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2nd Test: Ashwin, Bumrah scalp 3 each as India beat Eng by 106 runs, level series 1-1

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and fast-bowler Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets each as India beat England by 106 runs... 12



Everyone should be involved in the control of drugs : Government whip Aditi Srinivas

Government Whip Adi Srinivas lauded the special initiative of Rajanna Sircilla District SUPER-INTENDENT of Police ... 02



LIC of India introduced new plan "LIC's Index Plus (Plan 873)

Chairperson, Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, Life Insurance Corporation of India launched a new plan, LIC's Index Plus with effect from 05.02.2024. 07

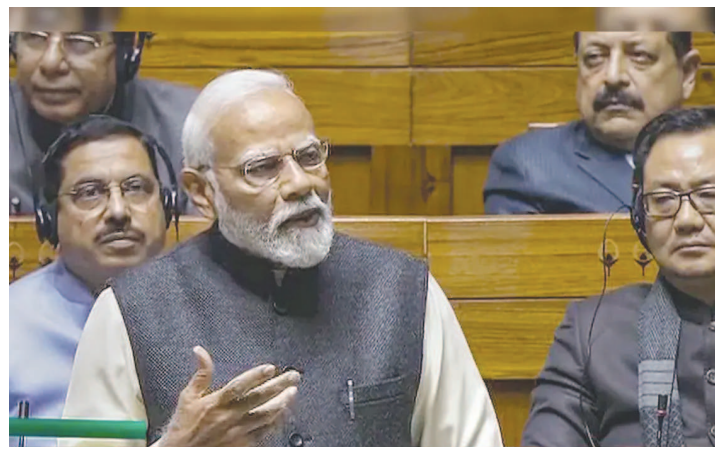


Harish Rao lashes out at CM Revanth for using foul language

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Former minister and BRS party MLA T. Harish Rao today alleged that excessive arrogance, lies, half-truths, uncultured language and ugly attitude were seen in Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during his Sunday's press meet. He said the people of Telangana saw the CM's atrocious attitude on Sunday and wondered whether a chief minister would be like this.

Congress refused to accept Karpoori Thakur as leader of opposition : PM Modi

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Lok Sabha on Monday, referred to an incident when former Bihar Chief Minister late Karpoori Thakur, who was popularly known as Jan Nayak, was humiliated by the combined forces of the Congress and other parties in Bihar. PM Modi also accused the Congress and the erstwhile UPA government of doing injustice to the backward communities. The Prime Minister said that while Congress leaders keep counting the number of OBCs in the government, they fail to see the biggest OBC leader.



Komatireddy launches blistering attack on KCR

Nalgonda, Feb 5 (IANS) : Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has launched a blistering attack on former chief minister and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao who is responsible for looting of the public money in the name of Irrigation projects in Telangana. The Minister alleged that former chief minister KCR did nothing in his 10-year rule other than in-

dulging in corruption. Speaking to the media here on Monday, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that KCR had done a lot of injustice to the South Telangana, especially to the erstwhile Nalgonda district during the last ten years and accused him of delaying the SLBC project. He termed former minister and BRS MLA Jagadish Reddy as a killer and useless person, who was

given the post of minister by KCR. "Jagadish Reddy never reviewed the status of irrigation projects in Nalgonda district, but accumulated a lot of wealth through dubious means," Komatireddy alleged. He further said that the Congress party would obstruct BRS president KCR's proposed public meeting in Nalgonda for being done injustice to the district.

Allocate Rs 20,000 crore for BC welfare in budget, Kavitha writes to Bhatti

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : BRS party MLC K. Kavitha today demanded that the State government allocate Rs.20,000 crore for the BC welfare department. She wrote an open letter to

Deputy Chief Minister-cum- Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on the issue and urged him to allocate Rs 20,000 crore for the upcoming 2024-25 financial year.



A parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Suriname led by the Chairman of the National Assembly, Mr. Marinus Bee called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on February 05, 2024.



Suspended CI on run arrested at Guntakal

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Suspended Panjagutta police station Circle Inspector Durga Rao has been arrested by the city police. Durga Rao is accused in a case in which Sahil, who is the son of former BRS party MLA Shakeel, escaped from the case of hitting a barricade at Telangana Praja Bhavan with his car. Recently, all the police personnel working in Panjagutta police station were transferred by the CP.

Continued on pg 02

CM Revanth leaves for Ranchi

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday left for Ranchi in Jharkhand State to participate in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. Revanth Reddy left for Ranchi in a special flight from the Begumpet Airport here. Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren won the

trust vote in the State Assembly on Monday, with 47 MLAs voting in favour of the trust motion. Meanwhile, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) leaders led by president and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has successfully handled the recent political situation in Jharkhand.



Kishan lays stone for country's first epigraphy museum in city

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Union Minister & State BJP president G Kishan Reddy today laid foundation stone for the construction of country's first epigraphy museum in the city. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said the inscriptions reveal the history, existence and the ancient traditions of the country. "We need to protect such inscriptions. We know that the Mughals and the Mohammedans, who attacked our country in the past.

No takers for YSRCP tickets, says Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravati, Feb 5 (IANS) : Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President N. Chandrababu Naidu claimed on Monday that there are no takers for YSR Congress Party tickets to contest forthcoming Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh. Naidu said that though Chief Minister

Jagan Mohan Reddy is offering YSRCP tickets for the Assembly elections, the candidates are not ready to be in the race. The former Chief Minister was addressing a massive public meeting at Madugula in Anakapalle district as part of the ongoing 'Raa Kadali Raa' programme.



Congress rulers are useless, Let's start war on NSagar : Jagadish Reddy Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Former minister G Jagadish Reddy today called the ruling Congress leaders as useless.

LOST OF PASSPORT

I, Aila Srinivas, S/o. Raja Mouli, Residing at H.No.2-1-26, Ashok Nagar, Sircilla lost my Original Passport bearing number G7255499 while going to Karimnagar on 20th December 2023 from Sircilla in RTC Bus. I got down at Vemulawada Bus Stand for purchasing water bottle and after I get back into bus I realised that someone stolen my bag in which the original Passport was there.

Kindly contact me if anyone finds it 80088 15010.



The first level of inspection of electronic voting machines should be carried out in full swing: District Collector Anurag Jayanthi.

Sircilla, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : District Election Officer and Collector Anurag Jayanthi directed the officials to carry out the first level inspection of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) as per the guidelines of the Central Election Commission. The district collector inspected the first level inspection of electronic voting machines (EVMs) being carried out at the Sardapur Agriculture Market Committee yard under Sircilla municipality limits.

The first level of inspection of EVMs will be carried out in the presence of representatives of political parties led by Additional Collector of Revenue and Deputy District Election Officer N Kheemya Nayak.



Three jataras festivals in Sircilla on 9th of this month

Rajanna Sircilla, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Municipal Chairperson Jindam Kala Chakrapani has announced that facilities will be arranged for Sri Ganga Bhavani Jataras, Sri Madeleswara Swamy Jataras and Sri Ramappa Ramalingeswara Swamy Jataras celebrations to be held in Sircilla town on February 9. In view of the jataras celebrations being held at three places on the same day on the 9th of this month, the officials inspected the temples and surroundings of the temples on Monday. Thousands of devotees and people from villages and areas near Sircilla town have been participating in Sri Ganga Bhavani Jataras, Sri Madaleswara Swamy Jataras and Sri Ramappa Ramalingeswara Swamy Jataras with great devotion every year for many years and are worthy of the grace of these deities, the Chairperson said. The organizers of the respective temples and the caste

- Municipal Chairperson Zindao Kala Chakrapani inspects arrangements for providing amenities to devotees and people
- The work of installing a statue of Chakali Ailamma should be completed at the earliest
- Instructions to officials and contractors

organisations expressed their special congratulations to them for organizing these fairs every year as a festival of eyes with great devotion and gaiety. Like every year, this year too, the devotees who come to the fairs will not face any difficulties such as lighting, maintenance of sanitation, provision of drinking water, etc., by levelling the sand dunes around the Sri Gangamma Mother Temple and levelling the surroundings of the Sri Madeleswara Swamy Temple, removing the thorns along the way to Sri Ramappa Ramalingeswara Swamy temple and ensuring that the road is flat and the road is not faced by the municipality. Chairperson Jindam Kala Chakrapani has instructed the concerned con-

tractor to inspect the work of installing the statue of Chakali Ailamma and complete the works at the earliest while maintaining good quality standards. Municipal Commissioner Mohammed Ayaz, Vice-Chairman Manche Srinivas, Councillor Members Annaram Srinivas, Telangana State Rajaka Sangha President Akkaraju Srinivas, Sircilla Rajaka Sangha President Dandu Srinivas, Sircilla Gangaputra Sangha President Gadapa Satyanarayana, Sircilla Nayani Brahmin Sangha President Chintakunta Srinivas, leaders of caste associations, Gangaputra Sangha, Rajaka Sangha, Nai Brahmin Sangha representatives, pura pramukhs, municipal officials and staff were present on the occasion.

Bank of Maharashtra Zonal Office-Hyderabad, H.No.4-3-448 to 460 & 465 to 468, 1st Floor, Vinoothna Pittie's Majesty, Gopal Bagh Near Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad.

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT))

The accounts of the following borrowers with Bank of Maharashtra having been classified as NPA, the Bank has issued notice under S.13(2) of the SARFAESI Act on the date mentioned below. In view of the non service of the notice on the last known address of below mentioned borrowers/ Guarantors, this public notice is being published for information of all concerned.

The below mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors are called upon to pay to Bank of Maharashtra; within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the amounts indicated below due on the dates together with future interest at contractual rates, till the date of payment, under the loan/and other agreements and documents executed by the concerned persons. As security for the borrowers' obligation under the said agreements and documents, the respective assets shown against the names have been charged to Bank of Maharashtra.

Name & Address of the Borrower: 1) Shri S. Satyanarayana (Borrower), Address (i): Flat No.B 102, Windsor Apartments, 1-11-25/A, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016. Address (ii): Flat No.101, Meenakshi's Raji Residency, Plot No.14, Navodaya Co-op Hsg. Society Ltd., Shaikpet Village, Road No.14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034. Address (iii): Flat No.103, 1st Floor, B Block, H.No. 1-11-251/A/103, Shyam Lal Building Area, Windsor Apartments, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016. 2) Smt. Udayasree Sankar Rao (Co-Borrower), Address (i): Flat No.B 102, Windsor Apartments, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016. Address (ii): Flat No.101, Meenakshi's Raji Residency, Plot No.14, Navodaya Co-op Hsg. Society Ltd., Shaikpet Village, Road No.14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034. Address (iii): Flat No.103, 1st Floor, B Block, H.No.1-11-251/A/103, Shyam Lal Building Area, Windsor Apartments, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016. 3) Shri P. Seshagiri Rao (Guarantor), Address (i): SSID Consultants (P) Ltd., No.15, Jabbar Bldg, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016. Demand Notice Date: 24.01.2024; Outstanding Amount: Rs.83,20,848/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Eight Only) plus unapplied interest of Rs.1,51,498/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only) up to 20/01/2024 and interest thereon @14.30% (including 2% penal interest) w.e.f. 21/01/2024 along with other cost and expenses.

Kothaguda Branch Description of the Property Mortgaged: Property (i): Equitable Mortgage of all that the Residential Flat No.103, (B-Block) on first floor, admeasuring undivided share of 90.00 Sq.yards or equivalent to 75.24 Sq.meters, having built up area of 2200 Sq.ft. including common area and two car parking areas, the building name known as "WINDSOR APARTMENTS" in premises Municipal bearing No. 1-11-251/A/103, situated at "Shyamal Building Area", Begumpet, Hyderabad and Bounded by: North: Open to Sky & Flat No.B-104, South: Open to Sky & Flat No.A-104, East: Open to Sky, West: Corridor, Lift and Flat No.B-102.

Property (ii): Equitable Mortgage of all that the Flat No.101 (South West of 1st Floor- Three Bed Room Flat along with two car parking lots) in the First Floor above the parking floor of MEENAKSHI'S RAJI RESIDENCY, built in accordance with permit no.36/88, dated 05/03/2004 at plot no.14, Municipal Door No.8-2-310/B/14/101, Road No.14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, in Survey No.129/79, 80, 81 of Shaikpet Village, in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, totally admeasuring approximately 1650 Sq.ft. super built area along with approximately 109.90 Sq.yds of undivided share of land and Bounded by: North: Lobby and Flat No.102, South: Open Space & 40'0" wide road, East: Open Space and Neighbor's land, West: Open Space and Road.

If the concerned Borrowers/Guarantors shall fail to make payment to Bank of Maharashtra as aforesaid, then the Bank of Maharashtra shall be entitled to proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risks of the concerned Borrowers/ Guarantors as to the costs and consequences.

In terms of provisions of SARFAESI ACT, the Concerned Borrowers/Guarantors are prohibited from transferring the above said assets, in any manner, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Bank of Maharashtra. Any contravention of the said provisions will render the concerned persons liable for punishment and /or penalty in accordance with the SARFAESI Act. For more details notice may collect the unserved returned notices from the undersigned.

Date: 05.02.2024 Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

Bank of Maharashtra Zonal Office-Hyderabad, H.No.4-3-448 to 460 & 465 to 468, 1st Floor, Vinoothna Pittie's Majesty, Gopal Bagh Near Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad.

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Name & Address of the Borrower: 1) M/s. M S Garments (Borrower), Prop. Md. Khaja Arifuddin, Address: H.No.5-2-24, Fathepura, Karimnagar, Telangana-505001. 2) Md. Azmath Ali (Guarantor), Address: H.No.3-4-40, Osmanpura, Karimnagar, Telangana-505001. 3) Mahboob Sulthana (Guarantor), Address: H.No.5-2-24, Fathepura, Karimnagar, Telangana- 505001. 4) Mr. Ratnani Harish, S/o. Narayana Das (Guarantor), Address: H.No.4-5-203, Anand Nagar, Karimnagar, Telangana-505001. Demand Notice Date: 16.01.2024; Outstanding Amount: Rs.9,24,538.77 Rounded off to Rs.9,24,539/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only) plus unapplied interest of Rs.21,973/- (Rupees Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three Only) up to 09.01.2024 and interest thereon @13.80% (including 2% penal interest) w.e.f. 10.01.2024 along with other cost and expenses.

Karimnagar Branch Description of the Property Mortgaged: All that the Residential House bearing Door No.5-2-24 having Plinth area 267.50 Sq.ft., Total Plot area of 186.50 Sq.yds., or 156.66 Sq.mtrs., situated at Fathepura (Ahmedpura), locality of Karimnagar Town within the limits of Municipal Corporation Karimnagar and under the Jurisdiction of Sub-District and District Registration Karimnagar and Bounded by: East: House of Arshiya Sulthana, H.No.5-2-25, West: H.No.5-2-23 and 5-2-22, North: H.No.5-2-28, South: 120' wide Road.

If the concerned Borrowers/Guarantors shall fail to make payment to Bank of Maharashtra as aforesaid, then the Bank of Maharashtra shall be entitled to proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risks of the concerned Borrowers/ Guarantors as to the costs and consequences.

In terms of provisions of SARFAESI ACT, the Concerned Borrowers/Guarantors are prohibited from transferring the above said assets, in any manner, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Bank of Maharashtra. Any contravention of the said provisions will render the concerned persons liable for punishment and /or penalty in accordance with the SARFAESI Act. For more details notice may collect the unserved returned notices from the undersigned.

Date: 05.02.2024 Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

No-confidence motion against Yellandu Municipal Chairman fails

Yellandu, Feb 5 (IANS) : A no- confidence motion moved by BRS councillors against Municipal Chairman D Venkateshwarulu failed to bring a result with absence of quorum members at Yellandu Municipal Corporation in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Monday.

Driving is an offence under the law : SP Akhil Mahajan

Rajanna Sircilla, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Stating that special attention has been paid to minor driving across Rajanna Sircilla district, parents and vehicle owners said that the vehicle should not be given to the minor children and if the vehicle is given, they are driving without knowing it. Keeping this in mind, special drives will be conducted across the district on minor driving and if minors are caught driving vehicles, strict action will be taken as per law. Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan said

that since death without cause is a road accident, he advised parents and owners of vehicles not to give vehicles to minors who do not know the traffic rules and road rules and not encourage them by giving them vehicles. He said that in the event of an untoward incident, the family will have to suffer for the rest



Special drives on minor driving across the district

of their lives and it is an irreparable loss to the family members and parents to keep their children away from a road accident.

Suspended CI on run arrested at Guntakal

Continued From pg 01

However, after his suspension, CI Durga Rao went into hiding. Rao, who was evading arrest due to leaked news from the police station staff, had filed a petition in the High Court for anticipatory bail.

The police have been trying to arrest Durga Rao ever since his suspension in the case. According to reports, CI Durga Rao was taken into custody in Guntakal from Anantapur district of AP. A few days ago, a road accident took place at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Everyone should be involved in the control of drugs : Government whip Aditi Srinivas

Rajanna Sircilla, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Government Whip Aditi Srinivas lauded the special initiative of Rajanna Sircilla District SUPERINTENDENT of Police Akhil Mahajan for launching a de-addiction centre named 'Operation Vimukti' at Basti Hospital in Rajiv Nagar in the district headquarters with the special initiative of Rajanna Sircilla District SP Akhil Mahajan to guide those who are addicted to drugs and destroying their lives on the right path. The importance of the de-addiction center. Counselling with psychologists and psychiatrists will be conducted for two hours in the morning and evening every day. "It is arranged that those addicted to drugs will be provided with the necessary medicine free of cost so that they can recover quickly. The de-addiction centre has been set up under the aegis of the police department to ensure that the unchanged persons who participated in the counselling are shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad and the necessary accommodation facilities and hospital expenses are awaited until fully desired. Speaking on the occasion, government whip Aditi Srinivas said. "As per the instructions of chief minister A Revanth Reddy, steps have been taken in the state to ensure that the youth who decide the future of the country do not fall prey to ganja and intoxicants. He said that

the government is moving ahead with a very bold decision to eradicate drugs and not in any other state, and that the control of cannabis and narcotics should be considered a social responsibility by all. Noting that the youth are being drug addicted to drugs and destroying their golden future, he said that it is everyone's responsibility to control ganja and other intoxicants that are hampering the progress of the youth and everyone should be involved in the control of drugs and the special efforts taken by the District SP under the aegis of the District Police Department to guide those who are addicted to drugs on the right path are commendable. We will help the police department to eliminate drugs and ganja in the district. "District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan said. He said that good-natured citizens are the foundation of tomorrow's future and it is the responsibility of everyone to protect such citizens from becoming addicted to drugs. Apart



- A society of well-behaved citizens is the source of rapid progress: District SUPERINTENDENT of Police Akhil Mahajan.
- De-addiction will be set up under the aegis of the district police department.

from taking special measures to eradicate ganja and narcotics in the district, anti-drug clubs have been set up in the district to create awareness among the students about the ill-effects of drugs. For counselling at the de-addiction centre, contact your nearest police station for peru registration and other information. Additional SP Chandrayya, DSP Uday Reddy, in-charge District

Medical Officer Rajitha, Sircilla Government Hospital Superintendent Chikoti Santosh Kumar and Dr Muralidhar Rao, basthi hospital incharge doctor Dr.R. Ramesh were present on the occasion. "Psychiatrists Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Satish, Councillor Ponnam Chander, CI Raghupathi, Traffic SI Raju and others were present.



Suvendu Adhikari claims irregularities in voters' list preparation, complains to ECI

Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) : The leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Monday complained to the Election Commission of India (ECI) claiming massive irregularities in the preparation of voters' list in the state, especially in the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency in South 24 Parganas district represented by Trinamool Congress' national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. On Monday, Adhikari reached the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, along with 25 voters from the Diamond Harbour constituency whose names have been deleted from the new voters' list despite they being voters there for many years.



JD-U MLA claims whoever gets his support will win polls by big margin

Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) : Controversial JD-U MLA Gopal Mandal claimed on Monday that the leaders who get his support will win the elections by a big margin. Mandal also claimed that due to his support, leaders like Sakuni Choudhary, Shah Nawaz Hussain, Renu Devi, Ajay Mandal and others had won Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the past.



Upendra Kushwaha calls on Nitish Kumar in Patna

Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) : Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal's (RLJD) national President Upendra Kushwaha met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday. Later, Kushwaha also shared photographs with Nitish Kumar on social media. RLJD



Goa Speaker exposes own party minister, Oppn seeks resignation of Gaude

Panaji, Feb 5 (IANS) : The opposition parties in Goa have sought the resignation of Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude after Goa Legislative Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar levelled allegations against him over alleged misappropriation of 'special grants'. Tawadkar, a senior BJP leader from the ST community, said that he would not tolerate the indiscipline of the minister "who was behaving without any protocol". "I am witnessing such an incident for the first time that a Minister from my government is behaving in an irresponsible manner... is being disciplined and the one who is not following protocol. I feel sad

leaders claimed that it was a courtesy meeting between the two leaders after Nitish Kumar became the Chief Minister of Bihar for the ninth time after severing ties with the Mahagathbandhan. Political observers feel that the meeting had a political implication, at a time when seat-sharing talks are on in the state. Kushawaha had left the JD-U and formed the RLJD last year after Nitish Kumar had declared Tejashwi Yadav as his political successor. "We went to the Chief Minister's residence to meet him. I also congratulated him for leaving the Mahaga thbandhan government the NDA," Kushwaha said.

about this. It should not happen. I will not tolerate it," Tawadkar said, According to him, the Art and Culture Department has released funds to families who have formed multiple organisations, and have failed to organise programmes for which the grants were released. Reacting to the allegations by Tawadkar against his own party minister, opposition has demanded resignation from Gaude and face inquiry. "Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar's accusation is severe, action is inevitable. His allegation of a scam in the Art and Culture Ministry, and his accusation of misappropriation of funds by the minister has to be viewed with the utmost seriousness and attention it deserves," Goa Forward MLA Vijai Sardesai said. "I stand vindicated as I have raised this issue myself many times before but to no avail.



Youth murdered in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, body dumped in main chowk of village

Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) : A 26-year-old youth was killed in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district and his body thrown in the main chowk of the village, police said on Monday. The incident occurred at Sumera village under Turki outpost in the district and the victim is identified as Ranjan Kumar. The villagers spotted the dead body with stab wounds at the main chowk of the village and informed his father Nageshwar Shah and local police about the incident.

Delhi HC dismisses plea for SIT probe into Indiabulls Housing Finance allegations

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea seeking a thorough and time-bound investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into alleged illegalities, violations, and fund siphoning by the promoters of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) and its subsidiaries. A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna said that the National Housing Bank (NHB) has already conducted necessary investigations, and the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs is further probing the matter. The court noted that the allegations made by the Citizens Whistle Blower Forum lacked substantiation,

and supporting evidence. It noted that a significant portion of the alleged loans had been repaid by the respondent companies, and loans were advanced against mortgages and securities provided by the borrowers. The government functionaries had initiated inspections, and ongoing investigations were in progress. In its decision, the court said: "Finding no merit in the present petition, it is accordingly dismissed. Pending applications are disposed of as infructuous." The plea had sought directions on various regulatory bodies, including the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Companies, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, National Housing Bank, RBI, and SEBI, to



take action against IBHFL and its promoters. The petitioner organisation had accused IBHFL and its promoters of advancing dubious loans to companies owned by large corporate groups. , subsequently routing funds back to the accounts of Indiabulls promoters to increase their personal wealth. The court said that due to articles in the media and tweets, shareholders suffered losses, but it affirmed that the jurisdiction of investigation agency, and the court cannot interfere unless there is a grave miscarriage of justice. It concluded that necessary investigations had been carried out by NHB, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs was in the process of further investigation, dismissing the plea for a separate SIT probe.

V-P Dhankhar urges students to ask probing questions, neutralize anti-India narratives

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday stressed that the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is "the right place, the nerve-centre, to engage in scrutiny" and engage in dismantling false narratives floated by people trying to "taint, tarnish and demean our Constitutional institutions" within India and abroad.



BOI Bank of India
Relationship beyond Banking

AMEERPET BRANCH, Shop N.4, Nagasuri Plaza, Opp. Aditya Enclave, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038. Ph: 040-66636222, 23730894

AUCTION NOTICE TO THE GOLD LOAN BORROWER
To, Mr. Rajasekhari Charipally (Borrower), S/o Janardhan Charipally, Flat No.306, D-Block, Shanthy Gardens, Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076.

Dear Sir/Madam,
Sub: Auction of Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins of your Gold Loan Account
We refer to our letters dated 06-11-2023 informing you to repay the dues of 1) Rs.1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand Only) + together with interest @ 8.65% p.a. w.e.f. 29-07-2022 in Loan A/c No.862977610000751; 2) Rs.7,67,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Only) + together with interest @ 8.50% p.a. w.e.f. 02-03-2023 in Loan A/c No.862977610001179 and 3) Rs.50,400/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand and Four Hundred Only) + together with interest @ 8.75% p.a. w.e.f. 28-11-2022 in Loan A/c No.862977610000989 in your gold loan account within 15 days of receipt of our letters.
We have not yet received the repayment in your account within the stipulated time. We do hereby call upon you to pay the due together with interest as per the terms and conditions of the loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice failing which we shall be constrained to auction the Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins pledged to the Bank to realize our dues. The auction of Jewels will be held at Ameerpet Branch.
Please note that if the Bank auction the pledged Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in the court of law for recovery of balance amount from you.

Place: Hyderabad, Date: 05-02-2024 Sd/- Branch Manager

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
#249/3RT, 1st Floor, Main Road, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad-500038

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6(2) / 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Name of the Borrower: 1) M/s. Narasaiah Works Contractor, Prop: Mr. K. Narasaiah, Plot No 401, SS Sai Residency, Opp Reliance Fresh, New Venkata Ramana Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad - 500068. 2) M/s. Narasaiah Works Contractor, Prop: Mr. K. Narasaiah, 8-41, Narsimhula Gudem Majira, Repalameyin Village, Munagala, Nalgonda - 508233. Borrower/Mortgagor: 3) Mr. K. Narasaiah, S/o K. Venkaiah, H.No.12-155/7/21/A, Srinivasa nagar, Near Perika Hostel, Kodad, Suryapet District, Telangana - 508206. 4) Mr. K. Narasaiah, S/o K. Venkaiah, H.No. 3-7-62/381, Road No 14/6, South End Park, Mansoorabad, Hyderabad - 500068. Guarantor/Mortgagor: 5) Mrs. Kuncham Indira, W/o Mr. K. Narasaiah, H.No.12-155/7/21/A, Srinivasa nagar, Near Perika Hostel, Kodad, Suryapet District, Telangana - 508206

Sr/Madam,
Sub - Sale of property belonging to Mr. K. Narasaiah S/o Mr. K. Venkaiah & Mrs. K. Indira, W/o. Mr. K. Narasaiah, (owner of the property) for realization of amount due to Bank under the SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Union Bank of India, #249/3RT, 1st floor, Main Road, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad 500038, Telangana the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated 04.11.2019 under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 02.03.2020

Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec. 13 (8) of the Act.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:
Property No.1: Residential land and building bearing H.No.12-155/7/21/A consisting of ground floor with plinth area 804.75 Sft., first with plinth area 929.62 sft and second floor with plinth area 486.87 Sft standing on land measuring 300 Sq yards situated at Sy No 1045, block No 12, Kodad, Nalgonda Dist under limits of Nalgonda Registrar, Kodad Sub registrar belonging to **Kuncham Indira** and bounded by: North: Site of Shaik Moulab, South: Land of Mohd Usman and Others, East: 24 feet wide gram panchayat road, West: 24 feet wide gram panchayat road
Note: As per Sale Deed 1781/2004, dated 14-06-2004 the extent of the land is 300 Sq Yds where as after road widening the extent of the land is 242.20 Sq. Yds.
Property No.2: Residential land and building bearing H.No. 12-46/A with plinth area 574.43 sft standing on land measuring 301.52 Sq yards situated at Sy No 1048, 1049, 1050, block No 12, Kodad, Nalgonda Dist under limits of Nalgonda Registrar, Kodad Sub registrar belonging to **Kuncham Narasaiah**. Boundaries: North: House of Tadeppali Arjun and Narra Shraya, South: 30 feet wide municipal road, East: House of Mikkilineni Trinadh, West: House of Jujjuri Anantha Chari

Date: 18.01.2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad UNION BANK OF INDIA, ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH

HFS Hiranandani Financial Services
HIRANANDANI FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED

• Regd. Office : 514, Dalamal Towers, 211 Free Press Journal Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021, Maharashtra
• Corporate Office : 9th Flr., Sigma Towers, Hiranandani Business Park, Technology Street, Powai, Mumbai-400 076, Maharashtra
• Email : wecare@hfs.in • Website : www.hfs.in • Tel. No. : (022) 2576 3623 • CIN No. : U65999MH2017PT291060

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hiranandani Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "HFS") 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, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. 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 HFS for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No. & Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrowers / Address	Description of Secured Assets / Mortgage Property	Demand Notice & Amount	Date of Possession
1	Loan Exposure Under Customer ID 8413 LAN : 437502210100899 & 437502210100721 1. Vadlamudi Dairy Farm (Borrower) 2. Mr. Vadlamudi Siva Adinarayana (Co-Borrower) 3. Mrs. Vadlamudi Sujata (Co-Borrower) Add. (Same For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3) : Door No. 524-3, Main Road, Amara College Near Santez Factory, Sathuluru, Nadendala, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522 549; Also at (Same For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3) : Door No. 2-93, Bondray Bazar, Jonnalagadda Guntur, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522 601; Also at (Same For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3) : Door No. 3-49, Main Road Jonnalagadda Village, Narasaraopeta Mandalguntur, Andhra Pradesh -522 601; Also at (Same For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3) : D. No. 220/A, Situated At Jonnalagadda Village & Gram Panchayat, Narasaraopet Mandal, Guntur Dist., Near To Bodural Guntur-522 601, Andhra Pradesh.	All the piece and parcel of D. 20/A, Covering in an extent of 123 Sq. of R. C. C. roof ground floor situated at Guntur District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Narasaraopet Sub-District, Narasaraopet Mandal, Jonnalagadda Grama Panchayat Area, Jonnalagadda Village Residential Building Thereon present & future Both Building Bounded by :- • East : Site belongs to Gurram Koteswara Rao, 40.5 Ft. • South : House belongs to Vendor, 270 Ft. • West : Bazaar Left by the Vendor, 40.0 Ft. • North : 4 Ft. Wide Bazaar, Left by the Vendor, 28.0 Ft.	02.11.2023 & ₹ 20,01,425/- (Rs. Twenty Laks One Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Five Only)	03.02.2024

Date : 06.02.2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place : Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Hiranandani Financial Services Private Limited

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
#249/3RT, 1st Floor, Main Road, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad-500038

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6(2) / 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Name of the Borrower: Mr. Bheemshetty Nikhil Kumar, S/o Bheem Shetty Venkatesh (Applicant), H.No.11-11-23, Flat No.302,Surya Apts Indira Nagar,Road No.2, Sowbhagaya Puram, Kothapet, Hyderabad-500035. Co-Applicant:Mr. Bheemshetty Venkatesh, S/o B Jagadishwar, H.No.11-11-23, Flat No.302,Surya Apts Indira Nagar,Road No.2, Sowbhagaya Puram, Kothapet, Hyderabad-500035. And also at :Mr. Bheemshetty Venkatesh S/o B Jagadishwar, H.No.2-3-865, F-302, 3rd Floor, SubhodayaVaralaxmi Nilvasi, Road No.3, Arunodaya Colony, Rangareddy District, within the limits of TANDUR MUNICIPALITY, Guarantor: Mr. Radhakrishna Nalva, S/o K laxminarayana, H.No.4-3-35/9A, V V H S Road, Tandur, Rangareddy, Telangana-501141. Sr/Madam,

Sub - Sale of properties belonging to Mr. Kalva Radhakrishna, for realization of amount due to Bank under the SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Hyderabad (subsequently the account is transferred from E-AB, Nampally Branch, Hyderabad), the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated 20.04.2022 under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 30.10.2023.

Even after taking possession of the secured assets, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned properties by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the properties and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately. Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the properties and you can redeem your properties as stipulated in sec. 13 (8) of the Act:

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY-1: All that Residential open plot No.98, admeasuring 244Square yards equating to 203.98square meters., in Sy.No. 40/B and 63/A of Malreddypally village, locally known as "WHITE FIELDS", C.No. 9276/2010/H, T.L.P.No.14/2011/H Director town & country planning government of Andhra Pradesh, with reference No. C/1030/2010 dated 21/10/2010, Commissioner Municipal, Tandur, TANDUR Municipality, Rangareddy District, within the limits of TANDUR MUNICIPALITY, belonging to Mr. Kalva Radha Krishna (vide Sale deed No.3412/2012 under SRO Tandur) and bounded by: North:Plot No.99, South:Plot No.97,East :Proposed 40'-0" wide road,West : Plot No.92

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY-2: All that Residential open land in Survey No.s:385,386,387,399,398,396,395,391,392,393 extent 413Guntas Farm Land No.K280, situated at PRODDUTUR Village, Shankarpally Mandal, Rangareddy District, TS(in the name of Mr. Kalva Radha Krishna vide Sale deed No.8722/2005 under Chevela) and bounded by: North :Agricultural Farm Land No.K-280A, South : Agricultural Farm Land No.K-281A, East :Agricultural Farm Land No.K-285, West :Road

Date : 01.02.2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad UNION BANK OF INDIA, ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH

OPINIONmail



WORKFORCE, WOMEN, AND YOUTH MET A RAW DEAL IN THE INTERIM UNION BUDGET

Our Prime Minister firmly believes, we need to focus on four major castes, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Interim Union Budget 2024-25 speech – Garib (poor), Mahilayen (women), Yuva (youth), and Annadata (Farmer). Their needs, their aspirations, and their welfare are our highest priority, she claimed. However, in reality, as the budget papers reveal, it was an utter lie, advocacy of the just opposite of what the government did, a mere reverse psychology. The reality is, they suffered the worst in the last 10 years of Modi rule, but on the eve of Lok Sabha General Election 2024, Government just needed to pacify them for their votes.

What does it mean by the 'highest priority'? For unsuspecting electorate, it would mean the welfare of poor, women, youth, and farmer was accorded the most important priority by the Modi government. If it would have been true, how come it did not figure in the "Core of the Core Schemes"? If we go by the budget, not the hypocritical speeches of political leaders of the ruling establishment, the "highest priority" core of the core central sector schemes are: 1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, 2. National Social Assistance Programme, 3. Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities, 4. Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups, 5. Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes, and 6. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Schedule Castes. There are 31 Core Schemes and 133 Major Central Sector Schemes. Nirmala Sitharaman, as being the Finance Minister of the Country, is supposed to know the fact of the "highest priority" and whoever tells otherwise than one knows is a lie.

Modi government can say only for the sake of logic that the "Core of the Core Schemes" also intended to help the poor, women, youth and farmer, but they would have to accept that there are other welfare programmes that specifically target these four groups, irrespective of their caste, creed, or religion, which are certainly accorded the "highest priority".

The top Core of the Core Schemes of India is the MGNREGA scheme, but it should be noted that it was not brought by the Modi government. Rather the Modi government is obliged to implement it under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. It gave legal guarantee of a hundred days of wage employment in a year to adult members of a rural household on demand. How the Modi government tried to sabotage the scheme is now well known, which included non-payment for months which the Supreme Court of India said amounted to slavery, since there were no jobs in the market and rural people had no option but to accept the injustice and work. Non-payment on one or the other pretext, such as implementing online attendance when connectivity itself was unreliable, not providing work if not registered online, low payment, sometimes even below the minimum wages, or at the minimum wage that breeds "working poverty" were intended to suppress the demand for work, which helped the government to reduce allocation for MGNREGA scheme. Another strategy of the Union Government was not to disburse money due to states for wages of MGNREGA workers, who had to go without wages for months. It is worth recalling that NREGA Sangharsh Morcha had demanded a budget allocation of Rs2.72 lakh crore to enable all card holders willing to work to get employment of 100 days, for the current year 2023-24.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



WILL ARVIND KEJRIWAL BE THE NEXT ON THE PATTERN OF HEMANT SOREN?

After Hemant Soren, will it be the turn of Arvind Kejriwal. Both of them Chief Ministers who became targets of the Enforcement Directorate. The Jharkhand Chief Minister got arrested and had to resign. Hemant Soren says he will fight to win; fighting words, but the writing is on the wall. Problem is, the Modi government is whittling opposition Chief Ministers one after another and leaving them in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra's wake. Problem is also that in Soren's instance, the cases against him smell bad and Hemant is in all sorts of trouble. Hemant Soren's

arrest and abdication is a setback to the INDI-Alliance. That Soren couldn't run any further is a warning to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of what's coming for him? And with general elections round the corner, time is a problem for INDI-Alliance leaders in ED's crosshairs. Also, with INDI-Alliance running short of leaders, one after another, the burden of carrying the hopes and aspirations of the Opposition is falling on the much-tested shoulders of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. RJD leaders Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashvi Yadav also have the ED after them. The INDI-Alliance is facing a leadership crunch and by the time elec-

tions are overhead, only Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge might be there to represent the "28-party" INDIA Block. Unfortunately, Rahul Gandhi's record of winning elections isn't something to write home about though after the Congress victories in Karnataka and Telangana, which came on the heels of Rahul's south-north Bharat Jodo Yatra, there was jubilation in the Congress camp that Rahul Gandhi was finally delivering to his potential. The Gandhi scion is now on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and it isn't as smooth going as the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

(IPA Service)

EUROPE ACTS AS LACKEY OF WASHINGTON AS GAZA KILLINGS CROSS 27,000

The European Union nations which talk of liberty and democracy and consider themselves as superior to others including the US in terms of protection of human rights have shown their true colour in the current Israel-Hamas war which is continuing for nearly four months. More than 27,000 people have been killed by Israel's military offensive in Gaza, the territory's Health Ministry reported, after South Africa accused Tel Aviv of ignoring the order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued on January 26. Since then, Israel not only ridiculed the ICJ order but also ignored that with vengeance by continuing the killings of Palestinians in the Gaza strip. Since the order was issued, the Israeli killings accounted for more than 1100 it is learnt.



KHARGE WARNS 2024 POLLS COULD BE INDIA'S LAST IF MODI WINS AGAIN

The Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Bhubaneswar voiced his opinion that the forthcoming general election is going to be the last election in India if Prime Minister Narendra Modi is re-elected. Uttar Pradesh Congress leaders and workers are of the view that Kharge should contest from the Varanasi seat against PM Modi. Kharge who belongs to

the SC community and heads the INDIA bloc, understandably aspires to cash in on this to reach out to SC, ST communities in UP. It will undoubtedly help Kharge pit caste identities to counter the BJP's polarizing election planks of religious fundamentalism and ultra-nationalism. Kharge is the prominent leader in the alliance and even constituents recognize his qualities to take on Modi. Meanwhile, Congress think-tank

is focused on working out a plan to field party stalwarts from the state in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. According to sources, Congress president Kharge might contest from Varanasi, Nagina or Saharanpur to revive its hold on Dalit votes. There is a growing belief in the party that Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati's charisma and hold over Dalits (primarily Jatavs) is waning. However, Kharge would contest both from his traditional seat in Karnataka and a seat in Uttar Pradesh. However, the majority of regional leaders may agree to the proposal of Mamata, Kejriwal and Uddhav Thackeray as Kharge is the most acceptable, cool headed, mature and experienced leader who can take everyone along and has the potential to defeat the Hindutva politics of BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. ACTOR VIJAY: RISE OF A NEW POLITICAL STAR IN TAMIL NADU In Tamil Nadu, the political plunge seemed to be lined up next to be attained by superstar, Vijay.

The actor plans to register his yet unnamed political party in New Delhi in February and is eager to contest the Lok Sabha polls as well as the electoral battles in the southern states, where his films run to packed houses. According to sources, the actor's registered fan group Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, which is duly involved in many social welfare activities, is being converted into a full-fledged political party. Vijay's strong Tamil identity distinguishes him from Rajnikanth's Marathi roots and links with BJP-RSS, which happened to have been the points of contention in Tamil Nadu.

RAHUL GANDHI TO RAISE VOICE FOR CANDIDATES DUMPED BY ARMED FORCES

Ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had launched the 'Jai Jawan Abhiyan' to provide justice to 1.5 lakh candidates who were dumped after selection for the armed forces.

IN INDIA, OFFICIAL GDP CALCULATION METHOD HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF FLAWS

There are well-known problems associated with the concept of gross domestic product as well as with its measurement. The inclusion of the service sector within GDP is something that Adam Smith would have objected to on the conceptual grounds that those employed in this sector constituted "unproductive workers"; certainly in the former Soviet Union and East European socialist countries, it was not the GDP but the gross material product excluding the service sector that was considered the relevant measure. Even if the service sector is included in GDP, there is a conceptual problem associated with measuring its output, since what constitutes the rendering of a service is difficult to distinguish from what constitutes mere transfer payment.

TECH COMPANIES PLAN TO SPEND MORE THAN US\$ 200 BILLION ON CYBERSECURITY IN 2024

In the 1964 James Bond movie, 'Goldfinger', the bad guy, Auric Goldfinger, realized he could not just steal the huge amount of gold in Fort Knox, a famous US Army post in Kentucky, known primarily for housing a large portion of the USA's gold reserves. So, he planned to use a nuclear device to irradiate it to make the gold useless, which would make his own gold more valuable. Today, if someone wanted to attack places as important as Fort Knox, they would look at the giant data centers of big companies, such as Amazon, Google, Meta and Microsoft. Taking down these centers would require a very extreme plan, similar to what Goldfinger had thought of. They are like strongholds equipped with multiple layers of security—ranging from barriers and gated entries that resemble airlocks, to advanced biometric identification systems. A lot of people depend on Cloud

technology and they will need it even more in future. Although the Cloud is amazing, it is still not fully developed. There is more and more data being created and we need to study it. Storing this data and analysing it is done mostly using the Cloud now. Hospitals use the Cloud to look at patients' files and share medical tests. Governments use it for elections, public services and emergency warnings. The worldwide money system—such as bank transfers and stock market trading—depends more and more on it.



At least 17,000 unaccompanied children in Gaza : UN

Geneva, Feb 5 (IANS) : At least 17,000 children in the Gaza Strip are now either unaccompanied by or separated from their parents or relatives, the United Nations (UN) has estimated. Speaking from Jerusalem on Monday,

Jonathan Crickx, chief of communication in the State of Palestine for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said this figure corresponds to one per cent of the 1.7 million people who have been displaced in Gaza. The total population in the enclave is around 2.3

million, Xinhua news agency reported. The UN official, who visited Gaza this week, said he had met 12 children there, three of whom had lost a parent. "Behind each of those statistics is a child coming to terms with this horrible new reality," he said.

For example, 11-year-old Razan, had lost almost all her family members, and her leg had to be amputated, he said. "She was still in shock, learning to live with a disability in the context where rehabilitation services were not available." Due to a lack of food, water and shelter, extended families are unable to take care of extra children, he said. The mental health of Palestinian children is severely impacted, he said. They have been displaying extremely high levels of anxiety, loss of appetite, insomnia and panic every time they hear the bombings. "UNICEF now estimates that almost all children of Gaza, more than one million, need mental health and psychosocial support," the UN official noted. "The only way to have this mental health and psychosocial support delivered at scale is with a ceasefire."



Destroyed Hamas' rocket-making unit in Gaza: IDF

Tel Aviv, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has said that its troops have destroyed a rocket-making unit of Hamas in central Gaza. The IDF in a statement on Monday night said that its 646th Brigade destroyed a complex used by Hamas to produce rockets in Nuseirat in central Gaza. The IDF said that the complex contained civilian and dual-use machines which were converted by Hamas for the production of

weapons. The Israeli military said that the 99th division of the IDF eliminated several terror infrastructures in central Gaza and many terror operatives were also neutralised. Soldiers from the Yiftah Brigade raided safes belonging to Hamas and seized several documents showing how Hamas was transferring funds. The IDF statement also said that soldiers from the 179th Brigade discovered a significant tunnel route and destroyed it.

Houthis say they strike Israel with ballistic missiles

Sanaa, Feb 5 (IANS) : Yemen's armed Houthi group has said that they have struck the Israeli city of Eilat with several ballistic missiles. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea in a statement aired by the group's al-Masirah TV on Monday said that the group struck "specific targets" in the city to demonstrate its

"support to the Palestinian people in facing the Israeli war and blockade", Xinhua news agency reported. "We will not hesitate to carry out further military operations against the Zionist enemy (Israel) on land and at sea until the aggression is stopped and the siege on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip is lifted," he said. Hours earlier, Israel Defense

Forces (IDF) said they intercepted a surface-to-surface missile in the Red Sea. No sirens were triggered during the incident. Since the Israel-Hamas war broke out in October last year, the armed Houthi group in northern Yemen has launched multiple missiles and drones toward Israel in what the Houthis said was to support the Palestinian people in the war-

raged Gaza Strip. In November, a Houthi suicide bomb-laden drone hit a school in the southern city of Eilat, causing minor injuries, according to Israeli media outlets. The Houthi escalation in the region and the Red Sea, which had already disrupted international shipping, raised tensions across the Middle East that could expand the conflict.



EU countries unanimously endorse 'landmark' AI legislation

Brussels, Feb 5 (IANS) : The 27 member states of the European Union (EU) have unanimously endorsed the bloc's "landmark legislation" governing the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI), also known as the EU AI Act, according to European Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton. Breton described the move as "historic, world first, pioneering" on the social media platform X, emphasizing that negotiators have found the "perfect balance between innovation and safety." In December, EU lawmakers and

member states reached a political agreement on the key provisions of the AI Act, hailed by the European Commission as the "first-ever comprehensive legal framework on AI worldwide". However, the complexity of the legislation prompted months-long technical refinement, during which countries like France and Germany expressed concerns particularly regarding the stringent regulatory rules for powerful AI models, prompting a new round of discussions on its contents, Xinhua news agency reported.

Indians, Pakistanis among 15 arrested in Cyprus sham marriage scam

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : A criminal network facilitating illegal migration into the European Union, via sham marriages, has been busted in Cyprus, leading to the arrest of 15 individuals, including Indians and Pakistanis, European police said.

Investigations by Europol's Operational Task Force (OTF) found that the network was also involved in human trafficking and money laundering activities, as well as forcing victims into bogus marriages for immigration purposes. "The suspects allegedly recruited Latvian and Portuguese nationals and facilitated their journeys to Cyprus."



UK's Labour Party launches measures to reconnect with British Indian voters

London, Feb 5 (IANS) : From organising trips to India to hiring community volunteers, the UK's main opposition Labour Party has announced a series of measures to win back the support of the British Indian community, which has been on the wane in recent years. Nearly two-thirds of British Indians, who form the second-largest immigrant group in the UK, and the largest minority-

ethnic group, supported Labour for years, The Guardian reported. But the numbers fell sharply with a UK-based think-tank showing that in 2019 only 30 per cent voted for the Keir Starmer-led party, in stark contrast to 61 per cent in 2010. "We've taken Indian voters for granted for years, but it's becoming increasingly obvious they are going elsewhere and we need to do something about that," a party official told the paper. To re-engage with the community,

the party has rolled out new initiatives, which include hiring community outreach volunteers, revamping the Labour Friends of India group, and organising a trip to India for two of its senior shadow ministers. "As a canvassing umbrella initiative focused on event organisation and social media dissemination, we're looking to serve the widest group of stakeholders to ensure a Labour victory," Krish Raval, the group's chair, told The Guardian. The group has hired two volunteers to brief Labour parliamentary candidates on issues of importance to India, and on Sunday, shadow ministers David Lammy and Jonathan Reynolds will travel to Delhi and Mumbai on a five-day trip. In November last year, Sir Keir Starmer joined top members of the British Indian community, including Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, to celebrate Diwali where he expressed his gratitude to the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities in the UK.

US carries out retaliatory strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq, Syria

Washington, Feb 5 (IANS) : In a sharp escalation in hostilities in West Asia, the US carried out multiple airstrikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq and Syria in retaliation to a drone attack that killed three American soldiers in Jordan. No targets were struck in Iran as many had called for. These were only the first of retaliatory strikes and more will follow, the US

has said. The attacks followed the arrival of the bodies of the three American personnel killed in a drone strike by an Iran-backed group. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden joined the families at a military base in Delaware, his home state, for the dignified transfer as the solemn occasion is called. Although the strikes followed shortly after, news reports suggested they were not linked.

"This afternoon, at my direction, US military forces struck targets at facilities in Iraq and Syria that the IRGC and affiliated militia use to attack US forces," Biden said in a statement, referring to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. He added: "Our response began today. It will continue at times and places of our



choosing." The US President, who has been under mounting pressure internally to hit Iran, did not explain why the Friday airstrikes did not include targets in Iran, the US is unlikely to take that route because it does not want a war with Iran.

Multiple gunshots fired at home of Nijjar's friend in Canada

Toronto, Feb 5 (IANS) : Gunshots were fired at the house of a Sikh activist related to pro-Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist in India, who was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in the Canadian province of British Columbia last year. No injuries were reported in the incident, which occurred just after 1:20 am on Monday at a South Surrey home located near the 2800 block of 154 Street, the Surrey Royal Canadian Mounted



Police (RCMP) said. Moninder Singh, a spokesperson for the B.C. Gurdwaras Council identified the house owner as Simranjeet Singh, a friend of Nijjar, the CBC news channel reported.

Will veteran Kerala Congress leader P.J. Joseph get a Rajya Sabha berth?

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 5 (IANS) : Veteran Kerala Congress legislator P.J. Joseph might be nominated to the Rajya Sabha and in lieu, the Congress, which leads the United Democratic Front (UDF), will take the Kottayam Lok Sabha seat, which would have gone to his party. Joseph, 82, is the Chairman of the Kerala Congress and is the sitting legislator from Thodupuzha, a seat that he has won 10 times from 1970. Over the years, Joseph and his party have been a part of both

the Left Front and the UDF and he has been a minister on quite a few occasions. For long, Joseph was wanting a stint in the Parliament and contested the Lok Sabha polls twice - but unsuccessfully. Hence, he is making one last attempt now. Three seats to the Rajya Sabha will fall vacant from Kerala in June. It is certain that CPI-M led Left Front will win two seats while the Congress-led UDF can get one seat. However, any such deal is not definite, say sources. "If, by any chance, there is a bar-

ter of seats with the Kerala Congress, the Congress might have doubts if their candidate at the Kottayam Lok Sabha seat will get the support of Joseph's party, which is very essential for their candidate. Congress will have to fight hard to allow Joseph a Rajya Sabha seat," a source said. It will be known very soon if Joseph's wish will come true, as the Congress party finished one round of talks with its allies and the seat sharing to the 20 Lok Sabha



seats will be finalised shortly. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress contested 16 seats, and UDF members the remaining four - the IUML 2 and the RSP and the Kerala Congress one each. The UDF won 19 and the ruling CPI-M just one seat.



Scindia holds meeting with CISF, immigration officials on design model for speedy immigration process

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Monday chaired an advisory committee group meeting with airport operators, CISF and Bureau of Immigration officials to discuss possible changes in airport interior design, as well as new technologies to expedite immigration and security check processes for international travellers. According to officials, the meeting delved into solutions derived from studying international airport models such as those of Singapore and Canada.

Key highlights of the discussions include exploring the possibility of cross-utilising domestic and international XBIS machines at Delhi airport to ensure greater availability of machines, and hence, lesser wait time. "Proof of concept trials for use of e-gates and e-biometrics for immigration are already underway. These are set to redefine the standards of efficiency and security in air travel," said a ministry official. "A thorough analysis has been undertaken with regard to manpower requirements of CISF and Immigration officers.

'I won't budge to any pressure,' says K'taka Cong MLC on contesting Lok Sabha polls

Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) : Congress MLC and senior leader Prakash Hukkeri on Monday slammed his own party after his name was proposed to contest Lok Sabha election from Chikkodi seat in Belagavi district. "Am I a football? I was sent to Delhi earlier. Now they are trying to do it a second time. Do they think I am a football? I have been elected from the teachers' constituency to serve them. I am not elected to contest elections. They have made it a habit. Is this a football match?" he told the media persons. He said that the demands of the teachers are yet to be fulfilled. "I will work under the capacity of a MLC and stay here," Hukkeri said. When asked that CM Siddaramaiah is requesting him to contest Lok Sabha polls, "Have I given it in writing to him that I will contest elections? I have not given my word to the CM. I will work for teachers," he said.



Kerala: SFIO begins probe against Vijayan's daughter, Congress demands resignation

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 5 (IANS) : Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has begun to probe Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan daughter's IT firm on Monday. The Kerala Assembly also witnessed ruckus after the Congress led opposition and asked the Speaker to discuss the issue of the Chief Minister's daughter. However, the Speaker A.N. Shamsheer declined the opposition's request. "Two statutory agencies are now probing IT scam. What's to be noted is that the probe by SFIO is grave. It's high

time that Vijayan quits," Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan told media persons outside the assembly. He said that Vijayan is scared due to this issue and was not even present in the assembly. "All along, the Chief Minister has said that the Income Tax Department has never given an opportunity to her daughter to explain her company's position. Now even the Registrar of Companies say that despite asking for the erring company's response, they never gave any cleared the position," Satheesan said. The issue came to limelight after a media report, quoting an Income Tax Department office, claimed that the Chief Minister's firm had

received Rs 1.72 crore from mining company CMRL, where the state-owned Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) has a stake. The issue was first taken up by first-time Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalmadan. The SFIO -- acting on a preliminary probe by a three member team of the Registrar of Companies which submitted its findings -- paved the way for the SFIO to investigate the case. A six member SFIO team has already started to probe the dealings of all the three parties- Veena's firm, KSIDC and CMRL.



Bride, groom booked for celebratory firing during their wedding

Muzaffarnagar (UP), Feb 5 (IANS) : A newly married couple, now on their honeymoon, is under police scrutiny following the emergence of video showing the couple indulging in celebratory firing during the wedding. New Mandi SHO Bablu Verma said a case under IPC Section 336 (endangering human life or personal safety) has been registered against the couple. He said, "A team has been deployed to locate and arrest them." A local source revealed that the couple is on their honeymoon and has been informed about the case. The 36-second video that went viral on social media on

Monday, shows the groom dancing with two girls, holding a pistol in one hand. Both the groom and the bride fired shots into the air during the celebration. Upon learning of the video, the police investigated multiple banquet halls across the New Mandi area. "After the investigation, it was confirmed that the incident took place here. The police are now working to locate the couple," police said. New Mandi DSP Rupali Rao said, "Currently, the couple is on their honeymoon, and the police team is trying to determine their exact location. Additionally, efforts are on to trace the pistol used in the celebratory firing."

Plea in court seeks action against Cong MP for 'south India as separate country' remark

Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) : A petition was submitted on Monday at a court in Karnataka seeking action against Congress MP D.K. Suresh for his alleged 'south India as separate country' remark while criticising the Central government after the Interim Budget was presented on Monday. D.K. Suresh -- brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, had hit out at the Centre over fund allocation, claiming there was a partiality against the southern states compared to the north, and if that continues, a separate country's demand may arise.



Sukhoi, Jaguar, Hawk, Chinook, and Apache to participate in Exercise Vayu Shakti

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Indian Air Force will be conducting 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-24' on February 17, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range, near Jaisalmer. This year, the exercise will see participation by 121 aircraft, including the indigenous Tejas, Prachand and Dhruv. Other participating aircraft would include the Rafale, Mirage-2000, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Jaguar, Hawk, C-130J, Chinook, Apache and Mi-17, IAF official added. IAF informed that indigenous Surface to Air Weapon systems Akash and Samar will demonstrate their capability to track and shoot down an intruding aircraft.

The last edition of exercise Vayu Shakti was held on 16 February 2019. The Indian Air Force (IAF) said that as always, Ex Vayu Shakti will be a riveting demonstration of the offensive and defensive capabilities of the IAF, spanning across day and night. The exercise will also showcase joint operations with the Indian Army.

Sonia didn't want me to be in politics : Mani Shankar Aiyar

Jaipur, Feb 5 (IANS) : Veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar targeted the Central government on Monday, saying that there should have been talks between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Speaking during a session at the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) here, Aiyar (82) said India has the courage to carry out surgical strikes, but does not have the courage to talk to Pakistan across the table. He also talked about Sonia Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The former Union minister

said, "Some people had suggested me to write my autobiography. So I thought what have been the achievements in my life that people would like to read about me. Then Sonia Gandhi also told me that I should write.





Pharma API player Wanbury to focus on profitability and growth

Mumbai, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Wanbury Ltd (BSE: 524212; NSE: WANBURY), a mid-sized fast-growing Pharma API company, aims to consolidate this year by focusing on existing product profitability and market share improvement. According to Mr Mohan Rayana, Director of Wanbury Limited, "Our consistent efforts towards yield improvement, solvent recoveries, and process engineering initiatives, supported by good market share improvement, is showing results. These efforts have helped improve operating margins. As a mid-term strategy, we

plan to expand our API product portfolio and will accordingly be launching two new products this year." Wanbury is a leading manufacturer and supplier of Metformin API in the world. The recently announced results of Wanbury, for the third quarter ending December 2023, mark a significant milestone in the history of the company registering its highest-ever quarterly EBITDA of Rs. 22 crore and nine-month EBITDA of Rs. 54 crore. This EBITDA is 225% and 350% higher compared to the same periods last year.

LIC of India introduced new plan "LIC's Index Plus (Plan 873)"

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Chairperson, Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, Life Insurance Corporation of India launched a new plan, LIC's Index Plus with effect from 05.02.2024.

The Unique Identification Number (UIN) for LIC's Index Plus is UIN: 512L354V01. LIC's Index Plus is a Unit Linked, Regular Premium, Individual Life Insurance Plan which offers life insurance cover cum savings throughout the term of the policy. Guaranteed additions as a percentage of Annualized Premium shall be added to the unit fund on completion of specific duration of policy years under an in-force policy and shall be utilized to purchase units.

- Minimum Age at Entry is 90 days (completed). Maximum Age at Entry is 50 or 60 years (nearer birthday) depending on the basic Sum Assured.
- Basic Sum Assured is 7 to 10 times of Annualized premium for age at entry 90 days (completed) to 50 years (nearer birthday) and 7 times of Annualized premium for age at entry 51 years to 60 years (nearer birthday)
- Minimum Age at maturity is 18 or 15 years (completed) and Maximum Age at maturity is 75 or 85 years (nearer birthday) depending on the basic Sum Assured.
- Minimum Policy Term is 10 or 15 years depending on Annualized premium and Maximum Term is 25 years. Premium paying term is same as Policy Term.
- Minimum Premium ranges from Rs. 30000/- (Yly), Rs. 15000/- (Hly), Rs. 7500/- (Qly), Rs. 2500/- Mly (NACH) depending upon the Mode/Premium payment frequency.
- Maximum Premium-No limit subject to underwriting decision.
- There is an option to choose any one of the two funds to invest premiums initially and at the time of switching, i.e. Flexi Growth Fund and Flexi Smart Growth Fund wherein investment will be primarily in selected stocks which are a part of NSE NIFTY 100 index or NSE NIFTY50 index respectively.
- Partial withdrawals available subject to conditions.
- On Life Assured surviving the Date of maturity, an amount equal to Unit fund Value as on date of maturity shall be payable.
- Amount payable on death of Life assured differs depending upon whether death of life assured is before the date of commencement of risk or after the date of commencement of risk.
- Refund of Mortality Charges are subject to terms and conditions.



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA



Airtel Q3 net profit jumps 54% to Rs 2,442 crore

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Telecom major Bharti Airtel Ltd on Monday reported a 54 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,442 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year. The company's consolidated revenue from operations rose 6 per cent to Rs 37,900 crore during the quarter from Rs 35,804 crore in the same period of the previous financial year. The revenue was partially impacted by currency devaluation in Africa, the company said in an exchange filing. Airtel's average revenue per

user (ARPU) rose marginally to Rs 208 in Q3FY24 as compared to Rs 203 in Q2FY24. India revenue of Airtel grew 11.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 27,811 crore during Q3FY24. The company's subscribers went up to 34.56 crore customers as on December 31, 2023 from 33.22 crore in the corresponding quarter last year, an increase of 4 per cent YoY. The data customers in both 4G and 5G segments stood at 24.5 crore, increasing by 74 lakh QoQ and 2.82 crore YoY, the company said in an exchange filing.

Govt rakes in Rs 600 crore as penalties from taxpayers' delay in PAN-Aadhar link

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The government has collected over Rs 600 crore as penalties from persons who failed to meet the deadline for linking their PAN with their Aadhaar card, the Parliament was told on Monday. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary told the Lok Sabha, in a written reply, that the number of PANs not linked with Aadhaar, excluding exempted categories, is 11.48 crore as of January 29, 2024. The deadline for linking PAN and Aadhaar was June 30, 2023. The Income Tax Department had stated in its order that PAN cards will become inoperative if taxpayers fail to link their documents with Aadhaar within the deadline. Moreover, no refunds would be made against such PANs. Failure to link PAN with the biometric document would also attract a higher TDS and TCS.

India well positioned to use AI to make software development more productive: Google

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : India is well positioned to use artificial intelligence (AI) to make software development more productive in the country, Google said in a blogpost on Monday. The post detailed the recent between fireside chat, Dr. Jeff Dean, Chief Scientist, Google DeepMind and Google Research, and Dr. Pramod Varma, CTO of EkStep Foundation and former Chief Architect Aadhaar & India Stack. The experts delved into unique opportunities and ethical considerations for AI in India, and the country's position as a leader in responsible AI innovation. According to Dean, India can capitalise on AI due to its strong foundation in engineering and computer science. He emphasised the importance of education and

skill development in AI for students and software developers. "Young students in India are eager to understand the shift from more traditional computer science to learned based approaches for solving all kinds of problems. You're going to see more students wanting to enter this kind of study and field of endeavor," Dean said. "AI is going to make software development much more productive, and India is especially well positioned in this space," he added.



US investment firm Vanguard cuts Ola's valuation to \$1.88 bn

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : US-based investment firm Vanguard has reportedly slashed down ride-hailing major Ola's valuation to less than \$2 billion. Vanguard marked down Ola's parent company ANI Technologies valuation to \$1.88 billion (as of November 30, 2023), as per its regulatory filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commis-

sion (SEC). This valuation is 29 per cent lower than its previous fair value of \$2.65 billion (August last year), reports Entracker. This is the third consecutive mark-down of Ola's valuation by Vanguard since February 2023. In February last year, Vanguard marked down the fair value of its stake in Ola by 35 per cent to \$4.8.



Paytm denies reports on selling its wallet business, says 'market speculation'

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Leading financial services company Paytm on Monday denied reports that it is in talks with a few interested investors to sell its wallet business, amid the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ban on the Paytm Payments Bank. Earlier in the day, reports surfaced, claiming that HDFC Bank and Jio Financial Services were said to be among the forerunners to acquire Paytm's wallet business. In a statement to IANS, a Paytm Payments Bank spokesperson said that "we do not comment on any market speculation." "We completely abide by the direction of the regulator, and the team's effort is to ensure a smooth customer experience with the products offered by the Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)," the spokesperson added.

Earlier, Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma assured the staff that there would be no layoffs and the company has been in talks with the RBI, besides, weighing partnership options with other banks. "We will figure out everything soon. We will reach out to the RBI to see what can be done," Sharma said while addressing employees during a virtual town hall. On Monday, Paytm shares were locked in lower circuit of 10 per cent on the BSE, trading at Rs 438.35. After the RBI's directive to Paytm's associate bank, there has been an impression that the company and its associates are one. However, giving clarity on the same, Madhur Deora, President and Group CFO at Paytm, has said that both by design and structure, the fintech company and its associate is not and cannot be one. "There may be this impression that Paytm and Paytm Payment Bank is one, but by design and by structure, it is not and it cannot be.

Govt moving to one regulator system for food safety certification

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : In a move that would facilitate ease of doing business through the concept of 'One Nation, One Commodity, One Regulator', the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved various amendments to streamline food safety and standards regulations. Various amendments across different Food Safety and Standards Regulations were approved, at a meeting headed by Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, to do away with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or AGMARK certification for food products.





Doubt if Congress will get even '40 Seats' in LS polls : Mamata

Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) : After making it clear that Trinamool Congress will go solo in West Bengal in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee predicted on Monday that the Congress will pay heavily in terms of seats in the upcoming general elections. Banerjee also said that she has doubt if Congress will be able to win even 40 seats in the elections. She also said that Congress does not have the strength to take on the BJP in the saffron-ruled states in North India. Speaking to the mediapersons during her two-day sit-in demonstration against non-payment of central dues

to West Bengal, Banerjee also ridiculed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, without naming him, over the latter's mass reach out exercise during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the state that moved to Jharkhand on Friday. Making a direct reference to Rahul Gandhi's interaction with 'bidi' workers in North Bengal, Banerjee said, "One who does not have the minimum knowledge as to how bidis are made is now resorting to photo-shoots.

Punjab Police avert target killings, one held

Chandigarh, Feb 5 (IANS) : Punjab Police has averted planned target killings with the arrest of Harpreet Singh alias Happy Baba of Tarn Taran, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said here on Monday. The accused has been facing criminal cases pertaining murder and attempt to murder. Police teams have also recovered a .30 bore automatic pistol along with a magazine and three cartridges from his possession. DGP Yadav said the arrested accused is an operative of most-wanted gangster Harpreet Singh, who was hatching a conspiracy to execute target killings to disturb the peace and communal harmony in the state and assigned the former to accomplish this task in lieu of money.



Centre notifies appointment of Justice S. Vaidyanathan as Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday issued a notification appointing Justice S. Vaidyanathan as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice S. Vaidyanathan, Judge of the Madras High Court, to be Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said the notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Jus-

Madras High Court and various Tribunals. His area of practice was labour, service, criminal and company matters. In a statement released on the website of the apex court, the SC Collegium had noted that during his tenure of 10 years as a judge of the high court, he authored 1,219 reported judgments, of which 692 were delivered during the last 5 years. "He has acquired considerable experience in dispensing justice in one of the largest high courts in the country... He is a competent judge with humility, judicial temperament and unimpeachable integrity," it had said.

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Govt makes stock disclosure mandatory for rice traders, millers

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Government of India has made declaration of stock position of rice/paddy mandatory for traders/wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors/millers. The initiative has been taken to manage the overall food inflation and to prevent unscrupulous speculation. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said that this order will be implemented in all the states and Union Territories until further orders. The respective legal entities -- traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers, processors and millers -- have to declare stock position of paddy and rice in categories such as (i) Broken Rice, (ii) Non-Basmati White Rice (iii) Parboiled Rice (iv) Basmati Rice (v) Paddy. The entities are expected to update it every Friday on the portal (<https://evegoils.nic.in/rice/login.html>) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution. The stock position of rice shall be declared by these entities within seven days of issuance of the order, an official said.



Further, to check inflationary trends in food economy, it has been decided to start retail sale of 'Bharat Rice' to general consumers. In the first phase, 5 LMT of rice has been allocated for retail sale under 'Bharat Rice' brand through three agencies -- NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. Retail price for the sale of Bharat Rice to general consumers will be Rs 29/kg. Rice will be sold in 5 kg and 10 kg bags. Bharat Rice will be available for purchase from mobile vans and physical outlets of the three central co-operative agencies to begin with, and it will also be available through other retail chains including e-commerce platforms very soon, the ministry added.



Four of family badly burnt in attack in Bihar's Bhagalpur

Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) : Four persons of a family in Bihar's Bhagalpur district were badly burnt in an attack early on Monday and are in serious condition, police said. The victims, including three minor girls and an elderly person were sleeping in the night at their home in Murli village under Ragra police station in Naugachia subdivision in the district. When 8 to 10 persons set them on fire after pouring petrol on their bodies. They also left 5 to 6 petrol bombs at the place in a bid to blow up the house.

BMC focusses big on Mumbai infra projects, to dip into reserves for expenses

Mumbai, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has focussed big on completing ongoing mega-infrastructure projects in Mumbai for which it plans to deploy its huge reserves which fetch low rates of interests selectively as is the practice since 3 years, BMC Commissioner

I.S. Chahal said on Monday. Of the total reserves of Rs 84,824.07 crore, the BMC holds Rs 39,064.86 crore towards committed liabilities and the remaining Rs 45,759.21 crore are being linked to various infra projects and funnelled towards capital expenditure to ensure world-class infrastructure for Mumbai.



Govt regularises 44 Gurugram colonies

Gurugram, Feb 5 (IANS) : Haryana government has approved 173 illegal colonies across the state which include 44 colonies in the Gurugram district, officials said on Monday. An official said that at least 21 colonies under Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) and 7 colonies under Manesar Municipal Corporation (MCM) have been regularised. He said that 5 colonies of Sohna, 8 of Farrukhnagar and 3 of Pataudi Mandi have also been included. "Under MCG, New Palam Vihar Phase-1 and 2, Avenue 69, Mayur

Kunj (Nirmal Enclave Extension), SPR Colony (Kushal Nagar Extension), Chandan Vihar-2, Royal Bhawani Enclave, an unnamed colony (RR Colony), Siyaram Enclave, Vatika Kunj, Nihal Colony (Nikhil Vihar Extension), Maruti Kunj Colony Extension, Vatika Kunj Part-2, Saraswati Enclave-2, Shantikunj-2, Sneh Vihar Colony, Vatika Kunj Extension, Krishna Kunj, Shankar Vihar and Tekchand Colony, Shriram Enclave (Goverdhan Kunj), and Rajendra Park have been regularized," the official said.



Tracing history: AAP, BJP at loggerheads for a decade now

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Tensions between Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters flared up once again in the national capital, resulting in the detention of over 200 workers of both the parties on Monday when they 'marched' towards each other's offices on the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, leading to widespread traffic disruptions in central Delhi. ED had

issued a notice to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to question him on the now-scrapped excise policy matter. Kejriwal, however, did not appear before the ED even after the fifth summons. The AAP staged a protest near the BJP office. The party also staged a demonstration at the old headquarters of BJP at 11 Ashoka Road a few years ago.

Revival of LTTE: NIA raids several locations in TN

Chennai, Feb 5 (IANS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) began conducting raids at several places in Tamil Nadu early on Monday morning. The raids were conducted following reports of suspected funding for the banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) being organised in the state in a bid to revive the outfit. Sources in Tamil Nadu Police told IANS that the residences and offices of some office-bearers of a political party with extreme Tamil nationalistic ideology are being raided.

PMK likely to contest against DMK in LS polls

Chennai, Feb 5 (IANS) : Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), the political arm of the Vanniyar community of Tamil Nadu is likely to be part of an alliance that is opposed to the ruling DMK. The party general council has passed a resolution authorising the party founder, S. Ramdoss to take a decision on the same. During the party general body there was a scathing attack on the DMK government and many speakers spoke against delaying the 10.5 per cent internal reservations for the Vanniyar community. While the meeting did not pass a resolution on the alliance the party should



choose, there were indications that the party was inclined for an alliance with either AIADMK or the BJP. Sources said that Anbumani Ramadoss has been taking initiatives for a patch up between BJP and AIADMK.



SC issues notice to UP Bar Council on charging exorbitant enrollment fee

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh Bar Council on a plea filed by a law graduate against collection of enrollment fee contrary to the Advocates Act, 1961. A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, agreed to examine the issue and sought the response of the regulatory body for lawyers within a period of two weeks. At this stage, the bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, did not pass any interim relief as prayed for in the petition. In a brief hearing, the petitioner, appearing in-person, apprised the bench that an enrollment fee of Rs 16,665 is being charged in Uttar Pradesh against the stipulated fee of Rs 750 under the Advocates Act.



Gurugram : Police raid 2 cafes for illegally serving hookah, narcotic substance

Gurugram, Feb 5 (IANS) : A joint team of the Chief Minister's flying squad and the drugs control department raided two cafes in Sector-53 on the intervening night of Monday and Friday and nabbed three persons for allegedly serving hookah and narcotic substance to the customers, the police said on Monday.

Hanuman Dhwaja removal: K'taka govt warns of legal action against provocative posts

Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) : A fresh row erupted in Karnataka over the alleged removal of Hanuman Dhwaja (flag) with the Congress-led state government warning of legal action over provocative posts on the matter, while the BJP criticised the Siddaramaiah-led government, saying there was an undeclared emergency in the state.

Reacting to this, LoP and senior BJP leader R. Ashoka claimed there was an undeclared emergency in the state. "The flag post issue that took place in Keragodu village in Mandya district is a sensitive matter. In this regard, whoever it may be legal action will

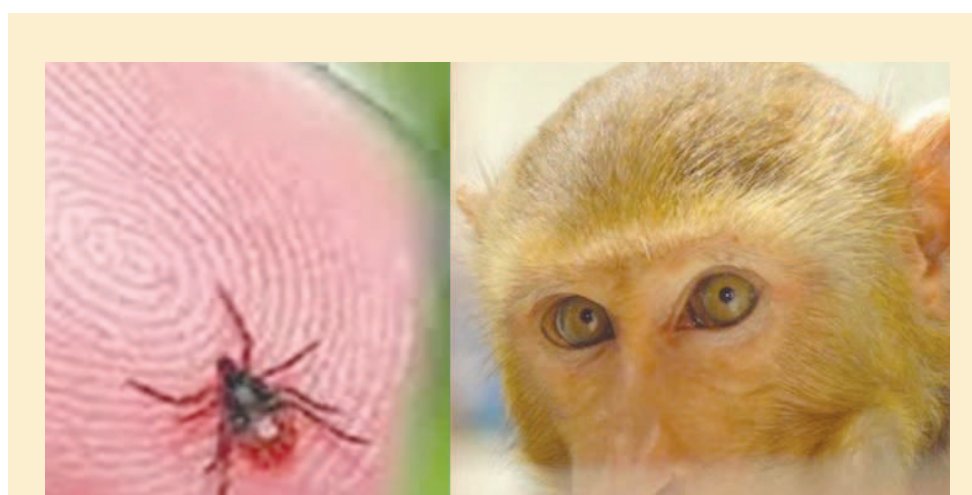
be initiated on those who put up pictures which will disturb peace in society, videos, provocative statements on social media such as X, FaceBook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Youtube and others. Case will be registered against those who send them and who provoke it. The district administration is keeping a strict vigil in this regard on social media," the order issued on Monday read.

is an undeclared emergency situation in the state every day. What are Congress leaders who vehemently proclaim that democracy is under threat doing in Karnataka? Mr. CM Siddaramaiah, if your government has scant respect and honour, take back the order immediately. Confess to the guilt and apologize before Hindus. Instead of this, if common people are harassed... we will launch a strong agitation!" he said.



TN budget for financial year 2024-25 to be presented on Feb 19

Chennai, Feb 5 (IANS) : The budget session of the Tamil Nadu assembly will commence from February 12 with the customary address of Tamil Nadu Governor while the budget will be presented on February 19. The budget for the financial year 2024-25 will be presented by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu on February 19. The government is expected to highlight the launch of welfare measures including a Rs 1,000 monthly scheme for women heads of families under the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam scheme. The government will also highlight the eight day trip undertaken by Chief Minister Stalin to Spain scouting investments for the state. This will be the third address of the Governor R.N. Ravi in the assembly. It may be noted that the Governor had walked out of the house during the last year's budget session following differences with the Chief Minister. The tension between the Chief Minister and the Governor continues to simmer as they differ on several issues. During the Ayodhya temple Pran Prathista ceremony the Governor had called for special pujas in temples of Tamil Nadu which was strongly opposed by the Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Raghupathy, which eroded the relationship between the government and Governor further.



Monkey fever spreads in K'taka, 21 cases reported

Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) : At least 21 cases of monkey fever have been reported from Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district so far, officials said on Monday. They said that among the 21 persons affected with monkey fever, eight have been admitted to the hospitals while 13 are being treated at home. They said that the authorities are carrying out awareness among people about the precautions to prevent the disease from spreading.

Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) is commonly known as monkey fever. It is a seasonal tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic to Southern India and may prove to be fatal to humans as well.

People living in and around the forests are at high risk of catching the viral infection as the virus is mostly found in forest areas. Monkey fever is caused by a virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae, the same family of viruses that

causes yellow fever and dengue, which is transmitted by monkeys.

Humans contract the disease either by coming in contact with the infected animal. Since infected individuals are dead-end hosts, they do not play any role in the further transmission of Kyasanur Forest Disease.

Dr. Niraj, the District Health Officer (DHO) said that the people are warned not to venture into the forest area.

"Those who will have to go into the forests are provided with repellent oil to be applied to exposed areas of the body like legs and hands.



Centre notifies appointment of Justice Vijay Bishnoi as Chief Justice of Gauhati HC

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday issued a notification appointing Justice Vijay Bishnoi as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, to be Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said the notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud-led

Supreme Court Collegium in December 2023 forwarded its recommendation to the Centre to fill in the vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court which had arisen consequent upon elevation of Justice Sandeep Mehta to the apex court. Justice Bishnoi was appointed as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court in January 2013 and has been functioning there as a senior puisne Judge. Before his elevation as judge, he practised at the Rajasthan High Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal at Jodhpur and dealt with civil, criminal, constitutional, service, and election cases.

Unable to gain people's trust, BJP trying to trap MLAs under Operation Lotus : Siddaramaiah

Vijayapura (Karnataka), Feb 5 (IANS) : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Monday that failing to gain the trust and confidence of the people, the BJP is trying to 'purchase' MLAs under Operation Lotus.

Reacting to state BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra and former CM Jagdish Shettar's remarks that many leaders from the Congress are asking them to be inducted into the BJP, Siddaramaiah said they (the

BJP) have done the same twice in the past. "Since 2008, former CMs B.S. Yeddiurappa and Basavaraja Bommai have done the same. They try to buy MLAs from everywhere with an eye on forming the government," he said.

"People of the state have never given complete majority to the BJP. In 2008, 2013 and 2018, the BJP didn't achieve majority. The Congress won in 2013.



'We built 6 bridges over Brahmaputra in just 10 yrs': Assam CM's swipe at Cong

Guwahati, Feb 5 (IANS) : Hitting out at the grand old party, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said that the BJP-led government in the state has constructed double the number of bridges on the Brahmaputra river in just 10 years compared to what the Congress did in nearly 60 years after Independence. "Between 1947 to 2014, Congress could build just three bridges over the

Brahmaputra river. In the last 10 years, we have already built six bridges on the Brahmaputra. "The construction work on another six bridges over Brahmaputra is underway," he said. Taking to his X handle, the Assam Chief Minister wrote: "Last year during Rongali Bihu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the new 12.2 km long bridge connecting Palashbari-Sualkuchi over the Brahmaputra.

Centre notifies appointment of Justice Ritu Bahri as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand HC

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday issued a notification appointing Justice Ritu Bahri as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Kumari Justice Ritu Bahri, Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to be Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, with

effect from the date she assumes charge of her office," said the notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud-led Supreme Court Collegium in November 2023 forwarded its recommendation to the Centre to fill in the vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court which had arisen consequent upon the retirement of Justice Vipin Sanghi.





Goa govt looting salaries of Home Guards, alleges Congress

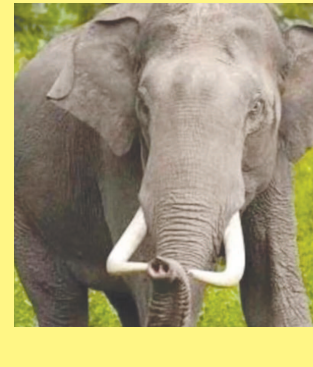
Panaji Feb 5 (IANS) : The Congress on Monday accused the Pramod Sawant government of looting salaries of Goa's Home Guards. Addressing a press conference at the party office, state General Secretary Vijay Bhike alleged that the government takes signatures of Home Guards for 30 days payment, however they are paid on 26 days only. "There are around 1,200 home guards across the state. They do the duty very dedicatedly and serve the public. However, they are not paid properly.

"Their signatures are taken for 30 working days, but are paid only for 26 days. Where does the payment of rest four days goes and in whose pockets? This amount comes to around Rs 1.22 crore annually. We want to know in whose pockets this loot goes," he said. Bhike alleged that even their uniform allowance is not spared, and Home Guards are yet to receive this amount. "This amount is around Rs 4.80 crore. We want to know in whose pockets this money goes." "The insensitive BJP government

has failed to release arrears of Home Guards since 2017, which comes to around Rs 8.64 crore," he said. He said that Home Guards are suffering due to not getting salaries on time. "They are from poor families and many may have loans. If they get salaries late then how will they repay loans on time," he asked. "Chief Minister Pramod Sawant speaks about reaching the last mile, but he has failed in all aspects. The issue of Home Guards exposes the corrupt acts of this government," he said.

Assam: Youth killed while trying to chase away herd of elephants

Guwahati, Feb 5 (IANS) : A 20-year-old youth was killed in Assam's Tinsukia district while he was trying to chase away a herd of elephants but got attacked by a jumbo, the police said on Monday. Pavitra Phukan tried to drive the elephants away after they created "chaos" in a Digboi neighbourhood, causing panic among the people. The people later contacted the police and forest officials. When Phukan was taken to a government hospital by forest officials, the medical staff pronounced him dead. According to forest officials, elephants frequently come out from the forest in search of food as the location is close to the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary.



Water tanker meant for Manipur police hijacked in Moreh

Imphal, Feb 5 (IANS) : Suspected armed attackers hijacked a private tanker meant for supplying potable water to the state police commandos deployed in conflict-torn Moreh, sending a threat to the presence of the force at the border town along Myanmar, the police said on Monday. The development came a day after radical village volunteers in Tengenoupal district asked the traders not to sell essential items, even water, to state police commandos, who mostly belong to the Meitei community. A police officer in Imphal said that the armed attackers hijacked the water tanker on Thursday and freed the driver in the night, while the ill-fated vehicle remained traceless till late on Monday night.

On the other hand, the government has made all arrangements to airlift essential commodities for the police commandos in the wake of the Kuki volunteers' threat, the police said. Tengenoupal district village volunteers had on Wednesday asked the shopkeepers in Moreh not to sell any items to the police commands from Saturday till they are removed from the area. The volunteers, in a release, said the steps have been taken to maintain "peace and harmony within our community and ensure the safety of all individuals". Tengenoupal district police, meanwhile, held a meeting with Assam Rifles officers and leaders of various communities except Meiteis at the complex of the paramilitary forces' camp in Moreh.



Centre notifies appointment of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as Chief Justice of Orissa HC

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday issued a notification appointing Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article

217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh, Judge of the Patna High Court, to be Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said the notification

issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud-led Supreme Court Collegium in November 2023 forwarded its recommendation to the Centre to fill in the vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court which had arisen consequent upon the retirement of Justice Subhasis Talapatra. Justice Singh was appointed as a judge of the Patna High Court in April 2012 and has been functioning there as the senior most puisne judge. Before his elevation as the judge, he was enrolled at the Bar in 1990 and practised at the Patna High Court. His area of practice was constitutional, service, criminal and arbitration matters. During his practice of 22 years, he had also served as Additional Advocate General for Bihar since

December 2010 till his elevation as a judge of the high court. In a statement released on the website of the apex court, the SC Collegium had noted that "during his tenure of more than 11 years as a judge of high court, he authored 1,246 reported judgments, of which 562 were delivered during the last five years". "He has maintained a high standard of professional ethics at the Bar and Bench and enjoys good reputation for conduct and integrity," it had said. It added that the SC Collegium has also taken into consideration the fact that at present the Patna High Court has no representation among the Chief Justices of High Courts.

Criminal defamation should be retained in the country: Law Commission



New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The 22nd Law Commission, chaired by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retired), has recommended retention of criminal defamation within the scheme of criminal laws in the country. The panel said it is important to keep in mind that right to reputation flows from Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and being a facet of right to life and personal liberty, needs to be ad-

equately protected against defamatory speech and imputations. In its 285th report, the Commission said that it studied the relationship between the right to reputation and the right to freedom of speech and expression, and how the two need to be balanced. On a reference made by the Union Ministry of Law & Justice in 2017, the panel was examining various issues relating to the defamation laws.



Ex-WFI chief seeks discharge in sexual harassment case citing delay in reporting offences

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday sought to be discharged in an alleged sexual harassment case by six women wrestlers, citing delay in reporting the alleged offence and contradictions in the complainants' statements.

Singh's counsel told Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot of Rouse Avenue Court that the incidents were said to have occurred in 2012 but were only reported to the police in 2023. In addition, he contended discrepancies in the timing and locations of the alleged incidents, asserting

no clear link between them. The defence pointed out contradictions between the complainants' affidavits and statements. The court is set to resume hearing the case on February 6, as it considers whether to frame charges against Singh and co-accused Vinod Tomar, former Assistant Secretary of WFI.

The Delhi Police had concluded its arguments last month. The arguments by police had resumed before ACMM Rajpoot, who started the fresh hearing after the transfer of ACMM Harjeet Singh Jaspal who had previously presided over the case.

Centre notifies appointment of Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava as Chief Justice of Rajasthan HC

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday issued a notification appointing Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, Judge of the

Rajasthan High Court, to be the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice late on Monday. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud-led Supreme Court Collegium in December 2023.

Gujarat unveils new healthcare plan worth over Rs 20K cr

Gandhinagar, Feb 5 (IANS) : Gujarat Finance Minister Kanubhai Desai on Monday revealed a comprehensive healthcare budget in his speech to improve healthcare services in the state. Some of the key highlights include allocating funds for constructing two new 300-bedded hospitals in Kamrej, Surat, and Bavla, Ahmedabad while aiming to enhance district-level healthcare infrastructure. The total budget for the Health and

Family Welfare Department stands at Rs 20,100 crore, marking a 32.40 per cent increase from the previous year's allocation. Adding to the healthcare advancements, the minister announced a budget of Rs 40 crore to establish a Cardiac Treatment Centre in collaboration with the UN Mehta Institute. This initiative is set to offer specialized cardiac care in major cities, including Gandhinagar, Rajkot, and Surat. In alignment with the

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Health Department is set to implement substantial measures to provide up to Rs 10 lakh in cashless health coverage, benefiting individuals from middle and lower-income groups. An impressive sum of Rs 3,100 crore has been earmarked for this purpose, catering to 2,531 enrolled hospitals nationwide. The government also plans to will further strengthen the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute in Ahmedabad.





Biden admin is close to strike Iran-backed militants: US Defence Secy

Washington, Feb 5 (IANS) : US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has scotched reports and uncertainties coming out of his recent health condition and surgery as he was backing the Biden administration's reportedly closer move to a deadly drone strike as a strong response to the Jordan attack that killed three US troops. Austin, who faced reporters for the first time since he was

hospitalised on January 1 due to complications from prostate cancer treatment, addressed questions about his failure to notify the president of his condition. He apologised for how he handled communications around the cancer diagnosis. "I want to be crystal clear. We did not handle this right. And I did not handle this right," he said during his first press conference in months. "I should have told the president

about my cancer diagnosis. I should have also told my team and the American public, and I take full responsibility," Austin said adding, "I apologize to my teammates and to the American people." He faced questions that were divided between potential responses to the deadly drone attack and his handling of the medical condition. Biden Reaches Decision on Response to Drone Attack: Austin

said that he was still working through leg pain and that he is undergoing physical therapy. But he said that "no one" recognises what a demanding job the position is more than him as he is likely eager to set aside health concerns ahead of any Pentagon response to the attack. He couldn't put his recovery timeline in terms of days or weeks, saying improvements will be "incremental." "I won't be ready for the Olympics, but I'll improve," Austin was quoted by the US News and World report as saying. Austin's reassurances come as developments this week hinted that a US response to the drone attack in Jordan is imminent.

CBS News reported on Thursday that US officials have approved plans "for a series of strikes over a number of days against targets - including Iranian personnel and facilities - inside Iraq and Syria." Weather will be a big factor in determining when the strikes will take place, CBS News reported.



Iraq, Saudi Arabia discuss repercussions of drone attack on US base in Jordan

Baghdad, Feb 5 (IANS) : Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein held a phone talk with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud to follow up on regional repercussions of a deadly drone attack on a US military base in Jordan. The two Ministers discussed possible post-attack scenarios regarding the regional security situation, according to a statement issued by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Monday. Hussein stressed the need to "continue communication and coordination between Baghdad and Riyadh to remove the threat of an all-out war in the region

and protect the security of the two countries". The White House said on Wednesday that an umbrella group known as the "Islamic Resistance in Iraq" was responsible for the recent drone attack that killed three US soldiers in Jordan, Xinhua news agency reported. US President Joe Biden said on Monday that he had already made a decision on how to respond to the attack that caused the first US fatalities since the Israeli-Hamas conflict broke out on October 7, 2023. He didn't elaborate, but reiterated that his administration is not looking for a "wider war in the Middle East".

Trump's federal trial on election interference postponed from March 4

Washington, Feb 5 (IANS) : Former US President Donald Trump's federal trial set for March 4 on charges of election interference has been postponed -- confirmed after it was dropped from the Washington DC District Court's calendar -- as an appeals court has to dispose of his claim of immunity from the charges. Trump's March 4 trial date on federal charges that he conspired to overturn the 2020 election has disappeared from the district court's calendar, confirming that his fight over whether he is immune to the charges will

delay the case, media reports said. The delay could have a domino effect on other cases pending against the former President. Trump, as it stands today, will first face criminal trial in New York, where he is charged with falsifying business records on a scheme to pay hush money to an adult film star and a former Playboy model. That trial's tentatively set for March 25. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has said that the judge was waiting to see what was happening in other jurisdictions. He said he would have a better idea of the schedule after the next hearing in the case on February 15. In the federal case

in Washington, US District Judge Tanya Chutkan set the tentative trial date in August, weeks after the former President was indicted on three conspiracy charges and one obstruction charge. But the case has dropped off the court's calendar and hasn't been rescheduled before the November election. Chutkan hasn't explained the change in the court docket, USA TODAY reported. The trial dropping off the schedule appears to result from the legal wrangle over whether Trump is immune to charges as he has invoked executive privilege not to testify in a court on grounds of having been the President of the US.



Four Indian students dead in US : Angry netizens call for travel advisory

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : Four Indian students have died in quick succession in the US, sparking fears regarding the safety and security of those studying abroad, and angry netizens calling for a travel advisory. The most recent reported case was of Shreyas Reddy Benigeri, a student of Lindner School of Business in Cincinnati, on Monday after the deaths of Purdue University's Neel Acharya, MBA student Vivek Saini in Georgia, and University of Illinois' Akul B Dhawan. Announcing Benigeri's death, the Indian Consulate in New York said that a police investigation is underway even as calls for an advisory for Indian students grew louder among netizens. "Deeply saddened by the unfortunate demise of Shreyas Reddy Benigeri, a student of Indian origin in Ohio. Police investigation is underway. At this stage, foul play is not suspected," the Consulate said in a post on X. The Consulate further said it is in touch with the Benigeri family and is extending all possible assistance

to them. "MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) needs to issue an advisory for Indian students on keeping them safe in the US. Just shipping their remains to India is not their sole job," Debashish Sarkar, a user on X, wrote in response to the Consulate's post. Calling the US an "increasingly becoming an unsafe place for Indians", X user Sonam Mahajan wrote: "It's high time India issued a travel advisory against the US for Indians looking to move to the country for both higher education and work opportunities". "India should perhaps issue travel advisory for Indian students wanting to study in US," another user Rakesh Bakshi wrote, while many others urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take swift action. India last issued a travel advisory for its students and nationals in Canada in September 2023, given growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in the country.

Israel's army to reach Rafah to dismantle Hamas brigades: Defence Minister Yoav Gallant

Tel Aviv, Feb 5 (IANS) : Israel Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has said that the Israel forces would soon reach Rafah border and eliminate Hamas units in the border areas. In a statement late Monday night, Gallant said that the ongoing operations have severely weakened the terror group's ability to wage war. He said that the fire power and force displayed by the Israel army so far during the war has put huge pressure on Hamas, forcing it to agree to release hostages it held during October 7 attack. The Israel Defense Minister, considered a hawk in Israel cabinet, said that Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade had boasted that it would stand against the IDF, but it is falling apart. After completing the mission in Khan Younis, the IDF would reach Rafah and eliminate everyone there who is a terrorist and attacking Israel. Gallant had visited the IDF's 98th division command in Khan Younis on Monday and had addressed troops.



'We work closely with India on our most vital priorities': US

Washington, Feb 5 (IANS) : Reiterating that its partnership with India is one of the most consequential relationships, the US has said it is working closely with the country on "most vital priorities". The remarks by State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller came hours after the Biden administration notified the US Congress on Monday of its decision to sell 31 armed drones to India. "I would say that our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relationships. We work closely with India on our most vital priorities," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news briefing on Monday. Wishing outgoing Indian Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu on his future endeavors, Miller said that the US looks forward to welcoming his replacement.



"We have had a close working relationship with the ambassador, have been able to work with him on a number of those shared priorities, including the crucial role India plays in ensuring a free, open Indo-Pacific that is connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient. We wish him well in his future endeavors and look forward to welcoming his replacement."



Two British Indian musicians in Royal Philharmonic Society Awards shortlist

London, Feb 5 (IANS) : A British Indian conductor and a sitarist are among 19 individual performers and composers shortlisted for this year's prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Awards, celebrating clas-

sical music and musicians across the UK. Billed by The Sunday Times as the "biggest night in UK classical music", the awards shine a light on brilliant musical individuals, groups, and initiatives inspiring communities nationwide. Alpesh Chauhan OBE, Music Director of the Birmingham Opera Company, has been nominated in the Conductor category, and sitarist and composer Jasdeep Singh Degun is in the Instrumentalist Award and the Large-Scale Composition Award categories.



2nd Test: Ashwin, Bumrah scalp 3 each as India beat Eng by 106 runs, level series 1-1

Visakhapatnam, Feb 5 (IANS) : Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and fast-bowler Jasprit Bumrah took three wickets each as India beat England by 106 runs in the second Test at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium on Monday, to level the five-game series 1-1. England put in a brave effort to chase a record 399, but hunting down a staggering target like that was always going to be an uphill task. They showed the positivity of continuing their uber-attacking approach, but it wasn't sufficient as they were bowled out for 292 in 69.2 overs.

Bumrah, whose spell of 6-45 gave India a vital 171-run first-innings lead, was the pick of the bowlers again with his spell of 3-46. Bumrah finished the Visakhapatnam Test with match figures of 9-91, which is also the second-best figures for an Indian fast-bowler against England. Ashwin bowled well to take 3-72 in Vizag and is now just one wicket away from reaching 500 Test scalps. Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Mukesh Kumar took a wicket each in India bouncing back from the 28-run defeat in Hyderabad with an emphatic series-squaring vic-

tory at Visakhapatnam. The next game of the series will be held at the SCA Stadium in Rajkot on February 15. In the morning session, England amassed 127 runs, but lost five wickets too, including of top-scorer Zak Crawley for 73, putting India in a pole position to win the match. Initially, the Indian bowlers struggled with their lines as Crawley and Rehan Ahmed hit five boundaries between themselves, though the former was cautious against a sharp Bumrah.



The SA20 product now and in future has great potential, says Kumar Sangakkara

Cape Town, Feb 5 (IANS) : The Season 2 of the SA20, South Africa's franchise based domestic T20 league, is recording massive turnout in all six venues, which makes it a product with great potential now and in future too, says Kumar Sangakkara, chairman of MCC's World Cricket Committee. The results in Season 2 have drawn acclaim from Sangakkara, who was in South Africa on Sunday together with a few members of the Committee to witness the action up close. "The effort that Graeme Smith

has put in the SA20, not just for this tournament, but to ensure a great cricketing experience for all stakeholders, especially the fans, and then to be able to be a part of what we do in really working towards a sustainable future for cricket, has been brilliant," Sangakkara said. "The product ultimately has to be excellent and the SA20 product now and in the future has huge potential. I know the fans love it and enjoy it. They embrace their local sides. They come in numbers to watch it.

Holder keen on return to Test cricket for WI after playing T20 WC

Hobart, Feb 5 (IANS) : West Indies fast-bowling all-rounder Jason Holder said he is keen to add to his 64 games in Test cricket after playing in the Men's T20 World Cup. Holder had opted out of the Test series against Australia, which ended in a 1-1 draw, due to prioritising playing T20 cricket in 2024, especially with the West Indies and USA hosting the Men's T20 World Cup from June 1-29. "I think this year was a little bit unique, I wanted to sign a central contract and be around West Indies cricket as it still my plan.



IWL 2023-24: Kickstart restore winning form with fine performance against East Bengal

Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) : Last season's runner-up Kickstart FC bounced back from their first loss of the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2023-24 season to comprehensively beat East Bengal 3-1 at the East Bengal Ground here on Monday. Kickstart were dominant

from the get-go and delivered a swift response after their shocking 1-5 home loss to HOPS last week. The win helped the Bengaluru side keep its title hopes alive as it closed the gap to leaders Odisha FC to two points. East Bengal, on the other hand, remain in sixth place with four

points from eight games. **FASTEST GOAL OF SEASON** Langam Chaoba Devi's girls wasted no time to get off the mark, scoring the fastest goal of the season so far as defender Aruna Bag headed in Yumlembam Pakpi Devi's corner after just 48 seconds.



SAFF U-19 Women's C'ship: India determined to dictate terms in Nepal narrative

Dhaka, Feb 5 (IANS) : In a football match, certainty remains vague until the final whistle, a truth vividly proved in Sunday's clash against Bangladesh. India, in a twist of fate, conceded a late

injury-time goal, departing the field empty handed. Despite the Young Tigresses delivering a strong performance against the hosts, the match appeared destined for a draw.

2nd Test: Winning a Test in these conditions is not easy; bowlers stepped up, says Rohit Sharma

Visakhapatnam, Feb 5 (IANS) : After defeating England by 106 runs to win the second Test, India captain Rohit Sharma lauded the bowlers for stepping up to lead the team to victory in not-so-easy conditions. In day four's play at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium on Monday, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and fast-bowler Jasprit Bumrah

took three wickets each for India to defend 399 after bowling out England for 292. Bumrah, whose spell of 6-45 gave India a vital 171-run first-innings lead, was the pick of the bowlers again with his spell of 3-46. Bumrah finishes the Visakhapatnam Test with match figures of 9-91, which is also the best figures for an Indian fast-bowler on home soil in Tests against England. Ashwin bowled well to take 3-72 and is now just one wicket away from reaching 500 Test scalps. Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Mukesh Kumar took a wicket each in India bouncing back from the 28-run defeat in Hyderabad with an emphatic series-squaring victory at Visakhapatnam.



PKL 10: UP Yoddhas aim to finish Delhi leg with a win

New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) : UP Yoddhas are aiming for their consecutive win to conclude the Delhi Leg when they take the mat against Tamil Thalaivas in Match 108 of Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season

10 on Tuesday at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium. The Yoddhas, the GMR Group-owned franchise, made a remarkable comeback in their previous match, securing a whopping 39-23 victory against U Mumba on Saturday.



Mumbai Open WTA 125K: Sharapova's pretty dresses inspired India's Shrivalli to play tennis

Mumbai, Feb 5 (IANS) : There is usually something special that inspires youngsters to take up sports and in the case of India's promising women's tennis player Shrivalli Bhamidipaty it was the pretty dresses worn by former World No.1 Maria Sharapova that ignited her passion for the sport.

