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Better services should be provided in this spirit

Collector Anurag Jayanthi called for the Lingannapet Primary Health Center to get the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQUAS)...

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Wanted to win and make Test cricket paramount, identified an uncut diamond in Virat Kohli, says Ravi Shastri

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri said his aim was to win and make Test cricket paramount and, in this pursuit...

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Sovereign Gold Bonds to be issued from Feb 12-16

Finance Ministry on Saturday said that the Sovereign Gold Bonds 2023-24 (Series IV) will be opened for subscription during February 12-16, with settlement date as February 21.

07



Photo Caption

PM addresses 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Gujarat' program via video conferencing on February 10, 2024.



Congress party has cheated people: Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : BJP MP Bandi Sanjay today alleged that the ruling Congress party had cheated the people badly as a witness to the budget. He said that More than Rs 5 lakh crore was required to implement the promises made by the Congress party in the elections. Addressing a gathering of the party workers at his prajahita Yatra in Medipally of jagityala District, he said that The funds allocated for implementation of promises in the budget were only Rs 53,000 crore. He alleged that The Congress government had betrayed the BCs in the the budget and added that Congress party completely ignored its promise to allocate 16 per cent funds for education sector.



CM REVANTH FLAGS OFF 100 NEW RTC BUSES

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy flagged off 100 new Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) buses near Dr. BR Ambedkar statue on PV Marg here on Saturday. Of a total 100 new



buses, 90 buses are belonged to Express service category and 10 buses are belonged to AC Rajadhani. Women can avail the facility of Mahalakshmi-free bus travel scheme in the newly introduced 90 Express buses, which are primarily operated to clear the rush of passengers who travel on Medaram route to visit the Sammakka Sarakka Jathara in Mulugu district.

Continued on pg 02



Bhatti Presents vote-on-account budget with Rs 2.75 lakh crore outlay

MAJOR PROPOSALS IN THE BUDGET

- Six guarantees — Rs 53,196 crore
- Industries — Rs.2,543 crore
- IT — Rs 774 crore
- Panchayat Raj and Rural Development — Rs 40,080 crore
- Musi Riverfront Development — Rs 1,000 crore
- Municipal Administration and Urban Development — Rs 11,692 crore
- Agriculture — Rs 19,746 crore
- SC welfare — Rs.21,874 crore
- ST welfare — Rs 13,313 crore
- Minorities welfare — Rs 2,262 crore
- BC welfare — Rs 8,000 crore
- Education — Rs 21,389 crore
- Medical and Health — Rs 11,500 crore
- Housing — Rs 7,740 crore
- Irrigation — Rs 28,024 crore.

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Congress government on Saturday presented a vote-on-account budget with Rs 2,75,891 crore for the financial year of 2024-25. Further, the

revised budget estimates for 2023-24 have been pegged at Rs 2,24,625 crore. Tabling the Telangana budget in the Assembly here, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka pro-



posed Rs.53,196 crore for the implementation of six guarantees. "Provision of additional funds will be made as required, once a complete assessment is made about the schemes," Batti Vikramarka said. The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that his government will fulfil all the promises made during the election campaign and all, including Warangal declaration for farmers, Youth declaration in Hyderabad, SC-ST declaration announced in Chevella, BC declaration and Minority declaration announced at Kamareddy will be implemented.



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla planted a sapling at the premises of Garuda Dwar at New Parliament House, in New Delhi on February 10, 2024.

State government is obstructing the development of hyderabad city with political vendetta : KTR

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : BRS party working president KTR today alleged that the state government was obstructing the development of state capital Hyderabad. He made these remarks at a meeting of the party leaders and corporators from GHMC lim-

its. Former ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Mahmood Ali and party MLAs also attended the meeting held at Telangana Bhavan in the city. Speaking on the occasion, he said that The 60-day Congress party's administration was in a mess. He said that The Congress party

had allocated only Rs 57,000 crore in the budget for implementation of 420 promises made including 13 of the 6 guarantees given by the party. He said that The amount to be paid to women who have applied for the Mahalakshmi scheme would be over Rs 50,000 crore and added.



Congress government is changing names but not changing the gears of progress: Kavitha

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : BRS party MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has criticized the Congress government for not changing the gears of progress except saying that it would change the old names and give them new ones. "This budget shows that this is just a name-changing government and not a game-changing govern-

ment. In the name of Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak, the KCR government has sanctioned Rs 1,000 crore for the marriage of girl children. The Congress party had promised to provide 1.1 lakh each and in addition one tola gold. But funds were not allocated for it and there was not even the mention about the two schemes in the budget," she said.



Budget has left all sections of people deeply disappointed : Harish Rao

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : Former minister and BRS party MLA Harish Rao today said that the vote on account budget of the state government had left all sections of people deeply disappointed. He also alleged that The so-called public administration (Praja Palana) program was ruined and added that One day the CM went to the pro-



gram, which is now run by the outsourcing employees of the state government.

OUR PARTY WELCOMES VOTE ON ACCOUNT BUDGET : CPI LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER KOONAMNENI SAMBASIVA RAO

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : CPI legislature party leader Koonammeni Sambasiva Rao today said the state government had presented a realistic vote-on-account budget for the next financial year (2024-25). He said that the budget should be higher than the previous budget and added that the budget had been prepared on the basis of fact without boasting. He said that if the funds proposed in the present budget are fully allocated, then there would be a good budget.

CHANGE OF NAME

I BABURAM (Old name) S/o. TEJ RAM H-no:9-4-181, Aziz Street Khammam (Urban) Khammam District, State Telangana. I have changed my name as BABURAM PATEL. Here after my name as Known as BABURAM PATEL S/o. TEJ RAM.

CHANGE OF NAME

I JAYA (Old name) H/o. BABURAM H-no:9-4-181, Aziz galli Khammam (Urban) Khammam District, State Telangana. I have changed my name as JEU DEVI PATEL. Here after my name known as JEU DEVI PATEL H/o. BABURAM PATEL.

CHANGE OF NAME

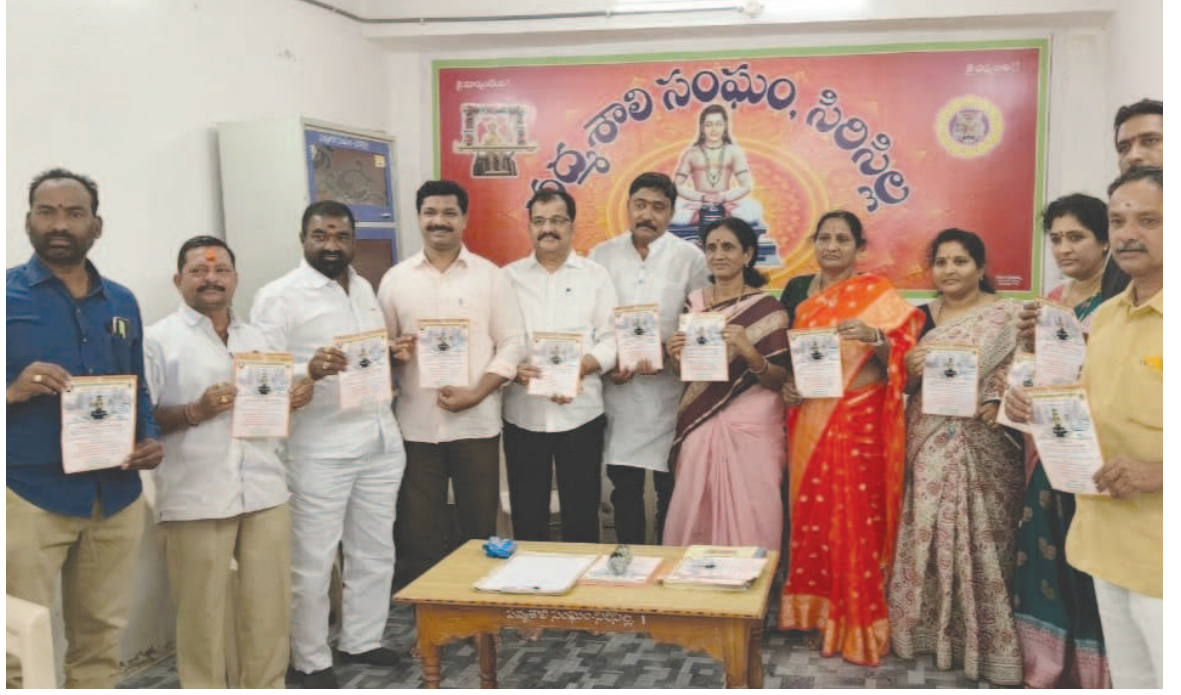
I KALVAKUNTALA VEERA VENKATA KRISHNA VASUDEVA GUPTA (Old name) S/o. KALVAKUNTALA PRABHA KAR RAO H-no: 5-2-247/E, Mustafa Nagar Near Narayana School Khammam (Urban) Khammam District, State Telangana. I have changed my name as KALVAKUNTALA VEERA VENKATA KRISHNA VASUDEVA GUPTA. Here after my name known as KALVAKUNTALA VEERA VENKATA KRISHNA VASUDEVA GUPTA S/o. KALVAKUNTALA PRABHAKAR RAO.



Better services should be provided in this spirit

Rajanna Sirsilla, Feb 10 (TIM Bureau) : Collector Anurag Jayanthi called for the Lingannapet Primary Health Center to get the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQUAS) certificate and provide better services to patients in the same spirit. Gambhiraopet mandal Lingannapet PHC received the Enquas certificate from the central government for providing better and better treatment to patients and better management of departments in the health center. On Saturday, doctors and staff met politely at the complex of integrated district offices. The Collector congratulated the medical team on this occasion.

District Collector compliments the medical team



Markandeya Jayanti celebrations

Rajanna sirisilla, Feb 10 (TIM Bureau) : Sirisilla Municipal Chair Person Jindao Kala Chakrapani revealed that all arrangements are being made to ensure that the Sri Markandeya Jayanti celebrations are held grandly on the 12th of this month without any difficulty for the devotees. Sri Siva Bhakta Markandeya Swamy Jayanti celebrations and Shiva Bhakta Markandeya Swami Shobhayatra invitation leaflets organized under the leadership of Padmasali Sangam President Goli Venkataramana were held at Sirisilla Padmasali Sangha office on Saturday. Jindam Kala Chakrapani, chairperson of the Municipal Corporation, Guduri Praveen, Former Chairman of TS PTDC attended the program as chief guests. On this occasion, Municipal chairperson sirisilla Jindam Kala Chakrapani said that like every year, this year also under the auspices of Sirsilla Padmasali Sangam, as part of the Sri Shiva Bhakta Markandeya Swamy Jayanti celebrations to be held on February 12, from the homa puja programs organized in the morning at Sri Shiva Bhakta Markandeya Swamy Temple from 4 pm in the evening, Kannula Pandgala will be held in Sirsilla town. He said that the Shobhayatra of Shri Shiv Bhakta Markandeya Swami will be held in grandeur. In the Mahotsav, the people of Sirisilla asked a large number of Padmasali caste members and devotees to participate in the Jayantha celebrations of Sri Shiva Bhakta Markandeya Swami and to become the recipients of the grace of that Shiva Bhakta Markandeya Swami. In this program, Padmasali Sangam Vice President Dr. Gajula balaiah, President of Polyester Association Mandal Sathyam, President of Padmasali Sangam Women's Section Kamuni Vanitha, Former Municipal Councilor Yelle Lakshminarayana, Padmasali leaders Bolli Rammohan, Guje Tara, Mora Ravi, Rapalli Praveen and others participated.

- All arrangements for Shobhayatra
- Municipal Chair Person Jindam Kala Chakrapani at the inauguration of the festival invitations

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 3(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infinito Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IIFL-HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (6) of section 13 of the Act. If the borrower clears the dues of the "IIFL-HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IIFL-HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IIFL-HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower (s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. Abdul Azeem Mr. Abdul Sathar Mrs. Shaheen Begum (Prospect No 977353)	All That Piece And Parcel of 'House No.4-13, China Hyderabad Village, Zaherabad Mandal, Sangareddy District, Telangana, 502220, India. Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land, Area, Carpet Area, Built Up Area Property Area: 2656.00, 469.00, 587.00 Bounded By: North: House Of Koli Malanna, South: Others House & Road, East: House Of Sri Kappu Bakanna, West: Open Plot & House Sri Na Pandu Open Plot & House.	Rs.4,61,831/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty One Only)	16-Nov-2023	06-Feb-2024

For further details please contact to Authorized Officer at Branch Office: D.No.5-9-22/B/501, 5th Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad-500004 or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana. Place: Medak, Date:10-02-2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

KA Paul visits Assembly heaps praises on CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : Praja Shanti Party founder KA Paul went to the Telangana Assembly today. Paul's visit to the assembly assumes significance on the day when the Telangana government presented its annual budget in the assembly.

VISTA PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED

APIIC, Industrial Estate Gopalapalli V, Narketpalli Mandal, Plot No.10 to 14 & 16 to 20, Nalgonda, Telangana-508254

Extract of the un-audited results for the quarter and nine months ended 31.12.2023

S. No.	Particulars	Rs. In Lakhs					
		Quarter ended 31.12.2023 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2023 (Un-audited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2022 (Un-audited)	9 Months ended 31.12.2023 (Un-audited)	9 Months ended 31.12.2022 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	172.86	354.94	789.59	739.11	140.31	
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from ordinary activities before tax	-220.12	-158.88	-88.54	-507.90	-203.82	-587.63
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax (after extraordinary items)	-162.89	-201.93	-95.76	-460.27	-178.78	-566.20
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the Period for the year net of tax	-162.75	-201.62	-98.43	-459.70	-197.25	-566.45
5	Equity Share Capital	937.96	883.83	735.88	937.96	735.88	751.13
6	Earnings Per share of Rs. 10 each (For continued and discontinued operations)						
	Basic:	-0.33	-0.46	-0.27	-1.05	-0.54	-1.54
	Diluted:	-0.26	-0.34	-0.15	-0.75	-0.31	-0.90

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of un-audited financial results filed with the BSE Limited under regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The detailed financial results and this extract was reviewed by the audit committee and approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the company at the meeting held on 10.02.2024. The full format of the statement of un-audited financial results are available on the Company's website (www.vistapharmaceuticals.com) and on the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).
2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.
3 The figures of the previous period/year have been regrouped wherever considered necessary.
for Vista Pharmaceuticals Limited Sd/- Dhananjaya Ali Executive Director DIN:00610909

Place: Hyderabad Date: 10.02.2024

RESPONSE INFORMATICS LIMITED

Regd Office: 3rd Floor, 1-89/3/4, Raghuma Towers, Hi-tech City Road, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana, India-500081

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND 9 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2023 (Amt Rs in lakhs)

Sl No	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended		Year to Date		Quarter Ended		Year to Date	
		31-12-23	31-12-22	31-12-23	31-03-23	31-12-23	31-12-23	31-03-23	
1	Total Income from Operations	261.82	250.99	789.59	946.43	870.92	0.00	2830.71	1128.50
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax and Exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	18.79	63.45	44.68	71.16	57.60	0.00	415.40	74.89
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	18.79	63.45	44.68	71.16	57.60	0.00	415.40	74.89
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	18.75	53.49	46.08	58.06	45.91	0.00	305.58	61.79
5	"Total Comprehensive Income for the period(Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period(after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)"	18.75	53.49	46.08	58.06	45.91	0.00	305.58	61.79
6	"Paid up equity share capital (Face value Rs.10 per share)"	747.64	747.64	747.64	747.64	747.64	0.00	747.64	747.64
7	"Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year"	0	0	0	-208.47	0	0	0	-204.74
8	"Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -"								
	a) Basic	0.25	0.72	0.62	0.78	0.61	0	4.09	0.83
	b) Diluted	0.25	0.73	0.62	0.78	0.61	0	4.09	0.83

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited results for the Third quarter and 9 months ended 31st December 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the un-audited results are available on the stock exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.responseinformatics.com).
2 This statement has been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian accounting standard) rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable. The said financial results of the company and its Subsidiary have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS 110 'Consolidated Financial Statements'.
3 The above Standalone and Consolidated results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and taken on record by the Board of Directors of the company at its meeting held on Friday the 09th February 2024.
4 The consolidated financial results includes the financial results of the following subsidiaries: 1) Technologica Corporation, USA
5 The company has only one reportable segment as per the requirements of Ind AS 108 'Operating Segments'.
6 The figures for the previous period/year have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary.
7 The company has acquired the subsidiary during March 2023 quarter and hence, the figures for quarter and 9 months ended 31st December 2022 are not given.
For RESPONSE INFORMATICS LIMITED Sd/- Subramanyam Seetha Raman Managing Director, DIN:06364310

Place: Hyderabad Date: 11.02.2024.

People should be alert to cyber criminals : SP Akhil Mahajan

Call toll free numbers 1930, dial 100 immediately in case of cyber crime

Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 10 (TIM Bureau) : People should be vigilant about cyber crimes, no one should tell others the OTP number without your involvement, don't tell other bank details, don't search for customer care numbers online, people should immediately call toll free number 1930 if they are victims of cyber crime. SP suggested. Nowadays cyber crimes are happening more and more. People should be careful about these. "Business and Investment Fraud" "An unknown cyber criminal puts some link on social media and opens it by adding him to the Telegram group and deceiving him with the hope that he will get a large amount of profit if he invests in it." "Loan Fraud" "An unknown cyber criminal placed some link on social media and opened it, trusting the victim and taking the OTP mail address bank details in their possession and withdrawing Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000 up to Rs.10,000 as a loan and even after paying the entire amount, they threaten to return the money or file a case and threaten to change the photos and put them on social media. People should be careful. Fake Customer Care Service Fraud



Some victims while searching about online numbers on Google call any number in it and ask if it is customer care center, they say yes to the victim and depending on the problem, he sends a link to the mobile, the victim opens the link, fills in OTP etc.

CM REVANTH FLAGS OFF 100 NEW RTC BUSES

Continued From pg 01
Meanwhile, the Corporation, for the first time, is operating 10 AC Rajdhani buses for Srisailem temple. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister lauded the role of RTC workers in the achievement of Telangana State and said that no one would forget the sacrifices of the RTC workers. Revanth Reddy recalled that the RTC workers had boycotted their duties and stalled the bus transportation during the Sakala Janula Samme agitation, hoping that their long pending problems would be solved, once Telangana was attained statehood. However, the previous BRS government had dissolved the trade unions and failed to solve problems of the victim families. It also neglected the bereaved families of 36 workers who died during the strike, he pointed out. Stating that RTC workers are credited with implementation of the first of the six guarantees, the Chief Minister said the State government has released Rs 281 crore to RTC despite the income being reduced. "The free bus service for women has helped to strengthen the RTC. With the blessing of all RTC workers, the people's government is formed in Telangana.

Future generations will draw constitutional strength from Ram temple resolution : PM Modi in LS

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Addressing the last sitting of the 17th Lok Sabha on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the resolution passed by the House on the Ram Temple.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public in general is hereby informed that my client V. Palani, S/o. Vadyaru Kanneppareddy @ V. Payani, S/o. V. Kanneppareddy going to Mortgage the below mentioned schedule property with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd., Tirupati as a Lawful title holder/ Owner. If anybody is having any objections, Claim, interest, Dispute for the above intended Mortgage transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/ claims/ details of disputes/ within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my clients will proceed to complete the Mortgage transaction as Lawful owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections/ disputes in respect of the schedule property and there after no third party objections/ disputes will be entertained. SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY Chittoor Dist. Sri Balaji Reg. Dist. Puttur Sub. Dist. Narayanavanam Mandal No.31, Thoruru Group Kondala Cheruvu Village, Gramakantam Sy.No.201-1 admeasuring an extent of 134.13 sq yds of site Bounded on: East: Vacant site of Muthu Raman, South: Vacant site of Yellappa Reddy, West: Vacant site of Bhupathi, North: 5 ft width Passage and site of executant No.1 (Kannappa Reddy). Measurements: East to West on Northern side: 27.5 ft or 8.382 Mtrs, East to West on Southern Side: 24 ft or 7.315 Mtrs, North to South on Eastern side: 43 ft or 13.106 mtrs, North to South on Western side: 43 ft or 13.106 mtrs. Admeasuring 123.02 sq yds of site On Eastern side Passage Measurements East to West: 5 ft or 1.524 Mtrs, North to South: 20 ft or 6.096 Mtrs. Admeasuring 11.11 sq.yds of site. Sd/- R. Rajesh, B.A.L.L.B. (Advocate), #12-6-12, Prasanthi Nagar, Tiruchanur-517502, Andhra Pradesh. Cell No.9640720904



Bihar minister claims Oppn parties sending contractors to JD-U MLAs with lucrative offers

Patna, Feb 10 (IANS) : Ahead of the floor test of the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, Minister of Rural Development under the JD-U quota, Shrawon Kumar, claimed that the opposition parties are sending contractors to the houses of his party MLAs with lucrative offers. "They are sending contractors to the houses of JD-U MLAs with lucrative offers including money and posts. We are getting feedback from our legislators. Such efforts of opposition parties would not be worthwhile for them. Our MLAs are intact and they are with the party," Kumar said. The statement of Shrawon Kumar assumes importance keeping in view that RJD leaders are saying that 'Khela' will take place on February 12. Its one example came on Saturday when Speaker Awadh Bihari Choudhary refused to resign despite the no confidence motion being against him. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and MLA from Maner Bhai Virendra

said: "The JD-U and Nitish Kumar are living in fear and hence he went Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If he was not frightened, he would not go to Delhi. On meeting the PM, Nitish Kumar told him to include his party in the NDA and he will not go anywhere. He made the same statement before Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav in 2022 before the formation of the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar. So, his statement has no value." When asked why Nitish Kumar is frightened, Bhai Virendra said: "Bureaucracy is dominating in Bihar and they are not hearing the grievances of MLAs and MLCs. The legislators are the representatives of the common people but as they have no value in this government, they are in contact with us. The 'Khela' will take place in Bihar on February 12. Let's wait and watch."



Thousands converge to share grievances with CM Siddaramaiah in 'Jana Spandana' event

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (IANS) : Thousands of people from across the state flocked to Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru to attend the 'Jana Spandana' programme and submit their grievances to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday. This marks the second mega public outreach programme led by CM Siddaramaiah. An official statement from the CM's office mentioned, "People began pouring in from faraway

places since the previous night. As the crowd started gathering early in the morning, the application registration process commenced ahead of the scheduled time at 8:30 a.m." Recognizing the higher-than-expected influx of people at the Revenue Department Counter, organisers opened an additional counter for Revenue Department applicants and made seating arrangements.

SC grants anticipatory bail to women who pelted stones on JCB in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to two women who allegedly pelted stones on the JCB machines and obstructed the government officials from discharging their duties during a demolition drive to remove the encroachment in

Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu. "We are persuaded to exercise our discretion in favour of the two appellants, keeping in mind that both the appellants are women and hail from an underprivileged class of society," said a bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Sandeep Mehta.



ED again searches jailed TN minister Senthil Balaji's residence

Chennai, Feb 10 (IANS) : Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials conducted a raid at the residence of Tamil Nadu Minister without Portfolio, Senthil Balaji on Saturday. The raid is presently being conducted at Senthil Balaji's family residence in Karur where his father and mother stay. This is the second raid at the family residence of Balaji after the first raid on June 13, 2023, a day before the minister was arrested on June 14 Balaji is presently lodged in

Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai, after being arrested in a money laundering case at Rameswarapatti near Karur on June 14, 2023. A team of five ED officials has reportedly questioned about the whereabouts of Senthil Balaji's brother Ashok Kumar who has been absconding for more than seven months. The ED officials, according to the local police, have not allowed any outsider to enter the residence. The local police is also not in the know of things, and ED officials did not seek protection from the district police authorities.



Two arrested for extortion calls to doctor in Patna

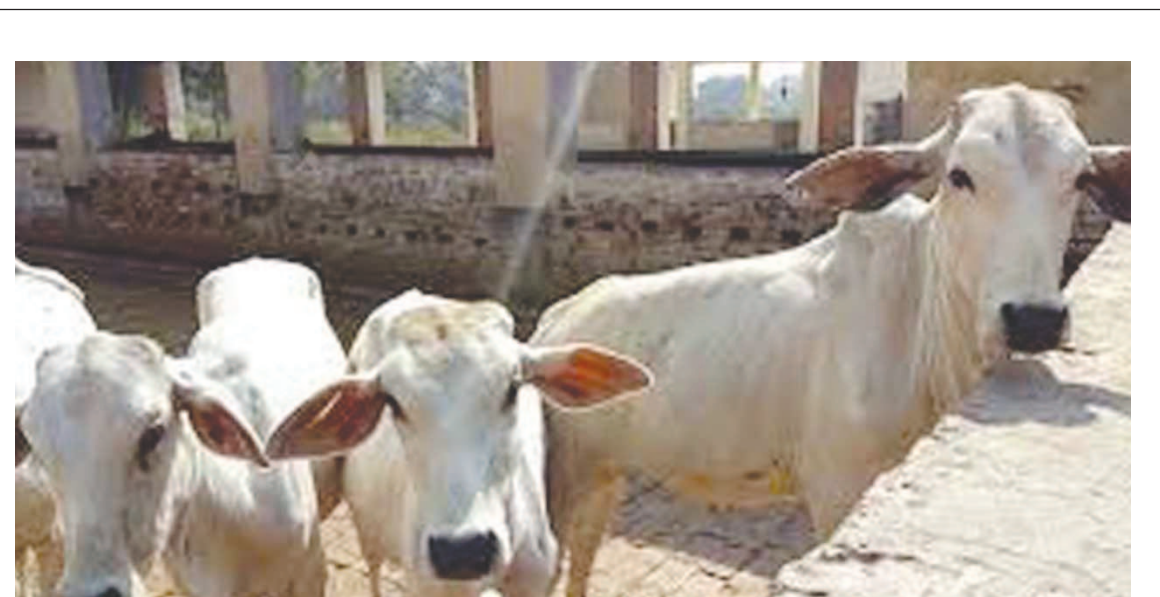
Patna, Feb 10 (IANS) : Patna Police arrested two men on Saturday for threatening a city-based prominent orthopedic surgeon and trying to extort money from him. Bharat Soni, the City SP (East) of Patna confirmed the case. He said that the accused had called Dr Anand Singh, who runs a hospital in Kankarbagh locality. Following that extortion call, the victim reached the Kankarbagh police station and registered an FIR against the accused. "We have immediately initiated the investigation on technical as well as manual forms, including scanning the CCTV footage and putting the mobile number on surveillance. We man-

aged to trace the accused. They are identified as Roshan Singh and Abhishek Kumar. We have booked them under the relevant sections of IPC against them," Soni said. During investigation, it appeared that both the accused went to the hospital on a bike to monitor the activities of the victim on Wednesday evening. "We have seized an air gun which is generally used to hunt birds, a bullet bike and two mobile phones from their possessions," Soni said. The accused also confessed that they were involved in extortion at local level. The police registered two FIRs each against them in different police stations.

Global Sikh Council denounces proposed amendments to Takhat Sri Hazur Act

Chandigarh, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Global Sikh Council (GSC), a confederation of national-level Sikh organisations, on Saturday attacked the proposed amendments to the Takhat Sri Hazur Abchal Nagar Sahib Board Nanded Act, 1956, by the Maharashtra government. Calling upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene, it warned that such unilateral decisions of the government, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, constitutes a gross violation of Sikh gurdwara affairs and would not be tolerated by the Sikhs. In a statement, GCC President Kanwaljit Kaur highlighted the "consistent disregard" shown by the ruling dispensation in

Maharashtra towards Sikh sentiments. "The amendments to this Act have been made simply to seize control over the management of the fifth temporal seat of the Sikhs," she said. "Previously, the BJP had undermined the democratic election process to appoint the president of the Nanded Sahib board and amended Section 11 of the legislation to install board Presidents of its own choosing. Now, the current BJP rulers seek to restrict the number of nominated members from Sikh organisations on the board and increase the number of government-nominated members, a blatant power grab over Sikh places of worship," she said.



Varanasi to have country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri cows

Lucknow, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh government will set up the country's first conservation centre for Gangatiri, a breed of cows in Varanasi. This breed of cows originates along the Ganga banks. The state govt will establish a centre for genetic improvement and propagation of the breed in Varanasi with the help of the Central

government. The foundation stone might be laid this month and it would be ready in a year, officials said. Over the years, Gangatiri has been significantly overshadowed by high-yielding cow breeds like Sahiwal. But the technology used at the centre will help produce cows of high genetic merit using the IVF and embryo transfer technology (ETT), in which embryos from genetically superior cows

would be disseminated to other females to increase the number of genetically superior progenies. "It will be a game changer in enhancing production of genetically superior Gangatiri cows," said Rajneesh Dube, additional chief secretary (ACS) and chairman, UP livestock development board (UPLDB).

Drugs worth Rs 18.3L seized in Goa



Panaji, Feb 10 (IANS) : Goa Police on Saturday seized drugs -- charas, ganja and ecstasy -- valued at Rs 18.3 lakh, an official said here. Police said that the Anti-Narcotic Cell conducted a raid and found one person in alleged possession of drugs at Vagator in North Goa. The accused person was identified as Vishwas Agarwadekar from Bardez-North Goa. "Accused person was found being in illegal possession of black colour sticky substance suspected to be charas weighing 1.2 Kg, greenish colour leafy substance suspected to be ganja weighing 2.3 Kg and whitish coloured powder substance suspected to be ecstasy all valued at Rs 18,30,000," police said.

OPINIONmail

INDIA HAS ENOUGH REASONS
TO GET WORRIED AT DOCKING
OF CHINESE VESSEL IN MALE

The anticipated docking of a Chinese scientific vessel in the Maldives this week has heightened tensions among Beijing, Delhi, and Malé. The ship Xiang Yang Hong 3 is officially visiting the Maldives to change its crew and stock up on supplies, which is a completely harmless visit says Beijing. In Delhi, however, the ship's visit is viewed differently. At the very least, it's considered disrespect to India. At its worst, there's concern that the ship might be gathering information that could later help the Chinese military with submarine activities. However, experts on China have dismissed these worries. "The Chinese vessels conduct scientific research in the Indian Ocean. Their operations in international waters are completely lawful," Zhou Bo, a retired Senior Colonel from the People's Liberation Army, informed the BBC. "Occasionally, these ships require restocking of essentials such as fuel, food, and water. Thus, docking at a port in another country is a standard procedure. Therefore, the Indian government should not create unnecessary trouble over it. The Indian Ocean does not belong to India," stated Mr. Zhou, currently affiliated with Tsinghua University in Beijing.

However, this isn't the first instance of China, which vies with Delhi for sway in the Indian Ocean amidst a prolonged disagreement over their border in the Himalayas, dispatching one of its vessels near Indian territorial waters. In 2014, two Chinese naval submarines stopped at Colombo, and over the last two years, two Chinese research ships have made visits to Sri Lanka, near the southernmost point of India, actions that have significantly irked India. These visits occurred while China, having lent billions of dollars to Colombo, made major advances in its relationship with Sri Lanka. The research vessel, Xiang Yang Hong 3, had initially intended to stop in Colombo for supplies before heading to the Maldives. However, that plan has been put on hold for the moment, as stated by Tharaka Balasuriya, the junior foreign minister of Sri Lanka. "Over this year, we aim to enhance our technology and skills to equally participate in these research endeavours," he informed the BBC.

Nonetheless, Colombo's move to halt the visits of research ships is viewed as a reaction to India's firm opposition to the presence of Chinese vessels. India's objections, however, haven't significantly influenced the situation in the Maldives. The nation, made up of about 1,200 coral islands and atolls in the heart of the Indian Ocean, has historically been within India's sphere of influence. Yet, Mohamed Muizzu, who assumed the presidency in November and is viewed as pro-China, aims to shift this balance.

His campaign was built on the 'India Out' slogan, demanding that Delhi remove approximately 80 Indian military members stationed on the island. India maintains that these forces are in the country to service and manage three reconnaissance and rescue planes that Delhi donated several years back.

The government of the Maldives has given Delhi a deadline to pull out its soldiers by March 15, just two days prior to the nation's parliamentary elections. After discussions in Delhi the previous week, the foreign ministry of the Maldives announced that India had consented to "substitute the military staff," with the initial group set to depart by March 10 and the remaining by the second week of May.

In December, the administration under Mr. Muizzu also declared its decision not to extend a hydrographic survey contract with India, which the prior government had agreed to for charting the seabed within Maldivian territorial waters.

In fact, relations have soured to such an extent that no senior leaders from the Maldivian government were present at a recent celebration hosted by the Indian High Commission in Malé for India's 75th Republic Day. In a twist to regional geopolitics, China warmly welcomed Mr. Muizzu during his five-day official visit to Beijing last month. Following his visit, several high-ranking Chinese officials have made trips to the Maldives. Mr. Muizzu has also unveiled a number of infrastructure projects in the Maldives funded by China. The abrupt change in Malé's stance towards China has sparked worries in Delhi, which considers the island nation to be of strategic importance. Given its rapidly growing naval capabilities, China would likely seek access to such a strategically vital location, a development India aims to prevent.

"The Maldives is definitely important; it's like India's southern ocean side," explained Shyam Saran, who previously served as India's foreign secretary, in a conversation with the media house. "Just like we were really worried about what was going on in Sri Lanka, we'll be really worried about what might happen in the Maldives," said Mr. Saran.

By Girish Linganna

EDITORIAL
the indian mailFEAR OF MODI'S ED MAKES MAMATA
OPPOSE RAHUL, DERIDE INDIA IN PUBLIC

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seems to be in a pickle. As per political grapevine, nearly 14 more ministers, legislators and senior leaders of her Trinamool Congress are in the waiting list of Narendra Modi-led pre-poll vendetta, to be arrested by the ED over the next two months, well before the Lok Sabha elections.

After the former Jharkhand CM Hemant Sorens' arrest, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee herself had expressed apprehension that more opposition leaders might have to go to jail ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and that in case she too was sent to jail, she would somehow come out of it. She had even said: "All would be put behind bars by way of in-

timidation. Bear in mind that to win the election, all are being sent to jail."

At present, at least five senior leaders and ministers in TMC, including Partha Chatterjee, Jyoti Priya Mallick, Kuntal Ghosh, Manik Bhattacharya and the heavyweight Anubrata Mondal, have been lodged in jail for months. They were arrested in connection with the School Service Commission recruitment scam, ration distribution scam and alleged involvement in cattle smuggling.

The name of Mamata's nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, the de facto number two in the organisation, tops the list of the 14 leaders who are likely to be arrested. ED has already raided the residences and offices of most of these leaders. They are implicated in various cases involving cattle smuggling,



coal smuggling, etc. The name of MP and film star Nusrat Jahan also features in the rumours. ED, at the insistence of Modi and Amit Shah, is determined to paralyse TMC, robbing it of its top leaders and faces, just ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Sources maintain that this time the ED will descend on the scene with a huge armed posse and will not deter in using brute force in case any attempt is made to resist their actions.

Of course, Mamata Banerjee has expressed her anger against the political system: "Are we all

thieves and they are all saints? They are the biggest of the thieves. Today they are in power and that is why they are roaming around with agencies. Tomorrow they will not be in power and everything will fall flat." However, critics, academics and intellectuals blame the Bengal CM for the current situation.

They look at her jibe at the Congress and especially Rahul Gandhi as her tactics to keep Modi happy.

(IPA Service)

BJP'S COMMUNALISATION OF POLITICS
OF UTTAR PRADESH AFTER RAM MANDIR MAKES
INDIA BLOC TASK DIFFICULT

From Mughalsarai in the East to Ghaziabad in the West, Uttar Pradesh presents an unprecedented political puzzle. Hindu communal posturing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath since January 22 opening of Ram Temple at Ayodhya has caused a sudden rise of politico-communal sentiments among the people on both sides – the NDA and the INDIA bloc. People intoxicated with the majoritarian sentiments, are offering tough political challenge to the opposition who need to politically campaign against BJP on the eve of Lok Sabha general election 2024. Kashi Vishwanath – Gyanvapi Mosque controversy of Varanasi and Krishna Janmabhoomi – Shahi Idgah issue of Mathura are adding much fuel to the communal fire, resulting in the politics of the state communally surcharged. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hopes to win all the 80 Lok Sabha seats of the state riding on Hindu communal wave in its favour, which the opposition believes is impossible chiefly on account of large number of religiously secular Hindus, not yet ready to fall prey to the Hindutva forces bent upon hijacking the entire 'Sanatan Dharm' to form a "political Hindu religion".

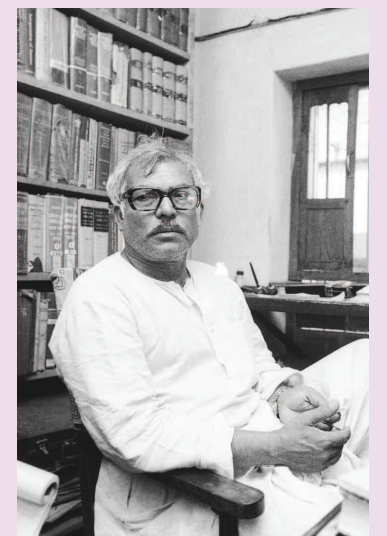
GERMANY, CROATIA AND
ISRAEL ARE OFFERING
JOBS TO YOUTH FROM
SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

Suddenly it's raining thousands of jobs for unemployed youths and not just in Russia/ Ukraine war zones or in Israel/West Asia: Germany and Croatia are also on a major hiring spree. The good news for South Asia is that these countries are looking to recruit substantially from India and Nepal. Many new jobs in the Balkans/ Europe will not necessarily be of the cannon-fodder variety, linked with the ebb and flow of ongoing military conflicts in turbulent regions.

BHARAT RATNA
KARPOORI THAKUR
WORKED FOR SOCIAL
JUSTICE TILL HIS END

Last week was the birth centenary of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur whose relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact on the lives of crores of people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Bharat Ratna award to him coinciding with his birth centenary. Modi said he never had the opportunity to meet Karpoori but he heard a lot about him from Kailash Pati Mishra who worked closely with him. He belonged to one of the most backward sections of the society, Nai Samaj. Overcoming numerous obstacles, he achieved a lot and worked for social betterment.

Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur's life revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice. Till his last breath, his simple lifestyle and humble nature resonated deeply with the common people. There are numerous anecdotes that highlight his simplicity. Those who worked him recall how he preferred to spend his own money for any personal preferred matter, including his daughter's wedding. During his tenure as chief minister of Bihar, a decision was taken to build a colony for political leaders but he himself did not take any land or money for the same. When he passed away in 1988, several leaders went to his village to pay tributes. When they saw the condition of his house, they were moved to tears— how can someone so towering have a house so simple! Another anecdote



of his simplicity dates back to 1977 when he just took over as a chief minister of Bihar. The Janata government was in power in Delhi and Patna. That time Janata leaders, gathered in Patna to mark Loknayak Jayaprakash's Narayan birthday. Among the galaxy of top leaders walked in chief minister Karpuri Thakur, with a torn kurta. In his own style Chandra Shekhar asked people to donate some money so that Karpoori purchases a new Kurta. But Karpoori was Karpoori—he accepted the money but he donated it to CM Relief Fund. Social justice was most dear to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur. His political journey was marked by monumental efforts to create a society where resources were distributed fairly, where everyone, regardless of their social standing, had access to opportunities.

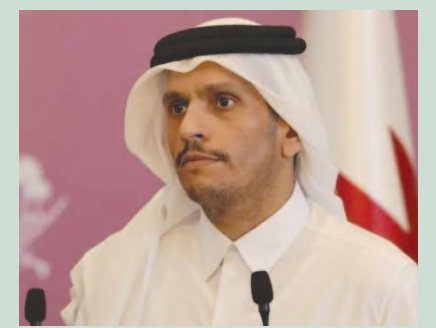
(IPA Service)

QATAR'S MEDIATION IN GAZA WAR THREATENS
TO BOOMERANG ON A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION

Qatari mediation in the Gaza war threatens to become a double-edged sword. Demonstrators gathered this week at Qatari diplomatic missions in Washington, New York, and Ottawa to express frustration with the Gulf state's failure to achieve an Israeli-Hamas agreement on a second round of prisoner exchanges.

Ron Halber, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, told the Washington gathering that the demonstrations were meant "to

thank the Qataris and at the same time to press them to push Hamas. Those two things are not in conflict: You've done a good job, you really need to do more of a good job." Earlier, Israeli protesters rallied at Qatar's Washington embassy, striking a far more strident tone. Their message was "Qatar is Hamas." The Israeli nationals held the Gulf state responsible for Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel in which more than 1,100 people, mostly civilians, were killed and some 240 were taken hostage. In



November, Qatar negotiated a week-long truce during which Hamas exchanged more than 100 hostages, kidnapped during the October 7 attack. Hamas still holds 136 hostages and bodies of captives killed in the fighting in Gaza. Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Abdulrahman al-Thani, together with the intelligence chiefs of the United States, Israel, and Egypt have drafted a plan based on proposals by Hamas and Israel.

(IPA Service)



Abbas meets Blinken on Palestinian statehood, Gaza conflict

Ramallah, Feb 10 (IANS) : Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the West Bank, discussing issues, including Palestinian statehood and the developments in the Gaza Strip. Abbas said on Saturday that peace and security could be achieved through the implementation of the two-state solution based on international legitimacy resolutions, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. During the meeting, Abbas affirmed the importance of accelerating the delivery of relief supplies, including medicine and food, and the provision of water, electricity, and fuel to Gaza. He meanwhile reiterated his rejection of the forced displacement of the Palestinian people, Xinhua news agency reported. The Palestinian President also warned of the consequences of any potential military operation by Israeli forces in Rafah city in the south of the strip to force Gaza residents to flee, stressing Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian state and that the "Israeli plans" to separate the enclave from Palestinian territory would not be accepted.

Iran not to leave negotiation table, insistent on 'nuclear rights': President Raisi

Tehran, Feb 10 (IANS) : Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has stressed that his country would never leave the negotiation table and is insistent on its right to develop nuclear technology for "peaceful" purposes. Raisi made the remarks at a ceremony attended by foreign ambassadors in the Iranian capital of Tehran to mark the 45th anniversary of the victory of the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution, which falls on February 11, according to a statement published on Saturday on the website of his office. He noted that Iran had always been ready for the verification of the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, adding that Iranian people have an "inalienable" right to use peaceful nuclear energy in areas, including medicine, industry and agriculture. The Iranian President said the International Atomic Energy Agency had 15 times in its reports confirmed that there had been "no deviation" in Iran's nuclear activities, Xinhua news agency reported. He added the West, by imposing sanctions, failed



to prevent Tehran from working toward its objectives, and the US "maximum pressure" on the country had ended in "abject failure". Iran signed a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the removal of sanctions on the country. The US, however, pulled out of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments under the deal. The talks on the revival of the JCPOA began in April 2021 in Vienna, Austria. Despite several rounds of talks, no significant breakthrough has been achieved since the end of the last round in August 2022.



US strike in Iraq kills commander of militia group behind deadly attack on American forces

Washington, Feb 10 (IANS) : The US military has launched a strike in Iraq and killed a commander of Kataib Hezbollah, a militia group the Joe Biden administration said was linked to the deadly attack on US forces in Jordan in late January. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Saturday in a post on its X account that its forces conducted a unilateral strike at 9:30 p.m. Baghdad Time, killing a Kataib Hezbollah commander "responsible for directly planning and participating in attacks on US forces in the region". CENTCOM added that the strike caused no collateral damage or civilian casualties.

90 suspects detained over links to Istanbul courthouse attack

Istanbul, Feb 10 (IANS) : Turkish police have detained at least 90 suspects over links to the Istanbul courthouse attack, local media reported. The comprehensive operations came after two attackers were captured dead in the gun attack on Istanbul's largest courthouse on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the NTV broadcaster, police units have raided 67 addresses across the city

since Saturday, and the number of suspects detained rose to 90. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said that the assailants were members of the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C). Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) Chairman, Ozgur Ozel, for backing the DHKP-C, calling him the "biggest patron of the terrorists who carried out this attack".



Indian-origin Harmeet Dhillon rules out replacing McDaniel as RNC Chair

Washington, Feb 10 (IANS) : Prominent Indian-American Sikh attorney Harmeet K. Dhillon has denied that she is seeking to replace Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

McDaniel, who has served as the RNC Chairwoman since 2017, has told former President Donald Trump that she will step down from her post later this month, just after the South Carolina primary. "Each version of RNC Game of Thrones I hear is worse than the last one," Dhillon, the former Vice Chairwoman of the California Republican Party, wrote in a post on X on Saturday. "To be clear, I'm not seeking the

chair position. We had an election, I lost, shook the victor's hand, and offered my support. But there are plenty of folks gunning for it. Happy where I am. I love the law!" she said.

Dhillon, 55, contested for the position last year and lost to McDaniel who comfortably won with 111 votes against the former's 51. She was endorsed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for the position and had claimed to have faced racist attacks from fellow Republicans because of her Sikh faith. "(It is) hurtful to learn that a handful of RNC members, in a close race for RNC chair, have chosen to question my fitness to run the RNC by using my devout Sikh faith as a weapon against me," Dhillon, who hails from Chandigarh, told Politico early last year.

Sri Lanka to enhance FTA with India to recover economy

Colombo, Feb 10 (IANS) : Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday announced that steps have been taken to enhance free trade agreement (FTA) with India. He also announced that plans are underway to pursue FTAs with China, Indonesia and Bangladesh in the future. Presenting the policy statement of the government during the Parliament session, President Wickremesinghe detailed his plans to forge FTAs with number of countries and establishing a new network of economic relationships that can help the debt-stricken island's products' entry into foreign markets. "We will join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). We will connect with the common system of trade variations in the European Union," President Wickremesinghe said. He said that with India's support, Sri Lanka plans to transform the country's Eastern port district

Trincomalee to a multi-faceted regional hub which will in turn shift the 46 per cent of the country's economy centered in the Western Province to other parts of the country. Wickremesinghe's announcement on FTAs with the regional countries follows Saturday's major trade pact signed with Thailand Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin who was in Colombo as the chief guest on country's 76th Independence Day celebration. The FTA covering trade in goods, investment and custom procedures is expected to boost two-way trade from \$352 million in 2022 up to \$1.5 billion between Sri Lanka and Thailand. President Wickremesinghe said in September, 2023, Sri Lanka's total debt burden was \$91 billion but the economy was recovering with inflation reducing to 6.4 per cent from 50.6 per cent compared to last year.



India partners with Russia as it sees US as weak, doesn't trust it to lead : Haley

Washington, Feb 10 (IANS) : Asserting that India has always played it smart, Indian-American Republican Presidential hopeful Nikki Haley said that the country partners with Russia as it doesn't trust the US to win and lead.

In an interview with Charles Payne of Fox Business News, the 51-year-old former UN ambassador said that she has "dealt" with India and spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India wants to be a partner with us. They don't want to be a partner with Russia. The problem is India doesn't trust us to win. They don't trust us to lead. They see right now that we're weak," Haley said, responding to a volley of questions on the US "letting" India buy cheap oil from Russia.

Despite efforts by Ukraine and its allies to persuade countries around the world to distance themselves from Russia, India's oil purchases from the Central Asian nation rose sharply. While Western nations cut Russian oil imports at the start of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Finland extends land border closure with Russia until mid-April



Helsinki, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Finnish government has decided to keep the land border with Russia closed until mid-April, citing security concerns. All crossing points on the Finnish eastern border have been closed to passenger traffic since mid-December, Xinhua news agency reported. The country closed the first border crossings in mid-November in response to illegal immigrants.





Will bring no-confidence motion against Khattar govt : Hooda

Chandigarh, Feb 10 (IANS) : Haryana's Leader of Opposition Bhopinder Hooda on Saturday announced that a no-confidence motion will be brought against the Manohar Lal Khattar-led state government in the upcoming Budget session over "scams and its failure in almost every sphere". The veteran Congress leader said the party would raise the issues of scams, including in cooperatives, and mining. "We will also seek answers from the government on common man issues like increasing unemployment, irregularities in the Skill Employment Corpo-

ration, sending the youth to warzone Israel and giving priority to outsiders in Haryana's recruitment. "Apart from this, the Congress would also raise issues like increasing drug abuse, stoppage of scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Backward Class children, falling level of education, condition of farmers, damage caused by inclement weather and compensation for damage caused by floods," he said. Adjournment and calling attention motions would be given in the House, Hooda told the media after a meeting with legislators.

Odisha EOW nabs cyber fraudster from Himachal Pradesh

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested a cyber fraudster from Himachal Pradesh for his involvement in a pan-India courier fraud scam. The accused along with other members of the racket used to impersonate authorities of various law enforcement agencies such as the police, Crime Branch, NCB, CBI etc. and trap the victims by saying that they have sent or received illegal articles like narcotics through courier. Later, the racket extracted huge amounts by threatening the victims of stringent legal action. The arrested person has been identified as Rajat Kumar, a native of Yamuna Nagar district in Haryana. The EOW team arrested the accused from Sirmur district in Himachal Pradesh. Kumar was arrested in connection

with a case registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by a Bhubaneswar-based female journalist, Ratna Tripathy, on June 24, 2023. "On June 19, 2023, Tripathy received a phone call (VoIP call) from a person who introduced himself as an employee of the courier agency FedEx, Hyderabad, and told her that a parcel containing six passports, one laptop, five ATM cards, and 150 gm narcotics had been sent to her which has been intercepted by the NCB Mumbai officials," said EOW sources. When she denied ordering any parcel, the caller asked her to come to the NCB Cell in Mumbai physically to prove her point or she could connect with a persons named Mr Gill, the purported head of NCB Mumbai, over Skype. The caller also threatened Tripathy by saying that if she ignored the directives, she could be prosecuted under various charges like NDPS Act and money laundering. A scared Tripathy soon connected to the Skype site

of Mumbai NCB and a person identifying himself as Gill told her that a case of money laundering, narcotics smuggling and violation of crypto norms has been filed against her due to the 'illegal' transactions through her bank accounts. They also falsely accused her of having links with a gangster, Islam Malik. Later, another member of the racket, impersonating Balsing Rajput (IPS), DCP, Cyber Crime, showed her false document issued by the CBI and a letter with the seal of RBI that mentioned her involvement in money laundering. He asked Tripathy to send around Rs 1.5 lakh to an account for verification if she wished to get out of the case. She was assured that the money would be returned to her account if she was found innocent. Accordingly, Tripathy sent the money to the accused persons who soon went offline without returning the amount. The EOW later found that the money sent from the accounts of Tripathy and her son-in-law had landed in the



account of Jagadamba Enterprises in Punjab and the accused, Rajat Kumar, is the authorised signatory in the agency. "It was also found that the scammers, in just 2-3 days, had extorted Rs 5.58 crore (from many victims across the country). The money was further transferred to different mule accounts and ultimately a major chunk of this amount was withdrawn from an ATM in Dubai," EOW sources said. The EOW also claimed to have got vital clues about the real masterminds of this scam and the fraudsters operating from Dubai. The EOW had earlier freed 17 incriminating bank accounts in connection with the case.

Central funds stopped because Bengal is topper in MGNREGA implementation : Mamata

Kolkata, Feb 10 (IANS) : At a time when the West Bengal government is facing criticism over the recent CAG findings on non-submission of utilisation certificates under various Centrally-sponsored schemes, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Saturday that the state is paying the price for being the topper in the implementation of the 100-day job scheme under MGNREGA. "West Bengal is not just the topper in MGNREGA implementation. We are also the topper in areas like MSME sector, skill development, creation of rural road network and rural housing. So, the Central funds for West Ben-

gal under such schemes have been deliberately stopped. "As a result, the beneficiaries under the scheme have been denied their legitimate dues," the Chief Minister said while addressing an administrative review meeting in Howrah district. Reiterating that the state government will pay the dues under MGNREGA to the 21 lakh beneficiaries on its own, Banerjee said she feels good when she is able to do something for the poor



people. She also hinted at launching major movements in the coming days against the non-payment of Central dues. "Do not forget that revolution is my other name. Even when I die, it will be through revolution. I am not a 'zamindar'. I am just a protector. I am in the government just to protect you," the Chief Minister said. The BJP and the Union government, on their part, have clarified that Central dues are pending because of non-submission of utilisation certificates of the expenditures incurred for the implementation of the schemes. The Centre has also assured that the pending funds will be released soon after the state government submits the utilisation certificates.

Senior AIADMK leader rules out 'patch up' with BJP

Chennai, Feb 10 (IANS) : Senior AIADMK leader D. Jayakumar said on Saturday that the party's doors are shut forever for the BJP. Former state minister Jayakumar was responding to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement made in Delhi that BJP's doors were open for the AIADMK. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Jayakumar said the cadres and leaders of the AIADMK are totally against any patch up with the BJP in Tamil Nadu.



Mercury under free fall as cold intensifies in Kashmir

Srinagar, Feb 10 (IANS) : Due to clear night sky, mercury remained under free fall in Kashmir on Saturday as Srinagar city recorded minus 5.2 as the minimum temperature. The Meteorological (MeT) department has said that weather would remain dry till

February 14. Srinagar recorded minus 5.2, Gulmarg minus 12 and Pahalgam minus 11.9 as the minimum temperature. Jammu city recorded 3.6, Katra 4.4, Batote 0.3, Baderwah minus 2.1 and Banihal minus 1.4 as the minimum temperature.

Maldives remains at high risk of debt distress, warns IMF

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Without significant policy changes, the overall fiscal deficits and public debt are projected to stay elevated in the Maldives, even as the South Asian nation remains at high risk of external and overall debt distress, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a statement. Amid elevated fuel prices coupled with continued strong import demands, the current account deficit in 2024 is projected to remain large, albeit

gradually narrowing over the medium term. The Maldives is highly vulnerable to climate change risks, with potentially severe economic costs due to floods and rising sea level, the IMF said. The Maldives' post-pandemic growth has been strong, but recently normalised. Growth is projected at 5.2 per cent in 2024, as tourist arrivals are expected to rise further. Nevertheless, fiscal and external vulnerabilities have increased, calling for urgent policy adjustment, the IMF said.



Corporates must contribute towards girls' education: Dhankhar

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that corporates should contribute towards girl education and they should liberally handhold educational institutions, particularly those engaged in education for girls.

Assam Rifles seizes large cache of explosives in Mizoram; two held

Aizawl, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Assam Rifles has seized a large cache of explosives and bomb making materials in Mizoram and arrested two persons, including a woman, in connection with the case, officials said on Saturday. An Assam Rifles official said that acting on specific intelligence inputs, the paramilitary force jawans intercepted a Bolero car at the mobile vehicle check-post on Sangau Pankhua road in Lawngtlai district on Friday night.



Two persons, including a woman, were detained from the vehicle from which 150 kg explosives, 1,800 detonators and over 3 km long cordtex were recovered. The apprehended persons and the recovered items have been handed over to the police.

Gujarat unveils plans for 3 new airports to boost connectivity

Ahmedabad, Feb 10 (IANS) : In a bid to promote tourism and upgrade the infrastructure, Gujarat has announced plans for three new airports, including one near the iconic Statue of Unity in Kevadia. This plan was unveiled during the Assembly session in response to queries raised by MLA Shailesh Mehta. Addressing queries regarding the Prime Minister's 2018 announcement on the development of multiple airports, officials confirmed the construction of an airport just 12 km from Kevadia. This move follows the success of the Statue

of Unity, which has attracted over 1 crore tourists since its inauguration. However, the expansion plans extend beyond Kevadia. Airports are also slated for Ferkuwa and Surova in Tilakwada, along with Siddhapur and Vadnagar. Preliminary feasibility studies are underway in these locations, setting the stage for improved connectivity and enhanced tourism prospects. "This initiative is a direct outcome of the overwhelming success of the Statue of Unity. Siddhapur and Vadnagar have also witnessed a notable increase in tourist footfall.





Divi's Lab posts 17% rise in Q3 net profit to Rs 358 crore

Mumbai, Feb 10 (IANS) : Pharma major Divi's Laboratories on Saturday reported a 17 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 358 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 306 crore in the same period of the previous year. The company's total revenue for the third quarter was 8.6 per cent higher at Rs 1,855 crore compared to the same period last year. The pharma firm's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) worked out to Rs 479 crore, which was 19.6 per cent higher than Rs 409 crore reported for the same period of the previous year. The EBITDA margin also rose to 26.4 per cent from 24 per cent year-on-year.



German chemicals firm BASF to withdraw from Xinjiang after Uyghur abuse claims

London, Feb 10 (IANS) : The German chemicals producer BASF has said it will withdraw from its two joint ventures in Xinjiang, after reports about alleged human rights abuses relating to its partner company, which BASF's CEO said crossed a red line, media reported. In a statement, BASF said that while "regular due diligence measures including internal and external audits have not found any evidence of human rights violations in the two joint ventures," the recent reports "indicate ac-

tivities inconsistent with BASF's values". On Monday, a group of politicians from around the world urged BASF to withdraw from Xinjiang, a region in north-west China where there are widespread reports of state-sponsored human rights abuses, The Guardian reported. The politicians' letter followed reports in German media that people employed by BASF's Chinese partner company, Xinjiang Markor Chemical Industry, also known as Markor Chemical, accompanied Chinese state officials on home visits to Uyghur house-

holds as part of a government initiative that human rights groups have said is used to spy on people and indoctrinate them. The alleged visits are said to have happened in 2018 and 2019, at the height of the Chinese government's campaign to suppress Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. Beijing describes its policies in Xinjiang as counter-terrorism and poverty reduction measures and says it promotes ethnic harmony in the region, The Guardian reported.

IPO-bound Ola Electric gets certification for 2nd e-scooter under govt's PLI scheme

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric has received certification for its S1 Pro (Gen-2) electric scooter under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile and auto component industry. Sources told IANS on Saturday that the IPO-bound company had applied for the PLI certification for S1 Pro in October and received the certification this week. The company's Ola S1 Pro and Ola S1 Air are now eligible for subsidies under the government's auto PLI scheme for five years from the date of certification, sources added. When reached, the company did not immediately comment on the development. Last month, the Ministry of

Heavy Industries issued a notification to announce the extension of the tenure of the PLI scheme for automobile and auto components by one year. Under the amended scheme, the incentive will be applicable for a total of five consecutive financial years, starting from the financial year 2023-24. The amendment also includes changes to the table indicating the incentive outlay, with the total indicative incentive amounting to Rs 25,938 crore. In December, Ola Electric became the first Indian e-scooter (e2W) company to get eligible for the government's PLI scheme for its Ola S1 Air electric scooter. The other applicants for the PLI scheme are Hero MotoCorp, TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto and others.



Microsoft ends week with \$3.125 tn MCap, becomes most valuable company ever

New York, Feb 10 (IANS) : Microsoft ended the week with a market capitalisation of \$3.125 trillion, the highest for any company ever, Barron's reported. The company's market value topped the previous record set by Apple, which reached \$3.09 trillion in July. Apple ended Friday with a market cap of \$2.916 tril-

lion. Microsoft is also the first U.S. company to close with a market cap greater than \$3.1 trillion, Barron's reported. Microsoft stock closed the week at \$420.55. Over the past 12 months, its shares have soared 60 per cent, largely thanks to the enthusiasm about its artificial intelligence software.

The company last month reported quarterly revenue and profit ahead of Wall Street's forecasts, and the management made note of the company's AI gains. "We've moved from talking about AI to applying AI at scale," Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said in a statement at the time.



FPI equity selling in 2024 at Rs 28,818 crores

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Chief Investment Strategist of Geojit Financial Services V K Vijayakumar on Saturday said that the FPI investment trend of selling in equity and buying in debt witnessed in January is also continuing in the month of February. He said that through February 9, FPIs had sold equity for Rs 3,074 crores and bought debt worth Rs 15,093 crores. "This takes the total equity selling in 2024, so far, to Rs 28,818 crores and debt buying to Rs 34,930 crores," he said. He said that the main trigger for this divergent trend in equity and debt is the high valuation in the Indian equity market and the rising bond yields in the U.S. "In the last fortnight of January, FPIs were massive sellers in financials with a sell figure of Rs 31,261 crores. This explains the underperformance of Bank Nifty in general and some leading private sector banks in particular," he said. He said that for long-term investors, there is value in banking stocks now. "FPIs were buyers in IT and telecom, which explains the resilience of the leading players in these segments," he said.

Sovereign Gold Bonds to be issued from Feb 12-16

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Finance Ministry on Saturday said that the Sovereign Gold Bonds 2023-24 (Series IV) will be opened for subscription during February 12-16, with settlement date as February 21. The gold bonds will be issued by the RBI at a price of Rs 6,263 per gram. The government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow a discount of Rs 50 per gram from the issue price of Sovereign Gold Bonds to investors who apply online and the payment is made through

digital mode. For such investors the issue price of Gold Bond will be Rs 6,213 per gram of gold. Payment for the Bonds will be through cash payment (up to a maximum of Rs 20,000/-) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking. The SGBs will be available through various channels, including scheduled commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL), Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges, such as the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Individual investors can start with

a minimum investment of 1 gm and go up to a maximum of 4 kg. The know-your-customer (KYC) norms for SGBs are the same as that for purchasing physical gold. KYC documents such as Voter ID, Aadhaar card/PAN or TAN /Passport will be required. Permanent Account Number (PAN) issued by the income tax department is mandatory. SGBs come with tenure of eight years with an exit option after the fifth year. SGBs are tax free if held till maturity.



Cisco likely to slash thousands of jobs next week : Report

San Francisco, Feb 10 (IANS) : Global networking giant Cisco is reportedly geared up to lay off "thousands" of employees next week, as the company pivots to focus on "high-growth areas". Cisco is expected to report its Q2 2024 earnings on February 14 and the layoff announcement is likely to be made during the earnings, reports Reuters. Cisco did not comment on the potential job cuts. Cisco last year issued layoff notices to nearly 4,000 employees, as the company rolled out efforts to "rebalance" and cut costs. The networking company had a total employee count of 84,900 as of its fiscal 2023, according to reports. In September last year, Cisco laid

off 350 employees in the Silicon Valley in the US in its latest job cut round. The company in November 2022 announced to slash about 5 per cent of its workforce, around 4,000 jobs. The company had said in a statement that these "recent notifications are part of the rebalancing effort we began in November 2022, which included a limited restructuring impacting our real estate portfolio and approximately 5 per cent of our workforce". The layoffs in November were part of a \$600 million restructuring plan. "This rebalancing is about prioritising investments in our transformation, to meet and exceed our customers' expectations in the changing technology landscape," the company had said.



RJD comes up with new poster targeting 'paltimar' Nitish Kumar

Patna, Feb 10 (IANS) : The RJD in Bihar on Saturday came with a poster targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his tendency to switch sides frequently. The poster was put up outside the RJD office on Veerchand Patel Path in Patna. It contains an animated photograph of Nitish Kumar on one side, and that of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on the other. It also features images of three RJD functionaries.

The speech bubble with Nitish Kumar's image says: "Baar Baar Palat Ta Hoon Yaar, Main Hoon Nitish Kumar. Jan Sewa Nahi, Karta Hu Vyapar, Main Hu Nitish Kumar." The speech bubble with Tejashwi's image says: "Main Tejashwi Hoon, Bihar Mera Pariwar Hai, Jan Jan Ki Sewa Ke Liye Hamesha Rahta Hoon Taiyyar... 17 Saal Wale Kuch Nahi Kar Sake, Maine 17

Mahine Mein Naukariyo Ki Lagai Ambar." Commenting on the poster, RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari said: "This is not an official poster of the RJD. The party workers put it up outside the gate of our office. But whatever is mentioned in the poster is absolutely true. Not only RJD workers, but the people of entire Bihar feel that what Nitish Kumar did was wrong."

Monitor activities of terrorist associates, IGP Kashmir directs officers

Srinagar, Feb 10 (IANS) : Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi presided over a security review meeting on Saturday with officers of police, intelligence agencies, and other security forces to discuss various strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing law enforcement efforts and ensuring public safety in view of the auspicious occasion of Mehraj-ul-Alam. Birdi was briefed by the participating officers about the security measures put in place to tackle any untoward incident across the Kashmir Valley.

"He was also briefed about the action taken against the terrorist associates as well as the inimical elements. The officers were also directed to generate actionable inputs to thwart attempts of anti-national elements to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the valley," a police statement said. "IGP Kashmir underscored the necessity to fortify the security grid, aiming to prevent potential terror attacks and maintain seamless coordination among the various forces operating on the ground."



ED attaches UP bizman's property worth Rs 2.15 cr

Lucknow, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached two immovable properties, worth Rs 2.15 crore, belonging to businessman Pawan Kumar Sharma under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in a bank fraud case. The action was carried out on Saturday. The attached properties, situated in Delhi, consist of commercial and residential buildings registered in the name of Pawan Kumar Sharma, who serves as the controller/ manager/ loan guarantor/ultimate beneficial owner of the business of M/s Govinda International. The ED in Lucknow had initiated an investigation based on various FIRs registered by the CBI.

Tourists' footfall in Goa has not declined : Minister

Panaji, Feb 10 (IANS) : Amid a buzz over a decline in the tourists' footfall in the coastal state, Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte on Saturday told the Assembly that there are no facts in it. "There is no decline in tourist footfalls from last year compared to the current year except during Covid period," Khaunte said. According to Khaunte domestic tourists have immediately

increased post-Covid. "We were continuously dependent on the UK and Russia. This year Israelis were supposed to come, but due to the war with Hamas, it was dropped. We started with Uzbekistan, the first chartered flight came but the second did not," he said, adding his department is trying to attract foreign tourists. "We need to go and market our position not only for sun, sand and sea, but we have to talk about

wellness, adventure and spiritualism, which has increased. These markets we are promoting," Khaunte said. Congress MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira asked for a summary about what the tourism department has done while doing marketing in foreign countries. Carlos Alvares Ferreira said that state tourism department delegations visit foreign destinations on junkets and that should be stopped. However, Khaunte dis-

missed the allegation saying: "It is no longer a junket business. We are doing serious business there. I would like you to come and evaluate yourself what we are doing there." Goa Forward MLA Vijai Sardesai opposing the foreign trips by the delegation, said that there should be a ban on all promotions. "Stop all promotions, we don't want consultants. We want a think tank. There are experts in Goa who can advise without charging fees. But they do not

want Goan, because they want 'fifty-fifty' things. Tourism is the backbone of our economy," Sardesai said. According to Khaunte in 2019, during the pre-pandemic year, 71,27,287 lakh domestic tourists had arrived in Goa, while foreign were 9,37,113. "Till November 2023, we have received 72,01,989 domestic tourists and



4,03,403 are foreign tourists. Compared to 2022, where foreign tourists were reported to be 1,69,005, there is a surge of 138.69 per cent in 2023," Khaunte said.



Jolt to Congress in MP as several leaders switch to BJP

Bhopal, Feb 10 (IANS) : In a major jolt to the Congress in Madhya Pradesh ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, several leaders of the grand old party on Saturday switched to the BJP on Saturday. Congress leader and Jabalpur Mayor Jagat Bahadur Singh, also known as 'Annu', joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday at the saffron party's office here. He was welcomed by senior BJP leaders, including Kailash Vijayvargiya and Narottam Mishra. Singh was elected the mayor of Jabalpur on Congress' ticket. At one point, he was also considered close to former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. In another jolt to the Congress, ex-CM and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh's close aide and

party leader Sumer Singh also joined the BJP in the presence of Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday. During Digvijaya Singh's tenure as the CM, Sumer Singh had been appointed as a member of the state Public Service Commission. He is even considered as a "family member" of Digvijaya Singh. He was also elected as the district panchayat president of Guna from Congress during the period 2010-15. The Congress also received a setback in Dindori as all Zilla Panchayat members of the grand old party, including its president, joined the BJP on Wednesday. According to political observers, more switching is likely to take place ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

K'taka Health dept bans sale, consumption of hookah products

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Karnataka government has banned hookah bars and sale of hookah products in the state with immediate effect on Saturday. The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Karnataka, has released a gazette notification in this regard banning the sale, consumption, storage, advertisement and promotion of all types of hookah products. The ban has been issued under the provisions of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), Child Protection and Welfare Act, Food Safety and Standards Act, and Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules,

2015. The notification said, "In the larger interest of the public, sale, consumption, storage, advertisement and promotion of hookah and products containing tobacco or nicotine, non-tobacco and non-nicotine hookah, flavoured hookah, molasses, sheesha (hookah water pipe) and other related products are prohibited." The notification further added that in case of violation, the act would be initiated as per the COTPA Act. Karnataka Health Minister, Dinesh Gundu Rao, had recently hinted at imposing a ban on hookah bars operating in cities, especially in Bengaluru.



Show proof of BSF issuing ID cards: BJP legislator writes to Mamata

Kolkata, Feb 10 (IANS) : BJP MLA from Siliguri Assembly constituency in Darjeeling district, Shankar Ghosh, has written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, asking her to provide concrete evidence in support of her recent claim that Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are distributing identity cards to the villagers residing near the India-Bangladesh bordering areas of the state. In the letter, Ghosh claimed that since the BSF authorities have already denied the charge, there is confusion in the minds of the residents in the bordering villages, especially those in North Bengal, where the Chief Minister made the allegation. Ghosh claimed that given the evolving situation, it is the duty of the Chief Minister to bring clarity in the matter. Ghosh also said that he has forwarded a copy of the letter to

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, considering that the BSF comes under the jurisdiction of the Home Ministry. To recall, at a recent administrative review meeting in Cooch Behar district, which borders Bangladesh, Banerjee had asked the residents of villages close to the India-Bangladesh border not to accept identity cards provided by the BSF. She had also cautioned that those accepting ID cards from the BSF might come under the purview of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "I have got information that the BSF is trying to provide identity cards to the residents in the bordering villages. Do not accept these cards. If you do, you might come under the ambit of NRC. Everyone understands who is actually steering the movement against the NRC," she had said.

BJP govt in R'sthan announces 70,000 jobs for youth, saving bond of Rs one lakh on birth of a girl and Gopal credit card scheme

Jaipur, Feb 10 (IANS): Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister Diya Kumari on Saturday presented the interim budget in the Assembly in which 70000 new recruitments for the youth, Gopal Credit Card Scheme for farmers and loans to 5 lakh cowherds, expansion of Metro in Jaipur and solar plants installation in 5 lakh houses of Rajasthan were announced. The Finance Minister said that a provision of Rs 1500 crore is being made for the development of roads in the state.

She said that as a result of the wrong policies of the previous government, we have inherited a huge debt. The debt has doubled to more than Rs 5 lakh crore. The opposition created a ruckus during the budget speech, alleging that the Finance Minister was making allegations and counter-allegations instead of the budget speech. However, the Chief Minister said that a woman was reading the budget, and she should be encouraged. A few of the ambitious announcements in the budget include a Project Monitoring Unit for the 'Pradhan Mantri

Suryodaya Yojana'. A target of more than 5 lakh solar plants has been proposed and 500 electric buses for cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota along with inter-state routes. The DPR for the extension of the Jaipur Metro alongwith Tonk Road, Sitapura, Ambabari upto Vidhyadhar Nagar has been announced to free the city from traffic congestion. Diya Kumari said that the Gopal Credit Card Scheme will be started for farmers and loans will be given to 5 lakh cowherds. Under the Gopal Credit Card Scheme, an interest free short term

loan of upto Rs. 1 lakh and a loan for 5 lakh Gopalak families in the first phase has been announced. An expenditure of Rs. 150 crore will be incurred on this. Kinder Garten to Post Graduate free education has been announced for the students belonging to low income group families, small/marginal/bataidar farmers/farm labourers. Also, a high tech city near Jaipur has been announced with world class facilities. The finance minister announced a Lado Protsahan Yojana in which a saving bond of Rs. 1,00,000 will be issued on the birth of a girl in poor



families. The deputy CM announced a Lakhpati Didi Yojana for the economic empowerment of women, This will benefit 5 lakh families with an annual income of Rs. 1 lakh. She also announced the Mission Olympics 2028 under which world class sports facilities will be provided to 50 talented

youths, A Centre of Excellence for Sports has been announced in Jaipur with a provision of Rs. 100 crore. For the timely conduct of recruitment exams an annual calendar of recruitment examinations by RPSC and the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board etc has been announced

Bullet Train project's 21-km tunnel, terminus work proceeds swiftly in Maha

Mumbai, Feb 10 (IANS): The works on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project's terminus at Bandra Kurla Complex and a key 21-km underground-undersea tunnel work, wrought with challenges, are progressing satisfactorily, National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd., an official said here on Saturday. The 21-km long single-tunnel, including 7 km running under-sea, with two lines is coming up between Bandra Kurla Complex and Shilphata in Thane. Work is currently on for three shafts en route for the tunnel section at Bandra Kurla Complex, Vikhroli, Sawli, Shilphata and an Additional

Driven Intermediate Tunnel portal. The shaft 1 is coming up at the Mumbai High Speed Railway Station in Bandra at a depth of 36 metres where 100 per cent secant piling work is completed and excavation work is underway. The shaft 2 at Vikhroli is at a similar depth of 36 metres, with 100 per cent piling work done and excavation work is on. These shafts shall be used to lower two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) in opposite directions – one which will bore towards the BKC and the other towards Ghansoli. The 39 metres deep shaft 3 in Sawli (near Ghansoli) excavation work is on, while at Shilphata, the tunnel end, portal work has begun at the site. The tunnel will be dug



by three TBMs with a cutter head diameter of 13.6 metres -- usually 5-6 meter diameter cutter heads are deployed for digging urban tunnels as in the Mumbai Metro systems. Three TBMs will be used to make around 16 kms of the tunnel, while the remaining 5 km shall be dug through New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM). The tunnel will be around 25-27 metres deep from

the ground level, with the deepest point at 114 metres below the Parsik Hill near Shilphata. The three shafts of BKC, Vikhroli and Sawli shall be at depths of 36, 56 and 39 metres, the inclined shaft of 42 metres at Ghansoli and at Shilphata will facilitate the construction of a 5 km tunnel through the NATM method.

Madras HC refuse to quash criminal proceedings against TN BJP chief Annamalai

Chennai, Feb 10 (IANS): The Madras High Court on Saturday refused to quash the criminal proceedings initiated against BJP's Tamil Nadu state President K. Annamalai. Justice Anand Venkatesh dismissed the petition filed by the BJP leader seeking the case be quashed. Social activist V. Piyush had filed

a case before the Salem's magistrate court against Annamalai in 2022, alleging that Annamalai, in an interview given to a YouTube channel on October 22, 2022, just two days before Diwali that year, charged that it was a Christian NGO that had first filed a case to ban use of crackers during the festival.



'Infructuous': SC on curative pleas filed against 2013 ruling that recriminalised homosexuality



New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS): The Supreme Court on Saturday said that the curative pleas filed against its 2013 ruling decriminalising homosexuality between consenting adults has been rendered infructuous as a result of the judgment in Navtej Singh Johar versus Union of India. "The curative petitions have been rendered infructuous by the judgment which has been delivered by this court in Navtej Singh Johar," said a 5-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud. In the landmark 2018 Navtej Johar judgment, the top court unanimously declared the Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) unconstitutional "in so far as it criminalises consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex"

on a writ petition filed by social activist Johar and five others belonging to sexual and gender minority communities. The five-judge Bench decriminalised consensual homosexual intercourse by keeping out of the purview of Section 377 of the IPC, even as the curative petition against the 2013 decision of the Division Bench that upheld the provision was pending. The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009. However, in 2013, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court overturned this verdict and restored the offence of sodomy immaterial of the consent in the statute book. Section 377 of the IPC, 1860 criminalised homosexuality as a sexual activity that went against the "order of nature".



Manipur team meets MHA officials, reiterates demand for separate administration for tribals

New Delhi/Imphal, Feb 10 (IANS): A delegation of Manipur tribals under the banner of 'Zo United' held a meeting in New Delhi with officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) led by AK Mishra, Adviser to MHA

on northeast affairs. In the meeting held late on Saturday, the tribal leaders reiterated the demand for the creation of a separate administration for tribals and promulgation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in remaining parts of Manipur. The tribal

leaders, while talking to the media on Thursday said that the delegation also urged the Centre not to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar. They told the media on Thursday that the situation in Manipur, instead of getting better, was getting worse each day. "The mistrust between the two communities involved in the conflict has deepened because of the continuing false propaganda and the continued attacks and counter-attacks," they said. The tribal leaders' delegation comprised leaders of Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), Committee on Tribal Unity, Kuki Inpi Manipur, Zomi Council, Hill Tribal Council and all tribe councils. Senior 'Zo United' leader Ginza Vualzong alleged that the

"state government is no longer a government of the people of Manipur but a 'Taliban government' run by 'Arambai Tenggo', a radical group which works for the Meiteis and whose stated purpose is to conduct genocide on tribals." "We cannot continue to be under an administration which is controlled by a community which declared war on us and openly says that it will kill all of us. There is no other option but for the central government to arrange a separate administration (Union Territory with legislature) for tribals so that they can live a dignified life under the constitution of India," said Vualzong, who is also one of the key leaders of the ITLF.



Former Gujarat Dy CM Amin refutes Rahul Gandhi's claim on PM Modi's caste

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS): BJP Rajya Sabha member and former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Narhari Amin on Saturday refuted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not born into the Other Backward Class Community (OBC) Amin, who left the Congress in 2012 and joined the BJP, termed the allegations "baseless" and "unfounded".

Two mahouts suspended for thrashing elephants at Kerala's Guruvayoor temple

Kochi, Feb 10 (IANS): Following a video which went viral where mahouts were seen thrashing elephants belonging to the famed Sree Krishna Temple, Guruvayoor, two of them were suspended on Saturday. The Guruvayoor temple is known for its elephants and one of the mahouts was suspended for thrashing the elephant named 'Krishna'. It was late former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J.Jayalalithaa's offering to the famed temple many years back. The second elephant which was



beaten by another mahout is named Kesavankutty. Even though this thrashing is believed to have happened a month back, following the video of this going viral, the temple authorities stepped in and after conducting a probe asked for an explanation from the two mahouts. Later they were suspended from service.



UPSRTC deploys more buses in Ayodhya to deal with increased pilgrim rush

Lucknow, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has increased the number of officials and buses in Ayodhya to manage the pilgrim rush and movement for the next one week. UPSRTC regional manager, Ayodhya, Vimal Rajan had written to UPSRTC authorities

earlier this week requesting for more officers as there has been an increase in the number of pilgrims, many of whom have begun to arrive in Ayodhya by Aastha special trains from across the country for 'darshan'. UPSRTC officials ordered the extended operating hours of the buses in Ayodhya.

Prayagraj to get longest ropeway across river by 2025

Prayagraj, Feb 10 (IANS) : Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh will get the country's longest ropeway across a river by 2025. The Prayagraj Mela Authority will soon start the ground survey, needed to put in place a number of amenities in the ambitious Rs 250 crore project. The survey would be based on the old detailed project report (DPR). An agreement regarding this has been reached in the meeting held with Prayagraj Mela Authority and defence authorities. The proposal to build a ropeway to give visitors a panoramic view of the Sangam was conceptualised in 2018, ahead of the 2019 Kumbh Mela. The proposal and DPR were both approved by the government. A survey was conducted of the ropeway route from Triveni Pushp, Someshwarnath Ghat and

over the Sangam up to Ulta Qila of Jhansi. To build a station near Ulta Qila in Jhansi, land was acquired and government land was obtained near Triveni Pushp in Arail. But the project was held back for undisclosed reasons. As preparations intensify for Maha Kumbh 2025, the ropeway has been revived as a key project. Its DPR and alignment were changed, and now, this ropeway will go from Shankar Viman Mandapam temple near Bade Hanuman temple and fort to Arail bandh road under the first phase. The Army had raised objections to this DPR, citing security of the fort, which the ropeway is proposed to pass over. Later, the Ministry of Defence issued an NOC. Prayagraj Development Authority vice-chairman Arvind Kumar Chauhan said, "The city side station of the ropeway will be built



near Shankar Viman Mandapam temple (near Hanuman temple) and after crossing the fort, it will end at the second station at Triveni Pushp of Arail road." He said that the total length of the ropeway would be 2.2 km and will comprise 15 cable cars, each with capacity to accommodate 10 persons. This will also shorten the time taken to cover the same distance between Viman Mandapam and Triveni Pushp, he added. He also said that the Army would

be paid the value of the land used by the administration for the project, while some land was being taken on lease. "This unique project of amalgamation of religious faith and technology will enhance tourism in the city and will come up with a number of amenities like automatic doors, restaurant, lockers, automatic ticket vending machine, parking facility, restroom, changing rooms, escalators etc," said the official.



Ex-UP minister duped by bank, FIR lodged

Lucknow, Feb 10 (IANS) : Former Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Manoj Pandey has filed an FIR at the Cantt police station against the manager of the insurance arm of a nationalised bank on charges of duping him of several lakhs of rupees in the name of life insurance policy. An FIR was registered against Ramakant Pandey, manager, PNB Metlife India Insurance under various charges, including 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach), 467 (forging documents), 468 (forgery), and 471 (dishonesty). Manoj Pandey in his complaint said that in 2019, a man who claimed to be the manager of the PNB Metlife India Insurance approached him at his Dilkusha house and explained to him about a life insurance scheme. "He told me that by depositing an installment of approximately Rs 10 lakh per year, I will get a return of Rs 39 lakh 20 thousand after three years along with a bonus of Rs 5.37 lakh. A total of Rs 44,57,554 lakh will be returned to me. Also, if I want to withdraw my money, I will get the same amount back. He also said that if I withdraw the money after four years, I will get a total bonus of Rs 63.23 lakh," said the complainant.



PM Modi likely to visit Varanasi this month

Varanasi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit his constituency, Varanasi, in the last week of February when he will inaugurate and lay the foundation of 25 development projects worth around Rs 6,000 crore. Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma said though there is no formal confirmation regarding the Prime Minister's visit yet, work on the development projects to be inaugurated has been expedited. Sources said among the projects to be inaugurated are an Amul plant at Karkhiyaon and HPCL LPG bottling plant. As the date of PM's proposed visit is likely to coincide with Ravidas Jayanti (February 24).



Railway Board approves Rs 244.77cr for wagon workshop in Odisha's Kantabanji

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Railway Board has approved Rs 244.77 crore for the establishment of Wagon Periodic Overhauling (PoH) facility at Kantabanji in Balangir district of Odisha. A detailed Project Report (DPR) in this regard was submitted in September 2023. "This decision comes in response to the fervent demands

of the local people, including public representatives, who have long advocated for such a facility in the region," East Coast Railway (ECoR) sources said in a statement on Saturday. Recognising the need for such a workshop in the region, Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw had earlier assured the local people to take steps for fulfilling their demand regarding the

wagon workshop. The ECoR also stated that the proposed Wagon PoH workshop, with a capacity for 200 wagons, will be set up on the vacant land available with Railways at Kantabanji. It also stated that this workshop will increase the freight traffic in this region, regular overhauling of Wagons will ensure safe train operations.



Yogi govt to foster skill development in 47 ITI, Polytechnics through PSP module

Lucknow, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh government is now focussing on the operations of 47 ITI and Polytechnic institutes across the state, while also enhancing the training processes for the students. The Directorate of Training and Employment (Training Block) has taken a decisive step to engage private com-

panies in the operation of ITI and Polytechnic institutes spread across various districts of Uttar Pradesh. Their role will be crucial in ensuring the seamless implementation of training and skill development programs for the trainees. The selection process for these agencies is being conducted

based on the Private Sector Partnership (PSP) module. Upon completion of this process, it will pave the way for smoothly carrying forward all the educational processes and activities including short-term vocational courses in all these ITI and Polytechnic institutes.

Congress MP Suresh not allowed to raise Karnataka's issues in Parliament: Shivakumar

Bengaluru/New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday accused the BJP of not allowing his brother and Congress MP D.K. Suresh to raise his voice in the Parliament on injustice meted out to the state. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, he said: "MP Suresh was not allowed to speak about injustice to Karnataka in the Parliament today. They adjourned the session as soon as BJP MP Tejasvi Surya finished his points without giving a chance to the lone Congress MP from Karnataka. "It is a pity that BJP MP Tejasvi

Surya did not speak on behalf of the State in the House though given an opportunity. The BJP MPs must be ashamed of not raising their voice for the state in the Parliament. While MLAs, MLCs and MPs from Karnataka are in Delhi to raise the voice for Karnataka, the BJP MPs are refusing to do so," he said. Asked about BJP leaders saying that the financial numbers given out by the Karnataka government are wrong, he said: "We are stating the facts. The BJP demanded for a white paper on this in the House, we will present a white paper on this."



Bihar : Deputy Speaker says Speaker Choudhary should step down on moral grounds

Patna, Feb 10 (IANS) : After Bihar Assembly speaker Awadh Bihari Choudhary refused to step down from his post, Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari said on Saturday that he should step down on moral grounds. The NDA government in Bihar had moved a no-confidence motion against Speaker Choudhary of the RJD on January 28, soon after the formation of the NDA government in the state. The NDA leaders tactically planned to serve the notice on January 28, so that they could move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker after 14 days. The 14-day period will get over on February 12.



Mexico overtakes China as the top exporter of goods to US

New York, Feb 10 (IANS) : For the past two decades, the US imported more goods from China than all other nations. That's no longer the case now, the media reported. Mexico is now the top exporter of goods to the US, according to new trade data released by the Commerce Department on Saturday, CNN reported. Mexico sent \$475.6 billion worth of goods into the US last year, a 5 per cent increase from 2022. China, meanwhile, exported \$427.2 billion worth of goods to the US last year, a 20

per cent slump from 2022. As a whole, the total US trade deficit in goods and services - a measure of the difference between exports and imports - was \$773.4 billion last year, a 19 per cent decline from 2022. That's the largest annual decline in the trade deficit since 2009, CNN reported. Contributing to the overall trend was a weaker dollar that's made the cost of US goods cheaper abroad, Matthew Martin, US economist at Oxford Economics, said in a note Saturday. Brad Setser, an economist and senior fellow at the Council on For-

eign Relations, suggested in a post on X that tariffs the Trump administration put in place have negatively impacted the amount of goods the US imports from China, CNN reported. At the same time, Americans have been dialing back on purchases of goods such as electronics that are widely produced in China since supply chain bottlenecks cleared up after the pandemic took hold. In turn, more spending has shifted to services like travel and entertainment.



Guterres reiterates call for UNSC reforms to cope with world 'entering an age of chaos'

United Nations, Feb 10 (IANS) : Setting out his priorities for the year, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has reiterated his call to reform the Security Council to make it more representative in a multi-polar world that "is entering an age of chaos". Outlining the failures of the UN's highest decision-making body, he said on Saturday, "Indeed our world badly needs: Reform of the Security Council." In the New Agenda for

Peace that he proposed for dealing with the challenges, "first and foremost, the United Nations Security Council must be able to take decisions and implement them, and it must become more representative," he said in his address to the General Assembly on his priorities for the year. In particular, he said that "it is totally unacceptable that the African continent is still waiting for a permanent seat" -- a continent where most of the Council's edicts on peacekeeping are focused. Guterres in-



roduced last year the New Agenda for Peace with five major points to deal with problems of peace and development. In his critique of the Council, the UN Chief said, "The primary platform for

questions of global peace is deadlocked by geopolitical fissures." This is the "worst" it has been and "today's dysfunction is deeper and more dangerous," he warned.

Tribunal dismisses British Indian's claims that she was racially targeted at Deloitte

London, Feb 10 (IANS) : An employment tribunal has dismissed a British Indian worker's claim that she was racially targeted at Deloitte after a colleague compared her to Pocahontas, a Disney character based on the life of a Native American woman. Shivali Patel, who was hired as a senior consultant in Deloitte's digital division in March 2019, made the allegations against her colleague Ben Combes, a director in the

company, The Telegraph newspaper reported. At a recent hearing in London, the tribunal was told that a "team drinks" event was held in September 2021 at a local BrewDog pub where Combes and Patel were present. Patel claimed that during a conversation, Combes made an "uncomfortable" remark about his wife in which he said she looked like Pocahontas. Patel felt there was a "racial" and "sexual" element to this remark in which he was comparing her to his wife, and subsequently

Pocahontas, the Daily reported. "I am an Indian female, the insinuation was that his wife looked similar to Pocahontas, the insinuation was that I had similarities to his wife and that he was in some way interested in me," Patel told the tribunal. "If his wife is a Caucasian female and Pocahontas in the Disneyfied version is tanned and somewhat looks like me, the insinuation is that I look like his wife who is tanned.

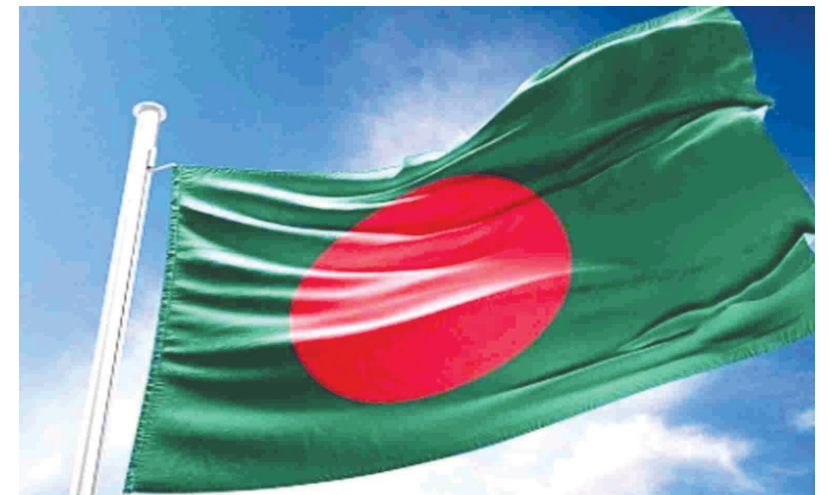


NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab lays off 8% of workforce citing lack of funds

Washington, Feb 10 (IANS) : NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab has shown pink slips to about 530 people, or 8 per cent of its workforce, due to lack of funds, the agency said, amid layoffs in Big Tech companies globally. About 40 additional members of contractor workforce have also been laid off. "After exhausting all other measures to adjust to a lower budget from NASA, and in the absence of an FY24 appropriation from Congress, we have had to make the difficult decision to reduce the JPL workforce through layoffs," officials said in a statement. The officials noted that the layoffs will have an impact on both

technical and support areas of the Lab. "These are painful but necessary adjustments that will enable us to adhere to our budget allocation while continuing our important work for NASA and our nation," the statement said. Based in California, JPL is federally funded but managed by the California Institute of Technology. It leads NASA's major science projects, such as the Curiosity and Perseverance rover missions on Mars; as well as the ambitious Mars sample return (MSR) campaign, which aims to ratchet the search for Red Planet life up to new and exciting levels. An independent review board last year estimated that the cost of MSR campaign, planned to take

flight by 2030, is likely to shoot to \$11 billion from the earlier projected \$8 billion. As the numbers alarmed some members of Congress, they sought to rein in MSR's costs. This led the Senate to allocate just \$300 million for MSR in its fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill -- a 63 per cent decrease from the funding granted in 2023, noted JPL Director Laurie Leshin in a letter to employees that the lab released with the layoff announcement. "In response to this direction, and in an effort to protect our workforce, we implemented a hiring freeze, reduced MSR contracts, and implemented cuts to burden budgets across the Lab," she wrote in the letter.



Bangladesh cuts import tariffs on selected consumer items

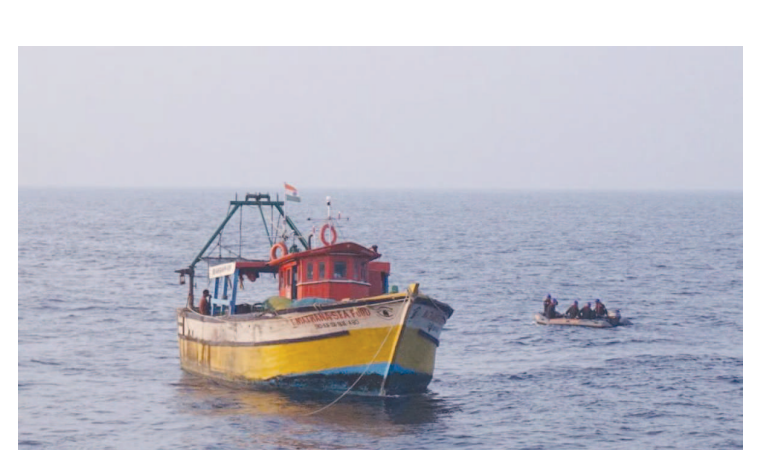
Dhaka, Feb 10 (IANS) : Bangladesh on Saturday withdrew customs tariff and slashed regulatory duty on rice, sugar and dates, and lifted value-added tax (VAT) on edible oil with immediate effect. In a notification, country's National Board of Revenue (NBR) withdrew a 25 per cent customs duty for rice import, and lifted VAT on edible oil.

It reduced the specific duty for import of raw sugar to 1,000 taka per tonne from 1,500 taka earlier, Xinhua news agency reported. Also, the revenue board slashed import duty for dates to 15 per cent from 25 per cent in an effort to keep prices affordable during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, which is to begin here on or around March 11.



MHA decides to scrap Free Movement Regime between India and Myanmar

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's northeastern states bordering Myanmar. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah in his post on 'X' on Saturday said that "It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's resolve to secure our borders, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar be scrapped to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar.



Sri Lankan Navy arrests 19 TN fishermen, boats impounded

Chennai, Feb 10 (IANS) : The Sri Lankan Navy arrested 19 fishermen from Tamil Nadu in the wee hours of Saturday for crossing the International Maritime Border Line (IMBL) and poaching in Sri Lankan waters. The fishermen were arrested from the deep sea near Neduntheevu and their boats were impounded. The

arrested fishers are from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam fishing hamlets. Tamil Nadu fisheries department officials told IANS that the arrested fishermen were said to be engaged in fishing near the Neduntheevu islet in two boats. The boats are owned by Alex and Anton Sasikumar.



Wanted to win and make Test cricket paramount, identified an uncut diamond in Virat Kohli, says Ravi Shastri

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Former India head coach Ravi Shastri said his aim was to win and make Test cricket paramount and, in this pursuit, he identified an uncut diamond in Virat Kohli, who would go on to captain the team in this format. Kohli, who pulled out of ongoing Tests against England due to personal reasons, led the team in 68 Test matches and won 40 of them, making him India's most successful captain. He gave up Test captaincy after India lost the series in South Africa 2-1 in 2021/22.

Under his captaincy, India got their first-ever Test series win in Australia in 2018/19, as well as making it to the final of the inaugural edition of the World Test Championship in 2021, where they lost to New Zealand at Southampton. "There was a lot of individual brilliance but I wanted to see team brilliance. I wanted to win and to make Test cricket paramount and identified an uncut diamond in Virat Kohli. While (MS) Dhoni was my captain, my eye was on him (Kohli). I told him very early

in my second month: 'It'll take time but watch, observe, be ready (for the captaincy)'," said Shastri to Michael Atherton in a conversation for The Times. Shastri, a member of India's 1983 ODI World Cup winning team, had initially joined the Indian team in 2014 as a team director and became the head coach in 2017 till 2021 Men's T20 World Cup. He was also appreciative of Kohli's willingness to play Test cricket and do the tough things for needing to succeed in the format.



ILT20 Season 2 : It's the stuff of dreams, says Sikandar Raza after leading Dubai Capitals to victory

Dubai, Feb 10 (IANS) : Sikandar Raza was in his best form as the Dubai Capitals secured an important victory over the Desert Vipers in the ILT20 Season 2 clash with the Zimbabwe all-rounder hitting a last-ball six. The win at the Dubai International Stadium

on Friday set up Dubai Capitals for their final league match against MI Emirates, which would decide their playoff fate. Chasing 171 for victory on Friday, Raza hit a six in the last ball of the match to help his team in the race for the playoffs.



Dallas Open : Paul to face off Shelton in semis clash

Dallas (US), Feb 10 (IANS) : America Tommy Paul on Friday overcame German Dominik Koepfer in a hard-fought quarter-final clash, winning 7-5, 6-3 to inch one step closer to his second ATP Tour trophy at the Dallas Open. The match was marked by intense exchanges and five breaks of serve in the first set alone. However, it was the second-seeded Paul who managed to secure a crucial break at love in the 11th game, giving him the edge in the set.

Grand Prix Chess Series : Mishra upsets Bartakke to claim pole position after fifth round

Mumbai, Feb 10 (IANS) : Sanjeev Mishra (ELO 1689) defeated the reigning National Amateur Chess Champion and overnight leader, Amardeep Bartakke (ELO 1961) in round five to move to the pole position in the All India Grand Prix Series Chess Championship, organised by Indian Chess School, Mumbai. Their encounter on the top board showcased a theoretical duel in the Ruy Lopez opening, and as the game progressed, it seemed destined for a draw, with the exchange of most pieces completed by move 35. However, a blunder by Amardeep on move 40 handed Sanjeev the advantage of two pawns. From there, it was a matter of technique for Sanjeev to secure a full point and surge into the lead.

On board two, the unbeaten 14-year-old Arnav Koli extended his impressive streak by defeating Yash Kapadi, thus joining Sanjeev at the top of the leaderboard. Top-seeded Vikramaditya Kulkarni and Arnav Kherdekar are closely trailing Sanjeev and Arnav with an impressive score of 4.5/5. A sizable group of 11 players currently holds the third position with a score of 4/5. Among them are notable names such as Amardeep Bartakke, Sunil Vaidya, Deepak Soni & Yash Kapadi. Key Results of Round 5: Bartakke A (4) lost to (5) Mishra Sanjeev; Arnav Koli (5) beat (4) Kapadi Yash; Raghav S (3½) lost to (4½) IM Kulkarni V; Kherdekar Arnav (4½) beat (3½) Kush



Agarwal; Joglekar Abhijit (3½) lost to (3) Soni Deepak; Ishaan Tendolkar (3½) drew (3½) Arnav Thatte; Pawar Sohun (4) beat (3) Palaash Mapara; Shreyas Kaushik (3) lost to (4) Muthe Dhruv; Gogri Vedaant (3) lost to (4) Sunil Vaidya; Sathiesh Kumar (3) lost to (4) Dodhiya Punit; Iyer Vivek (4) beat (3) Patel Shubb; Miranka Trishad (4) beat (3) Shaurya Shah; Kaddake Ameya (3) lost to (4) Shravan Balram; Gala Vansh (3) lost to (4) Jain Bharggav

Bengaluru Open 2024: Top Indian player Ramkumar gets wild card for singles main draw

Bangalore, Feb 10 (IANS) : Ramkumar Ramanathan, India's second highest-ranked player, has been granted a wild card entry into the singles main draw of the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger Series event, the organisers announced on Saturday. Bengaluru Open is being organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) at KSLTA Stadium. The ATP Challenger event will begin on February 12 and conclude on February 18. Ramkumar, who led India in the recent Davis Cup clash against Pakistan, has reached the singles final on the ATP Challenger circuit seven times, winning his lone title in Manama, Bahrain, in November 2021. Interestingly, Ramkumar had won his seventh and last doubles Challenger title in Bengaluru with compatriot Saketh Myneni, two years back.



Men's U19 WC: We didn't come here to win the semifinal, we came here to win the final, says Straker

Benoni, Feb 10 (IANS) : Fast-bowler Tom Straker, the hero for Australia in their thrilling U19 World Cup semifinal win over Pakistan, said the talk in the team was just about not being satisfied with a victory in the last-four stage and that they aim to win the final too. Sunday will see Australia clash with defending champions India at Benoni's Willowmoore Park to decide the winner of the 2024 U19 Men's World Cup. Both teams have been unbeaten throughout the competition ahead of the title clash. "Everyone was still so excited. Then we were like 'We've had our fun, but it has to stop now'. We've still got a grand final to win. We had a quick conversation about it and just said, 'We didn't come here to win the semifinal, we came here to win the final'," said Straker about the talk in the team bus after the semifinal win to cricket.com.au.

Jadeja, Rahul return for India's final three Tests against England; Kohli unavailable, Iyer not included

New Delhi, Feb 10 (IANS) : Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul have returned to India's squad for the final three Tests against England. But Virat Kohli will not be available for the remaining matches due to personal reasons while Shreyas Iyer has not been included, said the

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Kohli had missed the first two Tests due to personal reasons and with him not being available for the next three matches, it marks the first time that the talismanic right-handed batter is missing an entire Test series at home for the

first time in his international career. "Virat Kohli will remain unavailable for selection for the remainder of the series due to personal reasons. The Board fully respects and supports Mr. Kohli's decision," said the BCCI in a statement on Saturday. Though Jadeja and Rahul have

been included in the squad, BCCI said their inclusion will be subject to clearance by the medical team. Jadeja had injured his hamstring while batting in the first Test at Hyderabad while Rahul had complained of pain in his right quadriceps after the game ended, which India lost by 28 runs.



ISL 2023-24: Race for playoff spots intensify with rejuvenated Jamshedpur FC hosting Bengaluru FC

Jamshedpur, Feb 10 (IANS) : With the playoff spots still up for grabs, the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 looks set to witness another nail-biting clash when Bengaluru FC travel to take on Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Sunday. Some teams get on a sudden positive run of things upon the arrival of a new head coach, but the momentum that the Red Miners find



themselves in currently is truly distinct and remarkable. Their improvement in performance under the tutelage of Khalid Jamil was visible in the Kalinga Super Cup.

La Liga 2023-24 : Barcelona eye chance to close gap on top two

Madrid (Spain), Feb 10 (IANS) : Currently placed third with 50 points from 23 matches, FC Barcelona are set to face what appears to be a manageable home game on Sunday, as they host La Liga's Granada at the Olympic Stadium in Montjuic with a possibility to move closer to the top two. Barcelona will know the outcome of Saturday's match between leaders Real Madrid and second-placed Girona before they take the field on Sunday.

