



RAKUL'S PHILOSOPHY

Actor Rakul Preet Singh says that one needs to love as long as one lives

LEISURE

P2



'KILL THE BILL' PROTESTS

107 people were arrested after clashes between cops and demonstrators at a "Kill the Bill" protest in central London

INTERNATIONAL

P10



SHINING STAR

Odisha para- badminton player Pramod Bhagat wins singles and doubles gold at Dubai tournament

SPORTS

P12

# 22 jawans killed in anti-Naxal ops, 1 missing

VISUALS FROM THE SPOT SHOWED BODIES OF THE SLAIN JAWANS LYING IN THE FIELD AND ON THE VILLAGE STREETS

AGENCIES

**Raipur, April 4:** Police recovered bullet-riddled bodies of 20 jawans in the jungles of Chhattisgarh Sunday, raising to 22 the number of security personnel killed in a fierce gun battle with Naxals the previous day – the biggest massacre in more than a year that also left 31 injured.

Police also recovered the bodies of three jawans killed in the encounter, an official said, adding a search operation is on in the forest to trace a missing jawan.

“The dead include eight from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), seven from the CRPF’s Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), six from the Special Task Force and one from the ‘Bastariya’ battalion of the CRPF,” Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

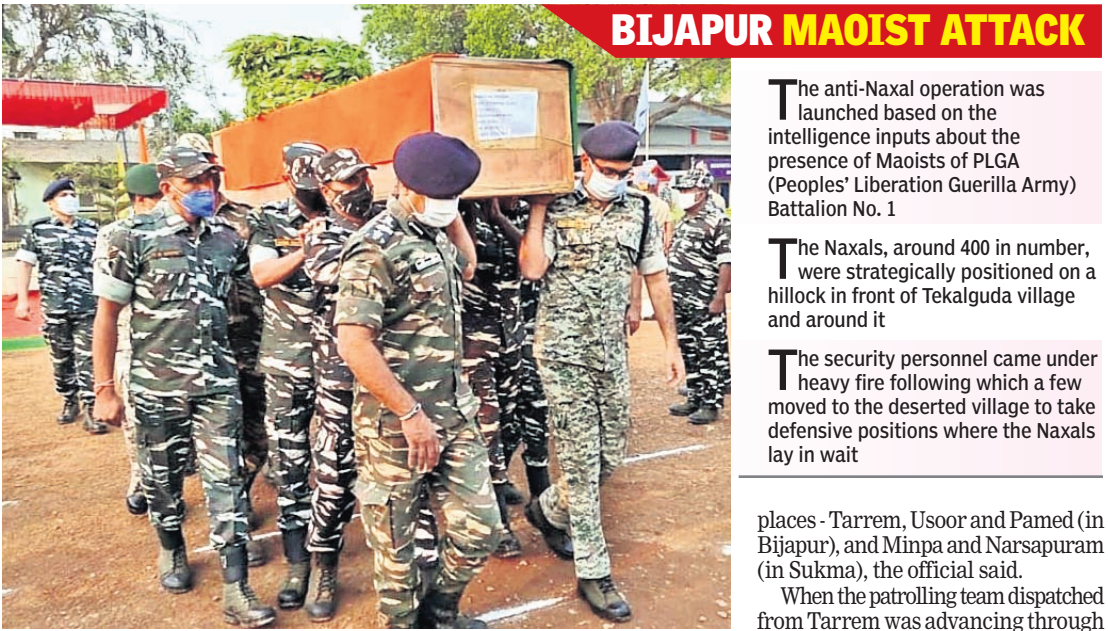
The missing jawan belongs to the CoBRA unit, he said.

He said the anti-Naxal operation was launched based on the intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists of PLGA (Peoples’ Liberation Guerilla Army) Battalion No. 1 led by Hidma, a Naxal commander involved in many deadly attacks on security forces.

He rubbished reports of “a meticulously planned Naxal ambush”, adding, “Security forces fought bravely and inflicted a heavy blow to the ultras during the face-off”.

Another senior police official said the Naxals, around 400 in number, were strategically positioned on a hillock in front of Tekalguda village and around it.

The security personnel came under



CRPF personnel carry the coffin of a paramilitary soldier who lost his life in an encounter with Maoists in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, Sunday

## BIJAPUR MAOIST ATTACK

The anti-Naxal operation was launched based on the intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists of PLGA (Peoples’ Liberation Guerilla Army) Battalion No. 1

The Naxals, around 400 in number, were strategically positioned on a hillock in front of Tekalguda village and around it

The security personnel came under heavy fire following which a few moved to the deserted village to take defensive positions where the Naxals lay in wait

places - Tarrem, Usoor and Pamed (in Bijapur), and Minpa and Narsapuram (in Sukma), the official said.

When the patrolling team dispatched from Tarrem was advancing through the forest near Jonaguda, around 500 km from the state capital Raipur, it was ambushed by cadres of PLGA battalion of Maoists and a gun battle ensued, he said. The attack comes after the March 23 incident when five DRG personnel were killed as the Maoists blew up a bus carrying the security personnel with an IED in the Narayanpur district of the state.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday spoke to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and took stock of the situation following the incident, officials said.

Shah also directed CRPF’s Director General Kuldiep Singh to visit Chhattisgarh to assess the situation.

## WHO IS MAOIST LEADER HIDMA?



**RAIPUR:** Hidma, who is suspected to be around 40 years old, is a tribal from Puvarti village of Sukma district. He joined hands with the rebels in the 90s. He heads the People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army’s (PLGA) battalion number 1 and known for his fierce and deadly ambushes. He leads around 180 to 250 Maoist fighters, including women. He is a member of the Maoists Dandakaranya Special Zonal (DKSZ) committee. He is also the youngest member of the CPI (Maoists) supreme 21-membered ‘central committee’. Unconfirmed reports suggest he has been appointed as chief of the central military commission. There are no recent pictures of Hidma available. He carries a reward of ₹40 lakh. On Saturday, the Maoist PLGA battalion was led by its commander Hidma. With a total strength of nearly 250, this group of Naxals was aided by insurgents associated with the Maoist platoons of Pamed, Konta, Jagargunda, and Basaguda area committees.



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## BJP warns impeachment motion against Speaker

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday threatened to move an impeachment motion against Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro alleging that he was sidelining Opposition parties.

Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik and suspended BJP MLA Jaynarayan Mishra Sunday held a press conference and accused the Speaker of being biased while conducting the proceedings of the House. Naik accused the Speaker of not giving adequate time to the Opposition leaders to raise the issues pertaining to their constituencies.

“As per rules of the Assembly, all MLAs are entitled to be heard in the House. The MLAs, irrespective of their parties, should be heard in the House and that is why such institutions exist. But the Speaker is not allowing Opposition

parties to speak and raise importance issues of public interest,” Naik said.

Mishra, on the other hand, accused the Speaker of provoking BJP MLAs to lose their mind. He said that the actions of Speaker to allegedly ignore the BJP MLAs were a provocation for the BJP MLAs Saturday. Three BLP MLAs were suspended by the Speaker Saturday for hurling chappals, headphones and papers at the Speaker’s podium.

Mishra claimed that the party has been mulling to move an impeachment motion against the Speaker for allegedly ignoring the Opposition parties in the Assembly. “However, we do not have the numbers. While the BJP has 22 MLAs in the 147-member Assembly, it requires at least 25 members to make such a move. However, if Congress members support the issue, there should be no hesitation in this regard,” Mishra said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Chest pain is a thing of the past, Sir. Now, the excuse is corona!

## Tribal woman allegedly dies of ‘sun stroke’

AGENCIES

**Jaleswar, April 4:** Amid the rising mercury across the state, a woman allegedly died of ‘sun stroke’ at Bardiha panchayat under Jaleswar block in Balasore Sunday. The deceased was identified as Jayanti Singh (54) of Kusumsahi. This is first ‘sun stroke’ death in Odisha this year, though it is yet to be officially confirmed.

Jayanti had reportedly gone to a nearby forest to collect firewood. When she did not return home in the afternoon, her family members searched for her in the forest. They found Jayanti dead near a bundle of firewood collected by her. While Kusagad police have sent the body for post-mortem, locals claimed Jayanti died due to sun stroke.

The post-mortem of Jayanti’s body will be done Monday, but it is believed that she is the first casualty of the severe heatwave prevailing across the state.

WEATHER

BHUB

CTK

MAX

39.2°C

36.8°C

MIN

25.8°C

25.0°C

Humidity

59%

60%

Rainfall

Nil

Nil

Forecast

Dry weather likely

## State suffers revenue losses worth ₹528.58cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** Tax is the main source of revenue for the government exchequer. However, due to improper valuation and collection of Odisha Goods and Service Tax (OGST), Odisha Value Added Tax (OVAT), Central Sales Tax (CST) and Odisha Entry Tax (OET), Entertainment Tax (ET), Excise Tax and Professional Tax (PT) by some unscrupulous officials the state government has lost several crores as revenue.

Moreover, tax worth several crores instead of being collected is lying outstanding for last several years. Undervaluation of tax and manipulation has cost the state exchequer of several crores.

An examination of 261 cases regarding OGST, OVAT, CST, OET, ET and PT has revealed irregularities to the tune of ₹528.58 crore. This serious disclosure has been

made in the 2019 report on revenue and economic sector report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) tabled in the state Assembly, Saturday. Moreover, industrial firms have illegally drawn up ground water without submitting license fee. The state government has also suffered revenue losses due to the irregularities in the farm loan delivery to the farmers.

The CAG has mentioned in its report that ₹13,683.71 crore towards payment from VAT, ET and mines were not realized by March 31, 2019. Out of this, ₹5,717.34 crore has not been collected and remained outstanding over last five years. Among them, ₹2,931.56 crore is outstanding towards VAT, ₹1,230.13 towards ET, ₹144.95 towards vehicle tax, ₹1,410.72 crore towards mines. Serious manipulations have been made in records in tax collection, the CAG report said.

## CAG REPORT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, April 4:** Personal data of nearly 533 million (53.3 crore) Facebook users, including 61 lakh Indians, remerged online after a hacker posted the details on a digital forum.

The leaked data includes Facebook ID numbers, profile names, email addresses, location information, gender details, job data, and other details.

The easy availability of such data may make users more vulnerable to cybercrime, although Facebook has said that this is “old data”.

“All 533,000,000 Facebook records were just leaked for free. This means that if you have a Facebook account, it is extremely likely the phone number used for the account was leaked,” tweeted Alon Gal, CTO



The personal data, including those of 61 lakh Indians, remerged online after a hacker posted the details on a digital forum

The leaked data includes Facebook ID numbers, profile names, email addresses, location information, gender details, job data, and other details

of security firm Hudson Rock. “I have yet to see Facebook acknowledging this absolute negligence of your data,” he added.

Facebook has confirmed the leak to The Record. “This is old data that was previously reported on in 2019. We found

## SUDDEN SHOWERS



Commuters were caught unawares when it suddenly rained near Exhibition Ground in the capital city, Sunday evening

## Maharashtra opts for ‘weekend lockdown’

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, April 4:** With Maharashtra in the grip of the second wave of COVID-19, the Maha Vikas Aghadi Government Sunday announced a “week-end lockdown” across the state besides stringent weekdays norms to combat the sweeping pandemic.

The decision was taken at an emergency Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, after he held detailed discussions with all stakeholders over this weekend.

While public transport in Mumbai including local trains would continue to run as usual, emphasis will be given to WFH to minimise crowds

The weekend curfew would commence Fridays at 8 p.m. and end at 7 a.m. Mondays. While public transport in Mumbai including local trains would continue to run as usual, emphasis will be given to Work From Home (WFH) to minimise crowds.

The new rules and guidelines, which include a night curfew from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. and prohibitory orders during the day, will take effect from 8 p.m. Monday night. Detailed guidelines will be issued shortly, said Mumbai Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh.

The situation would be reviewed again April 15 after which the future course would be decided.

Over the last two days, Thackeray held wide ranging consultations with a cross-section of society to get their views before toughening the norms. He also spoke with Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis and his estranged cousin and MNS President Raj Thackeray. Maharashtra is currently reporting 40,000-plus new COVID infections daily.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES

There are chances that there will be some disappointing moments today, foretells Ganesha. Your own recklessness may well be the cause. Ganesha says it's good to take inspiration from seniors once in a while.

### TAURUS

You will tackle your problems with a human touch as your inner self reigns supreme today, predicts Ganesha. Worries and troubles will hide you but let the barking dogs lie and focus on spending quality time with loved ones. Just be approachable and outgoing tonight and it will appeal like never before to your lover, suggests Ganesha.

### GEMINI

There are strong indications that you will find it easy to assume a leadership role and set the agenda at work today, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be busy looking for an expensive gift for someone very important to you. You may not be able to find the right gift, but that is only because you want it to be really special.

### CANCER

You are likely to be in good spirits throughout the day. With you brimming with confidence and positive energy, others around you will also feel upbeat. The entire day, you will be looking forward to the evening, so that you could spend some quality time with your loved ones.

### LEO

With Lady Luck smiling down on you, today promises to be rather special, forecasts Ganesha. Expect to find favourable conditions and come out with flying colours in whatever task you undertake, especially if it happens to be something like an interview. Bask in the kudos and appreciation at work, as your performance far exceeds the expectations of the management. On the personal front, you will feel lucky to have found a soul mate who is very accommodating, says Ganesha.

### VIRGO

There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping, looking for a gift that you feel like giving to a loved one. You will spend the evening planning your long-term goals with a close friend or family.

### LIBRA

Ganesha predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused. You may devise and come up with some innovative method to speed up work, much to your relief.

### SCORPIO

It is quite likely that you will have an outstanding field day today, predicts Ganesha. At the workplace, you will possibly feel that you are stuck in the rut doing regular activities day after day. In relationship matters, evening will be full of surprises and excitement for you, expects Ganesha.

### SAGITTARIUS

Work while you work and play while you play, says Ganesha. On the professional front, you will outclass your rivals with sheer brilliance, leaving them flabbergasted and intimidated. On the personal front, you may spend quality time with loved ones or spend your evening being chased by the spotlight of a party.

### CAPRICORN

You will settle for nothing less than excellence in whatever work you choose to take up, says Ganesha. In fact, working extra hours may leave you a little exhausted in the afternoon. Here's the remedy: delegate work to those around you and see that they meet your high standards.

### AQUARIUS

The explorer that you are, today your restlessness will get the better of you! Your plans will finally take off, whether it is a new entrepreneurial or educational course or a trip to your home town. It's a promising day, says Ganesha, and you never know what you may find!

### PISCES

There is a lot of brain-racking in store for you today, as you try to conjure up ways to convert your extraordinary brilliance into exceptional performance. Keeping in mind that your family is the foundation of your success could provide some vital insights, says Ganesha.



## LIFE'S A BEACH, SAYS KIM

Reality TV personality Kim Kardashian raised the temperature by posting a picture dressed in a stunning bikini. Kim posted the picture on Instagram, where she and her friend Stephanie Shepherd Suganami are seen flaunting their svelte figure dressed in tiny bikinis. "Life's a beach!" Kim wrote alongside the image.

## HOLLAND WAS 'SCARED' FOR CHERRY

Actor Tom Holland admits being scared while taking on his role in the new crime drama *Cherry*. The film casts him as a soldier-turned-bank robber who suffers from PTSD, and the *Spider-Man* star says he was not sure if he could do justice to the role.



## Love as long as you live: Rakul

MUMBAI: Actress Rakulpreet Singh has shared a candid picture and the mantra she follows.

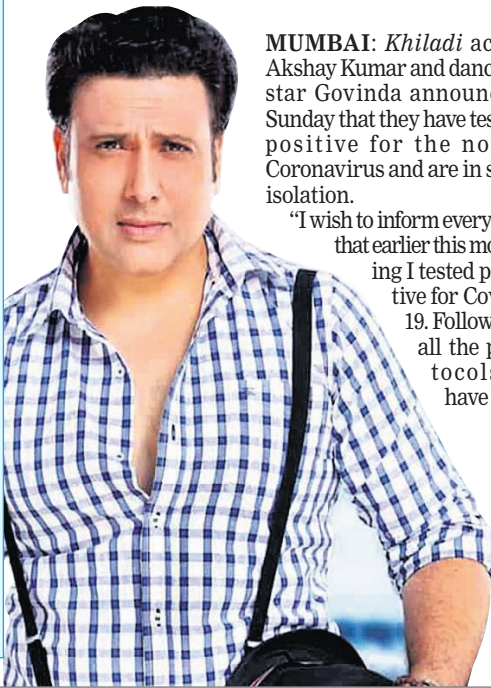
Rakul posted a picture on Instagram, where she is seen dressed in denim shorts and white vest. In the image, she is seen sitting on a yacht.

"Laugh as much as you breathe and love as long as you live. #sundaymoodA

#happyeaster #candidmoments," Rakul wrote.

On the work front, Rakul features in the upcoming digital film *Sardar Ka Grandson* alongside Arjun Kapoor. She also shares the screen with Ayushmann Khurrana in Anubhuti Kashyap's *Doctor G*.

The actress will also be seen alongside Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn in Devgn's upcoming directorial *MayDay*. IANS



## Govinda, Akshay test Covid +ve

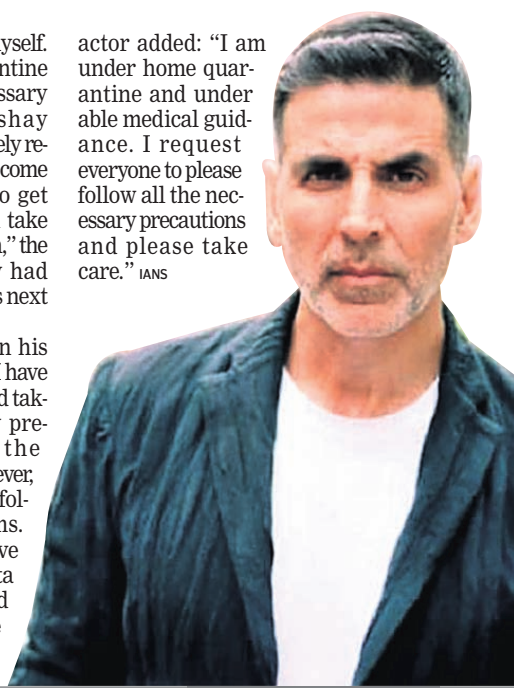
MUMBAI: *Khiladi* actor Akshay Kumar and dancing star Govinda announced Sunday that they have tested positive for the novel Coronavirus and are in self-isolation.

"I wish to inform everyone that earlier this morning I tested positive for Covid-19. Following all the protocols, I have

immediately isolated myself. I'm under home quarantine and have sought necessary medical care," Akshay tweeted. "I would sincerely request all those that have come in contact with me to get themselves tested and take care. Back in action soon," the actor added. Akshay had started shooting for his next titled *Ram Setu*.

Giving an update on his health, Govinda said: "I have been testing myself and taking all the necessary precautions to keep the Coronavirus away. However, I tested positive today following mild symptoms. All others at home have tested negative. Sunita (wife) has just recovered from Covid-19 a couple of weeks back." The

actor added: "I am under home quarantine and under able medical guidance. I request everyone to please follow all the necessary precautions and please take care." IANS



## Veteran actress Shashikala passes away at 88

MUMBAI: Veteran actress Shashikala is no more. She was 88. The actress passed away in her Mumbai residence Sunday, although an official confirmation from her family is awaited.

Mourning her demise, senior NCP leader Praful Patel tweeted: "Deeply saddened by the demise of veteran actress Shashikala ji. She made a noteworthy

contribution to Indian cinema by portraying several pivotal roles. My heartfelt condolences to her family members. May her soul rest in peace. Folded hands. #Shashikala #RIP"

"Shashikala ji... RIP," tweeted actor Rohit Roy. Born August 1932, Shashikala made a mark with her performance in supporting roles and neg-

ative roles in Hindi films.

She has appeared in over 100 films including *Nau Do Gyarah*, *Jungle*, *Aye Milan Ki Bela*, *Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani*, *Chhote Sarkar*, *Khubsoorat*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Baadshah* and *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi* among others.

Shashikala was honoured with Padma Shri in 2007 for her contribution to Indian cinema. IANS



## ZFT holds expo to support artisanship of special kids



POST NEWS NETWORK

### BHUBANESWAR:

After holding a superbikers' rally in the city to mark World Autism Awareness Day Friday, Zain Foundation Trust (ZFT) organised an exhibition of handicraft products made by the kids with special needs at its office here, Sunday.

"The main objective of this exhibition is to offer a platform to the kids and the organisations that support them. We hope, it will give their confidence a boost and the children can lead a meaningful life in future," said ZFT's trustee member Gargi Bhattacharya.

The items put up at the expo included candles, hand bags, envelopes, incense sticks, handicrafts, jewellery and several other items.

The exhibition-cum-sale is part of the initiatives undertaken by the Foundation to observe World Autism Awareness Month.

Speech therapist Lipsa Jena who works in a parent support group



Products put up for sale at the exhibition

CATCH (Centre for Autism Therapy Counselling and Help), said, "All the DIY products on display are non-

toxic in nature. This is an attempt to integrate the autistic kids into the mainstream of society."

Entrepreneur Chumki Datta, founder of Vriddhi Training and Production Centre which trains people with intellectual disabilities to make bath soaps, incense stick etc, said that offering skill training to disabled persons is the best way to empower them.

The bath soaps put up for sale were in great demand among those visited the exhibition.

Besides, some other items like the jewellery works of Sourav Das and paintings by Aparajit Mishra also grabbed quite a few eyeballs.

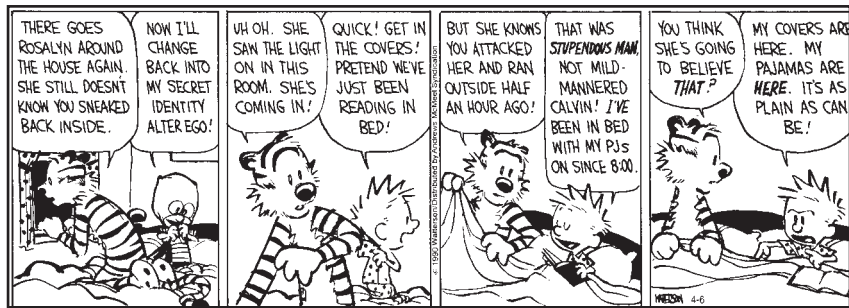
Needless to say, the parents of the children were very happy noticing the appreciations of crafts by the visitors.

## FUN post

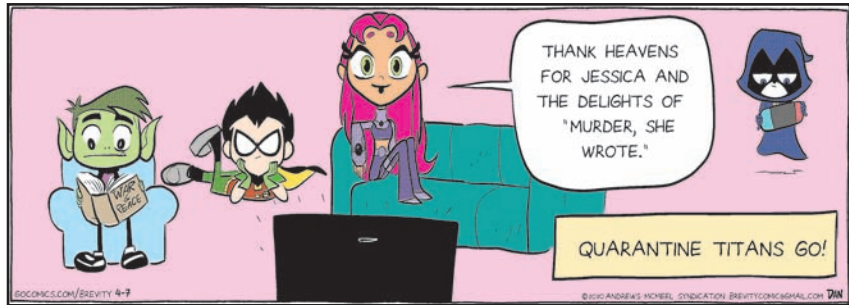
### PEANUTS



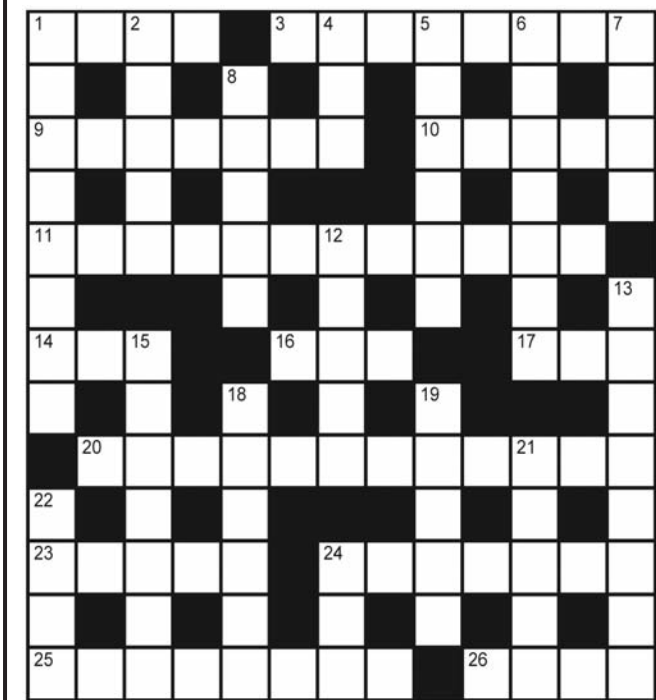
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### CROSSWORD



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#### Across

- 1 Diamonds, e.g.
- 3 Identifiers (4,4)
- 9 Antediluvian
- 10 Turning point
- 11 Rapa Nui (6,6)
- 14 Raises
- 16 Tear
- 17 Outback runner
- 20 Setts (6,6)
- 23 Bush

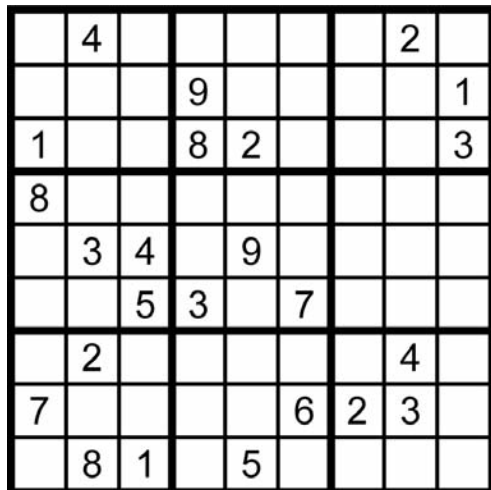
#### Down

- 24 Crowded
- 25 Metal analysts
- 26 Rancher's concern
- 1 Appreciative
- 2 Makes fun of
- 4 Hill dweller
- 5 Kicks out
- 6 Move forward

- 7 Location
- 8 Euripides drama
- 12 Cupcake topper
- 13 Ebbed
- 15 Beetles of Egypt
- 18 Unclean
- 19 Scarecrow
- 21 Saltpetre
- 22 Samoan port
- 24 Prevent

### SUDOKU

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

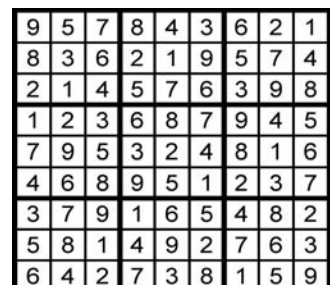


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

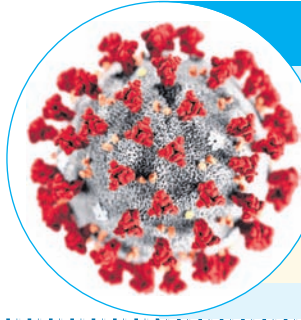


# downtown



## GODOWN BLAZE

Garments worth around Rs 1 lakh were destroyed when a godown in Puri caught fire, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	13,15,80,761	10,59,74,704	28,62,510
India	1,24,85,509	1,16,29,289	1,64,623
Odisha	3,42,695	3,37,935	1,922

# BDA lost ₹2.62Cr through faulty project: CAG report

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has incurred a loss of Rs 2.62 crore as it could neither develop the proposed citizen-centric services through IT-based platform, nor could it terminate the contract despite failure of the project, a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India said, Sunday.

As per the CAG report, the BDA had selected a private firm, VFS Global Services Limited (VFSGSL) through an open tender floated in September 2014 to undertake the job of streamlining the system of issuing building plan approval, occupancy certificates, procedures for allotment of assets and other citizen-centric services through IT-based platforms.

However, VFSGSL failed to develop the project. As per norms the BDA should have scrapped the contract, but it did not rescind the contract even when the state government had decided to hire another agency.

“As per the state government, any competent authority, before



Principal Accountant General Bibhudutta Basantia (R) releases the CAG report in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

proceeding to outsource services, should estimate the cost by consulting other organisations engaged in similar activities and also ensure that available budget provision is adequate for the purpose. However, the BDA did not estimate the cost of outsourcing before engaging VFSGSL. It entered into a formal contract in Nov 2014 and paid VFSGSL Rs 2.62 crore between 2014 to July 2017,” the report said.

“The firm did not develop IT-based solution for processing the applications and continued with the manual mode of throughout the contract period (December 2014 to August 2017) despite contract mentioning use of physical mode for only a period of first three months.

BDA had the right to forfeit all outstanding payments and terminate the contract. However, it continued to make payments to VFSGSL.

## IN A NUTSHELL

The BDA had selected a private firm, VFS Global Services Limited (VFSGSL) through an open tender floated in September 2014 to undertake the job of streamlining the system of issuing building plan approval, occupancy certificates, procedures for allotment of assets and other citizen-centric services through IT-based platforms

However, VFSGSL failed to develop the project. As per norms the BDA should have scrapped the contract, but it did not rescind the contract even when the state government had decided to hire another agency

Continuance of VFSGSL without development of IT solution did not fulfil the objective of outsourcing, as VFSGSL continued with the manual processes along with the existing officials of BDA

During June 2015 to August 2017, the BDA paid Rs 2.62 crore to the firm which should not have been paid as per the terms of the contract,” it added.

The report also mentioned that the BDA accepted the fact that VFSGSL was supposed to develop IT solution by the end of February 2015. The Vice Chairman, BDA in June 2019 stated that since the state government had decided to engage another agency for developing IT solution for building plan approval process during the same period, automation work by the Process Manager was put on hold and manual process continued till August 2017.

“Thus, continuance of VFSGSL without development of IT solution did not fulfil the objective of outsourcing, as VFSGSL continued with the manual processes along with the existing officials of BDA. The entailed cost of Rs. 2.62 crore was thus infructuous,” the CAG observed.



# Odia film producer booked for cheating

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** Nayapalli police, Sunday, registered a case against a local film producer on charges of duping a private hotel manager here of about Rs 47,000.

Gopabandhu Das, General Manager of Hotel Richi Regency, Nayapalli, stated in his FIR to the police that Rohini Nandan Mohapatra, a producer under Bhumi Putra banner of films, had cheated him of Rs 47,700 and was also threatening and intimidating him.

“I would like to inform you that Rohini had done a conference January 15, 2021 for more than three hours. As per the communication through email, he was supposed to pay an amount of Rs 47,700. However, he gave a cheque of Rs

**Rohini Nandan Mohapatra, a producer under Bhumi Putra banner of films, had cheated the hotelier of ₹47,700**

40,000 on the same which had bounced. He has been cheating me continuously and not clearing the bills. Moreover, he is issuing threats that he would never make the payment and has been using intimidating language,” the FIR alleged.

Meanwhile, Nayapalli police registered a case against the accused under Section 420 of IPC of cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. The cops are investigating the case.

# Some respite as mercury dips

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday predicted light to moderate rain and thunderstorms in parts of the state but refrained from issuing warning of heavy rainfall in any part of the state.

While predicting the weather for Monday, the department said, “Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhadrak and Balasore and dry weather is very likely to prevail over the remaining districts of Odisha.”

However, from Tuesday onwards the weather is likely to be dry for the next couple of days across the state with no forecasting of rains in any part of the state.

On the other hand, the maxi-



**Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at one or two places of Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhadrak and Balasore, Monday**

mum temperature in the state Sunday did not cross 40° Celsius

in any part of the state. The highest temperature was recorded at 39.9° Celsius at Bolangir while the minimum temperature was recorded at Koraput which saw 17° Celsius.

The department also said that there is no large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 2-3 days over the districts of Odisha and thereafter it will rise gradually by 2-3° C.

The department, meanwhile, said that partly cloudy sky and thunderstorms might be witnessed in the state capital. “Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder or lightning may prevail in Bhubaneswar. Maximum and Minimum temperature is very likely to be around 39°C and 26°C respectively,” the weather report said.

Meanwhile, light rain brought some relief to the residents of Capital city Sunday evening.

## HOMAGE TO MARTYRS



Information and Public Relations Minister Raghunandan Das inaugurates the state-level death anniversary celebration of Saheed Raghu-Dibakar at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

# Audio books boon for sight-impaired students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** Teachers and students of special schools across the state were familiarised with audio books on different subjects during a special orientation programme organised on the premises of Odisha Association of Blind here Sunday.

More than 1,500 visually-impaired students from 21 inclusive schools in the state would be benefitted from the program, said the organisers.

“Visually-challenged students have always been facing academic challenges. However, the pandemic has made the situation even worse, especially for senior students who are preparing for exams. These audio books will help resolve their problems to a great extent,” said Sanyasi Behera, first blind OAS officer.

As many as 70 audio books on different subjects for Class-VIII to



THE STUDENTS WERE ALSO PROVIDED WITH A SPECIAL ORIENTATION ON PARIKSHA DARPAN- AN EXAMINATION GUIDE FOR CLASS-X STUDENTS

bachelor degree were distributed at the event organised by VIEWS with the support of Germany-based Deutsches Katholisches Blindenwerk.

National award winner teacher Tapas Mohanty- an expert in inclusive education and the resource

person of the orientation programme, explained the teachers about the procedures to access the audio books effectively.

The students were also provided with a special orientation on Pariksha Darpan- an examination guide for Class-X students.

## HELPING HAND

More than 1,500 visually-impaired students from 21 inclusive schools in the state would be benefitted from the program

As many as 70 audio books on different subjects for Class-VIII to bachelor degree were distributed at the event organised by VIEWS with the support of Germany-based Deutsches Katholisches Blindenwerk

“It is wonderful to see how technology has come to the aid of these students during these uncertain times. These books will be a huge help for many of them to prepare for the upcoming board exams which is scheduled for May 3,” informed Sasmita Swain, a teacher.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# DGP reviews Red scenario in 3 dists



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, April 4:** Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay reviewed the crime as well as Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario in Malkangiri, Koraput and Kandhamal, Sunday.

While visiting the police headquarters along with other senior officials in the LWE-hit districts, the police top brass lauded the achievements of the officials in curbing the Red menace. Abhay inaugurated the newly-built SDPO office building at MV-2 in Malkangiri and reviewed the development projects in Koraput and Kandhamal.

The DGP appealed to the Maoists to shun the path of violence and join the mainstream so as to ensure

peaceful development of the areas through democratic means.

Abhay commended the Malkangiri police for its efforts to establish Jodambo police station and company operating bases (COBs) at Hantalguda, Jodambo, Andrahal and Gurasetu in the Swabhimana Anchal. The senior IPS officer also lauded the district police for its relentless efforts in creating a safe and secure environment to facilitate development works in the tribal-dominated district.

Director of Intelligence, ADGP (Headquarters), IGP (Operation), DIG (SIW), DIG (SWR), SPs of Malkangiri Koraput and Kandhamal as well as other senior officers were present during the visit.

# Centre, state ignoring rights of SCs: Cong

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Niranjan Patnaik Sunday accused the BJP government at the Centre and the BJD government in the state of ignoring the rights of Scheduled Caste (SC) population.

He was speaking at the Executive Committee meeting of the Odisha Congress of the Schedule Caste Cell. Patnaik also paid tribute to the photo of BR Ambedkar and discussed important issues with the party leaders from the SC Cell.



“Today the meeting of the SC Cell was conducted in the state. We have decided to boost the party base in the state with the active involvement of the SC community spread across the state. Neither the Centre nor the state government seems to be interested in their welfare,” he said.

# 11 INCOMING FLYERS TEST COVID POSITIVE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Sunday conducted Covid tests on 313 incoming flyers from Mumbai and Pune out of whom 11 tested positive. Similarly, three were tested positive at city railway station Sunday. All the patients were shifted to SUM hospital. Continuing its enforcement drive, Sunday, the civic body collected Rs 13,000 over fines from individuals and organisations

The South East Zone of the civic body imposed a penalty of Rs 5,000 on Khadims at Master Canteen Square and an equal amount on Manmandir at Janpath. Individual fines were also collected from Forest Park and IG Park areas to the tune of Rs 3,000.

“The shops/organisations were found violating Covid norms as social distancing or lack of sanitizer, scan machines. Individuals were also found not wearing masks and thus were fined accordingly,” a BMC official said.



ECOR TO RUN FOUR MORE SPECIALS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** East Coast Railway (ECOR) will run four more special trains under its jurisdiction from April 11. These trains are: Puri-Mumbai LTT, Puri-Gandhidham, Muzaffarpur-Yesvantpur and Jasidih-Tamaram.

The Mumbai LTT-Puri-Mumbai LTT Special from Mumbai LTT will leave at 20:30hrs every Sunday April 11 and leave Puri at 21:45hrs every Tuesday from April 13 till further notice.

Gandhidham-Puri-Gandhidham Special from Gandhidham will leave at 23:05hrs every Friday from April 16, 2021 and leave Puri at 23:00hrs Monday April 19, 2021 till further advice.

The Muzaffarpur-Yesvantpur-Muzaffarpur Special will leave

**The four trains the ECoR would run are: Puri-Mumbai LTT, Puri-Gandhidham, Muzaffarpur-Yesvantpur and Jasidih-Tamaram**

Muzaffarpur at 7:25hrs every Monday between April 5 and June 28, 2021 and from will leave Yesvantpur at 23:55hrs every Wednesday between April 7 and June 30, 2021.

Jasidih-Tambaram-Jasidih Special from will leave Jasidih at 13:20hrs every Wednesday April 14, 2021 and depart from Tambaram at 12:55hrs every Saturday April 17, 2021 till further advice.

Earlier, the ECoR had decided to run special trains between Bhubaneswar and Junagarh Road, Bhubaneswar and Jagadalpur via Brahmapur and Vizianagaram and between Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh Town from April 10. It also decided to run Special Express Train between Puri and Gunupur from April 22.

Similarly, to clear the waiting list of passengers in special trains originating from its jurisdiction, the ECoR has decided to augment additional coaches, temporarily in 13 pairs of special trains in the month of April.

6 held for extortion

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, April 4:** At least six persons were arrested on charges of extorting people here, a senior Baseli Sahi police official said Sunday.

The accused were identified as Ramesh Behera of Jagannath Slum, Kuldeep Banerjee of Mishra Sahi, Mitu Behera of Nolia Sahi, Jitendra Sarangi of Markandeswar Sahi, Krushna Chandra Palai of Barabati area and Siba Narayan Biswal of Matitota area.

"A dummy pistol and cash were recovered from them. A case (54/2021) has been registered with the Baseli Sahi police in this regard," said the official.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- Protest by western Odisha Ashas, Lower PMG, 10am
- Birth anniversary of comrade Banmali Jena, Patia Girls' School premises, 10.30am
- Agitation by various farmer outfits, near FCI office, 11am

KHURDA

- Second day of Khurda Cup T-20, BJB High School Ground, 6.30pm

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

No daytime curfew now: SRC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) denied any plan of the government to impose daytime curfew in the state. In a statement issued by the office of the SRC, it said that the state government has only planned to impose night curfew in selected areas and there was no plan to impose daytime curfew as of now.

Earlier in the day, Assembly Speaker SN Patro hinted at a likely situation of imposition of daytime curfew in selected areas of the state.

Speaking to reporters here Sunday, the Speaker said till now the state government has imposed only night curfews but daytime curfews may follow soon.

Patro said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the state Health department had been mulling to impose daytime curfews in high-burden districts where more number of Covid-19 cases are being reported.

This comes after the viral disease witnessed a resurgence with the state reporting above 400 cases every day. Districts like Nuapada, Khurda, Cuttack and Kalahandi are reporting more number of

State logs 471 fresh Covid cases, 1 more fatality



**O**disha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 3,42,695 Sunday as 471 more people tested positive for the infection, while one more fatality pushed the death toll to 1,922, a Health department official said.

Of the new cases, 278 were reported from quarantine centres and 193 detected during contact tracing.

Sundargarh district reported the highest number of fresh cases at 85, followed by Kalahandi (50), Nuapada (42) and Khurda (40).

A 29-year-old female Covid pa-

tient from Khurda district died Sunday while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Odisha now has 3,085 active cases, and 3,37,635 patients have so far recovered from the disease.

Khurda district comprising the state capital Bhubaneswar has so far accounted for the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 341, he said.

The state has so far conducted over 91.59 lakh sample tests for the novel coronavirus, including 29,281 Saturday, and the positivity rate stands at 3.74 per cent.

one week and discussions for the same are in progress.

Patro, meanwhile, appealed to the people of the state to adhere to

the government had announced that night curfew from 10pm to 5am will be imposed in 10 districts - Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri - from April 5.

Kalahandi district administration has declared Chilchila village in Dharmagarh block as a containment zone after six people were tested positive for the virus Saturday.

The Jharsuguda district administration has also declared eight places as micro containment zones.

Covid-19 safety protocols and take all precautionary measures to keep the virus at bay.

The state government had earlier

SBI main branch sealed as seven test positive

**Bhubaneswar:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Sunday, sealed the main branch of State Bank of India (SBI) at Unit I here for two days after seven of its employees tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Detailing about the issue, BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said seven employees of the branch have tested positive after the first phase of the testing. Movement within and outside the premises have been restricted barring authorised personnel of the BMC. The positive cases were directed into isolation at their respective residence.

"Those tested positive were checked under Phase I of the testing. Many other employees of the same branch have undergone tests in the second phase of testing, the result of which is awaited. Thus, we have decided to seal the branch for two days for necessary sanitisation and contact tracing of the patients. An RT-PCR test shall be conducted for all the staff of SBI branch," the BMC Commissioner said.



planned to impose night curfew in 10 districts from April 5 to scale up their vigilance and scrutiny to counter the spread of the disease.

SAINIK SCHOOL ENTRANCE TEST CALL LIST OUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, April 4:** The All India Sainik Schools Entrance Exam- 2021 Initial Call List of the candidates shortlisted in the ratio of 1:3 for the medical examination in respect of Sainik School Bhubaneswar has been published and uploaded on the website (<http://sainikschoolbhubaneswar.org>) of Sainik School Bhubaneswar.

**The initial call list is based on the category wise merit in the written examination held in February 2021 for admission to Class VI and Class IX**

The schedule for initial medical examination has also been made available on the school's website and the candidates were informed to refer the same.

The initial call list is based on the category wise merit in the written examination held in February 2021 for admission to Class VI and Class IX. Shortlisted candidate are required to appear for medical examination likely to be held between April 6 and April 30. The admission will be strictly based on the marks scored in the entrance exam, subject to the medical fitness approved by the designated medical authority and verification. The concept of the Sainik School was originated in the visionary mind of late V K Krishna Menon.

BJP leaders hit campaign trail ahead of Pipli bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pipli, April 4:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its campaign for the byelection to Pipli Assembly seat scheduled for April 17.

The saffron party's Odisha unit president Samir Mohanty, its national spokesperson Sambit Patra, BJP co-in charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, Brahmagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mahapatra, BJP state vice president Pravati Parida, general secretary Prithiviraj Harichandan, senior party leaders Prakash Mishra and Kharavela

Swain and BJP's Odisha youth wing president Irashis Acharya Sunday hit the campaign trail.

The saffron leaders urged the people of Pipli to vote for BJP candidate Ashrit Pattanayak in the bypoll. They claimed that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre is committed to ensure basic facilities like concrete house, drinking water and toilet to each and every poor family in the country.

"Even after 73 years of Independence, the people of Pipli constituency have been deprived of

basic facilities. The BJP is committed to bring all-round development to Pipli and make it free from shadow of trepidation and violence," Samir Mohanty said.

Tomar urged the BJP workers to create awareness regarding the welfare schemes of the Centre.

The saffron leaders alleged that the BJD government in Odisha has failed to develop Pipli even though the constituency is located close to state capital.

"The famous appliqué work of Pipli is yet to get due share in international market. Even, the people of the locality are yet to get a bus stand. The state government has failed to improve irrigation and other facilities in the constituency. Only the BJP can bring rapid development to Pipli, which is considered as the entry point to Puri Dham," Patra said.

Notably, Pipli Assembly segment will go for a bypoll April 17. The seat has fallen vacant after the death of BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy. The regional party has fielded Maharathy's son Rudra Pratap Maharathy in the byelection while Congress party has nominated Ajit Mangaraj to take on the BJP and BJD candidates.



A meeting of Odisha Anganwadi Women's Association in progress at Prabhuje English Medium School in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

TALENT FETED



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar felicitates Jadunath Prasad Das with prestigious Gangadhar Rath Memorial Award at Kala Vikas Kendra in Cuttack, Sunday

People switch off lights protesting tariff hike

**Bhubaneswar:** Majority of the people across Odisha switched off the lights at their homes for half an hour Sunday evening to protest against the hike in power tariff in the state. State Congress president Nairanjan Patnaik thanked the people for registering their protest, the call for which was given by his party. The people switched off their lights from 6:30pm to 7pm, opposing the power tariff hike.

Srimandir complex sanitised

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, April 4:** Devotees to Srimandir had to satiate themselves with the darshan of 'Patitapabana' near the Lions' Gate of the 12th century shrine here as the Trinity remained out of the bounds owing to the disinfection of the temple complex, Sunday.

Rajesh Sethy, a devotee from Cuttack, reached the Lord's abode to realise about the darshan restriction Sundays.

"I had no idea regarding the restriction on darshan or closure of the shrine for devotees due to disinfection, Sundays. I realised it only upon reaching Puri this morning. Although I was a bit disappointed as I couldn't have a darshan of the Trinity, it's a welcome move for it's meant for public welfare," Sethy said, adding that he had sought blessings from the 'Patitapabana'.

Sources said Fire Services personnel have sanitised the temple complex. "Teams of the Fire Services personnel have disinfected the shrine complex and the areas adjoining it," said a source.

All rituals of the deities were conducted as per the schedule with participation of a minimum of servitors.

According to Srimandir chief administrator Krishan Kumar, the temple administration will go tough



on those violating Covid norms on the shrine premises. "The temple administration will ensure devotees have a smooth darshan of the deities while complying with the Covid norms," the senior IAS officer pointed out.

Kumar said that devotees must wear masks, sanitise hands and refrain from touching any idols or statues in the shrine. Social distancing has to be observed by devotees queuing up to enter the temple complex.

According to a revised standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Shree Jagannath Temple

Administration (SJTA) Saturday, the temple will remain open on all days of the week except Sundays when sanitisation will be carried out.

Public darshan of deities will start by 6am, unless notified. This apart, the temple and its interiors will be sanitised twice a week after all rituals are over, the SOP said.

The 12th-century shrine reopened in December last year, after remaining out of bounds for devotees since March 2020. People with Covid-19 negative certificate were initially allowed to enter the temple, which was closed Sundays in January, for sanitisation.

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**Acharya Vihar**-DayalAgency-9437135727, **A.P. Tours and Travel**, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, **Aurobindo Market**-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, **Airport Road**-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, **Anish Infotech**- Tankapani Road-9861341488, **Bapuji Nagar**- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, **Baramunda Rental Colony**-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, **Baramunda Housing Board** Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, **Cuttack Road**-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, **District Center** (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, **Forest Park**-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, **IRC Village**-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decor Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, **Janpath**-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, **Jaydev Vihar**-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar**-Auro Electronics-8260697560, **Khandagiri**- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, **KIIT Road**-Jugad Jn-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar**-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, **Lewis Road**-Spider Web-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City**-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, **Madhusudan Nagar**-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, **Maa Santoshi travels**- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon**-Cookiemana-9439491273, **Nigamananda**-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, **Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication- 9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658061373.



## TOURISM BOOST



A boat being taken for a trial run in a waterbody near Debjharan waterfall, an eco-tourism site in Sambalpur. Various facilities are being put in place at the project area which will be dedicated to the service of tourists soon

OP PHOTO

## Couple assaulted by police, wife lodges complaint

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, April 4:** A couple of Old Berhampur area was allegedly subjected to brutal physical torture at Bada Bazar police station in the Silk City.

The matter came to the fore after Dukhi Nayak, wife of Kabir Nayak of Pandav Nagar in Old Berhampur area, met Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Prabhat Chandra Routray at his office here and lodged a complaint over alleged torture in police station. The woman met the ASP with the help of local women self-help group. The ASP after hearing her complaint directed the Town SDPO Bishnu Prasad Pati to conduct a probe into the charges and submit a report to him. The truth will be ascertained after availability of the probe report, the ASP said. The woman said that she and her husband Kabir were sum-



moned by police for questioning over a family dispute over a complaint filed by her in-laws, Saturday.

The couple along with a minor daughter lives with their in-laws. She alleged that her in-laws always harass them and pick up fights over trivial issues. She said that her brother-in-law, who is working as a home guard also meddle in their affairs and create disturbances in their family. She said that when she and her husband reached the police station, they were beaten up severely.

"Two women police personnel slapped me and forcefully snatched my mobile phone. Later, they dragged me and my husband to a dark room and hammered us severely with lathis," Dukhi said. While police released her at night, her husband Kabir is still detained at the police station, she informed.

Dukhi has demanded action against the erring police personnel and requested the ASP to arrange for the release of her husband.

## Vigil stepped up at 14 border points in Sambalpur district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, April 4:** With a spike in Covid-19 infections and possibility of the second wave, the district administration and police stepped up Sunday checking at 14 entry and exit points on the borders of Sambalpur district. Curfew has been enforced from 10.00pm till 5.00am. People have been warned that they will face penalties if they violated Covid-19 protocols.

Addressing a presser Sunday, SP Batula Gangadhar clarified that shops and business establishments, if found violating guidelines, will face forced closures along with fines. He also said that checking of vehicles has been stepped up at Bhimbhoi Chhak, Laida, Bhusan Company Chhak, College Chhak, Burla Thana Chhak, Sindupanka Chhak and various points on national and state highways to effectively control the spread of Covid-19 in the district. Plying of inter-state goods vehicles and emergency services however, will not be restricted.

The district reported 27 new Covid-19 infections Sunday. For the last five days, the cases Covid-19 have been

## Chhatishgarh borders under scanner

**JHARSUGUDA:** As the second wave of Covid-19 has resurfaced in the neighbouring state of Chhatishgarh, the administration of Jharsuguda district has stepped up its checking on entry of vehicles on the fringe areas. Violations of Covid-19 safety guidelines are being scrutinised in a tough manner and the offenders are paying hefty fines, a report said.

According to the report, the district administration apprehends spread of the Covid infection from the neighbouring state. This is because people living in border areas are more vulnerable to infection due to daily communication to various localities in Chhatsigarh. So naturally it is a cause of concern.

Following a directive from District Collector Sarij Samal, officials accompanied by police have stepped up their vigil and checking on border entry points since Friday.

rising in the district. Contact tracing of the infected is being conducted in a proper manner.

The SP said that police will be de-



Sub-collector Shiba Toppo, tehsildar Bisikesan Pandey, BDO Sanjib Patel and Rengali IIC Sarangdhara Panigrahi are personally checking vehicles. They are also pulling up people for violating COVID-19 protocols at Kanakatora, a border entry point.

RTO, Dinabandhu Sundhi, traffic inspector Anidita Maharath and sub-inspector Sabita Nayak checked use of seat belts, helmets and masks Saturday. Officials detected various violations by 79 vehicles and imposed a fine of Rs 12,000, Sunday. Two platoons of police have also been deployed at the border point, it was said.

ployed at the 14 border points. He urged people to cooperate in the with administrative officials to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

# Erosion-hit Satabhaya to become a 'ghost' village soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, April 4:** Satabhaya, the village hit by sea erosion in Kendrapara district will soon become a deserted place with the district administration deciding to shift the remaining 118 families to Bagapatia rehabilitation colony, a report said.

The area faces erosion due to rising tides for which the residents have been demanding relocation elsewhere since the last five decades. The 17-km stretch of the beach at Satabhaya under Rajnagar block is claimed to be the fastest-eroding beach on the Odisha coast.

The district administration in a preparatory meeting decided to shift the rest of the 118 families. Bagapatia is about 12-km away from



Satbhaya. Earlier there were demands for creating a mangrove forest in Satabhaya to protect the area from erosion by the sea and build up nature camps to promote tourism. Jagabandhu Das of Satabhaya

welcoming decision said it has given him a new lease of life.

In the past 40 years, the sea has devoured more than 1,000 homes and large tracts of agricultural lands in the locality sparking seri-

ous concern among the residents of Satabhaya.

But, due to constant erosion only a small portion of it remains with Gobindapur, Mohanpur, Kanhpur, Chintamaniapur, Badagahiramatha and Kharikula villages vanishing from the map. Now, the sea has come closer. It is almost at the footsteps of the Maa Panchubarahi's old temple. The administration has stopped all developmental works in Satabhaya after it was decided to relocate the residents to Bagapatia rehabilitation colony in 2017. The area now lacks basic needs like power, road and drinking water. The schools have been closed down in the area. Initially, the district administration rehabilitated 571 families in Bagapatia barring 148 families. The left out families submitted

applications several times and drew the attention of the administration for their shifting.

The district administration soon identified the 118 families for shifting which has relieved them of the fear of tidal waves devouring them and their houses, Das said.

However, all are not lucky like Das. Bijaya Levka a local woman said that the identification exercise of the administration is not free from error. She was married to Bijay of Kanhpur mouza but has got separated due to differences among them. Meanwhile, her estranged husband Bijay has been living at Bagapatia after being allotted a land. However, she is yet to get a land at Bagapatia due to lack of proper documents. She is entitled to 10 decimal of land and a house

building assistance. Many of the left out families have shifted on their own to nearby areas and living in houses built by them on the government land.

Sudarshan Das, another villager demanded a patch of farmland to earn their livelihood as it would be difficult for them to manage their families in the absence of a proper income.

Environmentalism Hemant Kumar Rout said that administration should plant mangrove forests in Satabhaya to check coastal erosion and use it for promoting eco-tourism.

When contacted, ADM Basant Kumar Rout said that 118 families will be provided with all help while a review has been undertaken to find out the actual reason behind rapid coastal erosion.

# Mahendratanya dries up; water crisis hits Gajapati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, April 4:** Years ago, Mahendratanya river flowing through Gajapati district and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh was full to the brim with water almost throughout the year. However, this summer the riverbed has dried up, signaling severe drinking water crisis and problems for farming in most riparian pockets of this southern district.

Shortage of water in the river has resulted in acute crisis for the farming sector and people living in this town and its peripheral areas, a report said. According to the report, vegetables farmers doing cultivation on thousands of hectares of farmlands in Gosani and Rayagad blocks of the district are facing the brunt of water shortage in the river. Drinking water crisis is already pinching the people in the region, it was said.

Deficit rainfall in the region and poor flow of water from various hill streams are responsible for water shortage in the river this summer. The PHEO supplies drinking water to the town. The water of Mahendratanya is drawn through pipes near Brundaban palace. The water is treated and supplied to households in the town. As there is little water in the river, the PHEO had to dredge the river bed to channelise water to the mouth of the suction pipes.

To compound problems, the municipality has not taken any steps to conserve water of the river and



Vegetables farmers doing cultivation on thousands of hectares of farmlands in Gosani and Rayagad blocks of the district are facing the brunt of water shortage in the river. Drinking water crisis is already pinching the people in the region

Deficit rainfall in the region and poor flow of water from various hill streams are responsible for water shortage in the river this summer

The PHEO supplies drinking water to the town. The water of Mahendratanya is drawn through pipes near Brundaban palace which is treated and supplied to households in the town

rainwater for the summer, locals alleged. It is said that in the monsoon, the water flows into Andhra Pradesh. The Odisha government has not set up any barrage to conserve water for its use on its side.

On the other hand, the neighbouring state is making use of most of the water of Mahendratanya for various purposes by building some barrages. It has also started construction of Apsara project on Mahendratanya to use its water.

After the start of the Apsara project, the Odisha government was jolted into action. It then took a decision to set up barrages on the upper reaches of the river at

Dambapur and Champapur. However, the blueprint of the Champapur project has not been finalised while the Dambapur project has not been made operational in the last 13 years.

Many local residents and intellectuals observed that the Odisha government should take expeditious step for conservation projects in the upper region of the river so that it can be used in Gajapati district during summer and other seasons. As for water crisis, assistant engineer of the PHEO division, Swagat Kumar Nayak said that water will be supplied to people through tankers.

## Odisha Divas at NTPC's Kaniha power plant

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kaniha, April 4:** Odisha Divas was celebrated with much fervour in the premises of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) owned thermal power plant at Kaniha in Angul district.

Chief general manager (CGM) Sudip Nag, general managers, various departmental heads, senior officers and staff paid their rich tributes to the sons of the soil on this occasion. The function was organised following Covid-19 restrictions at the administrative building of the thermal power plant.

## 6 poachers arrested, 12kg deer meat seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Thakurmunda, April 4:** Forest department personnel arrested late Saturday night six poachers from the Kendumundi-2 reserve forest of Thakurmunda range under Karanjia division in Mayurbhanj district. Approximately 12kg of Barking Deer meat was seized from the poachers which they were distributing it among themselves. Forest department personnel also seized bows and arrows from the poachers.

According to a source, the forest department officials were tipped off about the poachers and their illegal hunting activities. Immediately,

## Rising cases of poaching have left the forest department worried

a team led by Thakurmunda range officer Kishore Kumar Panigrahi and forester Nalini Mahanta raided the area leading to the arrest. Notably, the Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch has recently issued a helpline number (Mobile-9439263646) for receiving information on wildlife crime in Odisha. Protection of the endangered species and crackdown of animal body part traders as well as poachers are main reasons behind issuing the helpline number.

# Kotia panchayat: Officials review projects on livelihood



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, April 4:** Since Andhra Pradesh forcibly held panchayat elections in some villages of the Kotia group in Koraput district, the Odisha government has been expediting various projects and welfare measures in the fringe region, a report said.

Officials have been routinely paying visits to these villages and

other localities to review progress of the projects. The Odisha government has taken up a host of projects to push income-generation and livelihood of the people.

A delegation from the Soil Conservation and Watershed department led by director Hemanta Kumar Panda visited Sunday villages under the Kotia panchayat.

The watershed mission is trying to enhance the livelihood of people

in Panjeipadar, Taupadar and Janiguda villages. It has dug up several ponds in the area and provided 1,200 Kadaknath fowls to farmers.

Panda interacted with many beneficiaries about effectiveness of the income-generating schemes. Farmers told him they are benefiting from poultry supported by the government.

The officials also visited an under-construction banana pond at Janiguda. They also inspected various plantations and fish farming on the land of a woman beneficiary.

Notably, there are about 21 villages in the Kotia group. People of these villages are being lured by the Andhra Pradesh government through sops. It is being done, so that the Andhra government can claim the villages to be in their state.

A case is pending in the Supreme Court over the dispute even though it is in the jurisdiction of Koraput district.

## Youths rescue flying squirrel



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, April 4:** A flying squirrel considered an endangered species, was rescued Sunday by some youths at Bapanpalli in Malkangiri. The animal was later handed over to forest officials.

According to reports, the squirrel was lying exhausted on a roadside. It was clear that the heat had exhausted all its strength. Some youths took the animal home and provided water to it. On being informed, ranger Jagannath Prasad Bisoi along with other officials brought the squirrel to a veterinary doctor and got it treated.

The ranger said that the animal will be released in the forest only after its gets well.

## SUMMER FRUIT



A trader unloading watermelons from a vehicle in Angul town Sunday. Demand for the juicy fruit has grown manifold due to sweltering heat prevailing across Odisha

OP PHOTO















of the day quote

Greetings on Easter! On this day, we remember the pious teachings of Jesus Christ. His emphasis on social empowerment inspires millions across the world

I will finish all my present assignments and quit films, if they become a hurdle to my political career

The BJP's communal politics will effect Assam for coming several decades. It needs to be defeated at any cost. If we cannot defeat such politics, then the balance and harmony of Assam will be distorted forever

SHORT TAKES

**13 injured in thermal power plant blast**  
**Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh):** Thirteen labourers were injured following an explosion in a boiler in the Lanco Anpara thermal power plant Sunday morning. Five of the injured labourers were in a serious condition and have been shifted to Varanasi for advanced treatment. Relief and rescue operations have begun to evacuate other labourers who are feared trapped in.

**Sadhu found murdered**  
**Ayodhya:** The body of a sadhu, Mahant Kanhaiya Das of the Hanuman Garhi temple was found at Gausaha of Charanpaduka temple Sunday. He had been apparently bludgeoned to death in his sleep by unidentified assailants. The Mahant was also the head of Gulchaman Baag of Basantia Patti.

**Case filed against Kamal Haasan**  
**Chennai:** A case was filed against superstar-turned-politician and Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore Sunday for violating the model code of conduct, officials said. Independent candidate Palanikumar, who is contesting from Coimbatore South constituency where Kamal Haasan is fighting, complained to the police that stage actors dressed as Lord Rama and goddesses performed in front of the Ramar temple at Ramapuram in Coimbatore and that this was a violation of the poll code.

**Panchayat poll candidate shot**  
**Baghat:** A candidate in the upcoming panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh's Baghat district was shot by unidentified assailants. Shakeel, the gram panchayat candidate, was shot Saturday night in Osika village. The assailants fled the scene after the incident. Local residents rushed Shakeel to a government hospital in Badaut from where he was referred to Meerut for advanced treatment.

**SP founder dies**  
**Lucknow:** Founder member of the Samajwadi Party and former UP minister Bhagwati Singh died here Sunday. The 89-year-old died at a degree college in Lucknow's Bakshi ka Talab area where he was staying, family sources said. The last rites of Singh will not be done as he had pledged to donate his body to the King George Medical University, the sources said.



Any person who is with this agitation is a patriot and the one who is against the farmers' agitation is a traitor

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

CASE AGAINST 1,011 FOR VIOLATING nCoV NORMS

Police have registered a case Against 1,011 people for allegedly violating COVID-19 prevention rules by attending a religious gathering in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, an official said Sunday



NAXAL ATTACK

Unverified intel input drove forces into deadly trap

AGENCIES

**Bijapur (Chhattisgarh), April 4:** Over 1,000 police personnel drawn from CRPF's elite CoBRA unit, and the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) walked into a deadly trap of Maoists in deep jungle in a rebel-dominated patch in Chhattisgarh's restive Bastar, purely on an unverified intelligence input that top ultra leader Madvi Hidma was holed up at a hilly site along with his colleagues.

But the input was basically a well-planned trap of the Maoist guerrillas as they gunned down 22 security personnel and walked away with their weapons too. The casualty figure could further rise as at least 31 security personnel sustained multiple injuries and were airlifted to Raipur for better medical attention.

The lengthy gunfight between Maoists militants and security personnel broke out on Saturday at a remote hilly site in Bijapur district, close to Sukma district border in sprawling Bastar division where Maoists are attempting to run a de facto government in deep forests since late 1980s.

"Guerrillas armed with heavy weapons including rocket launchers were waiting for security personnel contingent... once a larger team of the search operation approached a hill, the militants who were positioned on top of the hill started spraying bullets in a flash from three sides," a local DRG policeman who was part of the search team told IANS.

The attack site is located roughly 500 km south of state capital Raipur. "The security personnel were stunned by Maoists' heavy gunfire... actually, it was an ambush designed in U-shape but the troop-



Names of personnel killed in the attack

DRG

1. Deepak Bhardwaj, Sub-Inspector.
2. Ramesh Kumar Zurri, Head Constable
3. Narayan Sodhi, Head Constable
4. Ramesh Korsa, Constable.
5. Subhash Naik, Constable.
6. Kishor Andrik, Assistant Constable.
7. Sankuram Sodhi, Assistant Constable.
8. Bhosaram Kartami, Assistant Constable.

STF

9. Shravan Kashyap, Head Constable.
10. Ramdas Korram, Constable.
11. Jagatram Kanwar, Constable
12. Sukhsingh Faras, Constable
13. Ramashankar Paikra, Constable
14. Shankarnath, Constable.

CoBRA (210 battalion)

15. Dilip Kumar Das, Inspector
16. Raj Kumar Yadav, Head Constable
17. Shambhurai, Constable
18. Dharmdev Kumar, Constable
19. S M Krishna, Constable
20. R Jagdish, Constable
21. Bablu Rabha, Constable

Bastariya Battalion

22. Samaiyaa Maravi, Constable.

ers too retaliated hard."

Reports say that Maoists brought 3-4 tractors on Saturday night to the attack site to ferry away dead bodies of their comrades. The local police officials are now claiming that intelligence inputs should have been verified from multiple credible sources before rushing a larger team to catch Hidma, one of the most wanted terror faces in the mineral-rich Bastar.

ASSAM POLLS

Only 7.8% women candidates in electoral battle

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, April 4:** Only 7.8 per cent women candidates are among the total 946 contestants in fray for the 126-member Assam Assembly elections, leading to discontent among female activists and writers.

According to the state's Chief Electoral Officer Nitin Khade, of the total 946 candidates, 74 are women, while, out of the overall 2,33,74,087 voters, 1,15,50,403 are females. He said out of the 33,530 polling stations set up for the three phases (March 27, April 1, and April 6) of the polls across the state, 1,351 are all managed by women. The third and the final phase of polling will be held in 40 seats on April 6. Despite the women being 49.41 per cent of the total numbers of voters, only 74 female (7.8 per cent) candidates, including 23 Independent, are in the



fray. In the 2016 Assam Assembly elections, 91 women candidates were in the fray, with eight of them being elected. In 2011, 85 women had tried their electoral fate and 14, the highest so far in the House, were successful. In the 2016 polls, the Congress had fielded 16 women candidates. The principal opposition party this time has fielded a total of 95 candidates allotting the remaining seats to its allies. The ruling BJP has nominated seven women candidates, one more than

that during the 2016 polls, while its alliance partner Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) like that of previous elections has put up two female nominees.

The BJP, which has fielded total 93 candidates, is contesting the elections in alliance with the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and the Gana Suraksha Party (GSP), besides its old ally AGP. The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), a newly formed party, has fielded seven women candidates while the other new party Rajior Dal has given ticket to one. The AJP and Rajior Dal nominees are contesting as Independent candidates. Besides, several female activists and women rights bodies, renowned Assam-based writers Tapati Baruah Kashyap and Ratna Bharali Talukdar have expressed strong resentment over the number of candidates.



'Operation Lotus' in Maharashtra

The ground is ready and the stage is set for 'Operation Lotus' in Maharashtra. This will be BJP's second attempt to form the government in Maharashtra after the first one failed. The first attempt to form the government in Maharashtra with the help of NCP had ended in a fiasco in November 2019. When the Sushant Singh Rajput case erupted, BJP tried hard to create a fissure. It failed. When Wazegate erupted, the BJP smelt blood again. Former Maharashtra

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis rushed to Delhi and called on PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to apprise them of the situation emerging in the state. The BJP had lost even after winning the Assembly polls in alliance with Shiv Sena in 2019. Fadnavis returned to Mumbai with an impression that the entire BJP machinery is in the midst of Battle of Bengal. Until then, he should keep the powder dry. The NIA is moving slow, ED is waiting in the wings and the CBI is quietly scouting for a role in the murky Wazegate. But there is no question of missing the God-send opportunity and the BJP will go for the kill post May 2.

Delay in 449 projects costs ₹3L cr more

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched his monthly Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) meetings with Chief Secretaries of the concerned states, secretaries

to the Central ministries and others to fast track delayed projects. When he took over as PM in 2014, he blamed the UPA for the mess in delaying project implementation and tardy progress resulting in huge cost overrun. But six years into power, as many as 1736 central sector infrastructure projects, each one costing ₹150 crores and above, are delayed. Of these, 449 projects are showing cost overruns while 547 projects are showing time overruns. There are 208 projects which are showing both time and cost overruns. In all, 1736 projects are either behind schedule or facing huge cost over-run. And what is the cost of the projects leading to these delays? Shockingly, 547 delayed projects are showing cost overruns of ₹291014.58 crore. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation compiles data and places them on the On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) which the PM monitors personally every month through video conferencing. Interestingly,

this detail was officially shared in Parliament by Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister for Statistics & Program Implementation and Planning. No doubt, the country has a robust policy and monitoring framework for execution of central sector infrastructure projects to ensure that these projects are completed within scheduled time and costs.

CVC blames influence peddling for delay

Strange it may sound, but true. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) whose boss Sanjay Kothari was hand-picked by none other than PM Narendra Modi has virtually blamed influence peddling for the delay in implementing its reports. The issue came to surface when the CVC appeared before the Standing Committee of Parliament relating to Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. The Central Bureau of Direct Taxes (CBDT), CBIC, Railways, and

Ministries/Departments have found a special mention in the CVC revelations against government organizations. The CVC marked them for their sloppiness and retarded pursuit in pursuing vigilance cases. Appearing before the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the CVC reportedly said the reason for the delay in following up on its reports by central ministries/departments could be 'political and influence-peddling.' In view of the above, the Committee in a report, 106th on the Demands of Grants of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice, has asked the CVC to devise ways to fix accountability for inaction or delayed action.

Why Cabinet reshuffle delayed

Jyotiraditya Scindia, Varun Gandhi, Sushil Kumar Modi, Chirag Paswan and a host of others are waiting in the wings to be inducted into the Union Council of

Shah, are also against the new laws. Exhorting farmers from Gujarat to use tractors to protest, Tikait said these vehicles are the "tanks of farmers" and were put to good use in Delhi to remove police barricades. While former Gujarat chief minister Shankarsinh Vaghela accompanied Tikait in his rally from Ambaji to Palanpur, Congress MLA Geniben Thakor welcomed the BKKU leader when he entered the state earlier in the day. Incidentally, Tikait had taken a swipe at the BJP government in Gujarat earlier in the day by showing his passport to reporters while entering the state after alighting from a train in Abu Road in neighbouring Rajasthan. Asked about whether he was carrying a COVID-19 negative certificate, which is mandatory while travelling to Gujarat, Tikait showed his passport and said, "I have all the documents with me. This is my passport if it is required to enter Gujarat". Tikait will visit Sabarmati Ashram Monday and go to Bardoli on the second day of his Gujarat visit.

50% SEATING IN K'TAKA CINEMA HALLS FROM APRIL 7

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, April 4:** Relenting to the Kannada film industry's demand, the Karnataka government deferred enforcing 50 per cent seating in about 200 cinema theatres in eight districts to April 7 to contain the Covid pandemic, an official said on Sunday.

"The order restricting 50 per cent of seating capacity in cinema halls in eight districts, including Bengaluru where Covid cases have been rising will be applicable from Wednesday (April 7) up to April 20," a civic official told



IANS. The other seven districts across the southern state are Bengaluru Rural, Bidar, Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mysuru and Udupi.

To reduce the surging cases, state Chief Secretary P Ravikumar on April 2 ordered theatres in the eight districts to restrict seating to 50 per cent of their capacity from Saturday to maintain social distancing and follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

"A revised order was issued on Saturday to apply the restriction from April 7, as hundreds of fans bought online tickets in advance for all shows till Tuesday (April 6) for films released on Friday and imposing the restriction would have disappointed them and caused loss to the film industry," said the official.

A Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) delegation, led by Sandalwood superstars Shivarajkumar, Puneet, Yash and Sudeep urged state Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa Saturday to defer the order by a few days, as the theatres were following the guidelines to contain the virus spread.

Over 27L vaccinated Saturday

THE COUNTRYWIDE VACCINATION DRIVE WAS ROLLED OUT JANUARY 16

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, April 4:** As many as 27,38,972 doses of coronavirus vaccines were administered in India in the past 24 hours, the Union Health Ministry said Sunday.

Of the total does of vaccination on Saturday, 24,80,031 were first time beneficiaries, while 2,58,941 beneficiaries received their second dose of vaccine.

The cumulative vaccination doses reached to 7,59,79,651 till Day 78, the drive which was started in the country on January 16. These include 89,82,974 healthcare workers (first dose), 53,19,641 HCWs (second dose), 96,86,477 frontline workers (first dose) and 40,97,510 FLWs (second dose), while beneficiaries aged over 45 years -- 4,70,70,019 (first dose) and

8,23,030 (second dose).

According to the Health Ministry's reports, the cumulative vaccination figure includes over 6.5 crore (6,57,39,470) first doses, while the second dose numbers have crossed the 1 crore (1,02,40,181) mark. On Friday, a total of 28,87,779 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 35,624 sessions for the first dose and 2,06,016 beneficiaries received their second dose of vaccine.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on 16 January with healthcare workers getting inoculated and the second phase of Covid-19 vaccination commenced from 1 March for those over 60 years of age and for people aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions, while the third phase for people above 45 years started April 1.







# business

## of the day quote

It would be a win-win situation for both the countries if trade resumes. I want to say that essential commodities required for human consumption should be kept a

**PRAFUL VITHALANI, CHAIRMAN** | ALL INDIA SUGAR TRADE ASSN.

Copper storage levels at the London Metal Exchange have decreased giving a deficit on supply side due to which prices may rise when combined with heavy volumes, capping the downside move in the metal

**KSHITIJ PUROHIT LEAD** | INTERNATIONAL & COMMODITY, CAPITALVIA GLOBAL RESEARCH LIMITED

Particularly within SBI Card, now, more than 53% of the spends actually come from online payments which used to be around 44% earlier. Almost 9 percentage points improvement is there mainly in terms of the categories like for groceries, apparel, utility bill payment, insurance premium, online education

**RAMA MOHAN RAO AMARA** | MD AND CEO, SBI CARD

## SHORT TAKES

### Enigma looks to seal deal

**Mumbai:** Bhopal-based bootstrap EV start-up Enigma Automobiles is looking to seal a sales deal with a Bangalore-based B2B company to supply 2,000 vehicles. Besides, the firm is also looking at another deal for a supply of 400-1,000 vehicles to two major e-commerce players, Amazon and Flipkart, in the country, said its co-founder Anmol Bohre.

### Soota announces non-profit entity

**Bangalore:** Happiest Minds Technologies chief Ashok Soota Sunday announced creation of a non-profit private entity exclusively for medical research called SKAN, claimed to be the first in the sector and committed ₹200 crore investment for it. He said projects for research under Scientific Knowledge of Ageing and Neurological Ailments (SKAN) would be done through reputed partners and directly in-house.

### IL&FS receives settlement claims

**Mumbai:** IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd (ITNL), a subsidiary of IL&FS, Sunday said it has received a settlement amount of ₹693 crore for Kiratpur Ner Chowk Expressway (KNCEL) and ₹20 crore towards claims for Chenani Nashri Tunnelway (CNTL), from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The amount was received March 31, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) said in a statement.

### Batilogistic buys 30 acre land

**New Delhi:** FM Logistic India's realty arm Batilogistic has purchased 30 acres of land in Mumbai region from Lodha Developers for ₹106 crore to develop a warehousing project. Batilogistic and Lodha group have signed a ₹106-crore deal to develop 30 acres land parcel at Palava Industrial and Logistics Park for FM Logistic India, with a total development potential of around 1 million sq ft of warehousing space. The park is located at Thane district in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.



If you deal with entities not regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), remember: You won't be protected by the laws administered by MAS. Before making any investment, please ensure that it is genuine and legitimate, so that you will not fall prey to scams

**LEE HSIEN LOONG** | PM, SINGAPORE

## HERO ELECTRIC TO TRAIN MECHANICS

India's leading electric two-wheeler maker Hero Electric aims to train over 20,000 roadside mechanics across the country over the next three years to deal with any issue its customers might face as part of its plans to instill confidence in buyers who opt for the green mobility



# RBI may maintain status quo on rates: Experts

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member MPC is scheduled to meet from April 5 to 7. The policy meet outcome will be announced April 7

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, April 4:** A sudden surge in Covid-19 cases and the government's recent mandate asking the central bank to keep retail inflation around 4% are likely to prompt the Reserve Bank (RBI) to maintain status quo on policy rates at its first bi-monthly monetary policy review for the current fiscal, according to experts.

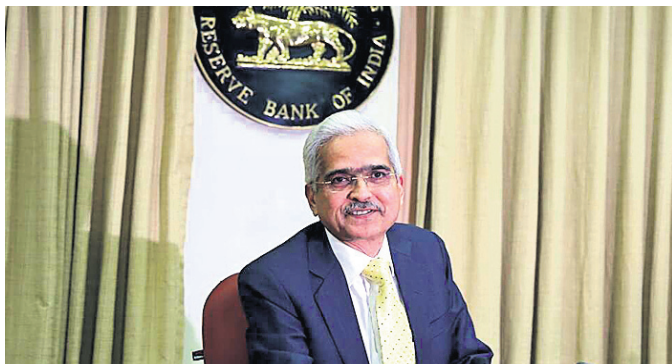
The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), RBI's rate-setting panel, is also likely to maintain the policy stance accommodative at the next policy review to be unveiled April 7, say experts.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member MPC is scheduled to meet from April 5 to 7. The policy meet outcome will be announced April 7.

The RBI, experts feel, will wait for an opportune time to announce monetary action with a view to ensure the best possible outcome in terms of pushing growth without sacrificing the main objective of containing retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2% on either side.

The policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate is currently at 4%, and the reverse repo rate is 3.35%.

On the forthcoming monetary policy, Edelweiss Research said economic recovery is still uneven and the pace of improvement has slowed



of late after sharp rebound from lows. Further, the recent rebound in Covid cases poses a fresh challenge. It said the growth and inflation dynamic warrants continued policy support, especially with rising covid cases domestically.

"In all, we expect Mint Street to leave rates unchanged and maintain an accommodative stance. The key monitorable will be any guidance on open market purchases (OMOs) or on long-term rates more generally," it said.

Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.Com, Makaan.Com and Proptiger.Com said the RBI is walking a tight rope between COVID-19 cases once again rising across the country, which could potentially put brakes on the recovering economy, and the inflation rate that is trending upwards.

"The apex bank is likely to keep

the repo rate unchanged in the upcoming bi-monthly review of key rates," he said.

He said home loan rates are at historic lows with recent cuts by a number of commercial banks and a further cut in rates will help the industry and the overall economy.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuité Ratings & Research, said the MPC in its upcoming meeting will continue to reaffirm the accommodative monetary policy despite the global increase in bond yields amidst concerns of a quicker than expected normalisation in the markets of developed economies.

Last month, the government had asked the Reserve Bank to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2% on either side for another five-year period ending March 2026.

## STAND-UP INDIA

### Banks sanctions ₹25K cr to 1.14 lakh beneficiaries

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, April 4:** The Finance Ministry Sunday said banks have sanctioned ₹25,586 crore to about 1,14,322 beneficiaries under the Stand Up India Scheme in the last five years for promoting entrepreneurship among women and SC & STs.

The objective of Stand-Up India is to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories, to help them in starting a greenfield enterprise in trading, manufacturing and services sector, by both ready and trainee



borrowers, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Under the scheme, bank loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore are provided to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Started in April 5, 2016, the scheme has benefited 93,094 women entrepreneurs with outstanding loan of ₹21,200 crore as of March 23. This scheme, which has been extended up to 2025, covers SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs, above 18 years of age, it said.

## SC ORDER ON INTEREST WAIVER

# PSBs may have to take ₹2,000cr hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 4:** Public sector banks (PSBs) may have to bear a burden of ₹1,800-2,000 crore arising due to a recent Supreme Court judgement on the waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts which opted for moratorium during March-August 2020, sources said.

The judgement covers loans above ₹2 crore as loans below this got blanket interest on interest waiver in November last year. Compound interest support scheme for loan moratorium cost the government ₹5,500 crore during 2020-21 and the scheme covered all borrowers including the prompt one who did not avail moratorium.

According to banking sources, initially 60% of borrowers availed moratorium and gradually the per-



centage came down to 40% and even less as collection improved with ease in lockdown. In case of corporate, this was as low as 25% as far as public sector banks were concerned. They further said, banks would provide compound interest waiver for the period a borrower had availed moratorium. For example, if a borrower availed moratorium of three months, the waiver would be for that period.

The RBI March 27 last year an-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

nounced a loan moratorium on payment of installments of term loans falling due between March 1 and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic, later the same was extended to August 31. The apex court order this time is only limited to those who availed moratorium so the liability of the public sector bank should be less than ₹2,000 crore as per rough calculations, sources added.

Besides, they said, the order does not specify a timeframe for the settlement of compound interest unlike last time so banks can devise a mechanism of adjusting or settling it in staggered manner.

Meanwhile, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has written to the government to compensate lenders for interest on interest waiver. The government would take a call depending on various considerations.

## 'Need to boost household consumption, biz investment'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, April 4:** As economic activities improve, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested that there is a need to boost household consumption and business investment for increased aggregate demand.

"Going forward, there is a need to further fuel the drivers of house-

hold consumption and business investment for increased aggregate demand, while moving towards a more inclusive economy and ensuring fiscal sustainability," Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said.

The trend in PHDCCI Economy GPS Index shows that the economy is moving forward in the direction of fast economic momentum to

achieve a double-digit growth in FY 2021-22, the statement said. Aggarwal said that on the back of robust measures of policy stimulus undertaken by the government and the announcement of a demand creating, growth-oriented and investment stimulating Union Budget '22, the higher trend of PHDCCI Economy GPS Index in March reinforces business growth.

# Metal stocks boom may continue after dream run in FY21

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, April 4:** Metal stocks turned out to give the best returns in the pandemic-struck FY 2020-21. Analysts now feel the Bull Run is likely to continue with a pricing uptrend in the segment and increasing demand in the segment.

The metals and mining sector also saw a sharp increase in commodity prices and steel was one of

Copper storage levels at the London Metal Exchange have decreased giving a deficit on supply side due to which prices may rise when combined with heavy volumes, capping the downside move in the metal

**KSHITIJ PUROHIT** | LEAD, INTERNATIONAL & COMMODITY, CAPITALVIA GLOBAL RESEARCH LIMITED



the best-performing commodities in the just-ended FY21. The S&P BSE Metal index has surged 176 per cent in the past one year.

Stock price of some of the major metal stocks Tata steel, JSW Steel and Hindalco Industries surged

240 per cent, 263 per cent and 294 per cent respectively.

An Axis Securities report noted that the earnings per share of metal stocks on the Nifty rose by 54 per cent after the third quarter of the last fiscal. Noting that metals will

report one of the best earnings trends, the report said that it is quickly getting factored into the prices.

"The metals and mining sector has seen a significant pricing uptrend as Chinese data has improved

## BULL RUN CONTINUES

THE METALS AND MINING SECTOR ALSO SAW A SHARP INCREASE IN COMMODITY PRICES AND STEEL WAS ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMING COMMODITIES IN THE JUST-ENDED FY21

NOTING THAT METALS WILL REPORT ONE OF THE BEST EARNINGS TRENDS, THE REPORT SAID THAT IT IS QUICKLY GETTING FACTORED INTO THE PRICES

and dollar weakened. This trend is likely to persist in the medium term and metal stocks are likely to perform well," it said.

Metal futures which also were largely on a bull run in the last fiscal, are likely to stay in the up-

trend going ahead, analysts said. Steel prices rallied by 41 per cent in 2020, the Axis Securities report said. Copper futures increased 26 per cent in 2020 and 11 per cent in the past one month.

Kshitij Purohit Lead, International & Commodity at CapitalVia Global Research Limited in a recent report noted that copper storage levels at the London Metal Exchange have decreased giving a deficit on supply side due to which prices may rise when combined with heavy volumes, capping the downside move in the metal.

The April contract of copper on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) last closed at ₹669.25 per kg. On lead futures, he said that bullish momentum in the metal is expected to continue in the upcoming session. The April contract on Thursday ended at ₹162.85 per kg.



Vedanta's Cairn sought a 10-year extension of Rajasthan PSC, which the government approved. But the firm challenged in Delhi High Court the condition for additional profit petroleum. A single judge bench of the Delhi High Court in May 2018 upheld the company position that the extension has to be on same terms and conditions as the original licence.

The government challenged the order before a division bench, which March 26 this year ruled that "there cannot be extension of the Production Sharing Contract unconditionally, on the same terms and conditions which were prevailing 25 years ago i.e. 15th May, 1995, the effective date."

It set aside the May 2018 single judge order. "In effect what the Delhi High Court has said is that the company has to pay higher profit share after May 15, 2020. So the company is now liable to pay higher profit petroleum for the period they operate the block post May 15, 2020," the official said.

## Steel output reports marginal fall in Jan-Feb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 4:** India's crude steel output fell by 1% to 19.1 million tonnes (MT) during the first two months of 2021, according to worldsteel. The country had produced 18.9 MT crude steel during the same period last year.

The production for the 64 countries reporting to the worldsteel was 313.1 MT in January-February 2021, registering a 5 per cent increase compared to 297.7 MT in the year ago period, the global industry body data showed.

China remained the global leader in production of steel, registering 8.86 per cent year-on-year growth in output at 173.2 MT during the said period.



According to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) data, China had produced 159.1 MT steel in the same period last year.

During January-February 2021, Japan's output slipped 6 per cent to 15 MT year-on-year from 16.1 MT. The US produced 13.2 MT steel in the period under review. Its output was at 14.9 MT in 2020.



SHORT TAKES

Consistent show

**San Antonio:** Golfer Anirban Lahiri fired a second successive three-under 69 in the third round to jump three places to the fifth position at the Valero Texas Open tournament here Saturday. The 33-year-old Indian was on seven-under 209 which gives him a legitimate crack at the title. Jordan Spieth and Matt Wallace share the lead on 12-under following matching 67s. "I think this is the most solid I've played tee to green in a while. I kind of knew what I was doing and it's really nice," said Lahiri after the end of the day's play.

Rowers get jab

**New Delhi:** Thirty five Indian rowers, including those preparing for Tokyo Olympics qualification, have been given their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, making them the first sports group in India to get fully vaccinated. Some coaches and other support staff have also been given their second dose at the Army Sports Institute in Pune. "A total of 35 rowers and some coaches and support staff at ASI Pune received their second dose Saturday," Rowing Federation of India president Rajlaxmi Singh Deo said Sunday. He hoped Indian rowers will make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics to be held from July 23 to August 8.

Coach dead

**Mumbai:** Noted shooting coach Sanjay Chakraverty, who has given India some of their finest shooters, including Olympic medalist Gagan Narang and Anjali Bhagwat, died here late Saturday night. He was 79. In a career spanning four decades, the Dronacharya Awardee helped many aspiring shooters, who went on to make it big in the sport. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) condoled the demise. The news of his death was first conveyed by Olympian Joydeep Karmakar on Twitter.

IWL postponed

**New Delhi:** The upcoming play-off matches of the Indian Women's League (IWL) have been postponed owing to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said Sunday. The matches were scheduled to be held in the national capital April 7 onwards. The AIFF said it arrived at the decision after an 'internal discussion and communication with the clubs and state associations'. "Keeping in mind the safety and security of players and officials in view of the rise in COVID-19 cases all over India, the play-offs for the Indian Women's League scheduled to be held in Delhi from April 7, 2021, has been postponed until further notice," the federation said in a statement.

SA level series

**Johannesburg:** South Africa held out to level the ODI series 1-1 with a 17-run win over Pakistan here Sunday. The hosts managed to snatch victory in spite of a brilliant innings from Fakhar Zaman (193, 155b, 18x4, 10x6). The visitors were reeling at 205 for seven chasing a victory target of 342. They finally finished on 324. When South Africa batted new skipper Temba Bavuma (92), Quinton de Kock (80), Rassie van der Dussen (60) and David Miller (50 n o) helped South Africa to score 341 for six.

COVID strikes RCB

**New Delhi:** Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) young batsman Devdutt Padikkal is quarantining at his home since testing positive for COVID-19 March 22, his IPL franchise said Sunday. The 14th edition of the IPL starts April 9. In the opening game RCB face defending champions Mumbai Indians. "Devidutt Padikkal tested positive for COVID-19 March 22, 2021. He has been in mandatory quarantine at his residence in Bangalore since then. He will be fit to join the RCB bio-bubble once his RT-PCR tests are negative, as per IPL protocol," RCB said in a statement. Padikkal has been in very good form in domestic tournaments and has been scoring heavily.

AGENCIES

LIVERPOOL CLOSE IN ON TOP-FOUR FINISH AFTER BEATING ARSENAL

City lights shine

AGENCIES

**London, April 4:** As Manchester City marched on towards their Premier League title bid in imperious fashion, last season's champions Liverpool brightened their hopes for a top four finish and qualification for the Champions League. Manchester City opened up a 17-point lead at the top of the points table with a 2-0 win over Leicester, rivals Liverpool blanked Arsenal 3-0 in games played Saturday. A rare goal from Benjamin Mendy, and Gabriel Jesus's strike on his 24th birthday mean City just need 11 points from their remaining seven league games to be crowned champions. "It is a big step to winning the Premier League," said manager Pep Guardiola. "The Premier League is the nicest competition (to win), it is 11 months and it is so tough. We are close."

Winning the league title is not the limit of City's ambitions this season as they remain on course for the first ever quadruple of Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup in English football history.

The Champions League has been Guardiola's one failing during his five years in Manchester City. The team have never progressed beyond the quarterfinals under him. They will have another chance at getting beyond the last eight when Borussia Dortmund travel to the Etihad for the first leg of their quarterfinal tie Tuesday.

And Guardiola showed that competition remains the priority with his team selection and he rested players like John Stones, Joao Cancelo, Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling.

Chelsea's shock 2-5 defeat at home to West Brom earlier Saturday opened the door for both Liverpool and Arsenal to close in on their target of a top-four finish. However, it was



**PARTY TIME:** Manchester City players celebrate their win Saturday over Leicester in the Premier League

only Liverpool who showed any ambition as Arsenal were thoroughly outplayed. The visitors pressed the Gunners high and quickly recovered possession, but lacked the killer edge up front to turn their dominance into goals until Jota was introduced on the hour mark.

Klopp expressed shock Friday that Trent Alexander-Arnold had been dropped from the England squad by Gareth Southgate. The right-back showed his international manager what he is missing by creating the opener on 64 minutes. Jota had only been on the field three minutes when he met Alexander-Arnold's cross with a powerful header at the back post.

Four minutes later, Salah wrapped up the three points as the Egyptian outmuscled Gabriel Magalhaes before coolly slotting underneath the advancing Bernd Leno. Jota then finished off a miserable night for the Gunners by adding the third eight minutes from the end.

Real cruise past Eibar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, April 4:** Marco Asensio and Karim Benzema scored in a 2-0 win over Eibar as Real Madrid tightened their Spanish league title race here Saturday. Asensio had already hit the woodwork before he opened the scoring in the 41st minute. Benzema added a second goal with a header in the 73rd. The victory took Real within three points of city rivals and current La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid.

The opener came off a combined move. Casemiro intercepted a pass and immediately sent the ball forward for Asensio, who used superb control to go past defender Anaïtz Arbilla before curling a shot over Marko Dmitrovic. Then Benzema put the result beyond doubt when substitute Vinicius Junior crossed for him to score

his 18th league goal of the season.

Real host Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals Tuesday. Four days later they will play Barcelona in a key match in the Spanish league, followed by their second leg April 14 at Liverpool. "We are facing an important week, and the first thing was to win today (Saturday)," said Asensio. "Now we have the first leg against Liverpool and then Barcelona. They will be very demanding matches and we have to be up to the challenge," he added.

With Sergio Ramos out with a left-leg injury, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane rested his other first-choice centre-back, Raphael Varane, for the matches ahead.

Back-ups Nacho Fernández and Éder Militão started in a three-man back-line and played well.

Neymar red-carded as PSG go down to Lille

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, April 4:** Neymar was sent off late and then tried to confront a player after the game as defending champion Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) lost 0-1 at home to Lille, falling three points behind the new French league leader in a tense title race. PSG are only one point ahead of Monaco, who earlier beat Metz 4-0 to take third place in Ligue 1.

Neymar was shown a second yellow card in the 90th minute for kicking Lille right-back Tiago Djalo off the ball. He had been booked in the first half for shoving midfielder Benjamin Andre in the face. Djalo was also sent off and remonstrated angrily with the referee.

Both players argued as they walked back to the locker rooms. Footage from broadcaster 'Canal Plus' captured Neymar pushing Djalo on the shoulder and then trying to get past some security officials to confront him.

An angry Djalo also reacted, trying to reach Neymar, causing one security official to fall over, while another intervened swiftly to block Neymar and lead him away. The actions may earn both players further penalty.

Canada forward Jonathan David

scored Lille's goal in the 20th minute with a slightly deflected strike, as PSG slipped to a fifth home defeat and eighth overall, with a tough trip Wednesday to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

"Each time we lose we say the same thing, that we lacked commitment. We shouldn't find any excuses," PSG captain Marquinhos said after the game. "We need to be stronger than that at home. A lot of teams have come here and won, which we're not used to. We're at an important point of the season and must improve," he added.

PSG have been poor against the other sides in the top four, twice losing to Monaco, once to Lyon and drawing their other game against Lille 0-0.

Frustration got to Neymar, who now faces another suspension after getting red-carded against Marseille at the start of the campaign. Shortly after shoving Andre in the face, he fell to the ground in a failed bid to win a penalty. He came close to scoring on two other occasions. However, his shot was blocked by Lille goalkeeper Mike Maignan in the first half. Then in the 70th minute, Neymar's diving header went wide.



A frustrated Neymar after being red-carded in the game against Lille

12TH DOMESTIC ODI TITLE

Railways hammer hapless Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajkot, April 4:** The formidable Indian Railways once again annexed the National One Day Championships title with a crushing seven-wicket victory over Jharkhand in the final here Sunday. This is the 12th time that the Railways women have won the title out of the 14 editions of the event played so far.

Railways controlled the proceedings from the start. They chased down the paltry target of 168 in only 37 overs and without needing their best batswoman and skipper Mithali Raj to even come out from the cooler confines of the dressing room.

India international Punam Raut (59, 94b, 11x4) laid the platform for all-rounder Sneha Rana (34 n o, 5x4, 1x6) to finish the game in a jiffy.

Raut was involved in a second-wicket partnership of 107 runs with Shabbhineni Meghana (53, 67b, 6x4)

After the dismissal of Raut and Meghana in quick succession, Mona Meshram (19 n o) and Rana added 45 runs in less than seven

overs to seal the deal.

Apart from her breezy knock, Rana (3/34) was also the most successful Railways bowler with her handy off-breaks.

It was a thoroughly professional performance in all departments from Railways after Jharkhand opted to bat. Six Jharkhand batters could-

n't get double digit scores and three failed to trouble the scorers.

Indrani Roy (49, 77b, 3x4), skipper Mani Niharika (39 n o, 59b, 4x4) and Durga Murmu (31, 74b 3x4) were the only three batswomen to offer some resistance.

Barty retains title at Miami

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Miami, April 4:** Ash Barty retained her title at the Miami Open tennis tournament here Saturday after her opponent Bianca Andreescu withdrew in the second set due to an injury. Barty was leading 6-3, 4-0 when Andreescu lying on her back on the court, called it quits. She limped off court crying.

World No.1 Barty was already in control of the match when Andreescu turned her right foot while hitting a forehand and sprawled to the hard court. Barty hit one more shot to win the point, and play continued.

But during the ensuing changeover, a trainer taped Andreescu's foot, and after another game the injury-plagued Canadian reluctantly called it quits.

"I really do feel for Bianca," Barty said after the match. "She has had such a rough trot with injuries in the past," added the Australian.

Even if Andreescu was not forced to quit, she probably wouldn't have managed to create problems for the power-hitting Barty.

JAPANESE SWIMMER RIKAKO IKEE AN INSPIRATION STORY TO MANY

Beating leukemia to achieve Olympic goals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, April 4:** Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee qualified Sunday for the Tokyo Olympics just two years after she was diagnosed with leukemia. It was indeed a great achievement as Ikee fought against all odds to achieve her dreams. She swam a time of 57.77 seconds in the 100 metres butterfly event at Japan's national championships held at the new swimming venue for the Tokyo Olympics. The time helped her qualify for the medley relay.

Ikee was overcome with tears in the water after the race, and could barely speak out of the water. Sniffing and crying at the same time she slammed her left arm against the water when she realised she'd won.

"I was not expecting to win the 100 metres at all, and I was feeling far less confident than during the Olympic qualifiers five years ago," Ikee said after coming out of the pool.

"I thought I wouldn't be able to win for a long time. But I trained



**OVERCOMING ALL ODDS:** Japanese swimmer Rikako Ikee pumps her fist in delight after qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics

hard to win. And, in the end, I came into the race telling myself I'm back. And so I feel that, even if you go through suffering and pain, your hard work will always be rewarded," added the swimmer.

The 20-year-old Ikee returned to the pool about a year ago but had said her goal was only to prepare for the 2024 Olympics in Paris. She had downplayed her chances for her

home Games. However, Ikee would have been among the favourites in several Olympic races if she had not fallen ill and faced setbacks.

"I wanted to try to feel true happiness just being here," Ikee informed. My teammates cheered me on, sending me off (to the race). And so I am now filled with happiness. I have really worked hard," she finally said with a smile.

**I feel that, even if you go through suffering and pain, your hard work will always be rewarded. For me it certainly has**

RIKAKO IKEE

Ikee won six gold medals in 2018 at the Asian Games in Jakarta. Those were in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle and the 50 and 100 metres butterfly. She also won gold in two relays, and also two silvers.

Her time in winning the 100-metre butterfly in Jakarta was 56.08 seconds, the fastest of the season. She was closing in on the world record held by Sarah Sjöström of Sweden of 55.48. It remains the world-record time even now. In her first Olympics at Rio in 2016, she had finished sixth in the 100-metre butterfly. But then she was starting off as a kid in Rio.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, April 4:** World No.1 Elavenil Valarivan was Sunday included in the 15-member Indian shooting contingent for the Tokyo Olympics where the highly accomplished Manu Bhaker will represent India in three events. However, Olympic quota winner Chinki Yadav could not make the main team despite winning a gold medal in the Delhi World Cup last month.

It was decided by the national selection committee that the quota won by Chinki in the women's 25m pistol would be swapped in favour

of Anjum Moudgil. This will enable the latter to compete in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event as India's second entry alongside former world champion Tejaswini Sawant.

Elavenil, is the only member in the Olympic team to have not secured a quota for herself but performed consistently in the Olympic qualifying cycle, forcing the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) to include her in the women's 10m air rifle team in place of Moudgil.

To deal with the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NRAI has named two reserves in each discipline where its shooters have won quota places.

THE TOTAL SQUAD

**10m air rifle (Men) :**  
**50m rifle 3 positin (Men) :**  
**10m air pistol (Men) :**  
**10m air rifle (Women) :**  
**50m rifle 3 position (Women) :**  
**10m air pistol (Women) :**  
**25m sports pistol (Women) :**  
**Skeet (Men) :**  
**10m air rifle (Mixed) :**  
**10m air pistol (Mixed) :**

Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar Sanjeev Rajput, Aishwry Pratap Singh Tomar Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma Apurvi Chandel, Elavenil Valarivan Anjum Moudgil, Tejaswini Sawant Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker Angadvir Singh Bajwa, Mairaj Ahmad Khan Divyansh Singh Panwar, Elavenil Valarivan Saurabh Chaudhary, Manu Bhaker