

## Rule for Dy Mayor Poll Intense lobbying for deputy mayor post in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the crucial election for the post

tifications on Monday to implement the new Rule for the post

bers of their respective parties as is being done during the

2003, the Government have been pleased to decide that every political party, whose member as an elector casts a vote for the purpose of election to the office of the Deputy Mayor of a Municipal Corporation, may appoint one authorised agent and the president or the general secretary of the State level political party or State unit of the national political party, as per the notification.

The political parties will have to submit the same in writing to the Election Officer, duly appointed by the State Election Commission, with full de

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BHUBANESWAR/ CUTTACK (KCN): Amaresh Jena from a popular BJD leader who has won

pirant. Bharati Singh, who was also a deputy mayor previously, is also in the race.

In CMC, the election to the post will be held on April 7 at 10 am. Here, the ruling party bagged 38 corporator seats of the total 59. With the Mayor post being from Barabati-Cuttack Assembly segment, the post of deputy mayor is expected to be from the Choudwar-Cuttack Assembly segment. While CMC Mayor is male, the deputy mayor's post has been set aside for a female corporator. Many corporators who have won two times consecutively and even made a hat-trick this time are lobbying for the post.



Hectic lobbying has started among corporators in BJD camp for the post of deputy mayors in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack municipal corporations. More than a dozen aspirants are in race for the unreserved post in BMC for which election will be held on April 9 after oath taking of Mayor and corporators.

among them. The three-time corporator has won with around 80 per cent of the total votes polled in his ward. An active BJD worker and public representative, Jena is a prominent contender for the post. B i r a n c h i Mahasupakar from Ward 59 is another top contender. Mahasupakar is also

corporator seat four times. Similarly, Mahamaya Swain, a three-time corporator from Ward 53, is also hopeful of being elected to the seat. K Shanti, who was the deputy mayor of BMC in the previous term from 2014 to 2019 and won the election for the third consecutive term this year, is another as-



of Deputy Mayor in three Municipal Corporations, the State Government has implemented new Rule for the poll. The Housing & Urban Development Department has issued two separate no-

of Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chairperson. The Rule allowed for appointment of agents by every party and the election officer will allow the authorised agents to verify the votes cast by the elected mem-

RajyaSabha elections. In furtherance of the provisions of the Odisha Municipal Corporation (Division of City into Wards, Reservation of Seats and Conduct of Election) Rules,

### Bhubaneswar: Govt engineer's life snuffed out in freak road mishap

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A government engineer was killed in a freak accident when his stationary car was rammed by a speeding truck near Palasuni square here on Monday morning. The deceased Sumanta Das (36) of



Aiginia in Bhubaneswar was posted at Barachana in Jajpur district as sub-divisional officer (electrical). He was going to office when the unfortunate incident took place around 9.10 am.

According to police, a truck stopped on National Highway-16 near Palasuni as some people were crossing the road. A car, another lorry and Das' vehicle, which were all in the same lane, also came to a halt. With the lorry ahead halting, Das stopped his car, but a Hyva truck behind him sped on and hit his vehicle.

His car was crushed between the two heavy vehicles. Das didn't survive the impact. Odisha Fire Service personnel rushed to the spot and recovered his body from the mangled remains of the car. "Cutters were used to cut the car and recover his body. The entire operation lasted for about half an hour," said assistant fire officer, SK Biswal.

The entire incident was captured by a CCTV camera installed in a nearby establishment. The truck could be seen ramming into Das's car, which then dashed into the stationary truck ahead. The truck was pushed with such force that it hit the car in front. However, the persons inside the car escaped unhurt even as the vehicle suffered damages.

The traffic on the road between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Highway came to standstill for more than an hour after the accident. Normalcy resumed after police and rescue personnel removed the vehicles from the road.

"The truck driver managed to flee the spot after the accident and efforts are on to nab him. Further investigation is continuing," said Mancheswar police station IIC, Sudhir Kumar Sahoo. Das is survived by his wife and a son.

### Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the UN accuses Russian military of war crimes



BUCHA (KCN): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has told the U.N. Security Council that the Russian military must be brought to justice immediately for war crimes. In a video appearance Tuesday,

Zelenskyy accused the Kremlin's troops of the worst atrocities since World War II and said they are no different from other terrorists like the Islamic State extremist group.

The Ukrainian leader made his plea via

video Tuesday as grisly evidence continued to emerge of civilian massacres carried out by Russian forces on the outskirts of Kyiv. The images, particularly from the town of Bucha, have stirred global revulsion and

led to demands for tougher sanctions and war crime prosecutions against Russia. Zelenskyy showed the U.N.'s most powerful body brief video footage of bloody corpses that ended with the words "Stop Russian Aggression".

### Demand for Odisha Congress chief change intensifies

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The demand for a change in the State leadership of the Congress has intensified after yet another MLA Adhiraj



Panigrahi of Khariar said that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) should come up with a permanent solution to the problem plaguing the party.

Stating that the president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Niranjan Patnaik has announced several times that he is a temporary president, Panigrahi said that corrective measures should be initiated to stem the rot. "For how many months, the party will be run with temporary arrangement," he said and added that he should be changed immedi-

ately and a permanent president announced. Panigrahi said that he is not opposed to Patnaik, but an alternative leadership should be installed which can pull out the party from the pathetic situation it is in now. Of the nine Congress MLAs in the State, Taraprasad Bahinipati, Santosh Singh Saluja and Mohammed Moquim have expressed concern over the party's present and future situation seeking certain changes in the leadership even as all of them claimed that they are not opposed to the existing president.

Patnaik told mediapersons that he had tendered his resignation from the OPCC chief post after the party's debacle in the 2019 General Elections. However, the AICC is yet to accept it. He said that efforts are on to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Since 2000, Congress has changed the OPCC president nine times, but all of them failed to revive the organisation. Patnaik has been OPCC chief twice, first from 2011 to 2013 and he continues in the post since April 2018.

### Andhra CM Jagan meets PM Modi, discusses pending provisions of AP Reorganisation Act, Polavaram project

NEW DELHI (KCN): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and sought his intervention for early clearance of various projects and pending allocations, including the revised cost estimate of Rs 55,000 crore of the Polavaram Irrigation Project. During the hour-long meeting, the chief minister

brought to the notice of the prime minister many of

proval to the revised cost estimate of the Polavaram National



the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act-2014 that have still not been implemented, official sources said.

Reddy requested the central government to give early ap-

proval to the revised cost estimate of the Polavaram National Irrigation Project amounting Rs 55,548.87 crore at the 2017-18 price level. Raising various issues of his state, the chief minister sought the prime minister's intervention in resolv-

ing the dispute over electricity arrears between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh pending since the bifurcation of the erstwhile state in June 2014, sources added.

This was Reddy's second meeting Modi this year.

Later in the day, Reddy is scheduled to call on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as well as Home Minister Amit Shah to take up various issues of his state with them.

## Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder

**Kolkata(KCN):** Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder. It is commonly called a movement disorder because it predominantly causes tremors, slowing and stiffening of limbs affecting movement. The severity of each of these symptoms are different from person to person and usually develop slowly over time.

It has been estimated that around 10 million people in the world are affected with PD. 1% of those over 60 years are found to be affected with PD. Although the exact

70 years of age, with the peak age of onset in the sixth decade. Hypo or bradykinesia (slowness of movement), resting tremor, postural instability and rigidity are the core features of Parkinson's disease. Usually the patients have reduced blinking,



expressionless face, slowness of voluntary movements, "resting" tremor, stooped posture, axial instability, rigidity and walking is reduced to a series short steps in order to avoid falling. The bedside examination by a neurologist remains the first and most important diagnostic tool for Parkinson's disease (PD). A neurologist will make the diagnosis based on a detailed history of symptoms, medical problems, current and past medications. A detailed neurological examination during which a neurologist will ask you to perform tasks to assess the agility of arms and legs, muscle tone, gait and balance.

Most commonly, people with PD respond well to dopaminergic medications. Lack of response to medications may prompt the doctor to seek an alternative diagnosis such as atypical parkinsonism and order further testing such as an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the brain. When unsure of a PD diagnosis, neurologists often refer patients to movement disorders specialists and order SPECT imaging, either a DAT scan or <sup>99m</sup>Tc-TRODAT-1 scan.

10 signs that might suggest that you have the disease like Tremor, Small handwriting, Loss of smell, Trouble sleeping, Trouble moving or walking, Constipation, Soft/low voice, Masked face (expression-less face), Dizziness /fainting and Stooping /hunching over. Do not worry if you have any one of these signs, but if you have more than one sign you should consider meeting a Neurologist.

The first step to living well with Parkinson's disease is to understand the disease and the progression. It is possible to have a good to great quality of life with PD. Working with your doctor and following recommended therapies are essential in successfully managing symptoms. **Dr Sathwik R Shetty**, Consultant Neurosurgeon at Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bangalore.

### Dr Sathwik R Shetty, Consultant Neurosurgeon at Manipal Hospital, Bangalore

incidence and prevalence of PD in India is not known, a study conducted by NIMHANS in 2004 showed the prevalence rate of Parkinsonism to be 33 per 100,000 (crude prevalence) and 76 per 100,000 (age adjusted). Rural population had a higher prevalence compared to the urban population (41 vs 14 per 100,000).

**Why do people get Parkinson's disease:** We do not know exactly what causes Parkinson's disease (PD), but scientists believe that a combination of genetic and environmental factors are the cause. Regardless of how a person gets Parkinson's — through genetic mutation or environmental factors or a combination of both — every person with PD experiences a loss of dopamine in the brain. Dopamine is a chemical messenger (neurotransmitter) that is primarily responsible for controlling movement, emotional responses and the ability to feel pleasure and pain. In people with Parkinson's, the cells that make dopamine are impaired. As Parkinson's progresses, more dopamine-producing brain cells die. The brain eventually reaches a point where it stops producing dopamine in any significant amount. This causes increasing problems with movement.

**What are the environmental risk factors for PD:** Head injury, area of residence (PD is found to be more in certain geographical distribution), pesticide and herbicide exposure, occupational exposure to metals, exposure to industrial solvents like TCE (Trichloroethylene) and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

**What are the potential protective factors:** Caffeine, medicines like statins (used to lower cholesterol) and ibuprofen (anti-inflammatory drug), Vitamin D and exercise (increased physical activity early in life is associated with lower risk of PD later in life). **How a Diagnosis is made:** Parkinson's disease begins between 40 and

## Bimal Kumar Bisi appealed Union Minister of Steel for advising SAIL to grant a special incentive and due Wage revision arrears to employees for exemplary performance

**Rourkela (KCN):** Bimal Kumar Bisi, Ex- CGM, SAIL, Ex-General Secretary of SEFI, Core Member of RSP Retired employees Association, Core Member of NCOA (National Forum of Executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises) has written to Union Minister of Steel saying that "it is really heartening to see that, after a long time, the prospects of the steel industry in India are looking bright due to good market conditions, timely policy support of the Government, and efforts of the industry". Bimal Bisi further said that being an ex-SEFI major office bearer and a retired employee of SAIL, he is very happy to note that SAIL has achieved several highs during the past financial year 2021-22, be it crossing



the milestone turnover of one lakh crores, highest ever production of 18

## NEC Corporation India, Japan Center of Excellence jointly launch Japanese language and cultural training programs in North East Region

**GUWAHATI(KCN):** NEC Corporation India (NECI) and Japan Centre of Excellence (JACEEX) together have announced the launch of a joint training program in Japanese language, culture, and Japanese business practices for the youth of the North East Region.

NEC Japanese Language Academy (NJLA), the language and intercultural training academy of NECI, will facilitate JACEEX in providing Japan Ready – Industry Ready (JR-IR) Training to youth from all streams in North East Region. An agreement was signed between Aman Mishra, Operations Director, NECI and Rajeev Gupta, Founder and Partner of JACEEX Ventures LLP

Under this agreement, NECI will act as a skill development training partner of JACEEX and assist them in providing Japanese language training and skill-based knowledge training. NECI and JACEEX will also train students from

different Schools, universities and colleges in North East Region from all the streams. This training program will enable

higher education, skilling and careers etc in Japan. The youth of the North East will be able to meet their aspirations

knowledge. The training will also help students to be competitive on a global stage. This partnership will pave way



them to go to Japan or work in Japanese or Japan related organizations in India. Students will be able to explore various avenues in the field of Japanese language through NECI's specialized Training program of Japan Ready – Industry Ready (JR-IR)

Rajeev Gupta, Founder and Partner of JACEEX, said that under the Youth4Japan program this partnership will help in giving quality education and skilling to the youth of the North East and preparing them for

through the Japan Ready programs jointly offered.

Aman Mishra, Operations Director, NEC Corporation India, said, "NECI is pleased to partner with JACEEX for training the students. Global supply-demand dynamics in skilled manpower offer great opportunities for Indian students. Our Japan Ready Industry – Ready Program (JR-IR) will offer an edge to students to prepare for their professional life and expand their horizon in terms of employability and

for better opportunities for students to choose their career." Jaceex Ventures LLP is a North East based Startup headquartered in Guwahati. The startup is registered with DIPP under the startup India and also under the Govt of Assam Startup Mission with a MASI id. The startup is founded by a serial entrepreneur of the North East Region having years of experience in various areas of business with Japan and a strong base and network in the North East Region of India.

## 180 Kg Cannabis Seized from Car in Khordha, 6 held

**Khordha (KCN):** With no respite in

port Excise Squad got a tip-off on the



sight from incidents of drug trafficking in the state Khordha Excise Squad recovered and seized 180kg cannabis from two car near Godipada check gate Khordha on Tuesday and arrested Six persons involved in the case. As per the re-

cannabis consignment which was transported from Gajapati to Bhubaneswar in a car this morning and swung into action. By intercepting the car at Godipada check gate Khordha Excise Squad carried out a frisks to dis-

cover and seized several bags containing 180 kg Cannabis. The trio boarding the car were taken into custody for failing to produce a necessary permit for cannabis transportation. The held peddler trio have been charged under the relevant sections of NDPS Act and forwarded to the Judicial court of Khordha. The raid was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Excise Superintendent, Khordha Sumitra Oram, District Mobile Squad Excise

Inspector, Sasmita Hota, Khordha Range



Excise Inspector, Bhairab Sahoo, Manoj Barik and Excise Staff's of Khordha were participated.

to less than 15000cr in two years), He requested to advise SAIL to grant a special incentive of 20 grams gold coin to all the employees who were in the rolls of the company during the financial year i.e. on or after 01.04.2021 as a token of gratitude in appreciation to their efforts. Further, he requested to release the wage revision arrears for the period from 01/01/2017 to 31/03/2020, which will bring a shy of relief to the existing as well as retiring employees of SAIL. This gesture of the company shall go a long way to boost the morale of the employees, which in turn motivates them for nation building. Social Activist Bimal Kumar Bisi sent its copies to Rajyasabha MP, Steel Secretary and Chairman of SAIL.

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## Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor\_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a

daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

## Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book



**NEW DELHI:** Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered

them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a

candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I

like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book

## Warner Bros announces Chocolate Factory prequel titled 'Wonka' to release on March 17, 2023

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prequel, titled "Wonka", Warner Bros has declared the release date of movie. As per media reports, Paul King of "Paddington" fame will tackle the movie, which will debut in theatres on March 17, 2023.

Simon Rich, will follow "a young Willy Wonka and his adventures prior to opening the world's most famous chocolate factory." David Heyman, whose credits includes the "Harry Potter" franchise and "Paddington", is backing the movie.

children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the classic story follows a poor boy named Charlie, who is one of five youngsters to win a golden ticket to tour the world-renowned, yet highly secretive, chocolate factory run by Willy Wonka.

## SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Su-

terim protection to Kapoor.



preme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted in-

terim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her. The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

#YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon.

## Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in 'Suswagatam Khushaamadeed'

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khush-aamadeed. Its a social entertainer with an

sister of actress Katrina Kaif, she took to Instagram to announce her upcoming project. She wrote, "Namaste - Aadaab Ab hogi

our chemistry is quite dhamakadaar. People on the set say that we look like a patakha together. Isabelle has brought fresh



underlying message on social harmony. In this film, Pulkit will essay the role of a Delhi boy, Aman, with Isabelle playing the role of Noor who hails from the city of Agra. Isabelle Kaif is a

jaldi aapse mulaqaat! So excited to share with you guys the first look of Suswagatam Khushaamadeed." Actor Pulkit Samrat said that, "I must say that

energy on the set. She's extremely hard-working and has impressed everyone on the set. She is stunning and brings a streak of innocence to her character. She has left me mesmerised."

## War not only kills but also pulverizes dreams and hopes

Evil never stops. It has always gained a seat in human minds. Things are more perilous and irrecoverable for those who suffer the hostility of evil. War brings death and disaster, stealing smiles from faces and emotions wrinkled with paranoia. Yet war is greatly

fought with pride and satisfaction. It gratifies the element of merciless arrogance that aggression is designed for. It attempts to invade on the weak, a rhetorically sadistic infringement. There is a numbness, emptiness and indignant silence around the shattered and pounded buildings in Ukraine where life once existed with full glow and solid recognition. No question will fit the mood of the moment. What does a war achieve? Violence became a creed and war exposes the filth of hatred that we store in the space that we created, flushing the flourishing dreams of the weak and the submissive. Diplomacy of superpowers remains a mere scarecrow as killing machines begin to spit fire on the ill-fated. Consistent flow of the displaced in search of new lands becomes normal. Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria all become veritable examples of the results that human brutality can push the world into. The world is habituated to adjust with the suffering of some and the flourishing of someone else. Looking around, we can find indifference and cruelty and justification of what the predator does and intends. Endless pursuit of power always leads to devastating conflicts. Power should be captured by force and the retaliation makes it more aggressively punitive. The casualties and destruction successfully crush the prospects of generations. A fantasy of a ruler turned one side of the world into a ramshackle of hopes singing the

chorus of catastrophe. But the emperor in

Putin gets a shock every moment as he drives his devils into the broken land of Ukraine; the vehemence and power of Ukrainian resistance is beyond his expectation. One month from his first blow, the emperor gained little except the dead, the wounded, the displaced and the orphaned.

The world must breathe for the endless sea of women and children who flee their homeland to the alienation of countries where they seek asylum. Orphaned children, destined to stare at the anonymity of faces would need a helping hand genuinely stretching out. Imagine the reliability of support they might be going through. Some are genuinely intended to help the refugees and some others try to exploit the terrible hardships those children are thrown into. Little girls being thrashed into the silence and darkness of the cruelty of cities in an unknown land and torn apart and left in the wilderness by mucky, manipulated and purely deceitful minds would speak of the frivolity of kindness that we usually lecture about. Even one such case of torture of a child, who as situations forced her to become a destitute, a refugee, in the space of an unknown land, trying to find a recognition will stand out representing the horror that a war is capable of. They, the refugees, the homeless, the orphaned would find the world not so kind and compassionate with enough space to accommodate them in their free rental houses and temporary shelters without compromising to what the privileged world and its hypocritic surroundings demand. Agencies supporting refugees may not notice the chances of trafficking and child labor into which the homeless minds fall and disappear. War not only brings death to the armed

M. R. LALU

soldiers but the disaster that it brings to the

hapless remains unparalleled. Nothing seems to work better than killing people. From the vigorously fought world wars to the Iran-Iraq war to so many in the line, wars shattered hopes and snatched progress of generations. Pushing millions of innocent lives into agony and horror, the thirst for more power and dominance of a handful of mad minds terrorize the rest. What else. This is not a natural existential crisis. This is violence, authorized to bring about geopolitical implications. Indifference of the highest order towards human sufferings. Being terribly humiliated by Putin, the west is desperate to have an upper hand on the show. Nobody is bothered about the annihilation that a nation suffers only for its quest to remain free. One month of consistent horror in Ukraine has ultimately forced the aggressor to take a desperate turn changing the goal post. Unable to force Kyiv to surrender, the Russians are now shifting focus to liberate the eastern Ukraine. This teaches us a lesson. War is not all about arms and ambush, it is also about the willingness to die. The Ukrainians are the real heroes fighting the war with inexorable valor. Putin's probable aspiration to rise in history for his being the emperor of a unified modern USSR, stitching the scattered broken regions together, seems to be fading. The reason is the Ukrainians have undoubtedly made up their mind to live with the Russian aggression and fight it until the last drop of their blood is shed. Who knows, maybe, the clatter of rubbles and fallen hopes must be translating their despair into a visible reason to fight and win the battle for their tomorrows. With his plan to invade Ukraine on one side and to weaken the unprincipled interventions of America which is

conveniently forgetting its invasions and engineering of wars that got scribbled in world history with blood on the other, Putin is all set to stretch his nerves to the last tip. The idea, for him, behind the invasion is sound and predictably capable of bringing geopolitical catastrophe. The world would probably witness a change as the war comes to an end with respect to who gains an upper hand in a new world order that would emerge from the ruins and penury that the pandemic and the war have terribly crushed open. A high risk of the children crossing the Ukraine border to the neighboring countries, falling into the hands of evil minds and being trafficked for sexual exploitation, should make the kind minds across the globe to come together. Reports coming in from agencies reveal the shocking fact that one out of every five women and girls are experiencing sexual violence in the countries they took refuge. When protectors become predators, the meaning of humanitarian aid takes a deceptive form. Refugees across the globe are known to have had exploitations in multiple ways forcing them to swallow with no door to knock for safety. The consequence of a war subsequently prowls with its irretrievably penetrating callousness on multiple generations. It is necessary for the agencies that support the refugees to educate them with regard to the vulnerability into which they are inching steps. War, by all means have the potentiality to destroy the essence of one's nationality and it throws many generations of people from the invaded nation to the estrangement of the world where they take years to strengthen their limbs to stand and defend their rights because evil never stops and human minds encapsulate evil in its condensed form. It is a matter of time for it to grow into a monster.

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## India's diplomacy helps to break the present War

In the intervening three weeks, Russia haestablished a de facto No Fly zone over Ukraine, while still vulnerable to shoulder fired surface to Air Missiles supplied by the U.S and NATO to the Ukrainians, there is no evidence that Russia has had to curtail Combat Air Operations. Russia arrived in Kiev Within three days of the invasion. In Second World War, German 'Operation Barbarossa' took seven weeks to reach Kiev and seven more weeks to subdue the city. Scale and scope of the Russian attack was evident from sizeable captured territory in three weeks that is larger than United Kingdom. They then proceeded to carry out targeted attacks on Key cities and military installations. There is No single instance of a Ukrainian Regiment or Brigade size unit attacking and defeating a comparable Russian unit. Russians are now, consolidating control of Mariupol and have secured all approaches on the Black sea. Cutting off Ukraine in South and North.

How will this end and what will be in next step? Next target was a special Operations Training Centre located near Ovruch is just 24 kilometre From police border. Ukraine suffered a large number

of the military and civilian casualties

at these places. These attacks have both, shocked and alarmed NATO. In this occurred situation INDIA is the only country among the Quad which has not condemned Russia. But the geo-political standing is such that none can easily condemn India in media or in public. Australian prime minister Scott Morrison says -" all countries have different levels of engagement with Russia, other countries in our in our own region, and so I am respectful of that." The US has called India 'shaky' but soon it tried a damage control and described India as an 'essential partner'. US state department spokesman Ned Price has said " We have invested in that relationship ( with India ) in term of our defence and security. So historical relationships notwithstanding, we are a partner of choice for India now, as are many of our partners and allies around the world".

Till date NarendraModi was known as a shrewd politician, who knew how to handle facts, campaigning and elections. But one month of war at the global stage after Russian invasion of Ukrine, there may be many admirers of his who would hail NarendraDamodarModi's skills as a smart and crafty diplomatic operative. Needless to say, he has been well advised by suave External Affair Minister S

Uma Shankar Prasad

Jaishankar, a former career diplomat, and NSA AjitDoval, a former intelligence wing chief and a spy. Foreign secretary Harsh v Shringla is a dutiful lieutenant who was even deputed for a crucial engagement in the UNSC. History is rightly described as the most accommodating affair. Its pages are full of mortal men and women anointed with immortality. These spaces are not always given as accolades. Our good old journalism describes these characters better- newsmakers.Modi was a ' news maker' in 2002 and also in 2014 and even in 2022. To be Prime Minister of India that he is the ship captain of the foreign policy engine room during a war between US and Russia- is no joke. Rather it is a thankless job.But even the worst critic of Modi and his Government would admit privately perhaps that much to its credit India has attained a 'unique and quite an unprecedented diplomatic platform' for itself. In the process, both Russia and the US and its allies appreciated India's balancing tightrope walk.

All these have been achieved so far without really displeasing either side. Ukraine may be complaining but a tiny nation which was almost turned into a pawn can always wait for another day to get sympathy. Between them, Prime MinisterModi and his hand-picked

diplomat-turned -EAM Jaishankar, they have shared at least 25 high profile international tele calls with global leaders and astute Foreign Minister like mercurial sergeiLavrov from Russia or even occasional " trouble-maker" Wang Yi. In fact, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made an unscheduled visit to Delhi within 48 hours of his statement on Kashmir at an 'islamic stage' in Islambad. Dr Jaishankar has had half a dozen meetings with counterparts visiting New Delhi and Prime Minister Modi has had at least two major meetings with world leaders including the quad, besides numerous tele calls. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss visited Delhi on March 31. The most important was the visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov who described India as " important and serious" country. Lavrov also said that no one would oppose if India decides to contribute to the peace initiatives. It is time Americans understand that it is not only Modi's foreign policy that has changed the game for New delhi. India abstained from UNSC and UNGA voting and made it clear that Kermilin's concerns ought to be understood and addressed. It has made a big difference globally and many global players hitherto underestimating New Delhi's position has started showing a 'new variety of respect'.

Columnist and Sr journalist Khurda

### Int'l Students Launch FISAO

Nearly 150 students belonging to 19 different countries, presently studying in various universities in Odisha, have come together to launch the Federation of International Students Association-Odisha (FISAO) here recently. The platform for for-

Students studying in IIT, Bhubaneswar, International Institute of Information Technology (IITM), C.V.Raman Global University, Centurion University, KIIT University, Utkal University and SOA attended the program which was addressed by Meenakshi

lor Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, who presided over the program, said the students should focus on happiness, service to humanity and tolerance for creating a better world. He also urged the students to connect to the spirit of Odisha, the beautiful state, and India.

most preferred destination for students from across the world. Sujata Padhy, Outreach Program Manager, Sibasish Pati, Manager, International Admissions, Rajsekhar Behera, Coordinator, Outreach, John Bravo Murungi, Robert and



foreign students was launched at a meeting held at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering and technology of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), with presentations by students from different countries marking the event.

Mishra, Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Ms. Mishra, while welcoming the idea of international students bonding together, urged them to promote the idea of universal brotherhood. SOA Vice-Chancel-

Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, SOA's Dean (Students' Welfare), presented an overview of the university while Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director, International Relations and Outreach Program, said SOA was endeavoring to make the university the

Sandra from Uganda, Tsegenet from Ethiopia, Abdalah from Chad, Apollo from South Sudan, Patricia from Kenya, Aarohi from Nepal and Karna from Bhutan coordinated the event. The students also cut a cake as a mark of universal brotherhood.

### Sri Lankan lawmakers seek interim government to solve crisis

COLOMBO: A group of Sri Lankan governing party lawmakers called Tuesday for the appointment of an interim government, warning that a failure to do so would lead to violence and anarchy, as demonstrators continued to demand the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

state of emergency and curfew and joined street protests denouncing the government. The president and his older brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, continue to hold onto power, despite their politically powerful family being the focus of public ire. For several months, Sri Lankans have endured long lines to buy fuel, cooking gas,

Parliament met Tuesday for the first time since protests flared earlier this month. "The first condition to solve this problem is that this government has to leave. In its place there should be an interim government," said lawmaker Wimal Weerawansa, a former member of Rajapaksa's Cabinet. "We as members of the government and opposition have a responsibility to solve

according to coalition instructions, significantly weakening the government. Lawmakers also asked the speaker on Tuesday to ensure their safety after irate protesters surrounded the homes of several governing party members on Monday shouting slogans and pelting stones. Police barricaded the area around Parliament, where a few hundred protesters



food and medicine, most of which come from abroad. Shortages of hard currency have also hindered imports of raw materials for manufacturing and worsened inflation, which surged to 18.7% in March. As oil prices soar during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the island nation's fuel stocks are running out. Authorities have announced country-wide power cuts extending up to 7 1/2 hours a day because they can't supply enough fuel to power generating stations.

this problem. If not, there can be a bloodbath in this country," said governing party lawmaker W i j a y a d a s a Rajapakshe. "If that happens, you and all of us will be responsible." Both Weerawansa and Rajapakshe were elected on the governing party ticket but later opted to be independent of coalition instructions in voting. During Tuesday's session, nearly 40 governing coalition lawmakers said they would no longer vote

gathered holding placards and chanting "Return our stolen money." "We have to get all the thieves out of Parliament," said Devani Jayatilaka, one of the protesters. "The president has to go and there must be an audit into the assets of all the leaders." A group of lawyers staged a rally near Sri Lanka's main court complex and accused the attorney general of protecting corrupt politicians. Catholic priests and nuns also held a silent protest near the archbishop's

### Moscow accuses Ukraine of 'staging' new footage of dead civilians



MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday accused Ukraine of staging new civilian deaths in a number of locations in an effort to pin the blame on Moscow. The Russian defence ministry made the assertion after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky demanded tough new sanctions on Moscow over killings in the town of Bucha that have prompted international condemnation. The Russian defence ministry said on Tuesday that the Ukrainian military recorded a fake video that purported to show "peaceful civilians allegedly killed by the Russian armed forces". The video was made on Monday evening in the settlement of Moshchun some 20 kilometres (12 miles) northwest of Kyiv and was designed to be distributed through Western media, Moscow said. "Similar events are now being organised by the Ukrainian special services in Sumy, Konotop and other cities," the Russian defence ministry said, referring to cities in north-eastern Ukraine.

The ministry did not say how it obtained the information in its statement. At the weekend, dozens of bodies were discovered in Bucha near Kyiv after the withdrawal of Russian troops. Ukrainian officials said some had their hands bound behind them. Ukraine has blamed Russian forces, with Zelensky describing the killings as "war crimes" and "genocide". Moscow denies any responsibility, saying that the images are fake or that the deaths occurred after Russian forces pulled out of the area. The Kremlin repeated the denial on Tuesday, adding the West wanted to "smear" the Russian army. "We still insist that any accusations against the Russian side, against the Russian military are not just groundless," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "This is a well-directed show. Nothing else. A tragic show." He said Russia would continue to promote its version of events. "We won't sit idle," he added.

### Kuwait's government resigns as political crisis intensifies

DUBAI: Kuwait's government resigned on Tuesday, just months after its formation, opening up new uncertainty as the tiny country grapples with a worsening political crisis that has blocked critical economic and social reforms. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah submitted the cabinet's resignation to the crown prince, state-run KUNA news agency reported, ahead of a no-confidence vote in Parliament later this week that sought to remove him from office. It marks Kuwait's third collective government resignation in the past year and a half. A host of new faces, including some picks to appease opposition blocs, had been appointed to ministerial posts as recently as December, with their resignation now reflecting their failure to make reforms. Opposition has been mounting against Sheikh Sabah. Angry lawmakers hauled him in for extensive interrogations last week over his alleged corruption and mismanagement. They publicly declared him "unsuitable" and called for a new prime minister to tackle the country's problems and secure badly needed reforms. Cabinet's resignation comes after the defence and interior ministers submitted their resignations earlier this year. Exasperated, the two senior ministers decried their inability to make anything happen in oil-rich Kuwait because of Parliament's rowdy opposition. Lawmakers increasingly in recent months have expressed their political frustrations and mistrust by questioning various unpopular ministers and stalling major projects. Although soaring oil prices amid Russia's war in Ukraine have recently created a windfall for Kuwait, they've also served as a reminder of the nation's utter dependence on oil revenues and need to diversify. Even if the International Monetary Fund now expects Kuwait to run a budget surplus after years in the red and see its gross domestic product increase by 2.7%, it remains politically stuck. Years of low oil prices, coupled with the coronavirus pandemic, pushed the country's account deficit to 16.6% of its GDP last year. As financial stress worsened, the government couldn't draw from Kuwait's flush sovereign wealth fund or issue debt because lawmakers have blocked a public debt law. The parliament, a rarity in the autocratic region of Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, is empowered to pass and block laws, question ministers and submit no-confidence votes against senior officials. However, final authority rests with the ruling emir. The financial stagnation over the past two yearshas spread deep disillusionment with the country's political system.

house asking authorities to stop oppression and safeguard the rights of the people. President Rajapaksa has assumed emergency powers which give him wide authority to protect public order, suppress mutinies, riots or civil disturbances or for the maintenance of essential supplies. Under the decree, the president can authorize detentions, seizure of property and search of premises. He can also change or suspend any law except the constitution. On Monday, Rajapaksa invited all parties to join a unity government to resolve the crisis, but the SJB immediately rejected the proposal. The extent of Sri Lanka's economic crisis became clear when it couldn't pay for imports of basic supplies because of its huge debts and dwindling foreign reserves. The country's usable reserves are said to be less than \$400 million and it has nearly \$7 billion in foreign debt obligations for this year alone. The pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to an economy that depends heavily on tourism and trade, with the government estimating a loss of \$14 billion over the last two years. The

economy is estimated to have contracted by 1.5% in July-September 2021, according to the central bank. The already dire economic crisis has deepened as oil prices have surged above \$100 a barrel with the war in Ukraine. Vehicles are stranded with empty tanks, power cuts deprive students of study time for exams and shopping mall air conditioners are being switched off to conserve energy. Sri Lanka was already so short of hard currency that authorities ordered bans on imports of cars and fertilizer and appealed to the country's expatriates to send money home to help restore its depleted foreign reserves. Rajapaksa last month said his government was in talks with the International Monetary Fund and had turned to China and India for loans. Two brothers of the president, Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa, were among the Cabinet members who resigned on Sunday, along with the prime minister's son, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa. Those resignations were seen as the family's effort to pacify public anger while retaining executive, defence and lawmaking powers.

# Politics over Oven Breaking

Puri: The twin issues- vandalism of temple kitchen ovens and digging of pits close to 12th century shrine in Puri, continues to dominate Odisha politics with opposition BJP and Congress demanding immediate arrest of culprits and stop work in prohibited zone of the living monument.

While the BJP has been demanding immediate stop of construction works being carried



out by the state government under Puri Heritage Corridor project allegedly by violating norms under the Ancient Monument and Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1959, Congress alleged that the vandalism of kitchen ovens was made to divert people's attention from alleged illegal constructions. OPCC spokesperson Nishikant Mishra in a press conference here said that over 40 Chullha, earthen oven where Lord Jagannath's Mahaprasad is prepared, were vandalized to divert attention. "How come any outsider enter into the temple kitchen and damage ovens? It appeared that the vandalism of chullha was intended to divert public attention from illegal construction near the shrine," Mr. Mishra said.

Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar unit of BJP Tuesday staged an agitation near Sri Ram Mandir in the state capital demanding immediate arrest of the culprits involved in temple kitchen vandalism and stop of Puri Heritage Corridor project work till a clearance by the Archeological Survey of India.

Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra has meanwhile claimed that the Puri Heritage Corridor project work is being done in "coordination" of the ASI. He said there is no danger to the temple

## 73 Pucca Houses in PMAGY

New Delhi: Only 73 households in Odisha have been provided pucca houses to the eligible beneficiaries in the villages covered under PradhanMantriAdarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY).

This was informed by Minister of State (MoS) for Social Justice and Empowerment, A Narayanaswamy while replying to a question of Cuttack MP Bhatruhari Mahtab on Tuesday. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of PMAGY



has been implemented since 2009-10 for integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) majority villages.

During 2021-22, this scheme has been merged with two other existing schemes of the Department to be known as Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), for which an amount of Rs 1800 crore has been allocated for the financial year 2021-22, he said. As per the position uploaded by the Government of Odisha on the portal for PMAGY, as on date, out of a total of 61,554 households found eligible for houses under PMAY-G, in the PMAGY villages of Odisha, 73 households have been allotted houses under PMAY-G.

As per the data, 63 houses have been allotted in Boudh district while four houses have been

structure as feared by a setion of people.

BJP leader and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, however, claimed that the state government carried out earth work and dug big pits in the prohibited zone (within 100 meters from temple) despite "no work" notice by ASI. BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda supporting Sarangi Tuesday in a twitter post said: "A very important revelation indeed. The excuses being given by Odisha's governing party have been demolished."

"The state must now honour every Odia's sentiment and stop its unauthorised destruction of the prohibited area surrounding the temple of Mahaprabhu Jagannath," he tweeted. Meanwhile, Puri district police expedited investigation into the chullha vandalism in the temple kitchen on Saturday night. Puri SP KV said CCTV footage has revealed that a person was inside the temple at 1 o'clock on Saturday night.

"In another footage, he is seen accompanied outside the temple by four Jagannath Temple Police (JTP) personnel (JTP do not come under Odisha police and they are engaged dby the temple administration). All the four JTP personnel were interrogated yesterday to find out the discussions they held with the person, under what circumstances was he inside the temple and under what circumstances did he leave the temple," the SP said. In order to identify the person, the CCTV footage is being shown to the temple servitors and staff.

The SP further said that as per instruction of the Chief Secretary and DGP, sufficient police personnel have been deployed since Monday for the assistance of JTP to secure the premises at night. More than 40 'chulhas' or earthen ovens were found vandalised at the holy kitchen on Sunday morning, leading to a delay in the rituals of the trinity — Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath, and a scarcity of holy food the 'Mahaprasad' for devotees. Latest report from Odisha Police said that "The suspect identified in CCTV footage has just now been detained. Further interrogation is underway".

allotted in Khurda and remaining three in Bhadrak district. All other 27 districts have reported zero performance on execution of the scheme.

The Union Department has released Rs 81.72 crore to the State Government of Odisha under the scheme in 2021-22. While Rs 28.18 crore allotted in 2018-19, Rs 17.87 crore given in 2019-20. No fund was released by the Centre during 2020-21. Out of the total allocated fund, the State Government has been able to spend only Rs 25.91 crore, he informed.

The principal objective of the `Adarsh Gram' component of the merged scheme of PM-AJAY is integrated development of SC majority villages: primarily through convergent implementation of the relevant Central and State schemes and to take up identified activities, which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes, through 'Gap-filling' funds provided as Central assistance to the extent of Rs 20 lakh per village.

The scheme was started on pilot basis wherein 1000 such villages were selected. In 2014-15, the scheme was further expanded to 1500 more villages. Since 2018-19, 19,080 villages have been selected so far under the scheme. Till 2017-18, all such villages having more than 50 per cent SC population were eligible for selection under the scheme. From 2018-19 onwards, villages having total population 500 or more with more than 50 per cent SC population are eligible for selection under the scheme at present, said Mr. Narayanaswamy. In Odisha, he said, a total of 175 villages were selected in 2014-15 out of which 169 were found eligible. In 2018-19, 946 villages have been selected of which 904 have been found eligible till date.

So far, 2,487 villages have so far been declared as 'Adarsh Gram' on achieving the desired parameters, out of which 83 villages are from Odisha.

## Interest Free Advance For e-Vehicle

Bhubaneswar: To execute the Electric Vehicle Policy 2021, Department of Finance has issued guidelines for sanction of interest free advance for purchase of electric vehicle by Government employees.

Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, Finance has issued the guidelines on Tuesday for this purpose, said official sources.

The State Government has recently introduced the Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 to encourage purchase of electric vehicles to control the pollution emerging from fossil fuel used in vehicle plying on the road.

One of its incentives under the policy consists of providing interest free advance to the Government employees.

As per the guidelines, the advance for purchase of electric vehicles for the State Government employees will be available only up to 31 December, 2025.

The application received after the expiry of the policy period will not be considered.

The interest free advance for purchase of electric operated motor cars will be available only to Group-A & Group-B category of Government employees. The maximum amount of advance is limited to 75 percent of the cost of the electric vehicle subject to a maximum of Rs 15 lakh. Similarly, interest free advance for purchases

of electric two wheelers (electric motorcycle, scooter, scooty and invalid carriages etc.), will be available to Group-C and Group D Government employees and above. The advance amount is limited to 75% of the cost of the Electric Vehicle subject to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh. The advance amount is to be recovered in 100 equal installments from the monthly salary of Government employees from subsequent months.



If the Government employee retires or expires without payment of full amount of loan, the residual amount will be recovered from their arrear salary bill, leave salary bill, pension, commutation pension or gratuity before its disbursements. If he/she resigns from Government service, the amount will be recovered under OPDR Act, as per the guidelines.

If the Government servant so desires he is allowed to repay the installment in advance.

All other conditions as prescribed under Rule-2 of chapter 14 of Odisha

General Financial Rule (Volume-1) and circulars issued there under in force for sanction of Interest bearing advance for purchases of vehicle are applicable in this case mutatis mutandis, it said.

Necessary amendment to Odisha General Financial Rule will be affected in due course, the Department of Finance said.




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## SEBI chairperson appears before Parliament panel, to be quizzed on NSE scam

NEW DELHI: SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch on Tuesday appeared before the parliamentary standing committee on finance over regu-

ers Chitra Ramakrishna and Ravi Narain are being investigated. Sinha had said that Buch has been called by the parliamentary

come Tax Department are investigating the case related to irregularities in respect of Co-location facility provided by NSE and their inves-

former MD and CEO Chitra Ramakrishna. She has been remanded to judicial custody till April 11. The arrest pertaining to the co-location



latory issues concerning the capital market.

According to sources, Buch is also expected to be questioned about the recent National Stock Exchange (NSE) scam. The panel chaired by former minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha has called Buch to deliberate upon regulatory issues related to initial public offerings, international financial services centres and alternate investment fund, according to a notice issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Members in the committee said they would like to know about the investigation being done by the SEBI in the NSE scam in which several of its top officials including former chief executive officer

panel to deliberate upon the orderly functioning of the market in the recent volatility and turbulent flow of cash.

This is the second meeting of SEBI officials with the parliamentary panel in the last week, after March 30.

Meanwhile, the income tax department, ED and CBI are investigating the case related to irregularities in co-location facility provided by NSE, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Tuesday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said market regulator Sebi, after investigation into the matter involving NSE and other entities, has passed requisite orders.

"CBI, Enforcement Directorate and In-

tigations are still going on," he said.

To a question on whether further measures are to be adopted to strengthen the stock exchanges in the light of the NSE case, the minister said review of governance norms in Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) is a continuous process and the same is carried out regularly as per the changing dynamics of the securities market.

"Some of key measures undertaken by SEBI are strengthening of governance norms across MIIs and making code of conduct applicable to the Stock Exchanges, Clearing Corporations and Depositories for prevention of fraud or market abuse," he said.

The CBI had last month arrested NSE's

case follows an FIR which was registered in May 2018, amid fresh revelations about irregularities at the country's largest stock exchange.

In February this year, Sebi imposed a monetary penalty on NSE as well as Ramakrishna and Ravi Narain, and two other officials for lapses in recruitment at the senior level.

Narain was at the helm of affairs at NSE from April 1994 till March 2013, while Ramakrishna was MD and CEO of the stock exchange from April 2013 to December 2016.

Sebi has observed that NSE and its top executives violated norms in appointing Anand Subramanian as Group Operating Officer (GOO) and advisor to the MD.

## Not activating countercyclical capital buffer: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has decided not to activate the countercyclical

would be activated as and when the circumstances warranted and that the decision would normally be

ators, it has been decided that it is not necessary to activate CCyB at this point in time," the central

good times, which may be used to maintain the flow of credit to the real sector in difficult times.

Secondly, it achieves the broader macroprudential goal of restricting the banking sector from indiscriminate lending in periods of excess credit growth that have often been associated with the building up of system-wide risk.

In the backdrop of the 2008 global financial crisis, the Group of Central Bank Governors and Heads of Supervision (GHOS), the overseeing body of the standards set by the Basel Committee, had envisaged the introduction of a framework on countercyclical capital measures.

pre-announced. The framework envisages the credit-to-GDP gap as the main indicator, which may be used in conjunction with other supplementary indicators.

"Based on the review and empirical analysis of the CCyB indi-

bank said in a statement.

The credit-to-GDP gap shall be the main indicator in the CCCB framework in India. As per the RBI, the aim of the CCyB regime is two-fold.

Firstly, it requires banks to build up a buffer of capital in



capital buffer at this point in time as it is not required.

The framework on the countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) was put in place by the Reserve Bank in terms of guidelines in February 2015 wherein, it was advised that the CCyB

## CCI penalises 24 entities, individuals for bid-rigging Indian Railways tenders



NEW DELHI: The Competition Commission has slapped penalties totalling around Rs 1.16 crore on 24 entities, including individuals, for indulging in bid-rigging and cartelisation in tenders floated by the Indian Railways.

As many as 11 entities and 14 individuals of these entities were found to have violated competition norms. Out of these 25, the regulator did not impose any penalty on one entity. Besides slapping

penalties on 24 of them, the watchdog has directed them to cease and desist from anti-competitive practices.

The matter was taken up by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) following a reference filed on behalf of the North-Western Railways.

These entities indulged in cartelisation in the supply of High-Performance Polyamide Bushes (HPPA) and Self Lubricating Polyester Resin

Bushes (SLPR) to the Indian Railways by means of directly or indirectly determining prices, allocating tenders, controlling supply and market, coordinating bid prices and manipulating the bidding process, CCI said in a release on Tuesday.

"The evidence in the matter included regular e-mail communications and WhatsApp exchanges between the parties, quoting of identical/ similar prices by certain par-

ties, filing of bids from same IP addresses by certain parties in close proximity," it noted.

Together, the CCI has imposed penalties to the tune of Rs 1.16 crore on the 24 entities, the release said. Out of the 11 entities, 4 had applied for lesser penalties under the competition law.

A cartel member can approach the CCI by way of filing an application seeking a lesser penalty, in return for providing full, true and vital disclosures in respect of the alleged cartel.

## Rs 30,160 crore loans sanctioned under Stand-up India scheme in 6 years: Finance Ministry

NEW DELHI: More than Rs 30,160 crore loans have been sanctioned to over 1,33,995 accounts in

lenges faced by aspiring SC, ST and women entrepreneurs, Stand-up India scheme was launched

The objective of Stand-Up India is to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Scheduled

greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or the trading sector and activities allied to agriculture.

In order to provide collateral-free loans to eligible beneficiaries, the Government of India has set up the Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand Up India (CGFSI). Apart from providing credit facilities, the Stand-up India scheme also envisages extending handholding support to potential borrowers. It also provides for convergence with Central/State Government schemes.



the last six years under the Stand-up India scheme that seeks to provide financial support to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women entrepreneurs in setting up enterprises, the Union Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

"As we commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Stand-Up India Scheme, it is heartening to see that more than 1.33 lakh new job-creators and entrepreneurs have so far been facilitated under this scheme," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Finance Ministry.

Recognizing the chal-

on 5th April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation. In 2019-20, the Stand-Up India scheme was extended for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.

"More than 1 lakh women promoters have benefitted from this scheme during its six years of operation. The Government understands the potential these rising entrepreneurs have in driving economic growth through their roles as not just wealth-creators but also job-creators," Sitharaman said.

Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories, to help them in starting a

### Rule for Dy Mayor Poll

Continued from page-1

tails of the authorised agent proposed to be so engaged for the said election prior to the scheduled date of election.

"When an elector being a member of a political party, records his vote on a ballot paper and before such elector inserts that ballot paper into the ballot box, allow the authorised agent of that political party to verify as to whom such elector has cast his vote," it said. Similar provision has been added under the Odisha Municipal (Delimitation Wards, Reservation of Seats and Conduct of Election) Rules, 1994, for the purpose of election to the office of the Vice-Chairperson of a Municipality or NAC.

The indirect election for the post of Vice-Chairperson will be conducted on 7 April and Deputy Mayor on 8 April, respectively. Earlier, the State Government had implemented similar Rules for the election to the post of Zilla Parishad President and Vice President.

# Villarreal takes on Bayern focused on stopping Lewandowski

VILLARREAL: Villarreal knows its chances of advancing past Bayern Munich in the Champions League will depend largely on whether it can successfully contain Robert Lewandowski.

And hopes are high considering the team's recent success against another top striker. The Spanish club is coming off a

Lewandowski. He is a very complete striker. Sometimes it seems like he's not doing much, but in the end, he's always a threat."

Torres faced Lewandowski with Spain in last year's European Championship, a 1-1 draw in the group stage when Lewandowski scored a second-half

Lewandowski is the Champions League's leading scorer with 12 goals from eight matches. He has more than 50 goals this season for his club and his country and is ranked third in the all-time list of Champions League scorers, behind Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. He has scored seven goals in his last five games in all competitions.

"He has very good numbers and any team would like to have these types of players," said Torres, who scored one of the goals in Villarreal's win at Juventus in the second leg. "We will have to do a good job to contain him and keep him from scoring against us."

Villarreal midfielder Manu Trigueros said coach Unai Emery — who is in the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time — will have the team prepared to face the powerful Bayern squad.

"He pays attention to detail. He dissects everything so players have everything as easy as possible or as many solutions as they need before a match," Trigueros said. "We have many discussions with

him and he's very talkative, and he gets through to the players. Everyone around him spends hours watching videos so the players have everything they need."

Villarreal is coming off its second consecutive Spanish league defeat — a 2-0 loss at second-to-last-place Levante, when Emery didn't rest many of his regular starters.

Villarreal, the defending Europa League winner, is back in the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time since 2009. It's best campaign was a semifinal appearance in 2006, when it lost to Arsenal.

"Villarreal has a coach with a lot of experience at winning on the international stage," Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said. "The team is very experienced and we will need to figure out how to break them down."

Bayern made it to the last eight 10 times in the last 11 seasons. The team is playing in the quarterfinals for a record 20th time.

The second leg is next week in Munich. The winner of the series will play either Benfica or Liverpool in the semifinals.



round-of-16 triumph over Juventus when its defence got the best of Dusan Vlahovic.

Villarreal defender Pau Torres said the squad has enough experience facing some of the world's top forwards and will be ready for the task at hand beginning in the first leg of the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

"These are the challenges we enjoy," Torres told Marca TV. "Each striker has his style and we will make sure we know how to make things difficult for

equalizer.

Vlahovic also scored against Villarreal in the first leg of the round of 16, getting on the board in the first minute at La Cerámica Stadium, but neither the Serbian striker nor teammate Álvaro Morata could find the net in the second leg in Italy — a surprising 3-0 win by the modest Spanish club.

Villarreal also faced Cristiano Ronaldo twice in the group stage, with the forward scoring a goal in each of Manchester United's victories.

## Bangladesh to make formal complaint about South African umpiring, sledging

DHAKA: Bangladesh will formally complain to the International Cricket Council over claims of biased umpiring and "unbearable" sledging in the first Test against South

field taunts they said crossed the line into abuse.

"You all have seen how biased the umpiring was. On the field, sledging was also unbearable," Bangladesh Cricket

to him several times. But he paid no attention to our complaint," Jalal said by phone from Durban. "We want the ICC to appoint neutral umpires in Test series as soon as possible. We

Skipper Mominul Haque said umpires did not intervene when South African players sledged their Bangladeshi opponents.

"Sledging is a normal thing. But if it comes



Africa, officials said Tuesday.

The side was furious after several close calls went against them in Durban, where they remained competitive for most of the match before a batting collapse saw them dismissed for 53 in the second innings.

Players have since taken issue with their opponents for on-

Board cricket operations chief Jalal Yunus told AFP.

"We will write a formal complaint to the ICC match referee manager," he added. Jalal said they raised similar issues to match referee Andy Pycroft after their 2-1 one-day international series win -- their first on South African soil. "Our manager spoke

are also ready to welcome neutral umpires in our home series," he said.

Umpires from host countries have been used exclusively since 2020, when the pandemic imposed worldwide travel restrictions, and South African umpires Marais Erasmus and Adrian Holdstock were standing in the Durban Test.

to the stage of abuse, that is very bad," he said.

"I think they abused us in the worst manner and umpires did not notice."

South Africa won by 220 runs in Durban after the tourists' batting collapse in the second innings.

The second Test will start in Gqeberha on April 8.

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