

# THE BEACON

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## Oyo founder debunks bankruptcy reports

Akshara DM

Oyo Founder and Chief Executive Officer Ritesh Agarwal took to Twitter on Wednesday to debunk the claims that the company was filing for bankruptcy.

In his tweet, Agarwal said: "There is a PDF and text message circulating that claims OYO has filed for bankruptcy. This is absolutely untrue and inaccurate. [sic]"

The billionaire further stated in his tweet, "A claimant seeking INR 16 Lakhs from OYO's subsidiary OYO Homes and Hotels Private Limited (OOHP) led to the petition to be filed at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). [sic]"

The company also clarified that the amount under dispute has been paid to the claimant under protest and already banked by the claimant.

Oyo has also reportedly challenged the NCLT order against its subsidiary OOHP for the same amount of Rs 16 lakh.

Another statement said Agarwal refrained from further commenting on the issue at the current stage and banked its confidence on the judicial system.

Oyo is one of India's biggest hotel-aggregation sites, and has also gone international.

## Covid-19: PM recites old formula

Alwin Benjamin Soji

As India crossed 1 lakh fresh Covid-19 cases in a day for the second time this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Health Day in Wednesday, April 7, took to Twitter and stressed on the need to wear masks and wash hands regularly.

He tweeted, "The Government of India is taking numerous measures including Ayushman Bharat and PM Janaushadhi Yojana to ensure people get access to top quality and affordable healthcare. India is also conducting the world's largest vaccination drive to strengthen the fight against COVID-19. [sic]"

He said we all should focus



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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on fighting Covid-19 by taking all possible precautions including wearing a mask, regularly washing hands and following

the other protocols. "World Health Day is a day to reaffirm our gratitude and appreciation to all those who work day and night to keep

out planet healthy. It's also a day to reiterate our commitment to supporting research and innovation in healthcare," he added.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan took to Twitter and said, "The Pandemic isn't over and there is no scope for complacency. On World Health Day 2021 infuse greater zeal to #Unite2FightCorona, get vaccinated on your turn & follow COVID appropriate behaviour scrupulously! [sic]"

India is currently seeing the second wave of Covid-19 infections, with the number of daily fresh cases crossing the 1-lakh mark earlier this week for the first time since the pandemic began last year.

Although vaccination drives are being conducted across the country, starting with healthcare workers and senior citizens, the goal of herd immunity is still far off.

## Centre nixes Kumbh claims

Arakkal Shada Amina

The Central government on Wednesday, April 7, nixed claims made by news reports that an official called the ongoing Kumbh Mela a "Covid-19 super-spreader" in a review meeting.

A tweet from the Press Information Bureau's PIB's Fact Check handle said "no such deliberation was held during the review meeting."

The tweet followed news published on Tuesday that said the Centre had asked the Uttarakhand government to implement Standard



Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj

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Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued for the Kumbh Mela to prevent it from being a "super-spreader event".

The Kumbh Mela is a major pilgrimage and festival in Hinduism. Covid-19 SOPs have been issued both by the

Central government as well as the Uttarakhand government for this year's Kumbh Mela in Haridwar, which began from February 27, and is expected to go on till April 30.

## Covid-19: RCB's David Sam tests positive

Nishitha Rachel

Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) Australian all-rounder Daniel Sams tested positive for Covid-19, the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise confirmed on its Twitter handle on Wednesday, April 7.

The 28-year-old cricketer "checked into the team hotel in Chennai on April 3, with a negative Covid report on arrival [sic]," said the franchise on twitter.

The report from the second test, made mandatory as per the IPL standard operating procedures (SOPs), was conducted on Wednesday came back positive, it said.

Sams is said to be "asymptomatic and is

currently in isolation at a designated medical facility. Royal Challengers Bangalore medical team is in constant touch with Daniel Sams and continues to monitor his health and abide by the BCCI protocols," the team said.

Sams is the second cricketer from RCB to test positive for Covid-19. Opener Devdutt Padikkal tested positive on March 22 and was in isolation at his residence in Bengaluru.

RCB later added that Padikkal joined the team after a negative report.

The team is set to play the IPL 2021 opener against defending champions Mumbai Indians on Saturday. Both teams are currently in Chennai preparing for their match.

## Enthusiasts bat for plants to beat summer heat

Athul Krishna

**BENGALURU:** As the summer intensifies, using indoor plants will help reduce the temperature and provide quality oxygen inside the home, say plant enthusiasts.

Liz Joseph, a plant enthusiast from Pune, said, "Plants can do both. They can warm the room or cool it down, depending on what you place inside the house. Some indoor plants are natural air purifiers and let out cool moisture, which helps keep your space a bit more cool. I prefer being



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around plants when it is too hot indoors."

She added: "To avoid heat inside the house, the smaller

plants I have indoors are snake plants, aloe vera, and Chinese evergreen. In bigger spaces like the balcony,

living room and terrace gardens, it's great to keep a bunch of fern, areca palms or rubber plants. They are the best ones in the lot when it comes to releasing oxygen as well as cool moisture."

Ashwini Rameshwari, a plant enthusiast from Bengaluru, said, "A natural way to enhance the quality of air and keep our homes cool in summer is to go for indoor plants. Plants can keep your house cool because they lose water during transpiration, which cools the air around them, leaving it purified and fresh."



Daniel Sams

Twitter