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Three-tier security for PM Modi's visit to TN's Ramanathapuram

The Tamil Nadu Police have put in place a three-tier security in Ramanathapuram district in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Saturday. During his two-day visit...

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As he shoots for Kannappa biopic, Vishnu Manchu says it's not enough to know history; own it

Actor-director Vishnu Manchu, who has finished the first schedule of his upcoming film 'Kannappa' in New Zealand.

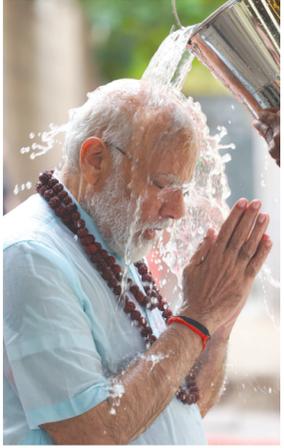
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Union Bank of India posts 60% jump in net profit, stock soars to 52-week high

Union Bank of India on Saturday posted a 59.91 per cent year-on-year jump in net profit to Rs 3,590 crore for the...

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PM at Sri Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu on January 20, 2024.



Interim report on Dharani portal to be submitted soon : Kodanda Reddy

Hyderabad, Jan.20 (IANS) : Kisan Congress National vice president and Member of the Dharani Committee M Kodanda Reddy said a detailed inquiry is being done on the Dharani portal and its records and an interim report will be submitted to the State Government soon. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan here on Saturday, Kodanda Reddy said the Dharani Committee was examining all modalities on the way forward with regard to the portal.



Northeast witnessing peace, progress due to PM Modi's effort: Amit Shah

Guwahati, Jan 20 (IANS) : Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that northeast is witnessing peace and progress as result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts. Shah said that the Congress had a policy to divert attention from problems and enjoy power, which led to the deaths of thousands of people in the

region, especially in Bodoland. "The Bodo movement was in full swing when I was appointed Home Minister. I made effort to comprehend the issues and concerns of one of the largest communities in the northeast," Shah said during the 13th Triennial Conference of All Bathou Mahasabha in Assam's Dhekiajuli.

CM Revanth is Telangana's Eknath Shinde: KTR

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : BRS working president K Tarakarama Rao today addressed the party leaders of Hyderabad and Secunderabad Parliament constituencies at Telangana Bhavan. KTR said Congress and BJP will come together after the Parliament elections and Revanth Reddy will become Eknath Shinde of Telangana. Revanth Reddy has become a mini-Modi in Telangana with BJP blood running in him, he said. While Rahul Gandhi spoke against Adani, Revanth Reddy was striking business with him, KTR said. "Previously Revanth Reddy attacked Adani, but now he is shaking hands with Adani at WEF in Switzerland. Revanth Reddy earlier said Adani and Pradhani were double engines and now it has become a triple engine," he added. Slamming Revanth

Reddy's statements, KTR asked him to concentrate on delivering the promises within 100 days as he promised and later he could think about burying the BRS party 100 meters in the ground. "Why will you bury the BRS party? Is it for achieving Telangana, for developing Telangana, or for questioning the false promises of the Congress Party?", KTR asked. BRS party has seen thousands of arrogant leaders like Revanth Reddy in its journey. The Party has stood strong for over two decades and has shown such leaders their place, he added. KTR stated that people should not pay the current bills until free electricity was provided under the Gruha Jyothi scheme as promised by Revanth Reddy during the election campaigning. He recalled the words of Revanth Reddy, who said Sonia Gandhi would pay the current bills after Congress returns



to power. If officials ask for payment of current bills, show them Revnath Reddy's video, he said. He also asked people to send their current bills to Sonia Gandhi's house at 10 Janpath in New Delhi. KTR stated that Congress as promised should provide free electricity under the Gruha Jyothi scheme in Hyderabad.

Continued on pg 02

Govt works without misuse of public money : Ponguleti

Warangal, Jan 20 (IANS) : Minister for Housing Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that the Congress government in Telangana was people's government and it was working with commitment without misuse of public money.



Tamilisai conducts cleanup of Khairatabad Hanuman temple

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : Responding to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan conducted a thorough

cleanup initiative today at the Sri Hanuman Temple in Khairatabad here. The entire temple premises, including the mandapas, were meticulously cleaned.

BJP will retain power at Centre again, Raghunandan Rao

Hyderabad, Jan.20 (NSS): Former MLA Raghunandan Rao today said it was the BJP government, which is going to come to power at the Centre once again and added that all the surveys were in favour of his party. Speaking to media persons hereon Saturday, he said, "If you vote for the BRS party, it is like throwing your vote in river Musi," he said KCR's intestinal bond with the people of Telangana was broken when the TRS changed its name to BRS. He urged the BRS leaders to refrain from making derogatory remarks

against the BJP. "We will win more seats than anyone else in the 17 parliamentary constituencies and we will achieve double digits. The BRS will lose its recognition in the parliamentary elections," he said. Raghunandan Rao said the BRS leaders were in a hurry to conduct reviews for space in the media. "Top leaders of the BRS party have never respected the activists. If they had respected the workers for the last 10 years, this would not have happened today," he said. He said the



BRS leaders were looking at where to hide what they have earned for so long and how to sell MP tickets. He claimed that tickets would be sold to those who have money in the Lok Sabha elections by the BRS party. He said KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar would lose if they contest in the upcoming MP elections.

BRS always fights for protecting Telangana's interests : Niranjan Reddy

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : Former Minister Niranjan Reddy today said the BRS party would always fight for the interests of Telangana. He said the Telangana State was formed for the sake of water. "We have

never compromised on the interests of the State. Telangana should get permanent benefits in the matter of water," he said. Speaking to media persons along with MLA Kaleru Venkatesh

Continued on pg 02



BRS govt destroyed Civil Supplies dept : Batti

Hyderabad, Jan 20 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has informed that the previous BRS government had neglected the Civil Supplies department completely and the dept's arrears had increased from Rs.380 crores in 2014 to Rs. 14,350 crores in 2024.

CM Revanth is Telangana's Eknath Shinde: KTR

Continued From pg 01

He demanded that the party introduce this scheme with immediate effect and should be made applicable to the tenants, who stay in rented houses. KTR demanded that the Congress Govt immediately start disbursement of Rs 2.500 to every woman in the State under the Maha Lakshmi scheme. The BRS party will not spare the Congress Govt if they try to escape by not fulfilling the promises.

Three-tier security for PM Modi's visit to TN's Ramanathapuram

Chennai, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Tamil Nadu Police have put in place a three-tier security in Ramanathapuram district in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Saturday. During his two-day visit, Modi will go for a darshan at the Rameswaram temple and also participate in various other programmes in the district. Police sources told IANS that the three-tier security has been provided at the mutt where the Prime Minister will be residing, and in and around the Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple. The temple will be closed for the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. High security is in place at Dhanushkodi and its surrounding areas and following alerts from central agencies, coast guard teams have also been deployed for patrolling the sea. The Sri Lankan Tamils' rehabilitation camp in Mandapam is also being guarded and heavy security is in place here. A bomb disposal squad along with

the dog squad have been conducting intensive searches in Rameswaram and other areas of the coastal district. More than 3,400 policemen have been deputed, and drills and inspections were carried out. The Ramanathapuram District Collector, Vishnu Chandran has also issued an order about traffic arrangements and temple darshan and declared Rameswaram a drone-free zone for both days. According to order of the district collector, traffic from Ramanathapuram to Rameswaram, and in Rameswaram Nagar area is prohibited from 12 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. The district collector has also banned any public transport ser-



vices in Rameswaram from 6 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday. Heavy vehicles have been prohibited from entering Rameswaram Nagar on Saturday and Sunday. Traffic is prohibited from on Dhanushkodi road from Rameswaram from 12 noon on Saturday to 12 p.m. on Sunday. There are reports of the

banned TLiberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) trying to garner ground in Tamil Nadu and Ramanathapuram being a coastal district, the central and state intelligence have given inputs to increase the security of the Prime Minister as well as to conduct through checks.

KARIMNAGAR BRANCH:
2-6-111, Market Road, Opp. Municipal Office, Karimnagar-505001.
Tel: 91-878-2240310, 2232262, Mail: karim@bankofbaroda.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 13-11-2023, calling upon the Borrower, Mr. Alluri Santosh Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 27,08,504/- (Rupees Twenty seven lakh eight thousand five hundred four only) as on 08.11.2023 together with further interest thereon with effect from Dt: 09.11.2023 at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower 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 sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 20th day of January of year 2024.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Karimnagar Branch for an amount of Rs.27,08,504/- (Rupees Twenty seven lakh eight thousand five hundred four only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Equitable mortgage of Land & Building measuring 127.18 sq. Yards known as Plot No 23 in SY No. 378/B/A situated at Alugunoor with in the limits of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation & Karimnagar City & Dist of Sri. Alluri Santosh Kumar, S/o Ramachandra Reddy, Bounded: On the North by: Plot no 22, On the South by: Plot no 24, On the East by: Others, On the West by: 40 feet Wide Road.

Date: 20-01-2024 Sd/- (K.D. Singh), Chief Manager/Authorised Officer
Place: Karimnagar Bank of Baroda

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RASMEECC-22005, D.No.15-9-210/1, Opp. Khanapuram Haveli Police Station, Singapur Colony, Wyra Road, KHAMMAM-507002, Telangana.
Ph : 08742-258633, Fax : 254621, email : sbi.22005@sbi.co.in

Without Prejudice

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Properties) (under Rule - 8 (1) & (2))

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, RASMEECC (22005), Khammam under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 17.10.2023 calling upon the Borrower: Smt.Kamma Madhavi, W/o. Kamma Upendar, Address-1: H.No. 2-104, Chimmappudi (Village) Khammam Urban Mandal, Khammam District, Telangana, Pin Code: 507182. Address-2: H.No.3-110, Jaya Nagar Colony, Road No. 12, Ballepalli (Post), Khammam District, Telangana, Pin Code: 507002 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.8,75,491/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety One only) as on 17.10.2023 and interest from 17.10.2023 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 18th day of January of the year 2024.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs.8,75,491/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety One only) as on 17.10.2023 and also interest at the contractual rate from 17.10.2023 on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. till realization.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of vacant site measuring an extent of 147.00 sq. yards (or) 122.90 sq. meters bearing Plot No.13 Part (West Part), covered by Village Survey, No.316, within the limits of Khammam Municipal Corporation, Khanapuram Haveli Revenue belonging to Smt.Kamma Madhavi (D/o. Siripurapu Venkateswarlu), W/o.Kamma Upender vide Regd. Sale Deed No.4285/2014 dated 23.06.2014, Registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Khammam District and bounded by: East: Plot No.13 Part of Kamma Kamalamma; West: Plot nos.11 & 12; North: 30'-0" Feet wide Road; South: Land belongs to Yepuri Rama Lingaiah.

Date: 18.01.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : KHAMMAM STATE BANK OF INDIA

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, Branch Office at: Parakal

DEMAND NOTICE

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

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shiram Finance Limited (Shriram 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, Aaurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at Parakal (hereinafter referred as We/ the Company/ Lender).

We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| S. No. | Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) | PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS | NPA Date: 10.03.2023 |
|--------|--|---|--|
| 1) | Bandi Madhu, S/o.Sampath, Age: 39 Years, Occ: Business, R/o. H.No.18-66, Gouda Street, Parkal, Hanamkonda Dist-506164. Cell: 8686477444. And Also At: Bandi Madhu, S/o. Sampath, Age : 39 Years, Occ : Business, R/o. H.No. 6-393, Near Ambedkar Sattue, Parkal, Hanamkonda Dist-506164. 2) Bandi Sumalatha, W/o. Madhu, Age : 36 Years, R/o. H.No.18-66, Gouda Street, Parkal, Hanamkonda Dist-506164. 3) Bandi Sampath, S/o. Kankaiah, Age: 62 Years, R/o.H.No. 18-66, Gouda Street, Parkal, Hanamkonda Dist-506164. And Also At: Bandi Sampath, S/o. Kankaiah, Age: 62 Years, Sy.No.397, Nearest H.No. 7-9, Ward No.7, Bhupapally Village And Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalipally District. 4) Mukkera Ramesh, S/o. Sambalath, Age: 35 Years, R/o. H.No.3-26/1, Koukonda, Parkal, Hanamkonda Dist-506 391. | Annexure-II: Schedule of the Property: CDPRTF2204300004 Description Of The Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Bandi Sampath Mortgage deed dated 28.04.2022 Registered as Document No.3342/2022 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Mulugu) Open Place to an Extent of 494.44 Sq.Yards or 413.450 Sq.mtrs in Sy.No.397 Nearest House No.7-9 in Ward No.7 of Bhupapally Village and Mandal of Warangal District Now Jayashankar Bhupalipally District, within the limits of SRO Parkal Now Mulugu is Bounded By: Boundaries: East: 22 Ft.Wide Road, West: Singareni Boundary, North: Plot of Prasad, South: Plot of Thallapelli Ravinder. | Loan Amount: Rs. 40,00,000/- Date of Demand Notice: 18.12.2023 Amount Outstanding: Rs. 52,45,210/- |

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 20.01.2024, Place: Parkal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited



Is Revanth Reddy acting as PM Modi's puppet? Asks Sravan

Hyderabad, Jan.20 (IANS) : BRS senior leader Dr Dasoju Sravan launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, casting doubts on the legitimacy of investment pledges secured at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. He also slammed the Congress party for its hypocrisy on the Adani Group. He said "While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi targets Gautam Adani and his connections with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress CM Revanth Reddy gives a red carpet welcome to the Adani Group in Telangana. The Congress party should clarify its stand on Adani," he asked while pointing out that Adani announced huge investments in Telangana after Revanth Reddy met PM Modi in New Delhi. Addressing media persons, along with

party leader Manne Krishank at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Sravan said Revanth Reddy came to power on the basis of lies and is still resorting to lies to stay afloat. He strongly condemned the Chief Minister's comments in Davos against BRS working president K. Tarakarama Rao. Speaking about Revanth Reddy's visit to Davos and the claims of investments, Sravan presented a clear picture. He said Revanth Reddy claimed to have secured Rs 40,000 crore worth of investments for Telangana at Davos. They include Rs 12,000 crore from Adani; Rs 8,000 crore from Godi India; Rs 9,000 crore from JSW, and Rs 5,200 crore from WebWerks. "Almost 30% (12,400 Cr) of the total investments (40,000 Cr) belong to one man Gautam Adani.

BRS always fights for protecting Telangana's interests : Niranjan Reddy

Continued From pg 01
and party leader Gellu Srinivas at Telangana Bhavan here, Niranjan Reddy said it was untrue to state that former CM KCR never fought for Krishna water. He questioned as to why the State government had agreed to the Centre's conditions. "The Centre is saying that Telugu States have agreed to come under the purview of KRMB. If KRMB manages joint projects, it will be a grave injustice to Telangana. If the goals achieved by Telangana are not fulfilled, there is a possibility of loss. It is not right to take Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar projects under the purview of KRMB. "We strongly condemn the attitude of the State government. The government has mortgaged the interests of the State to the Centre. If Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar are handed over to KRMB, the projects required to be constructed will be adversely affected," he said.

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, Aaurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, Branch Office at: Parakal

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shriram 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, Aaurum 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 Symbolic 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 18th day of January, 2024

| Borrower Name and Address | Amount due as per Demand Notice |
|---|--|
| 1)Dummani Venkatesh S/o. Mogili, Age: 38 Years, Occ: Business (Bhagavathi Degree College & Rajitha Dairy Farm), H.No: 2-4/A, 3 Wada, Main Road, Mancheril, Dist: Adilabad, Pincode: 504209. | Rs. 16,58,937/- (Sixteen Lakhs Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Rupees only) |
| 2) Srikonda Shashi Kumar S/o. Rajanna, Age: 30 Years, occ: Conductor (Tsrk Nizam), Staff Code: 852114, H.No: 5-178/1, Dandepally, Mancheril, Dist: Adilabad, Pincode: 504206 | Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Rupees only) |

MNCRITF1706280003- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (property holder name is dummani venkatesh mortgage deed dated 30.06.2017 registered as document no 5566/2017 on the file of the office of sub-registrar at mancheril) schedule of immovable property open house bearing no. 2-4/a, to an extent of 484 sq. yds., in sy.no.128, situated at mulkala village of hajipur mandal in Mancheril district, registration district: Mancheril, sub-district: Mancheril, bounded as under: Towards East :Land of donor, Towards West :Land of ThippaniRayalingu , Towards North : National high way road Towards South:Land of gurrapu Thirupathi

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic 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 : Mancheril Sd/- Authorized Officer
Date:20-01-2024 Shiram Finance Limited

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, Aaurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, Branch Office at: Parakal

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shriram 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, Aaurum 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 Symbolic 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 19th day of January, 2024

| Borrower Name and Address | Amount due as per Demand Notice |
|--|--|
| 1) Srinivas Gampa S/o. Lingamurthy, Age:46 Years, Occ: Trading (M/S Vijaya Krishna Medical Agencies), H.No.1-5-32/1, Aravind Nagar, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Pin Code:505327. 2) Ramini Krishna Suman S/o. Prabhakar, Age: 41 Years, Occ:Business, H.No.2-6-132, Rambazar, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Pin Code:505327. | Rs. 25,90,787/- (Twenty Five Lakhs Ninety thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Seven Rupees only) |

JAGTITF1709290001-Description Of The Immovable Property: (Property Holder Name is Srinivas Gampa. Mortgage Deed Dated 07.10.2017 Registered As Document No 4833/2017. On The File Of The Office Of Sub-Registrar At Jagtial) Schedule of Immovable Property The Open Land In Survey No. 154/- To The Extent Of 484.00 Sq. Yards Or 404.67 Sq. Meters, Bounded By:- Towards East : Plot of B. Srinivas, Towards West : Plot of Metta Upender Rao, Towards North 24' 0" Wide Road, (Near H.No. 1-5-203/2), Towards South : Land of Gampa Swarna, (Donated By G. Srinivas) The Property is Situated At Jagtial Village and Mandal, Under The Limits of Jagtial Municipality, Within The Jurisdiction of Registration Sub-District Jagtial and Registration District Karimnagar.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic 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:Jagtial Sd/- Authorized Officer
Date:20-01-2024 Shiram Finance Limited



New railway halt station set up at Komuravelli : Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : Union Minister and BJP State president G Kishan Reddy today said the Union government had set up a halting station at the noted Komuravelli temple. He said it was a gift of PM Modi government to the devotees of Mallanna. Kishan Reddy thanked PM Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for the facility. He said the long-standing wish of the devotees of Komuravelli

Mallanna was going to be fulfilled soon with the halting of the station. He said the newly constructed railway line between Manoharabad and Kothapalli was being constructed by the Central government and added that a railway station had been constructed at Komuravelli. He said he had repeatedly explained the need for a railway station at Komuravelli for the convenience of the devotees.



Rahul cannot revive Congress in Assam : Ajmal

Guwahati, Jan 20 (IANS) : All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief, Badruddin Ajmal on Saturday claimed that Rahul Gandhi can not revive the Congress party in Assam. Speaking to reporters here, he said: "Assam now has three Congress MPs -- Gaurav

Gogoi, Abdul Khaleque and Pradyut Bordoloi. But none of them have worked for the betterment of the public in the last five years and hence people will not vote for them in the upcoming polls." According to Ajmal, Congress can hardly win one Lok Sabha seat, while the AIUDF is set to win at least three.

"The BJP will take away the rest of the seats in Assam," Ajmal claimed, adding that that Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra -- which entered the state on Thursday -- will not have any impact on the electoral politics.

"Rahul Gandhi will come and go like a flying visitor. He cannot swing even 1 per cent of the vote in Dhubri or any other Lok Sabha constituency. I rather believe that his program will benefit the AIUDF." He also attacked the Congress for not forging an alliance with the AIUDF.

"If the Congress would have forged an alliance with us, together we could win six seats. But Assam Congress leaders have been working on the directives of Himanta Biswa Sarma. It is the Congress leaders who would help the BJP to win 10-11 Lok Sabha seats in Assam in the next election."

Synthetic drug ring busted in Gujarat, Rs 25 cr worth ketamine seized

Ahmedabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : In an operation marking its third success in three months, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ahmedabad unit busted a synthetic drug network and seized 50 kg Ketamine, estimated to be worth Rs 25 crore in the international market, officials said on Saturday. The latest operation is part of a series of crackdowns by the DRI on clandestine pharma and chemical factories involved in the manufacturing of NDPS substances. Earlier, DRI had disrupted syndicates producing mephedrone in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar in Maharashtra, and Vapi in Gujarat. These efforts have led to the seizure of narcotics substances worth over Rs 500 crore and the discovery of three labs clandestinely manufacturing Mephedrone. The current operation was set in motion based on precise intelligence.



Punjab CM questions SGPC chief's silence over Harsimrat's remark hurting Sikh sentiments

Chandigarh, Jan 20 (IANS) : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday questioned the silence of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President, Harjinder Singh Dhani, over the statement of Lok Sabha MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, equating the election symbol of the Akali Dal with that of the scales of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev. "For us, this takkadi (election symbol of SAD) is no less important than the takkadi of Guru Nanak Sahib," Harsimrat Kaur Badal had said while addressing a crowd on Maghi day. The Chief Minister in a statement said that it is surprising that though Harsimrat Badal had hurt the psyche of every Sikh by giving such irresponsible and baseless statements, the SGPC is mum

over the issue. Bhagwant Mann said this reflects that Dhani is nothing more than a loyal volunteer of the Akali Dal in general and the Badal family in particular. Mann said the SGPC chief had turned a blind eye towards all misdeeds of his masters, thereby hurting the sentiments of the entire Sikh community. The Chief Minister said Harsimrat Badal's statement came on the day of Maghi but the stoic silence observed by Dhani over the issue even after so many days, has vindicated his stand that the SGPC chief is merely a puppet in hands of the Badals. He said it is surprising that the SGPC chief sees no wrong in all the mindless actions of the Badal family despite the fact that they are against the basic tenets of Sikhism.

ACB swoops on Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Rajan Salvi's home for alleged graft

Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), Jan 20 (IANS) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raided the homes and other places linked with the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Rajan Salvi, in an alleged corruption case here on Saturday, officials said. A team led by Ratnagiri ACB officer Sushant Chavan swooped on Salvi's home where his brother Deepak Salvi and an aide were present. The ACB started a search operation for an alleged case pertaining to wealth in excess of known sources of income, as per an official. Salvi, who was earlier quizzed on at least five occasions by

the ACB, had on Wednesday declared that he was fed up of these repeated summons and interrogation by the police agency. He said that henceforth he would not attend any ACB summonses or go to their offices for questioning, and dared them "to take whatever action, arrest me, throw me in jail." The ACB action came back-to-back after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested a close aide of SS-UBT ex-minister and MLA Aditya Thackeray early Thursday. Thackeray Jr., Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut, MP,



MLA Vaibhav Naik, ex-Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and other leaders slammed the government for actions selectively targeting their party leaders by misusing probe agencies. Raut said that both Salvi and MP Rajan Vichare are being hounded by central agencies for their refusal to join the ruling Shiv Sena of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, but warned that the people of the state are watching everything and will give a befitting reply in the elections.

BJP-JD(S) seat-sharing to be finalised after Pran Pratishtha event: Kumaraswamy

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said here on Saturday that it has been decided to complete the procedures, including seat-sharing and other details, by involving BJP and JD(S) leaders after the 'Pran Pratishtha' programme in Ayodhya. Addressing the media after a meeting with Union Home

Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President J.P. Nadda, he stated that Shah and Nadda have agreed to this.



File criminal cases against PIAs failed to provide skill education : K'taka Minister

Bengaluru, Jan 20 (IANS) : Congress government in Karnataka has cracked the whip against the eight project implementing agencies (PIA) that have failed to provide skill education to the candidates even after getting the financial aid from the State Government under the Deen Dayal Grameen Kaushalya Yojana. Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil on Saturday instructed the officials to blacklist the companies and file criminal cases against them immediately. Expressing his displeasure against the agencies that have failed to implement the Government's ambitious scheme aimed at providing vocational training to those studying diploma, ITI and other job-oriented courses, Patil directed officials to file criminal cases against them in the jurisdictional police stations. The minister also instructed officials to blacklist the errant PIAs immediately and not to issue tenders to such firms in the future. He directed the officials to recover Rs 74.65 crore with the interest from the PIAs for violating the rules of this scheme which is being implemented jointly by the central and state governments to provide vocational training for candidates studying job-oriented courses in rural and urban areas.



Cong seeks court-monitored probe into IT firm owned by Kerala CM's daughter

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 20 (IANS) : A day after the Bengaluru Registrar of Companies (ROC) found a grave violation of rules by the Chief Minister's daughter, Veena Vijayan's Bengaluru-based IT firm Exalogic Solution, the Congress party on Saturday demanded a court-monitored probe into it. Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan said, "The findings of the ROC based on a preliminary probe in a complaint against the dealings of Veena's IT firm, the ideal thing would be to have a court monitored probe, but what has been announced now is a probe by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. "The ED deals with cases relating to public money laundering and the CBI deals with cases pertaining to corruption. But what is now announced is a probe by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which we do not agree to. "Why we do not agree to it is because what we have been seeing in Kerala is there is a secret deal between the Sangh Parivar forces and Vijayan. Cases pertaining to both these parties are being settled and with the Lok Sabha polls now round the corner, the settlement deals will intensify.

Indecent act against woman in B'luru Hotel, FIR filed

Bengaluru, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Karnataka Police have registered an FIR against three individuals in connection with an incident where a young woman was spanked at a hotel in Bengaluru. On Saturday, the police said that they have initiated a search for the three accused persons who disappeared after the incident. According to the police, the incident occurred on December 30, 2023.

Bank of Baroda
ROSBARB Branch: #3-5-822/5, 1st Floor, Hyderguda Main Road, Hyderguda, Hyderabad-500029.

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 31-10-2023 calling upon the borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice aggregating Rs.87,64,221.84 (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One and Paise Eighty Four Only) plus interest and other charges from 31.10.2023 thereon minus recovery if any within 60 days from the date of the receipt of said notice.

Name & Address the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors: Mrs. Usha Rani Gajjala, #18-20/1, Sai Hanuman Nilayam, Gopal Nagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad-47. Also at: Mrs. Usha Rani Gajjala, Block No.103, Floatilla Apartments, Nankampur (Village), Rajendranagar Mandal, R R Dist., Hyderabad-89. Mr. Mallemkonda Anirodh, #18-20/1, Sai Hanuman Nilayam, Gopal Nagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad-47. Also at: Mr. Mallemkonda Anirodh, Block No.103, Floatilla Apartment, Nankampur (Village), Rajendranagar Mandal, R R Dist., Hyderabad-89.

having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 20th Day of January of the year 2024.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers and guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda, ROSARB Hyderabad Branch for an amount of being Rs.89,20,963.05 (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three and Paise Five Only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate from 14.01.2024 plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that the Residential Building bearing Municipal No.18-20/1 Part (Old No.18-20/4 Part), comprising Ground and Two Upper Floors, consisting 1800 Sft. of built up area (each floor 600 Sft.) admeasuring 92.90 Sq.yds or 77.66 Sq.mtrs., constructed on part of Plot No.109, in Survey No.860, 861 & 862, situated at Gopal Nagar within the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, under Malkajgiri Circle and Mandal, Ranga Reddy District. **Boundaries:** North: H.No.18-20/2 (Old No.18-20/4 Part), South: 25'-0" wide Road, East: Lane 5'-0" wide of H.No.18-20/2 & H.No.18-21/2, West: Part of H.No.18-20/1 on part of Plot No.109.

Date: 20.01.2024 **Sd/-** (Ajay Kumar K) Chief Manager/ Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad **Bank of Baroda, ROSARB Hyderabad Branch**

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RASMECC-22005, D.No.15-2/01, Opp. Khanapuram Haveli Police Station, Srinagar Colony, Wyra Road, KHAMMAM-507002, Telangana. Ph : 08742-256633, Fax : 254621, email : sbi.22005@sbi.co.in

Without Prejudice

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Properties) (under Rule - 8 (1) & (2))

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India, RASMECC (22005), Khammam under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 17.10.2023 calling upon the Borrower: Mr.Kamma Upender, S/o.K.Ramaiah, Address-1: H.No. 2-104, Chimmappudi (Village) Khammam Urban Mandal, Khammam District, Telangana, Pin Code: 507182. Address-2: H. No.3-110, Jaya Nagar Colony, Road No. 12, Ballepalli (Post), Khammam District, Telangana, Pin Code: 507002 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.7,66,708/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight only) as on 17.10.2023 and interest from 17.10.2023 at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 18th day of January of the year 2024.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs.7,66,708/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight only) as on 17.10.2023 and also interest at the contractual rate from 17.10.2023 on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges, etc. till realization.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of vacant site measuring an extent of 200.00 sq. yards (or) 167.22 sq. meters bearing Plot No.55, covered by Ballepalli Village Survey Nos.230/231/2 of Khammam Urban Mandal, within the limits of Khammam Municipal Corporation belonging to Mr.Kamma Upender S/o. Ramaiah vide Regd. Sale Deed No.5411/2015 dated 01.06.2015 Registered at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Khammam Dist. and bounded by: East: 30'-0" Feet wide Road; West: Plot No.60; North: Plot No.56; South: Plot No.54.

Date : 18.01.2024 **Sd/-** Authorised Officer
Place : KHAMMAM **STATE BANK OF INDIA**

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri. Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Gundy, Chennai-600032.
Administrative Office: 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, 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, Gundy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) 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 Symbolic 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 17th day of January, 2024.

Borrower Name and Address: 1) Balagouni Balraj Goud, S/o: Lingamaya Goud, @ Alias Lingamaih Goud, Age 59 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address 1: H.No.1-8-3/27/3, Surya Nagar, Slum Sarvodaya Nagar, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad-500020, Address II: H.No.64, Flat No.203, Pavani Homes, HUDA Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033, I/O: "Restaurant & Bar", 2) B.Aruna Goud, W/o: Balraj Goud, Age 50 years, Occ: Housewife, R/o: Address 1: H.No.1-8-3/27/3, Surya Nagar, Slum Sarvodaya Nagar, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad-500020, Address II: H.No.64, Flat No.203, Pavani Homes, HUDA Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033, 3) Pothagani Ilen Goud @ Alias Allan Goud P. S/o: Siddai Goud, @ Alias Siddaiha Goud, Age 51 Years, Occ: Self Employee, H.No.13-2-267/A/29, Rathimura, Hyderabad-500020. 4) Srinivas, S/o: Sree Nagajitli, R/o: H.No.2-2-61/2/4, New Vidya Nagar, Hyderabad.

Amount due as per Demand Notice: Rs.29,78,59,497/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Crores Seventy Eight Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Seven Only).

Description of Property: NRYNDTF120630009 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:- Property holder Name is B.BALRAJ GOUD, Mortgage deed dated 23.06.2012 Registered as Document No 1943/2012 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at CHIKKADPALLY.

ITEM NO.1: All that the Property Bearing M.C.H. No.1-8-3/27/71 (Part), consisting of Ground + Three Upper Floors, Admeasuring 3496 Sq.Yards or 2822.65 Sq.Mts., situated at Chikkadpally, Hyderabad, and Bounded as follows: Towards East: Neighbour's Property, Towards West: 15 Ft. Width Road and Neighbour's Property, Towards North: Neighbour's Property, Towards South: Neighbour's Property.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is the lawful Symbolic 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 deed will alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place: Chikkadpally, **Date:** 20-01-2024 **Sd/-** Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



INCREASING INDO-BANGLA CONNECTIVITY ONLY WAY FORWARD IN SOUTH ASIA

Specific bilateral connectivity projects linking India with Bangladesh have emerged as the most effective means to ensure future industrial and infrastructural growth in South Asia. Dhaka-based analysts are stressing the growing importance of India accessing its Northeastern states by using the Tripura rail/ road /river linkage through Bangladesh territory, instead of counting on Myanmar to achieve better connectivity.. Mainly on account of the continuing political instability in Myanmar following the February 2021 army coup, a prolonged economically bruising civil war broke out. It shows no signs of ending soon. Governance in Myanmar had been severely disrupted because of deadly clashes involving the army against armed pro-democracy parties and groups. But the situation, instead of improving, thereafter grew more complex as major ethnic groups like Shans and Chins, never really under Burmese control in areas bordering India and China, also got involved in the clashes .

In the process, despite launching serious back channel diplomatic efforts in recent months with Naypitaw authorities as well as various ethnic groups, Indian government remains unable to operationalise the ambitious \$484 million Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project(KMTTP). Work began on the project since 2010, but since then, there were repeated postponements of its eventual launch. The reason: continuing unrest/ civic strife involving ethnic groups and the Burmese army, and recurrent attacks by the troops on forces/parties agitating for political democracy .

Overall costs of the project, seeking to develop a river link between Sittwe port (Myanmar) and Kolkata(India), apart from the construction of new road links connecting Paletwa (Myanmar) and Mizoram(India) , have risen from Rs 535 crore to Rs 3200 crore, thanks to repeated stalling of work on the ground. India's major interest in the comprehensive, game-changing KMTTP scheme was to ensure an alternate, easier route to access its North-eastern states, by reducing the time, cost and distance involved — factors that have badly hampered normal movement of goods and traffic. The only rail/road link between the Indian mainland and the NE states, for decades, ran through the narrow Siliguri corridor, which was also a major security risk, in the context of deteriorating Indo-China relations. Following a bilateral agreement with Myanmar, India succeeded in implementing a major part of the work, as the crucial Sittwe—Kolkata port linkage through the Kaladan river was completed. The distance between to two ports was reduced to around 539 kms only. The Paletwa-Zorinpur (Mizoram border) road linkage covering a distance of over 150 kilometres running through disputed and disturbed Burmese territory, was a different matter. GOI had to engage in negotiations with various tribal groups controlling some areas, in addition to the ruling Army. Various estimates suggest that at present, over 80% of the project is complete. Normal transport, and movement of goods/ people between India, its NE states, even with Mae Sot areas in Thailand through Myanmar, and beyond, can begin once Naypitaw regains its political authority over India's Eastern neighbour. What seems certain, despite the progress so far achieved that the regional target of announcing the formal completion and official launch of the KMTTP project in 2025, will not be possible, against the background of continuing political turmoil in Myanmar. Which means in practical terms, India's highly publicised ACTEAST initiative remains stalled indefinitely. Delhi's ambitions to extend trade/business to more prosperous South East Asian destinations will not fructify in the medium term. Further, its objective of presenting an effective alternative to China's mighty Belt- and- Roads Initiative (BRI) in the S. Asian region, will not really take off. Incidentally, the deadlock affecting the KMTTP contrasts strongly with the prospects of major China-sponsored projects in Myanmar, such as the Kyakphu port building.

(By Ashis Biswas)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

INDIA FACES RISING INDUSTRIAL CONCENTRATION IN JUST FIVE HANDS : OXFAM

India is facing rising industrial concentration in just five hands, and is enriching billion aires, private equity funds, and crony capitalists driving unprecedented level of inequalities and poverty among people. Dalits are facing high and unaffordable out-of-pocket fees in the private healthcare sector, financial exclusion in the private healthcare sector, and overt discrimination in both. It has been mentioned in the Oxfam's annual global inequality report released on Sunday, coincided with World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. Globally, since 2020, the richest five men have doubled their fortunes, but during the same period almost five billion people globally have become poorer. Hardship and hunger are daily reality, and at the current rate, it will take 230 years to end poverty, but we could have the world's first trillionaire in just 10 years. "A new era of monopoly: The supercharging of Corporate Power", the newly released Oxfam report says that we are living through an era of monopoly power that enables corporations to control markets, set the terms of exchange, and profit without fear of losing business. Far from being an abstract phenomenon, this impacts us in many ways: influencing the wages we are paid, the foods we eat and can afford, and the medicines we can access. Far from being accidental, this power has been handed to monopolies by our governments. In sector after sector, the report says, increased market concentration can be seen everywhere.

(IPA Service)



MAYAWATI'S SOMERSAULT AIMS AT BOOSTING POLL PROSPECTS OF BJP

BJP chief Mayawati continues to be an enigma. Till Monday morning, she was sending out signal to the leaders of INDIA bloc, especially to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, that she was ready to ride the bandwagon of INDIA. But by noon she made a volte-face and shocked the opposition leaders by saying that her party would go it alone in elections. It does not require too much of cerebral strain to decode the reason for her U-turn. A closer look at what she said on Monday unravels the truth, which made her to retract. The reason cited by her does disservice to even her own dalit community. She was trying to hide behind the sneer of "not proper treatment" by the opposition parties. She said: "We will not be a part of any

alliance and will contest alone. This is because alliance politics doesn't suit us. The BSP will contest alone with the support of the Dalit, tribal, backward and minority communities." She added: "According to our analysis, while we have transferred our traditional votes to the candidates of our allies in previous elections, they didn't reciprocate." Quite intriguing she could realise the vulnerability of alliance only by the afternoon, after getting a call from a senior BJP minister in the Modi cabinet.

(IPA Service)



CONGRESS IS MORE ACCOMMODATIVE THIS TIME IN SEAT SHARING TALKS WITH ALLIES

Congress Party's responsibilities have increased with the decision of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc Opposition coalition to name Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge as the President. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has declined the post of convener.

Forming partnerships before elections is relatively easy, but the real challenge lies in agreeing on seats. How difficult is seat-sharing for India Block, and can the Opposition overcome the obstacles before the polls?

The Congress party is leading a coalition of 28 parties to find a solution that satisfies everyone.

They have decided to nominate a single candidate to contest against the Bharatiya Janata Party to prevent the opposition vote from being divided.

However, the Congress-led coalition finds itself in a difficult position as most regional parties are bargaining hard for more seats, which could only come at the cost

of the Congress party's interests. Mallikarjun Kharge has instructed the Party to initiate talks with other allies to address this dilemma. It indicates that the Congress is prepared to contest in fewer seats, this time to accommodate the partners.

(IPA Service)

A NEW BEGINNING, OR IS TAIWAN SITTING AT CUSP OF TSAI 3.0?

Once dubbed 'troublemaker' and a 'dangerous separatist' by Beijing for his views on Taiwan's sovereignty, 64-year-old vice-president, son of a miner and doctor-politician William Lai Ching-te has now been chosen Taiwan's next president. His immediate task on hand is to navigate Taiwan's testy relationship with China despite Beijing's exhortations not to vote for him since he will bring "severe danger" to cross-strait relations, as quoted by a Washington Post report. Although China has repeatedly warned against voting for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), millions of Taiwanese headed to the polls on Saturday to give the DPP—a party China has red-flagged for its 'questionable' flirting with the issue of 'Taiwanese independence'—an unprecedented third term.

WAGENKNECHT'S NEW LEFT PARTY CAN HELP IN COMBATING THE FAR RIGHT IN GERMANY

As 2024 begins, it is nearly impossible to predict how Germany's political landscape will look in twelve months' time. 2024 will not only see June's European elections, but also decisive contests this fall in the Eastern states of Thuringia, Saxony, and Brandenburg. Much of the uncertainty owes to former Die Linke (The Left) politician Sahra Wagenknecht — and her attempt to build a new party, which aims to enter all four races. According to polls, her self-titled Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) could receive more than 10 percent of the vote, and even over 20 percent in the former East. Research suggests that she appeals to voters of all parties and could probably also mobilize current nonvoters. But above all, she appeals to those who recently opted for the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), an anti-immigration party of the far right. Of course, polls are no substitute for real election results, and polling numbers are not explanations in themselves. To understand why Wagenknecht's new party could harm the Right in particular, a deeper analysis of the political situation is required. The cur-

rent so-called populist moment in Germany, coming later than some other European countries, is characterized by the overlap of three main developments: an economic crisis, a political crisis, and a growing distrust of the established parties across significant sections of the population. Fifteen years ago, for example, there was precisely this kind of political turbulence in some Southern European countries in the wake of the Eurozone crisis.

Germany's political crisis, and the rising mistrust among the population over the past decade, has often been diagnosed with terms such as "disenchantment" and "post-democracy."

(IPA Service)

Foreign visitors to Japan exceeded 25 mn in 2023

Tokyo, Jan 20 (IANS) : The estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan totaled 25.06 million in 2023, official data revealed on Saturday. The figure, representing 78.6 per cent of the 2019 level before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, was compared to 3.83 million in 2022, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization, citing relaxed border restrictions and a weaker yen. In December 2023 alone, the estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan came in at 2.73 million.



Providing medicine to the hostages must continue : Israel hostages' forum

Tel Aviv, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Hostages and Missing Families forum of Israel has called upon the international community to continue providing medicines to hostages in Gaza. The spokesperson of the forum, Liat Bell Sommer, said that the operation to provide medicine proves that cooperating with Qatar and applying international pressure on world leaders yields results.

The spokesperson also mentioned of verified proof of the initiative's credibility by receiving visual evidence that the hostages are receiving their medicine.

Not guilty, says ex-Indian origin Singapore Minister facing corruption charges

Singapore, Jan 20 (IANS) : Following his recent resignation as Singapore's Transport Minister, Indian-origin S. Iswaran on Saturday pleaded not guilty to all 27 charges, including corruption, obtaining a valuable thing as a public servant and obstructing justice. Arriving at the State Courts at about 8 am on Saturday with his legal team, the 61-year-old former minister did not respond to questions from reporters, The Straits Times reported. When the judge asked Iswaran how he intended to plead, he said: "Not guilty." Iswaran's Senior Counsel Davinder Singh told the court that he was initially charged on January 20 with 36 charges and that cautioned statements were taken on these charges. He said the defence learnt on Saturday morning that there were now 27 charges, and asked if the prosecution was proceeding on the remaining nine charges, to which the prosecution said it was not. Iswaran's pre-trial conference is scheduled for March 1, and he is presently out on S\$800,000 bail. He was elected into Parliament in 1997 as an MP for West Coast Group Representation Constituency, where he served for the last 26 years. He has held ministerial



positions in the ministries of education, home affairs, and communications and information. According to court documents, most of the offences Iswaran faces involve billionaire hotelier Ong Beng Seng, who brought Formula One to Singapore in 2008.

positions in the ministries of education, home affairs, and communications and information. According to court documents, most of the offences Iswaran faces involve billionaire hotelier Ong Beng Seng, who brought Formula One to Singapore in 2008.

Families of American hostages held in Gaza to meet US NSA today



Washington, Jan 20 (IANS) : The families of American hostages being held captive by Hamas militants in Gaza will meet US National Security Adviser (NSA) Jake Sullivan at the White House on Saturday, an official said. The official told CNN that the White House has extended invitations to the family members of all six hostages. But it was not immediately clear

how many of them will attend the meeting. Addressing reporters on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, Jon Polin, whose son Hersch Goldberg-Polin is currently in captivity, said that "103 days is 103 days too many and we are running out of time". "And as Americans, we expect the United States, the greatest superpower in the history of

the world, to use its full power to secure the hostages' release," CNN quoted Jon Polin, who was joined by the families of other Israelis and American hostages, as saying.

Four Americans have been released since the start of the war and the US believes six Americans remain in captivity in Gaza. According to Israeli authorities, about 136 Israelis and foreign nationals remain under Hamas captivity in Gaza.

During the humanitarian pause from November 24-30, 2023, 86 Israeli and 24 foreign national hostages were released. Saturday's meeting comes five days after President Joe Biden reiterated his commitment to rescue all the hostages as he marked 100 days since they were taken captive on October 7, 2023 when Hamas launched its attack against Israel. In a statement on January 14, the

President said that "100 days of captivity for the more than 100 innocent people, including as many as six Americans, who are still held being hostage by Hamas in Gaza".

"For 100 days, they have existed in fear for their lives, not knowing what tomorrow will bring. For 100 days, their families have lived in agony, praying for the safe return of their loved ones. "And for each of those 100 days, the hostages and their families have been at the forefront of my mind as my national security team and I have worked non-stop to try to secure their freedom," he said. Biden, who met some of the families in December 2023, added in the statement that he "reaffirm my pledge to all the hostages and their families -- we are with you. We will never stop working to bring Americans home".



3 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza, total toll reaches 193

Tel Aviv, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Saturday announced the death of three soldiers in the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza, taking the total number of troopers killed in the ground offensive to 193. The military identified the deceased soldiers as Master Sgt. (res.) Zechariah Pesach Haber (32), Sgt. Maj. (res.) Yair Katz (34) and Staff Sgt. Oriya Ayimalk Goshen (21). While Haber and Katz were deployed with the 14th Armored Brigade's 87th Battalion, Goshen belonged to the Givati

Brigade's reconnaissance unit. Goshen and Haber hailed from Jerusalem and Katz was from Holom. According to the IDF, Haber and Katz were both killed in northern Gaza, while Goshen died in southern Gaza.

The military also said that two other reservists were seriously injured, one during fighting in northern Gaza, and the second in Israel, close to the Gaza border.

Since the start of the ground offensive on October 27, 2023, at least 1,152 soldiers have also been injured in the raging war, according to the Israeli military.

Blinken forced to change planes after his Boeing 737 had 'critical failure'

Washington, Jan 20 (IANS) : US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had to change planes while returning to Washington from Davos after his Boeing 737 aircraft had a "critical failure", the media reported. Blinken was in Davos this week to attend meetings on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Swiss city. The incident occurred on Saturday when Blinken and the traveling press boarded the modified Boeing 737 jet in Zurich, CNN reported. According to the travelling press, the aircraft suffered the issue after boarding and they were forced to deplane.

A new, smaller aircraft was being sent for Blinken, and many in the traveling party will now be returning to Washington commercially, they added.

Addressing the media on Wednesday night, State Department spokesperson Matt Miller said the plane suffered a mechanical issue. He however, referred further questions to the US Air Force, reports CNN. This latest development comes as Boeing is facing a number of issues on its aircraft.



Mayors call for action as extortionists target Indians, South Asians in Canada

Toronto, Jan 20 (IANS) : Raising concerns over an "alarming" escalation of extortion threats against Indian and South Asian business communities, mayors in the Canadian towns of Brampton and Surrey have urged the government to take swift action to root out the menace. Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown and his counterpart from Surrey Brenda Locke expressed "deep concern" over a growing number of "extortion attempts and violent acts, including shootings" this week in a letter addressed to Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc. "This alarming development underscores the severity and widespread nature of these threats, which are predominantly targeting members of the South Asian business community," the letter read.

The mayors said that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and local police departments, including Peel Regional Police, "have acknowledged the gravity of the situation". According to CP24 news channel, Peel police recently launched the Extortion Investigative Task Force, which is now probing the circumstances surrounding 16 incidents of extortion.

The suspects often know the name of the victim as well as their phone number, address, and business information, and contact them through social media, and demands for money allegedly are made under threats of violence, police said.

The mayors urged the government to prioritise the issue and engage with local and provincial authorities, along with necessary federal agencies, to develop a "comprehensive strategy to address these extortion threats".

"The complexity and inter-jurisdictional nature of these crimes necessitate a more comprehensive strategy involving provincial and federal authorities. It is imperative the federal government, through your Ministry, takes a leading role in facilitating this collaboration," the letter continued. "By leveraging the resources and intelligence capabilities of the RCMP, in concert with local law enforcement agencies, we can formulate a robust and unified approach to tackle this issue."

The mayors noted that the incidents have "instilled fear" in their respective communities, with Brown telling CP24 that he wants the Justin Trudeau government to send a clear message that these incidents will not be tolerated.

US, UK carry out new round of strikes against Houthi sites in Yemen

Sanaa, Jan 20 (IANS) : The US and the UK bombed Houthi sites in northern Yemen before dawn on Saturday, the media said.

The strikes hit Houthi targets in five provinces, including Hodeidah, the main port on the Red Sea coast controlled by the terror group, the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported, without providing more details.

The attack followed the Houthis claim of a missile strike on a US ship in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday night, Xinhua news agency reported.

"In support of Palestinian people and response to the US and British aggression against our country, our naval forces carried out an attack targeting the US ship 'Ginko Picardie' in the Gulf of Aden with a number of missiles,

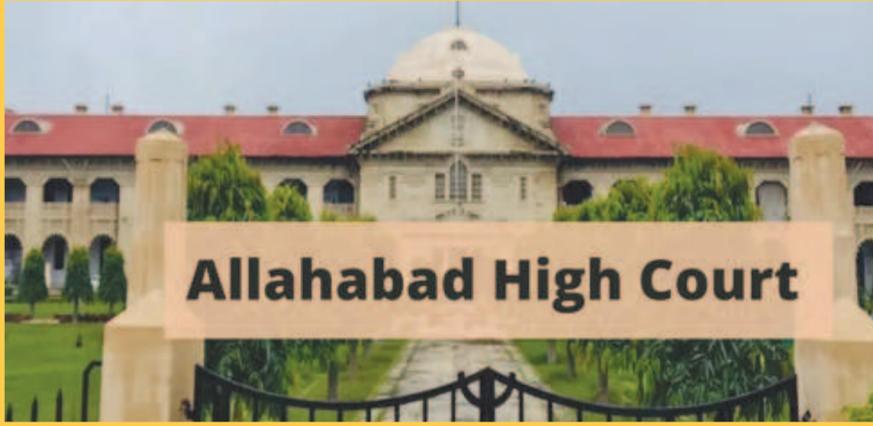
and the strike was accurate and direct," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said on Saturday on al-Masirah TV.

The US Central Command confirmed the Houthi attack in a statement on Wednesday, adding that the ship was slightly damaged but remained seaworthy and has continued its voyage.

The Houthis have escalated their attacks in the Red Sea since the Israel-Hamas conflict broke out on October 7, 2023, demanding an end to Israeli attacks and siege on Gaza.

The Houthis have controlled much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, since ousting the internationally recognised Yemeni government in 2014.





Two PILs filed to stop Pran Pratishtha ceremony, HC declines immediate hearing

Prayagraj, Jan 20 (IANS) : Two PILs have been filed before the Allahabad High Court regarding the scheduled Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya on January 22. The court declined to expedite proceedings of these petitions, scheduling them for hearings in due course. In the first PIL, filed by Bhola Singh of Ghaziabad, the petitioner urges the HC to restrict the participation of Prime Minister as well as chief minister

of Uttar Pradesh in the ceremony. The petitioner proposes this restriction until the completion of 2024 parliamentary elections and till all Sanatan Dharma guru Shankaracharyas grant their consent. The petitioner seeks a ban on the January 22 event, arguing that the temple is still under construction, and the Pran Pratishtha of the deity contradicts Sanatan tradition. The petitioner also contends that, according to Hindu calendar, no religious and auspicious programmes should be organised

in the month of Paush. In the second PIL, filed by All India Lawyers Union (AILU), the petitioner challenges a circular issued by UP chief secretary on December 21, 2023. The circular instructed district authorities to organise Ram Katha, Ramayana recitations, bhajan-kirtan in Ram, Hanuman, and Valmiki temples, along with Kalash Yatras from January 14 to 22. AILU argues that the directive contradicts basic tenets of the Constitution.

Varanasi DM appointed receiver of Gyanvapi cellar

Varanasi, Jan 20 (IANS) : District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesha has appointed district magistrate of Varanasi as the receiver of the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque in the suit filed by head priest of Acharya Ved Vyas Peeth temple Shailendra Kumar Pathak, while the plea of advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi to become a party of Vyas's suit was rejected on Saturday. The plea was filed by Pathak on September 25, 2023. Vyas's advocate Vishnu Jain and Subhash Nandan Chaturvedi said, "In an order issued on Wednesday, the district judge stated that the suit of Vyas was being accepted and district magistrate of Varanasi was appointed as receiver of southern cellar

(disputed property) in settlement plot no. 1930. The district magistrate of Varanasi has been directed to keep the disputed property safe under his custody and ensure that no change was made in it. January 25 has been fixed as the next date for hearing. Besides, the application 34c of Rastogi moved to become a party in Vyas's suit was rejected, said Jain. Rastogi had moved this plea mentioning that since he was already contesting suit no. 610/1991 as 'next friend' of the deity, no one can stake claim to this property by filing a suit without making him a party. Making Anjuman Intejamia Masjid-Gyanvapi Mosque management committee party, Vyas had, on September 25, 2023, filed a suit before the court of civil judge senior division, seeking worship of



Shringar Gauri, other visible and invisible deities in the cellar of Gyanvapi mosque and appoint district magistrate or any other suitable person as receiver of the cellar in southern side of building. After a few minutes of filing the suit on September 25, 2023, Vyas's advocates moved another application before the court of the district judge seeking its transfer to his court, mention-

ing that it will deem fit in the interest of justice. District judge allowed the transfer of the case to his court on October 19, 2023. Meanwhile, the Varanasi district magistrate, S.Rajalingam, told reporters that the date for cleaning the wuzukhana (ablution pond) of Gyanvapi mosque would be determined after receiving the Supreme Court's order.

Ranchi: HEC officials, workers on indefinite strike over non-payment of salaries

Ranchi, Jan 20 (IANS) : At least 3,000 employees of the Ranchi-based Heavy Engineering Corporation on Saturday went on an indefinite strike over non-payment of their salaries for almost two years. The strike has affected the work in all the three plants while the head office has been locked. The employees, including officials and workers, have not received their salaries for the last 20-22 months. Presiding over the meeting of the "HEC Bachao Mazdoor Jan Sangharsh Samiti" floated by the seven workers' union, Manoj Pathak said "the work would not resume till the salaries are paid". He said the striking employees would be provided food near the head office, and nobody would be allowed to enter the plant or the head office. The company, which started with about 22,000 employees, now



has only 3,400 employees and officers left and they too have "no work except registering their attendance in the plant". Workers usually protest in front of the plant demanding payment of their outstanding salaries, but there is no one here to listen to them. There has not even been a full-time CMD (Chairman and Managing Director) in the company for more than two years.

Nalin Singhal, CMD of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is the CMD in-charge here, who visits here "occasionally in two-three months". The HEC is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Heavy Industries located in Ranchi's Dhurwa area. It has been learnt that the HEC has been facing a financial crisis for the last two-three years.

Two police commandos killed, several injured in fresh Manipur flare-up

Imphal, Jan 20 (IANS) : Two Manipur Police commandos were killed and two others injured in a militant attack on security forces in Manipur's Moreh area, along the Myanmar border, on Saturday, police said. Police officials in Imphal said that police commando Wangkhem Somorjit was killed and three others injured when suspected militants attacked the security forces while they were conducting search operations in Moreh. Subsequently, police commando Takhellambam Saileshwore succumbed to his injuries. Somorjit hails from Malom area while Saileshwore from Lamsang Akham in Imphal's West district. When the security personnel tried to shift the three injured security personnel to the hospital for medical treatment, some tribals, including women, tried to stop them. They clashed with the forces and several tribal people were injured in the fight.

Earlier police and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), an apex body of tribals in Manipur, separately claimed that a woman was killed in the clash. Later in the evening, police said that the woman was unconscious for some time as she had sustained serious injuries, but she is alive and undergoing medical treatment at a hospital. Heavy exchange of fire between the security forces and the suspected militants was reported in three different locations in Moreh since Wednesday morning, police said. The militants had also fired rocket-propelled grenades on the security forces.

As tensions ran high, additional security forces, including Assam Rifles have rushed to the bordering areas to bring the situation under control. Hundreds of protestors, including members of leading women organisation Meira Paibis organised protest rallies demanding reinforcement of state forces in Moreh. The protestors marched towards the Chief Minister's official bungalow but were stopped by the security forces. Chief Minister N.Biren Singh, in wake of the Moreh incident, held a meeting with the top security officials to review the situation.



Kashmir in shiver & shock without snow, Jammu temperature improves



Srinagar, Jan 20 (IANS) : Temperature improved in Jammu on Saturday while dry cold became more intense in Kashmir with no prospect of snowfall during the next seven days. The Meteorological (MeT) department said that there would be no major change in weather in J&K during the next seven days. Temperature improved in Jammu on Saturday as the minimum temperature was 5.7 while the maximum was 20.6 on Saturday. Srinagar had minus 4.6 as the minimum temperature on Thursday while Gulmarg and Pahalgam had minus 4.5 and minus 5.8 respectively. In Ladakh

region, Leh town had minus 13.8, Kargil minus 11.8 and Drass minus 13.1 as the minimum temperature. Jammu had 5.7, Katra 6.2, Batote 2.4, Baderwah minus 0.3 and Banihal minus 0.8. The 40-day long period of harsh winter cold known as the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21 and ended on January 30. So far, there has been no snowfall in Kashmir during the Chillai Kalan. No snowfall in Chillai Kalan spells disaster for summer as all water bodies in Kashmir are dependent on the perennial water reservoirs in higher reaches which get replenished by sufficient snowfall during winter months.

Ram temple memorabilia floods market in UP

Lucknow, Jan 20 (IANS) : Fridge magnets, stickers, badges, scarves, flags, dupattas, saris, school bags, tiffin boxes -- you name it and they have it. With the Ram fervour sweeping across the country, the markets are now flooded with temple related memorabilia. "There is a huge

demand for temple memorabilia. Every second vehicle in the state capital has a sticker of the temple or Lord Hanuman and the demand is rising by the day. Some people are even replacing their party flags with temple flags," said Vishwas Kumar, a dealer in automobile accessories.



If Nitish joins hands with BJP again, his political downfall will begin: JD(U) MLA Gopal Mandal

Patna, Jan 20 (IANS) : JD(U) MLA Gopal Mandal on Saturday said if Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar joins hands with the BJP again, his political downfall will start. Talking to media persons in Bhagalpur, he said: "I firmly believe that Nitish Kumar may die but will ally with the BJP. If he does so, his political downfall will start. We were with the BJP in the past." Mandal's remark came after Jitan Ram Manjhi, the former chief minister of Bihar, said: "Nitish is not a reliable person. When he will shift the goal post, no one knows. He may ally with the BJP again."



ICICI Bank posts 23.5% rise in Q3 net profit

Mumbai, Jan 20 (IANS) : ICICI Bank on Saturday declared a 23.5 per cent increase in its net profit to Rs 10,272 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year. The bank had reported a net profit

of Rs 8,312 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. ICICI Bank's asset quality also improved during the quarter with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) falling to 2.30 per cent of total loans, down from the corre-

sponding figure of 3.07 per cent in the same quarter of the previous year. The net NPAs for the quarter declined to 0.44 per cent compared to 0.55 per cent in the third quarter of 2023-24.



Bharti Hexacom files DRHP for IPO

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : Bharti Hexacom has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for proposed Initial Public Offering (IPO) for the offer by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited.

Bharti Hexacom is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

"We wish to inform you that board of directors of the company at its meeting held on Friday, January 19, 2024 have approved the IPO of equity shares of face value Rs 5 each comprising of an OFS of up to 100,000,000 equity shares (representing 20 per cent of the paid-up share capital of the company) by Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd, subject to such variation as permitted under applicable law," Bharti Hexacom said. The IPO will not include any fresh issuance of equity shares and will be carried out subject to the necessary approvals and market conditions.



Kotak Mahindra logs Rs 3,005 crore PAT for Q3

Chennai, Jan 20 (IANS) : Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd on Saturday said it closed the third quarter of FY24 with an after tax profit of Rs 3,005 crore. In a regulatory filing, the bank said the net profit for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 stood at about Rs 3,005 crore up from about Rs 2,792 crore in Q3FY23. According to the bank, the Q3FY24 results include Rs 143 crore provision (post tax) on applicable Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) investments pursuant to RBI's circular dated December 19, 2023. Net Interest Income

(NII) for Q3FY24 increased to Rs 6,554 crore, from Rs 5,653 crore in Q3FY23, up 16 per cent YoY. Net Interest Margin (NIM) was 5.22 per cent for Q3FY24. During the period under review, the bank's total interest income stood at Rs11,799.2 crore, up from Rs 8,998.61 crore earned during the corresponding period in the previous year. As on December 31, 2023 the bank's gross and net non-performing assets stood at Rs 6,301.67 crore (Rs 5,994.57 crore on December 31, 2022) and Rs 1,225.26 crore (Rs1,344.77 crore).

Wayfair to slash 1,650 jobs from its global workforce

San Francisco, Jan 20 (IANS) : E-commerce company Wayfair has announced to lay off 1,650 employees, or 13 per cent of its workforce globally, to reduce costs. The latest job cuts are expected to provide the company more than \$280 million in annualised cost savings, according to CNBC.

"I want to say thank you to the 1,650 team members who will be leaving us today. You are all valued and talented individuals, and you have each

made incredible contributions to Wayfair and our customers," Wayfair's co-founder and CEO, Niraj Shah, said in a blogpost on Friday. The pandemic caused Wayfair to see its business explode as stuck-at-home consumers splurged on home goods such as furniture and decor. Sales jumped from \$9 billion to \$18 billion "almost overnight" and the company needed to increase its headcount, Shah said. However, demand for household products started to decline as the virus's effects lessened. As a result,

Wayfair has needed to reduce its workforce in order to ensure its staffing levels are proportionate to how much business it's doing, he explained. The company said it will be offering severance to those who are impacted, and support them throughout this transition. "We will also be providing access to employee assistance program me resources and Wayfair Alumni networking support, as well as other benefits and resources," Wayfair said.



IDFC First Bank registers 18% increase in Q3 net profit at Rs 716 cr

Mumbai, Jan 20 (IANS) : IDFC First Bank on Saturday reported an 18 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 716 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year.

The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 605 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

The bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew 30 per cent year-on-year from Rs 3,285 crore in Q3-FY23 to Rs. 4,287 crore in Q3- FY24. The net interest margin was 6.42 per cent during the quarter up

from 6.13 per cent in the year ago period.

The bank registered an improvement in its asset quality with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 2.04 per cent of total loans, down from 3.96 per cent in the same quarter last year.

The net NPA for the quarter was 0.68 per cent, improving from 1.74 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year. The bank's CASA deposits grew by 28.6 per cent year-on-year from Rs 66,498 crores as of December 31, 2022, to Rs 85,492 crores as of December 31, 2023. CASA Ratio stood at 46.8 per cent as of

December 31, 2023.

"We are happy to share that our deposits continue to grow strongly at 43 per cent year-on-year, and our CASA ratio continues to be strong at 46.8 per cent. Our asset quality continues to improve," IDFC First Bank CEO V Vaidyanathan said.

He said that n the Retail, Rural & SME business, which is a significant part of our business, the Gross NPA and Net NPA continues to remain low and are at 1.45 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively as of December 31, 2023.

Union Bank of India posts 60% jump in net profit, stock soars to 52-week high

Mumbai, Jan 20 (IANS) : Union Bank of India on Saturday posted a 59.91 per cent year-on-year jump in net profit to Rs 3,590 crore for the October-December quarter on the back of lower provisioning and higher interest income. The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 2,249 crore in the same quarter a year-ago period. The government-owned bank's share priced soared to a 52-week high of Rs 145.25 apiece registering a 6.72 per cent rise in the spe-

cial trading session on Saturday following the declaration of the result. The total income of the bank increased to Rs 29,137 crore during the third quarter from Rs 24,154 crore in the same period, a year ago, the filing said. Its interest income shot up to Rs 25,363 crore from Rs 20,883 crore a year ago, it said. The bank's provisions and contingencies fell sharply to Rs 1,748 crore in Q3 as against Rs 3,036 crore in the corresponding period last year.



FPIs pressed massive equity sale of Rs 24,000 cr in last 3 days

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : There is a sudden change in the strategy of the FPIs starting January 17 and they turned massive sellers in the cash market having sold equity worth Rs 24,147 crore in three days from January 17-19, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. There are two main reasons why FPIs turned sellers. One, the US bond yield started rising with the 10-year yield rising from the recent level of 3.9 per cent to 4.15 per cent triggering capital outflows from emerging markets. It is important to understand that FPIs were big sellers in other emerging markets too like Taiwan, South Korea and Hongkong.



IDBI Bank logs higher Q3 PAT at Rs 1,458.18 crore

Chennai, Jan 20 (IANS) : Mortgage lender IDBI Bank closed the third quarter of FY24 with higher net profit of Rs 1,458.18 crore.

In a regulatory filing on Saturday, IDBI Bank said for the quarter ended 31.12.2023 it

had earned a total interest income of Rs 6,54.86 crore (Q3FY23 Rs.5,23.44 crore) and a net profit of Rs 1,458.18 crore (Rs 927.27 crore). The profit went up owing to all round increase in its revenue streams. During the quarter under review, the bank's provisions came

down to Rs.319.85 crore (Rs.784.28 crore). As on December 31, 2023 the bank's gross and net non-performing assets stood at Rs 8,589.40 crore (as on 31.12.2022 Rs.23,535.06 crore) and Rs 593.34 crore (Rs.1,595.63 crore).



Lawyer, who was handed 6-month jail term for contemptuous remarks, apologises to Delhi HC

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : A lawyer, who was sentenced to six months jail for contempt of court for making contumacious allegations and scandalous imputations against judges of the Delhi High Court and district courts in a criminal appeal on behalf of a rape survivor, has submitted an unconditional apology to the high court. A division bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Shailender Kaur had imposed the six-month jail term with a fine of Rs 2,000. The court had stated that the lawyer, being an officer of the court, made unwarranted and baseless allegations in the appeal against judges discharging their judicial functions. The lawyer, currently in custody, expressed that he did not intend to scandalise judges and pledged to exercise caution in the future. Filing an affidavit, the lawyer complied with the direction of the Supreme Court.

Nitish no more politically reliable, says Chirag Paswan

Patna, Jan 20 (IANS) : Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) president Chirag Paswan on Saturday said that Bihar Chief Nitish Kumar has lost his political reliability. He said even if Nitish Kumar joins the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), "he would not get the position that he wants". "I won't be worried about Nitish Kumar joining the NDA. If he thinks that he could come back to the NDA with the same arrogance, it would not happen. He has lost his political reliability. No one in NDA would be affected by his arrival or departure," Paswan said while interacting with the mediapersons. Asked about the seat sharing in NDA, Chirag Paswan said that the BJP will decide the seat sharing and the alliance partners of NDA will accept it. Political analysts says Chirag Paswan's statements assume signification as that Nitish Kumar is having a "sour relation" with RJD's Lalu Prasad of late. "It is very hard to predict what



Nitish Kumar is thinking. He can execute his 'Paltimar Programme' (switching sides) any time," said Upendra Kushwaha, president of Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal. Reacting to Lalu Prasad's refusal to go to Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Chirag Paswan said: "Lalu Prasad is anti-Sanatan right from the beginning. In fact, every alliance partner of INDIA is anti-Sanatan. A leader (Udhayanidhi Stalin) of a political party of south India (DMK) talked ill about Sanatan Dharma. RJD leader Chandrashekher gave a statement against Ramcharitmanas, but no one in the INDIA bloc criticised them.



UP Power official booked for harassing consumer

Prayagraj, Jan 20 (IANS) : Police in Prayagraj have lodged an FIR against a Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) and four others for fraud and harassment. The complainant said that he was being forced to make payment of Rs 5.35 lakh for tampering with electricity meter which he never did. The Georgetown police lodged an FIR on instructions of the court and are carrying out further investigations. In his complaint, Muthiganj resident lawyer, Nikhil Srivastava, said that he had applied for transfer of electricity connection from his father's name to him. However, his electricity connection was disconnected on November 23, 2023 despite payment of electricity bill till October 2023. The connection was restored after 21 hours and several complaints. Later, the power department staff took away his old meter and installed a new one. The power officials later claimed that there was some tampering with the old meter and it was running slow.

NCC cadets are role models and inspire the youth : Defence Secretary

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane said that for the country's youth, the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) are the role models, who inspire them to excel in their respective field and contribute towards nation building. The Defence Secretary visited the NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt on Saturday. He emphasised that the NCC, with its philosophy and vision, energises the youth and train them to become better citizens. The objective to expand the NCC is to motivate more and more youth across the country to join the largest uniformed youth organisation and explore its benefits, he added. Aramane urged the youth to shed mediocrity and aim big to achieve their goals, which in turn help the country to reach greater heights.

"The youth with lots of energy, when not properly directed, will end up doing anti-social activities. The youth has to be properly educated and should be given a task which is constructive and contributes to the nation's economy and prosperity. NCC cadets can be their inspiration to achieve this objective," the Defence Secretary said. During his visit, Aramane witnessed a mesmerising cultural programme, featuring group dances and ballets that showcased our nation's rich cultural heritage by the NCC cadets. The themes depicted by the cadets ranged from unity in diversity, the oneness of the Indian source, the scientific temperament and the improvement to the economy, a Defence Ministry official added.



Cyber criminals upgrading with time, police will also upgrade tech: Rajasthan top cop

Jaipur, Jan 20 (IANS) : Rajasthan Police DG, cyber crime, state crime records bureau (SCRB) and technical services, Ravi Prakash Meharda on Saturday said with cyber criminals upgrading their ways with time, the police will also upgrade the existing technology by strengthening their system and training. He said this while speaking on the second day of the 2-day Rajasthan Cyber Hackathon organised by Rajasthan Police. Meharda said that there were mainly two objectives of organising the hackathon in Rajasthan. "First is awareness in cyber crime and second is technological solutions to the problems of police. For this, a platform was provided to cyber security experts and youth," he said. Director General of Police UR Sahu who was the Chief Guest at the event said that by organising a cyber hackathon, Rajasthan Police were having a brainstorming session on the future challenges of the cyber sector by providing a platform to youth and cyber security experts. He said that drones have important utility for the police. "Keeping in mind the utility of drones, Rajasthan Police are also serious about the use of drone technology." Meharda said that awareness is very important to prevent cyber crime. "Just like the rules and discipline of road use, discipline in cyber space is necessary.



Today, almost every person is connected to cyber space through mobile and laptop. The number of digital payments is also continuously increasing, this also provides an opportunity to cyber criminals. Not only common people, even educated people get trapped in cyber crimes and become victims of financial fraud," the police officer said. He said the hackathon also seeks to find technological solutions to the problems faced by the police.



SC reserves verdict on Satyendar Jain's bail plea

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Saturday reserved its judgment on the regular bail petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in connection with an alleged money laundering case. A bench, headed by Justice Bela M. Trivedi, finished hearing the oral arguments advanced by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Jain and Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Odisha CM inaugurates Shree Mandir Parikrama project in Puri

Bhubaneswar, Jan 20 (IANS) : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the much-awaited Shree Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa, also called Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor Project, amid the chants of hymns by the priests in Puri. Large number of devotees, who had thronged the city from across the state and outside, witnessed the grand opening ceremony of the heritage corridor. Patnaik on Saturday along with Puri king Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, 5T (Transformational Initiatives) Chairman V.K. Pandian and priests walked through the nearly one-km-long heritage corridor around the Jagannath temple dedicating it to the public. The Chief Minister later paid obeisance to Lord Jagannath inside the 12th century shrine. The three-day long 'Maha Yajna' was also concluded with offering of 'Purnahuti' by king Dibyasingha Deb, the first and foremost servitor of Lord Jagannath. The 'Maha Yajna' started with the placing of an 'Akhand Deepa'. Spiritual fervour gripped the holy city of Puri with vedic chants by the priests and 'harinam sankirtan' by the devotees, who congregated for the event. The heritage corridor project includes a 75-metre corridor around the 12th century



shrine, a green buffer zone, pedestrian-only circumambulation, a reception centre for devotees, a cultural centre, library, Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre, multi-level car parking, cloakrooms and bathing complexes. Chief Minister Patnaik on Wednesday also inaugurated the four-lane Shree Setu (first trumpet bridge in Odisha), which will ensure a hassle-free visit to Puri and solve the traffic congestion in the city. Patnaik and king Dibyasingha Deb felicitated several people on the occasion. Meanwhile, Shankaracharya of Puri Govardhan Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, remained absent during the grand event due to his pre-scheduled programme at the Gangasagar Mela in West Bengal.

Driver arrested in Lucknow for dragging traffic cop on car bonnet

Lucknow, Jan 20 (IANS) : A driver has been arrested after he attempted to run over traffic constable on duty near the Gosainganj intersection in Lucknow and dragging the cop on his car bonnet for almost a kilometre. The horrifying incident saw the constable Yogesh clinging to the car's bonnet for a kilometre-long ride before finding respite at a closed railway gate.

Youth arrested for attempting to kidnap MoS Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

Lucknow, Jan 20 (IANS) : In a sensational development, a youth has been arrested here over a foiled attempt to kidnap Union Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti. The Minister's driver, Niranjana, has filed a case against the accused for the foiled attempt. In his complaint, Niranjana claimed said that while he was going to the airport to receive the Minister on Saturday, he stopped the car to have tea near New Pradhan Dhaba in the Banthara police station area.

Meanwhile, the accused young man reached there and pushed the gunner sitting in the car out of it and tried to flee with the vehicle. Then the other security personnel surrounded him, stopped the car and caught the young man and handed him over to the police. On the basis of Niranjana's complaint, the accused youth has been taken into custody and is being interrogated. According to the police, the incident took place on Saturday when Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti returning to Lucknow from Delhi.



Turkey to continue cross-border operations on Kurdish militants in Iraq: Erdogan

Ankara, Jan 20 (IANS) : Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country will continue cross-border operations against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) until it is cleared from northern Iraq. "Our operations in this region will continue until we have secured every inch of the mountains in northern Iraq, which are the source of terrorist acts," Erdogan said at a press conference late Saturday after a cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara. A total of 114 targets were hit as part of Turkey's

air operations in Syria and Iraq, and a total of 78 "terrorists" were neutralised in the past five days, he said, referring to the country's recent cross-border military campaign launched after nine Turkish soldiers were killed in northern Iraq by PKK militants. Erdogan said that the attempts to "strengthen" the PKK by providing it with weapons, ammunition, training, and shelters have gained momentum, but he did not specify who is supporting the group. "Our cross-border operations have also foiled plots aimed at dragging Turkey into internal turmoil through a wave of ir-

regular migration," the President added. The Turkish leader also said that Ankara would take additional steps to fight terrorism in the coming months, regardless of "who says what or what threats they make". On Saturday, the Turkish Parliament had passed a joint declaration against terrorism, stating "we declare to the whole world that Türkiye has the strength to fight determinedly against all terrorist groups at home and abroad". "We expect Parliaments of other countries and international organizations to take a clear, uncompromising stance against terror acts targeting Türkiye," it said.



The Turkish security forces have intensified cross-border operations against the PKK in northern Iraq and against the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in northern Syria, after the

killing of the nine Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq. The PKK militants often hide out in northern Iraq to plot cross-border attacks in Turkey, which sees the YPG as the Syrian branch of the PKK group.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the US and the European Union, has rebelled against the Ankara government for more than three decades.



Japan Airlines appoints first female president

Tokyo, Jan 20 (IANS) : Japan Airlines (JAL) on Saturday announced its decision to promote senior executive Mitsuko Tottori to the position of president, making the first time that a woman will hold the top post in the flag carrier's history. Tottori, 59, now representative director and senior managing executive officer, will become the first female president of the Japanese carrier as she assumes the post on April 1, reports Xinhua news agency.

Tottori, who joined the airline in 1985, will also become the first JAL president with a flight attendant background, according to the biography attached to the company's online statement. Yuji Akasaka, the current president, will become chairman with representative authority after April 1.



Vivek urges Haley, DeSantis to drop out of presidential race, endorse Trump

Washington, Jan 20 (IANS) : After suspending his presidential campaign, Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy thinks it would be "healthy for the country" if Republican candidates Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis, drop out of the 2024 White House race and endorse former President Donald Trump.

In an interview with Fox News on Saturday, the biotech entrepreneur said the Republican voter base in Iowa has "spoken loud and clear" that they want Trump to

be the presidential nominee. "I think Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley would actually at this point, do this country and this party a service by stepping aside to make sure that we're focused on not only nominating Donald Trump, but getting this country back and reviving those founding revolutionary ideals," the 38-year-old said. "I do think that would be healthy for this country," he added. The twice-impeached former President, facing more than 90 criminal charges, emerged triumphant in Iowa and solidified his position as the frontrunner for the Republican nomination. DeSantis and Haley, who emerged second and third in the caucus,

hope to overtake Trump further down the primaries but the gap between the former President and both his rivals remains too wide.

"I think it's very clear who the Republican primary electorate is saying that they want to be their nominee. I ran to be that person. They sent me a very positive message. But the very positive message they sent to all of us is that Donald Trump needs to be the nominee of this party," Ramaswamy said.

"And I think that you know what, especially Ron DeSantis, at least of the two of them will have an important role to play in the future of this country leading this nation," he added.

Ukraine won't hold elections under martial law: Parliament Speaker

Kiev, Jan 20 (IANS) : Ukrainian authorities have decided not to hold parliamentary and presidential elections amid the ongoing martial law which was imposed in the wake of Russia's invasion in February 2022, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk said.

"It has been decided that elections will not be held in Ukraine while martial law is in place," Xinhua news agency quoted Stefanchuk as saying.

There were many discussions at both the parliamentary and government levels in Ukraine over the possible elections, he said. Kiev also held consultations with its partners over the issue, in particular with foreign parliament

speakers, the Speaker added. Ukraine was due to hold parliamentary elections in October last year, while the presidential elections were initially slated for spring 2024.

President Volodymyr Zelensky declared the martial law on February 24 2022, just hours after Russia launched its war against Ukraine. In a televised address to the nation, he had clarified that all able-bodied men from 18-60 years old were not allowed to leave the country as the country began a general mobilisation of all reserve forces.

Since then, the martial law has been extended several times. In November last year, it was prolonged till February 14, 2024.



Pakistan strikes 'terrorist hideouts' in Iran

Islamabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : Pakistan on Saturday struck "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Sistan-o-Baluchistan province, in response to Tehran's attack two days ago. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad said that forces carried out "a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes and killed a number of terrorists during the intelligence-based operation codenamed 'Marg Bar Sarmachar'", Dawn news reported. A security official

told Xinhua news agency that "all targets were hit precisely". "We hit the confirmed terrorists. In our view all terrorists are our targets irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, or sect," the official added.

On Saturday, Iranian strikes in the border town of Panjgur in Balochistan led to the alleged deaths of two children. Tehran claimed the strikes were aimed at Jaish al-Adl terrorist group based in the town and denied that Pakistani civilians were killed.



Oslo airport closes amid heavy snowfall

Oslo, Jan 20 (IANS) : Oslo's main airport remain closed with other means of transport so severely disrupted amid heavy snowfall in Norway's capital region.

All departures from Oslo Airport were halted as of 1 p.m. on Saturday afternoon and landings eventually ceased as well, Xinhua news agency quoted Norway's national broadcaster NRK reported as saying. The airport was expected to

remain closed for several hours, as the snowfall was too intense for ground lights to be visible, it quoted Cathrine Framholt, communications manager at the airport's operator Avinor, as saying.

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute has warned of "very heavy snow and strong wind" in the eastern coastal regions including Oslo, saying the extreme weather is expected to persist until late Saturday.

Polish truckers agree to halt border protests

Warsaw, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Polish government announced that protesting truckers have agreed to halt their demonstrations that have blocked several border crossings with Ukraine since November 2023.

Minister of Infrastructure Dariusz Klimczak said the government had signed an agreement with the protesters which will lead to the suspension of protests until March 1 at three road border crossings:

Korczowa, Hrebenne, and Dorohusk, reports Xinhua news agency. Under the agreement, the Polish government has pledged to seek changes to European Union (EU) rules, secure the bloc's funding for transport firms, and introduce stronger enforcement of controls on the Ukraine border. Representatives of the transport industry emphasised that if the results prove unsatisfactory, protests will resume.



Gurugram hotel murder : Cops recover weapon used to kill Divya Pahuja

Gurugram, Jan 20 (IANS) : The police have recovered the weapon that was allegedly used to kill Divya Pahuja -- a former Gurugram-based model and girlfriend of slain gangster Sandeep Gadoli -- 15 days after she was shot dead at a hotel here. Divya, 27, was shot dead by Abhijeet Singh, the owner of Hotel City Point where she was staying. According to the police, Divya and Abhijeet were in a relationship. He shot her dead on January 2 in a fit of rage after she refused to delete some of his objectionable photographs from her mobile phone. A police officer said that the weapon used to kill Divya was recovered following a search con-

ducted by a police team along with Gurugram civic body workers. The police recovered a pistol along with a live cartridge in bushes near Palam Vihar Mod on the Old Delhi Road. "The weapon was recovered on the instance of prime accused Abhijeet Singh. He was accompanying the police during the search operation," Varun Dahiya, ACP (crime) said. Meanwhile, Abhijeet Singh was sent to judicial custody after the completion of his eight-day police remand on Saturday. Divya's body was recovered on January 13 -- eleven days after she was shot dead, and was cremated on January 14 by her family members.



Jat community stage protests in Rajasthan over reservation

Jaipur, Jan 20 (IANS) : Bharatpur-Dholpur Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti on Saturday staged a massive protest near Jaicholi railway station against reservation over quota. Nem Singh Faujdar -- convener of Bharatpur-Dholpur Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti -- said that our demand should be met before January 22 after which they will intensify the agitation by uprooting tracks, stopping trains and blocking the highways. "We have given 10-days to the

government on January 7. But the government did not pay any attention. We have now erected a grand camp in Jaicholi near the Delhi-Mumbai railway track. The second Mahapadav will be held in Bedam village (Bharatpur) and the third in Rarh (Bharatpur)," Faujdar said. He said that they will protest in a Gandhian manner till January 22. "If the government does not fulfill the demand then a fierce agitation will be launched. Its entire responsibility will be of the government," Faujdar said.

To ensure security to the railway track, 6 RAC companies, 180 policemen, 100 RPF and GRPF personnel have been deployed in the area. The Jat community in Bharatpur and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan has been demanding reservation since 1998. Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced the inclusion of the Jats of Rajasthan in the OBC category. However, Bharatpur and Dholpur were not included as Jats were mostly associated with the former royal family.



Man held in Gurugram for killing woman in Aravalli foothills

Gurugram, Jan 20 (IANS) : A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing a woman in the Aravalli Range foothills after she resisted his molestation bid, the police said on Saturday. According to the police, the incident took place on January 7. The arrested individual has been identified as Jiwan, a resident of Madhya Pradesh. The woman's body was recovered from Aravalli Range. A group of women who had gone there to collect wood spotted the body and informed the police. During questioning, Jiwan told the police that he knew the woman -- Sukhi Bai Patel, also a resident of Madhya Pradesh.

Rolls-Royce to showcase 'Power of Trent' at Wings India 2024

New Delhi, Jan 20 (IANS) : Rolls-Royce is all set to participate in the Wings India 2024 show to be held in Hyderabad starting from January 20. In focus of the event will be the Trent family of engines for widebody aircraft, including the Trent XWB - the world's most efficient large aero engine in service. This future-ready range of turbofan engines offers superior performance, and enables cleaner, quieter operations. All Trent engines have been tested and proven compatible with 100 per cent Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), in line with the company's commitment to enable the transition to cleaner

power. With its unique range capability, the Trent XWB currently flies the world's longest commercial route, demonstrating unmatched versatility and reliability. It is the world's fastest-selling engine for widebody aircraft, with over 2000 engines sold till date. The Trent XWB offers leading performance and noise levels along with a 15 per cent fuel consumption advantage over the first generation of Trent engines. It is currently certified to operate on a 50 per cent (SAF) blend, and has been proven to be compatible with 100 per cent SAF for the future. Chris Davie, Senior Vice President, Customers - Asia Pacific, Rolls-Royce, said that India is a significant market for Rolls-

Royce, and they are committed to supporting the dynamic growth of the civil aviation sector in the region. "As airlines in India continue to expand both domestic and international air connectivity, we see strong potential for our Trent family of engines in addressing the requirements of the medium- and long-haul segments. Our team will be present at the Wings India show to familiarise customers with the versatility of these engines," he said. Kishore Jayaraman, President-India and South Asia, Rolls-Royce, said that Rolls-Royce's focus on bringing advanced engine technology together with advantages of sustainability and reliability is aligned with the country's vision



for the future of the aviation sector. "We have proudly played a role in the growth of a strong aerospace ecosystem in India encompassing supply chain, engineering and service delivery capabilities, and remain committed to building on this legacy to support the sector's evolving needs. This is an exciting time for Rolls-Royce, and we look forward to tapping oppor-

tunities and forging new partnerships in this market," he said. Last year, Rolls-Royce received a significant order for Trent XWB engines from Air India for its new A350 fleet of aircraft. The company has a strong aerospace ecosystem in India with strategic local partnerships, two joint ventures, a robust supply chain, a rich talent pool, engineering ca-

pability, digital solutions and service delivery capabilities. This includes a strong supply chain partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) for manufacturing around 300 parts for the Trent XWB engine, as well as several high-precision components for other Rolls-Royce civil aerospace engines, in India. Rolls-Royce also has a joint venture with HAL that is today a top-tier supplier for the company, manufacturing over 160 parts for various civil aerospace engines. The growing Indian civil aviation market may also find interest in the newest member of the Trent family, the Trent 7000 engine created specifically for the Airbus A330 neo, which has delivered exceptional reliability since it entered into service.

Slumbering K'taka CM fails to see funds released by Centre: Bommai

Bengaluru, Jan 20 (IANS) : Senior BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai said on Saturday that it seems like Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has just got up from deep slumber and has failed to see the funds released by the Centre. He said, "CM Siddaramaiah is talking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi who works 18 hours daily for the country and has not taken a single day's holiday in the last nine-and-a-half years." In a series of tweets, former CM Bommai said, "During the UPA Government's regime between

2004 and 2014, Karnataka received Rs 81,795 crore in the form of tax distribution and Rs 60,779 crore in the form of grants. In the current NDA dispensation from 2014 till December 2023, the state received Rs 2,82,791 crore in tax distribution and Rs 2,08,882 crore as grants. "In the month of May, the state got Rs 360 crore and a decision has been made to release another Rs 348 crore. Despite this, the current Congress Government has not been able to release a single rupee towards the compensation to farmers for crop damage due to drought."



Bommai questioned, "Is the state treasury empty because of which the relief has not been released in one shot?" "Why do politics and

blame the Centre when Upper Krishna and Mahadayi projects are pending before the Supreme Court? In the current Union Budget, Rs 5,300 crore has been earmarked for the Upper Bhadra project. Who is in deep slumber and unable to take benefit of the same?" Bommai questioned. "In the last five years, the Centre has given Rs 30,000 crore for national highways. The Bengaluru-Mysore Highway on which you travel had been built out of the money given by the Modi Government. Have you not experienced it?" Bommai said.



Guru Gobind Singh's sword worshiped in Jaipur on Prakash Parv

Jaipur, Jan 20 (IANS) : Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, on the Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh on Saturday, performed a special puja at the City Palace, where she worshiped his 338-year-old sword kept there. "The story of sacrifice, and bravery of Guru Gobind Singh will always inspire us all," she said. A Shabad Kirtan was organised and prasad was distributed to everyone. On the occasion, the sword has been kept for tourists to see at

Sarvobhadra Chowk of the City Palace. Guru Gobind Singh spent some time in Nahan in what is now Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour and while leaving, had presented his personal sword to the then ruler as a memento. Jaipur, titular Rajmata Padmini Devi, who is from Nahan, brought the sword to Jaipur a few years ago. Since then this sword has been in the City Palace. Members of the Sikh community expressed their gratitude to Padmini Devi for giving them darshan of the Guru's kirpan.



Maha: MVA slams BJP as Filmfare-2024 awards to unveil in Gujarat

Mumbai, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Saturday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for taking away important events to Gujarat as the stage is set for the 69th Filmfare Awards-2024 to be held in the neighbouring state. The organisers announced that the coveted 69th Hyundai Filmfare

Awards in collaboration with Gujarat Tourism shall be held at the new GIFT City in Gandhinagar as a two-day glamour-filled extravaganza on January 27-28. Hitting out at the BJP, the Congress' Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar said "this is not fair" and called it yet

another attempt to downgrade the importance of Mumbai by taking away the film industry, known world over as 'Bollywood' out of Maharashtra. "This is an attempt to dilute the importance of Mumbai. Earlier, the industries of Maharashtra were taken to Gujarat.

Trump 'gagged' by new order in \$370mn civil fraud trial

New York, Jan 20 (IANS) : Former US President Donald Trump was handed a limited "Gag Order" from the appeals court even as he appeared in courts here in two different cases as the lower Manhattan NY Attorney General Letitia James launched her closing arguments in the civil fraud trial upping the damage claims to \$370 million from the earlier \$250 million. Trump had appealed the gag order issued by the Manhattan Judge Arthur Engoron to the appeals court which struck it down upholding the gag order, media reports said. Closing her arguments against Trump for inflating assets values to secure loans illegally

and obtain lower insurance premiums while upping the penalty charges, New York AG Letitia James told judge Arthur Engoron and the jurors that her case was never about politics or vendetta or about name calling. "This case is about the facts and the law and Trump violated the laws," she said. Trump has been maintaining that the trial was politically motivated, and that incumbent President Joe Biden had launched a "political witch hunt" against him using the democrat AG James. But facts show that Biden was not even president when James filed the case. "This case has never been about politics, personal vendetta, or about name calling. This case is about the facts and the law, and

Donald Trump violated the law," James said. James thanked her team, the judge, and Trump's lawyers before repeating her confidence that "justice will be done" in the case. "No matter how powerful you are, no matter how rich you are, no one is above the law,"

she said. Former President Donald Trump is on trial in New York in a \$370 million civil lawsuit that could alter the personal fortune and real estate empire that helped propel Trump to the White House.



Pakistan expels Iranian Ambassador after air strike

Islamabad, Jan 20 (IANS) : Following Iran's attack on its territory, Pakistan on Saturday announced it was expelling the Iranian Ambassador while recalling its envoy from Tehran. "Pakistan has decided to recall its Ambassador from Iran and that the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan who is currently visiting Iran may not return for the time being," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said while addressing a press briefing here, Geo News reported. The development comes after Tehran targeted the bases of, what it claimed was a terrorist organisation, inside Pakistani territory, "Green Mountain" with drones and missiles, and destroyed the headquarters of the

said terrorist group, it cited Iranian media as reporting. Calling it an "unprovoked and blatant" breach of Pakistan's sovereignty by Iran, Islamabad termed the move as a violation of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. "This illegal act is completely unacceptable and has no justification whatsoever. Pakistan reserves the right to respond to this illegal act. The responsibility for the consequences will lie squarely with Iran," Baloch said. Furthermore, the spokesperson also revealed that Islamabad has decided to suspend all high-level visits that were ongoing or were planned between Pakistan and Iran in the coming days, Geo News reported.



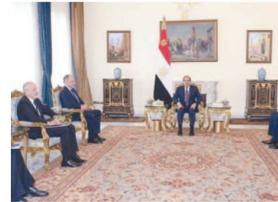
2 suspected rebels killed, 2 soldiers wounded in Philippine clashes

Manila, Jan 20 (IANS) : Philippine troops have killed two suspected rebels in a clash in Negros Occidental province in the central Philippines, a military report said. The report said on Saturday that the fighting between the troops and around five rebels from the New People's Army (NPA) occurred in La Castellana town

around 6:45 a.m. local time, Xinhua news agency reported. The troops recovered an AR-15 rifle, a homemade shotgun, a .45-caliber pistol and ammunition from the encounter site. The report added that two soldiers were wounded in a separate clash between the troops and NPA rebels in Iloilo province in the cen-

tral Philippines on Saturday morning. NPA rebels have been fighting the government troops since 1969. They concentrate their attacks on rural areas and have skirmishes with the military. Military data showed that the NPA is estimated to have 2,000 members, significantly lower than its peak strength in the 1980s.

Egypt's President warns against military escalation in Middle East



Cairo, Jan 20 (IANS) : Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi has warned against the danger of the military escalation in the Middle East region on multiple fronts, the Egyptian Presidency said in a statement. During a meeting with the visiting Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis, Sisi reiterated "the vital need to defuse the current critical situation through an immediate and urgent ceasefire in Gaza Strip and enforcing the delivery of humanitarian aid," according to the statement released on Saturday. Sisi emphasised that Egypt will continue its unyielding efforts to support the people in Gaza, provide them with aid and relief, and work towards calming the situation, Xinhua news agency reported. The Greek Minister highlighted the pivotal role of Egypt as "an indispensable cornerstone for stability in the Middle East". The two sides also agreed on the imperative need to move quickly towards a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian cause, which is the central issue in the region and the path toward achieving peace, security and stability.



Iranian guards clash with terrorists at Pakistan border

Tehran, Jan 20 (IANS) : The Iranian Border Guard Command has said that a team of terrorists was trying to infiltrate in Iran by crossing the shared borders with Pakistan and were confronted by border guards, media reports said. The Iranian Border Guard Command informed of an armed conflict and the destruction of the terrorists which intended to enter the country for sabotage activities. "The incident was reported by the border guards in the south-eastern

borders of the country," Mehr News reported. The Iranian news report said that a terrorist group that was planning to enter the country for destructive actions was prevented from entering the country through the vigilance of the border guards of the Jakigur border regiment in an armed conflict, exchange of heavy fire and fierce confrontation. "In the ensuing clash, one member of the terrorist group was killed and two others were injured and fled the scene," the media reports said.

Guterres 'deeply concerned' about Iran attack inside Pakistan

United Nations, Jan 20 (IANS) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is "deeply concerned" about Iran's attacks inside Pakistan and the possibility of the crisis from the Israel-Hamas conflict spreading, according to his Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric. "He's deeply concerned about what we've seen, those Iranian strikes on targets in Pakistan that reportedly killed two children and injured several others," Dujarric said on Saturday. "He again appeals (in the) strongest possible term for restraint and avoidance of any further escalation," he added. Iran struck two bases of the Sunni terror group, Jaish al-Adl, in Balochistan's Koh-e-Sabz, about 50 km inside Pakistan, with missiles and drones on Tuesday. On Monday, Tehran had attacked what it called an Israeli intelligence centre in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region in Iraq.



Closing women's health gap could help boost global economy by \$1 tn annually: WEF

Davos-Klosters, Jan 20 (IANS) : A new World Economic Forum (WEF) report shows closing the women's health gap would allow more women to live healthier, higher-quality lives, and provide an unprecedented boost to the global economy. Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies, developed in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute, analyses the health conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affect women and quantifies the health gap today and the potential economic boon of bridging it tomorrow. Addressing shortcomings, which limit the ability of many women to engage in the workforce and earn a living for themselves and their families, could reduce the time women spend in poor health by almost two-thirds, improve

the health outcomes and daily lives of over 3.9 billion people, and add \$1 trillion to the economy annually by 2040. "Our analysis demonstrates that addressing the women's health gap and investing in women's health must be a priority for every country," said Shyam Bishen, Head of the Centre for Health and Healthcare at the World Economic Forum, at the report release on Saturday. "Beyond improving women's quality of life, ensuring women have access to innovations in healthcare is one of the best investments that countries can make for their societies and their economies." Critically, better health is correlated with economic prosperity. According to the report, women on average spend 25 per cent more of their lives in poor health than men.



British lawmakers pass PM's Rwanda bill

London, Jan 20 (IANS) : Lawmakers in Britain voted in favour of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Rwanda bill, designed to confirm that Rwanda is a safe third country for relocating individuals

there. The bill, key to the government's Rwanda plan, passed the House of Commons with 320 votes in favour and 276 votes against on Saturday. It will now go to the House of Lords, Parliament's upper chamber, for its

first reading. "The passing of the bill tonight marks a major step in our plan to stop the boats," said a spokesperson for the Prime Minister's office. In April 2022, Britain reached a deal with Rwanda, under which illegal immigrants and asylum seekers would be sent to the East African country to have their claims processed there. If successful, they would be granted permanent residency in Rwanda rather than being allowed to return to Britain, Xinhua news agency reported. However, the scheme has met with resistance. The first flight scheduled to take seven migrants to Rwanda in June 2022 was cancelled after intervention by the European Court of Human Rights. Two months ago, Britain's Supreme Court ruled that the government's scheme was "unlawful".





'Bade Miyan and Chote Miyan' teaser to be 100 seconds long

The teaser of the upcoming action film 'Bade Miyan and Chote Miyan', which stars Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff, will have its teaser spanning reportedly 100 seconds. The film has booked the release for Eid 2024 and promises an immersive experience, with the teaser said to be releasing on January 24, 2024. A source said, "With Khiladi, Akshay Kumar at the

forefront, headlining this much-anticipated project along with the youngest action superstar, Tiger Shroff, ensures that the 'Tiger Effect' of the young star will surely captivate the fans and audience across all ages." "The teaser is said to span over 100 seconds, and will be a visual spectacle, blending high-octane action sequences with character build-up, setting the stage for a cinematic feast.



Vijayendra Prasad : Rajamouli-Mahesh Babu upcoming collaboration 'SSMB29' script finalised

There is exciting news for Mahesh Babu fans who have been eagerly awaiting an update since ace director Rajamouli announced his next project with the superstar. In a recent interview with a Telugu news channel, the much sought-after writer V Vijayendra

Prasad revealed that he has finalised the script for Mahesh Babu and Rajamouli's upcoming collaboration titled 'SSMB29.' According to industry sources, the official announcement will be made in the coming weeks. There is considerable anticipation not only among fans but across

India, as the film will be helmed by none other than Rajamouli, known for blockbuster pan-India films like the 'Baahubali' series and 'RRR.' The filmmaker has been working on the script with his father Vijayendra Prasad for a long time and it appears that they have now

locked in the script. According to reports, Mahesh Babu has already begun preparations for the movie and will soon join the workshop. Since the news broke, fans have been sharing updates on social media platforms, and '#SSMB29' has quickly started trending.



Nagarjuna, Dhanush, Rashmika to star in Sekhar Kammula's new film

Stars Nagarjuna, Dhanush and Rashmika Mandanna are all set to star in National Award-winning director Sekhar Kammula's next film, which is tentatively called as #D50. The film's pooja ceremony took place on Thursday in

Hyderabad. Without divulging much about the film, the makers Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP took to X (formerly Twitter), where they shared a few photographs from the ceremony. Sekhar's popular work includes 'Fidaa' and 'Love Story'. Dhanush's latest release is Captain

Miller. He will be seen taking on direction once again. Titled #D50, it also stars Nithya Menen, SJ Suryah, Sundeeep Kishan, Kalidas Jayaram and Varalaxmi Sarathkumar. Rashmika was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Animal'.



Monica Chaudhary plays pivotal role in Sunny Singh-starrer 'Risky Romeo'

Actress Monica Chaudhary, who was seen in the Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor-starrer film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', is set to essay a pivotal role in actor Sunny Singh's upcoming neo-noir comic tragedy 'Risky Romeo'. The film is written and directed by Abir Sengupta, who had previously helmed the Kiara Advani-starrer 'Indoo Ki Jawani' and produced the Radhika Apte-starrer 'Mrs. Undercover'. Talking about her role, Monica said: "My look in the film also is very different from all the other work that I have done. When I heard the script and the character for the first time.

Sonu Sood receives deep fake video of himself, impersonator asks distressed family for money

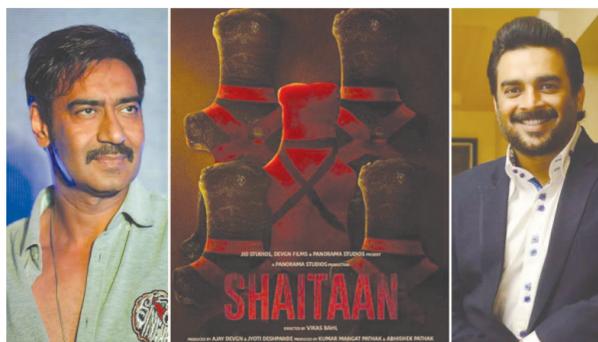
Actor Sonu Sood, who is known for 'Dabangg', 'Happy New Year', 'Agadu' and others, recently received a deep fake video of him from one of his followers on social media. The actor took to his X on Thursday and uploaded the deep fake video to clear the air that the person featured in the video is not him. In the deep fake video call featuring Sood, the impersonator interacted with a family in need of funds for medical treatment, assuring them of financial assistance. He wrote in the caption: "My film FATEH is inspired by real life incidents involving Deep

Fake and fake loan apps. This is the latest incident where someone tried to extract money from an unsuspecting family, by chatting with them through video call pretending to be Sonu sood. Many innocent individuals fall into this trap. I request all of you to be vigilant if you receive such calls. #fateh." Interestingly, inspired from such events, the actor turned writer and director for his new thriller, 'Fateh'. He wrote the story after over a year of research and interviews with victims, cybercrime police officers, and ethical hackers. In the film, he essays the role of an investigation agent who is on a mission to protect the country from cybercrimes.



Richa Chadha to ignite conversations on activism in entertainment at Sundance Film Fest

Actress Richa Chadha has been selected to be part of a distinguished panel discussing 'Entertainers as Activists' at the Sundance Film Festival. Richa will share the stage with other influential figures, including philanthropic leader Bridgette Antoinette Evans, comedian and actor Kobi Libii, and documentary filmmaker Bao Nguyen. Speaking of this, Richa said: "Entertainment has the power to shape perceptions and inspire change.



Madhavan, Ajay Devgn reveal first look of supernatural thriller 'Shaitaan'

Bollywood actors R Madhavan, and Ajay Devgn on Friday unveiled the poster of their upcoming film titled 'Shaitaan', which is a black magic horror movie, co-starring Jyotika. Taking to the social media, Madhavan dropped the glimpse of Shaitaan's poster, which features a series of red and black voodoo dolls, giving an eerie feeling. It is dubbed to be the most gripping supernatural film of the year. Doodoo doll is typically used in various forms in the magical traditions. Sharing the poster, Madhavan wrote: "The reign of #Shaitaan is upon

us. Taking over cinemas on March 8, 2024." Ajay captioned the poster as: "#Shaitaan is coming for you." Directed by Vikas Bahl, the plot line of the film has been kept under wraps by the makers. 'Shaitaan' is presented by Jio Studios, Ajay Devgn Films and Panorama Studios International, and produced by Devgn, Jyoti Deshpande, Kumar Mangat Pathak and Abhishek Pathak. It will release on March 8. On the work front apart, Madhavan also has Sashikanth's cricket drama, 'Test', 'Adhirshataali', and 'GD Naidu Biopic' in the pipeline.



As he shoots for Kannappa biopic, Vishnu Manchu says it's not enough to know history; own it

Actor-director Vishnu Manchu, who has finished the first schedule of his upcoming film 'Kannappa' in New Zealand, has shared that it's not enough to know the history, but one must own their history. The film, directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, delves into the awe-inspiring tale of 'Bhakta Kannappa,' an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. The film stars Vishnu Manchu alongside Mohanlal, Mohan Babu and Prabhas amongst others. The film's auspicious launch took place in Sri Kalahasti Temple in August 2023. Sharing his opinion, Vishnu said, "It really got me thinking. Is the film mythological? No. It's our history. One can call it an action adventure but it's not mythology. When we read the Ramayana and tally it with facts, we realise that it's a retelling of truths. Ram Setu is a bridge whose remnants have been found between Rameshwaram and Sri Lanka. Similarly in Mahabharata, Dwarka exists for real." He further mentioned, "I believe it's not enough to know your history, one must own their history.