

RBI Monetary Policy: 17 things you should know about Repo Rate

Bombay (KCN): The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee on Friday unanimously decided to keep key repo rate unchanged at 4%. The repo rate or the short-term lending rate was last cut on May 22,



2020. Since then, the rate remains at a historic low of 4%.

With RBI maintaining status quo, banks most likely will not increase interest rates on loans in immediate future. This is the 11th time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo. It also maintained its stance 'accommodative' while focusing on the withdrawal of accommodation to control inflation while supporting growth.

Marginal standing facility, that is MSF rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25%. Further, it has been decided by Reserve Bank to restore the width of liquidity adjustment facilities, that is LAF corridor to 50 basis points, the position that prevailed before the pandemic.

Read | RBI Monetary Policy LIVE Updates 2022: Key policy rates, including repo and reverse repo rates unchanged

Key points on the policy

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised upwards its retail inflation forecast to 5.7% for the current financial year 2022-23, compared with the 4.5% projected earlier.
2. Key commodity prices may remain on the higher side and input costs will be high across sectors due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions amid the Russia-Ukraine war.
3. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Central bank expects crude oil prices at USD 100 per barrel for the current financial year 2022-23.
4. The RBI is mandated to keep inflation within the range of 2-6%. The CPI-based inflation rate in February stood at 6.07%, the rate in January was 6.01%.
5. RBI lowered its GDP forecast to 7.2% for the current financial year 2022-23, compared with the 7.8% projected in the previous bi-monthly policy statement in February.
6. Governor said the real GDP is projected to grow 16.2% in the first quarter and 6.2% in the second quarter, 4.1% in Q3 and 4% in the fourth quarter of FY23.
7. The growth projections have been made considering the crude oil prices at USD 100 per barrel for the current financial year, Shaktikanta Das said
8. He added the supply of crude oil, natural gas, commodities and metals like palladium has been affected due to the Russia-Ukraine war.
9. It will rationalise the risk weights and continue to link home loans only with loan-to-value (LTV) ratios for new

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Kadyrov's men: a brutal force serving Putin in Ukraine

PARIS (KCN): Kadyrov boasts of his Chechen fighters men fighting for the

Russian troops in Ukraine.



shooting in all directions, Ukrainian prisoners kneeling while staring blankly or being dragged amid lifeless bodies -- this is how Chechen strongman Ramzan

Kremlin in Ukraine on social media. The so-called "Kadyrovtsy", the Kadyrovites, are Chechen militias with a sinister reputation deployed alongside

Ukrainians have said that the Chechens have been among the most brutal of the Kremlin's invading forces.

Kadyrov, a Putin ally who rules Chechnya

and is accused of rights abuses including torture and executions, proudly posts videos of his men fighting in Ukraine on Telegram.

He alleges they are fighting the "Nazis of Kyiv", using the Kremlin's language. The son of a Chechen independence leader who switched sides to join the Russians, Ramzan Kadyrov is President Vladimir Putin's protege and is regularly accused of shocking human rights violations in the Muslim-majority

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Fortified rice decision in line with endeavours to improve nutrition levels: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the Union Cabinet's decision of supplying fortified rice through government schemes is



in line with the endeavours to improve nutrition levels and further the welfare of women and the young population. To address the issue of malnutrition

among the poor, the Centre announced that it will supply fortified rice through government schemes such as PDS and PM-POSHAN in three phases by 2024, a move that will cost the central exchequer Rs 2,700 crore annually.

A decision in this regard was taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) meeting, chaired by Modi, on Thursday.

Modi also lauded the decision on the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March 2023.

He said, "We are fully committed to creating a vibrant system of research and innovation. Today's Cabinet decision on the Atal Innovation Mission gives a boost to our efforts."

Displaced tribals face murder bid and molest charges for opposing ROB

ROURKELA (KCN): 22 tribals are languishing in jail for the last 11 days after being slapped with se-

level-crossing on the outskirts of Rourkela after a mob of 500-600 people including women defied pro-

immediate stoppage of work till settlement of pending rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) issues. Add-

bonds, Deme and 21 others were produced in court the next day on charges of rioting with deadly weapons, unlawful assembly, obstructing public servant from discharging duties, attempt to murder, criminal intimidation and molestation among others.

The demands for settlement of R&R issues are genuine and the stringent police action has left displaced persons scared, angry and helpless, Majhi said. "We do not oppose the ROB project, but it is imperative to settle the pending R&R issues of left-over displaced persons," he said. Before his arrest, Oram had submitted a memorandum to the Bisra tehsildar de

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rious charges such as attempt to murder and molestation among others for opposing a road over bridge project of the South Eastern Railway (SER) in Bisra block.

They were picked up along with 200 other protestors from the ROB construction site at Kukuda Gate

prohibitory orders and scuffled with police. The arrested include Deme Oram, president of Anchalik Suraksha Committee (ASC), a body representing the tribals displaced by the project, who have been languishing behind bars since March 28. The ASC was leading the protest demanding

ing to the discontent are allegations of the administration trying to falsely frame the agitators to suppress their voice and legitimate demands.

While the 200 agitators including ASC general secretary and B o n d a m u n d a panchayat samiti (PS) member Rabi Majhi were released on PR

Kitchen vandalism: SOP on Srimandir security approved

PURI (KCN): In wake of the vandalism of earthen stoves inside Srimandir kitchen, a standard operating procedure (SOP) on round-the-clock security of the 12th century shrine was approved at a meeting of the Shree Jagannath temple managing committee and servitors on Thursday.

It was decided that personnel of Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP) and Jagannath Temple Police (JTP) will operate jointly in and

around Srimandir. At least 135 high resolution CCTV cameras with audio recording

Meghanad Prachir. This apart, night patrolling around the temple will be inten-

grated control room will be upgraded with state-of-the-art gadgets. The 'Sodha'



facility will be installed to keep surveillance on the entire temple complex and

sified. The CCTV footage will be scanned every week-end while the inte-

(eviction of all devotees from Srimandir) will be conducted

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BJP urges Naveen to accept Ayushman Bharat in interest of poor patients

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The BJP on Thursday urged the State government to implement the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme. Lashing out at the ruling BJD for the crumbling health infrastructure and the poor health services, State BJP president Samir

Mohanty said the government has miserably failed to bring transformational changes in the health sector despite liberal assistance from the Centre. "Hospitals in 18 district headquarters are yet to have intensive care units (ICU) while 112 primary health centres are running without electricity. As a large number of doctor posts are lying vacant, patients are forced to depend on private hospitals. This is the health sector scenario in the State," Mohanty told a media conference. The State government's claim on improved

health service sounds hollow when Odisha is placed at 18th position in overall health indicators of the country. It is a fact that the State government has constructed hospital buildings sans basic health infrastructure, the State BJP chief said.

The government is claiming credit for a couple of cancer treatment facilities coming up in the State either under philanthropic assistance or private investment but a large number of patients are going outside the State for treatment, he said. Odisha is one among the four states including West Bengal and Telangana which have not implemented the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The State government has denied the Central benefit to over 60 lakh households of the State when its own scheme Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) is floundering due to



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“Clean Air Medical Student Ambassador Programme kicks off on World Health Day”

SwitchON Foundation on the occasion of the World Health Day flagged off its first medical student training workshop under the ‘Clean Air Medical Student Ambassador Programme’ at the Institute of Child Health

Kolkata(KCN): SwitchON Foundation on the occasion of the World Health Day flagged off its first medical student training workshop under the ‘Clean Air Medical Student Ambassador Programme’ at the Institute of Child Health (ICH), Park Circus Kolkata. The initiative was supported by South Asian Medical Students Association (SAMSA) and Asian Medical Students Association (AMSA). The primary idea behind the programme is to motivate, educate and engage the medical students with their patients, fraternity members, general public and policy makers on Health impacts of Air Pollution. Which SwitchON believes would lead to greater awareness and demand for Cleaner Air and

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Delivering the opening address during the event, Dr. Surupa Basu, Deputy Director, Institute of Child Health said: “Children are the most vulnerable to air pollution and are completely dependent on adults. It’s our duty to take up action that can lead to cleaner air quality in the city. The ambassador of change from the medical colleges has the right potential to become agents of change in this endeavor”.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Arup Halder, Consultant Pulmonologist, Woodlands Multispeciality Hospital during the workshop said, “Current level of awareness on the menace of air pollution has been scarce among the medical profession also. So to raise awareness we need an army of dedicated people. We also need a lot of research to delineate air pollution as a big killer. A big step to achieve this

goal is forming the brigade through the Medical Student Ambassador Programme.”

Dr. Suman Mallick, Oncologist from NH Narayana Super Speciality Hospital - “There is substantial evidence to support the link between outdoor air pollution and lung cancer incidence and mortality. The Programme provides a window of opportunity for young medical students to engage on subject and excel in their career.”

Also speaking on the occasion, Vinay Jaju MD SwitchON Foundation said; “The primary objective of the programme is to create a group of Future Medical Practitioners who would learn about the relevant issues of air pollution and create awareness, thus enabling necessary policy action and citizen empowerment across. He further added that, “The World Health Day is a timely and necessary reminder to the existential threat that ecological degradation poses to planetary and human health. Medical Students who are the future of healthcare experts, can make a significant contribution in this awareness”

As mentioned earlier, the event also saw interaction between medical students and the waste pickers of the informal sector. The interaction has been seen as a way to enable medical students to evaluate important understanding of the state of health of these impoverished sections of the society, and develop further research ideas.

The informal sector which manages the toxic waste of our cities are known to use rudimentary methods with little or no

protection against health and environmental hazards. These communities often sift through waste at dump yards before it is treated and live in the vicinity of dumpsites to obtain a livelihood.

They typically lack access to sanitary and healthcare facilities. Furthermore, child labour is quite prevalent with low life expectancy. Sadly, waste pickers are not covered under any labour legislation. As a result, they do not benefit from social security and medical insurance schemes.

Due to the poor living and working conditions, malnutrition, anemia and tuberculosis are

common among them. Also exposure to various hazardous fumes at disposal sites results in respiratory problems. Notably, the prevalence of dyspnoea (difficulty in breathing) and chronic cough has been found to be higher among waste pickers.

Speaking on during the event one of the representatives of the student medical ambassador said - “The programme has been great learning for all of us, and has provided us a great opportunity to understand the external dynamics, adding value to our medical education”



Action resulting in the formulation of new policies, modification of the existing one and implementation of laws to reduce the Air Pollution menace.

Students from various medical colleges; RG Kar Medical College, KPC Medical College, IPGMER Kolkata took part in this first workshop along with eminent Doctors, including; Dr Arup Halder, from Woodlands Multispeciality Hospital, Dr. Mainak Majumder from Fortis Hospital, Dr Suman Mallick from NH Narayana Super Speciality Hospital and Dr. Surupa Basu, from the Institute of Child Health.

Further to completion of the workshop session, medical students are expected to spread awareness among medical students, youth and their society by conducting at least 10 workshops and sensitizing at least 500 individuals. They would also have the opportunity to undertake studies and health camps under the guidance of esteemed doctors / medical professionals under SwitchON’s Doctor Forum for Clean Air Network.

Over 99.3% of India’s population breathes polluted air that is above the standards set by WHO. According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), an average Indian could increase life expectancy by 6.3 years, if the WHO guidelines on air quality are met. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization has called Air Pollution is the New Tobacco! It is one of the major factors contributing to Climate Change which is declared as Code Red by the

Panel discussion on entrepreneurship ignite young minds at The Heritage College Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN):The Heritage Economics Society of The Heritage College orga-

Institute of Technology described the origination of business in Kolkata and

way the event has been organized by the College students and the topic is much

you get is remarkable and that you will not get as a fresher going for a job,” said Mr.



nized a panel discussion on ‘Ease of doing Business in India-Myths & Reality’ as a part of ‘ECONOVA 2022’ the Heritage Economics Fest which was inaugurated by Dr. Sanat Kumar Saha, eminent scientist, former member, West Bengal State Council of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal as the Chief Guest followed by Dr. Anup Sinha, Chairman, Bandhan Bank & Chief Mentor, Heritage Business School, Kolkata as the Guest of Honour.

The panel discussion was addressed by Dr. Anup Sinha, Ms. Kavita Agarwal, Founder, Career After Family Enterprise, CS S.Sreejesh, Assistant Director, ICSI, ERIC and Mr. U p a m a n y u Chatterjee, a final year student from Heritage Institute of Technology and also C o - f o u n d e r - LectureNotes Technologies & RAU Industries. During the inaugural session, Dr. Basab Chaudhuri, Senior Director, KBT & Principal, Heritage

how the scenario got transformed in the pre & post-independence era. Prof. Amitabha Ghose, teacher-in-charge, The Heritage College spoke about the necessity to organize such events and how it helps the students to explore various avenues to learn more about entrepreneurship. Dr. Debashis Mazumdar, HOD, Department of Economics spoke about the theme of ECONOVA 2022 which is based on the synergy between entrepreneurship, economics & innovation. Dr. Sinha spoke about the hassles business enterprises face in terms of documentation and legal formalities which is why many people are not reluctant to make entrepreneurship as a career. “I have been teaching about business for the last 46 years and it is much easier than doing any business,” said Dr. Sinha during the panel discussion citing real-time examples.

Dr. Sanat Kumar Saha appreciated the

more relevant in today’s scenario where there is a need to align innovation with entrepreneurship for the betterment of the society. Ms. Kavita Agarwal spoke about how we can do explore entrepreneurship in unconventional areas and how the funding of capital is employed in those areas.

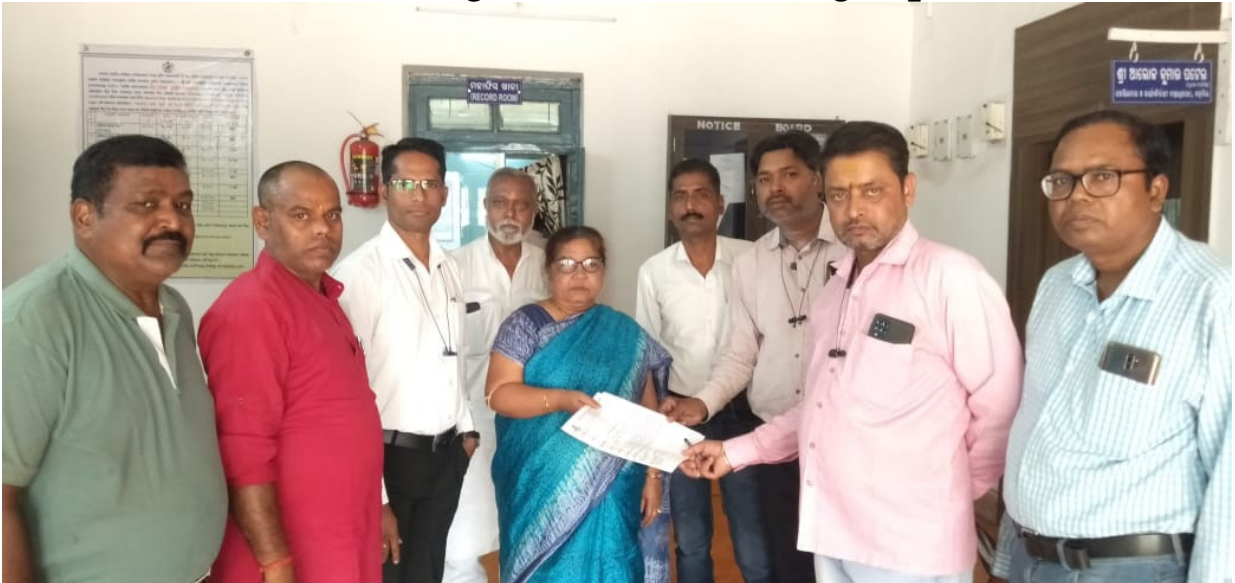
Mr. Upamanyu Chatterjee gave some real time examples from his own experience in establishing his own enterprise Collegeshala where he was the former CEO and how LectureNotes Technologies has acquired it by infusing INR 1.83 crores. Now currently LectureNotes Technologies raised \$ 2.5 million to multiply its presence in the EduTech market. He also spoke about the difficulties he faced establishing an EduTech company in India in terms of paper work, documentation, licenses and other legal formalities. “If you start your enterprise during your college days, the kind of experience

U p a m a n y u Chatterjee.

CS S. Sreejesh highlighted the legal aspects focusing on the laws which were made to support industry during the pre & post- independence era reflecting more on evaluation of policy decisions made by the government.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Rimu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Heritage Business School and also witnessed the presence of Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. “I believe that this event will be an eye opener for the students who want to be entrepreneurs in future. In the present scenario, we need more entrepreneurs. I am proud for Mr. Upamanyu Chatterjee who is a student of Heritage Institute of Technology and the way he succeeded as an entrepreneur is truly a live example for the others to follow,” said Shri Agarwal during the event.

RMF,Barbil raise voice against torture of Nilgiri police on a scribe



Barbil(KCN): It has come to notice that One reporter of an electronics media beaten and roughed up by one police IIC Droupadi Das posted at Nilagiri for silly incident. Victim reporter Loknath Dalai sustained unconscious by the torture and get admitted in District hospital ,Balasore.It is too painful to hear that victim was succumbed with a handcuff and chained at his leg during treatment at hospital. Regional Media Forum ,Barbil, handing over a letter addressing Chief Minister ,Odisha demanding an FIR be registered on the basis of complaints made by the individuals and

appropriate and time-bound action be taken against the police persons involved in the targeted assault. They also demand accountability from senior officers on whose directives the journalist was targeted. The IIC, accused of the grave charge of torture should be suspended forthwith, pending inquiry for a fair and impartial investigation to take place.Giridhar Lal,Sunil Das,Basant Mohapatra,Basant Mahant,Rasanand Behera,SarojMohapatra,Pradipta Dhal and Prasant Mohanty from different media house were present

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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

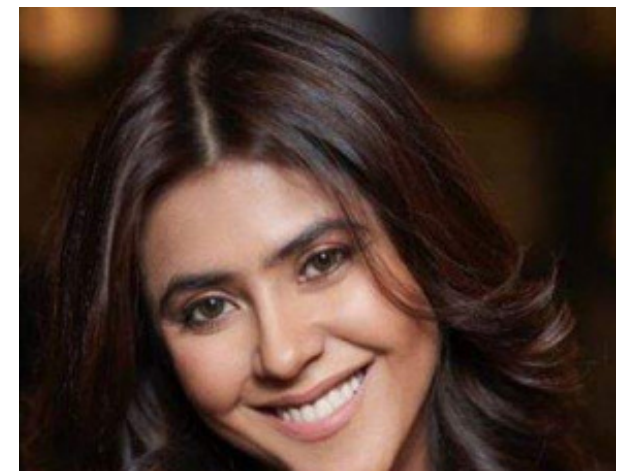
Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

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.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme Court granted interim protection to Ekta 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 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.

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

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

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.

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

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khushaamadeed. 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 dhamakedaar. 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."

India's "Forest Right Act" addresses the twin concerns of Indigenous issues and climate Justice

In India, 705 ethnic groups are notified as Scheduled Tribes (STs) spread across 30 States or Union Territories. These are considered to be India's indigenous peoples. These



indigenous people constitute the second largest tribal population in the world after Africa. As per 2011 census, with a population of 104.3 million, they comprise 8.6% of the total population of India – almost 90% of them living in rural areas. There are, however, many more ethnic groups that would qualify for Scheduled Tribe status but which are not officially recognized. India has several laws and constitutional provisions, such as the Fifth Schedule for mainland India and the Sixth Schedule for certain areas of northeast India which recognize indigenous peoples' rights to land and self-governance.

The 107th plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly held on 13th September 2007 adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through a Resolution. India is a signatory to this. The UN Resolution No. 61/295 of 2007 which had formed the basis of UN discussions, the concept of indigenous people was explained as below:

Indigenous communities, peoples, and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider

themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



own cultural patterns, social institutions, and legal systems.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has used the combined phrase 'indigenous and tribal populations' when it adopted the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention in 1957 (No. 107). The current Convention in use is of the year 1989 (No. 169)25. These Conventions do not offer any formal definition

of the term 'indigenous people'. Article 1 of the 1989 convention, however, states that the convention applies to "(a) tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or

by special laws or regulations; Under the Paris Agreement, India had committed to creating a cumulative carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030. Currently, India's forest and tree cover is about 24 percent of its geographical area, according to India's State of Forest Report 2017 and India has repeatedly highlighted that it

wants to bring at least 33 percent of its total area under green cover. The draft of India's National Forest Policy 2018 also mentions that to achieve the national goal for eco-security, the country should have a minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest and tree cover.

Indian experience with regard to the symbiotic relationship of indigenous communities and

forest ecology is quite unique in the sense that more than 30% of the landmass is being habituated by the indigenous groups who have been protecting the forest ecosystem on their own traditional way. The indigenous communities who had been residing within these forest landscapes for time immemorial have never been given their due share of rights over such landscapes simply for the fact that during the colonial period all these areas were declared as "Reserve Forest, Sanctuary and National Parks" They had been given a raw deal by the successive government of India policy regimes with more emphasis on biological diversity and ecological restoration and conservation. But with the enactment of the Forest Right Act in the year 2006, the Government of India recognized the fact that historical injustice is done to the forest dwellers, and hence this Act would undo the injustice and apart from endowing the indigenous communities with their right over forest resources both individual as well as community ownership but also empowered them to manage the common property resources. The Act is still in force and it is quite satisfying that this single piece of legislation could address the livelihood, economic and ecological security of not only the indigenous landscapes of India rather it has been able to ensure India's promise and commitment towards the welfare of indigenous communities and contributing towards our obligation towards the global climate justice protocols and Sustainable Development Goals.

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The Kashmir files and 1921 puzha muthal puzha vare - two movies on agony and horror

Movies can depict ideas and also help people change their views and vision on issues that have been haunting the human conscience for years. And history gives us space to recollect, recompose and re-live as there are plenty of leaflets of events which have got engraved into the collective consciousness of human lives with discomfort, disregard and wounds of agony and perils. All you need to do is to tear the pages of anguish from the already fading book of history and try to magnify them to clarity and for a better vision. The Kashmir Files is one such effort- a leaflet in the form of a film which began to itch the already settled wounds once again, forcing the collective minds of the country to wake up and excavate the truth of a genocide which remained buried under the heap of deliberately stitched fantasies, that we often celebrate in the name of secularism.

The film has broken box-office records and a large chunk of the population watched it with horror and dismay. History also brings out bitter realities unearthing them unexpectedly. Nobody, except for those who were part of the persecution, would know the reality in detail. Pressing thousands of people from the most beautiful state of Jammu and Kashmir to flee in exodus for the most disagreeable reason was the undeniable truth. History reveals for itself figuring the hidden facts for the rest of the world from antiquity. Now no mechanism, however strong it is, holds the power to wipe the tears of some hapless people who were thrown out of their land for the reason they did not resonate with the exclusivist thoughts of their neighbors. Fanning flames into the level of an ethnic cleansing that took place in a country which is the largest secular democratic republic with an absolute flavor of constitutional morality is the reality. Fueling and grueling a Hindu – Muslim chasm in the Kashmir valley, the genocide and the exodus of uncountable families of the pandits into the wilderness of India still remain an unpleasant memory.

The God's Own Country, Kerala also had its Kashmir moment long back. It was in

1921 Kerala witnessed similar episode of genocide and ethnic cleansing and barbarity. Malayalam film star Prithviraj Sukumaran had the harshest of social media attacks for his choosing the biopic on Variyankunnathu Kunjahammed Haji, one of the key controversial figures in the infamous Moplah rebellion of 1921 in Kerala. The state witnessed hundreds of Hindus being butchered behind the veil of the celebrated Khilafat movement. The movie was to be directed by Aashiq Abu with Prithviraj in the lead role purposefully trying to white-wash the Haji element of atrocities. A geno-

M. R. LALU



cide that was spearheaded by Kunjahammed Haji led to the massacre of thousands of Hindus, forcefully converting many and those who refused to accept thrown into wells and mud-filled alive. The movie wanted Haji to be projected as a humanitarian, propagating Hindu-Muslim unity while the real history was far from what the movie desperately wanted to project him as. In the movie, a particular community in the locality was unethically supporting the British and the Haji's efforts were to be projected as a rebellion against the colonial ways of the British, and he subsequently established a Malayala Nadu (land of Malayalis) for some time. So undoubtedly the biopic planned the Haji a superhero, a freedom fighter with no parallels. The violence, started against the Hindus on 20 August 1921 in the Malabar region and lasted almost for four months killing thousands and displacing many. Forcing to apostatize the beliefs of some people was the main demand and the region witnessed one-sided cruelty establishing a Khilafat Raj crowning a king who set to kill in abundance for the reason somebody in the area did not agree with the betrayal of their country and faith. Unprepared to withstand the heat of opposition from the

masses, the movie was later withdrawn. While supporting the Khilafat movement, Gandhi believed that he was standing for gaining the love and respect of Muslims, who indeed, he thought, would fight to gain the country's freedom with indubitable spirit. A campaign that gained momentum in India defending the Caliph of Turkey, who was feared to be stripped off his powers after the first world war; and Gandhi being made to believe that the campaign would follow his non-violent means but turned outrageous and a killing mission. Though the Haji's beatification remained an unsuccessful dream in the Ashiq Abu movie, another movie in the line of The Kashmir Files began to take shape by famous Malayalam director Ali Akbar. His movie '1921 Puzha Muthal Puzha Vare' is scheduled to show the atrocities run on the Hindus by Kunjahammed Haji and his henchmen. Ali Akbar was a Wazim Rizvi, converting to Hinduism with his family. He did this condemning the disrespectful reactions by some on the tragic death of the Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin



Rawat in the chopper crash. He said he was unable to patch up with the level of intolerance in the religion that he followed. Gandhi, who believed that India's freedom was not possible without Hindu-Muslim unity, supported the Khilafat movement, unable to understand the undercurrent of mistrust and discontent that some in the movement cherished while slitting the throats of their innocent neighbors. Ali Akbar- now named Ramasimhan is all set to release the movie next September which he developed with the partnership of the

public. The period between 1989 to 1991 was a period of political instability in India. The country had four prime ministers in this period and this was evident for a tumultuous democratic complexity that the country had been through. Probably the exodus and the social extermination of a section of the society from heaven on the earth did not get much attention as the Doordarshan, run by the government, depicted the beauty of the valley to houseful audiences conveniently covering the blood stain on the canyons. Vivek Agnihotri's daring enterprise has created a whirlwind of emotions. People watching the movie reacted piercingly to the plight that the Kashmiri pandits suffered and held the political leadership of the country and the state responsible for the predicament. Historical inscriptions reveal the fact that the freedom movement by the Moplahs in the Malabar region of Kerala had done nothing serious to harm the British. The aggressor took the situation as an opportunity to prowl on the innocent people across the region and vent their fury. No doubt, certain jihadi elements of the

Malabar region today began to demand a particular state on religious lines chiseling the present Malabar out of the Kerala State where a particular community is the majority. Lessons in history never end. The Ali Akbar movie would also speak the truth loudly to an audience, who would come out wiping tears and imprecations haunted by paranoia. Constitutional morality would grin for its own meaninglessness and from the fading pages of history, we can hear the lamentations of truth, struggling to find light and send waves of shudder once again to our collective consciousness.

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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.

The lawmakers urged the speaker of Parliament to lead discussions with all parties to select an interim prime minister with the support of a majority of legislators. The largest opposition party, however, said it will not support any interim government and insisted that the president resign immediately.

"We must heed the voices in the streets. The government should go, starting from the president," said Sajith Premadasa, leader of the United People's Force, or SJB.

The SJB has 54 of Parliament's 225 seats. The governing coalition controlled nearly 150 seats before the current crisis but is believed to have lost the support of some lawmakers. Sri Lanka's Cabinet resigned Sunday night after thousands of people defied a

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 Wijaya Dasa 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

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.

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 years has spread deep disillusionment with the country's political system.

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, Sibusish 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.

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 Ukrainian 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.

SER inaugurated Water Recycling & Coach Washing Plants

Kolkata (KCN): Ms. Archana Joshi, General Manager, South Eastern Railway inaugurated a Water Recycling-cum-Effluent Treatment Plant at Santragachi and an Automatic Coach



Washing Plant at Padmapukur, Shalimar on 7th April 2022. Sri P K Mandal, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, Sri Manoranjan Pradhan, Divisional Railway Manager, Kharagpur and other Senior Officers were also present.

The Water Recycling-cum-Effluent Treatment Plant at Santragachi is with a capacity of 100 KLD has been commissioned at a cost of Rs.69 lakh. Waste water generated after cleaning of coaches contains various chemical elements. This Effluent Treatment Plant recycles the polluted water by filtration and

makes it ready for reuse. The Automatic Coach Washing Plant has been installed at Padmapukur Coaching Depot, Shalimar at a cost of Rs.1.68 crore. This plant is sensor based and can wash a full train of 24 coaches within 7-8 minutes. The washing procedure is totally automatic and can be



operated practically without any manpower. This is a highly cost effective method using minimum water for washing the exterior of train coaches.

Later, the General Manager has also inspected the construction work at Shalimar Station to develop it as a full fledged terminal of South Eastern Railway. SER is initiating environment friendly multiple measures to improve quality of services.

Odisha: Rs 2 crore cash seized from irrigation engineer

BERHAMPUR: In one of the highest ever



seizures of cash, on Thursday, sluths of Vigilance Kartikeswar Roul, Assistant Engineer at office of Executive En-

gineer, Minor Irrigation, Bhanjanagar was

ate to known source of his income.



During the second day of search, the sleuths stumbled upon Rs 2 crore in cash which is

Journalists of Khordha Strongly Condemned the Action of Nilagiri Police

Khordha (KCN): A Journalist arrested by Nilagiri police in Basleswar District for assaulting a home guard was found with his leg chained to the hospital bed where he was ad-



mitted for treatment following his arrest on Thursday. The Journalist Lokanath Dalei was arrested by the police on charges of allegedly beating up and abusing home guard. A case was registered against him. He was also asked to appear at the police station. As soon as Lokanath Dalei the Journalist reached the police station his mobile phone was snatched and he was reportedly roughed up until he collapsed. After his conditions deteriorated he was taken to the District Head Quatre Hospital Basleswar. Where police kept a watch over him and even chained his leg to the hospital bed. This created a huge outrage. The Journalists of Khordha have termed this incidents "Barbaric" and strongly condemned that stringent action should be taken against the IIC, of Nilagiri police station. The Journalist was unchained on Thursday following protests by his family members and friends. Various organization across the states demand action against the IIC Nilagiri police station for met-

ing out inhuman treatment for the Journalist after he was admitted to the hospital. The Journalist of Khordha submitted a memorandum address to Chief Minister of Odisha through Collector Khordha demanding in order to maintain the confidence high ranking officials should investigate properly and take firm action against those involved in such incidents. In a democracy dissenting opinions have to be respected. But beating a Journalist like a professional criminal is not a acceptable in a healthy society. The media is the fourth pillar of democracy. In odisha it has not been good for the state to harass Journalist in the post



few days. The Journalists of Khordha Prakash Kumar Hati, Santosh Kumar Barik, Dillip Kumar Pattnaik, Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya, Subhranshu Ranjan Samantaray, Pravat Kumar Mishra, Praveen Kumar Bhanja, Niranjana Dora, Prabhat Panigrahi, Lambodara Dash, Lohit Narayan Mohapatra, Sangram Keshari Hota, Surya Narayan Mohanty, Tapan Kumar Nayak, Sayed Ansar Ali, Subhalakshmi Samantaray, Prasanta Kumar Sahoo, P. Tripati Balaji Patro, Ranjit Samantaray, Rabi Narayan Sahoo and others were present.

Barbil is prepared to observe 71st Ram Navami in the city

Barbil (KCN): A meeting was held at the Barbil police station to celebrate Ram Navami



peacefully in presence of Himansu Behera SDPO and Sushant Dash IIC Barbil 14 Akhada and other police officials joined the meeting. Tarachand Sharma, chairman of the Gan and Hanuman temple committee, Dillip Mishra, vice-chairman, Devprasad Mishra, Secretary, Jitendra Jha, joint secretary and members Padmalochan Das, Raja Gupta along with many dignitaries of the town were present on the occasion. While addressing public Tarchand elaborated the programme. According to his statement the programme

would start on 10th morning followed by worship, arati and Jhanda Puja. All akhadas

will join the worship with their flag from their place. After arriving at the Hanuman Temple, all members will march in around the city with a procession. At the evening all participant would assemble at Vikas mahal. Irrespective of all Akhada different games, dances and physical exercises would be performed and felicitated the performers as per schedule. Due to Covid protocol this functions had not been observed since last two years and people of Barbil are eagerly awaiting to witness the occasion.

Honorary D. Litt to Dr. R. Elangovan



Chennai (KCN): Dr R Elangovan, Professor and Head, Faculty of Yoga Science and Therapy (FYST) of Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research (MAHER) (Deemed to be University) Chennai have been honoured with *D'Litt(Hon)* award from St. Mother Theresa University, Melbourne, Australia at Dubai, United Arab Emirates recently in recognition of his Academic achievements and social activities.

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Ashneer Grover writes to Bharatpe board for action against CEO, demands Chairman's resignation

NEW DELHI: Former Bharatpe chief Ashneer Grover has written to the company's board seeking action against CEO Suhail Sameer following his offensive remarks on social media and sought resignation of Chairman Rajnish Kumar. In response to a comment by Ashneer's sister Aashima on a

behaviour and immediately put on leave of absence to manage the damage on the brand of the company. "Suhail has to conclusively prove to the board that he was not under the influence of alcohol and drugs when he put the said reply on LinkedIn," Grover said. On Thursday, he tweeted that Bharatpe

cent in March 2022 over Feb 2022, the spokesperson said. "Going forward, we are tracking well to break even on our merchant business and further strengthen our consumer business. We request the media to take official comments from the company and not from former employees who no longer have

apology from Sameer and in absence of the same, he and his sister may seek damages and pursue criminal defamation against the Bharatpe CEO and the company. Sameer had apologised for his remarks after it earned criticism from several people in social media. "Moreover, Chairman Rajnish Kumar



social media post by former Bharatpe employee Karan Sarki, Sameer said "Behentere bhai ne saara paisa chura liya (Sister, your brother has stolen all the money). Very little left to pay salaries". Sarki in the post had raised the issue of sacking of old staff and non-payment of salaries. Grover in the letter dated April 8, a copy of which is reviewed by PTI, said Sameer's language in response to the aforesaid social media post is not only defamatory but "also blatantly a public lie and admission of the company being bankrupt by no less than its own CEO and member of the board". "Going by precedents and self-proclaimed high standards of this board, the CEO should be immediately served a show cause notice for his despicable public

"closed its first quarter of 'degrowth' and 'maximum cash burn' under able (sic) leadership of Rajnish Kumar and Suhail Sameer. ALSO READ | 'Ashneer stole all money': BharatPe CEO's fresh jibe" However, a Bharatpe spokesperson said the company registered the strongest quarter in its history. "We have registered 4x growth in our overall revenue over the same period last year. On a sequential-quarter basis, the growth has been 30 per cent, despite the third wave of Covid-19. Comparing month-on-month, all our metrics have grown at the fastest pace," the spokesperson said. Bharatpe's merchant total payments value (TPV) grew 17 per cent, consumer TPV 39 per cent, loans facilitated 31 per cent, and revenue 21 per

business information," the spokesperson said. Grover in the letter said that Sameer's all dealings should be audited by an independent auditor and he should only be reinstated as CEO once the audit report is tabled with the board and it exonerates him of any wrongdoing. "Anything lesser in terms of action here would undeniably prove what is a fact - that what was done to me was a well planned discriminatory conspiracy by the board at behest of investors, not a governance review," Grover said. Bharatpe had removed Grover from all positions in March at the company and alleged to have also found involvement of Grover's family and relatives in extensive misappropriation of the company's funds. Grover has demanded a written

should immediately resign. The current incident clearly brings out the fact that Rajnish Kumar condoning the life threat to me by Bhavik Koladiya from his own house and all the planned media leaks leading to my resignation in self respect, have further emboldened the current management to act as hooligans," Grover said. He said the management feels that they have got a 'carte blanche' from the board and its chairman to target him and his family without fear of any repercussions. "It also proves that in the Governance Review which was supposed to be all encompassing, the chairman refused to look into the allegations made against Suhail altogether, further leading him to believe he is above everything," Grover said.

Raising salaries difficult and thorny issue but IndiGo will constantly review wages: CEO

NEW DELHI: Raising salaries is a difficult and thorny issue but IndiGo will constantly

review and adjust wages based on its profitability and the competitive environment, the airline's CEO Ronjoy Dutta said on Friday. IndiGo had on Monday suspended a few pilots who were planning to organise a strike on Tuesday to protest against the pay cuts that were implemented during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic. In a communicate to employees on Friday, Dutta said the issue of salaries is on everyone's mind. "It is a difficult and thorny issue but I think the underlying imperatives are to consider the wage structure in competitive industries, to take into account the profitability of the company, to empathize with employees trying to earn a living wage in an inflationary environment and above all to consider the contributions made by employees every single day to the success of this company," he noted.

Kitchen vandalism: SOP on Srimandir security approved

Continued from page-1 jointly by the JTP and OSAP personnel every night after closing of the sanctum sanctorum. Meanwhile, Jagan Mahapatra, the accused arrested for allegedly desecrating the kitchen of Srimandir, was produced in the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) court. He was remanded to 14-day judicial custody.

BJP urges Naveen to accept Ayushman Bharat in interest of poor patients

Continued from page-1 non-cooperation of hospitals empanelled under the scheme, he alleged. "We failed to understand why the BJD government is depriving such a large number of people to avail the benefit of the Central scheme despite repeated requests by the Prime Minister and Union ministers from the State," Mohanty said. He once again requested Naveen to implement the scheme that will not only benefit the people of Odisha but Odia people living outside the State.

Displaced tribals face murder bid and molest charges for opposing ROB

Continued from page-1 scribing the project site as disputed and demanding immediate stoppage of work. Around 4,000 acre of land was acquired between 1954 and 1964 in and around Bondamunda and the R&R issues of 700 tribal displaced persons are yet to be resolved.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe (NCST) had directed Odisha government not to dislocate tribal land oustees till settlement of R&R issues and the administration to consult them before taking up any construction work. However, four houses of tribals located near the ROB project site were demolished without notice and their agriculture crops also damaged, Oram said in his memorandum. But Bisra tehsildar Jyotsnarani Sahu claimed that the houses demolished for the alignment of the ROB project were unauthorised and constructed on encroached land of SER. The ROB project on the busy Howarah-Mumbai main line of SER could not take off for the last two years due to tribal protest. On March 17, work started amid police protection and from that day, a small group of agitators led by Oram was staging protest near the construction site.

Rourkela SP Mukesh K Bhamoo denied allegation of police atrocities. Action was taken against the agitators only after a large crowd defied prohibitory orders on March 28 and tried to forcibly stop work and paralyse the road connecting Jharkhand without having any valid documents to sustain their claims. "A vast section of people in Bisra favour the project. Police took action only against those who violated laws," the SP added.

RBI Monetary Policy: 17 things you should know about Repo Rate

- Continued from page-1 home loans till March 31, 2023.
- The move is expected to keep the new housing loans sanctioned cheaper. This will facilitate higher credit flow for individual housing loans.
 - The RBI proposed to make cardless cash withdrawal facility available across all banks and ATM networks using the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
 - Currently, the facility of cardless cash withdrawal is limited only to a few banks. This will ease transactions and help prevent frauds like card skimming, card cloning.
 - RBI proposed to reduce the net worth requirement of entities like Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) from Rs 100 crore to Rs 25 crore.
 - This will facilitate greater penetration of bill payments through it and will encourage participation of a greater number of non-bank Bharat Bill Payment operating units in the BBPS.
 - Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), an interoperable platform for bill payments, has seen an increase in the volume of bill payments and billers over the years.
 - The Reserve Bank of India also proposed to issue guidelines on 'Cyber Resilience and Payment Security Controls for Payment System Operators'.
 - It is in an effort to ensure payment systems remain resilient to conventional and emerging risks, specifically those related to cybersecurity. Das said.

Kadyrov's men: a brutal force serving Putin in Ukraine

Continued from page-1 republic of Chechnya. Kadyrov welcomed Putin's invasion of Ukraine and immediately said he would send forces there.

The 45-year-old bearded autocrat claimed last month that he had personally travelled to Mariupol, Ukraine's besieged port that has suffered the worst devastation since the Kremlin launched its attack. He posted a photo of himself posing with around 30 men, saying it was in Mariupol. He also claimed he had found and "punished" with his own hands a Ukrainian soldier who had tortured a Russian.

His men regularly boast of proudly having "taken" wounded Ukrainian soldiers. Such brutality lives up to the reputation the Kadyrovtsy earned in the Kremlin's previous conflicts -- from Chechnya to Ukraine in 2014 and Syria. Aurelie Campana, an expert in political violence and Russia at the University of Laval in Canada, said the deployment of the Kadyrovtsy is part of Moscow's "psychological war" on Ukraine.

"The announcement of the entry into the war of Kadyrov's troops and the propaganda that surrounds it are part of this effort to destabilise the enemy," she said.

'Breeding fear' "They are known for their cruelty," Campana wrote in an analysis on The Conversation website.

"Involving Chechen troops serves to fuel fear within the Ukrainian population."

At the start of the war, rumours spread that Putin -- counting on a quick overthrow of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had sent the Chechens to kill him.

Kadyrov had also vowed that Zelensky would soon be "the former president of Ukraine". Zelensky then became the symbol of the resistance of an entire nation, defying Putin with daily social media appearances that are popular globally, in which he often mocks the Kadyrovtsy.

How many of the Chechen forces are in Ukraine?

Kadyrov himself said in mid-March around 1,000 of his men were there. There is no way to verify the figure.

"Nobody knows exactly how many Chechens are fighting in Ukraine or where exactly they are deployed," Russian political expert Alexei Malashenko.

Other Chechens, those who oppose Kadyrov, have joined Ukrainian forces to fight the Kremlin.

Experts say the Kadyrovtsy have been sent by the Kremlin to maintain order.

While their brutality is unquestionable, their success are yet to be proven.

Kadyrov had triumphantly announced that his men had captured Mariupol's city hall, before publishing a video that showed he was in fact referring to a different administrative building.

"Kadyrov is taking part in the Ukraine operation to show his total loyalty to Putin and to keep his influence," political expert Konstantin Kalachev said.

"For him, the operation is personal publicity." 'Disciplining the Russians'

The Chechen leader is himself suspected of being behind several high-profile assassinations in Russia -- including of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov and journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

His commander in Mariupol Ruslan Geremeyev is believed to have organised the gunning down of Boris Nemtsov right by the Kremlin walls in 2015.

Geremeyev was injured in late March while fighting Ukrainian forces in Mariupol.

In Ukraine, the Kadyrovtsy could also serve as a force to discipline Russian soldiers as they had done with pro-Moscow separatists in the 2014 war, some commentators say.

"The experience of Kadyrov's troops could not only be an asset to overcome local Ukrainian resistance but also for disciplining Russian troops and their cronies," Campana wrote.

Indeed, Kadyrov's men have few friends in the Russian army, where resentment left over from bloody wars in Chechnya in the 1990s still runs high.

"But Putin trusts them completely," Malashenko said.

"For Kadyrov, participating in the Ukraine operation is a personal success."

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 round-of-

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 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 Sta-



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

dium, 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.

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.

Korea Open: Sindhu beats Busanan Ongbamrunghan to storm into semi-finals

SOUTH KOREA: Third seed PV Sindhu beats



seventh seed Busanan Ongbamrunghan of Thailand in straight games to enter the semi-finals of the Korea Open Badminton Championships 2022 on Friday here at the Palma Sta-

dium. Two-time Olympic Champion PV Sindhu was trailing 2-5 in the opening game but the Indian clawed her way back winning four points on the trot to take a 6-5 lead. From there on there was no looking back for the World No.7 Indian as she won eight consecutive points en route to winning the game 21-10.

In the second game, Sindhu took a lead right from the start and took an 8-2 lead. The Indian shuttler maintained the lead against the Thai shuttler Busanan Ongbamrunghan winning the game 21-16.

PV Sindhu won the quarter-final match 21-10 21-16 in 43 minutes and she will take on either local girl and second seed An Seyoung of South Korea or Saena Kawakami of Japan.

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 the 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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