

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

THURSDAY, 01 February 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 155 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Shankaracharya stopped from marching to Gyanvapi Mosque

The Varanasi district administration stopped Jyotishpeeth Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati's bid to march to the Gyanvapi complex on Wednesday... **03**



'Enjoyed the first couple of weeks of it', says Smith on life as Australia's Test opener

Australia's premier batter Steve Smith said he has enjoyed the first few weeks of being the Test opener, in what was his response to the critics who questioned the move. **12**



Flipkart to roll out same day delivery in 20 cities from February

E-commerce major Flipkart on Wednesday announced that it is gearing to roll out same day delivery of products across multiple categories in metro and non-metros cities. **07**



Champai Soren set to be next Jharkhand CM as Hemant Soren quits

Ranchi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday went to the Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation to the Governor, while members of the ruling coalition were reaching there to stake claim for a new government to be headed by senior JMM leader Champai Soren. Champai Soren is currently the Transport Minister. The fast-paced developments came as the ED, which was questioning Hemant Soren at his residence since the afternoon in a money laundering case probe linked to an alleged land scam, informed him that it was arresting him as it was not satisfied with his answers to their queries.



Entire Staff of Punjagutaa Police station transferred

Hyderabad, Jan.31 (IANS): Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothakota Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday took a sensational decision by transferring the entire staff of Punjagutaa police station. A total of 85 personnel from the rank of sub-inspector to constable have been shifted to the City Armed Reserve headquarters. The move comes at a time when the police station is in news for favouritism, professional negligence and corruption allegations. There are several allegations against the policemen of graft following which the Hyderabad CP took a serious note and transferred all the 85 personnel to CAR head-

quarters. It seems that the CP has expressed his anger at the leakage of important matters, including a rash and drunk driving case, in which Rahil Shakil, son of former Bodhan MLA Aamir Shakil had managed to escape to Dubai by citing some other person as an accused. In this case, Punjagutta Station House Officer P Durga Rao was suspended for allegedly helping Rahil Shakil to escape in a rash and drunk driving case. During the enquiry, it came to know that Bodhan Inspector Prem Kumar also helped Rahil Shakil to escape from Hyderabad to Dubai.



16 AIIMS, 315 medical colleges established in last 10 years: President Murmu

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that as many as 16 AIIMS and 315 medical colleges have been established in the last decade while the number of MBBS seats has more than doubled during the period. President Murmu made the remarks while addressing the joint sitting of both Houses of the Parliament. In her address, the President said that in the National Education Policy, emphasis has been laid on education in mother tongue and Indian languages. **Continued on pg 02**



Andhra to rope in Geneva-based education body to train govt school teachers

Amaravati, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to have Geneva-based educational organisation International Baccalaureate (IB) as partner for training the teachers of government schools and staff of the education department in handling IB syllabus that would be introduced from the academic year 2025-26. The government will also recruit 6,100 teachers in government schools and fill 689 vacancies in the forest department. These decisions were taken in the state Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday. **Continued on pg 02**



CM Revanth reiterates recruitment of 2 lakh vacant posts in a year

Hyderabad, Jan 31 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has reiterated that the Congress government is committed to its promise made to unemployed youth in the recent Assembly elections and it will fill two lakh vacant posts within a year. The Chief Minister on Wednesday distributed appointment letters to nursing officers at LB Stadium here on Wednesday. Later, addressing the meeting, Revanth Reddy reminded that the State government had already made a thorough revamp of Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) by appointing new Chairman and members and said that the process of recruiting jobs would be initiated soon.



Arrangements should be made for the Chief Minister's visit to the district

Adilabad, Jan 31 (TIM Bureau) : Minister of Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare D. Anasuya Sitakka, has ordered the officials to make strict arrangements for the state chief minister's visit to the district. On Wednesday, she inspected the CM's visit arrangements to Indravelli and Keslapur in

Adilabad district along with local MLA Vedma Bhojju and District Collector Rahul Raj P.S. On this occasion, in a meeting arranged with the officials in Keslapur, the minister said that the officials should take coordinated arrangements in view of the visit of the state chief minister Indravelli to Keslapur on February 2. She said that the CM

will participate in special pujas at Nagoba Temple, foundation stone laying for various development works, stall visit and meeting with the officials in the Durbar Hall. "Later, she said that a memory park will be established at the pillar (Stupam) of tribal martyrs in Indravelli mandal center and a public meeting will be held.

Full budget will be presented after formation of new govt, says PM Modi

New Delhi, Jan 31 : Speaking to the media before the start of the Budget Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that full budget will be presented after the formation of the new government. **Continued on pg 02**



KTR lashes out at Congress Telangana in-charge Manikam Thakur

Hyderabad, Jan.31 (NSS): BRS party working president KTR today lashed out at former Congress party incharge of Telangana Manikam Tagore. He said that Manikanthakur was confused. He reminded Manikam Tagore that the Congress leaders like Minister Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy had publicly said that Revanth Reddy had given him Rs.50 crore rupees to buy the post of PCC chief .



BJP MLA compares Rahul Gandhi with Asaram Bapu

Patna, Jan 31 (IANS) : While the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Rahul Gandhi is in Katihar, a BJP MLA compared him with self-styled godman Asaram on Wednesday. "Rahul Gandhi is visiting Bihar with the hope that something happens for him.

KCR TO TAKE OATH AS MLA TODAY

Hyderabad, Jan 31 (IANS) : BRS party president Kalva kuntla Chandrasekhar Rao will reach the Legislative Assembly at 12 noon on Thursday. KCR will perform puja in the oppo-

sition leader's chamber. Later, KCR, who is elected from Gajwel assembly constituency, will take oath as an MLA in the presence of assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad. KCR has been resting for some time now as per the advice of doctors due to a hip operation. Recently, he is able to walk with the help of a stick.



Andhra to rope in Geneva-based education body to train govt school teachers

Continued From pg 01

The Cabinet meeting held at the state Secretariat also took several other decisions. The Cabinet ratified fresh investment proposals worth Rs. 22,302 crore in green energy projects approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB). The Cabinet has also decided

to enhance the retirement age of non-teaching staff of universities and higher educational institutions to 62 and fill 27 vacancies in the Legislature secretariat.

It has given green-signal to implement the welfare calendar for the month of February and release Rs 5,060 crores towards the fourth tranche of YSR Cheyutha benefitting 26, 98, 931

SC, ST, Backward Class and minority women of 45 to 60 years age.

The Cabinet has also decided to appoint Secretaries for all 13,171 Village Panchayats having population of more than 500 people besides creating the post of Registrar in RGUKT by amending the Law. It has also approved a proposal

to issue bank guarantee to APDISCOMS to raise a loan of Rs 1,500 crore for extending distribution network, allot 1,272.7 acres of land to Greenko Pvt Ltd in Nandyal district for establishing solar power units and 42 acres for establishing IIT City in Tirupati district.



CM Revanth directs appointment of home guards to overcome traffic woes in GHMC

Hyderabad, Jan 31 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed the officials that a recruitment drive should be taken up immediately for appointing adequate number of Home Guards to overcome the shortage of police personnel in Hyderabad and these arrangements should be done within three months. The Chief Minister held a review meeting on traffic problems and measures to be taken to overcome traffic woes in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area at Secretariat here on Wednesday. Minister for Transport and Hyderabad district in-charge Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, DGP Ravi Gupta and other police officials were present. During the meeting, officials were directed that Home Guards working in different

departments should be immediately brought back to traffic department and their services for traffic control duties should be utilised immediately. The Chief Minister also suggested that during the peak hours, the service of Law and Order police should be utilized for traffic control duties and the existing traffic police stations should be upgraded by appointing adequate number of staff. He also asked the officials to focus on expansion of roads and junctions in the city and explore options over construction of subways, underpasses and surface ways like LB Nagar junction in the city. Officials were also directed that construction of multi-level car parking centers should be encouraged to overcome the parking problems in the State capital and a special parking policy should be formulated in this regard.

Female passenger assaults TSRTC bus conductors in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jan 31 (IANS) : A woman passenger assaulted two bus conductors of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The incident occurred under the limits of LB Nagar Police Station under Rachakonda Commissionerate on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

A video of the incident was widely circulated in which the woman is heard repeatedly using abusive words and even kicking the conductors.

The TSRTC management has condemned the incident. Both the bus conductors belonged to Hayathnagar Depot-1.

Full budget will be presented after formation of new govt, says PM Modi

Continued From pg 01

The Prime Minister said, "Usually, when the election time is near, the full budget is not presented, we will also follow the same tradition and bring the full budget before you after the formation of the new government. This time, the country's Finance Minister Nirmala ji is going to present her budget in front of all of us tomorrow with some guiding points." Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled the first session of the new Parliament and highlighted the significant decision taken in the first session.

"The passage of the Women Empowerment and Adulation Act marked a pivotal moment for our nation, Modi Said. Referring to the Republic Day celebrations, he acknowledged the country's embrace of the strength, valour, and determination of Nari Shakti. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of the address by President Droupadi Murmu and

presentation of the Interim Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, describing it as a celebration of women's empowerment. Reflecting on the past decade, PM Modi acknowledged the contribution of every Member of Parliament. However, he urged introspection among those who have strayed from democratic values and resorted to ruckus and disruption. The Prime Minister said, "Criticism and opposition are essential in a democracy, but it is those who have enriched the House with constructive ideas that are remembered by a large cross section.

BOI Bank of India
Sanjeevareddy Nagar Branch, Ground Floor, 70/A (8-3-191/93), Vengal Rao Nagar, Hyderabad-38.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD JEWELLERY/ORNAMENTS/COINS

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold jewellery/ornaments/coins and general public that in spite of repeated reminders/ notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/ expenses) by 14-02-2024 (date), then from 11:30 AM (time) of 15-02-2024 (date), their pledged gold jewellery/ ornaments/ coins will be put up for public auction in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only) with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time/ date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the Bank within 48 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the Bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

Account No.	Name of the Borrower	Gross Weight of the Gold
863777610000966	Mr. M.Raghu Ram Prasad, Jalavayhu Vihar Colony, Near JNTU, KPHB, Hyderabad-500072.	337.50 Gms.

Place: Hyderabad, Date: 31-01-2024 Sd/- Branch Manager

Bank of Baroda TRIMULGHERRY BRANCH, D.No.32/172/34, Ground Floor, Sri Satyasai Enclave, Dairy Farm Road, Bowenpally, Hyderabad.

PAPER PUBLICATION IN VIEW OF RETURN OF OUR LETTER FOR RECALLING THE ADVANCE DATED 11.12.2023

Name of Borrower & Guarantors: Mr. Pampadige Ashok, Address: H.No.2-8-160/13, Plot No.13, Panchavati Colony, Macha Bollaram, Secunderabad, Telangana-500010.

Re: Recalling your defaulted Auto Loan account No. 4933060002184 with Bank of Baroda, Trimulgherry Branch

We refer to captioned subject and Auto Loan availed by you, we inform you that you have defaulted in payments of your liabilities and consequently your loan account had been classified as Non-Performing Asset as on 30.10.2023

Despite our repeated follow-up, you have not repaid the overdue and regularized your loan account. Therefore, we hereby RECALL our advance sanctioned to you (Gold Loan) vide Account Number 4933060002184 and advise you to repay the total dues of Rs.72,741/- as on 31.01.2024 plus interest, charges and other expenses within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case of failure on your part to comply with the aforesaid requisition, we shall, without prejudice to all our rights to enforce other securities and/or to adopt all legal steps and remedies available to us, by public auction or private treaty, and in the event of the sale proceeds being not sufficient to recover the whole amount of debt due from you, we shall proceed to adopt such further steps for the recovery thereof as we are entitled to, under the documents executed by you and also otherwise as law.

Date: 31.01.2024 Sd/- Branch Manager
Place: Hyderabad Bank of Baroda, Trimulgherry Branch

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Where as, 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 Finance 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, Gundry, Chennai- 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Arium Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) 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 29th day of January, 2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) Balagouni Balraj Goud, S/o: Lingamaya Goud, @Alias Lingamiah Goud, Age 59 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: Address I: 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, Jubli Hills, Hyderabad-500033, B/O: Restaurant & Bar * 2) B Aruna Goud, W/o: Balraj Goud, Age 50 Years, Occ: Housewife, R/O: Address I: 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, Jubli Hills, Hyderabad-500033, 3) A Pouchi Reddy, R/O: H.No: 4-23, Pocharam, Chalkesara, Rangareddy, 4) Pothagani Ilen Goud @Alias Allan Goud P, S/o: Siddai Goud, @Alias Siddalah Goud, Age 51 Years, Occ: Self Employee, H.No: 13-2-267/A/29, Rahimpura, Hyderabad-500020. ...Borrowers/Co-Borrower /Guarantors/Legal Heirs	Rs.30,45,80,734/- (Rupees Thirty Crores Forty Five Lakhs Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred And Thirty Four Only)

HMYTNTF09050005 - Description of The Immovable Property: Property holder name is B Balraj Goud, Mortgage Deed Dated 03.09.2011 Registered As Document No.2813/2011 On the file of the office of Sub-Registrar At Hyderabad (South) All that the house bearing municipal No.8-2-293/82/A/1198 Consisting of Ground, First, Second and Third Floor, on Plot No. 1198, forming part of Sy.No.403/1 (Old), And 120 (New) of Shaikpet Village and 102/1 of Hakimpet Village, admeasuring 1052 Sq.Yards Or 879 Sq.Mts situated within the approved layout of the Jubilee Hills Co-Operative house building society limited Road No.59, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad A.P. and Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Plot No. 1211a, Towards West: Road No.032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.1197, Towards South: Plot No. 1196.

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.

Date: 31-01-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Jubilee Hills Shiram Finance Limited



Retirement ceremony : T.Srinivas, Attender TSPCB has retired from service after rendering services for over 34 years in the office+Speaking on the occasion Chief Engineer Raghu lauded his service during his tenure. He was felicitated with Shawl and memento by PCB Officers and Staff. During his tenure he was Honest and shared their experiences and memoirs working with TSPCB. Srinivas also thanked officers and staff for their cooperation during his tenure.

Senior Social Scientist TSPCB-Sanathnagar

16 AIIMS, 315 medical colleges established in last 10 years: President Murmu

Continued From pg 01

"Teaching of subjects like engineering, medical, law has been started in Indian languages. To provide quality education to school students, my government is working on more than 14,000 'PM Shri Vidyalayas'. Out of these, more than 6000 schools have started functioning," she added. "The school dropout rate in the country has reduced due to efforts of my government.

The enrolment of girls in higher education has increased. Enrolment of Scheduled Caste students has increased by about 44 per cent, that of Scheduled Tribe students by more than 65 per cent and that of OBC by more than 44 per cent. Under Atal Innovation Mission, 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established to promote innovation. More than 1 crore students are involved in it," she added. President Murmu further said that in the last 10 years, the government has done "unprecedented" work in the field of tourism. "Along with the number of domestic tourists in India, the number of foreign tourists coming to

India has also increased... The reason for the growth in the tourism sector is owed to India's growing stature. Today the world wants to explore and know India." "Apart from this, the scope of tourism has also increased due to excellent connectivity. Building of airports at various places is also advantageous. Now, North East is witnessing record tourist arrivals. Now there is heightened excitement about Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands," she said.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

1.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 Finance 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, Gundry, Chennai- 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Arium Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at Warangal-I (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 Securitization 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)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1)	1) Krishna Rao Thoudishetty, S/o. Late.Sudharshan Rao, Age : 58 Years, R/O.H.No.11-24-119, Shanthi Nagar, Bank Colony -2, Warangal Dist - 506 002. And Also At Krishna Rao Thoudi Shetty, S/o. Late.Sudharshan Rao, Age : 58 Years, # Sy.No.850, Plot No.31, Hanamkonda Village And Mandal, Hanamkonda District. 2) T.Sudha Rani, W/o:Krishna Rao, Age : 51 Years, R/O.H.No.11-24-119, Shanthi Nagar, Bank Colony -2, Warangal Dist - 506 002 3) Thoudishetty Narsimha Rao, S/o. Sudharshan Rao, Age : 60 Years, R/O.H.No.23-6-117, Hunter Road, Sai Baba Poultry Farm, Hanamkonda, Warangal Dist - 506 001. 4) Nareda Pichai Reddy, C/o.Sambalaih, Age : 57 Years, R/O.Flat No.312, Ramky Enclave, Near Warangal Railway Station, Vtc Warangal, Po.Laximpur, Warangal Dist - 506 013.	08-01-2023	19-12-2023
		Loan Amount Rs. 35,00,000/-	Amount Outstanding Rs.58,44,258/-

WARNTF2201200001 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Property holder Name is KRISHNA RAO THOUDISHETTY) Mortgage deed dated 25.01.2022 Registered as Document No.2020/2022 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at WARANGAL (R.O.) All that open plot No.31 to an extent of 598.00 sq.yards or 332.76 sq.mts out of Sy.No.850 situated at Hanamkonda Village and Mandal of Warangal District Presently Hanamkonda District, within the Limits of GHMC, Warangal, is Bounded As Follows: East : Plot No.14, West :15 Ft Wide Road, North: Plot No.41 Of Azmatullah Shareef, South: H.No.23-6-175 of Intiaz Fatima

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 Securitization 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:30-01-2024 Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

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

DEMAND NOTICE

1.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 Finance 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, Gundry, Chennai- 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Arium Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at Warangal-I (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 Securitization 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)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1)	1) Venugopal Reddy Nadikattu S/o Koti Reddy, Age : 63years, R/O. # 16-118, Reddy Palem, Geesugonda, Warangal Dist -506 002. 2) Singa Reddy Chinnappa Reddy S/o Mar Reddy, Age : 77 Years, Occ : Retd.Employee, R/O. # 19-582/A, Prakash Reddypt, Near Majid, Hanamkonda, Warangal Dist - 506 007. And Also At Singa Reddy Chinnappa Reddy S/o Mar Reddy, Age : 77years, OCC : Retd.Employee, R/O. H.No.24-3-209, Prakash Reddypt, Subedari, Hanamkonda, Warangal Dist - 506 007. And Also At Singa Reddy Chinnappa Reddy S/o Mar Reddy, Age : 77years, Occ : Retd.Employee, # Open Plot Nos.1,2,3, Sy.No.112/A1, Ennumamula Village, Hanamkonda Mandal, Warangal District. 3) Nadikattu Prasuna, W/o Venugopal Reddy, Age : 54years, R/O. # 16-118, Reddy Palem, Geesugonda, Warangal Dist -506 002. 4) Neelam Srinivas, S/o.Laxmi Narayana, Age : 46years, # 11-17-104, Kashibugga, Warangal Dist.	08-02-2023	29-12-2023
		Loan Amount Rs. 27,00,000/-	Amount Outstanding Rs.19,94,801/-

Annexure -II Schedule of the Property WARNTF1807260002 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property holder Name is SINGAREDDY CHINNAPPA REDDY Mortgage deed dated 28.07.2018 Registered as Document No.18124/2018 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at WARANGAL) All that the open plot Nos.1,2,3 to an extent of 642.83 sq. Yards or 537.47 sq.Mtrs out of sy.No.112/A1 situated at Ennumamula village, Hanamkonda, Mandal of Warangal District, Within the limits of registration District, Warangal and Sub - Registrar, Warangal rural is located within the following boundaries: East : Land of infant Jesus School West : 30 Feet Wide Road , North: 30 Feet Wide Road , South: Plot No.4

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 Securitization 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:30-01-2024 Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited



Bar associations cannot work like trade unions : Allahabad HC

Prayagraj, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Allahabad high court has observed that courts are not an industrial establishment, and the Bar associations cannot bargain their demands like trade unions. Expressing serious concern over an ongoing strike at the Tehsil Bar Association in Ballia district's Rasra, the court directed the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh to bring on record the guidelines framed by it, if any, in respect of observance of condolences and other instances under which the lawyers abstain from work in any district or tehsil of Uttar Pradesh and whether any action has been taken by it in the instant case or not. Hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by one Jang Bahadur Kushwaha, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Kshitij Shailendra directed to list this case on February 5 for the next hear-

ing. "Lawyers' strike waste not only judicial time but also cause immense loss and harm to all the social values and leads to rising pendency of cases, adversely affecting the system of justice delivery, bringing more and more hardships to the litigants for whom the courts are meant. Abstaining from work for the whole day without any substantial cause also falls in the same category," the court added. "If courts of law remain closed for long periods, people may take recourse to other means for redressal of their grievances, including those which may have no sanction of law, like approaching the criminals to settle their disputes, or either turning themselves into criminals and adopting all other polluted means for getting the work done. If this situation persists for a considerable period of time.

Work on Ayodhya temple to restart from Feb 15

Ayodhya (UP) Jan 31 (IANS) : Preparations are now underway to resume unfinished work at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex in Ayodhya. Two tower cranes are being set up again on the western side of the temple while workers will be back to the site on February 15. Anil Mishra, trustee of Ram temple trust, said: "Work on the first floor of the temple is almost complete.



UP : One held for supplying stolen cars to Bishnoi gang

Lucknow, Jan 31 (IANS): Lucknow police have arrested a man who had supplied stolen vehicles to the infamous Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The police have also solved multiple cases of car thefts with this arrest. Satendra Singh Shekha, 43, who hails from Jaipur in Rajasthan, was arrested in Lucknow. He was active in multiple states and mostly stole expensive cars. Explaining his modus operandi, deputy commissioner of police (DCP-East) Ashish Srivastava said that



Shekhawat frequented service centres from where he obtained details of cars such as their chassis and engine numbers—data that he would wrongly use to make their duplicate keys.



Shankaracharya stopped from marching to Gyanvapi Mosque

Varanasi, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Varanasi district administration stopped Jyotishpeeth Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwar and Saraswati's bid to march to the Gyanvapi complex on Wednesday evening to perform a circumambulation of the "original Vishwanath," the police said. Senior police and administration officers said the seer had not taken permission and could not be allowed to perform circumambulation of the complex. The Shankaracharya has filed a petition seeking regular worshipping rights after claims that

a 'Shivling' was purportedly recovered from the 'wuzukhana' (ablution pond) during a court-mandated survey in May 2022. Bhelupur Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Atul Anjan Tripathi and Dashawamedh ACP Awadhesh Pandey said that the seer -- if he wants to perform a circumambulation -- will have to seek permission from district administration and police. In view of the seer's call, heavy police force was deployed at Shri Vidya Mutt in Kedarghat area on Wednesday. When the seer and his disciples tried to come out, police stopped them, leading to a heated argument between the seer and the ACPs.

Agra woman seeks divorce over mother-in-law using her make-up

Agra, Jan 31 (IANS) : In a bizarre incident, a woman in Uttar Pradesh's Agra has filed for divorce from her husband because her mother-in-law uses her make-up without permission. The woman has alleged that her husband threw her and her sister out of the house after she had a dispute with her mother-in-law over the issue of using her make-up without her permission. The woman and her sister, residents of Malpura, had married two brothers eight months ago. All was well until the woman found out that her mother-in-law was using her



makeup without her permission. She added that whenever she had to go to an event, she would not have make-up as her mother-in-law used it. The woman told the 'Parivar Paramarsh Kendra' (Family Counselling Centre) of the Agra police that her mother-in-law would dress up and wear make-up inside the house. The woman then approached the Malpura police station.

If BJP wins 28 seats in LS polls, its only guarantee is to defeat Cong govt in K'taka: Bommai
Kolar (Karnataka), Jan 31 (IANS) : Former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai has said that if the BJP wins all 28 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha election in the state.

BANK OF INDIA SANJEEVAREDDY NAGAR BRANCH
Ground Floor, 70/A (8-3-191/93), Vengal Rao Nagar, Hyderabad-38.
SALE NOTICE FOR HYPOTHECATION OF VEHICLE
It is hereby informed to the general public that the following vehicle hypothecated to the Bank will be put for sale through Public Auction on 14-02-2024 at 11.00 a.m. "As is where is" and "what is" basis condition.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
DEMAND NOTICE
Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited, (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, 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(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued under the said Act read with the said demand notices. The Borrowers have failed to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers have failed to pay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers have failed to pay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers have failed to pay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

YERRAGUNTA BRANCH: Annapureddypalli Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem Dist., Telangana-507316
ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE
In view of the default committed by the Borrowers mentioned below, Bank has repossessed/ seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreement executed by the parties and same is being auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

ADILABAD BRANCH: H.No.6-7-74/1, Faiz Towers, Girls High School Road, Bhuktapur, Adilabad-504001.
ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE
In view of the default committed by the Borrowers mentioned below, Bank has repossessed/ seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreement executed by the parties and same is being auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
DEMAND NOTICE
1)Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at KAZIPET WGL (hereinafter referred to as '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 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization 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.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
DEMAND NOTICE
1)Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at KAZIPET WGL (hereinafter referred to as '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 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization 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.

OPINIONmail



PRE-ELECTION INTERIM UNION BUDGET 2024-25 MAY SURPRISE WORKFORCE

Pre-election Interim Union Budget 2024-25 may not be expected to be different than one of the kinds that was tabled in 2019 by the PM Narendra Modi led government when the Union Government did to restrict itself only to passage of the vote on account, but went beyond to announce spectacular surprises to tempt various sections of the populace, including the workforce. Unemployment data was leaked 45 years high at 6.1 per cent, which is even higher at 7.4 per cent as per the CMIE data for January 27, 2024 on the basis of 30-day moving average, which was as high as 10.5 per cent in October 2023. Working class is more angry today compared to 2019, and is on the war path campaigning with the slogan “Defeat Modi, Save India”, on account of PM Modi’s policies that the joint front of Central Trade Unions has dubbed as ‘anti-labour’. Since Modi government needs to pacify workers and the unemployed, it has been reported that the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 is to focus on welfare schemes for the workforce as a matter of appeasement, and there are indications that some announcement would be made for job generation. These would be in the form of revelation as to what would be in the full Union Budget for the year 2024-25, if the PM Modi’s government would return to power after Lok Sabha Election 2024 in May. In the Interim Union Budget 2019-20, a significant revelation was made about a substantial pension program tailored for informal sector workers earning less than Rs 15,000 which was said to benefit most of the nation’s labour force who operate within small-scale enterprises and frequently devoid of adequate job stability or any form of social security benefit. In the meantime, COVID-19 struck India, and the entire economy halted with lockdowns and containment measures. Labour market is yet to recover fully in the beginning of 2024, with unemployment rate hovering between 7.4 to 10.5 per cent. It is therefore, according to the sources, Union Ministry of Finance has been toying with the idea of announcing a social security fund for the workforce in the unorganised sector as well as gig and platform workers in the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 to be tabled by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, which will be her first interim budget. It is worth noting that one of the four controversial labour codes, the Social Security Code, 2020 already contains this proposal as a step toward universal social security for workers. Implementation of the four labour codes, against which the Central Trade Unions have been agitating since 2020, even with all India strike action, have been deferred. However, in case of PM Modi returning to power for the third term, these codes will be rolled out, as expected by CTUs, and as indicated by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment who said the Centre and the states are ready with their laws and discrepancies will be sorted out soon. On the job generation front, Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav had said some time ago that country has seen massive job generation of 1.25 crore. It was in fact only a drop in the ocean when we look at the requirement of 2 crore new jobs every year, since that much number of people enter every year in the job market. Given the unemployment rate too high to cope with, though the Modi government goes on claiming on the basis of suspected government data that unemployment rate has declined, in the pre-election environment, Union Finance Minister is likely to announce several job generation programmes. During the recent election campaigns in October-November state polls, PM Modi had said that India is making stupendous growth in every sector which is creating new job opportunities for the youth. He said, creation of employment opportunities for the youth is an important part of the nation building. BJP’s win after the election – especially in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan – has made some analysts to think that the Modi government seems to be in no need of announcing sops for the working class and the unemployed, especially after Ram Mandir Temple inauguration because ‘Ram’ can do the magic for them which employment generation and generating opportunity of quality jobs can’t do.

By Dr. Gyan Pathak

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR’S TWO DAUGHTERS ARE MAKING WAVES AMONG MUSIC LOVERS

The two daughters of legendary musician and sitar player Pandit Ravi Shankar are making waves with their scintillating and soulful music. Perhaps the best contribution of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar is his two daughters – Anoushka Shankar and Norah Jones. Anoushka is currently on an India tour and has performed in Bengaluru (January 22), Hyderabad (January 24), and Mumbai (January 25). She performed in Pune (January 26) and again in Mumbai (January 27) before concluding her India tour with a show in Delhi on January 31. “It was a spellbinding concert. Anoushka is undoubtedly a true disciple of her father, yet in some ways, she

excels even Pandit Ravi Shankar ji. The fusion of Eastern and Western instruments was executed seamlessly.” The Hyderabad Times quoted Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce and Information Technology, Govt of Telangana, in a report after Anoushka’s show in Hyderabad. While Anoushka has been known among music fans in India, her half-sister and US-based jazz singer Norah Jones has also come out with a new album — Visions. She is also embarking on a multi-city tour from May 6 to June 30. Ahead of Visions’ March 8 release, Jones has shared its first single “Running,” which — like the majority of the album — is a collaboration with producer and multi-instrumentalist Leon Michels, a contributor to both Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings and the Arcs. “The reason I called



the album Visions is because a lot of the ideas came in the middle of the night or in that moment right before sleep, and ‘Running’ was one of them where you’re half asleep and kind of jolted awake,” Jones said in a statement. “We did most of the songs in the same way where I was at the piano or on guitar and Leon was playing drums and we were just jamming on stuff. I like the rawness between me and Leon, the way it sounds kind of garage-y but also kind of soulful, because that’s where he’s coming from, but also not overly perfected.” Norah Jones burst onto the world stage in 2002 with “Come Away With Me,” a self-proclaimed

“moody little record” that unveiled a unique voice and blossomed into a global sensation. Sweeping the 2003 Grammys for Album, Record, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist, it launched a remarkable career. Since then, Jones has garnered nine Grammys, sold over 52 million albums, and amassed ten billion global song streams. Her critically acclaimed solo albums – Feels Like Home, Not Too Late, The Fall, Little Broken Hearts, Day Breaks, Pick Me Up Off The Floor, Till We Meet Again, and I Dream Of Christmas – showcase her artistic evolution. (IPA Service)



HOW SERIOUS IS KEJRIWAL CHARGE THAT BJP IS TRYING TO BRIBE AAP MLA’S OF DELHI?

Amidst the happenings in Bihar where Nitish Kumar is doing what he does best, i.e., lodge a new government with another coalition partner with himself remaining Chief Minister of the remodelled dispensation, which is more like a reshuffle than an overthrow or a change of government, comes an allegation from none other than Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that “7 AAP MLAs have been threatened and offered Rs 25 crore (each) to topple the Delhi government.” What is the BJP at, in the ongoing political turmoil, whether it’s behind the crisis to force a regime-change using “Operation Lotus” or is it

doing its best to derail, however little or much, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which has been giving the BJP a headache ever since it launched on January 14? And don’t forget the INDI-Alliance of which the Janata Dal-U and the Rashtriya Janata Dal are also a part of. The INDI-Alliance is sworn to defeat the BJP in the ensuing general elections, denying Prime Minister Narendra Modi a third term. Now, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is going around alleging that some AAP MLAs have been threatened and were offered bribes to topple the Delhi government? Kejriwal is not alone in making such revelations. Over the last 36 hours, there are numerous reports that some of the 19 Congress MLAs of Bihar are in contact with the Bharatiya Janata Party and some of them with the JD-U leadership. The inference is that these Congress MLAs would walk out of the Congress as and when asked to. That is, they are likely to jump ship giving not only the Congress a jolt on the eve of the 2024 general elections but also to the INDI-Alliance, which otherwise also is under considerable strain from BJP machinations. (IPA Service)



MACRON-MODI TALKS GIVE A BIG BOOST TO HIGH TECH COLLABORATION IN DEFENCE, SPACE

As a fallout of French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to India as the Chief Guest at the country’s 75th Republic Day celebrations on January 26 this year, India and France have agreed to bolster their collaboration in the defence and aerospace sectors, finalizing the Indo-French defence industrial roadmap and many other equally strategic agreements. Macron is the fifth French president to be invited as Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day after President François Hollande (2016), Nicolas Sarkozy (2008), Jacques Chirac (1998), Valery Giscard d’Estaing (1980) and Jacques Chirac as PM (1976). This, incidentally, was Macron’s third visit to India, after earlier visits in 2018 and 2023. Foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday, said the new roadmap would spur Indian and French collaboration in co-development and co-production in defence sector projects, such as critical military hardware and platforms. (IPA Service)

WORLD COURT TELLS ISRAEL TO STOP ITS GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS

The much-awaited order from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in the case of genocide by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, brought before the world court by the Republic of South Africa, came out on 26 January 2024 and it’s crystal clear: Tel Aviv must stop its genocide of the Palestinians immediately. The court, in a set of near unanimous decisions from 17 judges, including two ad-hoc ones each from Israel and South Africa (by 15-2, and/ or 16-1 majority decisions).

DETERIORATION IN RED SEA SITUATION THREATENS LNG TRADE FLOWS, DRAGS PRICES DOWN

The deterioration in recent weeks of the security situation in the Red Sea, where Yemen-based Houthi militia in support of Palestine have disrupted global trade by launching drone and missile attacks on vessels, is posing a geopolitical risk to LNG prices. It has now been more two months since the first attack on a commercial vessel, with indications that the attacks could last at least until the Israel-Gaza conflict is resolved – an essentially uncertain duration. Since mid-

January, the US and UK have been drawn into military action in the region, striking Houthi targets inside Yemen. The US is in a difficult position, balancing relations with Israel while avoiding the conflict spillover over into the wider Middle East region. Recently, the US admitted that Houthi rebels are unlikely to stop their attacks regardless of US action. For the LNG market, an extended shut-in of the Red Sea route from the Middle East poses a supply risk to although the price impact will be delayed until Europe’s gas storage has been

drawn down sufficiently. In 2023, around 15.5 million tonnes of LNG was sent through the Red Sea from the Middle East to Europe – a crucial 12.9 percent of the continent’s LNG supply last year. Re-routing vessels through the Cape of Good Hope adds around 12.5 days to the voyage each way at 16 knots – which could require an additional 15-20 vessels to deliver the same volume over the year. This could take the steam off the current bearish pressure on the shipping market. (IPA Service)



IDF raids Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar's office in Khan Younis

Tel Aviv, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has in a statement on Wednesday night said that it had raided the office of top Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in southern Gaza's Khan Younis area. The Israeli army said that troops from IDF's 98th Division raided the office of Yahya Sinwar, who is the most wanted Hamas leader. Earlier, Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant had publicly said that the Israel army would search and find out the hideout of Yahya Sinwar and kill him. The Israeli military also said that raids were conducted at many terror infrastructures in the Khan Younis area, including an intelligence network of the banned terror organisation, Hamas. The IDF said that raids were conducted in an office that functioned as the Hamas' intelligence office. Israel has all along been maintaining that Hamas leaders, Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif, were mainly responsible for the October 7 massacre in southern Israel leading to the killing of 1,200 people who were mostly civilians.

Man arrested for threatening, swinging swords at Sikh temple in Canada

Toronto, Jan 31 (IANS) : A 23-year-old man was arrested after allegedly making threats and aggressively swinging two large swords inside a Sikh temple in Canada's British Columbia province. Officers responded to the disturbance during an evening service inside the Penticton Sikh Temple at 3290 South Main Street last week, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said in a statement.

Police said one person was taken into custody and released later to attend Penticton Provincial Court at a future date. Investigations are underway by the area Mounties into the incident which saw no one getting injured. The temple released a statement, saying that it was "an unruly group of non-Society members inside the temple".



Will discuss credit ratings, anti-money laundering platform in BRICS: Russian central bank governor

Moscow, Jan 31 (IANS) : Russia central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina on Wednesday said that the country will propose key initiatives to enhance cooperation among the BRICS countries in 2024 when it assumes the chairmanship of the bloc. Nabiullina said the country would like to promote the topic of mutual recognition of ratings which is very important for mutual trade and investment, Xinhua news agency reported. The country will also be putting forward an initiative to check money laundering of

illicit funds as it has an experience in creating an anti-money laundering platform called "Know Your Customer," which it is willing to share. Russia, which took over the rotating chairmanship of BRICS for 2024 on January 1, also plans to build a settlement-depository infrastructure and create a common platform for training and exchange of experience for the BRICS countries. The idea of creating supranational rating agencies that has been discussed both within BRICS and within the Eurasian Economic Union, is promising but involves "a lot of complex issues," includ-



ing who should be the founder, how to ensure the financing, and how to guarantee the independence and professionalism of the agency, Nabiullina said. Nabiullina said that the mutual recognition of ratings will be faster and more practical.

Biden's weakness, surrender led to killing of US troops in Jordan: Trump

Washington, Jan 31 (IANS) : Former US President Donald Trump has said that the "weakness" and "surrender" of President Joe Biden has led to the killings of US troops in a drone attack along the Jordanian-Syrian border, media reports said. Trump also accused Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin of not safeguarding the US troops serving overseas. "This brazen attack on the US is yet another horrific and tragic consequence of Joe Biden's weakness and surrender," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. Biden was also condemned by other Republicans and even some Democrats for many of his foreign policy decisions. Trump also criticised Biden for softening relations with Iran.



Crisis-hit Chinese property giant Evergrande ordered to liquidate

Hong Kong, Jan 31 (IANS) : Debt-laden Chinese property giant Evergrande has been ordered to liquidate by a court in Hong Kong, a media report said. Judge Linda Chan said "enough is enough" after the troubled developer repeatedly failed to come up with a plan to restructure its debts, BBC reported. The firm has been the poster child of China's real-estate crisis with more than \$300 billion of debt, the report said. When Evergrande defaulted two years ago, it sent shockwaves through global financial markets. Evergrande's Executive Director, Shawn Siu, described the decision as "regrettable", but said the

company would continue to operate in mainland China. The firm's Hong Kong arm was independent from its mainland business, he said in a statement, BBC reported. While any potential impact of the ruling on Evergrande's home building business is currently unclear, the crisis at the company has already left many home buyers waiting for their new properties, BBC reported. Beijing has previously sought to temper public concern about the property crisis as people have taken to Chinese social media sites such as Weibo to share their frustrations about developers like Evergrande.



Russia beating Western sanction, but its long-term prospects for the economy looks grim as war prolongs

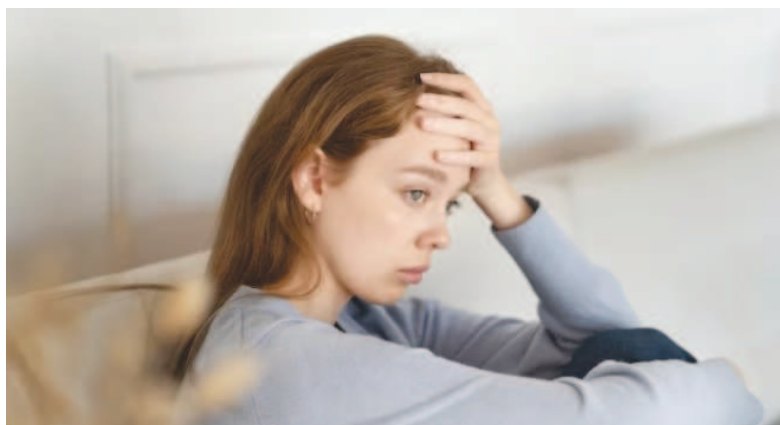
Washington, Jan 31 (IANS) : Russia's near two-year war with Ukraine will cripple its economy in the long run despite its claims that it had found new ways to beat Western sanctions earning almost \$15.2 billion in revenues through clandestine shipping of oil and minerals mainly to India and China. Russian President Vladimir Putin, facing election in March this year amid domestic pressure to pull down prices and

withdraw the army from Ukraine, has however taken to gloating about Russia's resistance to international sanctions and its supposed economic resilience, despite the best efforts of the US and its G7 partners to choke off Moscow's oil revenues and starve it of military technology, media reports said. Scoffing at Europe's economies, Putin said at a recent event in Moscow: "We have growth, and they have decline... They all have problems going through the

roof, not even comparable to our problems." It's true that, as the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine approaches, the Russian state is earning billions from oil and diamond exports, its military factories are working flat out, and many Russian banks can still access the international financial system, CNN reported per intelligence it gathered from the former Soviet Union.

UN's Palestine relief agency faces collapse after complaints staff joined terror attack

United Nations, Jan 31 (IANS) : Major donors are sending one of the world organisation's oldest and largest relief operations to the brink of collapse after disclosures that the employees of the organisation set up to help Palestinian refugees took part in the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel. "It's not so much the existence of the agency is at stake. It's the lives of the people that the agency serves that's at stake."



Female reproductive traits may lead to diabetes, high cholesterol later in life : Study

San Francisco, Jan 31 (IANS) : Researchers have suggested that female reproductive characteristics that may be overlooked as risk factors could eventually lead to "metabolic dysfunction" in later life, according to a new study. Metabolic health is

characterised by optimal blood glucose, lipids, blood pressure, and body fat. According to the study published in the journal Cell Metabolism, alterations in these characteristics may lead to the development of Type-2 diabetes or cardiovascular disease.



Iran-based militias' drone attacks on US posts in Syria-Jordan send Pentagon scrambling for cover

Washington, Jan 31 (IANS) : The lethal drone attack on Wednesday in Jordan was the third hit in six months on the base known as Tower 22, highlighting a gap in US defences that the Pentagon is scrambling now to fill. At Tower 22, there were two previous attacks by one-way drones, according to a Defence official, who was not authorised to comment publicly. Wednesday's attack by a one-

way drone killed three US troops and wounded at least 34 more at the base on Jordan's border with Syria. The White House has blamed Iranian-backed militias for the attack, which has become increasingly dangerous in recent weeks. More than 150 such attacks targeted US bases in the Middle East since Israel's invasion of Gaza, media reports said. Sunday's attack was the first ever to kill US troops, and President Joe Biden and the Defence Secre-

tary Lloyd Austin have vowed retaliation at a "time and place of their choosing". At Tower 22, there were two previous attacks by one-way drones, according to a Defence official, who was not authorised to comment publicly. The drone on Wednesday detonated its payload of explosives near living quarters at the logistics base where about 350 US soldiers and airmen are based.



Goa CM Sawant welcomes extension of ban on SIMI

Panaji, Jan 31 (IANS) : Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday welcomed the decision of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to extend the ban on declare Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for five more years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The Centre had declared SIMI as an 'unlawful association' in 2014. "I welcome the decision of the Union Home Ministry to extend the ban on SIMI. It reaffirms Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to 'zero' tolerance to terrorism," Sawant said.

Girl students protest in Jaipur against BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya's statement on hijab

Jaipur, Jan 31 (IANS) : A group of girl students from a government school in Jaipur gathered outside the Subhash Chowk police station here on Wednesday and raised slogans against BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya, demanding action against him for his remarks of hijab when he visited the school. On receiving information about the incident, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Hemant Jakhar, reached the spot and spoke to the girl students.

ACP Jakhar said, "The students of Gangapol Girls School reached Subhash Chowk police station at around 9 a.m. When the police asked the girl students the reason, they said that the MLA came to the school during a programme and spoke on hijab. This is not acceptable to us. Politics on religion will not be tolerated in the temple of education." Along with the girl students, their family members also took to the streets in large numbers and started demanding action.



Assam Rifles seize 90,000 methamphetamine tablets in Manipur

Imphal, Jan 31 (IANS) : Assam Rifles personnel have seized 90,000 highly addictive methamphetamine tablets, valued at Rs 13 crore, from Manipur's Tamenglong district, officials said on Wednesday. Officials said that the paramilitary personnel acting on a tip off have seized the methamphetamine tablets, weighing about 4.540 kg, also locally called Yaba tablet or party tablet, from Phaitol village, under Tousem police station. The recovered drugs have been handed over to the Manipur Police. Methamphetamine tablets, smuggled from Myanmar, have been one of the most trafficked drugs in recent years.



252 applications for permission to conduct religious events on Ram Temple Pran Pratishtha day allowed, TN govt tells SC

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday apprised the Supreme Court that it allowed a total of 252 applications seeking permission to organise religious events in the state on the occasion of 'Pran Pratishtha' of Lord Ram at Ayodhya. A bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, was apprised by senior advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing on behalf of the state government, that permission was not given in 36 in-

stances due to law and order issues. "Milords may record my statement that they applied at 282 places for different pooja, procession, etc. and out of which we permitted at 252 places," he said. Tiwari added that the Madras High Court, including the Madurai bench, is also dealing with the issue. In a short hearing, the bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, allowed time to the state government for filing its reply in the matter and adjourned the hearing.

Odisha Cabinet approves several key proposals

Bhubaneswar, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Odisha Cabinet on Wednesday took several key decisions, including the revocation of the controversial proposal allowing conditional transfer of tribal land to non-tribals. The decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. "The Cabinet has decided to withdraw the decision taken on 14.11.2023 on the proposed amendment to Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (By Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956,"

said official sources. Following severe backlash, the state government had earlier put on hold the decision within 48 hours of the Cabinet nod for the amendment. Later, the government recommended the matter to the Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) Odisha on November 24, 2023 for reconsideration after continued protests by the opposition parties and other tribal bodies. This apart, the government on Wednesday also announced a new scheme, LABHA (Laghu Bana Jatya Drabya Kraya), to procure minor forest produces at minimum support price fixed by the state



government every year. The primary collectors of forest produce can sell their products at the fixed MSP at the procurement counters of Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCCOL), an apex co-operative under the ST & SC Development Department. "Since 99 per cent of primary collectors are tribals and majority of them women.

Bullet train corridor to install first-of-its-kind quake detection system

Gandhinagar, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSRC), also known as the bullet train project, is considering railway safety by integrating an 'Early Earthquake Detection System'. The National High Speed Rail

Corporation Limited (NHRSL) announced on Wednesday that this advanced system, featuring 28 seismometers, is a first for any railway project, aiming to bolster the protection of passengers and essential structures against seismic events.



Defence Secretary to co-chair Joint Military Cooperation meeting in Oman

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Indian Defence Secretary Girdhar Aramane will visit Oman on January 31, where he will co-chair the 12th Joint Military Cooperation Committee meeting with its Defence Ministry's Secretary General, Dr Mohammed bin Naseer bin Ali Al-Zaabi, an official statement said on Wednesday.



Govt's PAT scheme saves 24.3mn tonnes of Oil Equivalent : FinMin

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : The India Economy Review prepared by the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday said that Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme -- an energy savings-based market mechanism -- has resulted in savings of about 24.3 million tonnes of Oil Equivalent, translating into avoiding about 105.02 million tonnes of CO2 emissions by 2022. The review said that the Energy Conservation Act was amended in 2022 to pave the way for establishing a domestic carbon market - the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), which will further deepen the efforts to incentivise energy saving, reduction and abatement of emissions. It said that achieving high resilient growth while ensuring sustainable and inclusive livelihood options for all remains a priority for the country. "Accepting the need for contributing to the collective action to ad-

dress climate change in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, India has adopted a comprehensive approach that addresses adaptation, resilience building and mitigation action as part of its contribution to the global response to climate change despite its low historical contribution to global carbon stock," the review said. It said that it is worth noting that, per capita, India will remain a low emitter for quite some time to come. "In 2015, the government unveiled its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the UNFCCC, outlining ambitious goals for mitigating climate change," it said. The review said that among these targets were a 33 to 35 per cent reduction in the emission intensity of India's GDP by 2030.

Many parties in talks with AIADMK for Lok Sabha poll tie-up : Jayakumar

Chennai, Jan 31 (IANS) : Senior AIADMK leader and former Tamil Nadu minister, D Jayakumar said on Wednesday that several political parties were interested in an alliance with the AIADMK for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections and added that an announcement in this regard would be made at an appropriate time. He was speaking to reporters after attending the meetings of the AIADMK's

seat-sharing committee and the election campaign committee at the party headquarters. He said that there was a lot of time remaining for the Lok Sabha elections, and the party would make announcements on its alliances and the number of seats it would contest at the appropriate time. He however reiterated that the AIADMK would not join hands with the BJP. D. Jayakumar slammed the BJP state President K. Annamalai and added that he



(Annamalai) was prioritising, and giving more importance to himself rather than his party and added that the BJP leader was making statements on things that did not

happen. He also rebuked the former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS) who was expelled from the AIADMK, as a "slave of the BJP."

Gurugram: Friends stab youth to death in fight over 'love affair'; 3 held

Gurugram, Jan 31 (IANS) : A 21-year-old youth has been stabbed to death by his friends over a suspected love affair in the Ravi Nagar area here, the police said on Wednesday, adding three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident. The incident happened on Sunday night. The deceased, Aakash, was a resident of Naharpur Rupa village in Gurugram. The arrested individuals include Krishan and Sachin. They were nabbed by a Crime



Branch team of Gurugram Police from the Saraswati Enclave area in Gurugram on Wednesday. Suraj, the complainant and the brother of the deceased, told the police that Aakash, Pratham, and Krishan used to study in the same school.

BMC bans illegal posters, hoardings, banners on all Mumbai roads

Mumbai, Jan 31 (IANS) : In wake of a Bombay High Court order, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation has banned any illegal posters, banners, hoardings or announcements on all public roads in the city and suburbs, an official said here on Wednesday. The BMC has published a list of locations where such displays are authorised, and will now initiate a campaign to remove the illegal displays in other areas. The civic body has also appealed to citizens, social organisations, and political parties to refrain from erecting any such hoardings, banners or post-

ers without the prior permission of the department concerned at the ward level. The issue was also discussed at a state-level committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, recently to discourage such unauthorised displays on public roads, pathways, etc. The BMC said that violators will be penalised under the Maharashtra Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1995 and Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888. In 2022, the BMC had initiated several drives and uprooted over 16,300 illegal posters, banners, hoardings, announcements.



India's demand for gold dips amid soaring prices: WGC report

Mumbai, Jan 31 (IANS) : India's gold demand fell 3% in 2023 to 747.5 tonnes, which is the lowest since 2020, as soaring prices reduced the demand for jewellery, according to a World Gold Council report released on Wednesday.

Indian gold consumption in the October-December quarter fell 4% to 266.2 tons, as a drop in jewellery demand eclipsed higher sales of coins and bars for investment purposes, the WGC said.

The January-March quarter, demand is expected to stay low due to fewer auspicious wedding days, the WGC said.

The Government has also imposed high Customs duty on gold to restrict imports as it leads to an outflow of precious foreign exchange which is required for essential imports such as crude oil. Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates are the leading gold suppliers to India.

Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited Rs.920 crore Initial Public Offering to open on February 5, 2024

New Delhi, Jan 31 (TIM Bureau) : Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited ("The Park" or the "Company") shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Monday, February 5 th 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares aggregating up to Rs. 9,200 million [Rs. 920 crore] comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to Rs. 6,000 million [Rs. 600 crore] and Offer for Sale aggregating up to Rs. 3,200 million [Rs. 320 crore] by Selling Shareholders. ("The Total Offer Size"). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Fri-

day, February 2 nd, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Monday, February 5 th 2024 for subscription and will close on Wednesday, February 7 th 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 147 to 155 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 96 Equity Shares and in multiples of 96 Equity Shares thereafter. The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards repayment/ prepayment, in full or in part of certain outstanding borrowings availed by Company and balance amount towards general corporate purposes ("Object of Issue").



Samsung Q4 profit drops over 34%, memory chip rebounds

Seoul, Jan 31 (IANS) : Samsung Electronics said on Wednesday its fourth-quarter operating profit sank 34.4 per cent from a year earlier due largely to sluggish semiconductor business but its memory chip segment turned to the black on recovering demand.

The world's largest mobile phone and memory chip maker's operating profit amounted to 2.82 trillion won (\$2.12 billion) for the Octo-

ber-December period, compared to 4.3 trillion won a year earlier, according to the company in a regulatory filing.

It is the first time that Samsung Electronics logged an annual operating profit of less than 10 trillion won since 2008, when the company recorded 6.03 trillion won in the midst of the global financial crisis. Its net profit tumbled 73.4 percent on-year to 6.34 trillion won and sales decreased 3.8 percent to 67.77 trillion won.

Samsung Electronics said it has invested 7.55 trillion won into research and development for the quarter ending December, marking the largest quarterly investment, reports Yonhap news agency. For all of 2023, Samsung Electronics posted 258.93 trillion won in sales, down 14.3 percent from a year earlier. Its annual operating profit dived 84.9 percent on-year to 6.56 trillion won and net profit tumbled 72.2 percent to 15.48 trillion won.

Flipkart to roll out same day delivery in 20 cities from February

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : E-commerce major Flipkart on Wednesday announced that it is gearing to roll out same day delivery of products across multiple categories in metro and non-metros cities.

The move will see customers across cities, including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Patna, Raipur, Siliguri and Vijayawada get their products delivered before 12 midnight,

if they place their orders by 1 p.m. The initiative is getting rolled out starting February and will get scaled over the next several months to serve more customers across the country.

"Considering that customers not just from metro cities but non-metros cities love to shop on Flipkart, we are working to provide the same day delivery to 20 cities, reinforcing our commitment to staying at the forefront of customer satisfaction," Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President, Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience & ReCommerce Business, Flipkart Group, said in



a statement. "We will further scale it in the months to come, to include more cities and more categories, including large appliances, to delight the customers," he added. According to the company, this initiative will assist customers in receiving orders for products such as mobile phones, fashion, beauty products, lifestyle, books, home

appliances, and electronics on the same day. The e-commerce major also mentioned that the company has made major investments in the infrastructure and transportation needed to scale same-day delivery across numerous cities, with a growing network of fulfilment centres.



L&T shares slump over 4% on lower than expected margins

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Larsen & Toubro shares slumped over 4 per cent on Wednesday after the company missed profit estimates due to lower than expected margins. L&T shares were down 4.4 per cent at Rs 3472 on BSE. Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report that LT's 3QFY24 revenue beat our estimates, but lower-than-expected margins led to a miss in PAT. The company reported 19%/14%/15% YoY growth in revenue/EBITDA/PAT on a consolidated basis. Core E&C revenue and EBITDA grew by 25%/13% YoY in 3QFY24. L&T has been benefiting from strong inflows, particularly from international geographies, and has received orders worth Rs 1.8t during 9MFY24 for its core E&C segment.

India's smartphone market remains flat in 2023, Apple surpasses 10-mn unit mark

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : India's smartphone shipments remained flat in 2023 at 152 million units, as Apple surpassed the 10-million-unit mark in shipments and capturing the top position in revenue in a calendar year for the first time, a new report showed on Wednesday. With an 18 per cent share, Samsung took the top spot last year, for the first time

since 2017, according to Counterpoint Research. Vivo took the second spot in 2023 with a 17 per cent share and led the affordable premium segment (Rs 30,000-Rs 45,000) with a 33 per cent share. Xiaomi slipped to the third spot in 2023 but led in Q4 2023 with an 18.3 per cent share. OnePlus grew by 33 per cent YoY in 2023 driven by offline expansion and better product portfolio

in the affordable premium segment (Rs 30,000-Rs 45,000). 5G smartphone shipment share crossed 52 per cent in India, growing 66 per cent YoY. "Driven by the premium segment's growth and 5G upgrades, India's smartphone market grew 25 per cent YoY in Q4 2023 after declining for a year," said senior research analyst Shilpi Jain.



Sun Pharma posts 16.5% rise in Q3 net profit, declares dividend of Rs 8.50/share



Mumbai, Jan 31 (IANS) : Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd on Wednesday reported a 16.52 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 2,523.75 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year on the back of strong sales in the domestic and US markets.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 2,166.01 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The pharma major's board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 8.50 per share for 2023-24, up from Rs 7.50 per share interim dividend for the previous year.

The company's revenue from operations rose 10 per cent to Rs 12,381 crore in the December quarter.

Sun Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Dilip Shanghvi said, "We are pleased by our continued broad-based growth, including in global specialty. We are keenly looking forward to EMA filing of Nidlegly in the coming months. Once approved, Nidlegly will significantly expand our onco-derm franchise in Europe."

The company's share price shot up 4.88 per cent after the results to cross a one-year high at Rs 1,438.50.

Maruti Suzuki India logs Rs 3,130 crore PAT for Q3

Chennai, Jan 31 (IANS) : Passenger car major Maruti Suzuki India Ltd closed the third quarter of FY24 with a higher net profit of Rs 3,130 crore on the back of lower material cost and increased sales volume.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, the company said for the

quarter ended 31.12.2023 it has earned sales revenue of Rs.31,860 crore (Q3FY23 Rs 27,849.2 crore) and an after tax profit of Rs.3,130 crore (Rs.2,351.3 crore).

For the period under review, the company's total revenue from operations stood at Rs 33,308.7 crore (Rs 29,044.3 crore).



Kerala Tourism a hit at global tourism fair in Madrid

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 31 (IANS) : Stepping up the global outreach with its highly-rated initiatives, Kerala Tourism has made a big impact at FITUR, the global meeting point for tourism professionals and one of the leading trade & tourism fairs in the world, in Madrid, Spain. Reinforcing its position as an all-season experiential tourism destination and unlocking new opportunities in the Span-

ish travel market in particular, Kerala's pavilion themed 'The Magical Every Day' drew a steady stream of visitors including business delegates, right from the opening day of the five-day fair on January 24. FITUR, considered to be the world's second most important tourism fair, had in the past substantially helped the state flaunt its destinations and packages before the world, leading to win-win business deals.



Spain itself is an important market for Kerala, touching around 18,947 arrivals in pre-pandemic

2019. Of late, arrivals have shown a steady uptick, recouping from the global disruption wreaked by

the Covid pandemic. The Kerala Pavilion stole the show with a gigantic installation of a pair of bulls seen in Kerala's temple festivals, called 'Kettukala' in local parlance. Kerala Tourism's participation in FITUR will be followed by a series of B2B meets in Barcelona, Milan, Paris and London. Significantly, Kerala's appealing presence in FITUR comes in the wake of the state Tourism Department scaling up its global campaign to bolster international tourist footfalls.



Vadodara boat tragedy : Four more held, total arrested now 13

Vadodara (Gujarat), Jan 31 (IANS) : Four more people were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the January 18 tragic boat accident at Motnath Lake in Vadodara, that left 12 students and two teachers dead, police said. This brings the total number of arrests to 13 in the incident. The latest arrests include three partners of Kotia Projects, the company contracted by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) to manage the lake's recreation zone, along with a subcontractor, officials said.



DMRC changes colour code of upcoming Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has decided to change the colour code of the upcoming Delhi Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor of Phase IV from "silver" to "golden" for better visibility and convenience for the passengers, an official said on Wednesday. "The decision has been taken since the golden colour can be displayed more prominently and clearly on the trains rather than silver, which tends to get mixed with the overall silvery texture of the stainless steel body of the

Metro trains," Delhi Metro spokesperson Anuj Dayal said. "Therefore, the selection of 'golden' as the colour code would ensure better visibility on trains and will be more convenient for the passengers," he said. The Delhi metro has colour-coded all its operational corridors for easier identification by the passengers. A coloured strip indicating the code of that particular corridor is displayed prominently on the body of the trains. For example, a train operating on the blue line

from Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida/Vaishali has a blue strip below the window. The Aerocity-Tughlakabad Metro corridor of Delhi Metro's Phase IV will be 23.62 km long with 15 stations. "This corridor will connect the Kashmere Gate-Raja Nahar Singh Violet Line with the Airport Express Line and will provide connectivity to many new areas in the southern part of the national capital. This corridor is expected to be made operational by March 2026," Dayal said.

Abhishek Banerjee holds Adhir responsible for 'failed' Cong-TMC understanding

Kolkata, Jan 31 (IANS) : Trinamool Congress national General Secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee on Wednesday held West Bengal Congress chief and five-time MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for the failed alliance talks between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress in the state with regard to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "There is a limit to anyone's patience. Mamata Banerjee is constantly steering movements against the BJP. She has always been vocal against the Centre neglecting the people of West Bengal. "But here she is being

targeted by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. I want to ask him, how many times has he been vocal about Central negligence towards the people of West Bengal," Abhishek Banerjee told newsmen on Wednesday. He also accused the Congress leadership in general for not showing any interest about initiating seat-sharing talks with the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. "People will realise who is actually responsible for this. Mamata Banerjee has time and again insisted on concluding the dialogue process for seat-sharing by December 31 last year.



Odisha man found guilty of killing wife sentenced to life term

Bhubaneswar, Jan 31 (IANS) : A court here on Wednesday sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment for life for killing his wife for objecting to his extra-marital affair. The convict has been identified as Rajendra Mukhi, a native of Kandhamal district and staying at Birsa Munda Sahi in Saheed Nagar police limits here. "The convict who used to work as a security guard had developed an extra-marital relationship with a woman.

India, Saudi Arabia joint military exercise begins in Rajasthan

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Saudi Arabian armed forces personnel and Indian soldiers on Wednesday began the inaugural edition of joint military exercise 'Sada Tanseeq' at the Mahajan firing range in Rajasthan, officials said.

According to the Defence Ministry, the aim of the exercise, which will go on till February 10, is to train troops of both sides for joint operations in semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.



Agricultural sector is bedrock of nation's economy: Economy Review

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : The India Economy Review prepared by the Ministry of Finance said that the agricultural sector -- which is estimated to constitute 18 per cent of India's GVA in FY24 -- is the bedrock of nation's economy. The report said that the total food grains production for FY23 was 329.7 million tonnes, marking a rise of 14.1 million tonnes compared to the previous year. "The average food grain production per year in million tonnes was 289 in FY15 to

FY23, compared to 233 in FY05 to FY14. Rice, wheat, pulses, Nutri/coarse cereals, and oilseeds witnessed record increases in production," the report said. It said that India's global dominance extends across agricultural commodities, making it the largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices worldwide. "India ranks second-largest producer of fruits, vegetables, tea, farmed fish, sugarcane, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar," it said. The report said that the improved performance is also reflected in a substantial surge in agriculture exports, reaching



24.2 lakh crore in FY23, surpassing the previous year's records. The Economy Review said that despite challenges posed by the global health crisis and variability in climate conditions, the sector has demonstrated remarkable tenacity and resilience, contributing significantly to India's economic

recovery and development. "The sector grew at a higher average annual rate of 3.7 per cent from FY15 to FY23 compared to 3.4 per cent from FY05 to FY14. For the year FY23, the sector grew at 4.0 per cent as compared to the previous year," the report said.

MVA calls Nitish Kumar 'biggest Palturam'; exit won't impact INDIA bloc

Mumbai, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies on Wednesday called Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar the country's 'biggest Palturam' (turncoat) and said his departure would not affect the national Opposition INDIA bloc's prospects in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad

Pawar and AICC General Secretary Ramesh Chennithala gave strong reactions to Nitish Kumar's "unprincipled politics" despite attending four meetings of the INDIA bloc in the last six months. "I recall how he had invited all the Opposition leaders to Patna a few months ago and waxed eloquent on how to rein in the Bharatiya Janata Party and he was working on those lines till recently...

What happened in the last eighteen days I have no idea," said Pawar. Flaying Nitish Kumar for "speaking one thing today and doing another the next day", Chennithala said trust is very important in politics and today "he has forfeited that trust." Pawar said Nitish Kumar has made a record of sorts by allying with different parties twice in a single term in office as



Chief Minister, by "discarding his ideology and joining the BJP" to form the government in Bihar. "Earlier, he was with the BJP, then he joined hands with the RJD, and now again he has allied with the BJP... Such a

situation has never occurred in the country before and he has set a new record," said Pawar.



Haryana sets up NRI Grievance Redressal Cell

Chandigarh, Jan 31 (IANS) : An NRI Grievance Redressal Cell has been established for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), especially those of Haryana origin, to address their issues and complaints under a single roof, it was announced.



Akali Dal seeks probe in deletion of 10.70 lakh blue cards under 'aata-daal' scheme

Chandigarh, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday demanded a probe into the deletion of 10.70 lakh blue cards of beneficiaries under the 'aata-daal' scheme which has now been restored by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. Senior leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that it is shocking that the AAP government has de-

nied food grains given under the scheme to 40 lakh people for two years and has now restored the facility on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections due to deep resentment on this issue at the grassroots. Asserting that only an independent probe can determine the reasons for denial of this facility to 40 lakh people, Cheema said.

MP honey-trapping scandal: SIT fails to tell court if Kamal Nath has pen drive with proof

Bhopal, Jan 31 (IANS) : The hearing in the high-profile honey-trapping and blackmailing scandal, that rocked Madhya Pradesh four-and-half-years ago, was deferred to February 10 on Wednesday as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) failed to submit its report on whether Congress leader Kamal Nath has a 'pen-drive' purportedly containing evidence of the case. Claiming that the new SIT chief Adarsh Katiyar, who took charge recently, was on training in Coimbatore, the team sought some more time

to submit the report. Subsequently, a District Court of Indore fixed February 10 as the next date of hearing. The court was hearing a petition filed by lawyer Yavar Khan seeking to know how the pen drive related to the sensational case had fallen into the hands of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Khan filed the petition after Nath at a press conference here on May 21, 2021 claimed that he had in his possession the pen drive containing evidence of the scandal. The court had earlier sent notices to the police and Kamal Nath to reply to the petition. The SIT constituted by the state

government to probe the matter was supposed to present its report on the notice sent to Kamal Nath in this regard. Importantly, Kamal Nath had earlier issued a clarification that he had only watched the 29 second-clip relating to the scandal. In his clarification, he had said that the police produced the pen drive before him when he was the Chief Minister, but, he had returned the pen drive to the police after watching the clip. The scandal came to light on September 19, 2019 when an engineer of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) filed a complaint with a police station in Indore alleging



that he was being blackmailed with the release of a video of him in a compromising position if he did not pay Rs 3 crore to a woman. Later, police conducted raids at different places in Indore and Bhopal and arrested five women.



Tourist arrival in Nagaland one of country's highest: Minister

Kohima, Jan 31 (IANS) : Nagaland Tourism and Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along on Wednesday said that tourist footfall in the state was approximately 15 per cent of the state's total population, which is among the highest in the country. "In terms of population and area, the inflow of tourists into Nagaland is one of the highest in the country," Along said while interacting with the media on the sidelines of the concluding

day programme of the 17th Bishu Mini Hornbill Tribal Festival. He said that tourism in the state had improved due to efforts of the government besides numerous efforts of the Tourism, Art and Culture departments and all the line departments. Claiming that the annual Hornbill Festival was now known throughout the world, he said the state government looked at the tourism industry in a very holistic manner. Stressing that the government wanted people to come and enjoy the land of

the Nagas, Along said that the state's infrastructures are being developed. In the 10-day long 24th edition of Hornbill Festival on December 1-10 more than 1,54,000, including over 2,000 foreign tourists participated. The annual festival was a global showcase of Nagaland's rich culture and diplomatic success with the participation by the US, Germany, and Colombia as partner countries. Along said that the government envisioned to make the 25th Hornbill Festival, sched-

uled in December this year, a unique experience for all visitors.

"The state government is keen to promote Nagaland as a land of festivals, traditions, culture, and inclusiveness," he said, adding that discussions are going on to make the Hornbill Festival a 24/7 event.

He said the government is mulling to open the heritage area round the clock. The festival is also a tribute to the great Hornbill, which is an admired and revered bird by the Naga people, for its qualities of alertness and grandeur. The Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, held at the picturesque Naga Heritage Village Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima, is a cultural extravaganza to revive, protect and preserve the richness and uniqueness of the Naga heritage. A Nagaland Tourism Department official said that 'The Sydney Morning Herald', a leading daily in Australia, has identified Nagaland as one of the 16 most exciting tourist destinations in the world for 2024.

With pollution control mechanism, ADB-aided Ring Road Project coming up in Manipur

Imphal, Jan 31 (IANS) : Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Wednesday laid the foundation for the Rs 1,766 crore Imphal Ring Road Project for which the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide a financial assistance of Rs 1374.75 crore. The 51.23 km long Imphal Ring Road Project, which was taken up in 2015-16 and approved in 2020, would ease traffic congestion and curb pollution in the areas under Imphal West district. State Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam said the most interesting part of the project is that it includes a noise pollution control mechanism, which is the first of its kind in India. The minister informed that 9.5 km of the road would be four-lane, while 41.5 km would be

two-lane with paved shoulders. The road includes an 18 km stretch of green field with solar lamp, footpath and cycle lane. Konthoujam said that various amenities like food plazas would be set up along the four-lane stretch. Within this stretch, provision of cycle and jogging lanes would be included in a stretch of 1 km. Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony.

The Chief Minister said that Manipur has been passing through a rough phase and everyone is bearing the hardship. Assuring that the state government would protect the state from those vested interest groups which want to disintegrate its unity, Singh stressed the need for unity among people as he sought their support and cooperation.



Calcutta HC allows termination of rape victim's 23-week pregnancy

Kolkata, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday allowed the termination of 23-week old pregnancy of a rape victim. The victim was facing problems relating to the termination of pregnancy since when it was detected after 21 weeks. As per Indian law, a pregnancy which is 20 weeks or above can be terminated only with the permission of a court. The victim thus approached the Calcutta High Court and a single-judge bench of Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, after hearing all sides and considering the sensitivity of the matter, permitted termination of the pregnancy.

Implemented all 5 guarantee schemes, beneficiaries must respond to BJP's lies: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Jan 30 (IANS) : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the Congress government has implemented all the five guarantee schemes promised during the elections and called upon the beneficiaries to respond to the lies being spread by the BJP.

"Today's programme is an answer to those who claim that the guarantee schemes have not been implemented as the government has no money. We have implemented all the five guarantee

schemes promised during the elections. Beneficiaries of these schemes must give a fitting reply to the lies spread by BJP," the Chief Minister said after distributing the facilities and equipment of various departments to 30,125 beneficiaries of Tumkuru district and launching development projects worth Rs 697.27 crore.

He said that as the state is witnessing a severe drought, the Central Government has not provided a single rupee for drought relief from the state's share.



Himachal mulls to bring law to curb corruption : Sukhu

Shimla, Jan 31 (IANS) : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Wednesday said the government is mulling to bring a law to curb corruption to bring transparency in the system. "We are committed to provide transparent and accountable gov-

ernance and to completely axe corruption," he said while presiding over the second session of the MLAs' priority meeting here for the annual estimated budget plans for 2024-25. He said to effectively resolve public grievances and provide efficient administration the government has started the 'Sarkar

Gaon ke Dwar' programme that has been acknowledged by people. To curb drug menace and mining mafia, he said the government is taking stringent measures. "We are also taking up measures to solve the problem of stray animals and provide shelter to them," Sukhu said.



J&K L-G lays foundation stone for Innovation Tower at Jammu University

Jammu, Jan 31 (IANS) : J&K L-G Manoj Sinha on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Innovation Tower at University of Jammu, the facility will be completed in two phases under the Capex budget of 2023-24.

L-G said the cutting-edge facility will serve as a Central Hub for transformational innovation, incubation, skill development and entrepreneurship. The facility will house Atal Innovation Centre & Data Analytical Centre, Career

Progression Centre and Innovation Council. It will have a dedicated space for Innovative Undergraduate Program "Design Your Degree" and provide a collaborative space for startups, the Lt Governor observed.

Nashik man threatens & extorts Rs 40L from childhood sweetheart; absconds

Nashik (Maharashtra), Jan 31 (IANS) : A Nashik jobless man has fled after allegedly threatening and extorting around Rs 40 lakh from his childhood sweetheart, police said here on Wednesday. According to the Mumbai Police Station here, the unemployed

youth identified as one Abhijit N. Ahire was a neighbour and acquainted with the victim woman, 31, since their schooldays. Later, the friendship blossomed into a discreet love-affair, and while the woman went on to become a computer engineer and then took up a good job



in Gujarat, the boy remained a vagabond. However, invoking their past relationship and affair, Ahire started extorting money from the woman citing various excuses and she kept obliging.

No one can dictate us which god to worship: Mamata

Kolkata, Jan 31 (IANS) : West Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday took an indirect dig at the BJP over the recent 'Pran Pratishthan' ceremony of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya, saying no one has the right to dictate others as to which god one should worship. "What do they think? I will only worship the god that they suggest? I am not ready to allow that. I have studied Ramayana. I have studied the Bible, Guru Granth Sahib and Tripitaka as well," the Chief Minister said while addressing an administrative review meeting in Cooch Behar on Wednesday. Banerjee also indirectly ridiculed BJP for not referring to "Sita Mata" or "Mata Koushyalya". "They never speak about them or the sacrifices they made," Banerjee said.



Kerala : Cong slams CPI-M over choice of lawyer in graft case linked to Veena Vijayan

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Congress in Kerala on Wednesday criticised the CPI-M-led state government, alleging a "secret pact" between the Left party and the Sangh Parivar, after a lawyer with Ram Janmabhoomi-related case history was appointed to handle an alleged graft case with which Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena's name has been linked.

Senior lawyer C.S. Vaidyanathan, who was the counsel for Ram Lalla in Ram Janmabhoomi case, has been picked to represent the state-run KSIDC. For the last several months, the Opposition in Kerala has been targetting the Vijayan-led government after a media report, quoting an Income Tax De-

partment official, claimed that Veena Vijayan's IT firm had received Rs 1.72 crore from a mining company - CMRL, in which the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) has a stake.

"For Pinarayi Vijayan, the dealings of his daughter's IT firm turned out to be a nightmare. He has now opted Vaidyanathan to appear for KSIDC even as there are other counsels for KSIDC. This is yet another example of the secret pact between CPI-M and the Sangh Parivar forces," Kerala unit Congress president K. Sudhakaran said. "Vijayan has now reached such a stage where he would even compromise to save his skin," the Congress leader said.



VHP to launch Hanuman Dhvaj campaign in K'taka following Hanuman flag row

Bengaluru, Jan 31 (IANS) : Karnataka Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) unit on Wednesday said that it will launch the Hanuman Dhvaj campaign in the state and Hanuman flags will be hoisted on every road and house of the state. The party's announcement came in the backdrop after the authorities replaced the Hanuman flag with the Tricolour for the January 26 Republic Day function. "In Keragodu of Mandya, all Ram bhakts had hoisted the Hanuman flag. But, for Mus-

lim votes, the Karnataka government has removed the flag. It needs to be hoisted again just like it was brought down," Sharan Pumpwell, Prantha Saha Karyadarshi of VHP told media persons. He said that the Hanuman Dhvaj campaign will be carried out in Karnataka and the flags of Hanuman will be hoisted on every road and on every home. "We will show our devotion towards Lord Hanuman in this manner to the government," Sharan said. He said that Hindus, devotees of Ram and Hanuman are pained by

the development. "We are not against hoisting of the Tricolour. But there are a set of guidelines to hoist the national flag as well. The people who insulted the national flag should be charged with sedition," he said. Sri Rama Sena founder Pramod Muthalik said that the Congress does not like the saffron colour and they even do not like Hindus and Hindutva. "The whole nation is swept by the tsunami of Sri Ram. Congress is unable to digest the celebration which is being witnessed in every home and every village of the country," he said.



INDIA bloc game is over, says UP Dy CM

Lucknow, Jan 31 (IANS) : Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said on Wednesday that the "game" of the opposition alliance is over. Slamming former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Maurya said that Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra has already proved to be a failure. Maurya's statement comes a day after Nitish Kumar became the chief minister of Bihar for the ninth time with the support of the BJP after snapping ties with the opposition's INDIA bloc. "The 'INDIA bloc will

not be able to stop the Modi government from coming to power for the third time. The game of the INDIA bloc is over," the deputy chief minister stated. "The BJP has succeeded in raising the standard of living of the common man through welfare schemes under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said. Rahul Gandhi's yatra is entering Bihar at a time when former Congress ally and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar switched sides with the BJP-led NDA a day earlier.

Political slugfest in Bengal over Union Minister's claim of CAA implementation in a week

Kolkata, Jan 31 (IANS) : A political slugfest has broken out in West Bengal following a claim by BJP Lok Sabha member and Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be applicable nationally within a week. "I can give a guarantee of the implementation of CAA nationally. It will be implemented in all the Indian state's including West Bengal within a week. You will all see that yourself.



BJP trying to disturb peace in Mandya for political gains: Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Jan 31 (IANS) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said that BJP is trying to disturb peace in Mandya district of the state for political gains. "BJP leaders are trying to disturb peace in Mandya for political gains. BJP candidates lost deposits in many of the constituencies in Mandya that is why they are trying to find a political base by joining hands with the JDS," the Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar told media persons on the controversy around Hanuma Dwaja. He said that the efforts of BJP leaders will not pay off as the people of Mandya are tolerant and secular. "They won't fall to the gimmicks of BJP. Our objective is to ensure peace in all the areas of the

state," the Deputy Chief Minister said. The BJP has accused Congress of being an anti-Hindu party. The Deputy Chief Minister said that BJP is only making such statements to gain public sentiments and trying to divide people for political gains. "We are all Indians first. Kempegowda Committee and Dalita Sangharsha Samithi also want to hoist a flag there. Are we not all Hindus? Are the people of Mandya not Hindus? BJP is trying to create disturbance for political gains," the Deputy Chief Minister said. The Karnataka BJP has launched a protest in all district headquarters condemning the incident of authorities taking down a saffron flag hoisted at Keragodu Village in Mandya district. The Leader of the Opposition, R Ashoka, and others were taken into police custody following the



protest at the Mysuru Bank Circle in Bengaluru. In Mandya, BJP and JD-S leaders took out a foot march from Keragodu Village to the District Commissioner's office condemning the incident. The agitators were planning to lay siege to the DC's office after staging a protest in Mandya city. Police security has been beefed up in the city following the foot march. Meanwhile, the situation in Keragodu Village, where the saffron flag was taken down, remained volatile. Heavy police security was deputed and police have erected barricades to prevent the people from reaching the flag post area.



Taliban directives single out 'infidel' hairstyle of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as 'fashion sin'

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Afghan men have limited options when visiting the barbershop if they do not want to be accused of walking away looking like a trendy Westerner or a North Korean dictator, media reports said. No haircuts that make them look like an "infidel." No trimmed eyebrows. And no shaved faces or beards shorter than the optimal length, the report said. Any of those styles are considered a fashion sin, according to a new six-point list of rules for barbers issued by the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, RFE/RL reported. The issuance of the directives, initially denied by the ministry, were confirmed by a regional ministry official in the western province of Herat this week. Azizul Rahman

Mohajer said on January 23 that certain haircuts were too similar to what the "infidels in the West or North Korea" have, RFE/RL reported. The directives appeared to single out hairstyles that might resemble that of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un -- whose head is shaved on the sides and back, and topped with longer hair in a nod to the cut donned by his grandfather, Kim Il Sung, the founder of communist North Korea, RFE/RL reported. They were also reminiscent of orders issued under the previous Taliban government in power from 1996 to 2001, including "foreign haircuts" styled after the side-shaved, long-on-top hairdo popularized by American actor Leonardo DiCaprio in the film Titanic.

'We will hold you accountable' : Biden warns Hezbollah over killing of US troops

Washington, Jan 31 (IANS) : President Joe Biden has said that the US will hold Hezbollah accountable for killing three US military personnel and injuring 34 others in a drone attack along the Jordanian-Syrian border, media reports said. "Have no doubt, we will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner (of) our choosing," the US President said. Reports said that three US military personnel were killed and dozens injured on Wednesday in a drone attack by Hezbollah at a U.S. base

along the Jordanian-Syrian border as the war in Gaza threatened to expand further in the region. The US Central Command has said that they are the first US troops killed by enemy fire in the Middle East since Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on October 7. "Identities of the service members will be withheld until 24 hours after their families have been notified," the US Central Command said. President Joe Biden in a statement said an investigation is underway. "I am sure the attack has been carried out by Hezbollah operating in Syria and Iraq. The three were patriots in the highest sense and the



nation is grieving," the President said. He said that the US will carry on its commitment to fight terrorism. Biden, who was campaigning in Columbia, South Carolina, later told a gathering at Brookland Baptist Church: "We lost three brave souls in an attack on one of our bases." After leading a moment of silence, he said, "And we

shall respond." The Central Command initially estimated the number of injured in the attacks as 25, later increased it to 34, the USA TODAY reported. The U.S. Central Command said that eight injured have shifted to from Jordan for a higher level of medical care.



NYC Mayor unveils Gandhi statue outside Hindu temple after 2022 vandalism incidents

New York, Jan 31 (IANS) : New York City Mayor Eric Adams and Indian-American State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar have unveiled a new Mahatma Gandhi statue, more than a year after the previous one was vandalised twice outside a Hindu temple in the state. Located in front of Shri Tulsi Mandir on 111th Street in Richmond Hill, the Gandhi

statue was knocked over, spray painted with the word "dog", and battered with a sledgehammer on August 3 and 16, 2022. "Last year, the statue of Gandhi that stood in South Richmond Hill was destroyed. But our solidarity and spirit to rebuild was not. Today, we stood with the community to say in one voice: Hate has no place in our city," Mayor Adams said, unveiling the statue last week. We embody the

values of justice for which Gandhi gave his life," Mayor Adams said at the event attended by members of the Indian-American community. Rajkumar, who was at the forefront, calling for an investigation into the incident as a hate crime against Hindus and Indians, posted a video of the ceremony on X and said it was "exciting" to unveil the statue along with Mayor Adams.



2 suspects in Istanbul church attack confined : Minister

Istanbul, Jan 31 (IANS) : Two suspects of the armed attack on an Italian church in Turkey's largest city Istanbul on Wednesday were confined, said Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya. "I congratulate our Istanbul Police department and the heroic police officers who identified and captured the perpetrators," Yerlikaya said on the social media platform X as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The assailants attacked the Santa Maria Church in the Sariyer district on the European side of the city at around 11:40 a.m. local time, killing one person during a Wednesday Mass. Earlier on Wednesday, Istanbul Governor Davut Gul said the deceased person was a 52-year-old Turkish citizen. After the incident, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed his condolences during a phone call with the priest of the Italian church.



Pakistani peacekeeper killed in UN mission in Sudan

United Nations, Jan 31 (IANS) : A Pakistani peacekeeper has been killed in an attack by an armed group in the Abyei area that is claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan, according to the UN. The peacekeeper with UN Interim Security Force for

Abyei (UNISFA) was killed on Wednesday while transporting civilians to a hospital, the mission said on Wednesday. This was the second attack on peacekeepers in two days during which a Ghanian peacekeeper was killed.

Peace talks constructive, says Israel PMO

Tel Aviv, Jan 31 (IANS) : The Israel Prime Minister's Office said that the peace talks held for a ceasefire and the release of all its hostages from Hamas custody were constructive. The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a statement on Wednesday night confirmed that a four way meeting involving US, Israel, Qatar and Egypt had taken place in Europe and was quite constructive. The PMO said that there were still gaps regarding the deal to be adopted for a ceasefire and release of hostages and that this would be taken forward again this week itself. Director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), William Burns; David Barnea, the head of the

Mossad intelligence agency; Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and the Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel participated in the discussions widely believed to have been held in Paris. Ronen Bar, the head of the Israeli Shin Bet security service, as well as IDF hostage envoy Nitzan Alon were also at the four nation summit. Hamas, according to information available, has demanded an end to the war and the withdrawal of all IDF forces as a condition for the release of hostages and Israel has rejected these demands outright. Israel Defense ministry sources told IANS that the peace agreement would be carried out in two phases.



Suspension of funding to UNRWA deplorable : Palestine Authority

Tel Aviv, Jan 30 (IANS) : The foreign ministry of Palestine Authority (PA) has said that suspension of funds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East (UNRWA) was deplorable. In a statement on Wednesday night, the PA said that the suspension of funds to the UNRWA by the US, the UK and other countries was highly deplorable and of double standards. The PA also said that the UNRWA chief Philippe

Lazzarani has already announced that the UN agency was willing for an independent investigation on the Israeli claims regarding UNRWA staff. Israel has complained to the United Nations and other funding countries that several UNRWA staff members were directly involved in the October 7 massacre in southern Israel when Hamas men swarmed into the Israeli communities and slaughtered 1,200 people -- a majority being civilians.



Stubb, Haavisto enter Finland's presidential election finals

Helsinki, Jan 31 (IANS) : The presidential candidate for the National Coalition and former Prime Minister Alexander Stubb will face the independent Green candidate, former Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, in the second round of Finland's presidential election on February 11. With 99 per cent of the votes counted, Stubb received 27.1 per cent support, followed by Haavisto with 25.8 per cent. Jussi Halla-aho, candidate of the Finns Party and Speaker of

the Parliament of Finland, garnered a 19 per cent support, Xinhua news agency reported. The voter turnout for the first round on Sunday reached 74.9 per cent, compared to 69.9 per cent in the 2018 presidential election. Both Stubb and Haavisto refrained from giving policy statements on Sunday night regarding the final campaigns. Speaking about campaigning with Haavisto in the second round.

Jack Leach doubtful for England's second Test against India due to knee injury

Visakhapatnam, Jan 31 (IANS) : England's left-arm spinner Jack Leach is highly doubtful for playing in the second Test against India, starting in Visakhapatnam on Friday, after sitting out the side's first training session held on Wednesday. Leach jarred his left knee while fielding during England's thrilling 28-run win over India in the series opener at Hyderabad last week. He aggravated the injury later on in the same match, bowling with a swollen joint and took out the wicket of Shreyas Iyer in the second innings. "He's a tough kid, Leachy, so I'm not sure. You can never really

write him off. We'll see how he pulls up in a couple of days," said opening batter Zak Crawley to reporters. Leach's injury means England may not be able to execute their plan of playing four spinners in Visakhapatnam, with uncapped off-spinner Shoab Bashir likely to get a debut in case the senior spinner is not fit in time for the second Test. Bashir has played just six first-class matches and has 10 wickets to his name. He arrived in India during the Hyderabad Test after visa issues owing to his Pakistani heritage forced him to return home to London and get the visa there.



Jay Shah unanimously reappointed as ACC president for a third term

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : BCCI Secretary Jay Shah will be continuing as President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) after being unanimously reappointed for a third straight term at the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Bali, Indonesia on Wednesday. Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) president Shammi

Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all ACC members. "I am grateful to the ACC Board for their continued trust. We must remain committed to ensuring the all-round development of the sport with a special focus on regions where it is still in its infancy. The ACC is committed to nurturing cricket across Asia," said Shah in an ACC statement. Shah, who has been the BCCI secretary since 2019, had taken over

as ACC president in January 2021 from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan, making him the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC president. "Jay has played a pivotal role in steering the ACC towards significant progress in promoting and developing cricket across the Asian region. I am pleased that the ACC Board supported the proposal unanimously.



Vishnu Saravanan secures India's first Paris 2024 quota in sailing

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : Indian sailor Vishnu Saravanan secured the country's first Paris 2024 Olympics quota in sailing at the ILCA World Championship 2024 in Adelaide, Australia. Competing in the one person dinghy event at the Adelaide Sailing Club, Saravanan accumulated 125 nett points over six days and secured the 26th position on the overall leaderboard. Notably, he claimed the fifth spot among eligible sailors to secure quota place for the Paris Olympics. "Vishnu Saravanan has secured India's 1st #ParisOlympics quota in Sailing at the ILCA 7 World Championship, held in Adelaide.



Manju Rani wins 10km gold at National Open Race Walking Competition

Chennai, Jan 31 (IANS) : Punjab's international race walker, Manju Rani, had a good run at the 11th edition of the National Open Race Walking Competition. The day after winning gold in the women's 20km, she dominated the 10km on Wednesday to brighten her chance to com-

pete in the inaugural marathon race walking mixed relay that will feature at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Manju, 24, gold medal winning time in 10km was 45:20.00. The promising race walker from Punjab had paired with Ram Babu to win bronze in the 35km mixed relay race walking team event at the Hangzhou Asian Games.



Gardner, Marsh clinch top honours at 2024 Australian Cricket Awards

Melbourne, Jan 31 (IANS) : Off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner and fast-bowling all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have clinched the top honours at the 2024 Australian Cricket Awards by winning the prestigious Belinda Clark Award and Allan Border Medal respectively. At a ceremony in Melbourne to celebrate a remarkable year of achievement for Australian cricket, Ashleigh added a sec-

ond Belinda Clark Award to the honour she first won in 2022 while Marsh won his first Allan Border Medal. In the Belinda Clark Award, Gardner polled 147 votes ahead of runner-up Ellyse Perry (134) with Annabel Sutherland (106) in third place.



'Enjoyed the first couple of weeks of it', says Smith on life as Australia's Test opener

Melbourne, Jan 31 (IANS) : Australia's premier batter Steve Smith said he has enjoyed the first few weeks of being the Test opener, in what was his response to the critics who questioned the move. On his request, Smith was elevated as Australia's Test opener after the retirement of David Warner. He recorded scores of 12 and 11 not out in the first Test against the West Indies, before making six in the first innings of the second game at Brisbane. Smith then carried his bat to make 91 not out in the second innings, where Australia suffered a shock eight-run defeat to West Indies. "There was a lot of commentary around I'd failed in two or three innings - I had a not out and two low scores. Now I'm averaging 60 as an opener. "It was just another position; I've battled against the new ball numerous times, coming in early.

Premier League: Luton Town sign Japanese defender Hashioka

London, Jan 31 (IANS) : Luton Town have signed Japanese defender Daiki Hashioka for an undisclosed fee from Belgian top-flight club Sint-Truiden, subject to a work visa and international clearance, the Premier League club said.



Joseph, Hartley make gains in Test Rankings after stunning bowling spells

New Delhi, Jan 31 (IANS) : West Indies fast-bowler Shamar Joseph and England's left-arm spinner Tom Hartley have made big gains in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, after producing stunning bowling spells in two different continents. Brushing aside a right toe injury, Joseph's sensational seven-wicket haul in the second innings helped the West Indies secure a magical eight-run victory over Australia at The Gabba in Brisbane to draw the series with Australia at 1-1. He now finds himself in joint-50th position after moving up 42 places.



KTYG: Bihar's Shubham overcomes inexperience, wind to win recurve archery gold

Chennai, Jan 31 (IANS) : Last month, Shubham Kumar made an arduous 30-hour train journey in the general compartment from his hometown of Arrah in Bihar to Nadiad in Gujarat for the School Games Federation of India's National archery competition. But despite the hardship he went on to win the team bronze there. Coming into the 6th Khelo India Youth Games, Shubham had neither faced this level of competition nor witnessed such large-scale arrangements earlier. But nothing deterred him from winning only the second gold medal of the Games for Bihar,

in the boys' recurve category. The performance may have surprised many at the archery range on a hot, windy afternoon at the Nehru Park Sports Complex in Chennai, but not Shubham himself. "I had come determined to win a gold at this Khelo India Youth Games and I have achieved that," a delighted Shubham said. "My initial shooting wasn't that great, I was placed 11th (in qualifying) but I thought that I will come back the next day and do much better, no matter how windy it was. "I got to learn a lot here. It was very windy and you had to be really careful.

