

# THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

FRIDAY, 19 January 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 142 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



## Thought that level of hitting was incredible, says Dravid on Rohit's unbeaten 121

India head coach Rahul Dravid was left in awe of captain Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 121 in the thrilling third T20I at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

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## NMDC Committed to India's Steel Demand

National Miner NMDC is scaling up production of iron ore to meet the demands of a thriving domestic steel market, earning higher sales realizations with zilch export.

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## Zone Adds Team is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Amidst the vibrant landscape of the Advertising Industry, ZONEADDS has cemented its role as a trusted partner for local businesses in Hyderabad & Secunderabad.

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## Mahesh Kumar Goud, Balmoor Venkat file nominations as Congress MLC candidates

Hyderabad, Jan 18 : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud and NSUI State president Balmoor Venkat Narsing Rao filed their nominations as Congress MLC candidates under the MLA quota at the Assem-

ble here on Thursday. With only two candidates filing nominations for both seats, the election of Mahesh Kumar Goud and Balmoor Venkat is likely to be unanimous and they are now waiting for an official announcement.



## I am a farmer's son, says Revanth Reddy at Davos

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS) : Stating that the Telangana government was a farmers' government, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday appealed to leaders at the World Economic Forum to help in making farming a profitable activity. Speaking at the CET conference on Food Systems and Local Action at Davos, the Chief Minister started off on a personal note, talking about his

own agricultural roots and that agriculture was "our culture". Stating that he was born in a small village as a farmer's son, the Chief Minister said he was well aware of farmers' problems practically. "In India, we have a big problem and that is farmers' suicides. They cannot sell produce, they cannot get bank loans, they cannot make profits and they do not have modern technology," he said.

## Congress MLA Vivek appears before ED

Hyderabad, Jan 18 : Chennai Congress MLA Vivek Venkata swamy, who is facing allegations in the hawala and FEMA cases, on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the city.



## Congress-BJP should explain their secret politics to people: KTR

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS) : BRS working president KT Rama Rao today addressed the preparatory meeting of the leaders of Mahabubnagar Parliament seat. Speaking on the occasion, he demanded the rival Congress and BJP parties to explain about their secret politics. "Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary Bandi Sanjay himself is calling for the united fight of the Congress party and the BJP to defeat the BRS party.

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## Union Minister inaugurates Asia's largest Aviation Expo-Wings India 2024

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS) : Asia's largest event on civil aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), the four-day 'Wings India 2024', kickstarted today at Begumpet Airport here today by Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, GoI. Wings India 2024 is organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GoI along with the Airports Authority of India and FICCI on the theme 'About

Wings India 2024: Laying the Groundwork for Indian Civil Aviation by 2047 in Amrit Kamal: Linking India to the World'. Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, GoI emphasized that over the last 75 years since Independence, from Amrit Kaal to moving towards Shatabdi Kaal, India has traversed a long distance.

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## Batti holds meeting on State budget proposals

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS): Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka held a meeting with officials of Revenue, Housing I & PR departments on the preparation of annual budget proposals for the financial year 2024-25 at Secretariat here on Thursday. Minister for Revenue, Housing and I & PR Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy also took part in the meeting and discussed about the budget proposals on behalf of his departments. Bhatti Vikramarka has discussed with officials about the government programmes, schemes and other operating expenses to be implemented in the respective departments in the coming financial year.



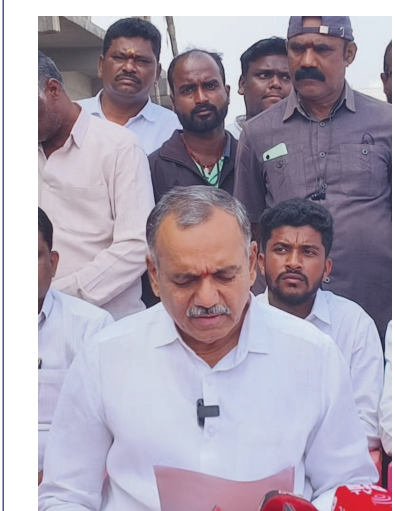
## PM Modi releases commemorative postage stamps on Ram temple in Ayodhya

New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday released commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and a book of stamps issued on Lord Ram by more than 20 countries. The design of the postage stamp includes the Ram Temple, the chaupai 'Mangal Bhavan

Amangal Hari', Sun, Saryu river, and sculptures in and around the temple. The six commemorative postage stamps released by PM Modi include the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj and Maa Shabari. The gold leaf of the sun rays and 'chaupai' lend a majestic icon to this miniature sheet. The five

physical elements known as 'Panchbhoot,' representing sky, air, fire, earth, and water, are illustrated through various design elements, establishing a harmonious connection with the essential elements for all manifestations.

Along with this, PM Modi also released a book of tickets dedicated to Lord Ram worldwide.



## I am ready to go to jail : Gandra

Hyderabad, Jan.18 (IANS) : Former BRS MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy today said he was ready to go to jail as he would be sent to jail in illegal cases against him. Speaking to media persons, Gandra Venkata Ramana said the police should work in accordance with the rules. "Whatever ministers and MLAs say, it is not right

to do what they say," he said .He alleged that a private complaint was lodged against him and his family members with a rowdy-sheeter and cases were registered against them. He said if a temple is constructed, notices were issued at the behest of the local MLA while noting that they went to the High Court and got a stay on the illegal cases.

Venkata Ramana Reddy explained that Bhupalapally MLA camp office, R&B guest house and temple were all in the same survey number. He also alleged that illegal cases were being filed against him, who had earlier served as an MLA. He said it should be remembered that power was not permanent.

## Two national parties worked to defeat KCR in Gajwel : Harish Rao

Gajwel, Jan.18 (IANS) : Former minister T. Harish Rao today alleged that two national parties worked together to defeat former CM KCR in Gajwel assembly constituency. He also alleged that the two parties tried to create a rift among various castes and religions.



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## Congress-BJP should explain their secret politics to people: KTR

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He said when not in power, the Congress party called Adani an enemy of the country and wondered as to why it was now working together with Adani?

“The government here and the Chief Minister are working together with Adani on the instructions of the BJP. What are the reasons for the changed attitude of the Congress party towards it,” he asked. Stating that the number of promises made by the Congress party was exactly 420, he said they were reminding the Congress party about the 420 promises made by it. He said they were reminding the Congress party and CM Revanth Reddy to fulfil the promises made to the people of the State. He said even after so many days of the Congress party coming into power, Rythu Bandhu did not come into the farmer's accounts. “Within a few days of the government coming to power, many sections of the society are unhappy with the Congress party government,” he said, adding that the conditions of standing in line for fertilisers by the farmers were back in the State. He said the situation of distributing fertilizers in the police station had come up once again. “It is our responsibility to inform the farmers about such things. If the same situation continues in the State, people will have to revolt against the government in just six months,” he added.

## Tata Group promises major new investments in Telangana

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS) : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy called on Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 at Davos in Switzerland and discussed Tata group's ongoing and future business plans for Telangana.

The Tata Sons Group has a very large and diversified business presence in Telangana. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the tech consulting arm of Tata Group, employs more than 80,000 in Hyderabad, making them one of the largest IT employers in the State. TCS has large plans for Hyderabad and will continue to grow over the next few years. Tata Advanced Systems Limited has successfully grounded multiple joint ventures in leading global defence and aerospace companies like Boeing, Sikorsky, GE, Lockheed Martin and is committed to expand further in this strategic sector.

Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) is also partnering with the State government to upgrade and transform Government ITIs as Advanced Technology Centres to impart long term

and short term courses in industry 4.0 trades and bridge the skill gap.

TTL will be investing around Rs 1,500 crore to set up advanced skilling centres in 50 Govt ITIs and also deploy master trainers for handholding the new courses.

Tata group is expanding its Air India fleet and has plans to increase both domestic and international connections from Hyderabad and make Hyderabad an important transit hub.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on the occasion, “Tata group is a vital partner and key contributor to state's economic growth. Our government is committed to facilitate Tata groups investments in different sectors.



## Zone Adds Team is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (TIM Bureau) : Amidst the vibrant landscape of the Advertising Industry, ZONEADDS has cemented its role as a trusted partner for local businesses in Hyderabad & Secunderabad. Since 2003, our two-decade legacy has thrived on crafting bespoke advertising solutions with unwavering quality across Print (All Indian Newspapers), TV, Radio, Theatre, Online, and Outdoor Media. Our newspaper releases span South & North India, Malaysia, and Dubai. “Beyond business, the Zone Adds Team is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Partnering with the Lions Club ECIL Elite, District 320C, they have championed initiatives like donating Unused Clothes, Books, Medicines and spectacles to Orphanages and the needy. Additionally, distributing Un-

used Cycles to Girl Children in Government Schools has eased their commute between home and school. Our commitment extends to providing 'Free Water Bowls for Animals,' distributing nearly 600 this summer to quench the thirst of local animals. “In this coming summer, if you wish to contribute to animal welfare, 'Water Bowls' can be collected for Free at Zone Adds Office, ECIL, Hyderabad, they can be reached on 9246297020. “Adapting to the digital shift, Zone Adds proudly launched its YouTube channel with 1.04 million subscribers, focusing on local business outreach. We spotlight local events and actively support sports by covering events at no cost. We believe in showcasing the good to inspire others to join in. Positive thoughts fuel positive actions, leading to positive results.”

**SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032  
Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.02, Arium Q Parc, Gate 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

### POSSESSION NOTICE

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Arium Q Parc, Gate 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 18-01-2024 .

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) Parameshwara Mechanical Works, Proprietor Boddu Nagaiah S/O Boddu Sayilu, Aged About 49 Years, Occ:Business (Parameshwara Mechanical Works), R/O.Hno:1-6-141/10/A5, Visayanagar, Suryapet Town And District. Pincode: 508213. 2) Boddu Nagaiah S/O Boddu Sayilu, Aged About 49 Years, Occ: Business (Parameshwara Mechanical Works), R/O.Hno:1-6-141/10/A5, Visayanagar, Suryapet Town And District. Pincode: 508213. 3) Boddu Laxmi W/o Boddu Nagaiah, Aged About 42 Years, Occ: Business (Parameshwara Mechanical Works), R/O.Hno:1-6-141/10/A5, Visayanagar, Suryapet Town And District. Pincode: 508213. 4) Jada Krishna S/O Jada Ramaiah, Aged About 50 Years, Occ: Business (Dhanvi Enterprises), R/O.Hno:4-7-321/7, Raghavendra Nagar, Hayath Nagar, Rangareddy District. Pincode: 501505.	Rs. 42,90,232 /- (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Two Only)
SRYPFTT2103030003 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property holder Name is JADA KRISHNA S/O JADA RAMAIAH Mortgage deed dated 03.03.2021 Registered as Document No 3107 of 2021 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Vanasthalipuram) Jada Krishna, S/O Late. J. Ramaiah, All That The House Being Constructed On Plot No.28 South Part, Admesuring 221 Square Yards Or Equivalent To 184.77 Square Meters, Having Plinth Area Of 961 Sft. In Ground Floor, 1118.19 Sft. In First Floor And 1118.19 Sft. In Second Floor, Total Plinth Area Of 3197.38 Sft. With R.C.C Roof. In Survey Nos. 373, 374, 375 And 378, Situated At Torru Village, Abdullapuram Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District. Formerly Under Thorur Grampanchayath, Now Under Turkujamajal, Registration In Sro Vanasthalipuram. Vide Doc No (3107 Of 2021) North: Plot No.28 North Part South: Neighbourhood Land East: Plot No.13 West: 40' Wide Road	
This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.	
Place: Suryapet Date: 18-01-2024	Sd/- Authorized Officer Shriram Finance Limited

## Union Minister inaugurates Asia's largest Aviation Expo-Wings India 2024

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with new records, faster development, and a rise in the international landscape. To enable last-mile connectivity, under UDAN 5.3, five new regional airlines, air taxis, etc. have been set up. The democratization of the Indian civil aviation sector was a result of the Sankalp of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While emphasizing the 3 As of accessibility, availability, and affordability, he added, “These 3 As characterize India's civil aviation perspective to the world,” he added. Scindia further added that India is expected to grow to 300 million domestic passengers by 2030 and would still be one of the most unpenetrated markets in the top 20 world markets. He stated that India is on the path of becoming the drone hub of the world and 10,000 women drone pilots would be covered under the government-sponsored scheme. “India has become a shining star in

the aviation landscape. India is the 7th largest civil aviation market in the world and if we consider both the domestic and international passengers, we stand as the 5th largest,” he added.

Gen (Dr) VK Singh (Retd.), Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation & Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India emphasized that civil aviation is a lucrative sector all over the world, contributing to both the national and global GDP. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister of Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Government of Telangana, said that Hyderabad has become a hub for wings and global civil aviation. “Telangana

is the fastest growing state in civil aviation with a thrust on aviation and aerospace,” he added. Reddy also highlighted that the state government was focusing on setting up a helipad in each district and Heli-tourism in Hyderabad and Vemulawada. Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India said that India was not just about planes and runways but is setting the tone for civil aviation with an international significance including major deals and substantive growth. Remi Maillard, Chairman FICCI Civil Aviation Committee and President & Managing Director, of Airbus (India & South Asia) shared industry insights and the

more recent groundbreaking technological developments. He stated that the Paris Airshow held last year was an Indian air show with record air deliveries to India. 7 key announcements/ inauguration during the inaugural session included: The Knowledge paper on civil aviation by FICCI-KPMG, Launch of new UDAN 5.3 scheme, The launch of the Airbus-Air India Training Centre, with the purchase of more airplanes and the setting of a flight training center in Gurugram with 10 flight simulators and 10,000 pilots being trained in the coming years.

**TATA CAPITAL LIMITED**  
Branch Offices: Tata Capital Limited, 2nd Floor, B-Square, Door No.86-1-9, Plot No.36, RS No.291 & 292, Opposite Ravindra Bharathi School, J.N.Road, Rajahmundry, PIN: 533101.

### DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Tata Capital Limited (hereinafter referred to as "TCL - Transferee) through Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd (hereinafter referred to as TCFSL - Transferor) vide Orders dated 24th November 2023 passed by National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai vide scheme of arrangement agreed between Tata Capital Financial Services Limited ("TCFSL") as Transferees and Tata Capital Limited ("TCL") as Transferee under the provisions of Sections 230 to 232 r/w Section 66 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("said Scheme") having our registered office at 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Pare, Mumbai-400013 and a branch office amongst other places at Rajahmundry ("Branch")do hereby serve upon you the following notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act").

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Tata Capital Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 12th December 2023, calling upon the Borrower & Co-borrower/Guarantors: 1) Mr. Nageswara Rao Mullaipudi, S/o. Mr. Bhaskara Rao Mullaipudi, Door No.1-135/9, Elementary School Veedhi, Prakulamka, West Godavari, Thallapudi, Andhra Pradesh, PIN: 534341 also having address @ Nitya Grand Family Restaurant, Door No.6-3, Main Road, Kukumuru Village, Thallapudi Mandal, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh- PIN: 534342), Mrs. Mullaipudi Durga Lakshmi Devi, W/o. Mr. Mullaipudi Nageswara Rao, Door No.1-135/9, Elementary School Veedhi, Prakulamka, West Godavari, Thallapudi, Andhra Pradesh, PIN: 534341 and 3) M/s. Nitya Grand Family Restaurant represented by its proprietor Mr. Nageswara Rao Mullaipudi, Door No.6-3, Main Road, Kukumuru Village, Thallapudi Mandal, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh- Pin- 534341, to repay the amount mentioned in the noticebeing Rs.56,84,660/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Only) (ie Rs.51,24,535/- in Loan No.TCFLA0462000011260758 and Rs.5,60,125/- in Loan No. TCFLA0462000011902936) along with interest, future interest charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The said notice being returned as Addressee left, notice is already affixed in the last known address of the borrowers/ co-borrowers and guarantors and hereby published under Rules 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 in news papers

**SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY:- Item No.1: As per Document No.1141/2016:** West Godavari District, Tallapudi Mandal, Vegeswarapuram Sub Registry, Tallapudi Grama Panchayath, Kukunuru Village, R S No. 12/4c/1 is a full extent of site consisting of 1035 sq yards, init central init Eastern side No.1 as per map, site consisting of 76.92 sq yards, near to bearing D.No.6-1 and is bounded by: East: R and B Road - 17.10 ft; West: 6 feet width joint passage way belongs to Pitta Srinivasa Reddy, Yellampandu, Meda Satyanarayana, Gullala Syam Sunder and Mullaipadi Nageswara Rao - 17.10 ft; South: Site belongs to Gullala Syamm Sunder - 40.8 ft; North: 6 feet width joint passage way belongs to Pitta Srinivasa Reddy, Yellampandu, Meda Satyanarayana, Gullala Syam Sunder and Mullaipadi Nageswara Rao - 37.6 ft; Within the above boundaries site consisting of 76.92 sq yards or 64.314 Sq.Meters along with all usual and easementary rights.

**Item No.2: As per Document No.1142/2016:** West Godavari District, Tallapudi Mandal, Vegeswarapuram Sub Registry, Tallapudi Grama Panchayath, Kukunuru Village, R S No.12/4c/1 is a full extent of site consisting of 1035 Sq.Yards, init central init Western side No.1a as per map, site consisting of 80.31, near to bearing D.No.6-1 and is bounded by: East: 6 feet width joint passage way belongs to Pitta Srinivasa Reddy, Yellampandu, Meda Satyanarayana, Gullala Syam Sunder and Mullaipadi Nageswara Rao - 17.10 ft; West: 6 feet width joint passage way belongs to Pitta Srinivasa Reddy, Yellampandu, Meda Satyanarayana, Gullala Syam Sunder and Mullaipadi Nageswara Rao - 37.9 ft; With the above boundaries site consisting of 80.31 Sq.Yards or 67.148 Sq.Meters along with all usual and easementary rights.

The total site covered by the two schedules comes to 151.23 Sq.Yards

Place: Rajahmundry Sd/- (Rakesh Dawny Kokkattu) Authorised Officer, Tata Capital Ltd., Contact Nos: 6282658079  
Date: 18-01-2024

## Two national parties worked to defeat KCR in Gajwel : Harish Rao

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He said the BRS party workers worked hard for the victory of KCR and ensured his victory in Gajwel. Rao said he was bowing his head before all the BRS family members for their hard work in Gajwel.

Addressing at a thanksgiving meeting of the party workers held in Gajwel, Harish Rao said the Gajwel victory was theirs . He said as many as 154 nominations were filed against KCR in Gajwel and added that 47 remained in fray after the withdrawal of the nominations. “Some were confused by the installation of four electronic voting machines. 18,750 votes were lost due to this confusion. Another 2,200 votes were gone in favour of “road roller symbol” that resembled the “car” symbol of BRS. Despite all these conspiracies, KCR won with a majority of 45,000 votes,” he said while noting that KCR won for the third time in a row in Gajwel.

Rao said a lot of development had taken place in Gajwel and criticised that the ruling Congress party had yelled its anger against Gajwel in the recent assembly elections.

## No Muslim Representation in Govt, wonders Abid Rasool Khan

Hyderabad, Jan 18 (IANS) : Abid Rasool Khan, former Chairman, State Minorities Commission for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh and many Muslim intellectuals have expressed their disappointment on Muslim not being nominated as an MLC amongst the two candidates nominated by Congress party under the MLA-Elected Quota. In a pressnote here today, Abid Rasool Khan said the Congress party indicated that they are considering to nominate a Muslim in the "Governor's Quota. On the other hand, the Governor has stated that she would not be nominating any candidate till the ongoing legal matter pending before the High Court is finally disposed off as it is "Sub Justice" “This stand of the Governor is to the knowledge of Congress party

and it is surprising that they chose not to nominate a Muslim in the MLA-Elected Quota. It is a fact that it is the first instance in the history that an elected Government of Telangana or Government of United Andhra Pradesh has no Muslim representation in the Ministry. Telangana has a population of about 16% Muslim as reported and media report suggest that most of the Muslims supported Congress and they feel let down today”, Abid Rasool Khan said. Abid Rasool Khan said “it is more than 45 days since the Congress Government has been formed till today and not a single commitment was given by the Congress party under "Minority Declaration dated November 9.





### 'Chalo Jantar Mantar', Kerala CM Vijayan to protest against Centre on Feb 8, invites Cong

**Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his cabinet and the coalition partner lawmakers, will stage a sit-in protest at the Jantar Mantar in Delhi on February 8 against the Centre. This was informed by the Left Democratic Front convenor E.P. Jayarajan on Thursday. He said the protest was against the Centre's 'shoddy' treatment meted out to Kerala on all fronts. On Thursday, CM Vijayan had an online meeting with Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan and deputy, P.K. Kunhalikutty, and sought their support for the

Delhi protest. The two informed Vijayan that they will discuss in the UDF and get back and according to sources, the Congress-led UDF will not take part as they have already said a few times that it was not the Centre alone that is responsible for Kerala's woes as the Vijayan government is equally guilty of absolute misgovernance. Vijayan will lead the march towards Jantar Mantar from the Kerala House and will do sit-in protest. "We are sure that there will be global attention if a Chief Minister leads the protest and that too in Delhi," said Jayarajan.



### Once OBC reservation is over, ULB & panchayat polls will be held: J&K L-G

**Srinagar, Jan 18 (IANS) :** J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that once the OBC reservation process was completed, Urban Local Body (ULB) and Panchayat elections would be held in the union territory. Speaking at the inauguration of Late General Bipin Rawat stadium in Baramulla town, Sinha said, "Once the reservation process of OBCs is completed, ULB and Panchayat elections will be held." He asked the people of the town to participate in large numbers in the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations on January 26. The L-G said, "I want the skies of Baramulla to be filled with

Tiranga. Baramulla district is flourishing and prospering on all fronts with active participation of youth." Sinha expressed concern at the unusual dry cold spell in Kashmir, "Snowfall is a must for power projects to run and for the tourism sector to thrive. "I pray to God for a good snowfall which is a must for power projects to run, otherwise they will become defunct. "13 lakh tourists visited Gulmarg and snow has been a major attraction there. "Six new destinations have been added to the list in Baramulla district, but in absence of snow, tourists would prefer to stay away", he said.

### Jailed AAP leader Manish Sisodia taken to LNJP Hospital for treatment: Sources

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** AAP leader Manish Sisodia, who is lodged in high security Tihar Jail in connection with the alleged excise scam case, was taken to the Delhi Government-run LNJP Hospital for ortho-

paedic treatment, a prison source said. The source added that Sisodia, who was referred by the prison hospital's doctor for consultation for orthopedic issues, was taken to LNJP Hospital around 10:30 a.m.



### Yogi launches wall writing campaign with 'Is baar BJP char sau paar'

**Gorakhpur, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday launched the Wall Writing Campaign with the slogan 'Ek baar phir Modi sarkar, is baar BJP char sau paar (once again Modi government, this time over 400 for BJP)'. The chief minister first drew a lotus flower on the wall of Shri Vishwakarma Bhagwan Panchayat temple and wrote the slogan below it to start the campaign, which aims at mobilizing party workers ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Addressing the workers present at the event organised by the

BJP unit, CM Yogi Adityanath called upon the party workers to take the campaign to new heights of success, like the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He said the campaign is very significant in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programmes to communicate with the voters through three massive rallies to be held ahead of the elections. "Draw the lotus and write the slogan underneath it wherever there is space on public buildings. However, permission must be taken before writing on someone's personal property. Efforts should be made to ensure that no space is empty of slogan", Yogi Adityanath said. Emphasizing the importance of strength-

ening booth management, the chief minister pointed out: "The stronger our booths are, the more effective will be our dialogue with the voters, with our candidates winning with huge margins." He said that the resolution for 2024 is to cross 400 seats and party workers should dedicate their efforts towards achieving this end. The chief minister told the party workers not to hesitate in talking about the achievements of the double engine government, pointing out that the last 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has earned him people's trust.

### BJP names Dara Singh Chauhan as candidate for Parishad by-poll

**Lucknow, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The BJP has named former minister Dara Singh Chauhan as its candidate for the UP Vidhan Parishad, polling for which will be held on January 29.

The Parishad seat had fallen vacant after former deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma was elevated to the Rajya Sabha and resigned from his seat in the Vidhan Parishad in September 2023.

Dara Singh Chauhan was a minister in the Yogi government from 2017 to 2022 but switched over to the Samajwadi Party in January 2022 and contested and won the Vidhan Sabha election on SP ticket.

However, weeks after the election, he quit SP and returned to the BJP. He contested his own Ghosi seat on a BJP ticket in the by-election but lost to SP. Since then, he has been waiting for his return to the council of ministers.

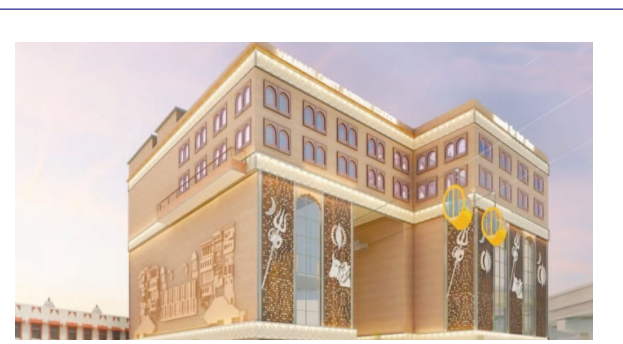


### 'Formidable enough', says SC on steps taken by UP authorities for Mukhtar Ansari's security

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by the Uttar Pradesh government for the safety and security of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari — whose son had petitioned the apex court apprehending that there is a plan to assassinate his father in Banda Jail prior to the 2024 polls. After going through a confidential note detailing the security arrangements made by the state authorities, a bench presided over by Justice Hrishikesh Roy orally ob-



served that the security measures "appear formidable enough". The bench, also comprising Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, directed "the authorities in Uttar Pradesh state to continue with all the security measures to ensure that detenu Mukhtar Ansari is not visited with any unforeseen situation."



### Lord Shiva to be the theme of Kashi ropeway

**Varanasi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Lord Shiva will be the theme for the country's first urban public transport ropeway being built in Varanasi, officials said.

The proposed model of the ropeway station to come up at Varanasi Cantt station features artefacts of damru, trident, conch, river, moon and riverfront. The ropeway will be ready for tourists by the end of this year.

According to the officials of the executing agency, National Highways Logistics Private Limited (NHLPL), a special purpose vehicle of NHAI, the ropeway station is being constructed in accor-

dance with the theme of Kashi. Efforts will be made to showcase significant aspects of Varanasi at the ropeway stations. There will be five stations starting from Varanasi Cantt to Godaulia intersection with a total distance of 3.85 km, which will be covered in about 16 minutes. Nearly 150 trolley cars will run at a height of about 35 to 45 metre.

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA**  
Safilguda Branch (0955) Hyderabad Zone  
Email:bom095@mahabank.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1) (For Immovable property)]**  
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 14.10.2023 calling upon the borrower Mr Garapati Satya Sudheer S/o Mr Damodara Chowdhary and Co-applicant Mrs. Garapati Siva Naga Lakshmi W/o Mr Garapati Satya Sudheer (Co-applicant) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.3000445.5/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Four Hundred Forty Five and Five Paise Only) plus un-applied interest at prevailing rate from the date of default plus expenses and other charges.

The borrowers having failed to repay the total amount due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 16-01-2024

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned.

The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:  
**Property Details:** Description of the property mortgaged : Equitable mortgage of Flat No.303 in third floor of JV Heights having 1050 Sq.ft. built up area (inclusive of common areas and car parking) together with 147 Sq.yds of proportionate undivided share of land out of the total extent of 721.11 sq.yds on plot no.45, 44, & 43 part, survey no. 581/F, ward no- 8 block no-3 situated at satyadevi enclave of Kamnanghat Village, Saroomarg Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District under GHMC, L.B. Nagar circle, Hyderabad 500079 and is bounded as follows:North: Corridor and Staircase , South: Open to Sky, East:Open to Sky and West:Open to Sky.

Date: 16-01-2024  
Place : Hyderabad  
Asst.General Manager & Authorized Officer  
Bank of Maharashtra, Hyderabad Zone

**SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032  
Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this:18-01-2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) Shiva Koti Jewellery Works Its Pro: Maheshwaram Koteswara Chary, S/o. Vishwaroop Chary, Aged About 35years, Occ: Business, R/O.H.No.4-5-515/B, Shastri Nagar, Kanaka Durga Colony, Dvk Road, Nalgonda Town-508001. 2) Maheshwaram Koteswara Chary, S/o. Vishwaroop Chary, Aged About 35years, Occ: Business, R/O.H.No.4-5-515/B, Shastri Nagar, Kanaka Durga Colony, Dvk Road, Nalgonda Town-508001. 3) Maheshwaram Shiva, S/o. Vishwaroop Chary, Aged About 30years, Occ: Business, R/O.H.No.4-5-515/B, Shastri Nagar, Kanaka Durga Colony, Dvk Road, Nalgonda Town-508001. (Died). (Co-Borrower / Guarantor No.2 By Name Maheshwaram Shiva Has Died Intestate, So Far his Surviving Legal Heirs i.e Wife, Daughter & Mother (A),(B)&(C) Are Impleaded As A Parties To The Notice) (A) Maheshwaram Anjali, W/o Shiva (Late), Aged About 23years, Occ: House Wife, R/O.H.No:New, Bokkamathalaphad Village of Nidmanoor Mandal, Nalgonda District (B) Maheshwaram Mini, D/o Shiva (Late), Rep By Guardian Mather of Anjali, Aged About 4years, Occ: Study, R/O.H.No:New, Bokkamathalaphad Village Of Nidmanoor Mandal, Nalgonda District. (C) Maheshwaram Govindamma, W/o. Vishwaroop Chary, Aged About 60years, Occ: House Wife, R/O.H.No:4-5-515/B, Shastri Nagar, Kanaka Durga Colony, Dvk Road, Nalgonda Town-508001. 4) Ganmoji Saraswathi, D/o Prasad, Aged About 23years, Occ: Business, R/O.H.No:14-2-459, Gouda Colony, Macherla, Guntur District. A.P. 5) Sriramadasu Ravi, S/o Veerabhadra Chary, Aged About 45years, Occ: Business, R/O.H.No:6-6-97, Ravendara Nagar, Nalgonda Town-508001.	Rs.43,83,092/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand and Ninety Two only)

**NLGNDF2103010007 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:**(Property holders Name is MAHESHWARAM KOTESHWARA CHARY & MAHESHWARAM SHIVA Mortgage deed dated 03.03.2021. Registered as Document No 6726 of 2021 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at NALGONDA) All That Residential Open Part of Plot No.S.28.29 And 32 in Survey No.496 Inside Residential Zone, Admeasuring 296Sq.Yards or 247.49sq.Mtrs., Place Situated At Mamillagudem Revenue Village Nalgonda Mandal 7 District And Within the Local Limits of City Municipality Nalgonda and within the Registration District and Sub District Nalgonda, and Bounded By: Towards North: Plot of Vidya Sagar Reddy Towards South: 30' Feet Wide Road Towards East: Partly Plot No.28, 29 & 32 of Mekala Nagesh Towards West: Plot of Chary.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place: Nalgonda  
Date: 18-01-2024  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Shiram Finance Limited

FORM NO. 14  
(See Regulation 33(2))  
By Regd. A/D, Dasti falling which by Publication  
**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/III DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2)**  
1st Floor, Tivert Complex, Abds, Hyderabad-500 001  
**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.**  
RC/2505/2017 - 27-12-2023  
HDFC Bank Ltd Versus  
M/s. Prem Melamine Industries and Another To (CD 1) M/s. Prem Melamine Industries, Rep. By its Prop. Mrs. Suryakanta Bajaj, Regd. Office at Flat No. 2-4-403/404, Mahaveer Heights, Nallagutta, Ramgopalpet, Secunderabad - 500003. Also at: Office at: S-10/2, T. I. E., Balanagar, Hyderabad - 500037.  
(CD 2) Mrs. Suryakanta Bajaj, W/o.Prem Kumar Bajaj, Flat No. 2-4-403/404, Mahaveer Heights, Nallagutta, Ramgopalpet, Secunderabad - 500003.  
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) in OA/2627/2017 an amount of Rs. 40,06,049.93/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Six Thousand Forty Nine and Paise Ninety Three Only) along with pendentelitte and future interest @ 18% simple interest Yearly w.e.f. 19-09-2017 till realization and costs of Rs. 0 ( Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/ Limited).  
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the certificate/execution proceedings.  
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.  
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 23/02/2024 at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings.  
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:  
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.  
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 27-12-2023.  
Recovery Officer  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL  
HYDERABAD (DRT 2)



## OPINIONmail



## INDIA GOVT SHOULD DEAL WITH MALDIVES WITH CAUTION AND PERSPECTIVE

A lot has happened over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blissful walk on the sandy pristine beach of one of India's least explored tourism destinations – Lakshadweep. Living among 1.40 billion people has its share of joys and perils. One of the most irritating problems that most Indians face is the lack of privacy amid creepy neighbours who seem to know more about you than they know about themselves. Running a country like this requires extraordinary skills. Prime Minister Narendra Modi often travels to remote places within the country arguably in search of some peace and tranquility. A similar trip to Lakshadweep on the New Year introduced the country to a beach paradise in its backyard while Indians travelled far and wide in search of such beauty and tranquillity. But Prime Minister Modi's pictures from Lakshadweep raised some purportedly unsavoury remarks from the newly-formed Maldivian government headed by UK-educated President Mohamed Muizzu.

Whether the remarks were unsavoury or witty, they were taken by Indian "wolf warriors" to display their jingoism. But this kind of love for the country is shallow and does not do any good either to Indian tourism or to Indian diplomacy. President Muizzu dealt with the matter in a mature and sincere manner, restraining his ministers from making any further comments on the issue, and also schooling them why they must refrain from commenting on foreign governments and officials.

President Muizzu soon went on a five-day official visit to China where he met President Xi Jinping. China is the second-largest economy in the world and it means whether you like or not, you can't avoid doing business with it. In this light, it's not difficult why President Muizzu must reach out to China as early as it's possible for him. We Indians who have taken immense pleasure in berating and boycotting Maldivian tourism should understand that criticism is not always bad. Criticism and appreciation are the two sides of the same coin, especially when we talk about these in the contest of people in public life.

Right now, India is facing a serious threat to its cargo ships in the Red Sea where Iran-backed Yemen-based Houthi militants have launched several drone attacks on them. It is estimated that around 30% of the Indian cargo is going to be affected by this new threat! Our goodwill with countries like Maldives plays an important role in maintaining peace in our favour. In this light, some friendly criticism or mocking from novice Maldivian ministers and parliamentarians should not have been blown out of proportion. Let's not forget, when rationalists are silenced, extremists get the chance to rise their heads. We must thank these leaders whether they are pro-China or anti-India that their country is not like Pakistan or Afghanistan where militants high on opium have disrupted normal life. We expect President Muizzu to play an important role in regional peace and stability.

When it comes to Indian tourism, we must admit we are only good for outbound tourism. With the kind of civic sense and the cleanliness standards we have in India, it's good that fewer foreign tourists come here. It will save Indian tourism getting bad reviews in foreign press. Recent geopolitical events and statements from Maldivian officials have added a new layer of complexity to the regional landscape. Amidst these developments, it's worthwhile to explore the tourism dynamics of these destinations and their challenges and potentials for growth. Maldives stands as a beacon of luxury tourism, boasting well-developed international airports, a plethora of luxury resorts, and efficient connectivity through ferries and seaplanes. In contrast, Lakshadweep faces challenges with limited development, fewer resorts, and connectivity issues. Maldives has established itself as a global honeymoon haven, offering diverse activities and enjoying year-round appeal. Lakshadweep, on the other hand, boasts untapped beauty, a unique cultural experience, and a focus on eco-tourism potential.

(By Arun Kumar Shrivastav)

the indian mail  
EDITORIAL

## RUSSIA'S POWERFUL CLUSTER BOMB DREL MAY BE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS SOON

The serial production of Russia's new glide cluster bomb, Drel, is expected to commence before the year's end. In light of this, it's important to understand the characteristics of the Drel and assess whether it will be utilized in Russia's ongoing special military operation. In Ukraine or in future elsewhere. Rostec, Russia's leading weapons manufacturer and a state-owned corporation, has announced that the Drel (Drill) bomb has successfully completed all the tests required by the customer. The company also stated that details regarding the bomb's potential use in the Russian special military operation are kept secret. In simple terms, a glide bomb, also called a stand-off bomb, is designed with special controls that let it glide smoothly through the air, making its flight path longer and flatter compared to regular bombs. A cluster bomb is a kind of bomb that can be dropped from the air or launched from the ground. It opens up in the air to scatter many smaller bombs over a wide area. "Flatter," in this context, means having a more level or horizontal flight path. Unlike regular bombs that drop steeply after being released, a glide bomb with a flatter trajectory travels a longer distance horizontally before reaching the ground.



## NO RELIEF FOR EXPORT-IMPORT TRADE AS SHIPPING COSTS EXPECTED TO FURTHER SHOOT UP

Shipping rates have already gone up by more than three times in a week after the January 9 attack by Houthis on the Red Sea. But supply chain professionals are warning that the rates are going to further shoot up in the coming weeks. This is bad news for India's export-import trade, which is already facing a serious crisis due to shipping cost escalations. The shipping crisis has proved to be a double whammy for Indian exports, who are faced with loss of competitiveness on the one hand and logistical nightmares on the other. While exporters struggle to absorb the increases, importers face cost increases for the goods, which affect their final prices. The container price sentiment Index (xCPSI), a sentiment tool by Container xChange to measure market sentiment for container price development, reached an all-time high as container price anticipation peaks. The index value peaked at 71 in January from an average of 27

in December, mirroring the significant impact Red Sea attacks have had on prices so far. This indicates that the prices are likely to further shoot up in the coming weeks significantly.

The Red Sea, a vital conduit for East-West trade, is undergoing unprecedented turmoil due to persistent attacks by Houthi rebels, causing significant uptick in fuel and insurance costs, longer voyages and capacity soak up for the transportation and logistics sector.



## SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL IS GETTING BIG SUPPORT

"No one is spared, not even newborn babies." This is how Adila Hassim, speaking at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, Netherlands on January 11 described the deliberate destruction of Palestinian life taking place in Gaza. Hassim was one of six lawyers who represented South Africa in appealing to the ICJ, the United Nations' juridical body, to order a halt to Israel's attacks on Gaza. South Africa contends that Israel is committing genocidal acts pro-

hibited by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, better known as the Genocide Convention. As a signatory to the Genocide Convention, Israel has accepted the International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s jurisdiction in enforcing it. And in the past, the ICJ has recognized that because states have an affirmative obligation to prevent genocide, any signatory to the Genocide Convention can bring claims against another signatory if they believe they are carrying

out genocide. In making the case that Israel had breached the Genocide Convention, South African lawyer Hassim recounted to the court the grim statistics of Israel's slaughter. As of January 9, Israel had killed 23,210 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians, with an additional 7,000 Palestinians missing, "presumed dead under the rubble." One-third of those killed have been under eighteen, leading Gaza to be dubbed a graveyard for children.

## BANGLADESH NATIONALIST PARTY LAUNCHES 'INDIA OUT' MOVEMENT

After failing to stop the January 7, 2024 general elections in Bangladesh by spending millions of dollars towards lobbyists and PR agencies in the United States, Britain and other Western nations, India and Hindu hating ultra-Islamist and pro-Pakistan Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has launched a movement titled 'India Out' with slogans "India is not a friend of Bangladesh", "India is destroying Bangladesh" etcetera.

It has been learnt, sitting in London, convicted terrorist and acting chairman of BNP, Tarique Rahman has instructed BNP leaders and activists to launch an anti-India movement in Bangladesh xeroxing that of Maldives and incite anti-Hindu and anti-India sentiment in the country. Accordingly, members of the cyber wing of the party have started spreading anti-Hindu and anti-India hatred through social media platforms. One such notorious act of a BNP activist has been identified on X (former Twitter).

## US COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD HAS COMPLETED 100 YEARS

The strongest weapon the ruling class possesses is its control of the press—its domination of the sources through which people get their information. A hundred years ago, a group of radical workers and Marxist writers launched a publication in the United States of America they hoped would break the monopoly that bosses and their hired media mouthpieces had in deciding what events count as news and how people should interpret them. They decided to start a daily

newspaper based on a truth which could never be found in any of the big papers of the time. That truth was that the people of the United States did not own their own country. They did not own its factories, its railroads, or its banks. They did not own its great material and financial wealth. They did not own its intellectual and technical resources. With no ownership of their economic and social infrastructure, it thus followed that they were not yet truly free. The Communists of the 1920s dedicated themselves to the mission of putting that truth into print every single day. They

embarked on the task of indicting capitalism and the racism, sexism, nationalism, and profiteering at its core—every single day. They jumped into the task of organizing and mobilizing the U.S. working class to struggle for its emancipation and for a socialist future—every single day. And so, in the early hours of January 13, 1924, inside a cold and dimly-lit building on North Halsted Street in Chicago, the first issue of the Daily Worker rolled off the printing press. As the sun rose, the stockyards and steel mills of Chicago were

blanketed with copies. By afternoon, distributors had fanned out across the industrial centres of the Midwest and the Great Lakes states, putting papers in the hands of workers ending their shifts in Gary, Cleveland, and Detroit. In the evening, stacks reached East Coast cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, with workers packing mass meetings in the hopes of getting their hands on an issue. Within a day, trains had carried bundles to the ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles.



## How an Indian-origin driver is helping homeless Canadians in sub-zero temperatures

**Toronto, Jan 18 (IANS)** : An Indo-Canadian driver has been providing critical shuttle services to people seeking shelter in sub-zero temperatures in the country's British Columbia province. Upkar Singh Tatlay, executive director of the Engaged Communities Canada Society, is up before dawn to drive commu-

nity members with no home of their own to a warming centre in a white multi-passenger van. "There are so many people that need assistance," Tatlay, who makes multiple trips transporting people from the end of November through March, told CBC news channel. Knowing well that being exposed to bitter cold can be life-threatening.



## Denmark's PM proclaims Crown Prince Frederik as King

**Copenhagen, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik has been formally proclaimed King by the country's Prime Minister. Danish Queen Margrethe on Sunday signed a declaration of abdication and handed the throne to her son, then Crown Prince Frederik. Thousands of people gathered outside the palace where the royal succession occurred on Sunday, celebrating the event, Xinhua news agency reported. In her address delivered on New Year's Eve, Queen Margrethe announced that she would be abdicating on January 14 and that she would hand over the throne to her eldest son. She justified it with a back operation that she had in February.

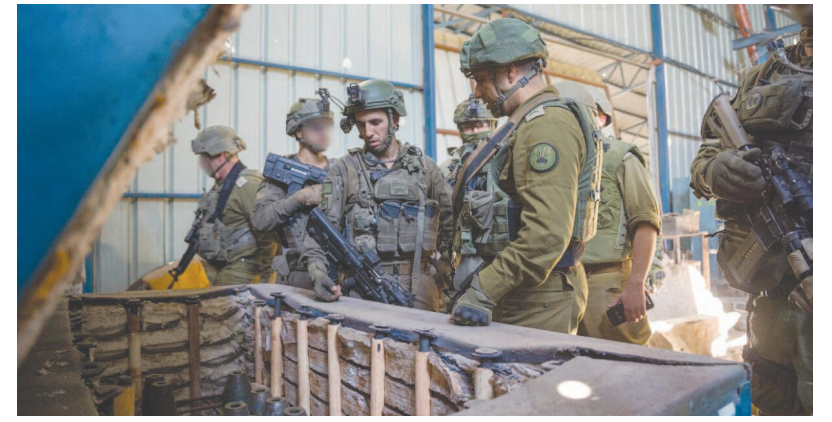


## Iran launches missile attacks against 'terrorist bases' in Syria, Iraqi Kurdistan

**Tehran, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Thursday announced that it launched barrages of ballistic missiles against the bases of "terrorists" and Israel's intelligence service Mossad in Syria and Iraq's Kurdistan Region, respectively, in response to recent anti-Tehran "terror" attacks. The IRGC announced the attacks in three statements published on Sepah News, describing the operations, which it said were carried out at midnight, as responses to recent "terrorist attacks" in the southeastern Iranian provinces of

Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan as well as Israel's assassinations of Iranian and resistance commanders, reports Xinhua news agency. Four people were killed as a result of the missile strike conducted by IRGC on Iraqi Kurdistan's capital of Erbil, according to the Kurdistan Region Security Council. At 11.30 p.m. on Monday, the IRGC fired ballistic missiles on "several populated civilian areas" in Erbil, the Council said in a statement early Thursday. "Erbil, as a stable region, has never been a source of threat to any party," the statement said, de-

scribing the missile attack as "a clear violation of the sovereignty of the (Kurdish) region and Iraq". The statement also called on the federal government and the international community not to remain silent about such attacks. The latest developments come more than two week after two "suicide terrorists" detonated two bombs near the tomb of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Kerman on January 3, which resulted in over 90 deaths and 280 injuries. The Islamic State terrorist group claimed responsibility for the bombings.



## IDF uncovers 100 rocket installations in Gaza

**Tel Aviv, Jan 18 (IANS)** : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Thursday said that it uncovered about 100 rocket installations from a Hamas stronghold in Gaza. In a post on X, the IDF said the rocket installations and 60 ready-to-use rockets were found by the 401st Brigade Combat Team in northern Gaza's Beit Lahia city, where troops also "eliminated dozens of terrorist operatives during operational activity". In the North Shati area, "troops directed IAF (Israeli Air Force) aircraft and a helicopter to strike

nine terrorist operatives", the military said. Besides the IAF, the 5th Brigade Team was also involved in this operation. Meanwhile in southern Gaza's Khan Younis city, the IDF's 7th Brigade Combat Team "directed an aircraft to strike terrorist operatives spotted in the area, directed a helicopter to strike an observational device that endangered soldiers and eliminated armed terrorists identified near soldiers". Senior Hamas leaders Mohammed Deif and Yahya Sinwar are reportedly hiding in Khan Younis, along with many hostages.

## Ukraine claims to destroy Russian spy plane

**Kiev, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Ukraine has claimed to destroy a Russian spy plane over the Sea of Azov. Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi initially said on Telegram on Thursday that two aircraft had

been destroyed, writing: "Warriors of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroyed an enemy A-50 long-range radar detection aircraft and an enemy IL-22 air control centre," CNN reported



## New chapter in India-Bangladesh bilateral ties: High Commissioner

**Dhaka, Jan 18 (IANS)** : During a meeting with Bangladesh's newly-elected Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud, Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma said a new chapter of bilateral relations between the two neighbouring nations has opened, and would work "more closely" to take the ties forward. The meeting took place on Thursday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.

"I came here to pay a courtesy call on the new Foreign Minister. I have congratulated him, and also on behalf of our External Affairs Minister. There were discussions on various bilateral issues. We would work more closely to take our relationship forward," Verma told reporters. The High Commissioner further said their discussions focused on the advancements and successes achieved in bilateral relationships during the last decade.



## 48 prisoners escape from Ecuadorian jail amid wave of violence

**Quito, Jan 18 (IANS)** : At least 48 inmates escaped from a prison in the northern city of Esmeraldas in Ecuador amid the "internal armed conflict" in the country declared on January 8. The escape was "evidenced" on Thursday when the national police and the armed forces carried out a search operation in the prison, Xinhua news agency quoted the National Service of Integral Attention to Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders (SNAI) as saying on Thursday. The SNAI also noted that five prisoners were "recaptured". The operation in the Esmeraldas prison was part of simultaneous interventions of the public forces in all the prisons of the country. This was aimed at regaining control after riots broke out in several prisons last week. Riots erupted on January 8 in several prisons after authorities confirmed the escape of a drug trafficking kingpin from a jail in the southwestern coastal city of Guayaquil.



## Israeli govt approves revised wartime budget with more defence spending

**Jerusalem, Jan 18 (IANS)** : The Israeli Finance Ministry said the government has approved an updated wartime budget for 2024, with significant increases in de-

fence spending amid the raging fighting with Hamas in Gaza. The original budget for 2024 was approved by Parliament in May 2023.

## Vivek Ramaswamy drops out of 2024 Republican race to WH, endorses Trump

**Washington, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Indian-American tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy announced that he is dropping out of the 2024 Republican presidential race, and endorsed former US President Donald Trump who won the crucial Iowa caucuses. The 38-year-old biotech entrepreneur told his supporters on Thursday night that he is ending campaign after a dismal finish in Iowa's leadoff



caucuses. The political newbie and the youngest candidate in the presidential race was trailing on the distant fourth spot with seven per cent of the votes counted. "As of this moment, we are going to suspend this presidential campaign. Earlier tonight I called Donald Trump to tell him that I

congratulate him on his victory, and now going forward, you will have my full endorsement for the presidency," The Hill reported Ramaswamy as saying.



**NDBA requests judges not to pass adverse orders over non-attendance of advocates, litigants on Jan 22**

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The New Delhi Bar Association (NDBA) has requested the non-passage of any adverse orders for non-appearance in the court on January 22 in light of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The event is anticipated to affect the presence of advocates. O.N. Sharma, Honorary Secretary of the NDBA, noted the significance of the Ayodhya event and urged judicial officers to exercise understanding and refrain from issuing adverse orders on the mentioned date due to potential non-attendance of advocates and litigants. The event will draw dignitaries and people from all walks of life.



## Believe in team unity & collective performance, says Tejashwi

**Patna, Jan 18 (IANS) :** In a veiled message to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav said that he believed in teamwork and not individual players. While inaugurating a cricket tournament at Urja Park in Patna, Tejashwi Yadav, who was also an IPL player before joining the political legacy of his father Lalu Prasad and

mother Rabri Devi in Bihar, said that individual performance does not matter, it is the team work that always wins the matches. When asked about when he will hit sixes in politics, Tejashwi said: "If one player hits sixes and others lose wickets cannot be a good thing. We believe in team unity and collective performance of all players." The statement of Tejashwi Yadav is important as there appears to be

some rift between Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar over the seat-sharing formula and the approach of RJD during the meetings of INDIA bloc in Delhi on December 19 last year. Nitish Kumar went to the house of Lalu Prasad on Makar Sankranti but the two leaders did not interact much during there. "In democracy, it's the people who are the boss."



## Forest fires trigger landmine explosions along LoC in J&K's Poonch

**Jammu, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Forest fires along the Line of Control (LoC) on Thursday resulted in explosion of several landmines in J&K's Poonch district. Reports said that forest fires have been continuing for the last two to three days in the

Mendhar and Balakote areas of the district. These fires close to the LoC have resulted in the explosion of several landmines in these areas. "Joint efforts by forest officials and the Army are going on to bring these fires under control," officials said.



## Police will act based on evidence, K'taka Home Min on derogatory comment on CM by Hegde

**Bengaluru, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Karnataka Home Minister, Dr G Parameshwara, stated on Thursday that police would act against the Karwar BJP MP, Anant Kumar Hegde, based on evidence in connection with his derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Parameshwara told reporters that an FIR had been registered against Hegde on his derogatory remarks against Siddaramaiah. Answering a question on the chances of Hegde's arrest, Parameshwara maintained that he did not know about any such development. "Po-

lice will initiate action based on the evidence. It is left to the discretion of the police whether to arrest the MP or not. I will not interfere and direct them to arrest or release a person," Parameshwara stated. "The local police will arrest him if there is provision in the Sections under which he has been charged. Whatever the consequences, it is going to be the decision of the police," he added. Hegde had reacted strongly to Siddaramaiah's remarks that he would not attend the Ram Mandir consecration event but visit Ayodhya afterwards.

## UST provides potable water for 7,500 people in two Kerala villages

**Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Leading digital transformation solutions company UST -- the biggest employer in Kerala, using its corporate social responsibility funds has provided two water treatment plants in water-locked villages at Kuttanad in the Alappuzha district. The non-availability of potable water had resulted in major health issues cropping among the people of many villages in Kuttanad and it was then that UST stepped in. The two drinking water treatment plants will now be the source of water for drinking,

cooking and other domestic purposes for 1,000 families, comprising around 5,000 people in Mithrakary, and 500 families comprising around 2,500 people in Oorukary. Prasanth Subramanian, of UST, said the initiative has been conceived and implemented to help the local communities tide over the acute water shortage crisis they have been facing for more than a decade. "The non-availability of potable water had been a major issue and had also led to health problems among the people for the community. UST is glad due to the concerted efforts by its CSR team," Subramanian added. The water treatment plants at the



villages included a well, pre-filtration and chlorination tank, iron and unwanted minerals filter, reverse osmosis process, carbon filter, UV filter, supply tank and plant room.



## Our aim is to transform Rajasthan into premier tourist destination: Deputy CM

**Jaipur, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on Thursday said that the aim of the new BJP government is to transform the state into a premier tourist destination. "To attract tourist traffic to any destination in the state, a comprehensive strategy needs to be formulated and implemented. This involves collaborating with multiple departments to enhance transportation options such as rail, road, and air connectivity," the Deputy Chief Minis-

ter said while chairing an evaluation meeting to scrutinise the Tourism Department's work plans. She said that improving hospitality services in the vicinity of tourist attractions is crucial for the state. "To ensure the entire surrounding area is equipped with modern amenities, establishing quality basic infrastructure, and developing clean water and restroom facilities are essential components of this initiative," the Deputy Chief Minister said. She also directed officials to formulate a comprehensive action plan at the departmental level to enhance the appeal of fairs and festivals across the state.

## President Murmu to open Surajkund Crafts Fair on Feb 2

**Chandigarh, Jan 18 (IANS) :** President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the 37th International Surajkund Crafts Fair in Faridabad on February 2. Besides, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will attend the fair on February 3. M.D. Sinha, Principal Secretary, Tourism-cum-Vice Chairman of Surajkund International Crafts Mela, said this year 40 countries would participate, with ambassadors from numerous nations joining the fair on various occasions. This time the International Surajkund Crafts Fair would be organised on a more grand scale compared to previous years, he said. In light of this, meticulous preparations for the fair are underway. Sinha said over 1,000 stalls have been prepared, ensuring the same number of craftsmen will actively participate. Anticipating a significant increase in attendance, he emphasised the need for top-notch facilities, including cleanliness, road arrangements, lighting, electricity provisions, and toilets.



## SC stays Allahabad HC order allowing appointment of commissioner in Krishna Janambhoomi dispute

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed an order passed by the Allahabad High Court allowing the appointment of commissioner to inspect the Shahi Idgah premises adjoining the Krishna Janambhoomi temple in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura. During the hearing, a bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna orally observed: "The application for the appointment of local commissioner is very vague... Don't implement the order till the next date." "Let the commission not be executed. Look at the prayer of your application. The prayer to appoint

a commission 'in the light of the averment made in the suit' is very vague. You have to make a very specific prayer. You have to be very clear what you want the local commission for. You cannot make an omnibus application," Justice Khanna added. In its interim order, the bench, also comprising Dipankar Datta, said that the commission will not be executed but trial proceedings pending before the High Court can continue. Issuing notice on the special leave petition moved by the Shahi Idgah Masjid Management Committee, the apex court asked the other side to file their reply by January 23.





### Muted results, guidance from corporates sour investor mood

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Nifty ended lower for the third consecutive session on Thursday amid high volatility. Muted results and guidance from corporates are souring investor mood, Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said. At close, Nifty was down 0.51 per cent or 109.7 points at 21,462.3. Cash market volumes on the NSE continued to be high at Rs 1.27 lakh crore. Broad market indices closed almost flat even as the advance decline ratio closed at 0.89:1. Global shares traded mixed on Thursday as pessimism spread among investors fuelled by a sense of resignation that the interest rate cuts long expected in March will not materialise due to stubbornly high inflation.

### Smart Cities India Expo in Delhi showcases impactful projects

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The 9th Smart Cities India Expo, being held at Pragati Maidan in the national capital from January 17 to 19 is showcasing the achievements of the Smart Cities Mission. The models of some of the most impactful projects, including the Chappan Dukaan of Indore Smart City, Connecting Past with Future of Surat Smart City, Area-Based Development of Udaipur Smart City and Digitization of Manuscripts of Prayagraj Smart City, are on display at the National Pavilion. The three-day expo, organised by India Trade Promotions

Organisation (ITPO) and the Exhibitions India Group, features key verticals of smart city framework including Smart ICT, Smart Energy, Buildings, Transport, Water, and Clean India, etc. and provide a platform to enable deeper communication and a practical approach towards making smart cities a reality.



### NMDC Committed to India's Steel Demand

**Hyderabad, Jan 18 (TIM Bureau) :** National Miner NMDC is scaling up production of iron ore to meet the demands of a thriving domestic steel market, earning higher sales realizations with zilch export. One of Government of India's most respected and dependable companies, NMDC has not proposed to export its ore to China as dishonorably claimed in a story run by Reuters on Tuesday

evening. In recent interactions with business media, the company maintained that India's appetite for iron ore is on a historic high and NMDC is consumed and committed, catering to the demand from domestic steelmakers. Speaking on the economics of export, the company said that even though iron ore export prices are showing an increasing trend, the net sales realizations in the domestic market are superior.



### RBI bulletin ups India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for Oct-Dec quarter

**Mumbai, Jan 18 (IANS) :** India's economic activity remained resilient on the back of robust domestic demand, notwithstanding the external headwinds. Supply chain pressures in India ebbed in December and remained below historical average levels, according to the RBI's monthly bulletin released on Thursday. "Our economic activity index (EAI) now casts GDP growth for Q3:2023-24 at 7 per cent," the report states. Earlier the growth rate was projected at 6.5 per cent. The Indian economy recorded stronger than expected growth in 2023-24, underpinned by a shift from consumption to investment with the government's thrust on capex starting to crowd-in private

investment, according to it. Headline inflation recorded a marginal uptick in December, driven by higher food inflation due to unfavourable base effects, according to the report on the state of the economy. At the same time, the report flags the downside risks due to the global slowdown. The world economy faces divergent near-term growth prospects. The report also points out that there has been a steady expansion in the consolidated balance sheet of Indian banks (SCBs), driven by credit to retail and services sectors. Higher net interest income and lower provisioning boosted net interest margins (NIMs) and profitability.

### PLI scheme to help India create a complete mobile supply chain in next 3 years: Samsung

**San Jose (US), Jan 18 (IANS) :** India will establish a complete supply chain for mobile production in the next three years driven by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, just like China built its global supply chain years ago, and then, the growth will truly be led by the industry, Samsung India President and CEO J.B. Park said on Thursday. In 2021, the Indian government had announced an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for the PLI schemes for 13 key sectors, including mobile manufacturing. The minimum production in India as a result of PLI schemes is expected

to be over \$500 billion in 5 years. Of the \$101 billion electronics production in FY23, smartphones constituted \$44 billion. According to the government, the PLI scheme for smartphone manufacturing has resulted in local value addition of 20 per cent within a span of two-three years. According to Park, the country still has about three years to further boost mobile exports from the country and enable several brands to be eligible for the PLI scheme. "This kind of policy that the government has given to the brands to come and build not only for domestic usage but also for exports, these kinds of incentives are very important to pivot the target that needs to be achieved," Park told reporters



here. He said that in the next three years, "a complete mobile supply chain will be established in India", just like China that built their global supply chain years ago. "After three years when all of the sub-supplier supply chains are established, I think the growth engine will be industry-led instead of government policy-led. It is the actual development that occurs with such initiatives," Park noted. The PLI scheme has attracted over Rs 1.03 lakh crore of investment (till November 2023), according to the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The biggest impact of the PLI scheme is seen in mobile phone manufacturing as PLI beneficiaries, which account for about 20 per cent of the market share, contributed to about 82 per cent of mobile phone exports during FY 2022-23. "Production of mobile phones increased by more than 125 per cent and export of mobile phones increased around 4 times since FY 2020-21," according to the ministry.

### Nifty continues downward trend amid weak global cues

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Nifty continued its downward trend amid selling pressure in HDFC Bank and weak global cues, Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said. The index closed on Thursday with a loss of 110 points at 21,462. Sector wise, it was a mixed bag with buying seen in Pharma, Oil & Gas, Realty, and PSU Bank, he said. Strong retail sales data in the US, along with hawkish comments by US Fed speakers spooked investors globally. "We expect the market to consolidate in a range with limited upside amid a global uncertain environment. Tomorrow (Friday), Nifty heavyweights like Reliance, HUL.



### UP govt raises sugarcane MSP by Rs 20 for all categories

**Lucknow, Jan 18 (IANS) :** The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday raised the minimum support price (MSP) for sugarcane by Rs 20 per quintal for all three categories of the crop. The decision was taken at the state cabinet meet-

ing in Lucknow earlier in the day. The state government was earlier paying Rs 335 per quintal for the low variety of the crop and Rs 340 per quintal for the normal variety. The best variety of sugarcane fetches Rs 350 per quintal.



### ITC's Mangaldeep to spread its fragrance in Ayodhya

**New Delhi/Ayodhya, Jan 18 (IANS) :** On the occasion of momentous inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 22, Mangaldeep, ITC's Agarbatti brand, is spearheading a series of initiatives to actively be a part of the event, and enrich the celebrations of devotees during the inauguration and beyond. Mangaldeep has joined hands with the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra to implement various initiatives in honour of the proud occasion - Nutan Vighrah Pran Prathisthra of Shri Ram Lallaji. As part of the asso-

ciation Mangaldeep has donated its flagship dhoop, the "Mangaldeep 3 in 1 Dhoop", for a duration of six months from the Temple's opening date. This gesture aims to facilitate the daily puja rituals for the pandits, ensuring a seamless and aromatic devotional experience. On the day of the inauguration, Mangaldeep will be enhancing the devotees' spiritual experience by installing a unique "Khushboo Path" within the Temple premises. This fragrant corridor, adorned with 5 feet tall agarbattis, has been meticulously crafted to diffuse the aus-

picious fragrance of Mangaldeep agarbatti throughout the temple. Visitors passing through these corridors will be immersed in the pure and divine aroma of the agarbatti, providing them with a truly uplifting and spiritual experience during their temple visit. Two agarbatti stands have also been installed at 'Ram Ki Phedi' where devotees can light incense sticks and offer their prayers to Lord Ram. Mangaldeep has also provided platforms for Pujaris at river ghats as well as pooja outlets, hawker setups and umbrellas for shade in the markets of Ayodhya.





## TN woman donates land for school, to be honoured on Republic Day

**Chennai, Jan 18 (IANS)** : A 52-year-old woman, who had donated land for the development of the school where she studied, will be honoured during the Republic Day celebrations by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. Aayi Ammal alias Pooranam, who is a resident of Madurai district and working as a banker, will be honoured with a medal on the Republic Day. Pooranam donated over one acre land to the Panchayat Union Middle School, Kodikkulam, Madurai for uplifting the school to a high school. The land is estimated to be worth around Rs 7 crore and is adjacent to the present school building. The 52-year-old, who works with the Canara Bank, has announced this in memory

of her late daughter, U. Janani, who passed away a couple of years ago. The news came out after she registered the land in the name of the school and handed over the documents of the land to the Education department authorities. Announcing this on X, Chief Minister Stalin said, "Education is the real, imperishable wealth. Aayi Ammal alias Pooranam, from Kodikkulam, Madurai has donated an acre and 52 cents of her land to build an additional building for the government school... Aayi Ammal shows how the Tamils value education and teaching, and will be honoured with a special award from the CM on behalf of the government on the upcoming Republic Day,"



## Savitri Bai Phule goddess of education, not Saraswati, says RJD MLA

**Patna, Jan 18 (IANS)** : RJD MLA Fateh Bahadur Singh on Thursday claimed that the real goddess of education is Marathi social reformer Savitri Bai Phule and not Saraswati. The MLA of Dehri constituency in Sasaram district, who came to Patna to participate in the Dahi-Chura Bhoj organised by RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav at his residence on Thursday, said: "What is the contribution of goddess Saraswati in education? For me, Savitri Bai Phule is the goddess of education."

## Muslims here have to come out of Ghazni, Ghori, Babar mindset: K'taka BJP leader

**Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka), Jan 18 (IANS)** : Former national General Secretary and senior BJP leader C.T. Ravi said on Thursday that the mindset of Ghazni, Ghori and Babar were dangerous and "Muslims here must come out of that". Speaking to reporters, Ravi said, "During the times of Ghazni, Ghori, Khilji, Aurangajeb, other Mughals and Tipu Sultan 42,000 temples were razed to the ground. Indian Muslims do not identify themselves with these invaders. We will not presume all Muslims on one premise. Muslims should have ideals of Shishunala

Sharif, ABJ Abdul Kalam. Then the sense of fraternity will get strengthened. "The Indian Muslims, who do not identify themselves with the invaders, had stayed back in the country reposing their trust in the Sanatana Dharma. Their thinking will also change." He further said, "Some might even feel it is 'haram' to offer prayers in masjids built after destroying temples. When they feel this, Muslim might show broadmindedness," C.T. Ravi stated. Ravi, while objecting to the derogatory statement by BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde against CM Siddaramaiah, said, "Seniors and the post



have to be respected. MP Hegde has a different style of functioning. But, it does not mean that one can inflict insult on others. I don't defend his statement. Lord Ram stands for inclusiveness.

Using singulars on CM Siddaramaiah amounts to disrespect," he stated.

## Maha's moment on the world stage at Davos, says CM Shinde

**Mumbai, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday said that the Davos World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting would be a "big chance to showcase Maharashtra" at the global level in the presence of leading personalities from all over the world. Interacting with the media shortly before boarding for his three-day trip to Davos, Shinde said: "This is a big opportunity... Maharashtra will get a chance for branding and showcasing at the international level at WEF, where prominent people

from all over the world, including heads of governments come." Highlighting the willingness of foreign players to invest in Maharashtra, he said that the state offers a huge potential in the form of infrastructure, connectivity and skilled manpower. "The state's industry policy is very flexible... This visit to Davos will be more successful than in 2023, more MoUs will be signed and their conversion will also take place," said Shinde. Last year, the state signed MoUs worth Rs 1.37 lakh-crore and around 76 per cent have been implemented, and in 2024, the Chief Minister is eyeing MoUs



worth over Rs 3.10 lakh-crore across sectors and districts in Maharashtra. Shinde claimed that before his regime took over, the state had plummeted to the third or fourth slot in the country, but after he took over as Chief Minister, the state reclaimed its numero uno position attracting FDI. "The Prime Minister's dream of a

\$5 trillion economy goes through Maharashtra. We have set a target of Rs 1 trillion for the state," he added. At the 2024 WEF Davos meet (January 15-19), Shinde has lined up an impressive schedule of meetings with top Indian and global corporate honchos, diplomats, world leaders.



## Let CM Siddaramaiah come for an open debate on decency: BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde

**Karwar (Karnataka), Jan 18 (IANS)** : BJP MP and former Union Minister Anantkumar Hegde on Thursday challenged Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for an open debate on decency. Hegde had stirred a controversy by addressing Siddaramaiah as his son while criticising him for issuing statements in connection with Ayodhya's Ram temple. Karnataka BJP has distanced itself from the MP's provocative speech. Defending his derogatory statement against Siddaramaiah, Hegde stated, let Chief Minister Siddaramaiah come for a face to face open public debate on mat-

ters of decency and culture. "It is natural that the leaders of the party won't support my statement and my remarks were personal. In matters of decency, CM Siddaramaiah should engage with me in an open debate and people should watch it," he stated. "When was the last time he spoke with decency? He has spoken indecently against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. CM Siddaramaiah has also spoken in an unacceptable manner against temples and Hindutva.



## Patna court summons Udhayanidhi Stalin over Sanatan Dharma remarks

**Patna, Jan 18 (IANS)** : A Patna court on Thursday issued fresh summons to Tamil Nadu Minister Udaynidhi Stalin, the son of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, on a complaint against his remarks comparing Sanatan Dharma to dengue, malaria, and corona. The MP-MLA court of Patna has asked Udhayanidhi Stalin, who had made the remarks at a public meeting in his state, to physically appear before court on February 13.



## Dense fog & cold wave to continue for 5 days, says IMD

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Citing no relief, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday said that dense to very dense fog and the cold wave conditions are likely to continue in North India parts during the next five days. The weather forecast agency said that cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are likely to continue over plains of North-west India during the next five days. In

its daily bulletin, the IMD said that minimum temperatures are in the range of 2-5 degrees Celsius over most parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, in the range of 6-10 degrees Celsius over many parts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, north Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand.

## Odisha CM urges people to celebrate Puri Heritage Corridor project's inauguration by lighting lamps

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday urged the people of the state to celebrate the inauguration of the Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor project in Puri by lighting earthen lamps and blowing conches shells at their homes. "In the words of Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, such work of development for the Shree Mandir (Jagannath Temple) has never been carried out during the past 700 years. This is a day of celebration for all the

Odia people so I request we should celebrate this by dedicating the day and occasion to the Lord. Everyone should express devotion in his or her own way by lighting earthen lamps, blowing conches.



## Murder case of Bhubaneswar's hotelier solved, woman held

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 18 (IANS)** : The Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police has apprehended one woman from Puri in connection with the murder of a hotelier in the Baliaanta area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar city. The woman allegedly killed the victim businessman, Biswajit Nayak following a heated argument. Nayak, a resident of Hirapur village under Baliaanta police limits, had a restaurant in VSS Nagar area of the city. Nayak's body

wrapped in a blood-stained blanket was recovered by police on Saturday night. Police during investigation found grave injury marks on the head of the deceased suggesting prima facie that he had been murdered. "We later came to know that Nayak had a brief relationship with a woman, Sunki Rana of Jharsuguda district. Sunki had earlier been awarded 12 years imprisonment in 2005 for killing her sister-in-law by suspecting the victim of having an illicit affair with her husband. She was staying at

an Ashram in Puri for the last four years after getting out of jail. Meanwhile, Nayak's mother also often visits the same Ashram for treatment. The deceased Nayak during his visits to Puri to meet his mother came into contact with accused Rana and they soon entered into a relationship," said DCP Prateek Singh. Singh also said that Sunki used to visit the house of the deceased at regular intervals taking permission from the head of the Ashram at Puri with a plea that she is going to visit her native village. One



of the female inmates of the Ashram was the jailor where Sunki served her jail term too and she respects her very much. On December 30, Sunki had come to the house of Biswajit and stayed with him but received regular phone calls from Puri about her return.





## Cutting off foreign students, temporary workers will hit Canadian economy: Report

**Toronto, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Closing doors to temporary workers and foreign students allowed into Canada would blunt the country's economic recovery and deepen recession, a capital market company has warned. According to predictions by Montreal-based Desjardins Securities, the country's real GDP will grow just 0.1 per cent in

2024 and an average of about 1.95 per cent annually from 2025 through 2028. But if it were to shut the door to temporary residents, real GDP would drop by 0.7 per cent in 2024 and grow an average of 1.78 per cent annually over the following four years, Bloomberg News said, citing the report.

## UK Conservatives heading for electoral wipeout on scale of their 1997 defeat by Labour

**London, Jan 18 (IANS)** : The UK's Conservative Party is heading for an electoral wipeout on the scale of their 1997 defeat by Labour, the most authoritative opinion poll in five years has predicted, media reports said. The YouGov survey of 14,000 people forecasts that the Tories will retain just 169 seats, while Labour will sweep to power with 385 – giving Keir Starmer a 120-seat majority, the Daily Telegraph reported. Every Red Wall seat won from Labour by Boris Johnson in 2019 will be lost, the poll indicates, and the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, will be one of the 11 Cabinet ministers to lose their seats. The Tories will win 196 fewer seats than in 2019, more than the 178 John Major lost in 1997, Daily Telegraph reported.



## Bangkok to brace for air pollution spike

**Bangkok, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Thailand's Pollution Control Department (PCD) has warned residents in the capital Bangkok and its surrounding areas to brace for worsening air quality as dust particle accumulation is likely to rise this week. Most areas in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region are expected to see a constant increase in PM 2.5 pollutants due to poor air circulation starting from Thursday until Friday, prompting an alarm over unhealthy levels of

air pollution, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the PCD. About 238 fire hotspots, mainly from agricultural burning, were detected on Sunday across the Southeast Asian country, satellite images from the Thai Geoinformatics and Space Technology Development Agency showed.

## Prachanda says Nepal against Taiwan's independence, terms China 'reliable friend'

**Kathmandu, Jan 18 (IANS)** : A day after anti-Beijing leader Lai Ching-te was elected the new President of Taiwan, Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" on Thursday said that the Himalayan nation was against Taiwan's independence. "Nepal recognises the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," he said while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Chinese New Year cel-

ebrations here. Nepal made a departure from 'One China Policy' to 'One China Principle' during the visit of Prachanda to China in September last year. The move came as a surprise to many. "We have already made our position clear on the issue of Taiwan's independence in the joint statement issued during my recent visit to China," he said, adding: "We have said that we are against Taiwan's Independence." Nepal was adhering to the 'One China' policy following the India-China War in 1962. However, according to analysts, Nepal's new stance could put it in a "geopolitical quandary".

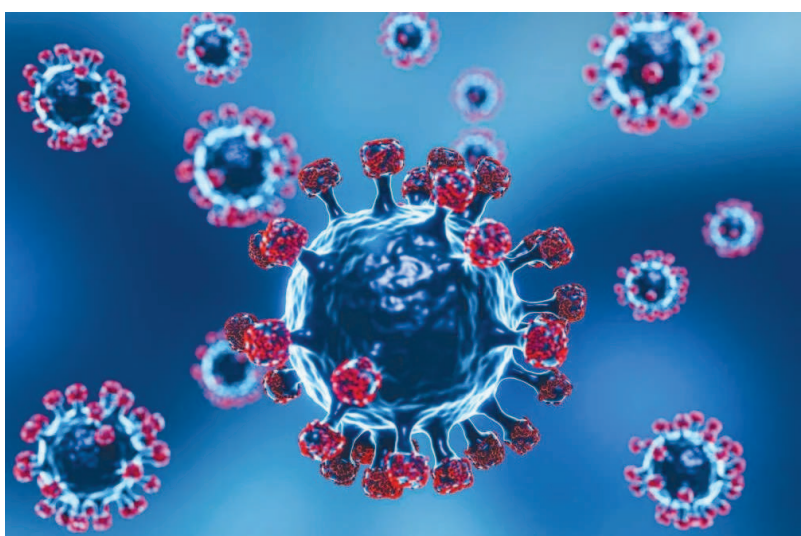
"We are committed not to allowing any activities in our nation that are inimical to the interest of China. We oppose external interference in the internal affairs of a country," said Prachanda during the programme which was attended by Chinese Ambassador Chen Song and several other senior party leaders and officials. Likewise, China also always stands firm in respect of Nepal's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and dignity, he said. Nepal and China are close neighbours, reliable and trusted friends, he said, adding "our relationship is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence and



Panchsheel". "As good friends, we have closely shared each other's sensitivities. Our relationship is based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and Panchsheel. Our relations stand on the solid foundation of the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence'. We understand

each other's aspirations and sensitivities and extend support to each other in times of need in the spirit of true friendship. "Nepal firmly adheres to 'One China Principle'. Our commitment is strong, unequivocal, straightforward, and unshakable. The change in domestic and external situations

has not influenced and affected this principled position of Nepal," he added. While recalling his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prachanda said "we had in-depth discussions to deepen our multifaceted relations".



## JN.1 variant to soon become dominant strain in China: Health officials

**Beijing, Jan 18 (IANS)** : China is likely to see a rebound in Covid-19 infections in January, and the highly transmissible JN.1 variant will become the dominant strain, health authorities have said. At a press briefing on Thursday, Mi Feng, a spokesperson with the National Health Commission, said that since the New Year's Day, the number of patients received at fever clinics in medical institutions across the country has shown a fluctuating downward trend, Global Times reported. Currently, the country is majorly seeing influenza cases, while the Covid cases are at a relatively low level. However, recent data from the multi-channel monitoring system showed the proportion of the JN.1 variant strain having an upward trend, Wang Dayan, director of the China National Influenza Center, National Institute for

Viral Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) was quoted as saying. Due to continuous importation of the JN.1 variant strain, a gradual decrease in domestic influenza, and a decline in population immunity, the Covid-19 epidemic may rebound in January, with the JN.1 variant highly likely to develop into the dominant variant in China, Wang said. Wang also noted that southern provinces in China entered the influenza season in early October, followed by northern provinces in late October. Initially, the predominant circulating strain was the H3N2 subtype influenza virus. But, in the past three weeks, the proportion of influenza B virus in southern provinces has increased to 36.8 per cent.

## US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin discharged from hospital

**Washington, Jan 18 (IANS)** : US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin was released from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Thursday after undergoing follow-up treatment for prostate cancer surgery, the Pentagon announced on Monday, two weeks after he was admitted for complications following prostate cancer surgery. Austin will work remotely "for a period of time" before returning to the Pentagon. He has "full access" to secure communications capabilities, the Pentagon said in a statement. Austin's doctors said that he

is "expected to make a full recovery". "Secretary Austin's prostate cancer was treated early and effectively, and his prognosis is excellent," said a statement from Dr. John Maddox, Trauma Medical Director, and Dr. Gregory Chesnut, Director of the Center for Prostate Disease Research at the Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "He has no planned further treatment for his cancer other than regular post-prostatectomy surveillance." Austin said in a statement on Thursday that he is "grateful for the excellent care I received at Walter Reed National Military



Medical Center and want to thank the outstanding doctors and nursing staff for their professionalism and superb support". "Now, as I continue to recuperate and perform my duties from home, I'm eager to fully recover and return as quickly as possible to the Pentagon," he said. Austin's discharge comes after he was hospitalized on January 1 for

complications from a prostate cancer procedure in December. The Pentagon did not notify the media until January 5 and despite the seriousness of his hospitalization, it was later revealed that Austin had not notified Congress or the White House about his diagnosis, initial procedure, or subsequent complications and hospitalization.

## Amid wrangling in political blocks, Iraqi parliament fails to elect new speaker

**Baghdad, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Amid wrangling in political blocs, the Iraqi parliament on Thursday failed to elect a new speaker to replace the sacked speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi. The parliament session, chaired by Mohsen al-Mandalawi, the first deputy of the parliament speaker, began on Thursday afternoon and continued until the early hours of Thursday during which he announced to have received nominations from five lawmakers for the speaker post, according to a statement issued by the parliament.

## Pakistan Tehreek-e Insaaf loses poll symbol 'bat'

**Islamabad, Jan 18 (IANS)** : Ahead of the February 8 general elections, the Supreme Court in the country has upheld the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and nullified Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf's intra-party polls, depriving the party of its poll symbol bat, local media reported. After continuous hearing for three days, a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali annulled the judgement at 11.15 pm on Thursday on the ECP's plea, Dawn reported. Setting aside the Peshawar High Court order regarding restoration of PTI's bat symbol, the bench said: "Mere production of a certificate by the PTI stating that intra-party elections were



held could not suffice to establish that such elections had actually been held particularly when some party members were challenging this assertion.



## UK Post Office scandal: Indian-origin elderly battles for compensation

**London, Jan 18 (IANS) :** An Indian-origin postmaster continues to battle for compensation, three years after his conviction was quashed in what is being remembered as one of the most widespread miscarriage of justice in British legal history. Vipin Patel, 70, who ran the Horspath Post Office in Oxford for five years, was among hundreds of employees falsely accused of theft and fraud by the Post Office over a 15-year period because of an accounting software glitch. He was charged with stealing GBP75,000 from the Post Office, convicted of fraud, and given an

18-week suspended prison sentence in 2011, the Oxford Mail newspaper said. Following a television drama on the scandal aired this month, the UK government said it would introduce new legislation to make sure the victims of the Post Office scandal are swiftly exonerated and compensated. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in the Commons that a new upfront payment of 75,000 pounds (\$95,000) will be offered to a group of former postmasters who took their case against the Post Office to the High Court in 2019. Patel's son, Varchas, said that his parents are "really pleased" that

the television show raised public awareness, "but they are still battling for compensation". "There has been no payment at all from the government despite my father's conviction being quashed and the court saying my dad had no stain on his character. I'm angry it has taken a drama to speed things up but pleased as well -- a mixed bag of emotions," Varchas told the Oxford Mail. Patel, whose conviction was quashed by Southwark Crown Court in 2020, has been left disabled and 'bedridden' after the years-long ordeal, according to his son. "My dad's 70 and he's been in



hospital on two occasions in the past seven or eight months. He has a heart condition. I am concerned because of his bad physical health, we do not know what is around the corner," Varchas said. Varchas was 23 when Patel was prosecuted and remembers seeing

a prison officer come upstairs to the flat and put an ankle tag on his father. The UK government paid more than 148 million pounds to 2,700 victims so far across different compensation systems, according to a Nikkei Asia report.

Last year, the government said that each individual whose convictions were overturned would be entitled to 600,000 pounds in compensation. The scandal involved at least 700 post office managers who faced prosecution by the Post Office between 1999 and 2015. Many of them have spent years asserting their innocence, citing issues with a new accounting and stocktaking software program called Horizon, developed by Fujitsu, a Japanese IT company. Some of the managers served prison sentences after being convicted of false accounting and theft, and many of them were financially ruined, and some committed suicide. Fujitsu is facing growing calls to compensate post office operators who were wrongly prosecuted based on data from its faulty accounting software.

## Guterres pleads for Gaza ceasefire, warns of 'flames of wider war'

**United Nations, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Pleading for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday about the risk of "flames of wider war". "I am profoundly worried by what is unfolding," he told reporters surveying the heightening tensions from Gaza and the West Bank to Lebanon and the Red Sea. "Tensions are also sky-high in the Red Sea and beyond -- and may soon be impossible to contain," he said. "To tamp down the flames of wider war because the longer the conflict in Gaza continues, the greater the risk of escalation and miscalculation," he said, adding: "We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire." The General Assembly adopted a resolution last month calling for an immediate ceasefire, which has been ignored and the body has no enforcement



powers. The Security Council, which can enforce its decisions, cannot demand a ceasefire because of the US veto. Last month, the US vetoed a Council resolution calling for a ceasefire that was opposed by Israel. The conflict originated with a terrorist onslaught by Hamas from Gaza on Israel on October 7, 2023 in which over 1,200 people were killed and about

240 people were taken hostage. Guterres demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and said that meanwhile they should be treated humanely and the Red Cross should be allowed to visit them. "The accounts of sexual violence committed by Hamas and others on October 7 must be rigorously investigated and prosecuted," he added.



## I'm not interested in being Vice President : Nikki Haley

**New York, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Hours before the Iowa caucuses kickstarting the Republican presidential nomination process, Indian-American presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has said she is not keen on playing second fiddle to former boss Donald Trump. Pushing across ice-cold Iowa and hoping for a strong finish in the state, the lone woman in the 2024 presidential race remains confident about her election as the next US President. "I don't play for a second. I've never played for a second. I'm not going to start

now. I'm not interested in being Vice President. I'm running to be President and I'm running to win and we will," Haley said in a CBS News interview. While Trump still leads the Republican pack as the voters' best bet in November, it is Haley who right now holds a bigger lead over President Joe Biden than either Trump or Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in potential head-to-head match-ups, according to a recent CBS/YouGov poll. "Republicans need to start winning again. I will stomp all over Joe Biden in the general election," Haley had said in a post on X on Thursday. An Emerson College

Polling/WHHD New Hampshire survey released last week found Haley sitting at 28 per cent in the state's presidential primary, up from 18 per cent in November 2023. Trump, on the other hand, had 44 per cent support among Republican primary voters in the state, down from 49 per cent in November last year. With the New Hampshire primary scheduled for January 23, and South Carolina on February 3, the former UN Ambassador said that the Republican presidential race will be a contest between her and Trump.



## Sports effective weapon against drugs : Punjab CM

**Chandigarh, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said promotion of sports culture can be the most effective tool in crusade against drugs. Addressing a gathering at a function here to distribute Rs 33.83 crore to 168 medal winner players in Asian and national games, the Chief Minister said with the promotion of sports the unbounded energy of the youth is being utilised for excelling in sports.

He said that the youth who are involved in sports have no time even to look at drugs because they are using their all might to excel in their respective fields. The Chief Minister said that this will go a long way in eliminating the curse of drugs and making the youth an equal partner in social economic development of the state. The Chief Minister said the government is judiciously spending every single penny for the progress of the state and welfare of its people. He said the government has checked the pilferage of the public money effectively.

## How the Hamas-Israel war turned out to be a strategic advantage for Russia

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS) :** This conflict has left the world and societies divided, raised questions over the extent of "self-defence" and the definition of genocide, and brought into sharp focus the differing approach to conflicts around the globe. The Israel-Hamas war, which has entered its 100th day, has upended geopolitics in other ways too. One unforeseen -- and unintended -- beneficiary is Russia. While the diversion of attention - and of crucial funding and military aid - of the US and most European powers to Israel, leaving Ukraine and its grandstanding President Volodymyr Zelensky literally and figuratively in the cold, confer a marked strategic ad-

vantage to Russia, there are a host of other ramifications that portend favourably for it too. Long pilloried by the Western powers and its allies over its military action in Ukraine, Moscow has now a sense of satisfaction of seeing the same Western powers attempting to justify their unqualified support to Israel in its extremely ruthless and indiscriminate response against the hapless Palestinians of Gaza. The higher magnitude of civilian deaths and damage in Gaza, than in the entire Ukrainian conflict, has led to blowback from several countries of the Global South, across Africa and South America, as well as the Arab street - though not the Arab governments.



## Over 5,000 dengue cases reported in Sri Lanka this month

**Colombo, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Over 5,000 dengue cases have been reported in Sri Lanka so far in January, according to the latest update released by the National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) on Thursday. The NDCU said 5,829 cases have been reported during the first half of January, reports Xinhua news agency. The Western Province reported the highest number of 1,956 cases, followed by the Northern Province with 1,390 cases. Last year, 88,398 dengue cases were reported in Sri Lanka with 57 deaths, according to the NDCU.

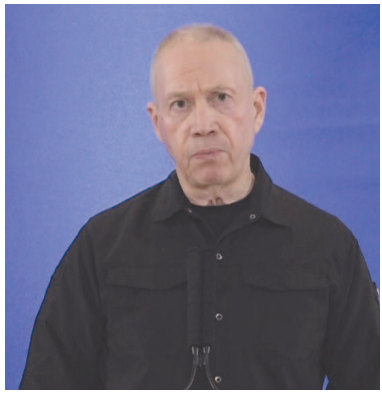


## N.Korean Foreign Minister leaves for Russia amid deepening military cooperation

**Seoul, Jan 18 (IANS) :** North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui has left for Russia for an official visit at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, amid deepening military cooperation between the two nations, state media reported on Thursday. Choe is scheduled to visit Russia from Thursday to Friday at Lavrov's invitation, and her delegation was seen off at the airport on Sunday by Vice Foreign Minister Pak Chol-jun and Russia's Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Vladimir Topcha, the North's official Korean Central

News Agency (KCNA) said. Her visit appears to be a reciprocal trip following Lavrov's visit to Pyongyang in October 2023 and comes amid suspicions that North Korea has provided weapons to Russia for use in its war with Ukraine in return for Russia's technical assistance for Pyongyang's weapons programs. Pyongyang and Moscow have denied any arms deals so far. Also drawing attention is the issue of whether Choe and Lavrov will discuss a possible trip by Russian President Vladimir Putin to North Korea.





**Hamas's battalion framework in northern Gaza dismantled: Israeli Defence Min**

**Tel Aviv, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant

claimed that the military has dismantled the Hamas militant group's entire military battalion framework in northern Gaza.

In a statement late Wednesday, Gallant said that although the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was reducing the intensity of its advances in northern Gaza, the military will continue to eliminate pockets of influence and resistance of the militant group. He also said that these pockets of resistance would be eliminated through raids, airstrikes, special operations and other focused activities to destroy the remaining terror operators acting on specific and precise intelligence. Gallant further said that the army will continue its intense operations in central and southern Gaza strip and added that operations will also be expanded to the Ramallah area as well.

**Tunisian man locked up indefinitely for killing Indian-origin teen in London**

**London, Jan 18 (IANS) :** A Tunisian national has been locked up indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital for killing and nearly beheading a 19-year-old Indian-origin student at her university accommodation in London in 2022. Maher Maaroufe, 24, stabbed his girlfriend Sabita Thanwani, an aspiring psychologist, in the neck at Arbour House student flats in Clerkenwell area of London on March 19, 2022. Appearing before the Old Bailey last year, Maaroufe, of no fixed address, admitted manslaughter by means of diminished responsibility, saying he was suffering from schizoaffective disorder at that time. He also pleaded guilty to a charge of assault by beating an emergency worker.

While sentencing him on Thursday, Judge Nigel Lickley KC said Maaroufe carried out the attack during the "height" of a psychotic episode, the BBC reported. He said Maaroufe had been "aggressive" and "controlling" towards Thanwani during their relationship and hit her at least once, and that his behaviour may have been part of his "emerging illness". "Sabita had her whole life ahead of her. You ended her life. Your actions will continue to cause enduring pain and suffering," the judge told Maaroufe. The Old Bailey heard that Maaroufe, who entered the UK legally on an unknown date but had overstayed, was in the process of claiming asylum at the time of the incident.

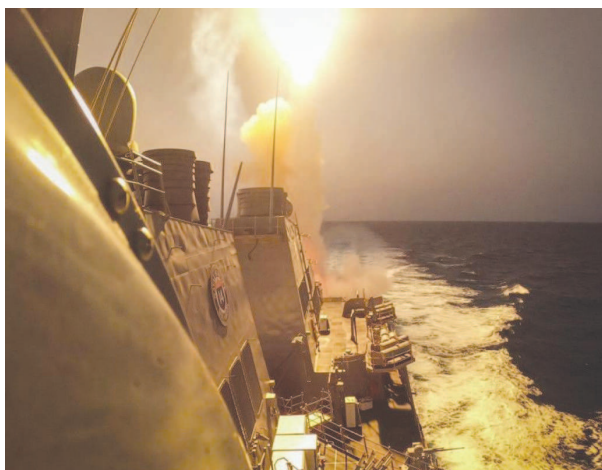


**Iowa caucus voters want Trump as President despite criminal cases**

**Des Moines (Iowa), Jan 18 (IANS) :** Former US President Donald Trump has won nearly every voting bloc in the Iowa caucus, leaving his closest rivals Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley struggling for the second spot for the coveted Republican nomination to the White House race. NBC News entrance poll results revealed that Trump was romping home with a massive victory and a few key groups helped lift the former President to a massive victory

Thursday night. Trump's best showing came from caucus goers who did not have a college degree (67 per cent), those who identified as very conservative (61 per cent), voters over 65 years old (58 per cent) and white Evangelicals (53 per cent). Trump's showing among those groups was up from 2016, when at that time only two in 10 voters in each group supported. His support base among white Evangelicals alone went up 32 points, from 21 per cent in 2016 to 53 per cent in 2024. Trump also won among caucus participants who said they valued a candidate who fights for people

like them (82 per cent) and those who made up their mind on which candidate they would support earlier than this month (66 per cent), reports said. Just less than half (46 per cent) Iowa Republican caucus goers identified themselves with Trump's MAGA, or Make America Great Again, movement and three-quarters of them voted for him. Two-thirds said they did not think that President Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 election and roughly 7 in 10 of those caucus goers supported Trump.



**Houthis vow to continue attacks on Israel-linked ships**

**Sanaa, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Yemen's Houthi group has vowed to further deter Israel-linked ships from taking the Red Sea route, amid reports of a fresh attack on ships in the Gulf of Aden. "We will continue to prevent Israeli ships or those heading to Israeli ports until the aggression and siege on the Palestinian enclave of Gaza Strip stops," Houthi-run al-Masirah TV quoted a source in the Houthi naval forces as saying on Thursday.

**Australian Foreign Minister to visit Middle East this week**

**Canberra, Jan 18 (IANS) :** Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced on Thursday that she will visit the Middle East this week, which will make her the senior most member of the government in Canberra to tour the region amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

This will also be Wong's first visit to the Middle East after assuming office since May 2022, reports Xinhua news agency. In a statement, the Foreign Minister said she will make travel to the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories "to support international diplomatic efforts towards a durable peace in the Middle East". Wong said she will also meet families



of Israeli hostages and survivors of the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, as well as representatives of Palestinian communities affected by settler violence. "One hundred days since the October 7 terror attacks, I will use Australia's voice to advocate for a pathway out of the current con-

flict, an increase in vital humanitarian assistance, upholding of international law and greater protection for civilians, preventing regional escalation, and working toward a lasting peace," Wong was quoted as saying in the statement.

**Indian-origin surgeon in UK to pay 135K pounds after car hits minor**

**London, Jan 18 (IANS) :** A Indian-origin surgeon in south-central England has been ordered to pay 135,000 pounds in damages after her car hit a 12-year-old girl, causing serious head injury, collarbone fracture and other complications. Dr Shanthi Chandran's car collided with the schoolgirl as she stepped into the road on her way to school in Buckingham Road, Bicester, in January 2018.



**Pyongyang abolishes agencies handling inter-Korean affairs**

**Seoul, Jan 18 (IANS) :** North Korea has decided to abolish agencies in charge of inter-Korean affairs at a key parliamentary meeting, as leader Kim Jong-un said South Korea should be marked "No. 1 hostile country" in the Constitution, state media reported Thursday. The decision was made at the 10th session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) held on Monday in Pyongyang, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The bodies in question are the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country; the National Economic Cooperation Bureau; and the Kumsongsan International Tourism Administration, re-

ports Yonhap News Agency. KCNA said North Korea will dismantle those agencies which have only existed for the purpose of promoting inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation. While addressing Monday's meeting, Kim called for drawing up legal measures to define South Korea not as a counterpart for reconciliation and unification, according to the KCNA. "In my opinion, we can specify in our constitution the issue of completely occupying, subjugating and reclaiming the ROK and annex it as a part of the territory of our Republic in case of a war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula," Kim said, using the acronym of South Korea's full name, the Republic of Korea. He called for stipulating in the constitution that education pro-



grams should be strengthened to get North Koreans to be instilled with "the firm idea that the ROK is their primary foe and invariable principal enemy". Kim also ordered steps to "get rid of the remnants of the past era" that can be regarded as symbols of inter-Korean reconciliation. "For the present, we should take strict stepwise measures to thoroughly block all the channels of north-south communication along the border, including the one of physically and completely cutting off the railway tracks in our side

... to an irretrievable level," he said. The North's leader also ordered the dismantling of "the eye-sore" Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification, a monument built in 2001 in Pyongyang to mark late founder Kim Il-sung's blueprint for federation system-based unification. Kim reiterated his country will not avoid war though it has no intention to unilaterally start an armed conflict unless provoked.

**New Zealand sees 100,000th firearm registered**

**Wellington, Jan 18 (IANS) :** More than 100,000 firearms have now been entered into New Zealand's new firearms registry, the police said on Thursday. This is from nearly 10 per cent of the approximately 235,000 licence holders in New Zealand, reports Xinhua news agency.

Licensed firearms owners across the country have responded well to the registry, with it taking just seven months to get to the 100,000th firearm recorded into the system, the police said. Canterbury is the area with the highest number of firearms registered.





## Thought that level of hitting was incredible, says Dravid on Rohit's unbeaten 121

**Bengaluru, Jan 18 (IANS)** : India head coach Rahul Dravid was left in awe of captain Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 121 in the thrilling third T20I at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, saying the level of hitting he saw from the right-handed opener was incredible. The series against Afghanistan, which India won 3-0, saw Rohit's return to T20Is alongside Virat Kohli. But Rohit had a less-than-ideal start, bagging two successive ducks. At the M

Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday evening, Rohit struck his fifth T20I century in India's double super over win. "Honestly, I think he was brilliant today. He has just shown what a class player he can be. We were 22 for 4 at one stage and even when I went in (at drinks) in the 10th over, the talk was always about being positive. Obviously, you had to protect the game a little bit (at 22 for 4)." "You always have the mindset of going out and set the pace of the

game, but in games like this, sometimes you have to hold back a little bit. You can't hold back too much at this ground because you know you need a big score, towards the end, and I thought that level of hitting was incredible," said Dravid to broadcasters after the match ended. During his 121 not out off 69 balls, Rohit also became the first man to hit five T20I centuries as India made 212/4, with 103 of those runs coming in the last five overs.



## Marcus Stoinis and Naveen-ul-haq joins Durban's Super Giants

**New Delhi, Jan 18 (IANS)** Australian World Cup winner Marcus Stoinis and Afghanistan bowler Naveen-ul-haq joined Durban's Super Giants (DSG) for the remainder of the SA20. Stoinis replaces West Indies Nicholas Pooran, bolstering the in-form DSG squad who are currently second on the table with three wins out of three. The 34-year-old Perth native is a veteran of 127 international matches across formats for Australia, and a further 250 T20I matches worth of experience. Stoinis also plays for Indian Premier League outfit

Lucknow Super Giants, the affiliate of Durban's Super Giants. Afghanistan's Naveen-ul-Haq has also linked up with the DSG squad ahead of their big clash against Pretoria Capitals on Thursday. Ul-Haq comes in for Richard Gleeson, bringing with him his vast global T20 experience. Commenting on the new faces, SA20 league Commissioner Graeme Smith said: "We've had an action-packed start to the opening week of Season 2 with some high-quality cricket and entertainment on show."



## Hockey Olympic Qualifiers: USA beat Japan 2-1 to reach final, clinch berth in Paris Olympics

**Ranchi, Jan 18 (IANS)** : The United States clinched a berth at the Paris Olympic Games as they defeated Japan 2-1 in the semifinal of the women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, scoring two late goals off penalty corners to secure a place in the final here. The United States, who won a bronze at home in the 1984 edition, fought back bril-

liantly to return to the Olympics for the seventh time, the last appearance coming at the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro. The United States came to India as the least favourite among the contenders but were the first to clinch a berth in the Olympics as they rode on an undying spirit, defending stoutly as they remained unbeaten so far, conceding only one goal in four matches.

David Passmore's team chased the game throughout as Japan held the advantage. The former Asian Games gold medallist seemed to clinch the issue when Amiru Shimada scored in the 38th minute off a penalty corner on a cold and foggy evening at the Marang Gompke Jaipal Singh Astro-Turf Hockey Stadium here. Ashley Hoffman pulled them level in the 52nd minute by converting a penalty corner and then Abigail Tamer slotted home the winner in the 55th minute off a rebound on their fourth penalty corner. In the end, both teams shared equal possession but the United States made eight circle entries as compared to five by Japan. Both teams had eight circle entries as the US converted two of their five penalty corners while the Japanese could capitalise only on one of their six short corners. It was Japan that earned the first penalty corner but Kelsey Bing and her defenders were spot-on in dealing with the threat. Japan held the upper hand initially but the United States fought back and forced two penalty corners of their own. However, the Japan penalty corner set-up was up to the mark and

the efforts did not result in goals as the two teams remained tied goalless at the end of the first quarter. In all, Japan had three circle entries in the first quarter while the United States had two. For Japan, skipper Yuri Nagai made a couple of good runs down the right flank while Madeleine Zimmer led their American forwards for a couple of strong counter-attacks. Ashley Hoffman led the United States defence superbly as they kept the Japanese at bay. In the second quarter, Huzuki Nagai was fouled by a US defender, which earned Japan a penalty corner but Shihori Oikawa's attempt was easily blocked. The score remained 0-0 at half-time. A swift counterattack led to a circle entry resulting in a penalty corner as USA players put the ball out deliberately. An indirect variation by Kana Urata was blocked but her hit off a rebound deflected in by Amiru Shimada. The Americans sought a video referral for the ball hitting a forward's foot but the images were inconclusive.

## WPGT: Sneha flies on twin eagles to win title as Hitaashee falters at the end of 2nd leg

**Mumbai, Jan 18 (IANS)** Sneha Singh played a superb closing round to grab her first win of the 2024 season in the 2nd Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club, Mumbai. Sneha, winner of the Hero Order of Merit in 2023, opened and closed the final round with eagles on way to a card of 7-under 63. She rallied from four shots behind overnight leader Hitaashee Bakshi (68) to win by one. Sneha with 68-73-63 totalled 6-under 204 and Hitaashee Bakshi, who finished runner-up for the second time in as many weeks, finished at 5-under 205.



## India Open: Lee Cheuk Yiu beats defending champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn



**New Delhi, Dec 18 (IANS)** : Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu led the march of the underdogs in the second round of the India Open 2024 with a win over defending men's singles champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Thursday. Lee came from a game down to beat reigning world champion Kunlavut 16-21, 22-20, 23-21 in an hour and 22 minutes in the Super 750 meet being organised by Badminton Association of India. The morning session also saw former world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan

and All England champion Li Shi Feng of China biting the dust. Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan defeated Yamaguchi 21-11, 21-19 while Japan's Koke Watanabe upset third seed Feng 14-21, 21-13, 21-9. But the star of the morning session was undoubtedly Lee Cheuk Yiu for the way he fought back against Kunlavut. The Hong Kong shuttler looked down and out when he trailed 6-12 in the second game after losing the first but he turned things around by winning six straight points to draw level at 12-12 and then went on to force a decider.

## Sachin's One World beat Yuvraj's One Family by 4 wickets

**Bengaluru, Jan 18 (IANS)** : One World, led by Sachin Tendulkar, beat Yuvraj Singh's One Family by four wickets in 'One World One Family Cup, where 24 legendary players from seven countries participated in one-off match played here at the Sai Krishnan Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Chasing the target of 181 runs, One World rode on South African Alviro Petersen's brilliant 74 off 50 deliveries to seal the victory. Sachin and Naman Ojha gave a brilliant start, Ojha with four boundaries scored 25 of 18 de-

liveries before getting dismissed to Sri Lanka veteran Chaminda Vaas. However, it was the inning of Sachin that drew attention as he opened his account with a boundary down the fine leg. He with Alviro added 41 runs for the second wicket. With his trademark cover drive and flick off the pads, Sachin collected three boundaries in his 27-run inning. Needed 17 off 12 deliveries, Irfan Pathan held his nerve to take his team close to the win. With just seven runs required from the last six deliveries, he confidently executed a powerful

straight drive for a six, sealing the match in their favour. Earlier, after winning the toss and opting to bat first, One Family riding on Darren Maddy's brilliant 51 off 41 posted a total of 181. Yusuf Pathan (38 off 24) with his brilliant batting skills gave the finishing touch to the One World innings. Skipper Yuvraj Singh with his trademark going over the mid-wicket notched two maximums and his sweep down the leg helped him get two boundaries to end his innings on 23 off 10 deliveries.

