

## CONCERN FOR CALCUTTA

# Appeal to stop use of plastic carry bags to save environment

Kolkata(KCN): Concern for Calcutta and Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan organised a campaign for protection of environment on Sunday at Lansdown Market. Speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion Sandip Ranjan Bakshi, Member MIC, Kolkata Municipal Corporation appealed to public to



stop use of plastic carry bags and instead use Cloth Bags for Shopping to save drainage and environment. He appreciated the efforts of Concern for Calcutta and Rotary Club of Calcutta Metroplotan for organising the admirable programme. Mamta Binani, President, Concern for Calcutta; Dr. Somen Ghosh, President, Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, Narayan Jain, Chairman, Advisory Board of Concern for Calcutta and KS Adhikari, Chairman CC Environment

Committee and senior member SR Singhvi also spoke on the occasion. The NGOs also distributed the Big garbage bins to Tea Shops and Eateries so that garbage is not spread on the roads. President Mamta Binani expressed gratitude to Ramakant Burman of Green tech Environ Management Pvt Ltd. for providing cloth Bags for distribution and SR Singhvi for providing Dustbins.

On this occasion Pawan Paharia, Lekha



Sharma, Jagat Baid, JK Sharma, Prakash Parakh, Rtn. Dr V.K. Nevatia, Rakesh Goyal, Shashi Bacholia, Maitri Ray, Deboosree Dema Kar, Pratibha Kothari, Arundhati Mukherjee, Dr Dipankar Adhya, Bidyut Poddar, Bibhas Maiti, AC Baid, Subrotoi Sinha and others actively supported for the success of the campaign.

# Phase-7 of UP Polls 2022: Battle lines drawn between Modi's Kashi, Akhilesh's Azamgarh

VARANASI(KCN): As the poll juggernaut enters the seventh gate of UP proverbial 'Chakryuh' comprising nine districts of Purvanchal to witness the final assault on Monday, March 7, the stage is set with the Modi-Yogi combination ready to save the fort for the BJP on one side and Akhilesh Yadav, leading the Samajwadi Party from the front, on the other. Also, Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's Congress are out to prove they are no pushovers. In the last leg, the battle is likely to get fiercest with the pride of Varanasi, the Modi bastion and Azamgarh, the stronghold of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav, at stake. Moreover, the fight is believed to be straight between the BJP and SP on maximum seats barring a few where the BSP is posing a challenge to the main players.

Around 613 candidates are in the fray spread across nine districts comprising Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra, in the final phase of the 7-phased UP polls. In the last phase, if ruling BJP has the tough task of sustaining its dominance besides making forays into so far unexplored territories, the

main opposition, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav faces the challenge of not only defending his stronghold in Azamgarh but also expanding its influence across the region. In a way, both BJP and SP will depend on their respective allies' performance to sail through in this region.

Of the 54 constituencies that go to polls on Monday, 11 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes which fall in Sonbhadra. In the 2017 assembly elections, 29 of these 54 seats were won by the BJP and seven by its allies-- Apna Dal (S) and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP). The SP was victorious on 11 seats and six had gone to BSP. NISHAD had won one seat of Gyanpur in Bhadohi. Congress had failed to open an account in this phase in 2017. However, this time the SBSP is contesting as SP ally with its influence over Rajbhar voters across a dozen and a half seats in Ghazipur, Mau,



## CM Seeks PM's intervention

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on

from Odisha and other parts of India had to return back

ready gone through the trauma of being in the war zone," the Mr. Patnaik assured Mr. Modi full support from Government of Odisha for implementing a workable solution for this purpose.



Sunday sought intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for continuance of studies of medical students returned from Ukraine due to prevailing war situation.

The Chief Minister has written a letter to the PM in this regard. In view of the situation in Ukraine, a large number of medical students

home. The disruption in their studies is likely to continue until cessation of the hostilities and restoration of normalcy in their universities in Ukraine, Mr. Patnaik said.

"This is an unprecedented crisis that has the potential of disrupting the careers of several thousands of young men and women who have al-

CM pointed out.

Therefore, he sought urgent intervention of the PM with the National Medical Commission and the ministries concerned to enable and facilitate continuance of their studies in the medical colleges in India from the stage from which their studies in Ukraine have been disrupted on account of the war.

According to sources about 500 students from Odisha were moved to Ukraine to study medical courses. Many of them have returned safely to India following the war between Russia and Ukraine. Due to such a situation, the career of these students has been put in the dark. Earlier, the Indian Medical Association had also urged the Government of India to come up with a policy to give wings to the dreams of all the medical students who suffered due to war.

## Russia-Ukraine War LIVE Updates

# Ukraine warns Russia preparing to shell port city Odessa

Russian/Ukrain (KCN): President Vladimir Putin has warned that Ukrainian statehood is in jeopardy and likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war", while a promised cease-fire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed amid scenes of terror.

With the Kremlin's rhetoric growing fiercer and a reprieve from fighting dissolving, Russian troops continued to shell encircled cities and the number of Ukrainians forced from their country grew to 1.4 million.

By Saturday night Russian forces had intensified their shelling of Mariupol, while dropping powerful bombs on residential areas of Chernihiv, a city north of Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said.

Putin continued to pin the blame for all of it squarely on the Ukrainian leadership and slammed their resistance to the invasion. "If they continue to do what they are doing, they are calling into question the future of Ukrainian statehood," he said. "And if this happens, it will be entirely on their conscience."

A barrage of Russian missiles destroyed the airport in Vinnytsia in central Ukraine on Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. "I have just been informed about a missile strike on Vinnytsia. Eight rockets... The airport was

completely destroyed," he said. A Ukrainian official says a second attempt to evacuate civilians from a southern city under siege for a week has failed due to continued



Russian shelling. Evacuations from the port city of Mariupol were scheduled to begin at noon local time (10 a.m. GMT) during a 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. local ceasefire, Ukrainian military authorities said earlier.

Ukraine has told the International Atomic Energy Agency that two out of the 6 reactors at the country's largest Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Station are working and the radiation levels are normal, days after Russian forces took control of the site in the country's south-east, IAEA Director General Rafael CONTINUED ON: P-7

Varanasi, Chandauli and pockets in Mirzapur.

Of the 11 reserved seats, BJP had won seven, SP three, Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) had won one seat. However, both the ST seats had gone to the BJP and its ally

Apna Dal (S) in 2017. In the last phase of the battle, BJP is depending on the charisma of PM Narendra Modi as the sole influencer in the region. Taking the command of the BJP campaign in his hands, PM Modi camped in Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency, for 29 hours to make the equations favourable for the BJP as its sitting MLAs had been facing strong anti-incumbency not only in Varanasi but in adjoining districts as well.

It is believed that Modi's presence in Varanasi on poll eve might have turned the situation in BJP's favour owing to PM's popularity and his mass connect. Besides, the BJP has also been pinning its hopes on the beneficiaries of the welfare schemes and the women voters among whom the law and order issue is seen to have a clear resonance. 2017 outstanding performance of the BJP in the region was well supported by allies -- Apna Dal (S) and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP). They

had played a big role in ensuring BJP's expansion in this belt through the support of Kurmi and the Rajbhar. The Nishad party, which had contested independently in 2017 had won one seat. This outfit representing the boatmen community present in considerable chunks across the eastern UP is now with the BJP and has three candidates in the seventh phase. On the other, SBSP, in alliance with the SP, is set to benefit the main opposition party in its final assault. SBSP, led by OP Rajbhar, is contesting on 17 seats across the state of which eight are at stake in the final phase. The SP leadership is depending upon the Rajbhar vote to combine with the strong presence of Yadav-OBC in this region to get an edge over the BJP.

SP may also poach upon BJP's Kurmi vote bank which had shifted to it in 2017 after its alliance with Apna Dal (S) led by Anupriya Patel, younger daughter of a tall Kurmi leader of the region Sonelal Patel. This time, Akhilesh Yadav has made the other faction -- Apna Dal (K) -- led by Anupriya's mother Krishna Patel, part of his rainbow alliance.

While Apna Dal (S) is contesting four seats, the other faction is contesting five seats in alliance with the SP in the final phase.

Moreover, with renovated and revamped Kashi Vishwanath Dham and the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya, BJP will also hope to capitalise on the Hindutva factor beyond the caste fault lines in the last phase. PM Modi, during CONTINUED ON: P-7

# 2107 candidates file Nomination

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 2,107 candidates have filed their nomination papers for election to various posts in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). According to the State Election Commission (SEC), 189 candidates have submitted their nominations for the post of Chairperson



and Mayor while 1918 candidates have filed papers for the post of Councillor and Corporator in the civic bodies.

On Sunday alone, 124 nominations were filed for Chairperson and Mayor position and 1498 for Councillor/ Corporator chair.

In the meanwhile, all three major political parties, BJD, BJP and Congress have declared their Mayor candidates for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Cuttack Municipal Corporations (CMC).

Both BJD and BJP have picked up the Mayor candidate for Berhampur. However, the state unit of Congress is yet to declare its Mayor candidate for Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

Governing BJD announced the name of Rajya Sabha MP Subash Singh for the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Mayor election while Sulochana Das will fight the Mayor election in BMC and Sanghamitra Dalei for Berhampur.

Similarly, BJP on Sunday announced that Odia actor Sritam Das as its mayor candidate for CMC and Sabita Suar for BeMC. Earlier, the saffron party has announced Suniti Mund as the party's mayor candidate for BMC.

On the other hand, the Congress has named Madhusmita Acharya and Giribala Behera as its Mayor candidate for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, respectively. The party is yet to finalise its Mayor candidate for BeMC.

For the first time, there will be direct election for Mayor chair in the three corporations. Elections to 47 Municipalities, 59 Notified Area Councils (NACs) and three Municipal Corporations including CMC will be held on March 24. The election results will be declared on March 26.



## Padma Shri P.R. Agarwala felicitates the achievers at Heritage Institute of Technology

Kolkata(KCN): On 4th March 2022, at the



lected for the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on 26th January 2022. She was one of the 23 girl students who were selected from the State of West Bengal. The achievers also included Ms. Archi Chomal and Ms. Amisha Jodhani, Final Year students of Computer Science & Engineering who were selected for Google for the positions of Software Engineer and Mr. Sumit Agarwal, an Alumnus of 2010 batch of Com-

puter Science and Engineering, Ex - TCS, Award 2022 in the field of Trade & Industry. The moment witnessed the presence of Shri Vikram Swarup, Chairman, The Heritage School, Vice Chairman, Kalyan Bharti Trust (KBT), Shri N.P.Dalmia, Trustee, Kalyan Bharti Trust and Member, Board of Governors, Heritage Institute of Technology, Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Prof. B.B.Paira, Founding Director, Heritage Institute of Technology, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Shri Probir Roy, Director, KBT, Shri P.K.Agarwal, CEO, KBT and other members of the Board of Governors of the Institute. 'It is indeed a proud moment for the entire Heritage Family,' said Shri P.K.Agarwal, CEO, KBT.

In-charge of SAP ERP and E-commerce Head with LUX Industries. Currently Sumit is also the Director at Sanwara Fashions looking after Brand Development, Online Presence, Web Development, Advertisement Strategy and Strategic Consulting. The members of the Board of Governors also felicitated Shri P.R.Agarwala officially for being conferred the Padma Shri

## Elderly man gunned down in broad daylight

KENDRAPARA(KCN): An elderly man was gunned down by three miscreants in broad daylight in front of his house at Babakarpur village within Mahakalpada police limits here on Saturday afternoon. He was identified as 62-year-old Arabinda Mishra, a retired panchayat executive officer. Arabinda's wife Minati Mishra (58) and her son Suvakesh Mishra (28) also suffered gunshot injuries in the attack and are undergoing treatment in Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH) in a critical condition. The crime took place at around 3 pm. Sources said three motorcycle-borne miscreants stopped in front of Arabinda's house and called him outside. When the elderly man stepped out, he was gunned down. Hearing gunshots, Minati and Suvakesh rushed outside but they too were fired

upon. Arabinda along with his wife and son was rushed to the DHH. While he was declared brought dead by doctors, Minati and Suvakesh were admitted. Mahakalpada IIC Manoranjan Chaudhury said the exact motive behind the crime is yet to be ascertained. Police suspect that past enmity may be the reason behind the murder and the miscreants were supari killers. As two miscreants have been nabbed, the case will be cracked soon. "Police have registered a case under Sections 302 and 34 of the IPC and Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act. We seized some fake number plates from the bike. Police have sealed all the roads and are raiding several hideouts to nab the third miscreant who fled after committing the crime," the IIC added.

## Municipal election at Barbil is getting clamoured

Barbil(KCN):The Barbil municipality has been in turmoil

Congress as well. As the election for chairman is direct and

and Dev Ranjan Naik are said to be the aspirant candidate



since the announcement of the municipal election. There have been competition between various parties and other aspiring candidates. It is too seen many are hopeful from all parties. While the Communist Party is not in the fray, there are many aspirants from, the Biju Janata Dal the Bharatiya Janata Party and

unreserved, the fighting would be tough for all. According to sources, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has the names of former Municipality chairman Dillip Mishra, businessman Chandragupta Prasad and Vikas Sarogi, while Bijay Mohanty, former vice chairman of municipality Laxman Mahant, Prabhudatta Pradhan

from Biju Janata Dal. Similarly, Ashok Thackeray and Vijay Swain are expected from the Congress party. MD Arusand Grabiell Munda are said to be the independent candidate. Voters are hoping that the polls will be of close contest between two major candidates from BJP and BJD. As per source 88 numbers of

## Barbil Municipal election- a preview

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hoping that the polls will be of close contest between two major candidates from BJP and BJD. While interacting

good number of BJP. Support voters. Whoile Bijay Mohanty being loyal to BJD and considered as

the independent candidate from Muslim community would take maximum number of vote from his community and



are said to be the aspirant candidate from Biju Janta Dal. Similarly, Ashok Thackeray and Vijay Swain are expected from the Congress party. MD Arus is said to be the independent candidate. Voters are

with the voters different people have opined differently. Dillip Mishra has managed very smoothly in his tenure and Barbil municipality awarded twice may fascinate people to cast in his favour. He too have

spotless man would bag good vote, other remarked. Laxman Mahant have number of fan following in the area and a good number of voter from younger generation would cast vote in his favour, other remarked. Arus being

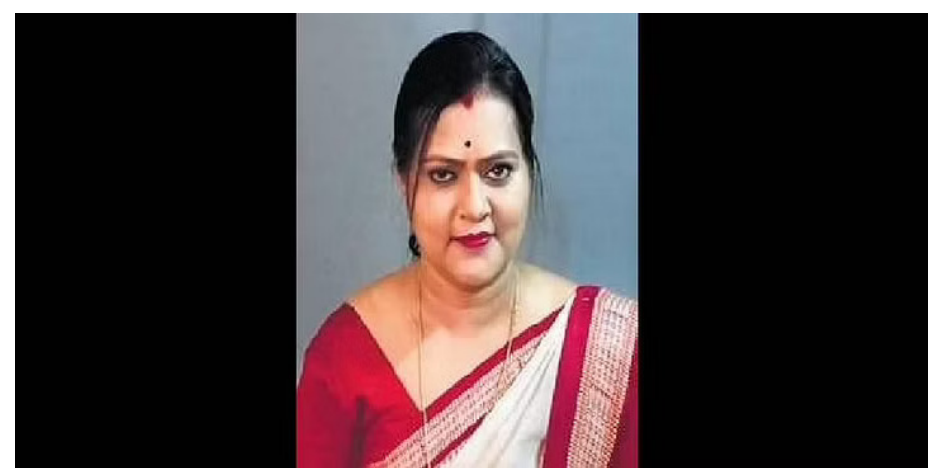
may stand in as an important factor for vote division. Similarly decedent from all party may conspire against party candidate which might turn calculation wrong, other remarks.

## Congress pins hope on Madhusmita Acharya for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Mayor poll

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Even as speculations abound over the mayoral candidates of BJD and BJP for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Congress on Friday announced Madhusmita Acharya as its

Congress committee has also announced candidates for 30 wards in BMC in the first phase.

The ruling BJD and BJP are, however, yet to announce their candidates for the post of mayor for BMC which has been reserved for women. Bhubaneswar Municipality was headed by a woman Kiran Bala Mangaraj of the Janata Dal in 1993 when Biju Patnaik was the chief minister. Congress has already announced



candidate for the post. Announcing this after a meeting of the Congress Election Committee, party MLA and president of the Khurda district Congress committee Suresh Kumar Routray said that the Congress has a good chance of winning the polls in BMC this time.

A former president of the Kamala Nehru College in Bhubaneswar, Madhusmita is also an entrepreneur, sportsperson and Odissi dancer. She is the daughter-in-law of former Congress MLA from Dharamsala, Kangali Charan Panda. Sources said that Acharya has been announced as the Congress candidate overlooking the claims of Rashmi Mohapatra, who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Assembly elections from the Ekamra Assembly constituency. The Bhubaneswar district

Giribala Behera, a former corporator as its candidate for the post of mayor of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). Meanwhile, election committees of both BJP and Congress met here today to discuss strategy for the ensuing urban local body polls to improve performance and avoid results similar to the panchayat elections.

According to the office of the State Election Commission (SEC), a total of 28 candidates have filed their nomination papers for the post of mayors and chairpersons of ULBs so far. Similarly, 145 candidates have filed their papers for councillors and corporators. The filing of nominations for election to the 106 ULBs and three municipal corporations began on March 2 and will conclude on March 7.



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# NRI accuses Shilpa Shetty, hubby Raj Kundra of cheating in 'gold scam'

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra

Mumbai. When contacted, an official of Khar Police Station told

deemable in stages with attractive discounts -- 15 per cent after two years, 26

However, when Joshi attempted to redeem his one-kilo golden asset on the due date

Andheri West, but again he encountered the same reply that these addresses did

Kundra had resigned as the company directors in May 2016 and November 2017 re-



have been named in another alleged scam -- this time, concerning the Satyug Gold Pvt. Ltd, a gold trading company of which they are ex-directors.

A Non-Resident Indian businessman, currently in Mumbai, Sachin J. Joshi has claimed in a police complaint that he was reportedly lured and then cheated by SGPL's 'Satyug Gold Scheme', launched around 2014.

Joshi has lodged a criminal complaint of cheating, fraud and other charges against Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra and officials of SGPL such as Ganpati Chaudhary, Mohammed Saifi and others with the Khar Police Station in

IANs that "the complaint is currently under investigation" but declined to elaborate. Despite repeated attempts by IANS, Shilpa Shetty was not available for her comment.

According to Joshi, under the five-year gold plan, sold as 'Satyug Gold Scheme' the buyer was offered a 'Satyug Gold Card' at a discounted rate and promised a certain fixed quantity of gold redeemable after a five-year period.

As per Kundra's statements at the 'gold dream' launch, an investor who bought a certain sum of gold at the then current rates with full advance payment would be entitled to a Satyug Gold Card, re-

per cent after three years, 30 per cent after four years and 37 per cent after five years.

Joshi had purchased One kg gold for nearly Rs 18.58 lakhs in March 2014 at the then prevailing rates. It would be redeemable on or after March 25, 2019 at the promised discount on presentation of the Satyug Gold Card to the SGPL, his spokesperson told IANS.

Explaining the stakes, the spokesperson said that at current rates, the original investment would have fetched around Rs 44 lakhs or more than double as today the gold prices crossed the Rs 4.40 million per kg mark.

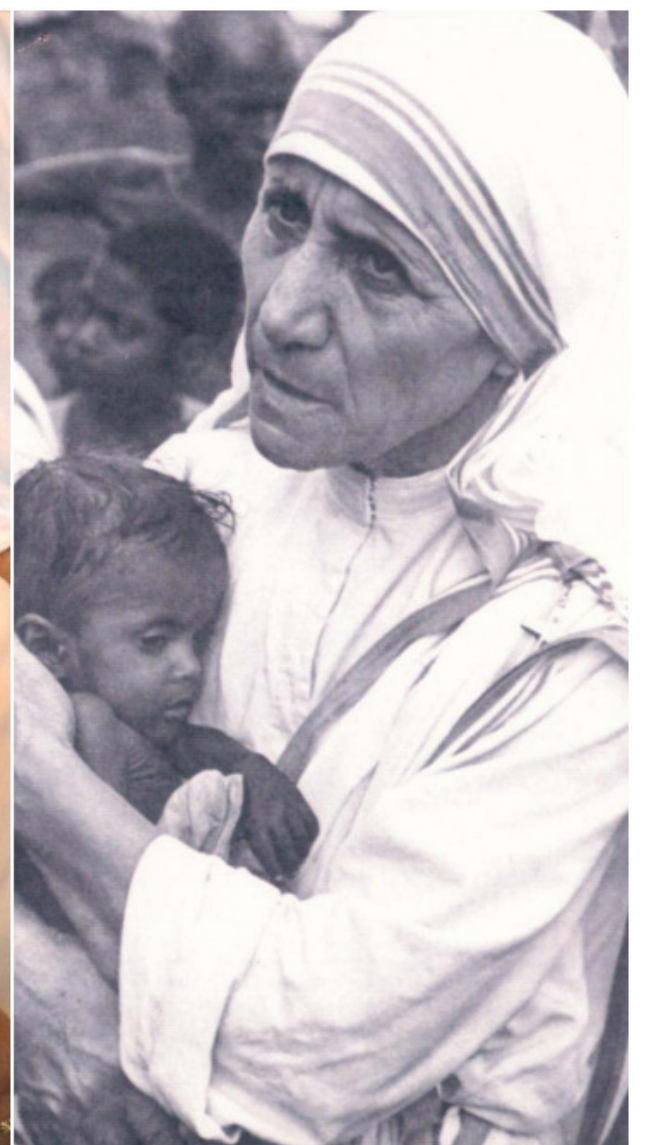
in March last year, he discovered that the SGPL office in Bandra Kurla Complex, suburban Mumbai, was shut with no employees or representatives available at its address. Upon enquiring he learnt that the office had been closed down a long ago, the SGPL website showed a new office address, at Shalimar Morya Park in Andheri west.

When Joshi's team visited the new office, they were informed that the addressed did not belong to SGPL. Further online searches and scanning the company's annual returns revealed more office addresses at Andheri east, Malad West and

not belong to SGPL. Ditto was the experience with the company's help-desk and customer care numbers (18002679090) which elicited no response, Joshi said. In November 2019, Joshi's representative happened to meet one of the company officials at the Malad West address who claimed that it was not possible to redeem the claim as the company was processing multiple claims, and suggested he should return in December 2019.

A search on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) website pertaining to the company revealed more shocking details: that Shetty and

spectively. "It became clear from all these facts that SGPL was a fraudulent entity being used to run the fake 'Satyug Gold Scheme' using the name of celebs like Shilpa Shetty. I have suffered a loss of Rs 18.58 lakh on my gold investment," Joshi said. Sources in the gold industry hinted that many more such investors may have been lured by SGPL and only a detailed police investigation would reveal the extent of the alleged scam. SGPL was formerly known as Aavyaan Gems & Jewellery Pvt Ltd with its offices in Bandra Kurla Complex.



The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award and recognises 'exceptional service/performance of the highest order'.



## Amendments regarding Survey, Search & Seizure in Finance Bill, 2022 Part 1

**Introduction:** The Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the Union Budget 2022-23 on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 with an aim to boost growth amid continued disruption from Covid-19 and rising inflation. In the Finance Bill 2022, significant changes have been proposed relating to Income Tax. We are dealing with amendments relating to Survey, Search and Seizure, in this article.



### 1. Insertion of New Section 79A: No set off of losses consequent to Survey, Search, and Requisition

- Sections 70 to 80 contain specific provisions relating to set off or carry forward of losses and set off of unabsorbed depreciation while computing the income under various heads and with respect to different classes of persons.
- The Memorandum explaining the provisions of Finance Bill, 2022 states that in some cases, assessee claim set off of losses or unabsorbed depreciation, against undisclosed income corresponding to difference in stock, undervaluation of stock, unaccounted cash payment etc. which is detected during the course of search or survey proceedings. At present there is no provision in the Act to disallow such set-off and no distinction is made between undisclosed income which was detected owing to Survey, Search & Seizure or Requisition proceedings and income assessed in scrutiny assessment in the regular course of assessment, though for incomes falling in section 68, section 69, section 69B etc. such restriction is there.
- The Memorandum has also stated that allowing the adjustment of undisclosed income detected as a result of search or requisition or survey against the loss or unabsorbed depreciation is resulting in short levy of tax. **The proposed provision of non-adjustment of loss or unabsorbed depreciation against undisclosed income detected as a result of search or requisition or survey would help in ensuring that proper tax is paid**

**on income detected due to a search or survey and also result in increased deterrence against tax evasion.**

**Narayan Jain**

- With this backdrop, the Finance Minister has proposed to insert a new section 79A to provide that notwithstanding anything contained in the Income tax Act, where consequent to a Search initiated under section 132 or a Requisition made under section 132A or a Survey conducted under section 133A, [other than under section 133A(2A)], the total income of any previous year of an assessee includes any undisclosed income, **NO set off, against such undisclosed income, of any loss, whether brought forward or otherwise, or unabsorbed depreciation** under section 32(2) shall be allowed to the assessee under any provision of the Income tax Act in computing his total income for such previous year.
- Definition of the term **"undisclosed income"** as proposed for the above purpose:
  - Any income of the previous year represented, either wholly or partly, by any money, bullion, jewellery or other valuable article or thing or any entry in the books of account or other documents or transactions found in the course of a Search under section 132 or a Requisition made under section 132A or a Survey conducted under section 133A, other than that conducted under section 133A(2A), which has—
    - not been recorded on or before the date of search or requisition or survey, in the books of account or other documents maintained in the normal course relating to such previous year; or
    - not been disclosed to the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner before the date of search or requisition or survey, or
    - any income of the previous year represented, either wholly or partly, by any entry in respect of an expense recorded in the books of account or other documents maintained in the normal course relating to the previous year which is found to be false and would not have been found to

be so, had the search not been initiated or the survey not been conducted or the requisition not been made.

**The proposed amendment will take effect from 1st April, 2022 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 2022-23 and subsequent assessment years.**

### 2. Prior Approval of superior authority proposed to be reinstated again before passing of the assessment order consequent to search, survey and requisition

Under the new schema of Search assessments which was inserted by the Finance Act 2021 in Section 147 to Section 151, there was no provision of prior approval of superior authority before passing of such assessment order(s). Therefore, an Assessing Officer in search and seizure case can pass the order without seeking any prior approval of the superior authorities. This was in strange contrast to the erstwhile law on search and seizure assessments wherein Section 153D mandated that a prior approval is necessary for a valid assessment under Section 153A.

The Finance Bill 2022, has proposed to insert a new **section 148B** to provide that NO order of assessment or reassessment or recomputation shall be passed by an Assessing Officer below the rank of Joint Commissioner, except with the prior approval of the Additional Commissioner or Additional Director or Joint Commissioner or Joint Director, in respect of assessments consequent to search, survey and requisition to reduce avoidable inaccuracies.

**It has been proposed that this amendment will take effect from 1st April, 2022.**

The intent of making it mandatory that the assessments of search cases should be made with the prior approval of superior authority, so that the superior authority apply their mind on the materials and other attending circumstances on the basis of which the officer is making the assessment and after due application of mind and on the basis of seized materials, the superior authority have to approve the Assessment order. Approval of assessment in search cases is to entrust the duty which the Addl. CIT/ Joint CIT, with his experience and maturity of understanding should scrutinize the seized documents and any other material forming the foundation of Assessment.

### 3. Enhancement of the period of limitation of framing search assessments

For Searches initiated on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021, the period of limitation for framing assessments is as provided in Section 153. It has been proposed to amend section 153, by inserting a new clause to provide for exclusion of the period of limitation for the purpose of assessment, reassessment or re-computation, (not exceeding 180 days) commencing from the date on which a search is initiated under section 132 or a requisition is made under section 132A and ending on the date on which the books of account or other documents, or any money, bullion, jewellery or other valuable article or thing seized under section 132 or requisitioned under section 132A, as the case may be, are handed over to the Assessing Officer having jurisdiction over the assessee, in whose case such search is initiated or such requisition is made or to whom any money, bullion, jewellery or other valuable article or thing seized or requisitioned, belongs to or to whom any books of account or documents seized or requisitioned, pertains or pertain to, or any information contained therein, relates to.

**It has been proposed that this amendment will take effect retrospectively from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021.**

### 4. Certain proposed amendments/ insertions in order to align the scheme of search assessments with the intent of the Income tax Act

The Finance Bill 2022 has proposed to amend **section 132(8)** to make the provisions of that section also applicable to assessment or reassessment or re-computation under section 143(3) or section 144 or section 147, as the case may be.

The Finance Bill 2022 has also proposed to amend clause (i) of section 132B (1) as well as section 132B(4) to provide that these provisions shall also apply to assessment or reassessment or re-computation.

These amendments will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022. (Contd.)

(Narayan Jain is former Secretary General of AIFTP and author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA Dilip Loyalka).

## Information Management is an integral part of Organizations Innovation Investment

Organizations are continually scrutinizing their business strategies for ways to be more competitive, to differentiate in the market,



reduce cost, and to improve share holders value. It is imperative that Information Management has clarity on what value means and where and how to add value to the organization. With a big picture-view of the organization and competitive environment at the forefront, as well as a clear vision of the organizations goals and performance targets, Information Management will have to prioritize the Information activities to render timely professional Information Services to Business Functions that will help the organization to achieve its financial investment goals.

To be an integral part of Organization's innovation investment strategy, Information Management has to play very crucial role and need to adopt various methodologies and demonstrate the value of the Information Investment, so called Return On Investment (ROI). Information Management always focused on **transformation of "Perception" & "Reality" into "Awareness"**, many things happen, because then **"Awareness" converts to "Knowledge"**, which can move to a higher dimension. There is in fact no contradiction; **"Think Beyond Vision"** is to be real for Information Management. Information Management has to go to the World of Analysis to transform **"Awareness" to "Wisdom"**, and make effort to draw parallel line between **"Awareness" & Logical Consequences**, an era of rationality and logic become the dominant paradigm. Metaphysics walks on a tightrope between **"Rationality" & "Awareness"**.

So Information Management has to first understand the

**BINOD BEHERA**

mythology of the Information Services and the mechanism of Value based logics. Someone may raise the question, What is Logic?, Logic is a continuous build up, rearrangement of the Information propositions that known as Value-Propositions. These propositions are "FACTS", you may say "DATA" and are based on direct perceptual knowledge of the Information requirement of the organization. The Information Management value based building blocks of the logical process hinge upon the Users Knowledge and is limited by the Business Functions Scope & validity. So, Information Management should focus on the methods of real time logic and value driven analysis and work upon its rearrangements to maximize performance of Information Services through logical alignment of Information services with organization's investment goals.

To achieve maximum value in **IM-ROI methodology**, Information Management should focus on value driven processes, Information Design, Technology adoption, Enhancement of Skills of Information Management team & concentrate on **"X"** factors of Information Services. Information Management has to adopt extensive research methodology and will do comprehensive Business Critical Analysis for the organization to understand the intention of the Information Users and rigorously do Analysis of the factual Data received by IM to derive Value for the **"Investment made" & "Time Spend"**. Besides Information Management should focus on the **"Factual Survey" Vs "Perceptual Calculation"** to determine the factual score of the Information Services performance. There is need to follow up with Business Units for **"Fact -Sheet"** within the allotted time to do

the regression analysis of the fact Data collected and the

Value Driven performance Percentage calculation – based on (Sum total Cost Incurred for Investment) multiply by **(Project Benefits + Factual contribution of the Business unit) / (Cumulative Information Requirements + (Investment made by Organization + Time Spend for Services)**

So, Information Management has to establish co-relational phenomenal approaches to conjunct efficiencies, effectiveness of Information Services to provide a means of judging overall performance of each service and also quantify the service performance through Cost & Time saved. Thus, an efficient & effective interface of Information Management infrastructure platform & Information Services ability is necessary to prevent the human error and to assist in coping with unforeseen events.

This efficient interface should accurate, accessibility & quantifiable as 70%-Effectiveness, 90% Efficient services is best performance for any industry. Determining what a service costs is very complex for Information Management team. But they have to establish some relation between the cost of provision of a service, the full array of services delivered, the quality of services, and the overall volume. IM has to derive an empirical taxonomy of values for these services based on user's assessments or feed backs. This will summed up by the mathematical notion of cost function - There could be some induced correlation between Information Requirement & Service Delivery Time, which is measurable under null hypothesis and is given by the certain binomial coefficients: under Probability of measure criterion it will be quantifiable and function

of time and cost.

$Pr(n1, n2, \dots, ni) = (Rfs(n1, n2, \dots, ni), Efs1(n1, n2, \dots, ni), Efs2(n1, n2, \dots, ni), Tis1(n1, n2, \dots, ni), Tis2(n1, n2, \dots, ni))$   
Where,  $Rfs = Functional response$ ,  $Efs1 = Error free services render in first attempt$ ,  $Efs2 = Error free services in second attempt$ ,  $Tis1 = Time spend for first service$ ,  $Tis2 = Time spend for second service$ .

So,  $Pr(Rfs, Efs1, Efs2, Tis1, Tis2, K) = (Efs1, K, Tis1) (Rfs - Efs1, K, Tis2) / (Rfs (1 \dots n), Efs2 (1 \dots n))$

The binomial coefficient of Information services accuracy and agreed by the users will be computed from the factorial expression  $m! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n$ .

If number of ways IM provided services to users in  $=n$  and out of that  $k$  times users accepted the binomial coefficient will be  $(n, k) = n! / (k!(n-k)!) = n(n-1) \dots (n-k+1) / (t1, t2, t3, \dots, tn)$

Hence, Probability of Performance calculation based on the uses agreed in the services Information Management is rendering to Business units in time, accuracy and consistently. So, the ROI will calculate as the sum total of  $F_n(ROI) = Pr(Rfs, Efs1, Efs2, Tis1, Tis2, k)$

Information Management should focus on industry orientation business function collaboration and value based processes to transform the organizations innovation strategic value into an efficient manner. So, IM should understand the finer analytical symptoms of each business functions of the organization. Before deciding, IM should evaluate the options that are directly related to organizations innovation methodology carefully & objectively.

The Author is a Founder Member & Head - Training, Corporate Relation M/S MECS Consulting (Start Up)



# Battle lines are Drawn Odisha asks for Economic Corridor

Bhubaneswar: The battle lines are now clearly drawn with all the three major political parties in State—BJP, BJD and Con-

tribal dominated Nuapada district, is the Chairperson of the Institute of Literature, Dakshya Foundation, and Managing

nizer and former student leader.

Earlier in the day, BJD President Naveen Patnaik also announced names of candidates for CMC and BeMC.

While Rajya Sabha MP Subhas Singh has been named as the BJD candidate for CMC, Sanghamitra Dalai will contest for the Mayor's post as a BJD candidate from (BeMC).

The polling for the state's three municipal corporations and 106 other Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are slated to be held on March 24 for which nomination filing process has started from March 2 and will continue till March 7.

"I express my gratitude towards the chief minister and BJD president for choosing me as the party's Mayor candidate. I hail from a humble family and will try to meet the aspirations of the people," an emotional Ms.Das told reporters here.

Starting her political career from Congress, Sulochana Das had later joined BJD and also worked as the regional party's spokesperson.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation is spread over three assembly segments. "I am happy that the Chief Minister considered me as a candidate for the CMC Mayor post. I will work hard for the development of the millennium city of Cuttack," Singh said.

The CMC area is spread over three assembly segments.

Mr.Patnaik also named Sanghamitra Dalai as the BJD's Mayor candidate for the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) who started her political journey as a Congress candidate and later joined BJD and became a corporator of BeMC. "I thank chief minister Naveen Patnaik for placing trust in me. We will work together for the development of Berhampur city," Ms.Dalai said.

The State Election Commission (SEC) had already announced that this is for the first time that the Mayors and chairpersons of ULBs will be directly elected by the people. While the post of Mayor for BMC and BeMC are reserved for women, the CMC post was unreserved.

Presenting the updates about NH projects in Odisha, Additional Director General of NHAI, Dharmananda Sarangi said that 38 NHs running over 5753 km passed through 30 districts of the state. Out of this, 19 roads of 2920 km length are being managed by NHAI, and other 19 roads of 2833 km maintained by the state works department.

Out of the total length of 5753 km of NH, 243 km were developed to 6-lane; 1486 km were developed to 4-lane, 1934 km were developed to 2-lane with paved shoulder, 1257 km were developed to 2-lane, and around 834 km were developed to single or intermediate lane. Besides, 20 other projects worth Rs15015 crore for improvement of around 901 km of road were taken up by the NHAI.

Bhubaneswar: For smooth transportation of minerals from Keonjhar to the port town Paradeep, the State Government has urged Centre for development of an economic corridor from Paradeep to Bhadrashahi-Barbil. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has raised this demand before Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Giridhar Aramane during a meeting held last evening.

Mr.Mahapatra highlighted the need for development of an economic corridor and advised

20 was fastened. One side of Belabahali bridge was opened to traffic from the first week of January, 2022. The Chief Secretary directed to complete the project in all respects by June of current year.

Similarly, the development of the Rimuli-Koida section of NH made substantial progress. It was targeted to start commercial operation on this road by March, 2022, he informed.

The Singhara-Binjabahal section of NH-49 also made significant progress. Provisional

commercial operation certificate against this road was issued January 19 and in the meanwhile tolling operations also started. Dr Kumar also highlighted the industrial and commercial potentials of the proposed Paradeep- Barbil economic corridor including importance of the road for evacuation of ever increasing quantum of minerals.



that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) should go ahead for land acquisition to have 100 metre ROW along this road for all future use including provision of assorted utilities.

He also assured that the State Government would provide all support for land acquisition for the ROW. It was decided in principle that NHAI and the State would jointly develop the ROW.

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Similarly, 31 projects estimated at Rs 3088 crore for improvement of 1146 km of road were taken up by the Works department.

Works Secretary Dr Krishan Kumar said that the work in Panikoili-Rimuli section of NH-

commercial operation certificate against this road was issued January 19 and in the meanwhile tolling operations also started. Dr Kumar also highlighted the industrial and commercial potentials of the proposed Paradeep- Barbil economic corridor including importance of the road for evacuation of ever increasing quantum of minerals.

The issues relating to disbursement of the compensation awards against land acquisition, forest diversion, compensatory afforestation, construction of animal underpass (AUP), elephant underpass (EUP), and vehicle underpass (VUP), payment of user fee by State carriage buses, wild life clearances about certain patches of some roads, handing over the physical possession of land to the NHAI etc were discussed and resolved in the meeting.

The Union Secretary applauded the Odisha Model of National Highway (NH) improvement. "Odisha model for NH improvement is very good. All officers from the level of Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary to DFO and executing engineers are well conversant with alignment of the roads, progress of each project, and ground level issues that need to be tackled," he said.

Such an approach helped expeditious grounding and implementation of the projects, he added.

The Chief Secretary fixed timelines for different phases of the work against each project. The DFOs and collectors were also directed to resolve the issues proactively, and provide all possible support for completion of the projects within the scheduled timeline.

## OSL bats for Safety

Paradip: With an aim to inculcate Safety awareness amongst the workers, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) commenced observation of the 51st National Safety Week (NSW) on 4th March at its office premises based at Badapadia in the port city of Paradip under Jagatsinghpur district. The celebration will continue till 10th

Shri Somasekhar Bajarnath, Shri Sachitra Rout, Manager (Fire & Safety) PPL, Shri Lakhan Tudu, Safety Officer, TMIL, Shri Pradeep Kumar Kar, Safety Officer, PPT, Shri Akshat Patel, Commandant, CISF, Factories & Boiler Assistant Director, IFFCO Safety Officer, PPL Safety Officer, TATA Safety Of-

the safety benchmarks in our industry. On this occasion, "Safety Award" was conferred to various safety stars nominated by the heads of 'Equipment Department', 'HMC Department', 'Stevedoring Department', 'C & F Department', 'Coal Wagon Department', 'Rangiagarh Railway Siding Department',

Bulu Bal, Shri Kushamesh Nandi, Shri Harekrushna Jena, Shri Rabindra Kumar Swain, Shri Anjan Kumar Behera, Shri Prashant Kumar Bhuyan, Capt. Prakash Chandra Yadav, Shri Jyoti Ranjan Dash, Shri Batakushna Behuria were conferred with "Safety Award". Besides, an eligible employee in the capac-



March 2022. The weeklong observation started with the administration of safety pledge to follow safety norms at a special occasion graced by Chairman, OSL Group, Shri Mahimananda Mishra Said Safety is non-negotiable. National Safety Week will help us to further enhance the focus on the safety aspects." We are fully committed to bettering

and 'IFFCO Bagging Plant' who have been entrusted with the assignment of nominations. Shri Omm Prakash Sang, Shri Mihir Kumar Pradhan, Shri Sushant Kumar Nath, Sri Manoranjan Mohanty, Shri Saroj Kumar Sahoo, Shri Umakanta Swain, Shri

ity of Security Person/ Electrician/Gardener will also be nominated for conferring the "Safety Award" during the observance of 51st National Safety Week. The deserving nominees will be presented with mementoes as the 'Safety Award', informed OSL Vice President (HRD) Shri B.K. Ojha.



gress— announcing names of their Mayor candidates for the March 24 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls for electing the first woman Mayor directly by the people.

The opposition BJP, which holds the prestigious Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat, announced name of Dr Suniti Mund as its candidate for the Mayor post for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) barely two hour after BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the name of scribe turned politician Sulochana Das as the BJD candidate for the coveted post.

A day before, the Congress had named Mudhusmita Acharya as its candidate for the BMC Mayor post. Dr.Mund, a native of

Director of Dakshya Venture Private Limited.

She has also worked as a producer, director and script writer for TV serials, ad films and documentaries.

The Mayor posts for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) are reserved for women while the post is unreserved in Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). While BJD candidate Sulochana Das is a former journalist and State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Mund is a writer and hails from the literary field. Congress nominee Madhusmita Acharya is the daughter-in-law of former Congress MLA Kangali Panda. She is also a sports orga-

## Ukraine crisis: Contrary to government's claim, five Odia students struggle to survive war in Sumy

BHUBANESWAR: Contrary to the State government's claims of evacuating all Odisha students from active war zones of Ukraine, five more Odias are struggling without food and water to survive in the northeastern town of Sumy, which is under heavy bombardment and fighting. Smruti Ranjan Nayak, Gouri Shankar Parida, Tapan Kumar Bugudai, Biswajit Das, and Suman Mahanta are five students who were awaiting evacuation from Sumy



along with the other Indian students by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday. However, their hopes were dashed after the Russian forces intensified airstrikes and bombardments on the day. "We are told that the evacuation will now happen on Monday or Tuesday depending on the situation," said Smruti, who belongs to Keonjhar. Gouri, Tapan, and Biswajit belong to Balasore and Suman hails from Bhubaneswar but his parents are based in Kolkata now. While Smruti, Tapan, Biswajit, and Suman are students of Sumy State Medical University, Gouri studies at Dnipro State Medical University but is stranded in Sumy. The five have taken shelter in the basements of hostel 3 of the Sumy University. "All of us are safe now but for how long, we do not know. There are intense airstrikes since morning and no groceries left in supermarkets which have been looted by the Russian army. Many of us are falling sick and there is no food or

medicines. We do not have any rice or dal left. All we have is some rawa which we are using to cook upma once in a day," said Smruti. But the biggest issue he said is the lack of water since the Russia-Ukraine war broke out.

"Electricity in Sumy was snapped on the day the war began and restored yesterday, but we are yet to get water supply despite our repeated appeals to the local authorities or MEA. While a water tanker was sent today, it was grossly inadequate for over 700 students who are here. Some of us could only collect water in one 5-litre jar each," said Smruti, who along with the others are fetching water from a lake nearby and heating it for consumption.

Another student Gouri said that there is no means to go out of Sumy now with the bridge and railway links from Sumy to Kharkiv, Kviiv, and other places in Ukraine destroyed by the Russian forces. "We are told that several buses have been mobilised to the Russian border which is 50 to 60 km away for evacuation but there is no ground clearance from Ukrainian authorities yet," he said. Frustrated, some Indian students threatened to walk to the Russian border on the day but were stopped by MEA and local volunteers. "The MEA and Indian Embassy spoke about Sumy for the first time only yesterday despite us constantly tweeting for help. As far as the Odisha government is concerned, I had sent them a list of at least 100 students from the State stranded across Ukraine including Sumy the day when it released helpline numbers. But it seems that they did not see beyond Kyiv and Kharkiv," said Smruti. Meanwhile, State Resident Commissioner at New Delhi Ravi Kant said efforts are on to help the students.



## International Women's Day: BSF officer fights Maoists and educates girls of Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: When Amandeep Kaur - Border Security Force (BSF)'s first woman officer to be deployed in Odisha - is not patrolling the State borders to check Maoist infiltration, she spends her time telling girls in remote villages of Koraput district about the importance of education and joining the forces. She was at SSD Government Girls High School in Nilabari village under Bandhugaon block of Koraput district a part of an outreach programme organised by BSF last month. At the school, Kaur held a motivational session for about 75 girl students in the presence of 23 teachers. She emphasised the importance of education and career opportunities in the security forces.

The girls were in awe of a woman officer in uniform and asked her questions on getting into BSF. "BSF is a challenging job but fulfilling at the same time. Because, by protecting your homeland, you also pave the way for development of the region," she said, adding that there is no glass ceiling in security forces for women candidates.

A native of Punjab's Muktsar Sahib district, the 30-year-old assistant commandant has been posted at BSF's 68th Battalion headquartered in Rayagada district since February. A month into her deployment, Kaur leads over 35 security personnel in area domination exercises and taking part in outreach programmes in Maoist-affected areas of Koraput. As part of the outreach programmes, she has been reaching out to people in 40 to 45 remote villages and creating awareness on education of girl child

besides, explaining the nuances of joining security forces to school-going girls. She tells parents about residential schools run by the State government where they can send their girls for free education. "Education of girls is very important if people in these remote pockets want to see development. It is also important that girls from Maoist-hit areas should enter the forces to protect their motherland," said Kaur, who during her outreach programmes also highlights the significance of women officers/personnel in the BSF and their roles in anti-Maoist operations or on the international borders. Kaur did her schooling in Punjab and completed higher education in Rajasthan. The woman officer recalled that since her childhood she had decided to wear the uniform to serve the country.

Prior to her deployment in anti-Maoist operations in Odisha, Kaur was deployed at the India-Pakistan border in Punjab. She joined BSF in 2012 as a sub-inspector and was later promoted as inspector. Last year, she rose to the rank of assistant commandant. BSF's 68th Battalion's Commandant Yoginder Agarwal is all praise for Kaur. Apart from creating awareness in rural pockets of Koraput district, she has been involved in all the duties which any officer performs in Maoist-affected areas, he said. "The villagers, especially the women, are approaching us without any hesitation on spotting Assistant Commandant Amandeep Kaur. We are able to strike an instant chord with them due to the presence of a woman officer," he said.

## BJP on Cong way

Bhubaneswar: The up and down of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha has once again created confusion among the people as well as the saffron brigade across the state. The lotus is not beaming, but instead, it is getting shrivelled as is evident from the recently concluded three-tier panchayat elections in the state. The party which has secured 297 Zilla Parishad seats in 2017 rural polls and subsequently raised its tally in 2019 general elections by winning 8 Lok Sabha seats and 23 Assembly seats, has suddenly lost its lustre and now resembles the Congress, which has been ousted from power for two de-

BJP in the aftermath of the rural and urban polls. Now, keeping in view the poor acceptability of saffron by the village people, most of them have started re-thinking whether it would not be suicidal to join the BJP in Odisha.

The senior saffron leaders like Jai Narayan Mishra, Suresh Pujari, Baijayant Panda, Aparajita Sarangi, Manmohan Samal, BisheswarTudu, Pratap Sarangi and Jial Oram, have not spoken much in public. But all of them were not happy over the manner in which Samir Mohanty managed the rural polls. Veteran saffron leader Bijay Mohapatra, however, pointed



acades. The saffron party could win only 42 ZP seats, 255 less than 2017. The ruling BJD on the other hand raised its tally from 476 in 2017 to 766 this time.

The panchayat poll results have given a clear message that the BJP has utterly failed to retain its place. The party's fortune is on a sharp decline. However, while accepting the peoples' verdict, BJP State President Samir Mohanty said the party had certainly lost above 250 ZP seats, but not its vote share. While the BJP's vote share in 2017 was about 32 per cent, it has come down slightly to 30.07 per cent. He and other saffron leaders expressed dismay that just a difference of two percent vote share caused such a colossal loss of 255 seats! Many leaders were shocked when they found BJD at a place much beyond their expectation. As many as 63,23,746 of the 2,10,28,403 voters have supported the BJP.

To make matters worse, the BJP candidates have failed to open their accounts in 10 districts including some of its strongholds like Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj and Bargarh. The BJP had last time formed Zilla Parishads in eight districts and is now unable to make a claim for even one district! This is the sorry state of affairs in the BJP where the leaders and workers were worried at the prospect of facing tantrums from the BJD brigade in the nook and corner of the state. The lotus has now shrunk in the countryside badly even though its vote share is not poor.

While the party is yet to undertake any proper "chintan" on its poor performance in the rural polls, State BJP leadership is saving its face with the vote percentage that saffron candidates secured. But, in a democracy, winning numbers are important which the party failed to secure. The difference between the vote share of BJP and the BJD is almost 20 percent. In other words, Naveen Patnaik's party continues to maintain its vote share in all successive elections. However, if the saffron party goes on losing numbers even after having its government at the Centre, how can people repose their trust in the party? BJP leaders have all along given slogans like "Sab Ka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Viswas." However, the party in Odisha in the rural polls has lost all the three - Saath, Vikas & Viswas. "If the party is unable to get "Viswas" of all, how can it replace Naveen Patnaik's BJD? Interestingly, the people, who were disgruntled in the BJD and Congress, were planning to join

out as to how the party had not even held a proper meeting of all the stakeholders before going to the panchayat polls, which is also considered as the "semi-final," before the 2024 General Elections.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, who is set to play a major role in the ensuing ULB elections in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, where polling is slated to be held on March 24, however, invoked party ideologue and former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee's poem:

"क्या हार में, क्या जीत में किंचित नहीं भयभीत मैं कलेव्य पृथ पर जो सिखा यह भी सही वो भी सही खदान नदी सागरा हो कंक, पर हार...नदी सागरा।"

— which means that there is nothing in winning or losing, but we have to continue to work hard.

Vajpayee ji's poem seems the only alternative left for the BJP leaders and workers to work hard in the ensuing urban polls. Everybody knows that the saffron party would be wiped out of Odisha politics or at least come to be known as a 'sign board' party, if it repeats the results of panchayat polls in the ensuing Urban Local Body elections.

Therefore, the saffron brigade, if it wants to remain alive in the state politics, has to make drastic changes in its attitude and approach. This is probably the last chance for the party to rise above the factions and give importance to all the significant people in the party notwithstanding their links and associations. There should be no Pradhan Group or Anti Pradhan Group. Before going to the people and meeting the party's rank and file, the senior leaders must first come to one platform and shun differences and stop cutting each other's base. Though fissure in opposition Congress is quite visible, the BJP leaders also fight among themselves under the cover of a "Disciplined Party" tag. The 2022 rural poll results have also exposed the internal bickering in the BJP. Had the party been united, there was no question of its losing more than 250 ZP seats.

This apart, poor leadership, lack of coordination, poor management, ignoring people having election management skills altogether account for the BJP's sorry state of affairs. The BJP leaders may deny in public regarding differences within the party, but the poll results clearly and loudly expose the internal bickering like Congress. Will BJP national leadership take a call as the Odisha unit of the party is going on the Congress way towards decimation?

## Farmers block road with unsold paddy in Odisha

KENDRAPARA: Farmers blocked the Kendrapara - Chandabali road at Tarasa in Rajkanika block on Saturday demanding procurement of their unsold

tokens of many farmers have lapsed and the civil supplies officials are not renewing those, they claimed.

Krupasindhu Biswal, a farmer of

"I know the government has fixed Rs 1,940 as the price of a quintal of fair average quality (FAQ) paddy. But some rice businessmen came to our village

huge financial losses.

Later in the day, Rajkanika tehsildar Premananda Biswal rushed to the protest site and assured the agitating farmers of taking up the matter with the government.

District civil supplies officer (CSO) Prasant Kumar Gantayat said many farmers have harvested low-quality paddy crops due to the untimely rain during the harvesting season in December last year. As a result, some societies are not interested to purchase low-quality paddy. "We have already procured 9.25 lakh quintal paddy from 24,800 registered farmers in the district through 118 PACS and the target has been fulfilled. "However, we will procure another 20,000 quintal paddy from farmers soon," Gantayat added.



paddy under the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the government. The agitators alleged that government agencies have failed to procure paddy from a large number of farmers. Many primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) are reluctant to purchase paddy even from farmers who received tokens. Adding to the woes,

Taras village, said, "I came to the nearby PACS to sell 10 quintal paddy but the officials refused to procure my produce. Like me, many farmers will be now forced to sell paddy at a much lower rate than the market price this season."

Ashok Jena of Garadapur village said he sold three quintal of paddy for Rs 4,500 last week.

and I sold them my paddy as the local PACS was not procuring my produce," he said. President of the district unit of Krushak Sabha Umesh Chandra Singh said a large number of farmers are being made to wait in front of societies with their produce. As a result, they are forced to resort to distress sale of paddy, leading to




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### Ukraine warns Russia preparing to shell port city Odessa

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Grossi has said.

Russia's ally Kazakhstan permitted a large peace rally in its biggest city as authorities in the Central Asian country look to distance themselves from Moscow's sanctions-triggering military invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that Russian forces are preparing to shell Odessa, a historic port city on the Black Sea coast. "They are preparing to bomb Odessa. Odessa!" he declared, in a video address. "Russians have always come to Odessa. They have always felt only warmth in Odessa. Only sincerity. And now what? Bombs against Odessa? Artillery against Odessa? Missiles against Odessa?" he demanded. (READ MORE)

Israel's prime minister says his country will continue to assist in finding a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine crisis, even if the chances for success are few. Naftali Bennett spoke Sunday to a meeting of his Cabinet, hours after he returned from a surprise meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, where the two discussed the war with Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is pushing his call for foreign countries to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine. Establishing a no-fly zone would risk escalating the conflict by involving foreign militaries directly. Although the United States and many Western countries have backed Ukraine with weapons shipments, they have sent no troops.

Pope Francis deplored what he termed the "rivers of blood and tears" flowing in Ukraine following the Russian invasion and demanded the creation of humanitarian corridors for refugees. "Rivers of blood and tears are flowing in Ukraine. This is not just a military operation but a war which is sowing death, destruction and misery," said the pontiff.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk said Saturday the company's Starlink satellite broadband service will not block Russian media outlets "unless at gunpoint."

"Starlink has been told by some governments (not Ukraine) to block Russian news sources. We will not do so unless at gunpoint," the tech titan tweeted. "Sorry to be a free speech absolutist."

The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II, the United Nations said on Sunday. "More than 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed into neighbouring countries in 10 days," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grande tweeted.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has invited Tesla Founder and CEO Elon Musk to visit his country after the war. A video of the meeting was posted on Zelensky's Instagram.

"Talked to @elonmusk. I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds. Next week we will receive another batch of Starlink systems for destroyed cities. Discussed possible space projects. But I'll talk about this after the war," Zelensky posted on Twitter.

India has excellent diplomatic service, they know what to do... It's not about Ukraine or the EU, it is about the global world order... We all have to stand together against it, said Walter J Lindner, German Envoy to India on Ukraine-Russia crisis.

The current Ukraine crisis triggered after the Russian military operation has given rise to "disturbing" reports of racism against students of several nations, including India, who have been attempting to flee the war-torn country, the Nelson Mandela Foundation here said.

Washington is working on a deal with Poland to supply Ukraine with Soviet-era warplanes to bolster Kyiv's defenses against the Russian invasion, according to US media. Multiple news outlets reported Saturday that US officials told them of the possible deal, in which Poland would send Soviet-era aircraft to Ukraine in return for American F-16 fighter jets.

The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's "fastest growing refugee crisis" since World War II, the United Nations said. "More than 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed into neighbouring countries in 10 days — the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II," it said.

Retailers in Russia will limit sales of essential foodstuffs to limit black market speculation and ensure affordability, the government said Sunday, as sanctions imposed over Moscow's military incursion into Ukraine began to bite.

Mastercard and Visa are suspending their operations in Russia, the companies said Saturday, in the latest blow to the country's financial system after its invasion of Ukraine. Mastercard said cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by its network and any Mastercard issued outside the country will not work at Russian stores or ATMs.

Russia struck and disabled Ukraine's Starokostiantyniv military air base with long-range high-precision weapons, Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday. "The Russia armed forces continue to strike the military infrastructure of Ukraine," Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. "On the



morning of March 6, strikes were carried out by high-precision long-range weapons. The Ukrainian air force base near Starokostiantyniv was disabled."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk for giving Ukraine access to his company's satellite-internet system, called Starlink.

"I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds," Zelenskyy said in a tweet. "Next week we will receive another batch of Starlink systems for destroyed cities." He joked that they discussed possible space projects, which he would talk about "after the war."

South Korea said it will implement export controls against close Moscow ally Belarus for "effectively supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine". Without detailing what specific measures would be taken, Seoul's foreign ministry said the restrictions would be similar to those previously imposed on Russia.

Jarred by discriminatory treatment and left to evacuate themselves from Ukraine, people from African, Asian and Latin American countries who succeed in getting out are forming impromptu networks to help thousands of others hoping to flee. Stepping into the gap was an easy decision for Alexander Somto Orah, 25, a Nigerian student in Ukraine who, like some others, described xenophobia and threats of violence as he approached the border with Poland shortly after Russia's invasion.

The Ukraine port city of Mariupol, which is surrounded by Russian troops, said Sunday it will begin efforts to evacuate its civilian population, after earlier efforts were scuppered by ceasefire violations.

"From 1000 GMT (3.30 pm IST) the evacuation of the civilian population begins," city officials said in a statement, which said a ceasefire was agreed with Russian-led forces surrounding the city.

The director of Ukraine's largest art museum walked its hallways, supervising as staff packed away its collections to protect their national heritage in case the Russian invasion advances west. In one partially empty gallery of the Andrey Sheptytsky National Museum, employees placed carefully wrapped baroque pieces into cardboard boxes. A few meters away, a group walked down the majestic main staircase carrying a giant piece of sacred art, the 18th century Bohorodchany iconostasis.

Ukraine has succeeded in dominating social media in the first days since the Russian invasion, in an intensifying information war with Moscow that Kyiv so far appears to be winning, analysts say. Even as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remains bunkered down in Kyiv amid heavy bombardment and the fear of assassination, his government has forced an all-out assault on social media to win supporters for their cause.

Ukraine says, engaged in "fierce battles" with

Russian forces

In a Facebook post on Sunday the Ukraine military said it was engaged in "fierce battles" with Russian forces for the control of borders at the southern city of Mykolaiv and the Chernihiv in the north.

"The main efforts are focused on defending the city of Mariupol," it said, adding an operation



by Ukrainian forces was also under way in the eastern part of the Donetsk region.

Putin has threatened the existence of Ukrainian statehood as his army's invasion of the neighbour faces stiff resistance and his economy



is increasingly asphyxiated by sanctions.

"The current (Ukrainian) authorities must understand that if they continue to do what they are doing, they are putting in question the future of Ukrainian statehood," Putin said on Saturday.

Aleksander, 41, presses his palms against the window as he says goodbye to his daughter Anna, 5, on a train to Lviv at the Kyiv station, Ukraine, Friday, March 4, 2022. Aleksander has to stay behind to fight in the war while his family leaves the country to seek refuge in a neighboring country.

Thousands of Ukrainians continue to flee their homeland as the Russian war on Ukraine



reached its 11th day.

According to the figures released today by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 1.37 million people have fled Ukraine into neighbouring European countries since Feb 24, after Putin's forces started their offensive on their former Soviet neighbour.

People cross on an improvised path under a bridge that was destroyed by a Russian airstrike, while fleeing the town of Irpin, Ukraine, Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Russian forces in Ukraine may have entered a possibly brief operational pause as they prepare to resume operations against Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolayiv, and possibly Odesa in the next 24-48 hours, according to The Institute for the Study of War, an American policy research organization.

As Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky has pleaded with the West to support a no-fly zone as his besieged country resists Moscow's invasion, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Saturday that any country imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine would be considered by Moscow to have entered the conflict.

Putin warned that a no-fly zone would have "colossal and catastrophic consequences not only for Europe but also the whole world". Ukraine's allies have so far ruled out such a move, fearing it would escalate into a wider war with nuclear-armed Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sits in the cockpit of an airplane simulator as he visits Aeroflot Aviation School outside Moscow, Russia, Saturday, March 5, 2022.

The war in Ukraine and associated sanctions will have a substantial impact on the global economy, warned the International Monetary Fund in a statement on Sunday, March 6.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that China opposes any moves that "add fuel to the flames" in Ukraine.

The two spoke by phone on Saturday, the Chi-



nese Foreign Ministry said.

China says that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations should be respected, but that sanctions create new issues and disrupt the process of political settlement.

Russia has dropped powerful bombs on residential areas of the city of Chernihiv, a regional official said Saturday, according to an AP report. Vyacheslav Chaus posted a photo of what he said was an undetonated FAB-500, a Soviet-designed 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) air-dropped bomb. The city of Chernihiv, located north of Kyiv and with a population of 290,000, has come under

heavy fire from Russian forces. Officials said 17 people in the region were killed in the shelling.

Mastercard said cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by its network and any card issued outside the country will not work at Russian stores or ATMs in the latest blow to the country's financial system after

its invasion of Ukraine, AP reported.

Visa said it's working with clients and partners in Russia to cease all Visa transactions over the coming days.

The suspensions are a follow-up to more limited moves earlier in the week to block Russian financial institutions from the networks that



serve as arteries for the payments system.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Saturday that Ukrainian statehood is in jeopardy and likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war," while a promised cease-fire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed amid scenes of terror.

Bereft mothers mourned slain children, wounded soldiers were fitted with tourniquets and doctors worked by the light of their cellphones as bleakness and desperation pervaded.

### Phase-7 of UP Polls 2022: Battle lines drawn between Modi's Kashi, Akhilesh's Azamgarh

Continued from page-1

his stay in Varanasi on March 4 and 5, gave a push to the narrative of Hindutva through his gestures without even speaking a single word over it in his discourse.

In Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Chanduli, which also fall in the Varanasi division, the BJP had got partial success despite the sweeping saffron wave in 2017. It had won four of the nine Jaunpur seats, three of the seven Ghazipur seats and four of the five Chanduli seats. SP had won three seats in Jaunpur, two in Ghazipur and one in Chandauli.

In Azamgarh, which has the dominant Muslim-Yadav factor, BJP could bag just one of 10 assembly segments in 2017 election. Azamgarh has been one of the strongest fortresses of the SP which had won five of the 10 constituencies in 2017. Four had gone to the BSP. In 2012, the BJP was nowhere in the scene. The SP had then won nine and BSP one in Azamgarh.

In neighbouring Mau, the bastion of mafia don-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari who is the sitting MLA and currently in jail, eyes will set on his son Abbas Ansari who is contesting on SBSP ticket from Mau Sadar.

The SP hopes that along with Rajbhar factor and Ansari's clout, Mau will be regained. In 2017, the BJP had won three of the four seats in the district.

Phase -7

Total Seats - 54; Total districts-09; Total candidates-613; Total electorate- 2.05 crore; Total Districts-10: Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra

2017 Results: Varanasi: 09: BJP: 07; Apna Dal (S): 01; SBSP: 01 Chandauli: 04: BJP: 03; SP: 01 Jaunpur: 09: BJP: 04; Apna Dal (S): 01; SP: 03; BSP: 01

Azamgarh: 10: BJP: 01; SP: 05; BSP: 04 Ghazipur: 07: BJP: 03; SBSP: 02; SP: 02 Mau: 04: BJP: 03; BSP: 01

Mirzapur: 05: BJP: 04; AD(S): 01 Bhadohi: 03: BJP: 02; NISAHD: 01 Sonbhadra: 04: BJP: 03; Apna Dal(S): 01



## Abraham thrives as Mourinho's Roma eyes Champions League

ROME: England striker Tammy Abraham is thriving at Roma after leaving Chelsea. The victory extended his streak to seven matches and drew the Giallorossi level on points with Atalanta, three points behind Juventus "with the top four qualifying for the Champions League."



European champion, Chelsea. The forward whom Jose Mourinho convinced Roma to spend 40 million euros (\$44 million) on in August was decisive for the second consecutive game as Roma beat Atalanta 1-0 in Serie A on Saturday in a key match for the Champions League places. Abraham's first-half goal was his 20th across all competitions for Roma and it followed his late

Roma's unbeaten streak to seven matches and drew the Giallorossi level on points with Atalanta, three points behind Juventus "with the top four qualifying for the Champions League." Shortly after the half-hour mark, Rick Karsdorp intercepted an Atalanta pass then Nicolo Zaniolo set up Abraham, who darted between the two center backs to complete the counterattack.

Earlier, a header from Roma defender Gianluca Mancini hit the crossbar.

Lazio remained one point behind Atalanta and Roma after beating relegation-threatened Cagliari 3-0 with goals from Ciro Immobile, Luis Alberto, and Felipe Anderson. A penalty from Immobile was his 143rd Serie A goal for Lazio, matching Silvio Piola's club record. Alberto then finished off a counterattack after an exchange with Felipe Anderson, who scored himself after the hour mark by dribbling past four defenders. Earlier, Udinese took a step toward safety with a 2-1 win over Sampdoria with goals from Gerard Deulofeu and Destiny Udogie.

## France, Spain, US and Argentina ease into Davis Cup Finals

LONDON: France, Spain, the United States and Argentina eased into the Davis Cup Finals while Belgium scraped past host Finland 3-2 in the



qualifiers. Australia came from behind to beat Hungary 3-2 in Sydney, as did Italy against Slovakia in Bratislava. France ticked all of its boxes in defeating Ecuador 4-0 in Pau, its first home tie since 2018 finals. Arthur Rinderknech earned his first singles win, Benjamin Bonzi won on debut, and the doubles team of Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut remained unbeaten in six years. Spain took out Romania 3-1 in Marbella. After Roberto Bautista Agut and 19th-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, on debut, won the opening singles on Friday, Romania pegged them back on Saturday in the doubles when Marius Copil and Horia Tecau "playing Davis Cup for 13 years" won. But Bautista Agut clinched the tie in beating Copil, playing his third match in two days, 6-2, 6-3. The US doubles team of Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock built on the singles wins of Sebastian Korda and Taylor Fritz on Friday by clinching the tie against Colombia 3-0 in Reno, Nevada, after topping Nicolas Barrientos and Juan-Sebastian Cabal 6-3, 6-4. Davis Cup: Rohan Bopanna-Divij Sharan pair seal win for India's advance into World Group I A strong Argentina team led by Diego Schwartzman and Horacio Zeballos beat the Czech Republic 4-0 in Buenos Aires for the loss of one set. Unheralded Zizou Bergs, ranked 163rd, came through for Belgium, the Davis Cup runner-up in 2015 and 2017, against Finland in Espoo. Finland led 2-1 after the doubles, but David Goffin beat Emil Ruusuvuori for his second point and Bergs, who lost to Ruusuvuori on Friday, won the decisive point for Belgium by dispatching Otto Virtanen 6-4, 6-0. Australia was also 2-1 down after the doubles against Hungary, but won the reverse singles in straight sets when Alex de Minaur beat Marton Fucsovics "both ranked in the 30s" and Thanasi Kokkinakis defeated Zsombor Piros in the clincher.

Alexander Zverev of Germany returns the ball to Thiago Monteiro of Brazil during their Davis Cup tennis singles match in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (Photo IAP) Alexander Zverev, the only top-five player in action this weekend, sealed Germany's 3-1 win over Brazil in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil's Thiago Monteiro upset Jan-Lennard Struff on Friday but the No.3-ranked Zverev put him away 6-1, 7-5 in the first reverse singles. Germany hasn't won the Davis Cup in nearly 30 years. Italy overcame Slovakia 3-2. Slovakia led 2-1 after the doubles, but Jannik Sinner made it 2-2 and Lorenzo Musetti, two days after his 20th birthday, won his first Davis Cup singles beating Norbert Gombos 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-4. Italy's Lorenzo Musetti celebrates his 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-4 win over Slovakia's Norbert Gombos, at the end of a Davis Cup play-off tennis match between Slovakia and Italy. (Photo IAP) Norway lost in Oslo to Kazakhstan 3-1 when No 8-ranked Casper Ruud fell to No 32 Alexander Bublik 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. The defeat ended Ruud's streak of 10 consecutive Davis Cup singles wins since 2017. Elias Ymer, ranked 133 in singles and 390 in doubles, starred for Sweden after his younger brother Mikael was injured before facing Japan in Helsingborg. Elias won his Friday singles and first Davis Cup doubles on Saturday. Taro Daniel evened the tie at 2-2 and Elias won it after beating Yosuke Watanuki 6-3, 6-3. Only two ties didn't go as seeded: Under-manned Canada lost to the Netherlands for the first time in 18 years, and Austria lost to South Korea in Seoul. Canada didn't have No 9-ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime or No 13 Denis Shapovalov and debuted Alexis Galarneau. The 2019 finalist lost to the Netherlands 4-0 and didn't win a set at The Hague. South Korea reached the World Group for the first time in 14 years. Dennis Novak won the first point for Austria but Soonwoo Kwon won his two singles, and Jisung Nam and Minkyu Song won the doubles for a 3-1 win without a set dropped. The 12 winners on Saturday advanced to World Group I of the Davis Cup Finals in mid-September, joining 2021 runner-up Croatia and wild cards Britain and Serbia. Yet to be determined was a replacement for 2021 champion Russia, excluded this week after that country's invasion of Ukraine. The top eight go to the Finals in late November.

## Mithali Raj becomes third cricketer to play in six ODI World Cups

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: India's ODI skipper Mithali Raj on Sunday became the first women's cricketer to



play in six ODI World Cups. Mithali had made her World Cup debut in 2000. In the ongoing match between India and Pakistan, the former won the toss and opted to bat first. Heading into the World Cup, India won both its warm-up games against South Africa and West Indies.

## Test Match: India bowl out Sri Lanka for 174, take first-innings lead of 400

MOHALI: India bowlers for India while Ravichandran Ashwin (2/49) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/



Test to take a mammoth 400-run first-innings lead here on Sunday. Sri Lanka, who resumed at their overnight score of 108 for four, could add only 66 runs for the loss of the remaining six wickets. Pathum Nissanka, who was unbeaten on 61, was the top scorer for the visitors while Charith Asalanka pitched in with 29. Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (5/41) was the pick of (36) also played their part in wrapping up the Sri Lankan innings. Brief Scores: India 1st innings: 574 for 8 declared in 129.2 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 175 not out, Rishabh Pant 96; Suranga Lakmal 2/90, Vishwa Fernando 2/135, Lasith Embuldeniya 2/188). Sri Lanka 1st innings: 174 all out in 65 overs (Pathum Nissanka 61 not out, Charith Asalanka 29; Ravindra Jadeja 5/41).

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