

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

TUESDAY, 23 January 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 146 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Coal import by power plants declines 40.66% in April-Dec as local production rises

The country's power generation based on domestic coal increased by 7.14 per cent to 872 billion units during.

07



Reliance Industries celebrates Ram Lala Pran Pratishtha

Reliance Industries is one of the first private organisations to declare a holiday on January 22 so that lakhs of Reliance colleagues and families could celebrate and join the devotional...

02



Advani, who led Ram Temple movement, not to attend inauguration due to cold weather

Veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, who campaigned across the country for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, will not.

12



PM at the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shree Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on January 22, 2024.



CM Revanth returns to Hyderabad after foreign tour

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy reached Hyderabad on Monday morning after the successful completion of his first foreign tour.

The Chief Minister was received a grand welcome by Harkara Venugopal Rao, Advisor to State Government (Protocol and Public Relations) at Shamshabad Airport in the city. Revanth Reddy along with Minister for IT and Industries D Sridhar Babu and some senior officials attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland and later visited London and Dubai cities for discussing the development of 56-kilometers long Musi river front, green urban spaces, and exploring commercial linkages and investment models.



Telangana Governor performs puja to mark Ram temple inauguration

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : Telangana Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan performed puja at Raj Bhavan on Monday to mark the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya. According to a Raj Bhavan press communique, she performed, "Lord Shri

Rama Pooja and participated in a devotional hymn-singing session (Sri Rama Nama Sankeerthanam) at Raj Bhavan, to mark the Sri Ram Prana Pratishtha ceremony of the Sri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya."

Continued on pg 02



Ex-minister Jagadeesh Reddy slams CM, ministers

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : Former minister G. Jagadeesh Reddy today slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and State ministers for their vitriolic against their party leaders. He alleged that the ruling party leaders were speaking like the Opposition party leaders. Speaking to media persons, he mocked that the Congress leaders did not believe that they would come into power and gave impossible promises. He claimed that the ruling party leaders were growing impatient when questioned about their promises.

Komatireddy lashes out at BRS MLA for levelling derogatory remarks

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy lashed out at BRS MLA and former minister Jagadeesh Reddy for levelling derogatory remarks against him.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that Jagadeesh Reddy, who went to jail for

illegally selling liquor during the prohibition period, was very strange to talk about him. "I threw away my ministerial posts for demanding a separate Telangana State. Jagadeesh Reddy doesn't have any right to speak about me as the latter is an arrogant person and he is the least bothered about solving the problems of people.



Grievances should be resolved within a week: GHMC Mayor

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi said the grievances received from the public during the Prajavani programme should be resolved within a

week. Vijayalakshmi along with Deputy Mayor Srilatha Shobhan Reddy received applications from people at the Prajavani programme held at the GHMC headquarters here on Monday.



We will correct our mistakes & move ahead : Harish Rao

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (NSS) : Former minister T Harish Rao today spoke at the Nalgonda Lok Sabha Constituency party leaders' meeting in the city. Speaking on the occasion, he said they had discussed for nearly 112 hours in a total of 16 MP seats meetings so far. He said the party activists made good suggestions. "There have been demands for action against those, who have

betrayed the party. There have been suggestions on institutional strengthening. Let's move on without repeating the mistakes we made in the past. Those who have worked hard will be given recognition in the party. The activists will be given a proper place in the party. Soon, committees will be formed and meetings will be held in the assembly constituencies," he added.

He alleged that the Congress party carried out misleading campaigning against their party in the recent assembly elections. He alleged that there was intolerance in governance and mocked that this was the Congress's attitude. He said that on behalf of the people, they would continue to question the government. "The people of Karnataka have understood the Congress' attitude.



Kavitha counters Ponnam's comments against Phule statue

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : BRS party MLC K. Kavitha today countered the comments of State minister Ponnam Prabhakar. She asked the latter as to why he was giving a political colour to her demand for the installation of the statue of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule in the assembly premises. "Do you have

objections as the demand was made by the Bharat Jagriti organisation or do you have objections to the installation of a statue of Phule in the Assembly," MLC Kavitha asked and wondered whether the depressed classes should not be given a place in the assembly? Is this the respect you give to inspirational heroes?



Glimpses of Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shree Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on January 22, 2024. PM presents on the occasion.

OPINIONmail



WHY ISRO'S COLLABORATION WITH RUSSIA FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION IS CRUCIAL?

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is considering sending its astronauts on the highly ambitious Gaganyaan mission with spacesuits made in Russia, according to a document reviewed by Hindustan Times. There are signs that Russian spacesuits will be used for the Gaganyaan mission, although Vikram Sarabhai Space's locally produced Intra-Vehicular Activity (IVA) suits are almost finished and being tested. The initial plan was for Indian astronauts to wear the IVA suits made in India. Recent mission planning, however, indicates that Russian spacesuits are preferred due to programmatic needs and an extra degree of assurance for crew safety. "Considering the programmatic requirements and to doubly ensure crew safety, it is planned to induct Russian space suits for the (Gaganyaan) mission," an official document sent to the English daily said. The year, 2024, is marked as 'The Year of Gaganyaan' by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief, S Somanath, who emphasised its importance in the Gaganyaan timeline. At this critical juncture in the planning and implementation of this historic space project, ISRO has scheduled important mission-related tests and demonstrations throughout the entire year.

ISRO Gaganyaan Mission: is aimed at showcasing India's capacity to carry out its first human spaceflight programme, ISRO is gearing up for a momentous milestone with its ambitious Gaganyaan mission. The goal of the project is to safely return a crew of three people to Earth by putting them into orbit at a height of 400 kilometres for a three-day stay. To ensure the programme's complete success, ISRO is concentrating on several tests and programmes in advance of the historic human mission. The production of a human-rated launch vehicle that can safely carry the crew into space is at the forefront of this endeavour, alongside the development of crucial technologies. Furthermore, construction is being done on a life-support system that will give the crew an Earth-like environment while they are in space. Developing a thorough framework for crew management that addresses such issues as training, recuperation and rehabilitation is another priority for ISRO.

ISRO is scheduled to carry out some critical preparatory missions before the Gaganyaan spacecraft is launched. Test Vehicle (TV) flights, the Pad Abort Test (PAT) and the Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT) are a few of these. These test flights are essential for evaluating and improving different systems to ensure they are safe and reliable in the harsh environment of space. Before commencing manned operations, unmanned missions will also be carried out to confirm and improve the overall robustness of the systems. A major step forward for India in the field of human space exploration, ISRO's devotion to meticulous testing, technological developments and exhaustive preparations demonstrates its dedication towards accomplishing a successful Gaganyaan mission. Since it was first introduced in 1973, the Sokol space suit—also referred to as the Sokol IVA suit, or just the Sokol (Russian: Соко́л, lit. 'Falcon')—has been a mainstay of Soviet and Russian space missions. As of 2023, it is still in use and was intended to be worn by every Soyuz spaceship occupant. To differentiate it from suits meant for extravehicular activities or spacewalks, the Sokol is officially categorized as a rescue suit. The Sokol is essential in the event of an unexpected spaceship depressurization, unlike suits made for spacewalks. The major goal of the Sokol is to guarantee the wearer's survival in an emergency by preserving a life-sustaining environment within the suit, despite certain parallels with NASA's Advanced Crew Escape Suit (ACES), which is worn during space shuttle launches and landings. The Sokol has been a life-support system under dire circumstances for a long time, which is proof of its dependability and efficiency in space exploration. Although it is not designed for extravehicular operations, its vital function in protecting astronauts in space highlights how important it is to the general safety of human missions.

(By Girish Linganna)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



DONALD TRUMP'S VICTORY IN IOWA SHOULD BE A WAKE-UP CALL FOR JOE BIDEN

For the past three years, the Democratic Party has carried out a full-court press with the singular goal of undermining Donald Trump's chances of being renominated: the yearslong media and congressional spectacles around January 6, the series of criminal indictments against Trump, even the recent attempts to use the courts to boot him off the ballot in several states. Instead, Trump's support within the GOP has only grown, sometimes seemingly directly because of these efforts.

With Trump's whopping victory in last night's Iowa caucuses, the Democrats might want to finally ask themselves if they need a strategy for the former president's political defeat, instead of formulating more ways to find a cheat code to avoid one.

Trump won by 30 points last night, leaving his two closest challengers scrapping it out for a very distant second place, with his 51 percent of the vote outdoing already rosier preelection polling. That margin of victory is nearly three times the widest of previous GOP

winners in Iowa: Bob Dole beat TV pastor Pat Robertson by 12 points in 1988, when neither ended up winning the nomination; George W. Bush triumphed by 11 points in 2000 in a thin field that saw millionaire publisher Steve Forbes take second; and Mike Huckabee beat runner-up Mitt Romney by 9 points in 2008, in another race where the eventual Republican nominee was one of the contest's also-rans. Trump prevailed in every single county but one, where he lost by a single vote.



It's Going to be Jagan Vs. Sharmila!

While the Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's sister YS Sharmila joining the Congress party a few days ago has triggered intense speculation in the political circles on the shape of things to come in Andhra Pradesh politics, her appointment as State Congress chief now has confirmed that it is going to be a battle of ballot between Jagan and Sharmila in the ensuing Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the State. There is no doubt now that it is going to be a no-holds barred battle between the two siblings of late Dr YSR, as the Congress is determined to capture power in the State by all means.

SC ORDER ON MATHURA IDGAH DOES NOT CHANGE NORM GAINING GROUND ON DISPUTED STRUCTURES



The Supreme Court order staying the Allahabad High Court decision to appoint an advocate commission to conduct a survey of the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah complex in Mathura does not substantially alter the general approach of the judiciary with regard to the disputed places of worship, which is more in favour of faith rather than

other issues. The apex court order is based on technicalities rather than on substantive issues about the contentious claims, including the challenge to the Places of Worship Act of 1991, which is no longer considered unbreachable as per various judicial verdicts, including that in the dispute relating to the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya. In fact, the historic decision in that case has created a new template for the future, which is expected to wit-

ness increasing adoption in the days to come. It is pertinent that the Supreme Court has only stayed the high court order to appoint the commission to conduct the survey and not the continuing of the proceedings in the main suit. "We are not issuing a complete stay," the court clarified, adding that the stay order is related only to the implementation of the high court order to set up an advocate Commission for a survey of the site. The most important issue is whether the 1991 Act precludes any change with regard to the claims by rival parties. Over a dozen petitions are pending before the Allahabad High Court with the Hindu side claiming that the mosque was constructed by emperor Aurangzeb by demolishing a temple on the land of Krishna's birthplace.



INDIA'S ROAD SAFETY CRISIS CALLS FOR PRIORITIZING DRIVERS TRAINING

Recent transporters' strike against the newly-introduced legal provisions that provide for a 10-year jail term for drivers who don't take accident victims to the hospital, leading to the death of the victims,

throws the spotlight on an issue of immense significance. India has a vast network of well-developed highways and roads and it's growing. The number of vehicles is also growing at a significant pace. India spends a huge amount of money on oil bills. India's need for oil defines

its foreign policy. Ironically, our investments in highways and oil are causing road accidents and deaths. Unfortunately, a sector that sees so much of investments cannot deal with an issue that concerns all of us.

IS NIKKI HALEY A FAVOURITE OF LEFTWING DEMOCRATS TO DEFEAT TRUMP?

US Presidential hopeful Nikki Haley's third place finish in Iowa means she should be out of the race. But the Indian-origin Republican's Democrat voters are not ready for her to call it quits, as yet. Her dollar-donors also have skin in the game. Nikki Haley spent more dollars per vote than Ron DeSantis and Donald Trump but Haley used the dollars to woo Democrat voters not the Republican flock. Besides, being flush with funds, Nikki has no time to waste on trivia. Nikki says she is seeing a "two person race" from now on, between Trump and Nikki Haley, who else? This despite Nikki Haley coming in third, behind Ron DeSantis in Iowa. Businessman Vivek Ramaswamy dropped to fourth but had the sense to call it quits. (IPA Service)

Pakistan forms high-level committee for smooth conduct of general elections

Islamabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : Pakistani caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar formed a high-level committee to ensure the smooth conducting of the country's upcoming general elections scheduled for early February, according to the Prime Minister's Office. The seven-member committee, consisting of federal ministers and senior provincial officials, will implement directions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regard-

ing the smooth and orderly conducting of general elections, according to a notification from the office on Monday. The committee would oversee the security arrangements for the elections, and resolve matters regarding administrative arrangements, said the notification, Xinhua news agency reported. The high-level committee would also issue directions for urgent requirements of additional security where law and order situation requires.



Yellow warning of low temperature and ice issued for Ireland



Dublin, Jan 22 (IANS) : The state meteorological service of Ireland has issued a Status Yellow low temperature and ice warning for the entire country, with lows of minus 5 degrees Celsius expected at night time. The warning will come into effect from 5 p.m. until 11 a.m. on Monday, Met Eireann said on Monday. The national forecaster warned of difficult travelling conditions as well as low temperature issues for vulnerable people, Xinhua news agency reported. Carlow Weather's Alan O'Reilly, one of Ireland's best-known social media presence focusing on tracking extreme weather, told local media that the freezing temperatures will be followed quickly by a potential "massive storm".

Two teens arrested in connection with Melbourne murder

Melbourne, Jan 22 (IANS) : Police in Australia's Victoria on Monday said that two teenagers were arrested in connection with a murder in state capital Melbourne last week. The two 16-year-old boys were both charged with murder, aggravated burglary and theft, and would appear at a children's court at a later date, reports Xinhua news agency. The police said they located the 33-year-old victim at about 5.30 a.m. on January 13, after being called to reports of an aggravated burglary at the man's home. It is alleged that the man had been involved in a confrontation where he was fatally injured.



Yemen's Houthis claim responsibility for new missile attack on US ship

Sanaa, Jan 22 (IANS) : Yemen's Houthi group on Monday claimed responsibility for carrying out a missile attack on a US ship in the Gulf of Aden.

"The naval forces of the Yemeni Armed Forces (Houthis) carried out an attack targeting a US ship (Chem Ranger) in the Gulf of Aden with several appropriate naval missiles, and the hit was accurate."



NATO to conduct largest military drills in decades

Brussels, Jan 22 (IANS) : The NATO is set to hold its largest exercise in decades, with nearly 90,000 forces slated to participate, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe Christopher Cavoli said. The exercise, dubbed "Exercise Steadfast Defender 2024," is

scheduled to commence next week and will extend through May. All NATO's 31 members and Sweden will participate in the maneuvers, Cavoli told a press briefing on Monday in Brussels following a two-day NATO Military Chiefs of Defence meeting as quoted by Xinhua news agency

report. Regarding the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Rob Bauer, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, said that "There is back and forth in the front" and "Both sides are now in a phase where it is not moving a lot forward one way or the other".

UN agency allocates funds for flood response in Somalia

Mogadishu, Jan 22 (IANS) : The UN humanitarian agency has said that it allocated \$35.7 million to support the El Nino flood response in Somalia since October 2023. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday that \$25.7 million came from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), a multi-donor country-based pooled mechanism supporting most urgent life-saving interventions in Somalia, while \$10 million allocation was from the Central Emergency Response Fund, Xinhua news agency

reported. "These allocations aim to provide early action and response to save lives and mitigate the impact of floods on the most vulnerable communities in 10 regions of Somalia," OCHA said in SHF's latest report for the fourth quarter of 2023 released in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. The heavy Deyr (October-December) rains in Somalia killed more than 118 people and devastated one-fifth of the harvest in south-central Somalia, according to the UN. The heavy rains also adversely affected about 1.5 million hectare of farmland in Somalia. The report said a total of 35 projects were monitored through



field visits by OCHA and clusters, third-party monitoring and outsourced remote calls. "These regular checks ensure that partners deliver relevant and

timely services to those most in need while complying with the agreed procedures." According to OCHA, the SHF will hold an advisory board meeting in February

in Mogadishu, which will focus on providing the strategic direction of SHF in 2024, including setting the principles governing allocations.



US Dept of Justice slams law enforcement bodies over 2022 Texas school shooting

Washington, Jan 22 (IANS) : The US Department of Justice (DOJ) in a damning language for law enforcement agencies in Uvalde in Texas held them responsible for their failure to respond and prevent the shooting by a lone gunman in 2022, in the worst ever slaughter of school children in the American history. By the time the shooter was killed by US Border Patrol agents and not by the hundreds of state and local law officers who swarmed to the school, 19 children and two of their teachers were dead and 17 others were wounded, according to reports. The 500 page report by the DOJ describes the response by law enforcement as a "failure" with no one taking full command, and criticised cer-

tain actions that delayed efforts to save lives and to confront the heavily armed gunman, media reports said. The DOJ released the report on Monday just blocks from the May 24, 2022, carnage at Uvalde's Robb Elementary School. The DOJ's team collected and reviewed more than 14,000 pieces of data and documentation, including training logs, audio, video, CCTV, photographs, personal records, investigative records. Federal investigators conducted more than 260 interviews of people involved or affected, including police officers, elected officials, hospital workers and survivors. "In summary, the response to the May 24, 2022, mass casualty incident at Robb Elementary School was a failure," said the report, which was formally presented by US Attorney General Merrick Garland. "The painful

lessons detailed in this report are not meant to exacerbate an already tragic situation or further the pain and trauma to those directly impacted by the events on May 24 and the subsequent days, weeks and months. "The goal is that this report provides answers to those directly impacted, while also conveying recommendations and lessons learned to the nation," Garland said. In its exhaustive analysis of the top-to-bottom failures that combined to make the shooting one of the worst in history, the report aimed not only to help prevent further shootings, but also to guide, unflinchingly, the next American community that will face this tragedy on how to best respond, USA Today reported. The DOJ released a report climaxing an emotion charged two days in Uvalde, a city of about 29,000 that was catapulted into the nation's consciousness because of the brutality of the shooter and the breakdown of standard law enforcement procedures when responding to an ongoing shooting with lives hanging in the balance. Eleven officers from the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District and Uvalde Police Departments arrived on the scene within three minutes of the shooter's entry.

Vietnam passes amended land law

Hanoi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Vietnamese National Assembly (NA) approved the amended land law at its fifth extraordinary meeting, the media reported. NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue said on Monday that by passing the law, the legislators had accomplished one of the most important legislative tasks of the 15th-term National Assembly. The law will take effect on January 1, 2025, except for some specific provisions, Xinhua news agency reported. Vu Hong Thanh, Chairman of the NA's Economic Affairs, said it was a major and complicated law project, bearing special meaning and importance in the country's politics,

socio-economy, national defence, security and environmental protection. It has also a profound impact on all walks of life and businesses. The draft amended land law, which was open for public feedback, has received more than 12 million comments. At the fifth extraordinary meeting which concluded on Thursday, the NA deputies also passed an additional allocation of more than 63.72 trillion Vietnamese dong (\$2.59 billion) for five sectors and fields, namely national defence, security, state management, science and technology and transport. The allocation consists of nearly 58 trillion Vietnamese dong for 32 key transport projects.





Centre's hidden agenda in manipulating financial autonomy of states exposed: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Jan 22 (IANS) : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday stated that in a shocking revelation, BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, has exposed the Narendra Modi Government's hidden agenda in manipulating the financial autonomy of Indian states. In a press release, Siddaramaiah stated, an article from Al Jazeera reveals the deep-seated issues plaguing the federal structure under the current administration, pointing towards a systematic strain on state finances and autonomy. "We had always been raising this injustice but blind MPs of BJP were truly blind. Hope they

wake up at the earliest," he said and added that the implications of these actions were far-reaching, particularly for states like Karnataka, which have long voiced their struggles against such injustices. "The Modi Government's attempt to lower the states' tax share from 42 per cent to 32 per cent and its subsequent concealment of this failed attempt in Parliament, where Modi spoke of empowering states, only adds to the narrative of duplicity. Since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been involved in covert negotiations with the Finance Commission of India, aiming to significantly cut funds allocated to states. This move, re-

sisted by the independent constitutional body, reveals a stark contrast between Modi's public promises and his actual policies," he explained. "The revelation that the Modi Government had to hastily rewrite its maiden full budget in 48 hours to compensate for its failed strategy to retain a larger share of central taxes, exposes a two-faced approach to governance," Siddaramaiah stated. "BVR Subrahmanyam's account of the rushed budget preparation, which resulted in severe cuts to crucial welfare programs, paints a grim picture of the government's priorities. The halving of allocations for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, from Rs 36,000 crore to Rs 18,000 crore, is a stark example of how policy shifts at the central level can adversely affect the most vulnerable sections of society," Siddaramaiah said. "The budget also saw an 18.4 per cent cut in allocation for school education from the previous year," he maintained. He said that the government's reliance on off-budget borrowing, as highlighted by BVR Subrahmanyam, further obscures the true state of federal finances and this practice.

200-page charge sheet filed in IIT-BHU molestation case

Varanasi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The police in Varanasi have filed a 200 page charge sheet in the molestation case of an IIT-BHU student. The charge sheet details the incident that happened to the student in her own words and includes the statements of her friends present with her, the security guard of the Proctorial Board of IIT BHU and the doctor who conducted the medical examination have been recorded. The medical report of the student is also mentioned. As scientific evidence, with the help of surveillance on the night of the incident, the police have presented in the court the location of the mobile phones of the three accused at the crime scene, the CCTV footage of the accused and the photos obtained from it, their route chart and the data recovered from the mobile. On December 31, 2023, 60 days after the incident, Kunal Pandey, Saksham Patel and Abhishek Chauhan were arrested and sent to jail.



Delhi records minimum temperature of 7.1 degrees Celsius

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The national capital on Monday recorded a minimum temperature at 7.1 degrees Celsius, one notch below the seasonal average, the India Meteorological Department said. The IMD's forecast showed that the maximum temperature on Monday is likely to hover around 18 degrees Celsius. Several flights operations were also reported to be delayed owing to low visibility. "Visibility at Palam Airport (Delhi) improved from 00 m at 0430 IST to 50 m at 0500 IST and further improved to 150 m at 0630 IST and it is still continuing at 150 m," the IMD said in tweet around 7 a.m. However, at 8:30 a.m. the visibility improved and 500

metres visibility was recorded at Palam and 400 m at Safdarjung. Moreover, the air quality continued to remain in the 'very poor' category at several stations across the city. In the Anand Vihar area, at 9 a.m., PM2.5 levels were recorded to be in the 'very poor' category standing at 348 and PM10 reached 242 or 'poor', according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Air Quality Index (AQI) between zero and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 and 100 'satisfactory'; 101 and 200 'moderate'; 201 and 300 'poor'; 301 and 400 'very poor'; and 401 and 500 'severe'. The IGI Airport T3 witnessed PM2.5 levels at 210 or 'poor', and PM10 was at 135, falling under the 'moderate' category.



Congress turncoat, AAP leader in Haryana, Tanwar quits party

Chandigarh, Jan 22 (IANS) : Congress turncoat and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader in Haryana, Ashok Tanwar, on Monday quit the party, expressing displeasure with the latter's alignment with the former. In a letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Tanwar wrote, "In view of the current political scenario and your alignment with the Indian National Congress, my ethics

won't allow me to continue as Chairman, Election Campaign Committee, Aam Aadmi Party Haryana. Therefore, kindly accept my resignation from primary membership and all other responsibilities of the Aam Aadmi Party." Tanwar said he would continue to work for the betterment of the state of Haryana, Bharat and its people.

EC begins a nationwide awareness programme on EVMs & VVPATs ahead of 2024 LS polls

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, a nationwide awareness programme on Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is underway to provide citizens with a first-hand experience of the voting process and familiarity with the machines, an Election Commission (EC) official said. The awareness programme includes outreach and awareness activities in 3,464 assembly constituencies spread across 613 districts in 31 states and union territories (except the five states that went to polls recently).

According to the EC, more than 3,500 demonstration centres and around 4,250 mobile vans have been set up to physically demonstrate the working of EVM/VVPAT to the public. The Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) and District Electoral Officers (DEOs) are also sharing the updates on social media platforms to enhance the outreach of this awareness programme. According to the EC, the aim of this awareness programme is to provide citizens with a first-hand experience of the voting process and familiarity with the voting machines. The awareness programme, which is organised ahead of every general election to Lok Sabha and state



Assembly, focuses on imparting knowledge about the basic features of EVMs and VVPATs, elucidating the step-by-step procedure of casting votes and educating voters on how to verify their choices through the VVPAT slip. Awareness through physical demonstration fosters deeper understanding of EVM and VVPAT functionality and is instrumental in dispelling misconceptions,

boosting voter confidence, and ensuring a more informed and participative electorate, the EC added. As per EC's standing instructions, state Chief Electoral Officers need to start a focused awareness campaign nearly three months prior to the announcement of election (for this purpose the date of announcement of the last election may be considered).

Former BJP minister's ancestral property seized in J&K's Kishtwar district

Jammu, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Union Territory's administration on Monday seized the ancestral property of a former BJP minister in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Kishtwar District. Officials said that the ancestral property of former BJP minister, Bali Bhagat comprising eight Kanals and six Marlas with a building in Kishtwar district has been confiscated under the Roshni Act through an order is-

sued by Tehsildar Kishtwar. The Executive Magistrate's order said that the land, registered under mutation numbers 1997 and 2379, was occupied under the Roshni Act and belonged to individuals including Bali Bhagat. "Despite multiple notices from the District Administration Kishtwar to vacate the property, the individuals concerned ignored the notices.



SC Collegium recommends 7 addl judges of 3 HCs to be made permanent

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on Monday recommended appointment of five additional judges in the Calcutta High Court, one additional judge of the Jharkhand High Court, and one additional judge of the Kerala High Court as permanent judges. In a statement uploaded on the website of the apex court, the Collegium resolved to recommend Justices Shampa Dutt (Paul) and Raja Basu Chowdhury be appointed as permanent judges of the Calcutta High Court. Also, it recommended appointment of Justice Lapita Banerjee as permanent Judge in the same court against a vacancy. In a separate statement, the Collegium said that Justices Ananya Bandyopadhyay and Rai Chattopadhyay will be ap-

pointed as permanent judges of the Calcutta High Court while Justice Subhendu Samanta will be appointed as an Additional Judge for a fresh term of one year with effect from May 18, 2024. It said that the committee of two judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India assessed the judgments of these Additional Judges and on evaluation of their judgments.



66 post-60 individuals, including four deceased, get appointments as primary teachers in Bengal

Kolkata, Jan 22 (IANS) : In an unprecedented development, appointment letters for primary teachers in West Bengal have been issued to 66 individuals who are above 60 years of age, while four of them have passed away. All these 66 individuals, including the four dead, have been issued the appointment letters by the Hooghly District Primary School Council, the district wing of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE). In the appointment letters it has also been said that their employment will be in effect from 2014.

On investigations it was found that the root of this was in petition filed at Calcutta High Court was back in 1983 during the previous Left Front government headed by Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. The entire panel of the primary teachers elected in that year was cancelled, following which some of selected candidates approached the Calcutta High Court. The WBBPE officials are maintaining a total silence in the matter. However, an official, on strict condition of anonymity, pointed out that probably the development has some relation to the court case filed in 1995.

Collapsed crypto firm Terraform Labs files for bankruptcy

San Francisco, Jan 22 (IANS) : Singapore-based crypto blockchain company Terraform Labs has filed for bankruptcy in the US following the collapse of its cryptocurrencies in 2022. The company's digital assets TerraUSD (UST) and Luna had collapsed and wiped out at least \$40 billion in the company's market value in May 2022. In February 2023, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charged Terraform Labs and its founder Do Hyeong Kwon with orchestrating a multi-billion dollar crypto asset securities fraud. Terraform Labs has now confirmed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filing, saying it is "a strategic step that will enable it to continue its operations and support litigation pending in Singapore and US litigation involving the Securities and Exchange Commission." Terraform Labs' current

mission (SEC) charged Terraform Labs and its founder Do Hyeong Kwon with orchestrating a multi-billion dollar crypto asset securities fraud. Terraform Labs has now confirmed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filing, saying it is "a strategic step that will enable it to continue its operations and support litigation pending in Singapore and US litigation involving the Securities and Exchange Commission." Terraform Labs' current

estimated assets and liabilities range from \$100 million to \$500 million. "The Terra community and ecosystem have shown unprecedented resilience in the face of adversity, and this action is necessary to allow us to continue working toward our collective goals while resolving the legal challenges that remain outstanding," said Chris Amani, CEO of Terraform Labs.



SBI STAFF CONTRIBUTE RS. 34.16 LAKH TO ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY FUND

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (TIM Bureau) : Employees of State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle (Telangana State) contributed for Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, Telangana. Sri Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager, SBI, Hyderabad Circle today handed over the cheque for ' 34,16,750/-, to the Honorable Governor of Telangana, Dr. (Smt.) TAMILISAI Soundararajan, who is also the Chairperson of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The cheque was handed over in the presence of Col Ramesh Kumar, Director, Sainik Welfare

(Telangana), Jitendra Kumar Sharma DGM & CDO, Lt Cdr Atulya Anand CSO. Appreciating the gesture, Dr.(Smt.) TAMILISAI Soundararajan, Honorable Governor of Telangana said that the contribution made by SBI staff is for a Noble cause and such deeds will inspire other organizations and citizens to emulate. She also acknowledged the sustained and valuable contribution of SBI in support of welfare of war veterans, ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents. She also appreciated SBI for its effective role in implementing various gov-

ernment initiatives and supporting the people of Telangana. Shri Rajesh Kumar said that "We, at SBI, believe in giving back to the Society and the Nation, to help them progress. Towards this goal the staff of Hyderabad Circle collectively had started contributing for the flag Day fund and the same continued over the years. Shri Rajesh Kumar said that we are all committed to extend our support to the cause of the welfare of the children of war veterans/ex-servicemen/war widows. SBI has always been at the forefront when it comes to supporting our soldiers.

Udaan Group CFO quits amid senior-level rejig

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Homegrown B2B e-commerce platform Udaan has seen another top-level exit as its Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Aditya Pande who has decided to pursue opportunities outside of the company after three years. The CFO's role will now be taken care of by Kiran Thadimarri, Group Finance Controller, and Vishnu Menon, who heads corporate strategy and investor relations (IR), the company said on Monday.

"I would like to thank Pande for his invaluable contribution to the organisation and wish him the very best in his future endeavours," said Vaibhav Gupta, CEO and co-founder, Udaan. Thadimarri has been elevated to executive management team with additional responsibility of treasury, corporate finance, and corporate audit. Menon will take on the additional responsibility of business finance, as part of the organisational changes. "Both Kiran and Vishnu will work

towards further strengthening the financial and governance practices at Udaan with the objective of enabling the company to achieve operational profitability and public market readiness in the next 12-18 months," the company said in a statement. In September last year, the startup's Chief Business Officer (CBO) Vivek Gupta and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Gaurav Bhalotia had left as the company merged its essentials business with the discretionary business.

Udaan's valuation has dropped by nearly half to around \$1.8 billion in a down round. The Bengaluru-based startup was last valued at \$3.2 billion in January 2021, according to latest reports. Last month, the B2B e-commerce platform raised \$340 million (a mix of equity and convertible notes) in a Series E round led by UK-based savings and investment firm M&G Prudential, and participated by existing investors Lightspeed Venture Partners and DST Global.



Coal import by power plants declines 40.66% in April-Dec as local production rises

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The country's power generation based on domestic coal increased by 7.14 per cent to 872 billion units during April-December of the current financial year, compared to 813.9 billion units generated in the same period of the previous fiscal. This reflects a robust increase in domestic production of coal to meet the growing energy demand in the country, the Ministry of Coal said in a statement on Monday. Coal import by power plants for blending decreased substantially by 40.66 per cent to 17.08 million tonnes (MT) during April-December, from 28.78 MT in the corresponding period of the previous year, despite the escalating power demand. It showcases the nation's commitment to self-reliance

in coal production and minimising overall coal imports, the statement said. In India, power is generated from conventional (thermal, nuclear and hydro) and renewable sources (wind, solar, biomass etc.). However, coal is the major source of power generation, accounting for more than 70 per cent of the total electricity generated. Coal-based power generation in the country witnessed a growth of around 10.13 per cent during April-December of the current financial year compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, while overall power generation grew 6.71 per cent during the same period, according to the official statement.

Samsung registers record 2.5 lakh pre-bookings of Galaxy S24 series in India

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Samsung's newly-launched flagship Galaxy S24 series has seen a record 250,000 pre-bookings in India in just three days, making it the most successful Galaxy S series ever, the company said on Monday. In comparison, Samsung had secured 250,000 pre-bookings for its Galaxy S23 series over a three-week period last year in the country. The company launched the new Galaxy S24 series globally on January 17 and opened pre-bookings in the country on January 18. "Galaxy S24 series, powered by Galaxy AI, ushers in a new era of mobile revolution and puts the power of AI in the hands of consumers to open up new possibilities," said Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. Customers pre-booking Galaxy S24 Ultra and Galaxy S24+ will get benefits worth Rs 22,000 and those pre-booking Galaxy S24 will get benefits worth Rs 15,000.

The sale of the Galaxy S24 devices will begin from January 31. According to Neil Shah, Vice President, Research at Counterpoint, the overall premium market is growing at a rapid clip, faster than overall market. "This will benefit Samsung to register some annual growth for the S Series and increase its market share from 26 per cent in 2023 to 28 per cent level against a ramping Apple," Shah told IANS.



Tamilnad Mercantile Bank logs Rs 284 crore PAT for Q3

Chennai, Jan 22 (IANS) : Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) closed the third quarter of FY24 with a higher net profit of Rs 284.23 crore. In a regulatory filing on Monday, TMB said for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 it had earned a total interest income of Rs 1,229.15 crore (Q3FY23 Rs 1,012.12 crore) and a net profit of Rs 284.23 crore (Rs 279.70 crore). During the quarter under review, the bank's provisions came down to Rs 2.37 crore (Rs 32.92 crore). As on December 31, 2023 the bank's gross and net non-performing assets stood at Rs 649.13 crore (as on 31.12.2022 Rs 591.08 crore) and Rs 375.34 crore (Rs 259.10 crore in 2022). During the nine months ended December 31, 2023, the Bank has reported five numbers of non-credit fraud cases amounting to Rs 4.70 lakh.

I made a pact with the universe to write every day : Jerry Pinto

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Giving final touches to his translation of Damodar Mouzo's novel, 'Jeev Dium Kai Chya Marum' to be titled 'Boy Unloved' in English, and also working on his novel, author, poet and translator, Jerry Pinto, says that when he decided to give up his last job almost 20 years ago, he made a pact with the universe to write every day and not worry about money. "Well, to begin with, I got lucky as I never married and do not have children, those are game changers in terms of time and finances. They can take a lot of time away from creative endeavours. I am extremely cold about acquisitions, happy with simple clothes, and do not need too much -- just books, films and food. Travel is taken care of by literature festivals. While for many who are in day jobs, writing can be a weekend

thing, but for me it is about putting words at least 16 hours everyday day," he tells IANS on the sidelines of the recently concluded Kerala Literature Festival (KLF), Asia's biggest literary festival. Adding that he makes it a point to tell youngsters that it is possible to make a living out of writing, but one cannot have a lifestyle, he admits that despite the discipline of writing every day, there are times he just does not want to. "During those days, I treat myself like a child --- 'write a few lines, now finish a page...'- I tell myself. Not to mention, it is great to wear a watch and not look at the phone for time. The moment you touch that gadget, it is very easy to get sucked in," says this Sahitya Akademi award, National Film award, and Windham-Campbell prize-winning author. Talk to him about working on two projects simultaneously, that too a translation and an original one, and he asserts that the same proves to be easy. "Translation requires the 'unselfing' of oneself and the want to know what another author thinks. Doing that, I inhabit his/her world and do not let my avatar of being a writer come in. And that can lead to some restlessness. Now that is where the original work provides relief. This 'switch' has always served me well." Best known for his novel 'Em and the Big Hoom', the author, who has a long-standing relationship with the publishing house Speaking Tiger, says that he com-



pletely trusts its editor Ravi Singh. "Of course, if another publisher comes to me, and asks me to do an idea, I will. But most of my time is spent doing what I want to do, and Singh never says no to anything that I offer, including the translation projects, which do not make him too much money. We have a 20-year-long association, and I completely trust him. There are times when I make changes because he asks me to. He has spent his life birthing books. I might be the mother, but it is important that she trusts the midwife completely," he says. With more than 15 books across genres to his credit, Pinto feels being a poet also helps in his prose. "When it comes to poetry, there is a hypersensitivity to language because there are such few words.



Delhi HC dismisses Mahua Moitra's plea on notice to vacate govt residence

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to stay the Directorate of Estates' eviction notice issued to Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra that asked her to vacate the government bungalow that was allotted to her but was cancelled following her expulsion from the Lok Sabha. She approached the Delhi High Court on Thursday challenging the notice to vacate the government bungalow. Moitra had moved the court in December last year contesting the Directorate of Estates' order cancelling her government accommodation and instructing her to vacate by January 7, 2024. On January 4, Justice Subramonium Prasad had asked Moitra to approach the Estates for permission to continue occupation of the government-allotted accommodation, noting that

the regulations allowed authorities to grant temporary overstay for residents under exceptional circumstances. On Monday, Justice Girish Kathpalia dismissed Moitra's application, considering the pending issue of her expulsion from Lok Sabha before the Supreme Court. The court noted that the matter of extending the time to vacate the government accommodation is closely linked to her expulsion issue, and currently, she has no right to the accommodation. The court said it is not inclined to invoke jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution at this stage to restrain the operation of the impugned eviction order. "Accordingly, the application stands dismissed," the court said. It said that Moitra, having been allotted government accommodation due to her status as a Member of Parliament, had lost that status upon expulsion.



Advance estimate shows 2.3% rise in India's production of fruits & vegetables

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The estimation of total horticulture production for the year 2022-23 is 355.25 million tonnes, which is about 8.07 million tonnes or 2.32 per cent higher than the final production figure for 2021-22, according to the third advance estimate released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday. On the basis of information received from states/UTs and other government source agencies, production of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, spices, flowers, and honey is estimated to increase as per the third advance estimate for 2022-23.

Delhi's Rs 75 lakh robbery solved, 5 arrested including victim's driver

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Five men, including a driver of the victim, were arrested for robbing Rs 75 lakh in Delhi's Shalimar Garden area at gunpoint, police said on Monday. The accused were identified as Vicky Kumar, 33, Robin a.k.a Rasoo, Sudhanshu, 23, Mukesh a.k.a Bobby, 50, and Abhishek, 21. According to police, on January 13, a police control room (PCR) call reporting a robbery of Rs 75 lakh was received at Shalimar Bagh police station. The complainant told police that he had dispatched his employee to collect Rs 75 lakh in cash from someone he knew, near Mata Channo Devi Hospital in Janakpuri area of west Delhi. The employee, accompanied by a driver, reached the spot where a man in a car handed over a bag containing the money and they put in the car's boot and

returned to their office at Govind Mohalla in Haidarpur area. As they parked the car outside the office, the employee took the bag and was entering the office, two men approached from behind, brandished weapons, and robbed the bag containing cash from him, Special Commissioner of Police, Law & Order, Ravindra Singh Yadav said. During the investigation, the police team scrutinised CCTV footage from cameras installed in and around the spot and thoroughly checking the route taken by the victim's vehicle. "Due to the incident occurring at night, locating the culprits proved challenging despite the assistance of CCTV cameras. Dense fog and low visibility further hindered the investigation. Nonetheless, the team persistently worked on the case, narrowing down their investigation to the Kirari Suleman Nagar area," the Special CP said. Local informers were activated,



and technical surveillance was deployed. Police successfully identified the accused persons, leading to their arrest and the recovery of the case property. Interrogation revealed that the accused Vicky was the complainant's employee facing financial hardship. He shared information about the money transaction with his brother-in-law Robin, who, in turn, informed his friend Sudhanshu. "Sudhanshu, along with his father Mukesh, and friends Abhishek and Rohit, executed the plan. Mukesh, with a history of involvement in four robbery cases, provided vehicles and weapons.



Rafel, Sukhoi, Jaguar, Tejas in flypast, women officers to lead marching contingent

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : At the Republic Day parade, a total of 51 IAF aircraft comprising 29 fighter aircraft, eight transport aircraft, 13 helicopters and one heritage aircraft will participate in the flypast. Rafel, Sukhoi, Jaguar, C-295, C-17, LCH Prachand helicopter and Mig-29 aircraft will be the part of flypast during the Republic Day. Four Tejas aircraft will also debut in the Republic Day Parade. The Indian

Air Force informed on Monday that four aircraft from the Indian Army and one from Indian Navy will also fly in two separate formations with the IAF aircraft. All these aircraft will operate from six different bases. According to the IAF, the Air Force marching contingent will be led by all women officers. Squadron Leader Rashmi Thakur with Squadron Leader Sumita Yadav, Squadron Leader Pratiti Alhuwalia and Flight Lieutenant Kirti Rohil as supernumerary

Officers will lead the IAF marching contingent. In addition to the IAF Marching Contingent, a tri-services contingent of Agniveervayu (Women) would be participating in Republic Day Parade 2024. A total of 48 Agniveervayu Women would be part of this contingent. Flight Lieutenant Shrishti Verma would be marching as supernumerary Officer of the contingent, IAF added.



ED raids premises of realty group in Chennai

Chennai, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday launched searches at the premises of Syvanus King Peter, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ocean Lifespaces India Private Limited, in Chennai. Sources in the Tamil Nadu Police told IANS that the agency opened an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) based on a case registered by the Central Crime Branch of the Chennai Police against Syvanus Peter. The CCB had booked a case against Syvanus Peter on August 14, 2023.



Protests demanding separate state affect train services in north Bengal

Kolkata, Jan 22 (IANS) : Train services were affected in parts of north Bengal on Monday after protesters demanding for a separate Kamtapur state blocked rail tracks. The rail-blockade protests have been conducted jointly by the Kamtapur People's Party (United) and All Kamtapur Student Union (AKSU). The agitators have blocked tracks near the Jaldhaka Railway bridge between the New Maynaguri and Betgara stations -- an important crossover point between north Bengal with

Assam. As a result, the Vande Bharat Express and Kamrup Express are currently stranded at the Betgara railway station in Jalpaiguri district. Even local train services have been disrupted. The routes of some of the trains passing through affected area had to be diverted. A huge contingent of security forces, including personnel from the West Bengal Police, Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF), has been deployed to prevent any untoward incident.

Karnataka govt declares Basavanna state's cultural leader, sends proposal for amendment of Article 341 (3) to Parliament for internal reservation of SCs

Bengaluru, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Congress government in Karnataka on Monday took a slew of major decisions ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, with an eye on wooing the influential Lingayat and Dalit communities. A cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has declared 18th century social reformer Basavanna as Karnataka's cultural leader. Basavanna is revered by the Lingayat community, which forms the core strength of the BJP in Karnataka. However, in

the recent Assembly elections, the Congress managed to make inroads into the community and garnered some support. Recently, a delegation of Lingayat seers met Siddaramaiah and demanded that Basavanna should be declared as Karnataka's cultural leader. Further, the cabinet has agreed to rename Kittur taluk in Belagavi district as "Rani Chennamma Kittur taluk" after the warrior queen from the Lingayat community who fought and was martyred in the fight against the British.



UN Security Council adopted 50 resolutions in 2023

United Nations, Jan 22 (IANS) : The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted 50 resolutions and failed to adopt 10 draft ones in 2023, the world body said. According to the Highlights of Security Council Practice 2023, the Council also adopted one amendment and six presidential statements and issued 18 notes by the council president and 22 letters by the president, reports Xinhua news agency. UNSC members also issued 34 press statements. The council failed to adopt four sets

of amendments. In comparison, the Security Council adopted a total of 54 resolutions and failed to adopt seven draft resolutions in 2022. The publication says that in 2023, 35 out of 50 resolutions, or 70 percent were adopted unanimously compared to 66.7 per cent in 2022. Five of the resolutions not adopted unanimously were related to sanctions, four to peacekeeping operations, and one to a special political mission.

New Zealand PM makes first official speech of 2024

Wellington, Jan 22 (IANS) : In his first official address of 2024 in Parliament, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon asked his party to "go hard" in Parliament and requested MPs to stay focused. The ruling National Party boosted morale in the party's caucus retreat while welcoming the caucus back to work, reports Xinhua news agency. The government will deliver on the 100-day plan and fix the "mess of the previous government," Luxon told the National Party caucus. The 100-day plan includes 49 moves to improve the lives of New Zealanders, focusing on rebuilding the economy, easing the cost of living, restoring law and order and delivering better public services.



Jobs in S.Korean public sector hit record high in 2022 amid Covid

Seoul, Jan 22 (IANS) : The number of jobs in the South Korean public sector reached an all-time high in 2022 as the government created more positions amid the Covid-19 pandemic, data showed on Monday. A total of 2.88 million people were employed by the public sector in 2022, up 1.4 per cent from the previous year, Yonhap News Agency reported citing the data from Statistics Korea. The 2022 reading marked the highest level since 2016, when the agency began compiling related data. Hiring in the public sector has been on a constant increase from

2.6 million in 2019 to 2.76 million in 2020 and 2.84 million in 2021, though the growth has slowed for the second year in a row in 2022. Those working in the public field accounted for 10.2 per cent of all employed in 2022, down 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier, and it marked the first time that the share logged an on-year fall. Some 85.6 per cent of the total public jobs were for the government, and positions in state-run companies took up 14.4 per cent, the data showed. By industry, jobs in the public administration, defence and social security fields accounted for 48.3

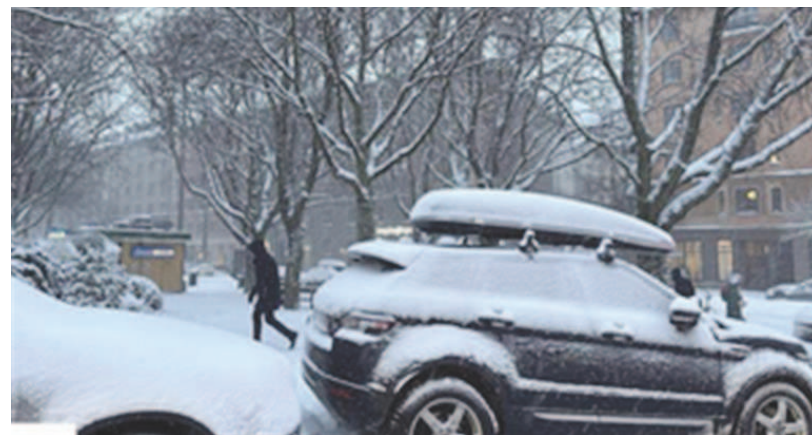
per cent of the total in 2022, or the largest share, followed by the education service field with 27.2 per cent and the health and social welfare service sector with 4 per cent. "Jobs in public health care and other pandemic-related positions had fallen in 2022 compared with a year earlier, while more people were hired in the education service sector," an agency official said. By age, people in their 40s accounted for the biggest share with 26.6 per cent, followed by those in their 30s and 50s with 24.7 per cent and 24.1 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

Heavy snowfall, freezing rain wreak havoc across Europe

Brussels, Jan 22 (IANS) : Extreme weather conditions involving heavy snowfall and freezing rain hit many countries across Europe, causing flight cancellations and delays and disrupting road traffic. In Belgium, departures from Brussels Airport in Zaventem were temporarily halted at 3:20 p.m. on Monday as workers needed to clear the runways of snow, reports Xinhua news agency. Most flights were delayed by about an hour, and some got canceled, including flights to Frankfurt and Munich, the airport authorities said. Heavy snowfall in Brussels has caused traffic congestion on the Brussels

Ring, especially in the Zaventem area towards Grand-Bigard. Belgium's Transport En Commun (TEC) network was also disrupted by the extreme weather conditions. In Liege and Charleroi, most buses were out of service on Monday. The quarter-finals of the Belgian Cup, featuring Union Saint-Gilloise against Anderlecht and Oud-Heverlee Louvain against Antwerp, have been postponed by a week, the organisers of Pro League, the top league competition for association football clubs in Belgium, have said. Fortunately, no major disruptions were reported in Belgium's railway system, according to Frederic Sacre, spokesperson for the railway network operator Infrabel.

The weather in Belgium was characterised by a cold wave on Wednesday, with temperatures dropping below zero degree Celsius. The forecasts from the Royal Meteorological Institute expect temperatures will plummet to minus 10 degrees Celsius or lower later this week. The institute has issued a yellow alert for freezing rain and slippery road conditions in many parts of the country. In the neighboring the Netherlands, weather institute KNMI has also issued code yellow for many parts of the country due to snowy and slippery conditions. Heavy snow has fallen in Limburg, a province in the southeast of the country, causing long traffic jams on highways, and lo-



cal authorities have issued urgent calls on motorists to avoid the highways. Snowfall, up to 15 centimeters, is expected to continue in Limburg, said KNMI. On Monday morning, Dutch traffic association ANWB reported 35 traffic jams covering 155 km of roads. During the day, trains running on the route between Utrecht and Sittard were reduced by half due to snowy conditions. Dozens of flights have been can-

celed or delayed at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam. In Luxembourg, all schools remain closed following a red alert for freezing rain and heavy snowfall declared by the national crisis unit on Monday. The government recommended that all residents should stay home "unless it is absolutely necessary to venture outdoors". Extreme weather conditions have also affected large parts of Germany, causing massive disruptions

to road, air and rail traffic, and prompting school closures. Germany's National Meteorological Service (DWD) warned of "partly extreme weather conditions" across the central and southern regions with heavy snowfall that will continue into Monday. The country's largest airport in Frankfurt had to cancel more than 600 flights and all air traffic was halted. The local media reported that take-offs were canceled in Frankfurt because aircraft could no longer be safely de-iced, and the fully-packed ramps made landings impossible, too. Munich Airport in the south of Germany anticipated around 254 flight cancellations. Rail operations were also restricted, with operator Deutsche Bahn warning of train cancellations and delays on regional and long-distance lines.



Pak army used killer drones, rockets to target Baloch militants hideouts in Iran: Report

Rawalpindi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Pakistan Army on Monday shared operation details of strikes against militants in Iran saying hideouts used by terrorist organisations, namely Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), were successfully struck in an intelligence-based operation, code named — "Marg Bar Sarmachar", the media reported. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that in the early hours of Thursday, Pakistan carried out effective strikes against hideouts inside Iran used by terrorists responsible for recent attacks in Pakistan, Geo News reported. "The precision strikes were carried out using

killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons. Maximum care was taken to avoid collateral damage," it added. The military's media wing said the targeted hideouts were being used by notorious terrorists including Dosta alias Chairman, Bajjar a.k.a. Soghat, Sahil a.k.a. Shafaq, Asghar a.k.a. Basham and Wazir a.k.a. Wazi, among others. "Pakistan Armed Forces remain in a perpetual state of readiness to ensure safety of Pakistan citizens against acts of terrorism," the statement added. The ISPR said the armed forces' resolve to ensure that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan are respected.

US Congress passes stopgap bill to extend govt funding until March

Washington, Jan 22 (IANS) : The US House of Representatives has passed a short-term spending bill that would extend government funding until March, a few hours after the bill was approved by the Senate, as funding for some federal agencies and programs is set to expire on Monday. The lower chamber of Congress passed the measure by a vote of 314-108 late Thursday amid opposition from hard-line House Republicans, who had attempted to cut federal spending and add border security provisions in the "clean" stopgap measure, reports Xinhua news agency.



Indian-American announces run for California State Assembly

New York, Jan 22 (IANS) : Indian-American community leader Tara Sreekrishnan has announced that she is running for California State Assembly from District 26 as a Democrat. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley in the Southern area of the San Francisco Bay Area, the district encompasses Santa Clara County including the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Santa Clara, and North and West San Jose. Serving on the Santa Clara County Board of Education since 2021, Tara (30) has been charged with overseeing a combined 270,000 students across the County's 31 school districts and balancing a budget of \$300 million. In her campaign statement, Tara, also a former piano teacher at a Cupertino music academy, said she wants to tackle issues like climate change, education, affordable housing and safe communities. "It's crucial to acknowledge the challenges our residents face: housing affordability, climate change, traffic congestion, and an educa-

tion system that needs strengthening. Addressing these challenges -- and spending tax dollars efficiently and effectively -- is why I'm running for State Assembly," her statement read. "I understand what it takes to make California financially responsible, improve our education system so that our children have future career opportunities, and to make sure our communities are safe, clean and affordable," she added. According to Tara, she is the right pick for District 26, having professional experience across all levels of local government -- school district, city, county, and state. "I've written and passed legislation that developed housing for the homeless, modernised our schools, curbed youth drug overdoses, and expanded job training and apprenticeship programs," she said in her campaign website. Crediting her immigrant parents, Tara said her inspiration for public service came from them as they taught her the value of education and to give back to her community. Tara graduated from Mills



College, the oldest women's college on the West Coast, following which she set out to work as a community and political organiser for grassroots campaigns. Having served on several local non-profit boards, she co-founded Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA), which empowered hundreds of students across Santa Clara County to combat climate change through impactful education and policy initiatives. She has served as a top aide and advisor to State Senator Dave Cortese in the state legislature and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.



As Jammu improves, Kashmiris seek divine intervention for snowfall

Srinagar, Jan 22 (IANS) : Kashmir continued to remain in cold, dry freeze as weather improved pleasantly in Jammu on Monday. With the Meteorological (MeT) Department forecasting just light snowfall in the higher reaches during the remaining portion of the 40-day long 'Chillai Kalan', which started on December 21, Kashmiris are increasingly resorting to prayers and penance to seek divine intervention. This winter has been one of the worst so far

because there has been virtually no rain and snow during the last three months in the plains. Srinagar had minus 4.9, Gulmarg minus 3.6 and Pahalgam minus 6.3 as the minimum temperature on Monday. Leh town in Ladakh region had minus 15.1, Kargil minus 12.6 and Drass minus 12.8 as the night's lowest temperature. Jammu city had 5, Katra 6.4, Batote minus 1.7, Bhaderwah minus 0.4 and Banihal minus 0.8 as the minimum temperature.

MP CM Mohan Yadav's visit will not lure Yadavs to BJP, says Bihar minister

Patna, Jan 22 (IANS) : As Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visited Patna on Monday to signal an outreach to the Yadavs, Bihar Social Welfare Minister Madan Sahani claimed that the BJP's move to woo the community would not be successful. "Yadavs are an aware caste which have fought politically and on social front in Bihar. If BJP is

thinking that bringing Mohan Yadav to encroach into the Yadav vote bank of Bihar, I think, the saffron brigade is making a big mistake. "Mohan Yadav came to Bihar and we welcome him here but he and his party would not become successful in their motives. The people of Bihar are united, especially the Yadav caste. They would not get influenced only on the basis of what someone is saying," Sahani said. The



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav came to Patna following an invitation given by Sri Krishna Chetana Manch and addressed an event held at the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall.

Assault on official: Tejashwi tells Patna SSP to take stringent action against his relative



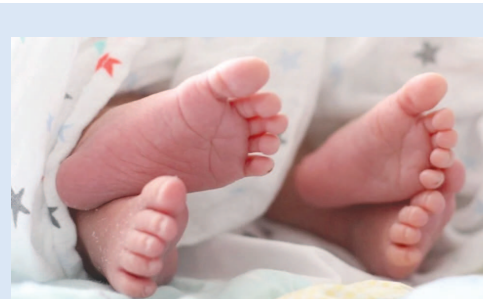
Patna, Jan 22 (IANS) : In wake of a Bihar government official being brutally assaulted by a number of men, including his kin, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Monday said that stringent action will be taken against the accused. "When the matter came to my knowledge, I called Patna SSP Rajiv Mishra and asked him to take strong action against the culprits. I told him that whoever would be the guilty, even from my family or relatives, should be punished in the strongest possible manner. You people do not know Tejashwi Yadav. I

never stand with the accused," he said. Arvind Kumar Singh, an executive officer in Gaya, along with his brother Vijay Singh, was on his way from Gola road to Boring Canal road when five to six goons brutally assaulted him. The victim's brother claimed that one of the attackers revealed his name as Tanuj Yadav, son of Nagendra Yadav and that Lalu Prasad Yadav is his grandfather and they (the victims) could do what they wanted. All the accused were in inebriated condition at the time of incident.

Goa Police bust prostitution racket; 2 arrested

Panaji, Jan 22 (IANS) : Goa Police have busted a prostitution racket that was allegedly operating from a resort in the coastal state, an official said on Monday, adding two persons have been arrested in this connection. According to the police, the resort used to arrange 'mujra' for "wealthy patrons", and the dancers were being sexually exploited. Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi said that a police team raided a resort at Ashvem-Pernem

in North Goa and rescued two women aged around 23-24 years. The police officer said both the women hail from the "northern part of India". "In this connection, we have arrested the owner of the resort Vijay Kumar Sarkar (44), a native of Jharkhand and his assistant Ajit Kumar Jha, a native of Bihar," Dalvi said. He said that police collected digital records and photographs of victims including online payment done to the accused persons.



Woman held in Odisha for killing her 3-month-old twin babies

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22 (IANS) : A woman has been arrested in Odisha's Angul district for allegedly killing her 3-month-old twin babies -- a boy and a girl, by throwing them into a well, the police said on Monday. The arrested woman was identified as Tapaswini Sahoo, a resident of Basala village. Her husband, Sunil Kumar Sahoo runs a meat shop in the Chendipada area of Angul district.

The woman was arrested on the basis of a complaint lodged by her husband. "On Monday evening, when the family members were away and her husband was at his shop, the accused lady killed her three-month-old baby boy and girl by throwing them into a well near their house. When the family members returned home, they started searching for the twins who were found floating in the well," said Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Angul, Ramakanta Mohalik. Mohalik further stated that the accused had given birth to the twins after 10 years of their marriage, and the whole family was quite happy over the arrival of the newborns.



Delhi HC dismisses plea for court-monitored probe into Mohalla Clinic lab tests

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking a court-monitored investigation into allegations of fake laboratory tests conducted at mohalla clinics established by the Aam Aadmi Party government. The application referenced an incident from August last year, revealing unethical practices at certain clinics involving the use of pre-recorded videos to mark attendance.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora rejected the application filed by social activist Bejon Kumar Misra within the framework of his existing PIL ad-

ressing "unauthorised pathological labs and diagnostic centres" in Delhi. Given that the matter is already under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the court deemed no further order necessary.

The dismissed application had specifically requested a court-monitored inquiry, supervised by a former High Court judge, into claims of fraudulent laboratory tests at mohalla clinics.



Govt issues guidelines for coaching centres; violators to face penalties of up to Rs 1 lakh

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Ministry of Education has issued guidelines for regulation of coaching centers, underlining that instructions were framed by keeping that well-being of students at the forefront, an official said on Monday. These guidelines prioritise students' mental wellness, fair practices, and inclusivity. If any coaching centre breaches the guidelines, it can be fined up to Rs 1 lakh. The guidelines address issues from reasonable fees to inclusive policies, aiming to shape

a brighter future for learners, the official added. The guidelines stress the need for state and UT governments to regulate the coaching centres. It also proposes a model framework for coaching centers and outlines the procedures for registration, renewal, and cancellation of coaching centre certificates, along with an appeal process. The Education Ministry has also issued a notice in this regard. "The issues related to the private coaching centers more so in the context of rising student suicides cases, fire incidents, lack of facilities as well as methodologies of teaching

have been drawing the attention of the government from time to time. "The number of unregulated private coaching centers in the country continues to grow in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation. Instances of such centers charging exorbitant fees from students, undue stress on students resulting in students committing suicides, loss of precious lives due to fire and other accidents, and many other malpractices being adopted by these centres are widely reported in the media," the notice read.

TN private school principal arrested for sexual abusing girl students

Chennai, Jan 22 (IANS) : The principal of a private CBSE school in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram was arrested on Monday in a case of sexual abuse of two girl students, police said. The Villupuram all women police arrested Karthikeyan of the school in Rettanai under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Police said that Karthikeyan had earlier worked as a news anchor with a Tamil channel but was later removed from there. The two students were in Class 10 and the sexual abuse happened in October 2023. However the incident became public only recently.

According to Villupuram police the accused used to summon the girls to his private room and used to hug and kiss them.





Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 24,620 : Ministry

Gaza, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 24,620, the Gaza-based Health Ministry

said. The Ministry said on Monday in a press statement that the Israeli army killed 172 Palestinians and wounded 326 others during the past 24 hours, Xinhua

news agency reported. It added that the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict has wounded 61,830 Palestinians since its outbreak on October 7, 2023, noting that a large

number of victims were still under the rubble, and ambulance and civil defence crews could not reach them.

Meanwhile, Palestine TV reported that an Israeli bombardment in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on Wednesday night resulted in the deaths of at least 19 Palestinians, most of whom were children and women.

In the West Bank, the death toll of Palestinians killed by the Israeli army in Tulkarm rose to six during a massive military operation that lasted for more than 30 hours, it said.

At least 367 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire in the West Bank since a new round of Israeli-Palestinian conflict broke out on October 7, 2023, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.



Blizzard strikes Finland, causing traffic chaos

Helsinki, Jan 22 (IANS) : A fierce snowstorm hit southern and central Finland two days ago, causing problems for commuters and public transport services. The Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) has warned of potentially dangerous driving conditions across most of the country on Monday.

According to FMI, southern Finland will see 10 to 20 cm of fresh snowfall, while central parts of the country could receive between 3 and 8 cm, Xinhua news agency reported.

National rail operator VR announced that more than 10 long-distance and local train services were delayed or cancelled on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Helsinki Regional Transport Authority (HSL) said that around 100 bus services had been cancelled, and trams in downtown Helsinki will operate a reduced service on Monday due to the challenging weather conditions.

The Finnish airport operator Finavia also said on Wednesday evening that the weather may cause delays to airport operations, and to both incoming and outgoing flights at Helsinki International Airport.

According to the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat, there were several minor collisions in southern Finland on Monday, but no major accidents have been reported.

Japanese Communist Party appoints first-ever female chairperson

Tokyo, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) on Monday decided to appoint incumbent policy chief Tomoko Tamura as the new chairperson, marking the first female head in the party's century-long history. The decision was made during the JCP's four-day quadrennial party congress which concluded on Monday, reports Xinhua news agency. Key personnel changes within the party's leadership were made. Kazuo Shii, 69, had served as the chairperson since 2006 and is expected to transition to the role of chairman of the party's Central Committee, filling a vacancy that has existed since the retirement of Tetsuzo Fuwa. The 58-year-old Tamura, a native of Nagano prefecture, entered politics after working as a parliamentary secretary and secured her first election victory in the 2010 House of Councillors contest. She is currently serving her third term in office as the JCP's Policy Commission chairperson and House of Councillors member.



Armed robbers target 3 liquor stores in US, threaten Indian-origin employee

New York, Jan 22 (IANS) : An Indian-origin liquor store employee in the US state of Illinois was left shaken after four armed men in their 20s entered the shop, put a gun to his temple and punched his co-worker before fleeing away with cash and cell phones. The robbers, carrying revolvers and semi-automatic handguns, hit three liquor stores in Chicago within a period of less than 40 minutes on Monday night, the police said.

Mr P Beverage Depot in Wicker Park, where Pankaj Kumar Patel works, was the first store to be targeted in the area at around 8.45 p.m. "I have two children and a wife," a shaken and terrified Patel told

CBS News. Patel told the channel that of the four robbers, two were inside the store, holding him and his colleague at gunpoint, and two other in the parking lot keeping a close watch.

The two inside the store jumped the counter and put a gun to Patel's temple as the employee raised his hands up. They then punched Patel's colleague in the face and took around \$3,000 to \$4,000 from the cash registers, including mobile phones of both the employees.

According to Chicago Police, shortly after 9 p.m., the robbers entered Before You Go Liquors store in Bucktown and at 9.20 p.m., they robbed the Clybourn Market liquor store in North Cen-

ter. In all the three cases, the robbers swung into action, saying: "Give me everything - don't move or I'll shoot!", the police said.

The incidents of robbery seem to be on a rise in Chicago with five liquor stores hit in a span of less than two hours in Irving Park last week.

The Chicago Police Department could not confirm whether the same gang was involved in the robbery, which took place this Monday, and asked businesses to be on alert and keep their surveillance cameras in working order. They also urged staff at businesses to stay alert, and watch out for suspicious people loitering in the area.

Pak's strike 1st external land attack on Iran since Saddam Hussein's invasion

New Delhi, Jan 22 (IANS) : Pakistan's attack on Iranian soil is the first external land attack on Iran since forces led by then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Iran in 1980s, starting a vicious eight-year war, the media reported. Iran's initial reaction has been pretty muted -- only half a sentence from the spokesman of the foreign ministry condemning the action. The media in Iran have been emphasising that those killed inside the country as a result of the Pakistani attacks were not Iranian nationals, the BBC

reported. The Revolutionary Guards have been silent - which means that they are still debating how to respond. They seem to have been taken by surprise. They certainly brought this on to themselves when over two days this week they attacked targets in three countries, including their neighbours Iraq and Pakistan with whom they had previous had good relations -- relations that are now in tatters, the BBC reported. Pakistan has launched missile strikes into Iran, killing nine persons, after Iran carried out strikes in Pakistan late on Sunday.



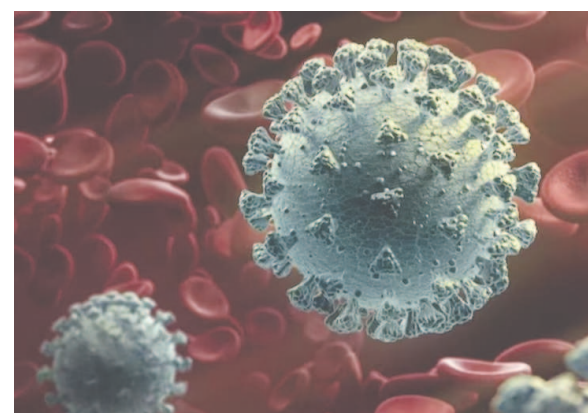
Israel to maintain security control over Gaza after conflict : PM Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Jan 22 (IANS) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his country will maintain security control over the Gaza Strip after the ongoing conflict with Hamas ends. Israel will have "complete security control and control of whatever

enters Gaza," Netanyahu told a press conference in Tel Aviv on Monday. He added that over the past two days, Israeli forces killed "dozens" of militants in the Palestinian enclave and destroyed rocket launchers, Xinhua news agency reported.

Bangladesh confirms presence of JN.1 variant of Covid-19

Dhaka, Jan 22 (IANS) : The Bangladeshi government has confirmed the presence of a new coronavirus subvariant JN.1 in the South Asian country. "The JN.1 strain was found in five Covid-19 patients who don't have any travel history," Tahmina Shireen, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told journalists on Monday. She further said this is the first time that the presence of the JN.1 strain was confirmed in Bangladesh, Xinhua news agency reported. Against this backdrop,



Bangladesh's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health issued a notice on Monday, directing the authorities to resume the Covid-19 vaccination programme for first, second and booster (third and fourth) doses. The Bangladeshi government has planned to administer 250 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine by next year, a senior official said here on Monday.

Jahangir Alam, Secretary of Bangladesh's Health Services Division, told journalists that half of these vaccine shots will be administered as a fourth dose this year, and the rest will be administered in 2025.

New Zealand under low level of terrorism threat : Report

Wellington, Jan 22 (IANS) : New Zealand is under low level of terrorism threat, which means a terrorist attack remains "a realistic possibility", a report said on Monday. The report is based on an assessment at a point in time by the multi-agency Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG), which is based on a range of classified and open source material, reports Xinhua news agency. Maintaining the threat level at low reflects the fact that CTAG has not sighted information to indicate New Zealand is currently the target of credible and specific attack plans by violent extremist groups or individuals, either based in New Zealand or offshore, the report said. New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) Director-General of Security Andrew Hampton made the determination following a routine annual review.



PM at the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shree Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on January 22, 2024.



Sonu Nigam sings verses from Ramcharitmanas at Pran Pratishtha ceremony

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 22 (IANS) : Well known singer Sonu Nigam sang verses from the Ramcharitmanas ahead of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony. He won an applause for his rendition of 'Raghukul reet sada chali aayi' and the saints, in particular, were seen clapping to the rhythm. Sonu set the spiritual mood for the event and ended his performance with Jai Shri Ram. Anuradha Paudwal also gave a rendition on the occasion.



Owaisi slams arrest of three over screening of 'Ram ke Naam'

Hyderabad, Jan 22 (IANS) : AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has slammed Telangana Police for arresting three persons for screening documentary 'Ram ke Naam'. The Hyderabad MP asked Rachakonda Police Commissioner to explain why screening of the documentary Ram ke Naam was stopped midway and three people were arrested. "How is screening an award winning documentary a crime? If it is, then the Government of India & Filmfare should also be jailed for awarding the movie. Please let us know if we need a pre-screening certificate from the police before watching a movie," asked Owaisi.



Advani, who led Ram Temple movement, not to attend inauguration due to cold weather

New Delhi/Ayodhya, Jan 22 (IANS) : Veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, who campaigned across the country for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, will not attend the Pran Pratishtha ceremony due to extreme cold weather. It is being said that the decision has been taken keeping in view the health of 96-year-old Advani and due to extreme cold weather. Earlier this month, RSS leaders Krishna Gopal and Ram Lal along with Vishwa Hindu Parishad's International Working President Alok Kumar had visited him for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony. VHP leader Alok Kumar, while sharing information, had said that Advani will attend the programme and he has assured his family that in view of Advani's health, whatever arrangements are required, including doctors and medical facilities, will be made. However, due to bad weather, Advani cancelled his Ayodhya visit programme at the last moment. Expressing happiness over the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram temple to be held in Ayodhya, Advani had also said in one of his articles that Lord Ram had chosen Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build his temple. Advani, while recalling his Rath Yatra for Ram temple in the article in the special issue of Rashtra Dharma Patrika, said that the Rath Yatra is completing 33 years, the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi was with him during that entire Rath Yatra. At that time Narendra Modi was not very famous but at the same time destiny had chosen him to build a grand temple of Lord Ram. Advani, while congratulating Prime Minister Modi for realising the dream of Ram temple and fulfilling his resolve to build a grand temple of Ramlala in Ayodhya, had said that when Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the Ram temple.



Attempts on to divide minority votes by floating community leaders : Mamata

Kolkata, Jan 22 (IANS) : Trinamool Congress supreme and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday that some definite attempts are being made by some forces to divide the minority votes by floating some leaders from the community who are acting as their "agents". She was speaking at the end of the 'Harmony Rally' that started from the Hazra Crossing and concluded at the Park Circus Seven-Point Crossing.



Glimpses of Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shree Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on January 22, 2024. PM presents on the occasion.