



## CHALLENGING TASK

Huma Qureshi is set to headline a biopic on celebrity chef Tarla Dalal, who changed the face of vegetarian cooking

LEISURE P2



## CRISIS DEEPENS

One person was killed while 12 others were injured as police fired upon protesters in Central Sri Lanka

INTERNATIONAL P10



## VENUE SHIFTED

IPL match between DC and PBKS was shifted to Mumbai from Pune following a virus outbreak in the DC camp

SPORTS P12

## SBI, BoB, OTHERS HIKE LENDING RATES; EMIS TO GO UP



**New Delhi:** EMIs for home, car and personal loans are set to go up for existing borrowers, with State Bank of India (SBI) and other major lenders including Bank of Baroda (BoB), Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank increasing their benchmark lending rates by up to 0.10 per cent. The lending rate hike by these banks -- which comes after a gap of around three years -- is likely to be followed by others, which will push up the EMIs for different categories of loans to consumers. SBI has revised its marginal cost of funding based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.10 per cent across tenors. The bank revised the lending rate from 7 per cent to 7.10 per cent for the one-year tenure. **P11**

## IMF SLASHES INDIA'S GDP FORECAST TO 8.2% FOR FY23



**New Delhi:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday slashed India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast by 80 percentage points to 8.2 per cent for financial year 2022-23. In its World Economic Outlook report for the month of April 2022, the IMF said expectation of weaker domestic demand owing to higher oil prices will weigh on consumption. "Notable downgrades to the 2022 forecast include Japan (0.9 percentage point) and India (0.8 percentage point), reflecting in part weaker domestic demand—as higher oil prices are expected to weigh on private consumption and investment—and a drag from lower net exports," the report said. **P11**

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## ₹120Cr shot in the arm for kendu leaf pluckers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** The Odisha government Tuesday announced a bonus of ₹120 crore for the welfare of kendu-leaf pluckers of the state.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in a statement, said the bonus would benefit around 8 lakh kendu-leaf pluckers, binders, and other seasonal staff associated with the work.

This apart, the government has also increased the collection price of Kendu leaves for 2022, which will help 7.50 lakh people, mostly tribal women, to earn an additional income of ₹240 crore, the statement said.

In 2021, the state government announced financial assistance of ₹92.37 crore for the welfare of kendu-leaf pluckers and other workers associated with it.

## 6 perish in Kabul blasts

AGENCIES

**Kabul, April 19:** Explosions targeting educational institutions killed at least six people, including students, and injured 17 Tuesday in a mostly Shiite neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital city, police said.

The blasts, which occurred in rapid succession, were being investigated and more casualties were feared, according to Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran and the city's Emergency Hospital. Several of the wounded were in serious condition and some had been treated and released.

The explosions occurred inside the Abdul Rahim Shaheed High School and near the Mumtaz Education Center several kilometers (miles) away, both in the predominantly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi. There were no immediate reports of casualties at the Mumtaz Center.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I know a religious procession needs permission. But ours is not a religious one. It is just to create communal strife

# Cops ignored intel alert

City police sat on the intelligence alert issued by Special Branch of the State Intelligence dept, pushing the Capital into a state of anarchy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** At a time when the anarchy caused during Monday's agitation by Odisha Drivers' Association has left the Commissionerate Police red-faced, a letter issued by Special Branch of the State Intelligence department on intelligence inputs to the twin city DCPs has exposed the inept handling of the situation.

Despite receiving the intelligence report April 16 about the plan for a massive protest and possible law and order situation in Bhubaneswar, the state police administration including the city police failed to take any preemptive step to thwart the huge gathering of around 50,000 khaki-clad drivers in the Capital city Monday.

Sources in the Special Branch revealed that the Police Commissioner, DCPs of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and superintendents of police (SPs) of all the districts had been alerted through an email about the expected participation of around 40,000 agitators in the Capital city April 18.

"They (the drivers) have threatened that if their demands are not considered at lower PMG, they will



FILE PHOTO

split into small groups and may force their entry into the residence of CM, Odisha, Residence of Transport Minister, Assembly hall, State Secretariat etc. to put forth their grievances there inviting embarrassment to the administration," the special branch SP alerted in its report.

"As the drivers are unruly, quite aggressive and unpredictable, they may indulge in illegal activities. Law and order situation is highly anticipated. On the above backdrop, request to remain extremely alert to the development, adequate precautionary and preventive measures



may please be taken to contain the activities of the Mahasangha members to ward off any eventuality," it further read.

Meanwhile, Prithviraj Harichandan, state general secretary of BJP, has made some shocking allegations saying that the drivers' stir was sponsored by none other than the BJD government.

"The demands of the drivers are justified and we have lent our support to them. But we vehemently oppose the way some anti-socials in the garb of agitators roamed around the city with lathis and intimidated commuters. We

strongly condemn such dastardly act," said Harichandan.

"The April 18 incident has raised a big question on the existence of police administration. In fact, the sparse deployment of cops at various places turned them to mute spectators in the face of the protest and it seems that the government indirectly promoted the agitation. It is no exaggeration to say that the police administration and the Intelligence department have completely failed," Harichandan stated.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash said, "We have registered four cases against the leaders of the drivers' association for the violence and their unruly behaviour. The leaders of the association had no control over their members. Police have been collecting video footage of the agitation and stringent action will be taken against the drivers who were indulged in violence. We have urged public to share videos of violence with the police. We have appealed to the people who were attacked or their properties vandalised to contact police. Many of the protestors also misbehaved with police and common people during the agitation."

## Cyber security breach in military; probe ordered



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 19:** The intelligence agencies have reported a cyber-security breach in the military and a high-level probe has been ordered, sources said here Tuesday.

According to the sources, some military officials involved in this breach are suspected to have links with the enemy countries.

The sources also said that the sensitive breaches have been done through the 'WhatsApp groups' and the military officials are also suspected to be involved in espionage-related activities of a neighbouring country.

The sources also confirmed that a high-level inquiry has been ordered into the issue.

"Acts of infringement of existing orders, especially involving counter-intelligence matters by military officials, are dealt with in the strictest possible manner as they are subject to the Official

Acts of infringement of existing orders, especially involving counter-intelligence matters by military officials, are dealt with in the strictest possible manner as they are subject to the Official Secrets Act

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL

Secrets Act," they added, quoting military officials.

"Strictest possible action would be taken against all the officials found guilty in the ongoing investigations," the officials assured.

Expressing inability to share more information on this suspected espionage case, the officials in the defence set up said, "Due to the sensitive nature of the investigation we want to avoid speculations on the ongoing probe or on those who are involved in this case as that may hamper the ongoing investigation."

## Man lynched after road mishap in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada/Bangiriposhi, April 19:** An employee of a private firm was lynched Tuesday after the car he was travelling in hit a scooterist from the rear near Katra River Bridge Square on NH-49 at Goshanipal in Bangiriposi of Mayurbhanj and killed him, police said.

The scooterist Harihar Sethi, 55, of Goshanipal village died on the spot, it was learnt.

Following the mishap, irate locals attacked two employees of the company travelling in the vehicle, Bangiriposi police inspector in-charge Sanjay Parida said.

Satyanarayan Mandal, the 45-year-old private firm employee,

who is a resident of Anandapur in Keonjhar, was severely beaten up and succumbed to his injuries at Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital.

His fellow passenger Phulchand Sharma, a native of Uttar Pradesh, was also beaten up and admitted to the hospital in a serious condition, the police said.

The private company is engaged in a rural drinking water project in Mayurbhanj by the Centre, it was learnt.

Two cases have been registered in connection with the incident, Parida added.

A pall of gloom descended on the village over the death of Sethi while all male members have fled the area fearing arrest and crackdown by the police.



Fire Service personnel during a mock drill as part of the observance of 78th Fire Service Week at Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA) in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PIC: MAUSAM NANDA

# Russia launches 'Battle of Donbas' all-out assault on east Ukraine

AGENCIES

**Lviv/Kyiv, April 19:** Russia launched its long-awaited all-out assault on east Ukraine Tuesday, unleashing thousands of troops in what Ukraine described as the Battle of the Donbas, a campaign to seize two provinces and salvage a battlefield victory.

Ukrainian officials insisted their troops would withstand the new assault, which they said began overnight with massive Russian artillery and rocket barrages and attempts to advance across almost the entire stretch of the eastern front. In the first reported success of Russia's new assault, Ukraine said the Russians had seized Kreminna, a frontline town of 18,000 people in Luhansk, one of the two Donbas provinces.

"Kreminna is under the control



People walk past a residential building, which was heavily damaged during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine

REUTERS PHOTO

of the 'Orcs'. They have entered the city," the province's Ukrainian governor, Sergiy Gaidai, told a

briefing, invoking the goblin-like creatures who appear in JRR Tolkien's fantasy books.

Russian forces are attacking 'on all sides', authorities are trying to evacuate civilians and it is impossible to tally the civilian dead, Gaidai said.

Moscow gave few details about its new campaign, but Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed that 'another stage of this operation is beginning'. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the aim was to 'liberate' Donetsk and Luhansk, provinces which Moscow demands Kyiv cede fully to Russian-backed separatists. In the ruins of Mariupol, a southeastern port destroyed while withstanding nearly eight weeks of siege, Russia gave the last Ukrainian defenders holed up in a giant steel works an ultimatum to surrender by noon (0900 GMT) or die.

"All who lay down their arms are guaranteed to remain alive," the defence ministry said. The pro-

## Russia seeks medical equipment from India

Russia is seeking more medical equipment from India after sanctions and logistical logjams following President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine have sharply reduced imports from Europe and China. Medical equipment companies from India and Russia will discuss ways to boost supplies during a virtual meeting April 22, according to Rajiv Nath, a forum coordinator for the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry. The event was confirmed by Business Russia, a business group that promotes bilateral ties. India is hoping to boost exports to Russia as the two nations work out a payment system in local currencies similar to one used during the Cold War to maintain bilateral trade as Moscow faces sweeping international sanctions. New Delhi has been criticized by the U.S. and its allies for buying more Russian oil after they sought to isolate Russia due to its war in Ukraine. Currently, India is an insignificant player in the Russian market and hopes to increase exports this year almost 10-fold to 2 billion rupees (\$26.2 million), according to Nath.

Kremlin leader of Chechnya, whose forces have been fighting in Mariupol, predicted troops would capture the plant Tuesday.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Ukrainians in a video address overnight that they would withstand the new advance. "No mat-

ter how many Russian troops they send there, we will fight. We will defend ourselves," he said.

Driven back by Ukrainian forces in March from an assault on Kyiv in the north, Russia has poured troops into the east to regroup for a ground offensive in the Donbas.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	56463.15 ↓ 703.59
NIFTY	16958.65 ↓ 215.00
DOLLAR	76.50 ↑ ₹0.25
EURO	82.47 ↑ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹52,750 ↓ ₹522
SILVER	₹68,711 ↓ ₹1,265

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 37.6°C	37.0°C
	MIN 26.9°C	26.0°C
Humidity	80%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate Rain	

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You are deeply interested in the occult and the paranormal and today, you may indulge in something to do with it. So, you may buy a full colour 15x10 glossy on shamanic rites or the tantra! Ganesh suggests using such knowledge for peaceful ends.

**TAURUS**  
Your enthusiasm will be as contagious as your smile today, predicts Ganesh. People will stand charmed by your high spirits. There will be stressful moments, but things will look up later in the day. Take some time off if things get too hectic for you.

**GEMINI**  
You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations will rise, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
The day is very favourable, says Ganesh. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers. Ganesh foresees chance of having new contacts and ties.

**LEO**  
You will be busy on the work front today. It is a good day for those who are self-employed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Close members of your family and friends will take up most of your time today. Students will have to pay more attention to studies as exams are upcoming, and they will have to learn to balance study and free time. Ganesh says today is a good time to buy property. All in all, it is a good time when you can afford to relax and let your mind pursue its interests.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesh warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

**SCORPIO**  
"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesh. Your palatial home is ready or you may just get the keys of your much desired vehicle. You may have an extended celebration by receiving or giving gifts to your closed ones. However, make sure you do not make a hole in your pocket.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are like a new hope for your company and you are assigned with many challenging projects, today. And your hard work and efforts are appreciated when you handle the projects successfully. If you are fortunate enough, you may also gain incentives very soon, predicts Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner. You will smartly solve family issues, without favouring or hurting anybody, says Ganesh. You'll like to play the role of a peace maker, as it gives you satisfaction from within. Also, you will love to help others as much as you can.

**AQUARIUS**  
Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quagmire, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today. Dilemmas dissolved and problems resolved, you shall spend a quiet, romantic evening with your sweetheart, foresees Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects. A picnic or a short journey with your partner is very much on the cards, says Ganesh.

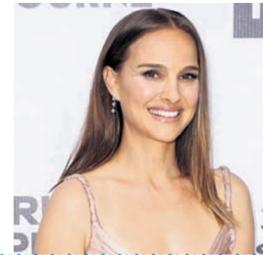


## JULIA ROBERTS REJECTED ROM-COMS FOR 20 YEARS

Actor Julia Roberts will be seen in *Ticket to Paradise* later this year. It will mark Roberts' first time leading a romantic comedy in more than 20 years. She said her extended hiatus from the rom-com genre was not her choice, but a result of the lack of an adequate script.

## NATALIE PORTMAN NEW THOR IN FOURTH FILM OF THE SERIES

Actress Natalie Portman is back and more powerful than ever as *Thor* in the first teaser for *Thor: Love and Thunder*. The fourth film in the *Thor* series is directed by Taika Waititi, who helmed the well-received *Thor: Ragnarok*



## Huma to headline Tarla Dalal's biopic

MUMBAI: Huma Qureshi is set to headline a biopic on noted food writer and chef Tarla Dalal, the makers announced Tuesday. Titled *Tarla*, the movie marks the directorial debut of writer Piyush Gupta, Nitesh Tiwari's longtime collaborator who has worked on the latter's films such as *Dangal* and *Chhichhore*. Dalal, known for hosting popular cookery TV shows like *The Tarla Dalal Show* and *Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal*, penned more than 100 cookbooks and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2007. She passed away in 2013 aged 77. Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari said Dalal's story is a "lot more than her being an iconic chef." "It's a story about a working mother who single-handedly changed the face of vegetarian cooking in India and paved the way for many such home cooks and start ups to aspire and achieve their dreams," the Panga director said in a statement. Qureshi recalled that her mother had a copy of one of Dalal's books in their kitchen and how she would often try out many of her recipes for the actor's school tiffin. "I also clearly remember the time when I helped mom make Tarla's homemade mango ice cream. This role has taken me back to those sweet childhood memories and I am very thankful to Ronnie, Ashwini and Nitesh for having faith in me to play this awe-inspiring character," recalled Huma.

## 'It'd be dumb to do method acting in commercial movies'

MUMBAI: Nawazuddin Siddiqui says he can easily straddle the world of larger than life commercial films and quieter, more reflective independent cinema, being aware of the 'kind of acting' both require from him. Siddiqui, star of acclaimed dramas like the *Gangs of Wasseypur* series, *Photograph*, *Raman Raghav* and *Manto* has often broken out and featured in big scale entertainers, like *Kick*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* and his upcoming action drama *Heropanti 2*. Siddiqui says commercial films pack-



age the performance of an actor and present them in a 'new form'. "There's a certain presentation of performances in commercial films. That form is entirely different. If you expect to use method acting here, then you're dumb. This is for fun, the audience of these films comes to enjoy. So, if you sit down to dissect my performances, maybe you'll find a lot of flaws. But if you take it as pure fun, one would really enjoy," the actor said. Siddiqui, 47, is regarded one of the most versatile performers in the Hindi cinema today and has shown an impressive variety and rage through his characters.

## SRK, Hirani collaborate for Dunki

MUMBAI: After a lot of speculations, Shah Rukh Khan and Rajkumar Hirani have officially announced their next project, *Dunki*. The film also stars Taapsee Pannu. Shah Rukh took to social media and announced the movie in a hilarious way. In the video, Rajkumar Hirani and SRK are seen engaging in a fun banter. Khan is seen talking to him about his previous iconic films like *Sanju*, *PK* and others. SRK then asks Hirani if he has any script for him. Sharing the video with the fans, SRK wrote, "Dear @hirani.rajkumar sir, Aap toh Mere Santa Claus nikle. Aap shuru karo main time pe pahunch jaunga. actually main toh set par hi rehne lagunga! Feeling humbled and excited to finally work with you. Bringing to you all #Dunki in cinemas on 22nd December 2023."

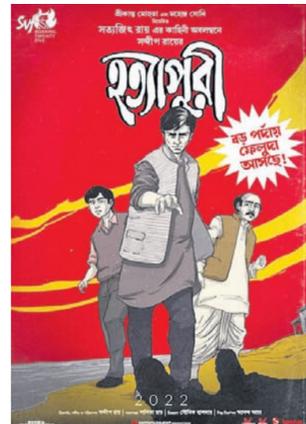
said, "Through the course of my career Shah Rukh Khan has always been on my wish list and after trying to collaborate several times in the past, we were finally destined to have *Dunki* to mark our partnership. The energy, charisma, humour and charm that he brings to a film is unparalleled and I look forward to bringing that magic to the big screen." Adding further, SRK said, "We have just started shooting this month and I am cherishing every moment of it. Raju ke liye main Donkey, Monkey, kuch bhi ban sakta hoon!"



## Sandip Ray's thriller to be filmed in Puri

'*Hatyapuri*,' the upcoming movie, will see 'Feluda' and his companions visiting the Holi City of Odisha for a holiday only to end up investigating a murder

KOLKATA: Filmmaker Sandip Ray Tuesday said he will start shooting for the next movie involving 'Feluda,' the popular detective character created by his father Satyajit Ray, by the end of May and the film is likely to hit the screen on Christmas. *Hatyapuri* (Murder in Puri), the upcoming movie, will see Pradosh Chandra Mitter aka Feluda, along with his companions - cousin Topse and friend Lalmohan Ganguly - visiting the Odisha town famous for its sea beach and Lord Jagannath temple for a holiday only to end up investigating a murder. "My team and I have done a detailed recce in Puri and shooting is likely to begin in May end. I want to complete the film by December so that people can watch it during Christmas," said Sandip. However, the mystery about who will play the role of 'Feluda' remains as the director refused to divulge the name. On the speculation that either Anirban Bhattacharya or Tota Roychowdhury will be cast in that iconic role, he said, it will be someone having a combination of athleticism and sharpness in his look. From the 35 'Feluda' stories written



Cover of Bengali novel *Hatyapuri*, authored by Satyajit Ray

by him, Satyajit Ray had directed two films - *Sonar Kella* (The Golden Fortress, 1974) and *Jai Baba Felunath* (The Elephant God, 1979).

## Sarala Samman for Profulla Mohanty

BHUBANESWAR: Eminent laureate Prof Dr. Profulla Kumar Mohanty has been nominated to receive the prestigious Sarala Samman for the year 2021. He will be receiving the award during the 41st anniversary of Sarala Sahitya Sansad to be celebrated at Cuttack April 23. Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal will grace the occasion as Chief Guest. Mohanty is known for his literary works including *Kalajanha*, *Saraga Sanyasi*, *Mala Aakasha*, *Sesha Apekhyia*, *Bharatiya Sanskruti*, *Bhagwat Geeta*, *Ichara Pruthivi*, *Kichi Maati Kichi Aakasha*, *Nidaghara Kabi*, *Sahityare Jibana Raaga*, *Sunarya Bayasha*, festivals of Odisha and stories from Sarala Mahabharat among others. He had earlier received several accolades and awards including Sahitya Akademi Award and Upenbra Bhanja Samman among others.

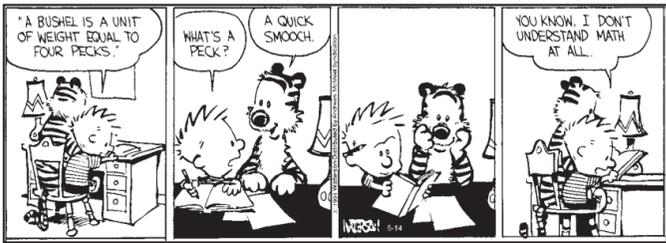


## FUN post

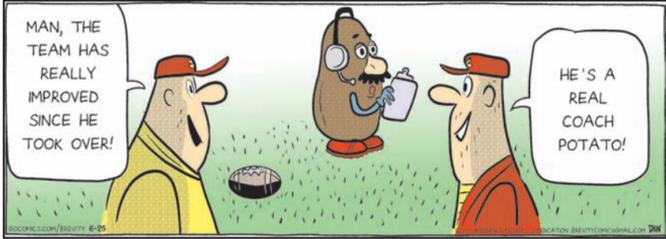
### PEANUTS



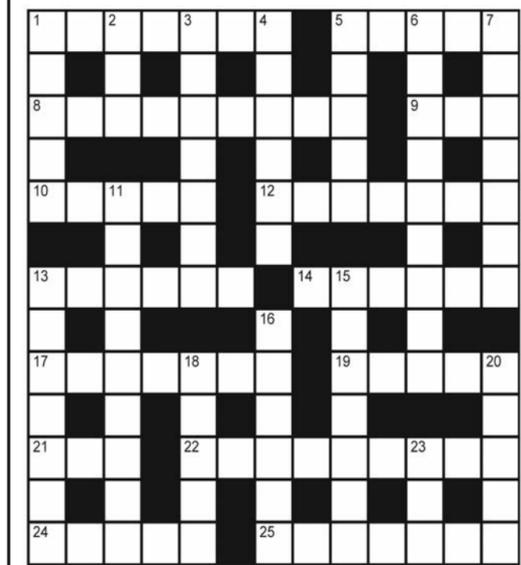
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



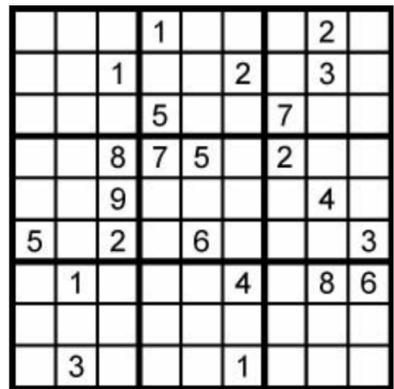
### CROSSWORD



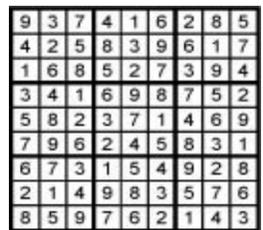
- Across
- 1 Aircraft part
  - 5 Coquettes
  - 8 Enigmas
  - 9 Golden, in France
  - 10 Spanish port
  - 12 Songbird
  - 13 Muller
  - 14 Funny business
  - 17 Windfall
  - 19 Athletic events
  - 21 Choler
  - 22 Herbivorous
  - 24 China cabinet
  - 25 Kick upstairs
  - 5 Panorama
  - 6 Retrofit
  - 7 Scribbles
  - 11 Sterilise
  - 13 Make known
  - 15 Candidate
  - 16 Inherent character
  - 18 Stable sound
  - 20 Burn slightly
  - 23 Genetic info inits.
- Down
- 1 Funnymen
  - 2 Romaine lettuce
  - 3 Pub handout
  - 4 Craving

### 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



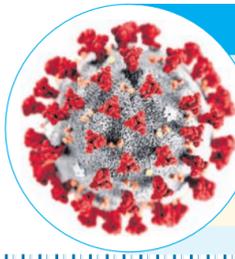
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## STREET PLAY

An artiste performs during the Sahi Jata, a mythological street play, in Puri



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	50,54,21,641	45,73,33,568	62,25,565
India	4,30,45,527	4,25,11,701	5,21,966
Odisha	12,87,951	12,78,672	9,123

# Now, fake detergent seized in Cuttack



The seized fake detergent powder

The cops had earlier seized fake spices, tea powder, ghee and sauces from the Silver City and its nearby areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, April 19:** The manufacturing and sale of fake and adulterated goods continue unabated in the Silver City here.

In the latest case, the Malgoldown police Tuesday seized 1,540 kg fake detergent powder from a factory in Tangi area of Cuttack district.

The police have also seized around 1,800 kg raw materials and several pieces of equipment for

**M**algoldown police seized 1,540 kg fake detergent powder from a factory in Tangi area of Cuttack district

**A**round 1,800 kg raw materials and several pieces of equipment were also seized from the factory

**A**bhijit Behera of Narayan Vihar in Jagatpur area has been arrested for manufacturing fake washing powder



Police officials during the raid on the fake detergent unit

OP PHOTOS

manufacturing of fake detergent powder from the factory. They have arrested Abhijit Behera, 47, of Narayan Vihar in Jagatpur area in

connection with the manufacturing of fake washing powder, sources said.

On a tip-off, the Malgoldown police had intercepted an auto-rickshaw in the Malgoldown area of the city April 17 and found huge quantities of packaging materials for detergent powder from the vehicle. The name of a popular detergent powder brand was printed on the packaging materials, sources said.

During investigation, the police came to know that Behera was supplying the packaging materials to a fake detergent manufacturing unit at Brahmanapada in Tangi area. Subsequently, they raided the factory and seized the fake washing powder, sources added.

"Behera along with two of his aides—Badal Singh and Priyabrata Jena—was manufacturing fake detergent at Brahmanapada. They were packaging the duplicate washing powder in Surf Excel sachets at Khandiata in Cuttack Sadar area and Omar in Mahanga before supplying it to the market," said a police officer.

A case has been registered in this regard and the accused has been produced in a local court, he added.

Notably, the police had seized huge quantities of fake spices, tea powder, ghee and sauces from several places of the Silver City and on its outskirts in last couple of years. They have also busted several factories producing fake and adulterated products.

The police have destroyed these duplicate products after receiving an approval in this regard from the court.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# 3 Odisha-related cases to be heard in SC today

The apex court will hear cases on Vamsadhara water dispute, mining operations in Odisha and corruption charges against MLA Pradeep Panigrahi



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, April 19:** The Supreme Court is all set to take up three vital cases related to Odisha, including one on Vamsadhara water dispute, for hearing Wednesday.

A case with regard to mining operations in Odisha and another on corruption charges against MLA Pradeep Panigrahi would also be heard by the apex court on the day.

The SC will hear three petitions filed by Odisha challenging the order of Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal. The petitions on the water dispute would be taken up for final disposal by the apex court.

The SC had earlier allowed an application filed by Odisha to submit additional documents in the water dispute which did not form part of the record before the Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana will hear several applications filed in connection with a public interest litigation (PIL) on mining operations in Odisha, moved by NGO Common Cause in 2014.

While hearing the applications April 12, the apex court had sought the appearance of the Advocate General of Odisha in connection with the case. The SC had said that the counsels of Odisha adopted different stands with regard to the mining companies' plea to allow resumption of mining in the state.

In the case of corruption charges against Panigrahi, the Odisha Lokayukta has filed a special leave petition in the SC challenging the verdict of Orissa High Court which ruled that the Lokayukta cannot order preliminary enquiry against Panigrahi by the state Vigilance department as the Vigilance department is the complainant in the matter. The Supreme Court had in April last year stayed the Orissa HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Panigrahi in the corruption case.

During the last hearing April 6, the apex court had refused to entertain a plea by Panigrahi seeking restraint on Lokayukta from passing any order in connection with the corruption charges levelled against him.

## Traffic rule violation

# Govt authorises SPOs to issue challans

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** In order to strengthen the road safety enforcement drive in Odisha, the state government has conferred power on the special police officers (SPOs) deployed on highway patrolling to impose fines on traffic rule violators.

As per the notification issued by the Transport department, the special police officers of and above the rank equivalent to that of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police, deployed for highway patrolling on national highways (NHs) in the state, can impose fine on compound offences committed under different provisions of the MV Act.

Now, the officers can impose a fine for the road safety rule violations like non-wearing of helmet & seatbelt, speed driving and overloading within their respective jurisdictions. In February last year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched the highway patrol initiative on 18 stretches of various state and national highways to save the lives of accident victims.

The highway patrolling units have been engaged on different routes in Ganjam, Berhampur, Khurda, Angul, Bargarh, Rourkela, Balasore, Bhadrak, Puri, Jajpur and Cuttack. Retired police and defence personnel have been appointed to work as SPOs to man the highway patrolling vehicles.

A total 36 highway patrolling teams have been engaged on five highly-vulnerable stretches and 36 mini stretches in different districts to enforce traffic related rules and shift accident victims to nearby hospitals. Now, the SOPs can issue challan against traffic rule violators.

# Cocaine peddlers on STF remand; NCB joins probe

For the first time in Odsiha, the officials of the STF had recovered around 202 grams of cocaine from the two interstate drug peddlers near Xavier Square in the City April 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch Tuesday brought the interstate drug peddlers - Ravi and Sunny Kumar - on four-day remand to know details about other members of the racket and their plans to spread the illegal trade of cocaine in Odisha.

Sources, meanwhile, revealed that the officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have joined in the probe to find out details regarding the cocaine peddling racket.

"The officials of the NCB and the STF will jointly interrogate the accused duo to elicit vital information about the interstate racket," said a source.

For the first time in Odsiha, the officials of the STF had recovered around 202 grams of cocaine from the two interstate drug peddlers near Xavier Square in the city here April 12. The STF later arrested the duo after registering a case (9/2022) under Sections 21(c)/29 of



File photos of the accused duo

the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

The extremely addictive cocaine is mostly consumed by the elites in India, especially in Mumbai and Goa due to its high price, said an official of the STF.

"Unlike cannabis (ganja/ marijuana and weeds) and heroin/brown sugar (prepared from opium), cocaine is not produced in India. Cocaine is produced from the coca plant which is

native to South America. It is mainly produced in Latin American countries like Colombia, Peru and Bolivia and consumed mostly in the USA and Europe," he added.

The STF sources also claimed that the interstate racket involved in the trade of cocaine had also prepared a blue print to target international visitors during the upcoming Men's FIH Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela next year.

## ATM heist: Cops take accused on remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday brought the two members of an international gang of looters, involved in the theft of Rs 20 lakh from a SBI ATM in the city, on five-day remand for further probe into the incident.

A team of city police had earlier nabbed accused Khokan Molla and Mijanur Rehman Molla from Bangalore April 15. Khokan is a resident of Bagerhat in Bangladesh while Rehman claims to be a resident of 24 Pargana district in West Bengal.

During the remand period, the cops will interrogate the duo to know the whereabouts of other members of the gang, who along with the duo looted Rs 20 lakh after breaking open the uprooted ATM on Daya riverbed. The police will also try to find out the gang's involvement in other crimes in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar in the past.

# Cong never gained with seat adjustments: OPCC chief

PATNAIK ALSO SAID THAT THE GRAND OLD PARTY 'LOST ITS CREDIBILITY' IN SOME STATES DUE TO ALLIANCES MADE DURING POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** Days after poll strategist Prashant Kishor suggested that the Congress in Odisha should fight alone in the 2024 elections to Lok Sabha and the Assembly, the party's state unit chief, Niranjan Patnaik, Tuesday said that he, too, was of the same view as seat adjustments have never yielded the desirable results.

Patnaik also said that the grand old party 'lost its credibility' in some states due to alliances made during polls.

"He (Prashant Kishore) is a reputed poll analyst. His analysis may be correct. The party has not gained anywhere with seat adjustments," Patnaik claimed.

Senior party leader and AICC general secretary Bhakta Charan Das stated that Congress workers should maintain discipline and those not toeing the party line should be 'firmly dealt with'. Meanwhile, the demand for change of guard in Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) seemed to have intensified, with several leaders in-



sisting that any further delay would only hurt the party.

Jeypore MLA Tarapasrad Bahinipati reiterated that the state unit should have a new president.

Patnaik had submitted his resignation in the aftermath of party's debacle in Odisha in the 2019 polls. He is yet to receive a response in the matter from All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Bahinipati Tuesday suggested that one of nine Congress MLAs in the state should be made the next

**S**ENIOR PARTY LEADER AND AICC GENERAL SECRETARY BHAKTA CHARAN DAS STATED THAT CONGRESS WORKERS SHOULD MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE AND THOSE NOT TOEING THE PARTY LINE SHOULD BE 'FIRMLY DEALT WITH'

**M**EANWHILE, THE DEMAND FOR CHANGE OF GUARD IN ODISHA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE (OPCC) SEEMED TO HAVE INTENSIFIED, WITH SEVERAL LEADERS INSISTING THAT ANY FURTHER DELAY WOULD ONLY HURT THE PARTY

OPCC chief. "If that isn't the case, we will apprise senior leader Rahul Gandhi of our disappointment," he said.

Another legislator, Adhiraj Panigrahi of Khariar constituency said that the AICC should intervene and address the grievances and problems 'plaguing the state unit'.

The party's Kantabanji MLA, Santosh Singh Saluja, said that the Congress Legislature Party leader should also be changed, along with the state unit chief.

## OPF'S HUNGER STRIKE TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** Parents of students studying in private schools of the Capital city will sit on a hunger strike Wednesday before the Block Education Office (BEO) here against forceful selling of non-NCERT books by the private schools.

They also demand strong action against the Bhubaneswar Block Education Officer for not following the rules strictly. Earlier, in March this year the federation had sat on hunger strike but called off their protest after discussion with the authority of Education Departments. At that time Director, Elementary Education directed all DEO's to follow rule strictly.

"The Union government has ordered the usage of NCERT text books in private schools as well. All schools in the country have NCERT at the national level and SCERT at the state levels in respective languages. The Department of Mass Education too has clear guidelines for all schools as per the Article 29 of the Right to Education Act and the Revised Juvenile Justice Act 2015. However, private schools have been selling non-NCERT books for years, illegally, for thousands of crores of rupees," said Basudev Bhatt, chairman of the Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF).

## TRADITIONAL CRAFTS



A vendor sells bamboo products at Nimpur in Cuttack, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

MAHANGA QUINTUPLE MURDER

# Autopsy reveals they all resisted

While the post-mortem report did not clear the air over the speculated intoxication and poisoning of the deceased before the act, it indicated that all the victims had tried to the best of their abilities to resist the fatal attacks



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, April 19:** In a recent development, the post-mortem report of the quintuple murder at Kusupur village under Mahanga police limits in Cuttack was released Tuesday and divulged bone-chilling details.

Speculations were that the deceased were poisoned before being brutally killed. However, the post-mortem report did not reveal much about the intoxication and poisoning of the deceased before their murder.

The report stated that a sharp-edged weapon was used for the killing. Cuttack Rural police revealed the bodies bore multiple injury marks. The report also indicated that all the victims had tried to the best of their abilities to resist the fatal attack.

It is pertinent to mention that Siba killed five members of his elder brother's family at Kusupur village under Mahanga police station in Cuttack district April 12 over some land and property dispute. He later surrendered before Balichandrapur police in Jajpur.

The deceased were Alekha Sahoo, his wife Rashmi Sahoo, 20-year-old daughter Payal, 17-year-old son Guddu, and their younger son Ishi aged 15 years.

He was produced before the official residence of Salipur JMFC, where the Judge sent him to Salipur Sub-jail.

Friday, the police had had taken Siba to his ancestral home in Kusupur village and his rented house in Nanpur village to recreate the crime scene in the presence of Salipur SDPO and Mahanga police station IIC.

## IO transferred, IIC-rank officer to probe case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** As per NHRC guidelines, the Investigating Officer SK Behera has been transferred Tuesday in connection with the alleged custodial death of a man at Badagada police station here in the Capital City.

Now, Pramod Patnaik, an IIC rank officer of HRPC, will probe into the death of the man who was picked up by Badagada police in a theft case Sunday night.

However, within 48 hours, The DCP and District Magistrate will have to submit a joint report to the NHRC on all details including the condition of the man during the arrest, how and when he fell ill and when he was taken to the hospital.

**Badagada custodial death**

According to sources, the post-mortem report has revealed that there were no injuries in the man's body. There was a minor injury on his leg. So, it is suspected that he might have died of cardiac arrest.

Worth mentioning, the middle-aged vegetable vendor and father of four reportedly died in police custody after he was picked in a theft case Sunday night. The man's wife has alleged police torture.

"My husband died due to torture in the police station. He had no involvement in any theft case," she alleged. She said that her husband was picked up by the police when he was returning home from his in-law's house at Rasulgarh and taken to the Badagada police station.

There was confusion about the man's identity as the police record said he was Pradip Sahu, while his family claimed he was Debendra Choudhury. His wife produced his Aadhaar card to support her claim.

On the other hand, police said the man had sustained injuries while trying to escape from the police custody. He was caught and taken to Badagada police station where he complained of feeling ill and was taken to Capital Hospital. He died during treatment.

## DEMOLITION DRIVE



An eviction drive was carried out to widen the road from Patia Big Bazar to Patia Station in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

# Pro Bono Club launched at NLU workshop

Pro bono comes from the Latin expression "pro bono publico" meaning "for public good". Many lawyers provide poor and underprivileged clients with valuable legal advice and support without seeking any professional fee

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, April 19:** Taking forward the 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice' (DISHA) scheme, the Department of Justice (DoJ) in association with National Law University (NLU) Odisha, Cuttack conducted a workshop on 'State Level Consultation on Legal Literacy & Legal Awareness' at NLUO conference hall, Tuesday. The panel was chaired by eminent personalities in the legal space.

The DISHA scheme is aimed at enabling the vulnerable sections of society to have access to information of their legal rights, entitlements and creating better legal awareness to make justice delivery system citizen-centric.

The DoJ has launched comprehensive, holistic, integrated and systemic solution on access to justice at pan India level through DISHA (2021-26). All the Access to Justice Programmes like TELE law, Naya Bandhu (pro bono legal services), Naya Mitra and Legal Literacy & Legal Awareness have been merged under the DISHA scheme



and up-scaled to all India level. Aimed at implementing pro bono legal services across the country, a first of its kind Pro Bono Club under DISHA was also inaugurated at the workshop. Constituted by several stakeholders in legal space, the club will act as a voluntary facilitator of legal services to the

public who vulnerably seem to be in a legal blind spot of the society. Pro bono comes from the Latin expression "pro bono publico" meaning "for public good". Many lawyers provide poor and underprivileged clients with valuable legal advice and support without seeking any professional fee.

Around 50 stakeholders from several fields connected to legal services participated in the event where National Law University Odisha, Cuttack officially joined the Department of Justice for the Pro Bono Club Scheme Services. Shadow Advertising and Communications PVT LTD is their partnered and implementing agency to carry out legal literacy and legal awareness campaigns across the state.

## Mystery shrouds woman's death; kin allege murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, April 19:** A newly married woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances at Damodarpur-1 village under Kandarpur police limits in Cuttack district, Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Purnima Bhoi (20).

Purnima's family members lodged a written complaint alleging that their daughter was killed by her husband and in-laws. Based on the complaint lodged by Purnima's father Adikand Bhoi, police registered a case and have detained the husband, Sangram, for interrogation.

The body was seized and handed over to the family after autopsy at SCB Medical College and Hospital.

According to police sources, Purnima had a love marriage with her neighbor Sangram. However, she was allegedly being tortured by her husband and in-laws over various reasons.

Neighbours claimed to have seen her doing some household chores Tuesday morning. All of a sudden, Adikand was informed that his daughter was found dead in the house.

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Affidavit No. 9949  
Dt.19.04.2022 before  
Notary Public,  
Bhubaneswar, my name  
has changed from  
"Punnu" to "Puneet  
Pradhan". Henceforth I  
shall be known as Puneet  
Pradhan, S/o. Sh. Nakul  
Pradhan. At: Duplex-II,  
Fortune Elite,  
Raghunathpur,  
Bhubaneswar (751024) for  
all purposes.

## PROTECTIVE GEAR



A traffic awareness programme was held at the College Square in Cuttack, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## Tribal artisans feted at state-level contest

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** R Balakrishnan, Chief Advisor at the Chief Minister's Office, inaugurated the felicitation programme of tribal artisans at the State Level Tribal Painting & Craft Competition at the auditorium of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday.

Among the dignitaries present at the event were ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department Principal Secretary Ranjana Chopra and Advisor-cum Director of SCSTRTI & Special Secretary to Government AB Ota.

As many as 146 tribal painting and crafts of 124 tribal artisans had been recommended by the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) and Micro Projects for selection. Among the



124 artisans, 26 participated in junior group and 73 in senior group in painting while 25 participated in craft. All 124 tribal artisans belong to 25 tribal communities (including sub tribe) of Odisha.

SCSTRTI with support from Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken this initiative to promote and propagate the exclusive art and craft of tribal people of Odisha and to showcase their ma-

terial culture embodied by indigenous knowledge system.

All the 146 submissions were scrutinised by a two-member jury having expertise in relevant field for selection of the best three positions of paintings and crafts in the senior and junior groups. It is expected that through this state level felicitation, the artisans will get exposure and will get an opportunity to better their livelihood.

# Vision loss leading cause of anxiety, depression in elderly: Experts

**A**ge-related macular degeneration (AMD), which accounts for 8.7 per cent of all blindness worldwide, is the most common cause of anxiety, and depression seen among people older than 60 years, health experts said Monday.

AMD is a disease where abnormal blood vessels grow in the macula - centre part of the retina - causing damage to the central vision and making it difficult to cope.

Recent projections estimate that globally the number of individuals suffering with AMD will reach 288 million in 2040. In India, the overall prevalence of AMD currently ranges from 1.4 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

The earliest symptom of AMD is difficulty in seeing at night. At a later stage, AMD patients see blind spots and their ability to read, watch television, drive and



recognise faces gets affected. It later progresses to blindness.

The impaired vision disturbs the routine of the patients, makes them dependent and also increases functional disability.

"People suffering from AMD,

who have lost over 80 per cent of their central vision, are more likely to have anxiety and depression. This is mainly as they have plans to retire smoothly, and find it difficult to read and perform recreational activities at this stage in life,

which causes frustration and discomfort. Their life involves multiple visits to hospital accompanied with expensive treatments, which adds to deterioration in the quality of life." Indu Singh, Consultant Retinal Surgeon and Director, Dr Daljit Singh Eye Hospital, Amritsar, told IANS.

A recent study by International Journal of Environmental

Research and Public Health also confirmed that AMD has a negative psychological impact, and it reduces the quality of life to levels comparable to severe illnesses like cancer and stroke.

While it is important to go for walks, supervise things at home, to manage depression, Vishali Gupta, Professor, Vitreoretinal and Uvea, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER,

Chandigarh suggested the patients to engage in activities that they can do within the comfort zone of their vision.

"These patients should use magnifiers, iPads or other low vision aid devices that can help them read the script. Today there are apps that can read books to them. The idea is to keep oneself busy and feel useful," Gupta told IANS.

Another way to fight AMD related stress is to go for regular screening in order to avoid worsening of vision. Early diagnosis of AMD can help early treatment and also halt progression to vision loss.

Daraius Shroff, a retina specialist at Shroff Eye Centre in Delhi, suggested patients with AMD share with family and friends their anxieties to help relieve mental stress as well as to gain support to find solutions to alleviate depression.

IANS

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# Baby delivered under cellphone light

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Polsara, April 19:** In what has exposed the rickety health infrastructure in the state, a woman had to deliver a baby under cellphone light and candles during a power outage at Polsara community health centre (CHC) in Ganjam district, Sunday evening.

Patients in other wards of the hospital were also provided treatment in a similar manner owing to lack of alternative arrangements like diesel generators or inverters at the CHC. Patients and their kin termed it as a regular affair in the hospital.

Meanwhile, a video of the incident has gone viral on various social media platforms.

Tension ran high at the hospital as the relatives of the woman who delivered the baby expressed anger against the hospital authorities over poor healthcare facility at the CHC.

"My aunt experienced labour pain at around 4pm following which we admitted her to Polsara CHC. The hospital lacks proper in-



frastructure and the situation worsened during the power cut when the baby was born," said Tapaswini Sahu.

"The doctors and nurses switched on their cellphone lights while candles were lit as the CHC didn't have

a generator set or an inverter," she added. They gave an injection to the woman and delivered a baby in the same condition. Even postnatal treatment of the newborn was done by using cellphone light.

The doctors also relied upon

## POLSARA CHC

Patients in other wards of the hospital were also provided treatment in a similar manner owing to lack of alternative arrangements like diesel generator or inverter at the CHC

Tension ran high at the hospital as the relatives of the woman, who delivered the baby, expressed anger against the hospital authorities over poor healthcare facility at the CHC

cellphone light and candles to treat patients in other wards of the hospital, said some patients and their kin. Tapaswini and others have demanded early resolution of the problem and action against the negligent officials.

When contacted, Pragna Prathama, a physician at the CHC, said that they do not have any option but to treat the patient under cellphone torch as the hospital does not have a generator.



Conch blowers from Ganjam presented a 'Jodi Sankha' recital at the 18th Lok Mahotsav on the occasion of Hingula Yatra in Talcher

## SHORT TAKES

### Tractor tyre bursts, driver dies

**Anandapur:** A tractor driver died and owner of the vehicles was also critical when a rear tyre of the vehicle burst at Sasang Chhak under Nandipada police limits in Keonjhar Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Madhab Jena, while the injured is Sanjiv Sethi. Reports said the vehicle was on its way to somewhere when its tyre blew off all of a sudden near a motorcycle repairing shop in the afternoon. The driver was rushed to Anandapur sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Police have started an investigation into the matter.

### Wildfires engulf Kuldiha, Sarisua

**Soro/Kharia:** Fire has engulfed two acres of Debghiri forest under Kuldiha reserve forests in Balasore district. Forest officials, members of Vana Surakhya Samitis along with locals managed to contain the raging blaze from spreading further. This was the third time that the wildfires caught the forest in the last few weeks. Similarly, fires have destroyed a large number of trees and bushes in an area spreading over 50 sqkm in Sarisua hill under Khairia block. As the forest comes under the jurisdiction of Mayurbhanj district, Kupari forest officials did not take immediate steps to douse the blaze, locals alleged. Meanwhile, forest officials of Mayurbhanj have initiated measures to contain the fires.

## Haridaspur missing in most polluted cities' list irks locals



### RAMCO CEMENT WOES

Odisha has seven non-attainment cities - Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Rourkela and Kalinganagar in Jajpur, as per an SPCB report

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Jajpur, April 19:** As many as seven towns in Odisha figure in the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)'s list of most polluted places that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, a report said.

The report was made after monitoring the pollution level of 17 different towns in the state. As per the report, Odisha has seven non-attainment cities (NACs) that include Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Rourkela and Kalinganagar in Jajpur road.

However, it has no mention about Haridaspur, the home to Ramco Cement plant, under Dharmasala block of Jajpur district. Absence of Haridaspur in the list has not gone down well with the locals who alleged a bigger conspiracy.

"SPCB authorities are not trying to hide the facts but are playing with the lives of hundreds of people by not revealing the truth in the report," many locals rued and suspected a foul play in the SPCB report. The cement dusts and other pollutants emanating from Ramco plant have gone beyond control, they said.

Apart from pollution, Ramco has been lifting around 100 kilolitre of groundwater through bore wells on a daily basis especially when people in the pe-

ripheral villages are struggling to get safe drinking water in this scorching summer.

Locals alleged that Ramco Cement is not caring a fig for environmental safety and even for the court notice. Toxic fumes and dusts from the plant are polluting the environment.

The residents of Haridaspur had moved the SDJM Court March 24 seeking redressal of the pollution woes. Sub-divisional magistrate and sub-collector Sarat Chandra Mohapatra had investigated the matter and admitted that peace is being disturbed by operation of the plant. The residents have complained that toxic substances and other pollutants present in the air have been affecting their skin and eyes. Also, the nearby water bodies have become unusable and affected their agricultural activities.

Moreover, presence of around 200 stone crushers in Dharmasala tehsil has added to the pollution woes. Irate locals warned of massive demonstration if the SPCB fails to come out with a fact-based report and stand for the cause of the locals.

## Subarnapur hottest at 44.4° C

**AGENCIES**

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** Odisha simmered Tuesday recording the highest temperature of the season as unbearable hot weather and intense humidity continued and Subarnapur in the western part of the state became the hottest place in the state at 44.4 degrees Celsius, the Bhubaneswar meteorological centre said.

The mercury shot up to 42 degrees or more in nine weather stations of the state and at least 21 places logged a maximum of 40 degrees Celsius or above, it said. The heat in Bolangir town in western Odisha was just a shade less at 44.3 degrees and Titlagarh followed close behind at 43.5 degrees Celsius. The maximum settled at 37.6 degrees in

coastal Bhubaneswar and 37 degrees Celsius in Cuttack, a weather office bulletin stated. The sultry weather will continue and there will be no large change in maximum temperatures in the next two days, it said. As a result the mercury is expected to exceed 40 degrees Celsius at many places in the interior parts of the state and be above normal by three-four notches in some areas during the period.

It will fall by two degrees in the subsequent couple of days, according to the weather office. It said that there is possibility of thunderstorms and rain in many districts over the next three days due to strong southwesterly winds from Bay of Bengal to the northeastern states and a cyclonic circulation over Jharkhand.

## Bargarh health officer caught taking bribe

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Bargarh, April 19:** Vigilance officials Tuesday arrested the district health officer of Bargarh, Chulabati Sahu, while she was receiving bribe from a person to grant him food safety licence.

According to reports, Hrushi Pradhan, a resident of Khaupalli, had planned to open a hotel and applied for

food safety licence from the Health department. It was alleged that Sahu had demanded Rs 5,000 as bribe from Pradhan for the purpose.

Pradhan took up the issue with the Vigilance department, which laid a trap and caught Sahu red-handed. The anti-corruption sleuths seized the chemical-laced currency notes worth Rs 5,000. A case has been registered against Sahu.

## Youth gets 10-yr jail for raping minor

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Keonjhar, April 19:** A local court here has handed down 10 years of imprisonment to a youth after convicting him of raping a 16-year-old girl in 2017.

The additional district and special judge Subhashree Tripathy also slapped a fine of Rs 5,000 on convict Gobind Soren, 22, apart from the punishment. In default, Soren had to undergo an additional three months of imprisonment, the court observed while issuing the order. The court also directed

the state government to pay Rs 4 lakh as compensation to the survivor.

The judge passed the order after examining the statements of 11 witnesses and police chargesheet, special public prosecutor Ganesh Prasad Mohapatra said

According to the case diary, the incident occurred when the survivor met Soren while visiting a fair at Gadatuan village under Bamebari police limits January 15, 2017.

There Soren lured her on the promise of marriage and took her near a nullah and raped her.

## GANGRAPE MASTERMIND ARRESTED

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Baripada, April 19:** Police arrested the mastermind of abduction and gangrape of a differently-abled Class X girl under Jashipur police limits

in Mayurbhanj. Accused Mantu Behera of Badatalasahi was arrested 20 days after the occurrence of the crime. Earlier, police have arrested another youth in this connection. The incident occurred

when the girl was on her way to school, March 30. Behera waylaid the girl and abducted her on his bike to Ghodaghagri area near Similipal sanctuary. He called two of his associates to commit the crime.

## Mangroves along coast declining

### BASUDEVPUR



**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Padmapur, April 19:** The mangroves that have been raised along the coast in Basudevpur area of Bhadrak to deter the impact of cyclones, floods and other natural disasters are declining due to lack of patrolling by Forest department to check deforestation.

According to sources, the Forest department has spent crores of rupees on raising the mangroves along coastal

pockets like Padhuan, Tentulibadia, Kulakhata Adia, Chudamani, Krushnapur, Kasia, Gopabandhunagar, Binoba Bhava Nagar, Balimunda under Basudevpur block, Karanpalli under Chandbali block and Dhamra.

People working on environmental and conscious locals alleged that for the last few years people have been stripping off their leaves to feed their cattle while others are chopping off mangrove

plants to use them as firewood. Every day hundreds of people in these areas are doing such illegal and destructive activities to which the Forest department is a mute spectator, it was alleged.

In a few cases, people are caught and fined before being set free. Lack of protection to the mangroves and their degradation will definitely endanger the marine embankments which have been built to prevent ingress of tidal waves into coastal villages.

When asked, Basudevpur divisional forest officer (DFO) Baikuntha Behera admitted that the department is plagued by staff shortage.

"As the department is struggling with staff crunch, carrying out patrolling in all the mangrove forests is not possible. Stern action will be taken against the people stealing wood and damaging forests in days to come," he assured.

**Karur Vysya Bank**  
Smart way to bank

**THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.,**  
Asset Recovery Branch-Kolkata  
15 Bondel Road First Floor, Ballygunge Kolkata,  
West Bengal 700019  
Contact No: 033- 22900752, Email: arbkolkata@kvbmail.com

**SALE NOTICE**  
FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE  
PROPERTIES  
E-AUCTION ON  
12.05.2022

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **12.05.2022**, for recovery of **Rs.7,97,18,166.50 (Rupees Seven Crore Ninety Seven Lakh Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Six and Paise Fifty Only)** due to the Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor from **1) M/s. L.P. Electronics (Orissa) Private Limited (Borrower)** College Square, Cuttack-753003, Odisha 2). **Mr. Rajendra Prasad Ram (Director cum Guarantor) 3) Mr. Deepak Kumar Ram (Director cum Guarantor), 4) Mr. Ashok Kumar Prasad Ram (Guarantor) 5) Mr. Niranjan Prasad Ram (Guarantor) 6) Mr. Om Prakash Ram (Guarantor)**, No.2 to No.6 are S/o- Late Ganesh Ram, all are residing at College Square, PS-Malgotdown, Cuttack-753003

**Description of the Immovable Properties**

**Item No.1.** All that piece and parcel of residential land and three storied building at New Khata No.758/479 (Previous Khata No-758/31), New Khata No.758/480(Previous Khata No.758/31), New Khata No.340/465 (Previous Khata No.340/19), New Khata No-340/466 (Previous Khata No.340/19), New Plot No.1227/3287, area A0.010dec, (Previous Plot No.1227/1773), New Plot No.1238/3288, area A0.005dec, (Previous Plot No.1238/1774), New Plot No.1227/3289, area A0.013dec, (Previous Plot No.1227/1773), New Plot No.1238/3290, area A0.005dec, (Previous Plot No.1238/1774), New Plot No.1228/3291, area A0.014dec, (Previous Plot No.1228/1775), New Plot No.1228/3292, area A0.011dec, (Previous Plot No.1228/1775), total area A0.058DEC, Mouza-Cuttack Sahar Unit No.24, College Chhak, Taluka-Cuttack, No.237, PS-Malgotdown, No.3, Collage Road, District- Cuttack, Odisha-753003, standing in the name of Mr. Rajendra Prasad Ram and Mr. Deepak Kumar Ram.

Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	Bid Amount Incremental
Rs.3,76,00,000/-	Rs.37,60,000/-	Rs.50,000/-

**Item No.2.** All that piece and parcel of residential land and three storied building at New Khata No-373/351 (Previous Khata No.373/30), Plot No.732, area A0.040DEC Mouza-Cuttack Sahar Unit No.24, College Chhak, PS-Malgotdown, No.3, Collage Road, Taluka- Cuttack, No.237, Cuttack, Odisha-753003, standing in the name of Mr. Ashok Kumar Ram.

Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	Bid Amount Incremental
Rs.3,03,00,000/-	Rs.30,30,000/-	Rs.50,000/-

**Inspection of the Asset** All working Days - From 22.04.2022 to 11.05.2022 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

**Last date and time for submitting online Tender & Application Forms** Date: 11.05.2022 Time: 5:00PM

**Date and Time of E-Auction** The E-Auction will take place through portal <https://www.indianbankauction.com> on **12/05/2022** between 11:00am to 12:00 Noon with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each till sale is concluded.

**Nodal Bank account Name (EMD by RTGS/NEFT)** Account No: 110135100000973 | IFSC Code: KVB0001101. Name of account: BID COLLECTION A/c of SARFAESI | E-auction Proceed: LP Electronics (Orissa) Pvt. Ltd.

Contact Person & Phone No: Mr. Shibaji Das Mohapatra (9439499914), Email: shibajid@kvbmail.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e. [www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction](http://www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction) also at the web portal <https://www.indianbankauction.com> of the service provider, M/s. Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Bengaluru 080-23469661/62/64/65/68

**Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002**

The borrower/s, director/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

-s/d-  
**Date : 20.04.2022**  
**Place: Kolkata**

Authorized Officer  
**The Karur Vysya Bank Limited**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. C-99

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, CUTTACK**  
e-mail ID: eephtctii@gmail.com, sephdct521@gmail.com

**e-Procurement Notice for Bid Identification No. SEPH-DIVISION, CTC-06 of 2022-23**

1. Name of the work : 3 Nos. of P.H. Work
2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 18.24 lakhs to 30.28 lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 2 Months
4. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. of 21.04.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 30.04.2022
5. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 P.M. of 30.04.2022
6. Date & time of opening of bids : 11.00 A.M. of 02.05.2022
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : The Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Cuttack - 753004, Odisha, Ph. (0671) 2979063 email: eephtctii@gmail.com sephdct521@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer P.H. Division, Cuttack

OIPR-13009/11/0003/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
Bid Identification No. 03 of 2022-23

No. O-93: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement system in online mode for the different work in different blocks under Balangir District.

1. Nature of Work : Construction of Intake well in different villages of Balangir district.
2. Total No. of Work : 06 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.56.08 to 98.14 lakh
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : 'B & A Class' Contractor.
5. Period of Completion : Three Months
6. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir	03 of 2022 - 23	Dt.22.04.2022 at 11.00 hrs.	Dt.30.04.2022 upto 17.00 hrs.

Further details can be had in the DTCN available in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Sd./- 13.04.2022  
Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division, Balangir  
OIPR-25033/11/0004/2223

email ID- eeharabhangi@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist:Gajapati**  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
**e-Procurement Notice No.: SE- HID- 01/2022-23**

No.A-71: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-Procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

1. Type of the work : Concrete Lining, earthwork & repair of structures.
2. No. of works : 14(Fourteen) Nos.
3. Class of contractor : 'D' & 'C' Class
4. Bid identification No. : SE-HID-No.01/22-23 to 14/2022-23
5. Estimated cost : Rs. 5.66 Lakh to Rs. 13.27 Lakh
6. Period of completion : 3 (Three months) to 5 (Five Months )
7. Date and time of Availability & submission of bids in the portal : From 11.00 AM of 21.04.2022 to 5.00 PM of 30.04.2022.
8. Date of opening of bid : 02.05.2022, 11.00 AM in the e-Procurement cell, Harabhangi Irr. Division, Adava
9. Name of the officer : Superintending Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Gajapati.
10. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website
11. Further details can be seen from Government Website- <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Gajapati (761217)  
OIPR-32021/11/0001/2223

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

# CARBON PRICE SOLUTION



The net-zero transition requires the rapid development at scale of new technologies, energy-efficient infrastructure, and carbon capture and storage. A carbon price, together with the elimination of fossil-fuel subsidies, would give investors powerful incentives to finance these and other imperatives

The quest for carbon neutrality has begun in earnest. More than 70 countries, including the world's biggest polluters, have set net-zero targets for carbon dioxide emissions, with hundreds of cities, companies, and investors committing to complementary strategies. But a successful net-zero transition will require a fundamental transformation of the real economy. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has roiled global energy markets, has reawakened concern with energy independence. Now is the time to put a price on carbon as it is essential to drive the shift from our current overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels.

By allocating society's savings, financial markets shape the economy. Investors' choices depend on two factors: information and incentives. It is only when investors have both that financial markets can do what they do the best: allocate capital toward its best and highest use.

To understand this dynamic, consider the evolution of investors' understanding of risk, an ambiguous concept until 1952, when Harry Markowitz defined it as volatility, which has mathematical properties and is thus quantifiable. In 1964, William F. Sharpe built on this contribution to create his capital asset pricing model, which describes the relationship between systematic risk and expected returns, thereby putting a price on market risk. Together, Markowitz and Sharpe revolutionised how investors analyse investment risks and opportunities and thus how financial markets allocate capital.

A similar revolution in investors' understanding of climate risk is needed today.

High-quality climate-risk data, gathered through mandatory disclosures, is vital to enable the development of useful analytical tools. Fortunately, both the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the International Financial Reporting Standards Board are beginning to recognise this imperative, and have proposed new requirements for climate-related disclosures.

That disclosure is necessary, but not sufficient. Incentives matter, and they are currently skewed in the wrong direction.

The first problem is that the fossil-fuel industry is cosseted by

massive subsidies. The Glasgow Climate Pact, agreed at last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference, notes that such "inefficient subsidies" currently are equivalent to half of the total investment in fossil fuels.

The second factor distorting financial markets and preventing efficient capital allocation is the free ride carbon dioxide emissions are getting. How is it that the "polluter pays" principle has not yet been applied? After all, these unabated emissions cause global warming which poses an existential threat to humanity.

This is where a carbon price comes in. The net-zero transition requires the rapid development at scale of new technologies, energy-efficient infrastructure, and carbon capture and storage. A carbon price, together with the elimination of fossil-fuel subsidies, would give investors powerful incentives to finance the necessary energy transition.

Before the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, more than 340 investors representing over \$20 trillion assets under management released a statement calling for plans to phase out fossil-fuel subsidies and introduce carbon pricing. Their call was, for the most part, politely ignored. But as the International Energy Agency began to map the costs of the tran-

sition, it became clear that governments alone could not foot the bill; the trillions of dollars in financial markets must be mobilised.

The Paris climate agreement recognised private markets' essential role in marshaling the finance needed to keep global warming "well below" 2° Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels, and provides guidance for establishing cross-border emissions-trading schemes. So far, 40 national and 25 sub-national jurisdictions have put a price on carbon, covering about 15 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions.

Add to that the 46 additional carbon-pricing initiatives that are in the works - including in major economies like China and Brazil - and around 25 per cent of global emissions are set to be subject to a carbon price. That is a step in the right direction, but not nearly enough.

Meanwhile, the SEC has made the modest suggestion that companies need to report the carbon price they are assuming in their financial planning. This reflects the recommendations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, whose authoritative committee on climate risk - which includes asset managers, banks, and commodities firms - signed off on the obvious: Unless we put a price on carbon, we can-

not manage the energy transition effectively.

Addressing climate change requires behavioural change, and people change their behaviour in response to incentives. Pricing the negative externality of climate change explicitly will drive companies to reduce emissions, and consumers to make the necessary lifestyle changes. A carbon price would also generate revenues, which can be allocated to the development of green technologies or distributed to the public in a way that supports a just transition. In short, carbon pricing can achieve economic, climate, and social goals simultaneously.

In Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Lord Darlington quips that a cynic is someone "who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." Investors are currently in precisely the opposite position: We know the value of tackling climate change, but we have not established the price. Climate change poses a systemic risk that investors cannot simply diversify away. Unless that risk is accurately priced, the costs will be incalculable.

**Ben Meng is Executive Vice President of Franklin Templeton. Anne Simpson is Global Head of Sustainability at Franklin Templeton.**

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A smile acts upon the difficulties as the sun upon the clouds - it disperses them.

THE MOTHER

## Macron Or Marine

A arrogance, subterfuge and disrespect towards people in general seem to have become the hallmark of puny politicians across the globe. There are no statesmen in the world today. All actions of politicians are aimed at only garnering votes for the next election. They are incapable of thinking beyond what will make people vote them back to power. The attitude of dividing citizens on various lines to create a vote bank has also become the backbone of politics everywhere. The example of France is something that can be viewed to understand what is happening across the world.

The Presidential election of France is poised for a nail-biting finish at the second round April 24. The incumbent President Emmanuel Macron is facing a stiff challenge from the Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen who has ardently tried to change her image as a pugnacious nationalist. This is indeed remarkable since the majority of French voters have traditionally demonstrated their antipathy towards Far-right politics advocated by her father Jean-Marie Le Pen. On the other hand, Macron is no longer as popular as he was in 2017 when he won the election for the first time. The youth of France are going to play a crucial role in making or marring Macron's bid for a second term as they have become disillusioned with his brand of politics and aloofness from the people, seemingly behaving like a monarch with not much respect for democratic functioning. This section of the population has sided with the Leftist candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon in the first round, but now has no option but to choose between Macron and Le Pen after Melenchon was trounced in the first round. Macron got over 27 per cent of the votes against Le Pen's 23 per cent in the first round. What France is waiting to see with bated breath is whether most of these voters will abstain from voting as they have been votaries of a campaign that said "Ni Macron Ni Le Pen" (neither Macron nor Le Pen). However, their aversion to the Far-right politics of Le Pen, it is being hoped, may eventually help Macron get maximum number of their votes since they are expected to cast their votes for the "lesser evil."

The French voters sprang a surprise by ensuring that Marine Le Pen is in a position to challenge Macron and switching their support in sizable numbers to the former. Only weeks back, the war in Ukraine had appeared to be helping Macron for his handling of the crisis. Two weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, Macron garnered support from 31 per cent of voters, as shown by a survey, compared with just 18 per cent for Marine Le Pen. Macron did win the most votes in the election's first round, but Le Pen, whom he had comprehensively defeated in 2017, now has good prospects in the second round of voting. This is because she can rely on support from voters who cast ballots for another Far-right candidate Eric Zemmour and also anti-establishment members of the working class who had rebelled against Macron. Though it is expected that the majority of supporters of Melenchon, who managed to get almost 22 per cent of the votes in the first round, are unlikely to rally behind Le Pen, Macron will have to convince them about better functioning for his second term. For, Macron's well known pragmatism is now viewed as opportunistic and his style of functioning smacks of arrogance in popular perception. On the other hand, Le Pen has softened her image and does not instill too much fear among the people for her racist policies as she used to. Since taking over the National Front party from her father in 2011, Marine Le Pen has worked to make her party, now called National Rally, more palatable to a broader swath of the French public. She is no longer resorting to her Far-right political rhetoric, but concentrating on economic policies.

The French people want a leader who would make a material difference in their lives. Their disappointment with Macron and Le Pen's changed stance, which is being viewed as a mere ploy to garner votes, may result in a record number of abstentions, as analysts predict. This may not be music to Macron's ears since he cannot simply depend on the people's mistrust of Le Pen. His challenge for the second round is to convince voters, in particular those of Melenchon, to cast votes for him instead of abstaining. For that, he will have to demonstrate that casting a ballot for him will produce meaningful change in his governance.

Macron did not waste time to assuage people's anger by responding to the gilets jaunes or "yellow vests" protests. The movement that gathered momentum started as a spontaneous mobilisation against fuel price hikes, but later turned into an anti-establishment one. Macron launched a Grand Débat National (Great National Debate) in which government officials and he himself heard grievances from French citizens across the country. He also promoted public spending to address the economic fallout in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. His current campaign veers around supporting single mothers and more funding for education. However, this might not be enough to placate the voters who find his agenda on climate action, policing, health care, and education to be insufficiently progressive. A survey showed only 27 per cent people believe he "understands" their problems compared with 46 per cent for Le Pen.

This is not a good sign for Macron. Moreover, Le Pen is desperately trying to dispel fears among leaders of the European Union that if she captures power she will pursue "Frexit" on the model of Brexit which will further weaken the EU. She says this is false propaganda.

Macron still has the edge over Le Pen. But, the perceptions of the French people will decide the fate of the two contenders who do not have much to exhibit to plead their respective cases.



Ben Meng & Anne Simpson

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE, AND PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR IN RESPONSE TO INCENTIVES

### IN JEST THIS

## Fish are much smarter than we think

If you've ever been scuba diving in the ocean, you've probably come across schools of fish. Unlike the majority of youths, fish enjoy being in schools. They spend not just weekdays in schools, but also weekends. That's because schools promote learning, and fish know they have a lot of catching up to do.

But don't take my word for it. Just ask a group of researchers in Germany who recently showed that two types of fish, cichlids and stingrays, can perform simple addition and subtraction. They can add and subtract numbers from one to five, which means that they're almost ready to run the cash register at McDonald's. Trust me, it's only a matter of time before you'll be buying a fish sandwich from a fish.

According to a ScienceDaily report, scientists have long known that cichlids and stingrays, like humans, can distinguish small quantities without counting. If you've invited three people to dinner at your home and four people show up,

you don't have to count them to know that an extra person is there. Cichlids and stingrays can be trained to do something similar. They might even call an Uber for the uninvited guest.

The research group at University of Bonn's Institute of Zoology conducted tests to show that these fish can even calculate. "We trained the animals to perform simple additions and subtractions," said Dr Vera Schluessel, who led the research group. "In doing so, they had to increase or decrease an initial value by one."

I cannot over-emphasise how impressive it is that fish can perform simple addition and subtraction. Trust me, the average elementary school child would not be able to do this—perform simple addition and subtraction while fully submerged in water.

Arithmetic is hard enough without having to do it underwater.

You're probably wondering how the fish were able to demonstrate their ability to add and subtract. Well, the researchers showed the

fish geometric shapes and conveyed their instructions through colours. Three blue shapes meant that the fish needed to add one, whereas three yellow shapes meant the fish needed to subtract one. After viewing three blue squares, for example, the fish were shown a picture of four squares, as well as a picture of two squares. If the fish swam to the picture of four squares, they received an 'A' on the test and could graduate from school.

Actually if the fish swam to the right picture, they were rewarded with food. And according to ScienceDaily, if they swam to the wrong picture, "they went away empty-handed." (This is quite surprising to me. I did not realise that some fish have hands.)

After taking an entire course in math from the researchers, the fish learned the meaning of blue (add one) and yellow (subtract one). But the big question was whether they could apply this knowledge to new tasks.

"To check this, we deliberately omitted some calculations during

training," Schluessel explained. "Namely, 3+1 and 3-1. After the learning phase, the animals got to see these two tasks for the first time. But even in those tests, they significantly often chose the correct answer."

Even when the researchers used different sizes and types of shapes, the fish were able to find the correct answers. Schluessel called it "a feat that requires complex thinking skills."

What the research shows, she said, is that humans tend to underestimate other species, especially non-mammals. Indeed, most people who keep fish in aquariums have a very low bar in judging their pets' intelligence.

"Did you see that?" they exclaim. "My fish spotted me and swam to the surface, knowing they were about to get fed. They're so intelligent."

What they don't realise is that the fish are much smarter, saying to themselves: "Did you see that? Our owner had one pimple on his nose yesterday and today he has three!"

### WISDOM CORNER

- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. BOB MARLEY
- Time stays long enough for anyone who will use it. LEONARDO DA VINCI
- The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places. ERNEST HEMINGWAY

### WORDSWORTH

#### Souped-up

Souped-up is known both in the UK and the US and was actually created in the latter country. It's one of the longer-lived slang terms, still widely used. In its first sense, in the 1920s, souped-up specifically meant to modify a motor vehicle to increase its power and efficiency. Souped-up must at root derive from super, as in supercharger. This term for a device to increase the pressure of the fuel-air mixture in an engine to improve its performance is known from 1919. Versions of the device had been invented much earlier, but the term was created to refer to one developed for aero engines by Sanford A Moss of General Electric in 1918. However, there's almost certainly a connection with the foodstuff, which would account for the shift in spelling. Soup has at times been a slang term applied to several murky liquids. And it was recorded in Webster's Dictionary in 1911 that soup was "any material injected into a horse with a view to changing its speed or temperament". It seems that supercharger combined with the racing and criminal senses of soup to make souped-up.

### LOL

#### I marked the spot

Two friends rented a boat and fished in a lake every day. One day they caught 30 fish. One guy said to his friend, "Mark this spot so that we can come back here again tomorrow." The next day, when they were driving



to rent the boat, the same guy asked his friend, "Did you mark that spot?" His friend replied, "Yeah, I put a big 'X' on the bottom of the boat." The first one said, "You stupid fool! What if we don't get that same boat today?"



Melvin Durai

TRUST ME, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU'LL BE BUYING A FISH SANDWICH FROM A FISH

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Pyramid fraud

Sir, This refers to 'ED freezes ₹757 crore Amway India assets', Orissa POST, April 19. Allegations of money laundering were made in the past against the well-known multi-level marketing company Amway India. The popular 'pyramid scheme' of this MLM company is a purest fraud scheme. Surprisingly, such schemes work for a short duration on the "teaming and lading" model, robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is a "made-for-scam" scheme and recipe for disaster. Pyramid schemes have not only lured and robbed many innocent people of their hard earned money, but also money belonging to their family/friends and acquaintances who invested on their insistence. In fact, acceptance of money under Money Circulation/Multi-Level Marketing/Pyramid Schemes is a cognizable offence under the Prize Chit & Money Circulation (Banning) Act, 1978. As a part of its caution, the RBI has reiterated the general public against MLM activities, so that investors do not fall prey to unscrupulous entities.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Prevent violence

Sir, Sporadic violence that occurred during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations and Ram Navami in various parts of the country is unfortunate and deplorable. In Jahangirpura, Delhi, communal violence crossed all limits. It is the bounden duty of the state, to maintain law and order. Delhi government cannot absolve of its duty by saying that the home department of Delhi government is vested in Central government. It might be an intelligence failure. The purpose of any festival is to bring happiness and harmony in society. The trenchant experience during anti-CAA and NRC demonstrations has not been wiped out of our memory yet. Such, violence in the national capital gives a wrong message to the public. Fissiparous and divisive forces should be kept at a bay. Stringent action should be taken against the perpetrators of communal strife. Government is duty bound to maintain peace and harmony in society.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

#### Welcome ruling

Sir, The Supreme Court deserves praise for setting aside the Allahabad High Court's order that granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the prime accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. The top court observed that the Allahabad High Court was myopic and in a tearing hurry to give him relief. It directed Ashish to surrender within a week. The SC also asked the high court to consider the matter afresh because the victims didn't get an adequate hearing.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

## of the day quote

There are several examples of Indian women who, before and after independence, have shattered many glass ceilings. Let us not forget the fearless women scientists of the Mars Orbiter Mission. Women were among the leading 'Corona Warriors' who demonstrated extraordinary resilience and provided healing touch to save fellow citizens, often risking their own lives

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

The Supreme Court's decision to cancel bail to Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case has given hope of justice to farmers

RAKESH TIKAIT | BHARATIYA KISAN UNION LEADER

Today, India is seeing two distinctive styles of politics - the NDA's efforts which are seen in their work and the petty politics of a group of parties, which is seen in their acerbic words

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT



While parts of India are ravaged by riots and violence why is the prime minister so conspicuously silent? Why does he not denounce hatred no matter where it comes from? Why do perpetrators of hate get political patronage? Why are those who incite violence rewarded and most of all why are youth being incentivised to attack and abuse?

RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER

## TN TO PURCHASE POWER

Tamil Nadu is set to purchase power to the tune of 6000 MW to overcome the shortage in the months of April and May



# No religious procession without govt nod: Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 19: Amid incidents of violence during festivals in some states, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed that no religious procession should be taken out without permission and that usage of loudspeakers should not inconvenience others.

With Eid festival and Akshaya Tritiya likely to fall on the same day next month and many other festivals lined up in the coming days, Adityanath said the police needs to be extra cautious.

During the course of a review meeting on law and order with senior officials here on Monday, he said everyone has the freedom to follow his method of worship according to his religious ideology. "Although mics can be used, make sure the sound does not come out of any premises. Other people should not face any problem," he said, adding that no permission should be given to install loudspeakers at new sites.

"No religious procession should be taken out without due permission. Before giving permission, an affidavit should be taken from the organiser regarding maintenance of peace and harmony. Permission should be given to only those religious processions, which are traditional. New pro-



The orders come in the backdrop of violence during Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri area in Delhi on Saturday and reports of violence in the course of Ram Navami rallies in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and West Bengal recently

He directed officials that religious programmes and worship should be held only at designated places and it should be ensured that no religious event takes place by disrupting roads or traffic

grammes should not be given unnecessary permission," Adityanath added.

The orders come in the backdrop of violence during Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri area in Delhi on Saturday and reports of violence in the course of Ram Navami rallies in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal recently.

He also directed officials that religious programmes and worship

should be held only at designated places and it should be ensured that no religious event takes place by disrupting roads or traffic.

The chief minister also cancelled leave of all police and administrative officials till May 4 and asked all those on leave to report within 24 hours. He also directed officials from the police station to the ADG level to hold dialogue with religious leaders within the next 24 hours to ensure

peace during festivals.

"The leave of all administrative/police officers, from SHO, CO and district police chiefs to District Magistrate. Divisional Commissioner is cancelled till May 4 with the immediate effect. "Those who are currently on leave, must return to the place of posting within the next 24 hours. This arrangement should be ensured by the Chief Minister's Office," he said, according to an official statement.

Additional police forces should be deployed in sensitive areas and drones should be used for keeping an eye on the situation. Every evening, the police force must do foot patrolling and the police response vehicle (PRV) should remain active, he said.

The safety of every single citizen in Uttar Pradesh is the primary responsibility of all of us, Adityanath said, adding "we always have to be alert and careful about this responsibility of ours."

All necessary efforts should be made keeping in view the local needs so that every festival should be held in peace and harmony, he said and asked to sternly deal with those issuing mischievous statements. "Those trying to vitiate the atmosphere should be dealt with strictly. There should be no place for such people in a civilized society," he said.

# Dalit student forced to lick feet, 8 arrested



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rae Bareilly/Lucknow, April 19: A video of a class 10 Dalit student being beaten up and made to lick the feet of a man surfaced on social media here, prompting the police to lodge a case and arrest eight people, officials said Tuesday.

The incident also triggered a spate of allegations with another video, purported to be that from the victim's side, emerging on social media in which one person is heard making accusations on members of the upper caste for thrashing the boy finding him alone.

The teenager's family also met Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow to apprise him of the incident. According to police, on April 10, the boy, a resident of Jagatpur town, was taken to Ramlila Maidan on a motorcycle by his friend. Police said he was later taken towards Salon Road, from where some other youths took him to a garden.

The attackers beat him up in the garden, they said. A video of them beating up the boy and forcing him to lick the feet of one of the attackers was recorded and shared on social media, they said.

After the video went viral, the boy along with his mother reached Kotwali police station and lodged a complaint, they said. Police, however, did not elaborate on the reasons as to why the boy was assaulted.

An FIR under relevant sections has been registered in the matter and eight accused have been arrested and sent to jail, Dalmau Circle Officer (CO) Ashok Singh said. Police said there is no proof of as of now about some of the accused being minors and it will take action if and when such documents are brought to its notice.

The incident took a political colour with a large number of people along with Congress leader Sushil Pasi reaching the collectorate in Rae Bareilly on Monday and holding a demonstration.

Samajwadi Party MLA from Unchahar, Manoj Kumar Pandey, also met the victim's family in Rae Bareilly and party release issued by its spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary in Lucknow after the family met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said even after this incident, the personnel of Jagatpur police station were pressuring the victim for a compromise.

"But, when the local people gheraoed the police station and held a big demonstration, then with the arrest of five people, an FIR was written on behalf of the minor boy in light sections. In that too, the main accused was saved. He is still absconding," the release said. A demand for running bulldozers at the house of the accused, security and compensation to the victim and admission of the boy in the Kendriya Vidyalaya has been made by the aggrieved family, the release added.

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 die, 2 missing

Jaipur: Five people died while two were missing after the car in which they were travelling was hit by a bus from behind on Monday at Bhakra canal bridge in Punjab's Jalandhar and the car subsequently fell into the canal. The deceased victims included a doctor, his wife, their child and two relatives while two girls aged 2 and 4 are missing. The family was from Rajasthan's Sikar district. Search for the missing girls is being done in the canal. The doctor had gone on a tour to Himachal Pradesh with the family on April 13 and was scheduled to come back by Monday night.

### Three arrested

Kolkata: At a time when controversies are brewing in West Bengal over the gang-rape of a minor girl who died later at Hanskhali in Nadia district, yet another case of gang-rape of a minor girl has surfaced in the state. The incident took place late on Sunday night at Baduria in North 24 Parganas district. An FIR has been filed at the Baduria police station which said that after the incident, the culprits threatened the victim, her family members and her friend of dire consequences if they approached the police on this count. The victim is a student of Class 9.

### Six dead in UP

Deoria: Six persons were killed and more than 10 injured when a roadways bus and Bolero collided head on late on Monday night in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district. The injured have been admitted to the hospital for treatment. The condition of two is said to be critical. The bus was coming from Gorakhpur to Deoria and the injured passengers were returning from a wedding function.

### Two cattle smugglers killed

Kokrajhar/Diphu (Assam): Two alleged cattle smugglers were killed early on Tuesday and four police personnel injured in an "ambush by militants" in Assam's Kokrajhar district, a police officer said. According to the officer, the attack happened around 1.30 am when the two were being taken to Jomduar area of the district by police personnel for identification of smuggling routes along Sankosh river. The officer claimed that the police vehicle carrying the duo "came under firing from militants", following which the personnel jumped out of the car to take cover in nearby spots.

## FEELING THE THRILL



NCC cadets train on a boat of Southern Naval Command in Kochi

PTI PHOTO

# Insurance scheme for healthcare workers on Covid duty extended

The Union Health Ministry said it has been decided to extend the policy to provide a safety net to dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of Covid-19 patients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: The insurance scheme for healthcare workers engaged in Covid-19 related duties has been extended further for a period of 180 days from Tuesday, and 1,905 claims have been settled under it so far, the Government said on Tuesday.

The Union Health Ministry said it has been decided to extend the policy to provide a safety net to dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of Covid-19 patients.

Since the launch of the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP): insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting COVID-19 on March 30, 2020, 1,905 claims of health workers who died while being deputed on COVID-19 related duties have been settled, the ministry said.

The PMGKP was launched to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of ₹50 Lakh to 22.12 lakh healthcare providers including community health workers and private health workers who may have been in direct

contact and care of COVID-19 patients and may be at a risk of being impacted by it.

On account of the unprecedented situation, private hospital staff, retired, volunteers, local urban bodies, contract, daily wage, ad-hoc, outsourced staff requisitioned by states, central hospitals, autonomous hospitals of central, states, UTs, AIIMS and Institute of National Importance (INI)/hospitals of Central Ministries specifically drafted for care of COVID-19 patients are also covered under the PMGKP.

# SAJJAD GUL DESIGNATED AS TERRORIST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 19: Terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) member Sheikh Sajad alias Sajjad Gul, who took part in the conspiracy to kill journalist Shujaat Bukhari in Srinagar in 2018, was designated as a terrorist by the Centre Tuesday.

Gul is the sixth individual to have been designated as a terrorist by the Centre in the last fortnight. The Union home ministry said Gul is absconding in a case pertaining to recovery of arms and ammunition in Jammu and Kashmir and has been actively radicalising, motivating and recruiting youngsters in the Union Territory to support the LeT. He has also been involved in terror funding, the ministry said.

Gul was found involved in hatching a criminal conspiracy, in connivance with other members of the LeT, to eliminate Bukhari, a prominent journalist, along with two of his personal security officers, at the busy Press Enclave area of Srinagar on June 14, 2018, the ministry said in a notification.

Considering his terror activities, the home ministry designated Gul as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967). Born on October 10, 1974, Gul hails from the Rose Avenue Colony HMT Shaleng in Srinagar, and is one of the commanders of the LeT.

He is the 37th individual to have been declared as a designated terrorist by the Centre. With the declaration of Gul as a terrorist, the law-enforcement agencies can now attach his properties, besides booking any person associated with him. April 8, the government had designated Hafiz Talha Saeed, a key leader of the LeT and the son of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, as a terrorist.

# Railways loses crores due to cattle run over incidents

A FRESH CASE CAME TO LIGHT SUNDAY NIGHT IN RUPNAGAR, PUNJAB WHEREIN 116 COACHES OF A GOODS TRAIN DERAILED AS THE DRIVER APPLIED EMERGENCY BRAKES AFTER A HERD OF CATTLE CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRACK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 19: The incidents of cattle being run over by trains not just affects the rail operations but also leads to a whopping financial loss for the Railways.

A fresh case came to light Sunday night in Rupnagar, Punjab wherein 116 coaches of a goods train derailed as the driver applied emergency brakes after a herd of cattle came in the middle of the track.

According to information received through RTI, if a passenger train running on diesel stops for a minute, then it results into a loss of ₹20,401. On the other hand, it is ₹20,459 in case of an

electric train.

Similarly for a diesel-run goods train's one minute stoppage, railways incur a loss of ₹13,334 and it is ₹13,392 for an electric goods train. According to experts, these are direct losses. Apart from this if a train stops without any reason, it also affects the movement of many other trains due to safety and traffic reasons, which multiplies the losses incurred by the railways.

Furthermore, in such a situation when a train gets delayed, the railways have to refund ₹100 or 200 on an average as part of its TDR policy. This further increases the burden on the railways.

According to RTI, incidents of



cattle being run over by trains are very common in many parts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal. In the North-East, even elephants are dying after being hit by trains. In Uttar Pradesh's

Moradabad division alone from 2016 to 2019, as many as 3,000 trains were delayed by 15 minutes due to incidents of cattle run over.

According to the 20th Livestock Census by the Department of

Animal Husbandry and Dairying over 50.21 lakh cattles are roaming on the roads. Out of this, Rajasthan with 12.72 lakh cattles on roads is at number one and Uttar Pradesh with 11.84 lakh is on number two. Thus, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh jointly account for almost 50 per cent of these cattles.

According to the railways, more than 26,000 cases of stray cattle affected train operations in the last one year. As per the latest internal data prepared by the railways, due to the increasing number of stray cattle, more number of cows, buffaloes and bulls are wandering on railway tracks and are being run over by high speed trains.

There were a total of 26,142 cattle run over (CRO) cases on rail tracks during 2021-22 as against 10,919 human run over (HRO) cases for the same period.

The Northern Zone and the North Central Zone, which covers most of the parts of North India, have reported maximum such incidents in the year 2021-22 with 6,816 CRO cases and 6,130 HRO cases respectively. Whereas the railways saw a total of 19,949 CRO cases and 7,185 HRO cases in the period 2020-21.

The number of CRO cases has increased from about 2,000-3,000 in 2014-15 to over 14,000 in 2017-18, and to 27,046 in 2019-20.

# Hectic lobbying as sr ministers set to lose Cabinet posts



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, April 19:** Hectic lobbying has begun in Karnataka's ruling BJP as the party heads for a Cabinet expansion, party sources said here Tuesday.

More than five sitting Cabinet ministers are set to lose their berths to make way for new faces as part of the party's strategy for the 2023 Assembly elections, they added.

The party high command has sent a message to 'netas' of the party to be ready to sacrifice their cabinet berths and involve themselves in party organisation activities. The party has decided to induct at least eight new faces in the cabinet.

As per the sources, the news has created ripples within the party leaving the sitting ministers a worried lot. BJP President JP Nadda who was in Karnataka last week to attend executive committee meeting had discussed and obtained the list of ministers who could be dropped from the ministry.

The message for senior ministers who will lose their positions will be conveyed through Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai could be called to New Delhi at any point to finalise cabinet expansion or formation of new cabinet.

A final meeting will be held between Nadda, Amit Shah and Bommai.

Currently, there are five positions vacant in the state cabinet. If six to eight ministers are dropped, the party could accommodate 13 new faces in the cabinet, the sources said.

The sources further revealed that the ministers who are going to be dropped have already been given feelers by CM Bommai and the high command.

Commenting on the cabinet expansion, CM Bommai stated Tuesday that he will go to New Delhi as soon as he gets a call from central leaders. "I am focusing more on development activities. I am yet to get an invitation from New Delhi to take up the trip," he said.

According to the sources, the party is treading cautiously as the opposition Congress has adopted an aggressive approach. Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and State President DK Shivakumar has said many times that a number of leaders from BJP are in touch with them. The party will have to take crucial calls on allotting cabinet posts to BY Vijayendra, the son of former CM BS Yediyurappa and prominent backward class leader, former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi.

## K'TAKA HINTS AT ADOPTING UP, MP MODEL

Meanwhile, the measures initiated by the both the governments against the minority community following incidents of communal violence are being questioned

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, April 19:** Ruling BJP government in Karnataka is mulling adopting the harsh measures of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh governments to deal with incidents of communal violence in the state.

According to sources in the party, the leaders are pressuring the government to initiate actions like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Meanwhile, the measures initiated by the both the governments against the minority community following incidents of communal

violence are being questioned. Karnataka is presently dogged by the communal tensions leading to large-scale violence. Though the government is dealing with an iron hand with the miscreants in terms of arrest and invoking the provisions of the UAPA Act, the party leaders are demanding sterner action to quell further violence in the state.

Giving hints about the developments within the party, BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel Tuesday stated that the action taken against rioters in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh is apt for miscreants in the state.

He attacked the opposition Congress for extending support to communal tension in the state. Congress needs to be blamed for earlier KG Halli-DJ Halli violence case in Bengaluru, Shivamogga violence that followed the murder of Bajrang Dal activist and now Hubballi violence, he said. It is not possible to gather 1,000 people immediately. It is an organised violence, he stated.

Chief Minister Basavaraj

### TACKLING FLARE-UPS



Bommai has stated that the investigation into the case of Hubballi violence is progressing. Whoever takes law into their hands will be punished. Attack on the police station is a heinous act, we will take strict action, he said.

Responding to Congress's charge he maintained that innocent people were arrested by police in connection with the violence of Hubballi, he clarified that no innocent has been arrested. All action has been taken based on evidence,

he said. When asked about him taking a soft approach to the happenings in the state, he refuted the charge and stated that there is no delay in action in any of the developments.

The police sources explained that they have got messages directing the members of the minority community not to post any videos on social media as it was the war against kaafirs. The police also said that the violence started immediately after people came out

from 30 mosques after namaz. Now, police are suspecting that the mob is being provoked by the speeches and are gathering evidence in that regard. Meanwhile, Muslim leaders are claiming that during the season of Ramzan they don't indulge in violence. The mobs brought in from other places are being used and violence is created to put blame on them.

The police department has been on their toes ever since the hijab crisis came to the fore across the state. Shivamogga city witnessed large-scale violence after the murder of Bajrang Dal activist at the height of hijab crisis. The city was put under prohibitory orders for more than seven days to bring back normalcy. Now, prohibitory orders are clamped in Hubballi till April 20.

The BJP leaders are asking for harsh measures against people who are indulging in violence so that they don't dare to think of involving in such acts, party sources said. The ruling BJP is seriously considering the model of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to deal with the situation, sources explain.

### JUMBO BLESSING



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during his visit to the Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham, in Sringeri, Tuesday. The Chief Minister's political secretary DN Jeevraj and MLA Rajegowda are also seen

PTI PHOTO

## HC notice to Delhi ashram for confining minor girls in 'animal-like' conditions

**THE INCIDENT CAME TO LIGHT FIRST FOLLOWED BY A RAID BY A HIGH-COURT APPOINTED COMMITTEE AT THE 'ADHYATMIK VISHWA VIDYALAYA' RUN BY BABA VIRENDER DEV DIXIT IN THE CITY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 19:** The Delhi High Court Tuesday expressed serious concern over the condition of an ashram, a spiritual place in north Delhi's Rohini run by an absconding self-styled godman who was allegedly holding a number of girls captive in animal-like conditions.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla issued a show-cause notice to the institution while dealing with the matter.

The incident came to light first followed by a raid by a high-court appointed committee at the 'Adhyatmik Vishwa Vidyalaya' run by Baba Virender Dev Dixit in the city.

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal was also asked

to accompany the police during the inspection.

The committee had told the court that the girls and women were kept in the ashram in unhygienic and animal-like conditions with no privacy even for bathing and rescued around 40 women from there.

In 2018, the Delhi High Court had barred the ashram Adhyatmik Vishwa Vidyalaya from representing itself as Vishwa Vidyalaya and directed the CBI to follow all possible steps to trace the self-styled godman.

On December 20, 2017, the Delhi High Court directed the CBI to investigate the alleged illegal confinement of girls and women in the ashram who had been kept in inhuman conditions behind metal doors in a fortress surrounded by barbed wire.

The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered three cases against Dixit for allegedly keeping several women and minor girls hostage at his ashram.

During the course of the hearing Tuesday, the bench was in the view that the place should be taken care of by the Health Department of Delhi government.

"In broad daylight in a city like Delhi, you're going on with these scandals. This won't go on for another day. We are aghast to read this," the bench remarked.

After a detailed hearing, the matter was posted for April 21 clubbed with the plea filed by NGO Foundation for Social Empowerment.

## Uneasy calm grips Jahangirpuri, heavy security cover continues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 19:** Though under control, the situation remained tense as an uneasy calm prevailed in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, three days after it witnessed violent clashes during a Hanuman Jayanti procession April 16.

The area was still under heavy security cover, excessively barricaded and manned by the police personnel along with the paramilitary forces.

The people have been asked to avoid walking on that stretch. Several shops in vicinity of the violence-hit road were still closed.

The police have divided the area into five sectors - Sector 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 - to efficiently secure the area in case of any emergency. The police personnel in every sector are being led by Additional DCPs.

Notably, the communal violence case was transferred to the Crime Branch, which has formed around 14 teams to probe the incident from all angles.

It was officially learnt that the Crime Branch has intensified the investigation and are conducting



searches in the area. A man named Gulli is being searched by the police as the police have found that he supplied the illegal firearm to Imam alias Sonu alias Yunus, who allegedly fired shots during the communal clashes.

Accused Imam was arrested by the Special Staff of the northwest district police, a day ago. During interrogation, the accused Imam disclosed that he had fired through his pistol near Kushal Chowk during the violence.

Barring a stray incident of stone pelting, the situation was mostly peaceful on Monday. The stone pel-

### 5 booked under NSA

As many as five persons arrested in connection with Saturday's communal clashes in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area have been slapped with the stringent National Security Act (NSA), official sources said Tuesday. The sources said the accused who have been booked under the NSA include alleged mastermind Ansar Sheikh, Salim Chikna, Imam Sheikh alias Sonu, Dilshad and Aheed. According to the FIR lodged at the Jahangirpuri police station, the Hanuman Jayanti procession was passing off peacefully through the area on Saturday, but at around 6 pm, when it reached outside a mosque in C-block, Ansar came with his 4-5 associates and started arguing with the participants of the 'Shobha Yatra'. The argument soon turned violent and both the sides started pelting stones at each other. The Special Staff of the northwest district police arrested Imam alias Sonu Monday.

ing incident happened when a police team of north west district had gone to an alleged shooter's house in CD Park road in his search and for examination of his family members.

## GITA, MAHABHARAT TO FORM PART OF MORAL EDUCATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

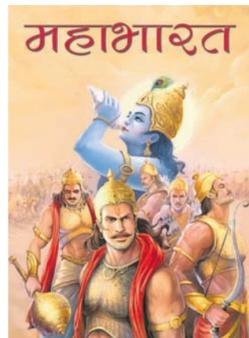
**Bangalore, April 19:** The Karnataka government is all set to introduce Hindu epic stories - 'Bhagavad Gita' and 'Mahabharat' - in its school curriculum from the next academic year.

Though a proposal in this regard was made some time ago, the ruling BJP government had kept it in abeyance considering the opposition.

Clearing the air Tuesday, Education Minister BC Nagesh said, "From next year, moral education will be added to the school syllabus. 'Bhagavad Gita', 'Mahabharat' and 'Panchatantra Stories' will also be part of moral education, he stated.

Whichever ideologies help children towards higher morals would be adopted in moral education. It won't be confined to a religion. The aspects from various religious texts, which are beneficial to children would be adopted. However, the aspects of a particular religion followed by 90 per cent of children would find more preference and it is inevitable, he explained.

Minister Nagesh also clarified that the title 'Mysuru Huli' (Lion of Mysuru) of erstwhile ruler of Mysuru Kingdom Tipu Sultan will



be retained in the text books. BJP MLA Appachu Ranjan has demanded to drop the lesson on Tipu Sultan from the text books. He has presented evidence to substantiate his claim, he said.

MLA Ranjan is urging that if a lesson on Tipu Sultan is taught, all facets should be taught. Tipu was an anti-Kannada ruler who imposed Persian language in administration. His atrocities in Kodagu must also be taught to children. But, the lesson on Tipu is not dropped, unnecessary details would be retained. The details on which aspects would be omitted will be shared later, he explained.

## Plans to develop Bangalore as int'l Smart City: Bommai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, April 19:** The Karnataka government has long-term plans of developing Bangalore as an international Smart City by developing metro, suburban rail, good roads, and satellite towns, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Monday.

In his address after laying the foundation stone for 'Masti Bhavan' dedicated to renowned author Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, he said the economy is being given a boost by developing Bangalore - "the pride of Karnataka and India" as an international brand.

"Bangalore is not just about buildings, it should develop in all

spheres like good literature, libraries, sports and more. State government is committed to the comprehensive development of Bangalore. The entire picture of Bengaluru would change by implementing the various development works," he said.

The proposed Bhavan would host all the activities related to Masti, whose literary legacy would be showcased to the next generations through it. "He was not just the asset of Karnataka... we want to make him an asset for the entire country," Bommai said.

Kannada literature has the distinction of bagging the highest number of Jnanpith awards in the country, he said.

## Modi to address nation from Red Fort after sunset

**THE FORT WAS CHOSEN AS THE VENUE FOR THE EVENT AS IT WAS FROM HERE THAT MUGHAL RULER AURANGZEB HAD GIVEN ORDERS FOR THE EXECUTION OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 19:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from the Red Fort Thursday night to mark the 400th

birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the first prime minister to deliver a speech at the Mughal-era monument after sunset.

Modi will be addressing the nation from the lawns of the Red Fort and not its ramparts.

The fort was chosen as the venue for the event as it was from here that Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had given orders for the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, in 1675, according to officials of the culture ministry.

The rampart of the Red Fort is from where prime ministers address the nation on Independence Day. Prime Minister Modi will speak at 9.30 pm Thursday and his speech will be about interfaith peace and harmony among communities, according to the officials.



Other than Independence Day, this is the second time that Modi will be making a speech from the monument.

In 2018, he had hoisted the national flag at the monument and

commemorated the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind Government by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His address on this occasion was at 9 am.

The Thursday event will have per-

formances by 400 Sikh musicians and there will also be a langar. Modi will also release a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the occasion, the officials said.

Close to the Red Fort, is the Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Chandni Chowk. It was built at the site where Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded by the Mughals, they said, adding that Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib, which is near Parliament, was built at his cremation site.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday will start off the event, which will be attended by 11 chief ministers and prominent Sikh leaders from across the country. The families of 400 Sikh 'jathedars' have also been invited, including those from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

## of the day quote

Political parties should be responsible while making promises (on the eve of elections). They should weigh the pros and cons and promise only those that could be implemented. What is promised should be for the good of the people

The BJP and its associates are trying to create "communal situation" in the country

The upcoming WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine as well as the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit will mark a milestone for India's Ayush industry



Previous governments have left a debt of ₹3 lakh crore on Punjab. But where has this been used? We will investigate and make recovery, because it is people's money

SECURITY AUDIT SOON The Uttar Pradesh Police and its agencies will undertake a security audit of all important temples and shrines in the state, following the attack on the Goraknath temple earlier this month



# Launch pads active across LoC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, April 19:** About 60-80 terrorists, believed to be Afghan returned mercenaries, are getting trained at reactivated launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) and are expected to push into Kashmir during the summer, officials here said.

The officials, however, feel that Pakistan will have to think several times before pushing them into the Indian side as Islamabad continues to be in the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force, and its sincerity could be gauged if it dismantles the terror infrastructure.

The officials said that after the 2019 pounding by the Indian army, the Pakistani side steered clear of the launch pads till early months of last year when they briefly emerged for some weeks and later disappeared again.

However, from August last year around 60-80 terrorists are present at these re-activated launch pads across the LoC and according



The Pakistani army has moved in around 60 heavy caliber guns besides strengthening its air defence system, artillery and mortars while taking advantage of the ceasefire which has been holding good since last year, the officials said

The officials said that the anti-infiltration grid and surveillance along the LoC has been further beefed up to meet all kinds of challenges

to intelligence inputs and monitoring by the field units, the terrorists seem to be Afghan war returnees who are mostly Pakistani mercenaries.

The LoC has been witnessing ceasefire since last February and

officials said that the Pakistani army, after facing severe reverses in 2019, has used this time for fortification of its positions along the border with around 8,000 tonnes of defence material.

The Pakistani army has also

moved in around 60 heavy caliber guns besides strengthening its air defence system, artillery and mortars while taking advantage of the ceasefire which has been holding good since last year, the officials said.

They said that while the Indian Army maintains strategic advantage along the LoC, the time has also been used for further strengthening its position to ensure that designs of Pakistani army to push in terrorists during approaching summer is foiled.

The officials said that the anti-infiltration grid and surveillance along the LoC has been further beefed up to meet all kinds of challenges.

Following talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan over hotline, a joint statement was issued on February 25, 2021 in which the two countries agreed to the strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the LoC and all other sectors with effect from the February 24-25 midnight 2021.

# 11 killed, 7 injured in Raj road accident

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, April 19:** Eleven members of a family were killed and seven others injured after a car rammed into a tractor-trailer parked on the roadside in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu Tuesday, police said.

The accident took place around 1 pm near Leela Ki Dhani on the Jhunjhunu-Gudha Godji highway, they added.

The Prime Minister's Office announced ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the dead and ₹50,000 relief to the injured. "Eleven members of a family travelling in a Jeep were killed and seven others injured when the vehicle rammed into a stationary tractor-trailer," Jhunjhunu SP Pradeep Mohan Sharma said.

The victims were returning after performing post-death rituals at a temple in Lohargal, police said. Those killed have been identified as Sumer (50), his wife Rajbala (45), their two sons Naresh (16) and Rahul (16).

Others killed were Manohar (50), Savitri (45), Kailash (35), Bhanwarlal (35), Karmveer (20), Balbeer (20) and Arpit (15). Out of total seven injured, four are undergoing treatment at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in Jaipur and three were admitted to BDK Hospital, Jhunjhunu, police said.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the incident. "My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May God give them strength to bear this loss and may the souls of the departed rest in peace. Wishing a speedy recovery to those injured in the accident," he said in a Hindi tweet in Hindi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Anguished by the tragic accident in Jhunjhunu. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. ₹2 lakh each from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of the deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000," the PMO tweeted quoting him.

## Live-in relationships are leading to rise in sexual offences: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Indore, April 19:** The "bane of live-in relationship", a "byproduct" of rights conferred under Article 21 of the Constitution, is leading to a rise in sexual offences and promiscuity, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has said.

Justice Subodh Abhyankar of the Indore bench of the high court made the observation while rejecting a pre-arrest (anticipatory) bail plea of a 25-year-old man accused of raping a woman.

In the order dated April 12, the court said, "Taking note of the spurt of such offences in recent times arising out of live-in relationships, this court is forced to observe that the bane of live-in-relationship is a by-product of Constitutional guarantee as provided under Art. 21, engulfing the ethos of Indian society, and promoting lascivious behaviour, giving further rise to sexual offences."

Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The courts, over the years, have widened its ambit to cover many things including the right to dignity and privacy.

Highlighting the rise in legal disputes arising out of live-in relationships, the high court said, "Those who wanted to exploit this freedom are quick to embrace it, but are totally ignorant that it has its own limitations, and does not confer any right on any of the partners to such relationship."

The case diary and documents revealed that the complainant woman got pregnant more than twice and aborted the foetus under pressure from the applicant (her then live-in partner), the court noted.

When their relationship fell apart, the woman got engaged to some other person, but the applicant, "being a jilted lover" resorted to blackmailing her, the judge said.

The applicant even sent video messages to the would-be in-laws of the woman where he threatened that he would commit suicide and they would also be held responsible for it besides the woman's family, the court noted.

## SHORT TAKES

### Indian Army gets new DGMO

**New Delhi:** Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar will be taking over as the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army from May 1. He is currently the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps, a strike formation responsible for offensive operations against Eastern and Western theatres. During his earlier stint, he was posted as Director of General Staff Duties at Army Headquarters.

### CRPF trooper killed, 12 hurt

**Srinagar:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper was killed and 12 others injured Tuesday in a road accident in J&K's Srinagar district. Police sources said a truck hit a CRPF vehicle in Hyderpora bypass area resulting in injuries to 13 CRPF troopers. All the injured CRPF troopers were shifted to BSF hospital in Humhama where one constable identified as M.N. Mani succumbed to injuries.

### 2 labourers fall ill

**Patna:** Two labourers were taken ill after consuming soft drink in Bihar's Gopalganj district, an official said. Sailendra Kumar Mahto and Ramesh Mahto, who were returning from Chennai on Monday, de-boarded at Sher railway station and purchased soft drink and soon after consuming it, started vomiting blood.

### Pistols recovered

**Srinagar:** Security forces Tuesday recovered arms and ammunition, including 10 pistols, during a cordon and search operation in J&K's Kupwara district. Police said during a joint cordon and search operation the Army and police recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition in the Hajin Mohalla of Karnah tehsil. "The recovered arms and ammunition include 10 pistols, 17 pistol magazines, 54 pistol rounds and 5 grenades," police said.

### Boy dies

**Lucknow:** An eight-year-old boy died when his father's loaded double-barrel gun accidentally went off while he was playing with it. The incident took place Monday night in the Thakurganj area. According to police, the boy's father Fareed had an altercation with his neighbour in the afternoon and had loaded his gun in a fit of rage. He, however, forgot to unload it and left it in the bedroom.

## TAKING THE PAIN



Hindu devotees perform a ritual as part of the Shiva-Gajan festival, in Murshidabad district

PTI PHOTO

# 'Gift of ancestral property of HUF can be for pious purpose'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 19:** The Supreme Court observed Tuesday that a Hindu father or any other managing member of a Hindu undivided family (HUF) has the power to make a gift of ancestral property only for a 'pious purpose' and what is understood by the term 'pious purpose' is a gift for charitable or religious purpose.

A bench comprising Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari said: "It is well settled that a Hindu father or any other managing member of a HUF has the power to make a gift of ancestral property only for a 'pious purpose' and what is understood by the term 'pious purpose' is a gift for charitable and/or religious purpose."

The bench added that a deed of gift with regard to the ancestral property executed 'out of love and

affection' does not come within the scope of the term 'pious purpose'.

"It is irrelevant if such a gift or settlement was made by a donor, i.e., the first defendant, in favour of a donee who was raised by the donor without any relationship, i.e., the second defendant. The gift deed in the instant case is not for any charitable or religious purpose," the bench noted.

The bench added that it is trite of law that the manager of a joint family property may alienate the property only in three situations, namely (i) legal necessity (ii) for the benefit of the estate, and (iii) with the consent of all the coparceners of the family.

"In the instant case, the alienation of the joint family property was not with the consent of all the coparceners. It is a settled law that where alienation is not made with the consent of all the coparceners,



it is voidable at the instance of the coparceners whose consent has not been obtained," said the bench.

In the present matter, K.C. Chandrappa Gowda (plaintiff) had filed a suit against his father K.S. Chinne Gowda and a person named K.C. Laxmana for partition and separate possession of his one-third share in the suit

schedule property and for a declaration that the gift or settlement executed by Gowda in favour of Laxmana as null and void.

The property in question belongs to the joint family consisting of the plaintiff, the first defendant and a person named K.C. Subraya Gowda. It was further contended that the first defendant had no

right to transfer the property in favour of the second defendant as he is not a coparcener or a member of their family.

It was contended that the second defendant was brought up by the first defendant and out of love and affection, he settled the suit property in favour of the second defendant. The trial court had dismissed the suit, but the appellate court reversed it and decreed the suit. The Karnataka High Court upheld the appellate court judgment and dismissed the second appeal filed by the defendants. Laxmana then moved the top court challenging the high court order.

Dismissing the appeal, the bench said: "We are of the view that the settlement deed/gift deed executed by the first defendant in favour of the second defendant was rightly declared as null and void by the first appellate court and the high court."

# SCIENTISTS ALLAY FEARS OF NEW COVID WAVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 19:** Though Covid cases are rising in Delhi and its satellite towns, the focus should be on hospital admissions that have remained the same or changed just marginally, say several scientists, underscoring that the uptick is not an indication of a fourth wave in the country at this point.

The removal of COVID-19 restrictions, including schools reopening for offline classes, increased socialising and economic activity may be driving the spike in the national capital and its surrounding areas, and some other pockets, they said.

"It has been more than two weeks since all Covid-19 restrictions have been removed. It is a holiday period and people are meeting and intermingling. This is also

reflected in social mobility and economic activity, which are higher than pre-pandemic periods," physician-epidemiologist Chandrakant Lahariya said while also advising caution and stressing on continued surveillance.

"Merely counting cases has no meaning... Though cases are rising in Delhi, hospital admission remains unchanged or marginally changed," he said. Given the epidemiological and scientific evidence, the current rise in cases in Delhi is not the start of the fourth wave. "SARS CoV-2 is going to stay with us for a long time and therefore, there is not going to be any period when the new cases would be zero," he said.

Delhi's COVID-19 positivity rate on Monday jumped to 7.72 per cent with 501 fresh cases, according to health department data. The last



time positivity rate was above seven per cent in the city was on January 29 (7.4 per cent) and on January 28 (8.6 per cent), officials said.

This is in sharp contrast to India's overall positivity rate of 0.31 per cent recorded by the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday when 1,247 coronavirus infections were reported.

While scientists don't have exact answers why, US-based infectious disease expert Amita Gupta noted that the rise in cases in Delhi and some other states may be a result of looser restrictions, pandemic fatigue, and higher transmissibility of the virus.

"We anticipate this will not result

It has been more than two weeks since all Covid-19 restrictions have been removed. It is a holiday period and people are meeting and intermingling. This is also reflected in social mobility and economic activity, which are higher than pre-pandemic periods

CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA | PHYSICIAN-EPIDEMIOLOGIST

in a major increase in severe cases requiring hospitalisation as this is not what we are seeing elsewhere despite the increased transmissibility," Gupta, chief of the Division of Infectious Disease and Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, told PTI.

"It really helps that India has

done an incredible job in vaccinating its population and now it is important to continue to do this and to administer the booster shots to those who are eligible," she added.

Modeller Manindra Agrawal, who has been tracking India's COVID-19 trajectory since the beginning of the pandemic, concurred. "Increase in social mobility, lowering of guard and removal of mask mandates are the possible reasons behind the increase in Covid cases," Agrawal, a professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, said.

"There is also no indication of a fourth wave for now. For that to happen, a new mutant will have to arise," Agrawal added. As testing rates have dropped, it is not known if the cases being reported are a true indication of the situation, epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan said.

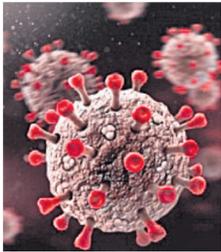
# international



Western countries' 'economic blitzkrieg' strategy against Russia has failed  
VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

## COVID CASES RISE IN US

Covid-19 cases are rising in more than half of all US states due to the new coronavirus subvariant, said a report of the US business magazine Forbes. White House Covid advisor Ashish Jha said Sunday the vaccines are still "holding up" against the virus and the new strain does not cause more severe infection



## of the day quote

Another stage of this operation (in eastern Ukraine) is beginning and I am sure this will be a very important moment of this entire special operation



SERGEI LAVROV | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

I deposited a gift sent by a president at my residence. Whatever I took from the Toshakana is on record. I purchased the gifts after paying 50 per cent of the cost



IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAKISTAN PM

I strongly condemn Israel's interventions against the worshippers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and we will stand against the provocations and threats to the status quo and spirituality of Al-Aqsa Mosque



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

# Crisis in Lanka: Police fire at anti-govt protesters, 1 dead

AGENCIES

Colombo, April 19: One person was killed while 12 others were injured as police fired upon protesters who took to the streets in Central Sri Lanka against the overnight fuel price hike in the crisis-hit island nation.

Protests erupted around the country Tuesday after the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) increased fuel prices to record high w.e.f. Monday midnight.



## SL requests IMF for rapid financial aid

Washington/Colombo: Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Ali Sabry has met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Washington and made a request for a Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) amidst the unprecedented economic crisis in the island nation, a media report said on Tuesday. The RFI, which is available to all member countries of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), provides rapid and low-access financial assistance to member countries facing an urgent balance of payments (BoP) need, without the need to have a full-fledged programme in place.

"The protesters had blocked the railway track with a fuel tanker. The crowd tried to set the tanker on fire and the police had to shoot to control the mob," SSP Nihal Thaldawa, media spokesman, said.

The country's public transportation system came to a complete standstill after protesters around the nation blocked roads in major cities throughout the day.

Private bus owners withdrew their buses in protest against the fuel price hike, demanding the government to step down.

The CPC earlier announced LKR

84 increase in 92 octane petrol, matching the IOC price at LKR 338 per litre. Diesel price was also raised to LKR 289, an increase of LKR 113.

Following the fuel price hike, the country's bus fair was increased by 35 per cent while the rates of a number of food items were also raised.

Fuel prices have been north-bound with the depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar since early March, the time when the US dollar allowed free floating.

## Mahinda Rajapaksa proposed to restore the 19th Amendment to the Constitution to curb the powers of his younger brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa and empower Parliament

In Rambukka, 85 km from Colombo, protesters demanded fuel stored at filling stations at old rates. They later blocked all the roads and railway lines in Rambukka, completely cutting off the access to the city.

The police first used tear gas to disperse the crowd and later opened fire, killing one and injuring 12 others. The police said they had to open fire as the protesters had turned violent.

## BORIS OFFERS 'WHOLEHEARTED' APOLOGY OVER 'PARTYGATE'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, April 19: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson Tuesday offered a "wholehearted" apology for attending an illegal party during lockdown — but insisted he didn't knowingly break rules or mislead Parliament.

Johnson told lawmakers in the House of Commons "it did not occur to me" that the birthday gathering, complete with a cake, was a party. Last week, Johnson was fined 50 pounds (\$66) for attending his own surprise birthday party in 10 Downing St. In June 2020, making him the first British Prime Minister ever found to have broken the law while in office.

Police are still investigating several other parties in government buildings that Johnson is alleged to have attended.

Speaking as the House of Commons returned from an 11-day Easter break, Johnson said sorry for what he insists was a minor slip-up — but brushed off opposition calls to resign for flouting the restrictions that he imposed on the country during the pandemic.

Johnson acknowledged people's "hurt and anger" but added that "it did not occur to me then or subsequently that a gathering in the Cabinet Room, just before a vital meeting on Covid strategy, could amount to a breach of the rules."



UNIQUE LOOK: A reveller participates in the annual block party known as "Cordao de Boitata", ahead of carnival festivities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## SA launches relief for flooding

AGENCIES

Johannesburg, April 19: Declaring a national state of disaster, South Africa has allocated \$67 million to help those hit by floods that have killed at least 443 people in the eastern city of Durban and the surrounding Kwazulu-Natal province.

Nearly 4,000 homes have been destroyed and more than 40,000

people displaced by the floods caused by prolonged heavy rains, provincial officials said Tuesday. About 600 schools have been hit with damages estimated at about \$28 million. South African military teams are delivering food, water and clothing to flood victims. Water tankers have been sent to areas where access to clean water has been disrupted.

Large areas are without elec-

# In Iran, Russia's war on Ukraine is a political flash point

Russia's war on Ukraine has exposed just how much Tehran has tilted toward Moscow in recent years as the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers stoked decades-old, hard-line anger at America

AGENCIES

Tehran, April 19: During its 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran embraced the protest cry of "neither East nor West," rejecting both the US and the Soviet Union, then locked in the Cold War. The phrase to this day hangs over the doors of Iran's Foreign Ministry.

Members of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard train on Russian surface-to-air missile systems and aircraft. Hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi visited Russian President Vladimir Putin on one of his first trips abroad.

The war also exposes deeper fault lines even within Iran's domestic politics. Among ordinary Iranians, there is a great deal of sympathy for Ukraine, a nation that staged a pro-democracy "Orange Revolution" similar to the "Green Revolution" that shook Iran more than a decade ago but was forcefully put down. Iran's historic enmity with Russia has combined with a wider feeling among some that backing Moscow betrays the Islamic Republic's often-stated message that it stands against the world's major powers. "We have to help oppressed people of Ukraine as we do support people of Palestine and Yemen simply because they

are targeted by powers," said Zohreh Ahmadi, a mother of two in downtown Tehran's Sarcheshmeh neighborhood. "A bullying power is killing children and women in Ukraine." Iran's state-controlled television network, whose English-language service Press TV describes itself as "the voice of the voiceless," hews close to Russian talking points. It used Moscow's euphemistic term "special operation" to describe the war's early days. Stories referencing the killings of civilians in Bucha by Russian forces include headlines falsely describing it as a "fake attack" or "provocation" on Press TV's website.

Part of the Iranian government's anger at Ukraine likely stems from the aftermath of the Guard's 2020 shooting down of an Ukrainian airliner, which killed 176 people on board. Tehran denied for days it shot down the plane before saying troops made a mistake after Iran fired ballistic missiles at US Forces in Iraq in response for the killing of a top general. Ukraine's criticism of Iran grew more direct as time went on. That's something Tehran's Friday prayer leader, Kazem Sedighi, mentioned in a March sermon after Russia began its war on Ukraine.

# Pak PM holds first meeting with Army chief

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, April 19: Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa, called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday, a week after the latter became the 23rd Prime Minister of the country by ousting PTI Chairman Imran Khan through a parliamentary vote of no-confidence, media reports said.

During the meeting, professional matters, including national security issues, were discussed, said a brief statement issued Tuesday evening, Express Tribune reported.

Earlier in the day, the members of the federal cabinet were administered oaths by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani after the unavailability of President Arif Alvi.



The meeting came amid an increase in attacks on security forces along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, resulting in the martyrdom of soldiers over the weeks.

In a strongly-worded statement, Pakistan had told the Afghan Taliban to put an end to cross-border attacks emanating from Afghan soil. Similarly, the Army is facing a smear campaign on social media following the removal of the PTI government. The Army chief had recently said that efforts made to create a "wedge between the Army and the people won't be tolerated".

## SHORT TAKES

### Pak braces for diesel shortage

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been warned by economists and industry experts that the country would face the worst shortage of diesel next month amid the harvesting season as its stocks are plummeting, Express Tribune reported. Sources told The Express Tribune that the experts had urged Premier Shehbaz to increase oil prices in order to avoid the swelling price differential claims that accumulated to around Rs 60 billion in only one month of April 2022.

### Shanghai reports 7 more Cov deaths

Beijing: Shanghai reported seven more deaths due to Covid-19 as the Chinese financial hub grapples with a record outbreak, taking the death toll in the country to 4,648 with over 21,400 new cases, most of them from the city. Seven new deaths from Covid-19 were reported on Monday in Shanghai in addition to the three a day earlier, the first in the recent outbreak, taking the total death toll in the country due to coronavirus since it emerged in Wuhan in 2019 to 4,648, according to figures released by China's National Health Commission Tuesday.

### 4 killed in market building collapse

Jakarta: Four people were killed and several were injured after a mini-market building collapsed in Indonesia's South Kalimantan province, a rescuer said Tuesday. The accident occurred at about 4.30 p.m. local time Monday when many residents were buying food for fast-breaking in the building located in Banjar district, according to Wasino, head of the Operation Unit of the Provincial Search and Rescue Office. Xinhua news agency reported.

### Palestinians protest closures

Jerusalem: Palestinian protesters and Israeli troops clashed in the occupied West Bank Tuesday as thousands of Israelis marched to the site of a demolished settlement and called on the government to rebuild it. Palestinian paramedics said they treated at least eight people who were struck by rubber bullets or tear gas canisters fired by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank village of Burqa. Several dozen residents were protesting the closure of roads by the army to allow the march led by hard-line Israeli settlers to take place. Palestinian youths burned tires and hurled stones at the soldiers.

# Fresh opportunity for normal Indo-Pak ties

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 19: The change in government in Islamabad can become a harbinger for not just restoring civility in relations between India and Pakistan but also give a push for normalisation of ties between the two neighbours.

Unlike his predecessor Imran Khan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is neither a demagogue nor a megalomaniac who lives in an alternate reality. Quite to the contrary, Shehbaz Sharif is an experienced politician who understands the imperatives of improving relations with India.

Fortuitously, he will also have the support of the Pakistan Army in any initiative or outreach he makes towards India.

For its part, India, while being cautious in engaging Pakistan, may not be averse to be willing to reciprocate to any move made by Pakistan.

While the congratulatory message of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's response was nothing out of the ordinary - it is normal for two heads of government extending courtesies - even this gesture is something of a change from the toxicity that defined the relations between the two countries during Imran Khan's regime.

Going forward, it is to be expected that diplomatic decorum and decency, which had been thrown to the winds by the vituperative



Imran Khan, will once again become the norm. This in itself would help in reducing the tensions and bitterness in the bilateral relations. More importantly, it will open the door to the possibility of some kind of engagement between the two South Asian neighbours.

There is no denying that mere change in style will not be enough to address some of the most vexing issues - territorial disputes, Kashmir issue, and of course, terrorism - that dog India-Pakistan relations. But the time has come for both the countries and in some ways Pakistan more than India, to distinguish between outstanding issues and existential issues that are threatening the very existence of that state.

Many countries around the world have issues with their neighbours. Sometimes these are territorial, other times ideological and political, and in some other cases economic or related to environment or water or other administrative issues. Though most countries manage these issues through dialogue - they don't wage war or proxy war to force the issue.

# Demand for Pfizer's Covid pills lags around the world

AGENCIES

New York, April 19: World-wide demand for Pfizer Inc's (PFE.N) oral Covid-19 antiviral treatment Paxlovid has been unexpectedly light due to complicated eligibility requirements, reduced testing, and potential for drug interactions, a Reuters review of data and interviews with experts has found.

Demand also has been hampered by the perception that Omicron infections are not that severe.

Paxlovid was expected to be a major tool in the fight against Covid after it reduced hospitalizations or deaths in high-risk patients by around 90% in a clinical trial. Thousands of people still die from Covid-19 every week, even as

global infections are far off their peak. And there are only a few proven antiviral treatments, of which Paxlovid is the most attractive. The others are Merck & Co's (MRK.N) far less effective rival pill molnupiravir, and Gilead Sciences' (GILD.O) intravenous remdesivir.

But even amid a recent rise in infections, Paxlovid supply far outstripped demand in the United States, UK, Japan, and South Korea, data from health ministries and Reuters interviews with doctors and pharmacists found.

"We're just not seeing as many people coming in for testing," said Dr. Timothy Hendrix, senior medical director of AdventHealth Centra Care in Florida, which has



more than 40 urgent care locations. Pfizer plans to produce up to 120 million courses of Paxlovid this year and expects at least \$22 billion in sales from contracts signed through early February. The United States, which agreed to buy up to 20 million pills this year, making it the largest publicly known buyer, is paying around \$530 a course, but prices vary by country.

Pfizer is on pace to produce 3.5 million courses earmarked for US use by the end of April, the government said.

Through the first half of April, US data shows it has distributed around 1.5 million courses and that pharmacies still have over 5,000 available.

Pfizer said it initiated talks with 100 governments for Paxlovid, and

agreements are in place with 26 countries.

## SLOW ROLLOUT IN EUROPE AND ASIA

The Paxlovid rollout has also been slow in Asia, despite some countries hitting record infections recently.

In Japan, which has contracted for 2 million Paxlovid courses, the health ministry restricts use to facilities with a track record of treating Covid-19. At the end of March, just under 10,000 courses had been sent out, and 2,900 prescribed.

South Korea had received enough Paxlovid to treat 6,240,000 people as of April 17, and has used just about one third of its inventory, according to government data.

## J&J suspends Cov vax sales forecast

New York: Johnson & Johnson is suspending sales forecasts for its Covid-19 vaccine only a few months after saying the shot could bring in as much as \$3.5 billion this year. The health care giant said Tuesday that a global supply surplus and demand uncertainty prompted the move, which will not affect the company's operational earnings per share guidance. J&J's one-shot vaccine brought in \$457 million in global sales during the first quarter, with most of that coming from outside the United States.

## of the day quote

Infrastructure companies should also float their own non-banking financial companies to fund road construction related projects

**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

The January to March 2022 quarter was impacted due to the global rise in fuel costs driven by the overall geopolitical situation

**SRIDHAR BALAKRISHNAN** | ACC MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO

Electric Vehicles are an ideal solution to replace conventional fuel vehicles since they are energy-efficient, green and environment friendly

**MOHIT MALHOTRA** | DABUR INDIA LTD CEO

## SHORT TAKES

### Samsung aims 36% share of TV market

**New Delhi:** Samsung India expects a nearly 25 per cent growth in the LED TV segment this year as well as aims to capture around 36 per cent share of the overall TV market by bringing products with the right proposition and new technologies, according to a senior company official. Besides, the company expects to grow "quite significantly" in the premium TV segment, where it aims to take its market share to 65 per cent in 2022 from 50 per cent last year. Expanding its offering in the premium TV segment, Samsung on Tuesday launched its ultra-premium 2022 Neo QLED 8K and Neo QLED TVs in India, with prices starting from ₹3.24 lakh and ₹1.14 lakh respectively.

### New Taj hotel in Chennai

**Chennai:** The Indian Hotels Company Ltd, the largest hospitality company Tuesday announced signing an agreement to set up another Taj hotel in the city, as part of plans to strengthen its presence in key markets across the country. With the addition of the new hotel, IHCL would have 13 in Chennai, including three under various stages of development. The proposed Taj Hotel to come up over 3.5 acres of land on arterial Nelson Manickam Road here, would house four restaurants and a bar, besides 235 rooms and 123 Taj branded residences. The company said the new development under management contract will feature branded residences as part of the hotel complex. IHCL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Puneet Chhatwal said, "We are excited to announce the fourth Taj Hotel in Chennai, together with branded luxury residences. This signing is in line with IHCL's vision of strengthening our presence in key markets across India."

### Shares of HDFC twins decline

**New Delhi:** Shares of HDFC twins - HDFC Bank and HDFC have been on a bearish trend right after the announcement of the merger. The shares of the two HDFC companies declined 17 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, since the news of the merger, data showed. Housing loan major Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) April 4 said its Board had approved the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings with HDFC Bank. Upon the merger becoming effective, the subsidiaries or associates of HDFC will become subsidiaries or associates of HDFC Bank.



**The war will slow economic growth and increase inflation**  
**PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS** | IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

# EMIs to go up as SBI, others hike lending rates

The lending rate hike by SBI, BoB, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank -- which comes after a gap of around three years -- is likely to be followed by others



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 19:** EMIs for home, car and personal loans are set to go up for existing borrowers, with State Bank of India (SBI) and other major lenders including Bank of Baroda (BoB), Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank increasing their benchmark lending rates by up to 0.10 per cent.

The lending rate hike by these banks -- which comes after a gap of around three years -- is likely to be followed by others, which will push up the Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) for different categories of loans to consumers.

The country's largest lender SBI has revised its marginal cost of funding based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.10 per cent across tenors. The bank revised the lending rate from 7 per cent to 7.10 per cent for the one-year tenure.

The revised MCLR is effective from April 15, as per information posted on SBI's website.

The overnight, one-month and

three-month MCLR also rose by 10 basis points (bps) to 6.75 per cent, whereas the six-month MCLR increased to 7.05 per cent.

The two-year MCLR increased by 0.1 per cent to 7.30 per cent, and the three-year MCLR rose to 7.40 per cent, as per SBI's new rate chart.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank have also hiked the benchmark one-year MCLR -- against which most of the consumer loans are priced -- by 0.05 per cent each.

State-owned BoB's new MCLR for one year tenure stands at 7.35 per cent with effect from April 12, 2022.

Private sector Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank have revised the one-year MCLR to 7.40 per cent with effect from April 18 and April 16, respectively.

EMIs linked to the MCLR would see a slight increase, but loans taken against other benchmarks like EBLR and RLLR will continue to be static.

SBI's EBLR (external benchmark based lending rate) rate is 6.65

per cent, while the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) is 6.25 per cent, effective April 1.

Banks add Credit Risk Premium (CRP) over the EBLR and RLLR while giving any kind of loan, including housing and auto loans.

For effective transmission of monetary policy rates to borrowers, the RBI asked banks to shift to EBLR mechanism for pricing loans.

From October 1, 2019, all banks including SBI have to lend only at an interest rate linked to an external benchmark, such as RBI's repo rate or Treasury bills yield. As a result, monetary policy transmission has been felt across various sectors, encompassing even those segments that are not directly linked to external benchmark-based loan pricing.

"Looking ahead, the proportion of loans linked to external benchmarks is expected to increase further along with a commensurate fall in the internal benchmark linked loans. Coupled with shorter reset periods, monetary transmission to banks' interest rates can, thus, be expected to strengthen further," a recently released article by RBI said.

Interest rates are expected to harden in the coming months as global inflationary fears have been stoked due to geopolitical tensions, mainly due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This prompted the Reserve Bank earlier this month to raise the inflation target.

# IMF cuts India's '22 growth prospects



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, April 19:** The International Monetary Fund Tuesday projected a 'fairly robust' growth of 8.2 per cent for India in 2022, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world, almost twice faster than China's 4.4 per cent.

The global growth has been projected at 3.6 per cent in 2022, down from 6.1 per cent in 2021, the IMF said in its annual World Economic Outlook report released here.

It has also lowered India's growth projection by 0.8 percentage points for 2022 from its previous forecast for the same period last year.

In 2021, India registered a growth rate of 8.9 per cent. By 2023, India is estimated to grow at 6.9 per cent, the IMF said.

The downgrade in the 2023 growth projection for India is partly reflective of the war in Ukraine that has resulted in high energy and food prices, slowing down the growth momentum.

Notable downgrades to the 2022 forecast for Asia include Japan (0.9 percentage point) and India (0.8 percentage point), "reflecting in part weaker domestic demand

-- as higher oil prices are expected to weigh on private consumption and investment -- and a drag from lower net exports," the report said.

In its report, the IMF has projected global growth at 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023, 0.8 and 0.2 per cent lower than in the January forecast, respectively. "The downgrade largely reflects the war's direct impacts on Russia and Ukraine and global spillovers," it said.

China, which registered a growth rate of 8.1 per cent in 2021, has been projected to grow at 4.4 per cent in 2022 and by 5.1 per cent in 2023. The US has been estimated to grow at 3.7 per cent in 2022 against 5.7 per cent in 2021. Its projection for 2023 has been downgraded to 2.3 per cent, according to the IMF report.

Observing that both Russia and Ukraine are projected to experience large GDP contractions in 2022, it said the severe collapse in Ukraine is a direct result of the invasion, destruction of infrastructure, and exodus of its people.

In Russia, the sharp decline reflects the impact of the sanctions with a severing of trade ties, greatly impaired domestic financial inter-mediation, and loss of confidence.

# Volvo Cars India hikes vehicle prices by up to ₹3 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 19:** Luxury car maker Volvo Cars India Tuesday said it has increased the prices of its entire model range with immediate effect in order to offset the impact of rising input costs.

The prices have been increased in the range of ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh, the Swedish carmaker said in a statement. Ex-showroom price of various models such as XC40 has gone up by 3 per cent to ₹44.5 lakh, XC60 by 4 per cent to ₹65.9 lakh, S90 by 2 per cent to ₹65.9 lakh and XC90 by 3 per cent to ₹93.9 lakh.

"However, the company is committed to price protection to customers who have booked their cars at Volvo dealerships till April 12, 2022. All bookings after this date will attract new prices," it added.

The company had last announced a price increase in the beginning of the year, but continued disruption of global supply chains, higher logistic costs and a volatile forex situation has led to a substantial increase in its input costs, the automaker noted.



"The last few months have seen disruption of global supply chains leading to an increase in inputs and logistics costs. This has adversely impacted Volvo Car India as it has the entire Indian automobile industry. This unprecedented cost increase has compelled us to increase prices Volvo Car India's Managing Director Jyoti Malhotra noted.

## BIZ BUZZ

### MOCK DRILL AT ESPLANADE ONE

**Bhubaneswar:** Esplanade One mall in Bhubaneswar organised a mock fire drill Tuesday. This drill was done keeping in view how to fire fight at times of emergency and how to built-up a rescue operation and evacuate the public in case of such emergency inside the mall. The drill operation was done in presence and association with Odisha Fire Service, Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Civil Defence & Orissa Institute of Fire & Safety Management emergency services and ambulance service from Apollo Hospitals. During the activity the Centre Director of the mall Parth Pratim Nayak briefed everyone present on the mall protocols and emergency SOPs on how to organise the operation on evacuating and rescuing people in case of any emergency.

### RUCHI FOODLINE DIRECTOR RASHMI SAHOO FETED IN DUBAI

**Bhubaneswar:** Odia New Year was celebrated with much pomp and show in Dubai by the people of Odia community living there. In a grand function organised at Dubai Horizon International School, Rashmi Sahoo, Director of Ruchi Foodline, was invited as chief guest. In her address at the function, she mentioned about the people of Odisha living across the world and spreading rich culture and tradition of Odisha and making the nation proud. She wished everyone Happy Odia New Year and also praised Odia entrepreneurs across the globe who has earned name and fame with their thriving business. During the function, an exhibition showcasing wide range of products of Odisha's leading brand Ruchi was displayed including Pasta and other healthy products. President of Utkal Samaj, Amiya Kumar Mishra felicitated Sahoo for her wonderful contribution in the field of business.

## Commissioner conducts annual review of CT & GST Organisation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 19:** The Commissioner of CT & GST, Sushil Kumar Lohani, conducted an annual review of all Circles and Ranges under the CT & GST Organisation from 18th to 19th of April 2022 at MDRAFM, Bhubaneswar.

The annual performance of Circles for FY 21-22 was reviewed as well as an elaborate discussion was held on Action Plan for FY 2022-23. The Commissioner lauded the performance of all the State Officers in achieving the highest growth rate amongst all States for FY 2021-22.

It is noteworthy to mention that the Gross GST collection of Odisha for FY 21-22 was ₹44334.67 Cr as against ₹2852.76 Cr during 20-21 reg-

istering a growth of 49% which is the highest growth rate amongst all the major states in the country.

Out of such collection, OGST collection for financial year 2021-22 was ₹12743.01 Cr against ₹8292.15 Cr with growth rate of 54%. There was also good growth of 28% in collection of VAT (Petrol and Liquor) and 11% under Profession Tax during FY 21-22 vis-à-vis 20-21.

Commissioner Lohani instructed all field officers to attend to the genuine grievances of the taxpayers without fail especially those visiting the Mo Sarkar Cells which are now functional in all field offices. He also said that by following the principles of 5T & Action Plan for 22-23, we will be able to achieve target for the current financial year.

## Markets succumb to fag-end sell-off

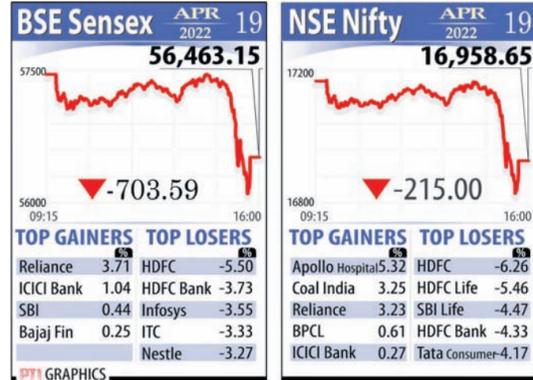
### EQUITY INDICES EXTEND LOSING STREAK TO 5TH DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, April 19:** Equity indices tripped in the last half-an-hour of trade Tuesday to notch up losses for the fifth consecutive session as finance and IT counters continued to bear the brunt of heavy selling amid negative global cues.

Russia ramping up its offensive in Ukraine, coupled with unabated foreign fund outflows, a depreciating rupee and inflationary concerns sapped investor confidence, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened modestly higher and weathered bouts of volatility to trade in the



### Investors poorer by over ₹8L cr

**New Delhi:** Investors have become poorer by over ₹8 lakh crore in five days of market fall, with equity indices weighed by widespread selling amid bearish global cues. Tracking the weakness in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled by ₹8,08,067.6 crore in five days to stand at ₹2,66,02,728.45 crore. Unabated foreign fund outflows, inflationary concerns and geopolitical worries have made investors nervous.

positive territory, but succumbed to a sudden burst of selling towards the fag-end to close 703.59 points or 1.23 per cent lower at 56,463.15.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty declined 215 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 16,958.65.

The Sensex has now lost a hefty 2,984.03 points in five sessions, while the Nifty has shed 825.70 points.

HDFC and HDFC Bank were the biggest losers in the Sensex pack in Tuesday's session, tumbling 5.50 per cent and 3.73 per cent, respectively. Infosys, ITC, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, HUL and Nestle India were among the other promi-

nent laggards. Only four counters managed to log gains -- Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, SBI and Bajaj Finance, climbing up to 3.71 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 1.21 per cent and the midcap index lost 1.20 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, IT declined the most by 2.64 per cent, followed by FMCG (2.57 per cent), teck (2.54 per cent), power (2.52 per cent) and realty (2.46 per cent).

Only energy and oil & gas posted gains, rising as much as 1.20 per cent. As many as 2,179 stocks declined, while 1,234 advanced and 123 remained unchanged.

## 'India's policy challenges to hinder net-zero progress'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 19:** India's 2070 net-zero target and intermediate goals through 2030 present significant policy implementation challenges for the government, carving a more central role for private companies and investors to drive the transition, according to a new re-

port by global financial services company Moody's Investors.

The country's significant economic development needs will present constraints to the government's ability to extend sufficient financial support to fund its carbon transition.

"The country's high growth potential, significant economic de-

velopment needs and large agricultural sector will likely weaken the government's policy resolve and financial capacity to drive the economy's carbon transition," said Nishad Majumdar, Moody's Assistant Vice President and Analyst.

As such, India's planned emissions reductions will be conditioned upon low-cost, long-term private capital, says Majumdar.

Many of the country's large private companies have announced net-zero targets that are well ahead of Indian authorities' goals, while government-linked companies are comparatively behind.

Additional policy signals to encourage transition would drive higher private investment, the report said.

"The pace of India's carbon

transition will depend on the extent to which the government can balance energy affordability and reliability needs against its emissions reduction commitments," said Abhishek Tyagi, Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer.

"Reduced storage costs and the scalability of renewable projects with storage would support a faster transition," Tyagi added.

Further, the report goes on to say that Indian banks' significant loans to carbon-intensive sectors expose them to transition risks, and they will face pressure to decarbonise their loan books.

At the same time, green financing presents a significant lending opportunity given the banks' dominant role in credit inter-mediation in the country, it said.

# FAF, HAZLEWOOD LIFT RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Navi Mumbai, April 19:** Royal Challengers Bangalore rode on skipper Faf du Plessis' breezy 96 (64b, 11x4, 2x6) and Josh Hazlewood's brilliant bowling (4/25) to inflict an 18-run defeat on Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Du Plessis roared back to form after a string of low scores with a 64-ball knock to help RCB post 181/6 after being sent into bat. Pace spearhead Hazlewood then picked two wickets upfront and two at the fag end as RCB restricted LSG to 163/8 to register their fifth win of the season.

Both Hazlewood and Du Plessis' brilliant individual performances, though, may be a bit overshadowed by the chatter around the two ball sequence leading to Marcus Stoinis' wicket in which a wide outside off wasn't called followed by him shuffling way too much in the next delivery and playing on.

Nevertheless, RCB are now second in the points table while LSG slumped to fourth. Opening the innings, Du Plessis, who failed to put up a big score since his sensational 88 in RCB's first game of the season, anchored the innings to perfection and got out only on the penultimate ball of the final over.

Hazlewood rocked LSG's chase early on as he bowled a fine opening spell. Using the bounce and movement on offer, he accounted for the dangerous Quinton de Kock (3) and Manish Pandey (6) in quick time.

The Australian quick, who was consistent with his line and length, bowled a frugal spell, giving away just 25 runs. LSG skipper KL Rahul made his way back to the dugout soon after Pandey as a delivery down the leg-side kissed his bat and RCB opted to review it.



**STARS OF THE DAY:** Josh Hazlewood (L) is congratulated by his teammates after getting a wicket; Faf du Plessis raises his bat after reaching half century against LSG, Tuesday

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and RCB opted to review it. UltraEdge showed a spike and RCB got their massive breakthrough, thanks to the brilliant review.

While Krunal Pandya (42, 28b,

5x4, 2x6) was scoring runs at a good rate, he looked uncomfortable against Glenn Maxwell, and eventually fell to the Australian. LSG weren't able to string substantial partnerships together. Deepak Hooda (13), Stoinis (24) and Ayush Badoni (13) were guilty of wasting their starts.

Harshal Patel (2/47) picked up two wickets while Mohammed Siraj (1/31) and Maxwell (1/11) accounted for a batter each.

Earlier, Super Giants invited RCB to bat and the bowlers managed to strike at regular intervals but had no answers for the former South African captain.

Sri Lankan right-arm pacer Dushmantha Chameera (2/31) bowled a fruitful first over for LSG, snaring the wickets of opener Anuj Rawat (4) and Virat Kohli (0), whose struggles with the bat continued as he got out for a first-ball Duck.

Maxwell (23) looked to continue his explosive run in the IPL, but failed to convert his start as RCB slipped to 44/3. Alongside Shahbaz Ahmed (26), Du Plessis added 70 runs for the fifth wicket, before the veteran batter switched gears in the slog overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**

**RCB 181/6** (Faf du Plessis 96; Jason Holder 2/25, Dushmantha Chameera 2/31) **beat LSG 163/8** (Krunal Pandya 42, KL Rahul 30; Josh Hazlewood 4/25) **by 18 runs.**

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK Capitals' match against PBKS shifted to Mumbai



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, April 19:** The upcoming IPL match between COVID-hit Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings was Tuesday shifted to Mumbai from Pune following a virus outbreak in the Rishabh Pant-led team.

In a statement, the BCCI said it has moved Wednesday's game to Brabourne stadium to ensure no COVID infection goes undetected in the bio-bubble.

Five members of Delhi Capitals, including Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have tested positive for the virus. Physio Patrick Farhart, sports massage therapist Chetan Kumar, team doctor Abhijit Salvi and social media content team member Akash Mane have also got the infection.

"The BCCI Tuesday announced a change of venue for Match No.32 - Delhi Capital versus Punjab Kings from MCA Stadium, Pune to Brabourne - CCI scheduled April 20th, 2022, to avoid any further incident due to any undetected case during a long-distance bus journey in a closed environment," said the BCCI in a statement.

Delhi Capitals will only be cleared to play the game after RTPCR tests Wednesday morning. All the other players and support staff have returned negative in tests conducted Tuesday.

"The COVID positive cases are under isolation and medical observation. They will be tested on Day 6 and 7 and subject to both the tests being negative they will be re-integrated into the Delhi Capitals bio-secure bubble."

"From April 16th onwards, the entire Delhi Capitals contingent has been put under a daily RT-PCR testing procedure. The 4th round of RT-PCR tests conducted April 19th have returned negative.

"The Delhi Capitals contingent will undergo another round of RT-PCR testing on the morning of April 20th," the BCCI added.

Delhi Capitals' opponents Punjab Kings were supposed to travel to Pune Tuesday but were asked to stay back in Mumbai. "We were supposed to travel to Pune but we have been asked to stay back in Mumbai," a Punjab team official told this agency.

The virus threatened to derail the IPL again Monday after Marsh tested positive. He had undergone two RT-PCR tests with the first one coming negative but the subsequent test returned positive. This was after Marsh complained of sore throat and mild fever.

It is understood that the Australian all-rounder showed some symptoms and a Rapid Antigen Test was performed which came positive. It could have been due to the fact that he was undergoing rehab under physio Farhart, who tested positive last week. The players are in quarantine since Monday.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

**DC** vs **PBKS**

Time: 07:30 pm

**TELECAST**  
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

## Sunny backs DK to play finisher's role for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, April 19:** Impressed with the way Dinesh Karthik is making his bat talk in this year's IPL, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar reckons that the veteran keeper-batter can play the role of a finisher for the Indian team in the T20 World Cup later this year.

Karthik has been hitting the ball fluently for his new franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore this season. The former Kolkata Knight Riders skipper has produced effective knocks of 32, 14, 44, 7, 34

and 66 with an astonishing strike-rate of 209.57. By remaining unbeaten in five of the six innings, he is averaging 197.00.

"He said he wants to be a part of the Indian Team for the T20 World Cup. So what I am saying is don't look at his age, just look at what he's producing," Gavaskar told 'Star Sports'.

Karthik's best this season came (66 not out from 34 balls) against Delhi Capitals in their last outing when he took on the experienced Mustafizur Rahman and Indian left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed with his fantastic



and RCB opted to review it. UltraEdge showed a spike and RCB got their massive breakthrough, thanks to the brilliant review.

strokeplay to power them to a match-winning 189/5. RCB won the match by 16 runs and Karthik was adjudged Player-of-the-match.

"He's just changing the complexion of the game with his performance. He's doing it for his team. He's doing the job that you can expect him to do at No.6 or 7 at the (T20) World Cup (in October-November)," Gavaskar added.

A veteran of 26 Tests, 94 ODIs and 32 T20Is, the 36-year-old last played for India in the heart-breaking semi-final loss to New Zealand in the ICC World Cup in 2019.



## Barty trades tennis for golf

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brisbane, April 19:** Ash Barty has signed on to play in an international golf exhibition just weeks after retiring from tennis while ranked No.1 in the world.

The 25-year-old Australian has been included in Ernie Els' Rest of the World team for the Icons Series event at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, New Jersey, June 30 and July 1.

Barty decided to quit tennis last month. She won the Australian Open in January for her third

Grand Slam singles championship after titles at Wimbledon last year and the French Open in 2019.

She has reportedly lowered her golf handicap to 4 and is continuing a versatile approach to sports, which included her briefly pursuing a professional cricket career in 2015 during a nearly two-year sabbatical from tennis.

Icon Series organizers said Barty will be joined by the likes of Pep Guardiola and Harry Kane in the 10-hole team match play competition against Fred Couples' US Team, which includes Michael

Phelps, Oscar De La Hoya and Ben Roethlisberger.

Barty, who is engaged to Garry Kissick, a trainee golf professional in Australia, recently won the ladies' competition at her home club Brookwater, near Brisbane.

Karrie Webb, who has 41 wins on the LPGA Tour, played a round with Barty in 2019 and said the tennis star had the talent to play golf at a high level. "I could tell if she puts some time into it she will be a great player," Webb told the Australian Associated Press.

## SHORT TAKES

### Ronaldo bereaved

**MANCHESTER:** Cristiano Ronaldo will not play for Manchester United at Liverpool Tuesday after the death of one of his newborn twins. The boy's death was announced on Monday by Ronaldo and his partner, Georgina Rodriguez. "Family is more important than everything and Ronaldo is supporting his loved ones at this immensely difficult time," United said in a statement. "As such, we can confirm that he will not feature in the match against Liverpool at Anfield Tuesday and we underline the family's request for privacy. Cristiano, we are all thinking of you and sending strength to the family." Ronaldo thanked the doctors and nurses for their care. "Only the birth of our baby girl gives us the strength to live this moment with some hope and happiness," he wrote on social media.

### Emotional post

**MUMBAI:** Delhi Capitals' opener David Warner has shared a heartfelt image of his daughters Ivy Mae and Indi Rae getting emotional after the Australian was dismissed on 66 in the chase of RCB's 189 at the Wankhede Stadium April 16. The image posted by Warner on Instagram shows one of his daughters unable to hold back her tears, while the other watches in shock as the father walks back to the dressing room. Warner wrote late Monday, "God bless, they (daughters) now understand the game very much and feel it. So lucky to have my kids know what we do, but more importantly, it teaches them that you can't always win. We all give 100 per cent every time we walk onto that field, no matter what."

## ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

### Igor Stimac names probables for camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 19:** The Indian men's national football team head coach Igor Stimac Tuesday named 41 probables for a preparatory camp ahead of its AFC Asian Cup Final Round qualifiers in June.

The players and the support staff will assemble in Bellary April 23 and will start training from the next day till May 8. The team will then move to Kolkata to continue with the camp till the qualifiers.

According to a release issued by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the players from Mumbai City FC and ATK Mohun Bagan will join the camp after their respective club commitments.

India have been drawn alongside Hong Kong, Afghanistan, and Cambodia in Group D of the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 final round qualifiers.

The leg which will kick-off June 8 will be played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. India play their first match against Cambodia June 8. The Blue Tigers had earlier played international friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus in March.

**LIST OF PROBABLES:**  
**GOALKEEPERS:** Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh,



Prabhshukhan Gill, Mohammad Nawaz, TP Rehenesh.

**DEFENDERS:** Pritam Kotal, Ashutosh Mehta, Asish Rai, Hormipam Ruivah, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingana, Narendar Gahlot, Chinglensana Singh, Anwar Ali, Subhashish Bose, Akash Mishra, Roshan Singh, Harmanjot Singh Khabra.

**MIDFIELDERS:** Udanta Singh, Vikram Partap Singh, Anirudh Thapa, Pronay Halder, Jeakson Singh, Glan Martins, VP Suhair, Lalengmawia, Sahal Abdul Samad, Yasir Mohammad, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Suresh Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Ritwik Kumar Das, Lalthathanga Khawlhing, Rahul KP, Liston Colaco, Bipin Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan.

**FORWARDS:** Manvir Singh, Sumil Chhetri, Rahim Ali, Ishan Pandita.

## Indian wrestlers secure 3 bronze at Asian C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ulaanbaatar, April 19:** On a memorable day for India at the Asian Wrestling Championship, three of the five Greco Roman grapplers in action, including Sunil Kumar, won bronze medals, here Tuesday.

This is for the second time that Sunil has earned a podium finish at the Asian championship, having won the 87kg title in the 2020 edition. The 23-year-old opened up a huge 5-0 lead early in his bronze medal bout against Mongolia's Batbayar Lutbayar and eventually won by technical superiority.

This was after he lost the semi-final by technical superiority to Uzbekistan's Jalgasbay Berdimuratov. He had started with a 5-3 win over Japan's Masato Sumi.

In the 55kg competition, Arjun Halakurki defeated Davaabandi Munkh Ertene 10-7 in the bronze play-off. He had lost his quarterfinal to Kazakhstan's Amangali Bekbolatov.

Arjun had also won a bronze at the 2020 edition of the event. In 63kg, Neeraj got the better of Uzbekistan's Islomjon Bakhramov 7-4 to earn a podium finish. He had reached the play-off after losing his quarterfinal to eventual champion Tynar Sharshenbekov from Kyrgyzstan.

However, Sajjan Bhanwal missed out on a bronze when he was outplayed by Japan's Kodai Sakuraba in the 77kg category. Prem Kumar bowed out after losing his opening 130kg qualification bout 0-5 to Iran's Amir Mohammadali Ghasemimoniazi.



**MISERY CONTINUES:** Luuk de Jong looks disappointed after missing out on a scoring opportunity during their loss against Cadiz at Camp Nou, Monday

## BARCA LOSE AT HOME YET AGAIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS



**IT WAS A BAD WEEK FOR US BUT WE HAVE TO MOVE ON AND TRY TO CHANGE THIS DYNAMIC AS SOON AS WE CAN. WE CONTINUE WITH OUR OBJECTIVE OF SECURING A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLACE**  
**XAVI HERNANDEZ**

**Madrid, April 19:** Barcelona's slim hopes for the Spanish league title all but ended after losing to Cadiz 0-1 at home in a match marked by protesting fans. The fans were upset at Barcelona allowing Eintracht Frankfurt supporters to take over the Camp Nou Stadium in a Europa League loss last week.

The first ever home loss to relegation-threatened Cadiz Monday left Barcelona 15 points behind league leader Real Madrid with six rounds left. The Catalan club, sitting in second place, has a game in hand but time is running out on its quest to win the league for the first time in three seasons.

Barcelona hadn't lost consecutive games at home since 2003, according to Spanish media. "It was a bad week for us but we have to move on and try to change this dynamic as soon as we can," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said. "We continue with our objective of securing a Champions League place." Upset with the high number of

Frankfurt fans at the Camp Nou Thursday, one of Barcelona's main fan groups left empty a section of the stadium behind one of the goals Monday.

Only about 5,000 tickets were sold to the visiting fans for Thursday's match but nearly 30,000 made it to the Camp Nou to see their team defeat the Catalan club and advance to the Europa semifinals.

Barcelona officials had already said the club would investigate how so many Frankfurt fans were able to buy tickets in sections re-

served for Barcelona supporters. Barcelona has the same number of points as third-placed Sevilla and fourth-placed Atlético Madrid, which holds the final Champions League qualification spot in the Spanish league. Fifth-placed Real Betis is three points back.

Cádiz, which moved two points clear of the relegation zone, got the winner through Lucas Pérez in the 48th minute. It had won only one of its last four league matches, but hasn't lost to Barcelona in the competition in four straight games.

Before the losses to Eintracht and Cádiz, Barcelona was unbeaten in 15 straight matches in all competitions. Making his 674th appearance for Barcelona, Sergio Busquets tied Andrés Iniesta for the third most with the club, behind the 767 of Xavi and the 778 of Lionel Messi.

Barcelona was without playmaker Pedri González and defender Gerard Piqué because of injuries, while defender Ronald Araújo was suspended. Barcelona will next visit sixth-placed Real Sociedad Thursday.