIC will help us serve our mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for patients around the world

GEOFF MARTHA | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, MEDTRONIC

SHORT TAKES

■ Groww enters unicorn club

New Delhi: Investment platform Groww Wednesday said it has raised \$83 million (around ₹615 crore) in a funding round led by Tiger Global at a valuation of \$1 billion. The funding round also saw participation of existing investors: Sequoia India, Ribbit Capital, YC Continuity and Propel Venture Partners. "Groww has raised \$83 million in Series D round at a valuation of more than \$1 billion. Tiger Global led the fundraising with the participation of Groww's existing investors," the company said.

■ Mercedes-Benz sales grows 34%

New Delhi: Luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz Wednesday reported a y-o-y sales growth of 34% in Q1 of 2021. The company sold 3,193 units in the January-March 2021 period, hinting at a strong recovery ahead. It said the healthy performance came on the back of strong sales during January and February which remained at pre-Covid level, and also due to the recovery in March sales.

■ IMF lifts China's GDP to 8.4%

Beijing: The IMF has increased China's GDP projection to 8.4% for this year, a 10-year high, but its chief economist Gita Gopinath cautioned that economic growth in the world's second largest economy was unbalanced and private consumption has not recovered as fast as expected following the coronavirus crisis. The IMF also urged China to address its high corporate debt levels resulting from the easy monetary policy put in place during the coronavirus pandemic.

■ AI-enabled washing machine launched

New Delhi: Samsung has rolled out a new range of AI-enabled and connected washing machine with Hindi and English user interface. Samsung said that this new line-up of fully automatic front load washing machines is part of the company's new vision of Powering Digital India. It comes with Samsung's proprietary EcoBubble and QuickDrive technology that helps save time and power.



The evidence (IMF projecting 12.5% growth rate for India), we were getting in last couple of months keeping in view the normalisation of economic activities

GITA GOPINATH | CHIEF ECONOMIST, IMF

'IT SPENDING TO REACH \$93bn'

IT spending in India is projected to total \$93 billion in 2021, an increase of 7.3% from 2020, according to a forecast by Gartner. The growth in India will be lower than the global average, as worldwide IT spending is projected to total \$4.1 trillion in 2021, an increase of 8.4% from 2020



RBI pegs retail inflation at 4.4-5.2% for this fiscal

The central bank has the mandate to maintain inflation at 4%, with an upper and lower tolerance band of 2% for the next five years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, April 7: The RBI Wednesday projected that retail inflation will be well within control at 4.4-5.2% in the current fiscal and that bumper food grains production will soften cereal prices even though there are "some underlying constituents" testing the upper tolerance level.

Unveiling its first monetary policy review of 2021-22, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left the repo rate unchanged at 4%, keeping in mind the necessity to sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the Covid-19 impact on the economy.

The central bank has the mandate to maintain inflation at 4%, with an



upper and lower tolerance band of 2% for the next five years.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that even as the headline inflation at 5% in February 2021 remains within the tolerance band,

some underlying constituents are testing the upper tolerance level.

The apex bank has projected the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation at 5.2% for the first and second quarters of this fiscal

and then decline to 4.4% in the third quarter. For the fourth quarter - January-March 2022 period - the apex bank has estimated retail inflation to be 5.1%.

Going forward, the food inflation trajectory will critically depend on the temporal and spatial progress of the south-west monsoon in its 2021 season, Das said.

Further, he noted that some respite from the incidence of domestic taxes on petroleum products through coordinated action by the Centre and states could provide relief on top of the recent easing of international crude prices.

Also, Das said that a combination of high international commodity prices and logistics costs may push up input price pressures across

manufacturing and services.

"Taking into consideration all these factors, the projection for CPI inflation has been revised to 5% in Q4:2020-21; 5.2% in Q1:2021-22; 5.2% in Q2; 4.4% in Q3; and 5.1% in Q4, with risks broadly balanced," he said.

Earlier, the central bank projected a retail inflation at 5.2% for the 2021 March quarter, which now has been revised down to 5%.

Hoping that cereal prices should soften because of bumper food-grains production in 2020-21, he said mitigation of price pressures on key food items such as protein-based components and edible oils would also depend on supply-side measures and easing of international prices.

JSPL eager to build container manufacturing unit



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 7: Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL) has expressed its interest to build a container manufacturing unit in Paradip reiterating its commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in Odisha.

In this connection, Chairman of JSPL Naveen Jindal Tuesday visited the Paradip Port and discussed about the project. It is expected that the container manufacturing unit will be the first of its kind in Odisha.

According to the sources, it will be a port-based container manufacturing unit and likely to be built at over 100 acres of land. Sources also claimed that the port authorities have agreed to provide 100 acres of land, which is required for the project.

Accompanied by a team of senior officials, Jindal had a meeting with authorities of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and also discussed about JSPL's proposal for a dedicated railway freight corridor from Angul to Paradip. He also visited various other facilities of Paradip Port.

NCLT admits insolvency plea against Oyo



AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 7: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has admitted a petition for initiating insolvency proceedings against Oyo Hotels for recovery of ₹16 lakh - an order that the lodging and vacation home rental startup has challenged before the appellate tribunal.

Oyo Hotels founder Ritesh Agarwal took to Twitter to refute the company filing for bankruptcy after the supplier's claim.

The NCLT admitted the insolvency petition of an unnamed supplier, who claimed to have not been paid ₹16 lakh by Oyo, and Ahmedabad-based Keyur Jagdishbhai Shah appointed as the interim resolution professional.

Agarwal tweeted that his company had initially disputed the supplier's claim for ₹16 lakh but eventually paid "under protest".

"There is a PDF and text message circulating that claims OYO has filed for bankruptcy. This is absolutely untrue and inaccurate. A claimant is seeking INR 16 lakhs (USD 22k) from OYO's subsidiary leading to a petition at NCLT," he tweeted.

Ambani stands at USD 151 billion. Ambani, the richest person in India, is ranked 10 on the global billionaires' list. He reclaimed his spot as Asia's richest person with a net worth of USD 84.5 billion. He nudges out China's Jack Ma, who was Asia's richest person last year, whose rank dropped to 26th (from 17th last year) despite a nearly USD 10 billion jump in his fortune to USD 48.4 billion," Forbes said.

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani is the second richest person in India. He is ranked 24th on the global list of billionaires with a net worth of USD 50.5 billion.

Chairman of the Poonawalla Group and founder of the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, Cyrus Poonawalla is ranked 169th on the Forbes list of the world's billionaires

Forbes said the 1,149 billionaires from Asia-Pacific countries together are worth USD 4.7 trillion, while the US billionaires are worth a total USD 4.4 trillion

with a net worth of USD 12.7 billion. Poonawalla ranks seventh on the list of Indian billionaires. Founder of HCL Technologies Shiv Nadar, the third richest person in India, is ranked 71st globally and has a net worth of USD 23.5 billion. "The three richest Indians alone have added just over USD 100 billion between them," Forbes said.

At 724, the US has more billion-

aires than any other country (up from 614 last year). China is 'closing the gap' with 698 billionaires, up from 456 last year. India has the third highest number of billionaires, with 140, followed by Germany with 136 and Russia with 117. Forbes said the 1,149 billionaires from Asia-Pacific countries together are worth USD 4.7 trillion, while the US billionaires are worth a total USD 4.4 trillion.

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'Services sector activities ease in March on Covid woes'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 7: India's services sector activities eased in March as growth was hit by the detrimental impact of the coronavirus pandemic and input costs remained elevated, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally-adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell from 55.3 in February to 54.6 in March. Though the rates of expansion softened, it indicated growth for the sixth consecutive month.

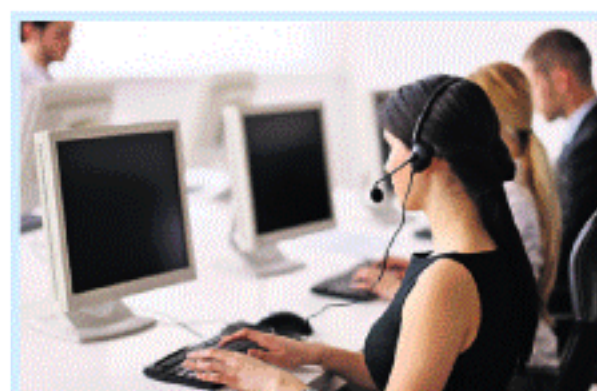
In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The elections supported the uptick in demand but the Covid-19 pandemic and reduced footfall restricted the upturn," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said.

Further, Lima cautioned that "the escalation of the pandemic and the reinstatement of restrictions could cause a notable slowdown in growth during April".

Moreover, external demand for Indian services continued to worsen, with new orders from abroad decreasing for the thirteenth straight month, the survey said.

As per the survey, growth was curbed by the detrimental impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on foot-



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External demand for Indian services continued to worsen, with new orders from abroad decreasing for the thirteenth straight month, the survey said

Looking ahead, the survey said companies expect business activity to increase over the course of the coming 12 months

fall.

On the prices front, the survey participants reported a sharp increase in input costs, the second-fastest since February 2013. Selling prices rose only fractionally as the vast majority of companies left their fees unchanged due to competitive pressures.

With respect to employment, services companies posted another decline in payroll numbers during March.

Looking ahead, the survey said

companies expect business activity to increase over the course of the coming 12 months.

"Service providers hope for an improvement in vaccine availability, which would curb the spread of the disease and support the economy. Optimism towards the year-ahead outlook for business activity was sustained but the overall level of confidence was unchanged from February and remained below its long-run average," Lima said.

Meanwhile, growth of Indian private sector output eased in March. The Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, was at 56 in March down from 57.3 in February.

Transport and Storage was the key source of strength during March, with the sector recording sharp and accelerated increases in sales and business activity.

Consumer Services and Finance and Insurance remained in an expansion mode while contractions were evident in Information and Communication and Real Estate and Business Services, Lima noted.

The RBI, Wednesday, kept key policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent but warned that the recent surge in Covid-19 infections has created uncertainty over economic growth recovery.

BIZ BUZZ

HP rolls out 'Chromebook'

BHUBANESWAR: HP has announced the availability of its new Chromebook in India, designed to help students stay connected, motivated and creative- at home, in the classroom, and in blended learning environments. Powered by the MediaTek MT8183 Octa-core processor, the new HP Chromebook 11a notebook brings the flexibility of digital learning. It offers a competitive price point with up to 16 hours of battery-life perfect for attending a virtual classroom.



US trade deficit hits record high

WASHINGTON: The US trade deficit surged to a record high in February as the nation's economic activity rebounded more quickly than that of its global rivals and could remain elevated this year, with massive fiscal stimulus expected to spur the fastest growth in nearly four decades. The economy is roaring as increased vaccinations and the White House's \$1.9tn pandemic rescue package boost domestic demand, a chunk of which is being satiated with imports.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 7: Automobile major Tata Motors plans to foray into CNG-fuelled passenger vehicle segment in FY22. Accordingly, few of the company's models will be offered with a factory fitted CNG kit. At present, Tata Motors provides an option to get the CNG kits fitted in some of its PVs at dealerships.

The move assumes significance in the light of high transportation fuel prices, which have spiked recently. Also, the new option is expected to complement the company's portfolio of electric variants. Shailesh Chandra, President, Passenger

STEPPING ON THE GAS

Tata Motors to foray into CNG space



Vehicle Business Unit, Tata Motors, has said that factory fitted CNG options of some models will be introduced in the current fiscal.

"Currently, we have a comprehensive PV portfolio with ICE and EV options for customers to choose from. Our customers also have the option to get the CNG kits fitted at the dealerships. In FY22, our customers will also get a factory fitted

CNG option for some of our models," Chandra said.

On the current sales growth, Chandra cited new launches as well as continued financing support with attractive interest rates as the main factors for month-on-month rise in demand.

"Movement of people within the city and intercity has started. However, owing to limited public transport options and concerns over travel in available public transport options on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, reliance on private transport is expected to increase, giving boost to the demand for the vehicles," Chandra said.

At 724, US tops billionaires' list, India stands third with 140

AMBANI BACK AS RICHEST IN ASIA, BEZOS WORLD'S WEALTHIEST ONCE AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, April 7: India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world after the US and China. This is according to a new list by the prestigious 'Forbes' magazine. It also said Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has reclaimed his spot as Asia's richest person, dethroning Chinese business tycoon Jack Ma who was the richest person in the continent a year ago.

Forbes' 35th annual list of the world's billionaires is topped by Amazon CEO and Founder Jeff Bezos for the fourth year in a row. His net worth is USD 177 billion, up USD 64 billion from a year ago as a result of surging Amazon shares, 'Forbes' said. On the second spot is 'SpaceX' founder Elon Musk whose

fortune stands at USD 151 billion. Ambani, the richest person in India, is ranked 10 on the global billionaires' list. He reclaimed his spot as Asia's richest person with a net worth of USD 84.5 billion. He nudges out China's Jack Ma, who was Asia's richest person last year, whose rank dropped to 26th (from 17th last year) despite a nearly USD 10 billion jump in his fortune to USD 48.4 billion," Forbes said.

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VINICIUS LIFTS REAL

Brazilian youngster scores twice to help Spanish giants see off Liverpool 3-1 in Champions League quarterfinals first leg



ON A ROLL: Vinicius Junior wheels away in celebration showing his badge after scoring, while a Liverpool player wears a dejected look in Madrid, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, April 7: Vinicius Junior finally came up with the type of performance Real Madrid fans have been expecting from him. The Brazilian forward netted his first double for the club Tuesday, leading it to a 3-1 over Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

The youngster tormented the Liverpool defense all night and was precise with his finishes, moving the Spanish powerhouse closer to the semifinals after a two-year absence. "People outside of the club criticize me, but I keep working hard," the 20-year-old Vinicius said. "That gives me the strength to arrive at an important moment like this and score the goals that the team needed."

Marco Asensio also scored for Madrid, which took full advantage of Liverpool's defensive blunders in the first half to take a commanding lead ahead of next week's second leg in England. Mohamed Salah netted the lone

goal for Liverpool early in the second half before Vinicius sealed the victory for the hosts.

"If you want to go to the semifinals, you have to earn the right to do so," Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp said. "We didn't do that tonight, especially in the first half, so the only good thing really that I can say about the game apart from the fact we scored the goal, is that it's only the first leg."

The game was a rematch of the 2018 Champions League final won by the same score by Madrid, which since then was eliminated in the tournament's round of 16 two years in a row. Liverpool won the title following the loss to Madrid but was also eliminated in the round of 16 last season.

Liverpool recently endured a run of poor results and sits only seventh in the Premier League, so it may have to win the Champions League to return to the European competition next season.

It looked lost at the start of the match at the Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium in Madrid, unable to get a

shot on goal in the first half.

Vinicius opened the scoring on a breakaway in the 27th after a superb long pass over the top by Toni Kroos. The Brazilian forward made a nice run between Liverpool defenders Trent Alexander-Arnold and Nathaniel Phillips then chested the ball down before firing a low right-footed shot from inside the area past goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

Vinicius, who had scored only one goal since October and four in total this season, arrived to Madrid amid high expectations as a teenager but had been criticized for his poor finishes and bad decisions in front of goal. He pointed to the team's shield both times after scoring.

Another long pass by Kroos — and a defensive blunder by Liverpool — led to Asensio's second goal in the 36th. Alexander-Arnold tried to clear the ball from Kroos but headed it across the area directly to Asensio, who flipped the ball over the charging Becker and finished the move on the other side to push it into the open net.

Liverpool complained of a foul by

Lucas Vazquez on Sadio Mane just moments before Madrid's second goal. The English side improved after the break and was able to pull one back early in the second half with Salah finding the net from close range after a shot by Diogo Jota was partially blocked by Luka Modric in the 51st. The goal had to be confirmed by video review because of a possible offside by Salah.

With the goal, Salah became the fifth Liverpool player to score in four consecutive European appearances. Asensio, who scored in each of Madrid's last four games in all competitions, squandered the chance to increase Madrid's lead on a breakaway in the 64th. But a minute later, Vinicius didn't miss his opportunity after a pass by Modric amid more soft defending by the English team, finding the net with a shot from near the penalty spot.

Liverpool had kept four consecutive clean sheets away from home going into the game in Madrid. It has not had five in a row in away games this century.

MAN CITY BEAT DORTMUND 2-1 IN CL LAST 8 FIRST LEG

Foden outshines Haaland

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, April 7: Still opponents rather than teammates, Phil Foden showed Erling Haaland there's already a 20-year-old excelling at Manchester City.

Foden netted City's 90th-minute goal to clinch a 2-1 victory over Haaland's Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal Tuesday — and even before that it was the local lad repeatedly flaunting his skills on the ball to bamboozle the visitors.

"They are a young team full of energy and they counterattack really quick," Foden said. "I was frustrated all night. I had many chances to score and I kept going and in the end one paid off."

Haaland, who is being touted as a potential replacement for Sergio Aguero at City next season, didn't have the best of auditions to live up to a valuation far exceeding USD 100 million. European football's hottest young talent struggled to make an impact, beyond setting up an equalizer on the turn for captain Marco Reus to cancel out Kevin De Bruyne's first-half strike.

And it was Foden who played an integral part in that City opener that followed Emre Can giving the ball away and De Bruyne leading the breakaway. Foden squared to Riyad Mahrez, who kept the ball in play at the far post before pulling it back for De Bruyne to clip into the net in the 19th minute.

And with City entering the 90th minute facing going to Germany next week locked at 1-1, De Bruyne's vision picked apart the Dortmund defense again.

"I try to look up before I get the ball so I try to get a picture of what is happening," the Belgian midfielder said. "I could see Phil and Gundog (Ilkay Gundogan) running to the post and tried to chip it."

It succeeded, as De Bruyne sent a perfectly weighted ball floating over the Dortmund defense. Gundogan brought down the cross at the far post and laid the ball off for Foden to sweep into the net.

"The second goal right at the end was unnecessary, because we lost concentration for two seconds," Reus said. "We need to be stopping the cross there."

While Foden was the match-winner, Haaland still took the opportunity to chat with his young counterpart with mouths covered on the freezing Etihad pitch. And the Norwegian had one final duty before heading into the dressing room, improbably being asked by one of referee Ovidiu Hategan's assistants, Octavian Sovre, to sign red



GenNext COLLIDES: Erling Haaland (L) and Phil Foden congratulate each other after the match at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Tuesday

and yellow cards.

As for Hategan, the referee rightly overturned a penalty originally awarded against Can or fouling City midfielder Rodri in the first half before enraging Dortmund by denying Jude Bellingham an equaliser before halftime.

Ederson was trying to control a back pass on the edge of the penalty area but gave the ball away and Bellingham nipped in to score. But Bellingham was penalized for fouling Ederson despite being kicked first and the whistle had already gone before the 17-year-old Englishman put the ball in the net.

While Dortmund protested the decision on the pitch, City's midfielder Fernandinho turned from his seat in the stands toward the

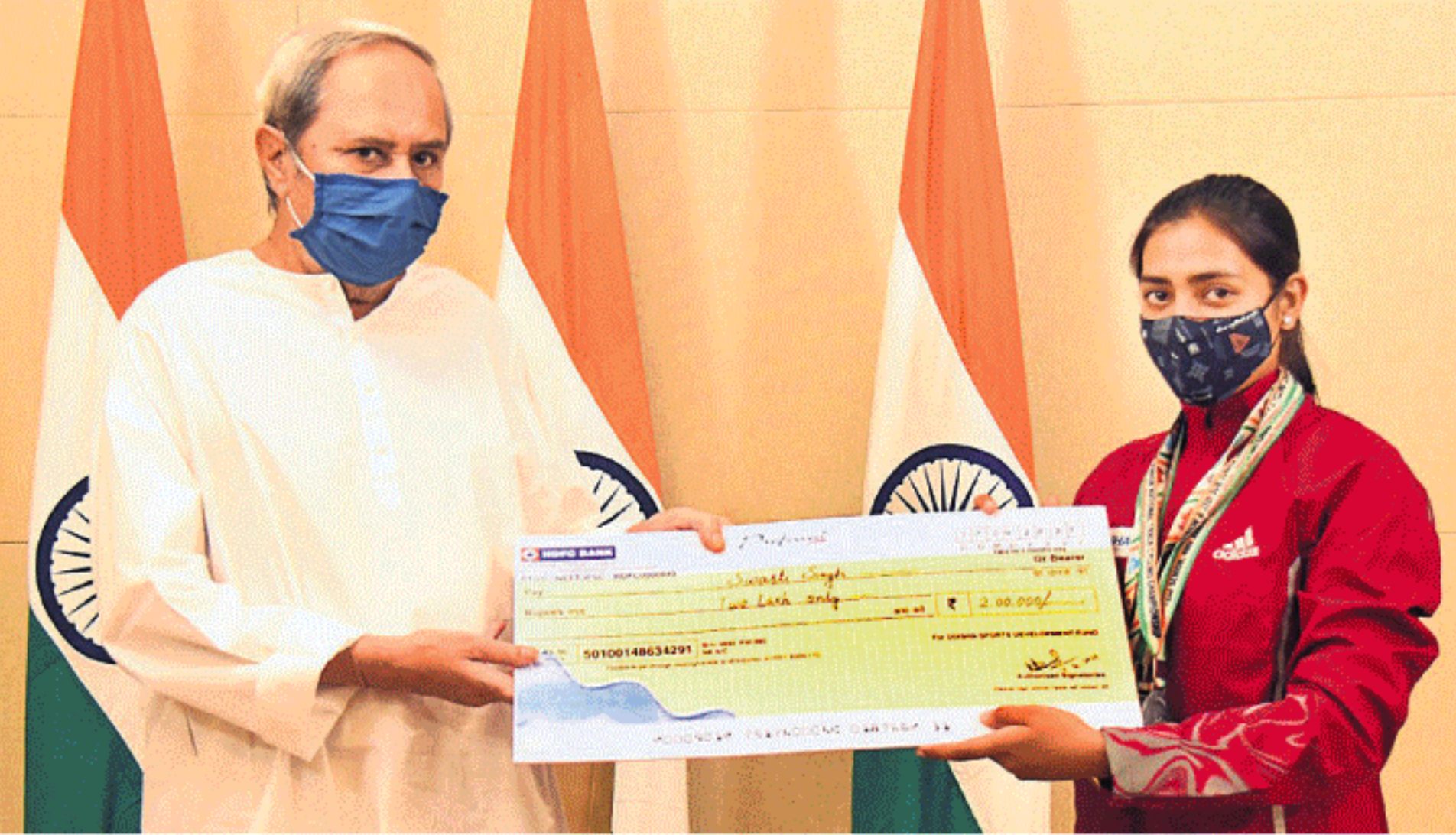
media sitting behind him to argue the opposite.

It contributed to Dortmund heading into the second leg trailing, albeit with a valuable away goal secured by Reus netting in the Champions League for the first time since October 2018.

Winning the Champions League for the first time since 1997 might be the only way for Dortmund to return to the competition as it sits in fifth place in the Bundesliga — seven points from fourth.

City by contrast is running away with the Premier League, building a 14-point lead in its quest for a third title in four seasons to dethrone struggling Liverpool. While City remains on track for a quadruple, Liverpool lost 3-1 at Real Madrid in the night's other first leg.

MORALE BOOSTER



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday felicitated national record holder and Odisha's cycling sensation Swasti Singh for her outstanding achievements in the sports at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar. CM also handed over a cheque of ₹2 lakh as financial incentive. She had won gold in the 3000m individual pursuit category, setting a new national record of 4:05:547 seconds and another gold medal in the 60 km road mass start at the 25th National Road Cycling Championship in Navi Mumbai. She had also claimed two gold and a silver medal in Khelo India Youth Games 2020 in Guwahati. At the 72nd National Track Cycling Championship held at Osmania University, Hyderabad, Swasti bagged a silver medal each in the 10km Scratch Race and 20km Point Race

India script win, draw in 2 games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buenos Aires, April 7: Olympic champions Argentina quelled India's chances of a second consecutive victory as they made a strong comeback for a 4-4 draw in a tense practice match here, Wednesday India had won the first practice match 4-3.

It was Varun Kumar (seventh & 44th), Rajkumar Pal (13th), Rupinder Pal Singh (14th) who scored for India while Leandro Tolini (10th), Lucas Toscani (23rd), Ignacio Ortiz (42nd) and Lucas (57th) found the target for the home team.

India made a fine start with a well-structured attack that fetched them three goals in the first quarter. The first goal was courtesy forward Mandeep Singh who helped

India earn a penalty corner in the seventh minute which was effortlessly converted by dragflicker Varun Kumar.

Though an early 1-0 lead put the home side on the backfoot, they bounced back in the 10th minute when they earned a PC. Leandro Tolini came up with a well-executed dragflick to equalise.

India, however, regained the lead with Rajkumar's goal in the 13th minute. He was assisted by Nilakanta Sharma who has been in good nick, showing his prowess as an attacking midfielder.

In the following minute, a PC earned by India forward Lalit Upadhyay saw Rupinder Pal Singh score a splendid goal, taking India's lead to 3-1 in the 14th minute.

In the 23rd minute, Argentina's Toscani struck a fine goal to narrow India's lead to 2-3. Though India replied with aggressive attack, they were unable to create successful forays into the striking circle.

It was eventually Argentina who succeeded in breaking the gridlock by earning a PC which was well-struck by attacking midfielder Ignacio Ortiz. The 3-3 equaliser didn't dampen India's spirit as they successfully scored the fourth goal via forward Dilpreet, earning India a PC in the 44th minute. Varun made no mistake in converting the goal.

Lucas' field goal in the 57th minute ended the game in a 4-4 stalemate. India will next face Argentina in the FTH Hockey Pro League match April 11.

A RESTRUCTURED ROYALS AIM TO BUILD NEW LEGACY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 7: A restructured Rajasthan Royals will aim to build a new legacy but a weak Indian contingent and overdependence on foreign recruits could hurt the inaugural edition winners' chance for glory in the upcoming IPL.

Last season's wooden spooners, RR have made some changes in management as well as the squad ahead of the new season. Sanju Samson replaced Australian Steve Smith, who was released, as skipper while coach Andrew McDonald has also gone with Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara stepping in as director of cricket.

To strengthen their pace attack which was heavily dependent on Jofra Archer, RR bought South African all-rounder Chris Morris for a whopping Rs 16.25 crore, making him the most expensive buy in the IPL auction history.

However, an injury to Archer, who was adjudged the league's Most Valuable Player last season, ruling him out of at least the first few games, is a massive blow.

Here's is a SWOT Analysis of the side that will take on Punjab Kings in Mumbai, April 12.

STRENGTH
RR boast of a number of destructive batsmen. Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes are two match-winning players who can trample any opposition while Samson is a minefield of talent.

South Africans David Miller and Morris are two other powerful strikers and England's T20 specialist Liam Livingstone can turn the match on its head. Last season's revelation, all-rounder Rahul Tewatia, has also showcased his ability to whack the ball outside the park.



RR skipper Sanju Samson and Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara greet each other ahead of the team's practice session

PIC: RR TWITTER

With Sangakkara on their side, the Royals have got one of the most astute brains. The Sri Lankan veteran has tons of cricketing experience to offer.

WEAKNESS
For Royals, the problem is their weak Indian core which hasn't been consistent. Samson has rarely performed in five straight games in any of the editions in the past few years. Pacer Jaydev Unadkat, bought for Rs 11.5 crore in 2018, has been unable to deliver while Manan Vohra has been brilliant only on rare occasions.

This leaves the team with youngsters, including Riyan Parag and pacer Kartik Tyagi, who has shown

flashes of brilliance, Yashasvi Jaiswal and pacer Kartik Tyagi, who was also impressive.

The Royals have an affinity to spend huge bucks on players and apart from Stokes, most of them have not paid dividends.

OPPORTUNITY
Samson's form and consistency have always been a question mark. He has failed to capitalise on the handful of chances provided to him in T20s. With Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan doing brilliantly on their T20 debuts, the Kerala wicketkeeper batsman's chances to make the Indian team for the World Cup have taken a hit.

This is the perfect opportunity for

him to prove his leadership skills and a good, consistent performance with the bat will significantly strengthen his case for selection for the two upcoming T20 World Cups.

THREAT

With Samson at the helm, his lack of experience in the role and the impact that it might have on his batting are factors that must be taken into account. The flamboyant right-hander may not be able to play with the same freedom now that he has the tag of captain next to his name. His inexperience might also cost the Royals dearly in crunch situations.

The team won matches on the back of some brilliant individual performances but struggled to work as a cohesive unit last season. Consistency will be the key.

The team is heavily dependent on Archer. While they have Morris to rely on, the pace attack seems weak in the 26-year-old England pacer's absence. The franchise would desperately hope Archer joins the side at the earliest.

With a weak Indian contingent, comprising several rookies and overreliance on their foreign recruits, there is real threat the Royals would once again not qualify for the playoffs.

THE SQUAD

Sanju Samson (C & wk), Jos Buttler (wk), Ben Stokes, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Manan Vohra, Anuj Rawat, Riyan Parag, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia, Mahipal Lomror, Shreyas Gopal, Mayank Markande, Jofra Archer, Andrew Tye, Jaydev Unadkat, Kartik Tyagi, Shivam Dube, Chris Morris, Mustafizur Rahman, Chetan Sakariya, KC Cariappa, Liam Livingstone, Kuldeep Yadav & Akash Singh.