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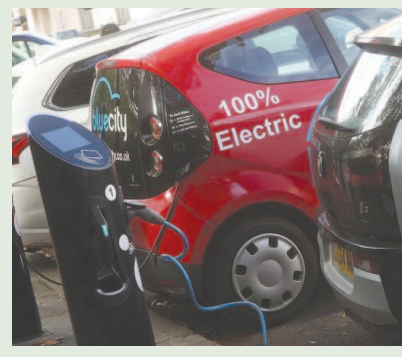
PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



### AIFC's 2024-25 domestic season to start with Durand Cup on July 26

The All-India Football Federation (AIFC) on Tuesday announced the domestic competition calendar for the 2024-25 season, with the senior men's calendar set to kick off with the Durand Cup...

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### India's EV charging station count rises to 12,146; Maharashtra leads, Delhi 2nd

The number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations that are operating in the country has gone up to 12,146 as of February 2 this year, Minister of State for Heavy Industries...

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### Health of Home Guards personnel is our first priority: SP Akhil Mahajan

Rajanna Sirisilla District SP Akhil Mahajan has called upon Home Guards personnel who perform continuous duties not to worry about their health. "As part of health protection..."

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### KCR to hold public meeting against projects' handover to KRMB

## KRMB

Hyderabad, Feb.6 (IANS) : BRS party chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao today announced that his party would hold a public meeting in Nalgonda district on February 13 protesting against the decision of the State government to hand over the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem dams to KRMB. Addressing a meeting of the party leaders at Telangana Bhavan here, KCR said the interests of Telangana farmers would be harmed with the decision of the State government. Condemning the anti-Telangana attitude of the State government and with an objective to protect the irrigation rights of Telangana from the Centre, they had decided to hold a huge public meeting in Nalgonda on February 13, he said.

Continued on pg 02



### Jolt to BRS as MP Venkatesh Neta joins Congress

Hyderabad, Feb 6 (IANS) : Ahead of Parliament elections, the BRS party has received another setback with its MP from Peddapalli Lok Sabha Constituency Venkatesh Neta joining the Congress party. The BRS MP joined Congress in the presence of All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in New Delhi on Tuesday. Former TTD Board member Manne Jeevan Reddy also joined the Congress party in the presence of KC Venugopal and Revanth Reddy. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and other leaders were also present at the event. After joining the party, all the leaders paid a courtesy call on AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence in New Delhi. In fact, MP Venkatesh started his political career with Congress in 2018. He had contested as the Congress

candidate from Chennai Assembly constituency and was defeated in the election. Later, Venkatesh Neta joined the BRS party and was elected as an MP from Peddapalli Lok Sabha constituency. However, there are reports that the BRS leadership is planning to change the candidate from Peddapalli Lok Sabha Constituency this time and the MP ticket will be given to former minister Koppula Eshwar instead of Venkatesh Neta.



PM visits an exhibition at Viksit Bharat, Viksit Goa 2047 program, in Goa on February 06, 2024.



### Govt increases another 60 posts in Group-1 notification

Hyderabad, Feb 6 (IANS) : The State government on Tuesday issued a G.O. adding another 60 posts to the earlier Group-1 notification. Telangana State Public Service Commission ( TSPSC) released a notification for 503

Group-1 posts in April 2022. However, the Group-1 examination was cancelled twice after the issue of paper leakages came to light. Later, the exam was postponed due to the Assembly elections and other exams.

### Congress MLA slams Balka Suman for making derogatory remarks against CM

Mancherial, Feb 6 (IANS) : Chennai MLA Vivek Venkataswamy slammed former BRS MLA Balka Suman for levelling derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and said that Suman didn't learn any lesson despite being defeated in the recent Assembly elections. Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the Congress MLA said that in fact, BRS president and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was the creator of using abusive language in politics and many times, he had used the filthy language against opposition leaders.



### Kavitha demands criminal case against CM Revanth for scolding KCR

Hyderabad, Feb 6 (IANS) : BRS party MLC K. Kavitha today lashed out at CM Revanth Reddy for using foul language against former CM KCR. She demanded that the State police register a criminal case against the CM and warned that she would approach the courts if the police failed to book the CM. She made these remarks on her X account.



### Congress committed to SC categorisation : Raja Narasimha

Hyderabad, Feb 6 (IANS) : Minister for Medical and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has reiterated that the Congress government is committed to the categorisation of the Scheduled Castes and the social justice will be done to SCs only when the

categorisation is taken place. Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Tuesday, Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said that no one can question the sincerity of the Congress on categorisation and his party was sincerely fighting for the SC sub-categorisation.



### Red sander smugglers kill Andhra cop

Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh), Feb 6 (IANS) : Red sander smugglers killed a constable in Andhra Pradesh's Annamayya district when police were conducting a search operation. The incident occurred on Monday night in Cheenepalli village in KV Palle mandal when Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force was conducting a search operation following information about smuggling of red sander in the area.



### TS EAPCET to be held from May 9 to 12

Hyderabad, Feb 6 : The Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture, Pharmacy and Common Entrance Test (TS EAPCET), which is popularly known as TS EAMCET, for 2024 will be conducted from May 9 to May 12.

### BJP eyes 17 LS seats, including Hyderabad seat : Bandi Sanjay

Karimnagar, Feb 6 (IANS) : BJP national general secretary and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar today said the party's aim was to win 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana including Hyderabad in the upcoming Parliamentary elections. He said their political rival AIMIM thinks that Hyderabad was their stronghold and added that all Hindus in the old city were going to become a vote bank of the BJP to ensure its victory.



# KCR to hold public meeting against projects' handover to KRMB

**Continued From pg 01**  
He made it clear that he would fight for protection of Telangana's rights over Krishna river waters. He also made it clear that it was the responsibility of the BRS party activists to build another people's movement today and ensure that the rights of Telangana were not violated with the spirit of leading the movement and achieving Telangana and protecting the rights of Telangana. "The unthinking attitude of the State government has turned into an axe on the irrigation rights of the farmers of south Telangana in the Krishna river basin."

**SHRIRAM Finance**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative Office: 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. Branch Office: Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda-506001.

## DEMAND NOTICE

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

Whereas the borrowers/ co-borrowers/ guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at HANAMKONDA (hereinafter referred as We/ the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/ guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as **Non Performing Asset** in accordance with the directives/ guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of notices.

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

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1	1) Suman Rao Nimmani, S/o. Kishan Rao, Age: 39 Years, Occ: M/s. Mirapakal Veg & Non Veg Restaurant Jangaon, R/o. H.No.2-43, Punnelu (V), Inavole (M), Warangal Dist.-506310. Cell: 9866714141. 2) Sravanthi Surineni, W/o. Suman Rao Nimmani, Age: 35 Years, R/o. H.No.2-43, Punnelu (V), Inavole (M), Warangal Dist.-506310. Cell: 898555235. 3) Madhu Sudhan Rao Billakanti, S/o. Narsinga Rao, Age: 38 Years, R/o. H.No.3-78/5, Parimala Colony, Hanamkonda-506001. Cell: 9959493795.	08.06.2023	12.01.2024
		Rs.20,00,000/-	Rs.29,66,528/-

**Schedule of Immovable Property - HANDATE211270005 - Description of the Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Suman Rao Nimmani Mortgage deed dated 02.12.2021 Registered as Document No.10734/2021 on the file of the Sub-Registrar at Warangal Fort). House on open place bearing GP No.2-43 to an extent of 600.00 Sq.yards covered with plinth area of 733.16 Sq.ft.s situated at Punnelu Village, Inavolu mandal of Warangal District, within the limits of SRO Warangal Fort is Bounded by: Boundaries: East: GP CC Road, West: House of Arelli Sampath Rao, North: House of Nimmani Rama Rao, South: House and open place of Chennai Ramulu.**

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within **60 days** from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of **60 days** of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 05.02.2024, Place: HANAMKONDA  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

**SHRIRAM Finance**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative Office: 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. Branch Office: Kazipet, Warangal.

## DEMAND NOTICE

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

Whereas the borrowers/ co-borrowers/ guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at KAZIPET WGL (hereinafter referred as We/ the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/ guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as **Non Performing Asset** in accordance with the directives/ guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of notices.

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

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1	1) K. Lakshikanth, S/o. Narsaiah, Age: 60 Years, Occ: Sri Dhara Real Estates, R/o. H.No.11-26-141/1, Kothawada, Warangal, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9700275000. 2) K. Rama Devi, W/o. Lakshikanth, Age: 58 Years, R/o. H.No.13-4-17, Yellam Bazar, Warangal Dist.-506002. And Also at: K. Rama Devi, W/o. Lakshikanth, Age: 58 Years, R/o. Flat No.401, Vadraj Complex, Patakmalah, Warangal City and District. And Also at: K. Rama Devi, W/o. Lakshikanth, Age: 58 Years, R/o. Open Plot in Sy.No.624/2, H.No.47-5-1329, Paidipally Village and Grampanchayat, Hanamkonda Mandal, Warangal District. 3) M. Narsimlu Proprietor of Relax Cafe, S/o. Buchaiah, Age: 63 Years, R/o.H.No.15-4-8, S.V.N.Road, A.V.V.Complex, Warangal, Warangal Dist.-506002.	13.02.2014	30.01.2024
		Rs. 50,00,000/-	1,09,29,807/-

**Schedule of Immovable Property - KZIP1TF1204020012 - Description of the Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Katherasala Rama Devi Mortgage deed dated 02.04.2012 Registered as Document No.2815/2012 on the file of the Sub-Registrar at Warangal). Under Construction Residential Building of Ground First and Second Floors on the Open Plot in Sy.No.624/2 of Paidipally Village and Grampanchayat, Situated at Hanamkonda Paidipally Village, Hanamkonda Village, Hanamkonda Mandal, Warangal District, is Located within the following Boundaries: Extent 20.00 Sq.yards, Doc.No.8137/2011. Dt.11-11-2011. Boundaries: East: 30 ft. wide Road, West: Land of Harihath Babu, North: Land of Others, South: Land of Others.**

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within **60 days** from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of **60 days** of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 05.02.2024, Place: KAZIPET WGL  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

**SHRIRAM Finance**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative Office: 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. Branch Office: Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda-506001.

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

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

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1	1) Silver Tree Restaurant and Elite Bar, Rep. by Prop. Sambamurthy, R/o. H.No.19-3-159/1/D, Ursu Gutta, Battupally Road, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9700275000. 2) Vodnala Sambamurthy, S/o. Chandramouli, Age: 51 Years, Occ: Silver Tree Restaurant and Elite Bar, R/o. H.No.17-2-475/1, Kareemabad, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9700275000. 3) Vodnala Rajamani, W/o. Chandramouli, R/o. H.No.17-2-475/1, Kareemabad, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 7330715001. And Also at: Vodnala Rajamani, W/o. Chandramouli, R/o. H.No.19-3-159/1/D, Ursu Revenue Village, Kareemabad, Warangal District. 4) Vodnala Narendra, S/o. Chandramouli, Age: 52 Years, R/o. H.No.17-2-475/1, Kareemabad, Near Water Tank, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9866168751. 5) Vodnala Srinivas, S/o. Chandramouli, Age: 47 Years, R/o. H.No.17-2-475/1, Kareemabad, Near Water Tank, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9032905000. 6) Chiranjeevi Akkamba, S/o. Nageshwar Rao, Age: 39 Years, R/o. H.No.16-10-55, Shiva Nagar, Warangal Dist.-506002. Cell: 9989659877.	08.09.2023	17.01.2024
		Rs. 75,00,000/-	1,08,80,632/-

**Schedule of Immovable Property - HANDATE2203160008 - Description of the Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Vodnala Rajamani. Mortgage deed dated 16.03.2022 Registered as Document No.2442/2022 on the file of the Sub-Registrar at Warangal Fort) House and open place bearing Municipal No.19-3-159/1/D in Sy.No.457 to an extent of Ac.0-20 gts or 0-20 bhectrs. 2420 Sq.yards or 2023.43 Sq.mtrs situated at Ursu Revenue Village, Kareemabad, Warangal District, within the limits of GWMC, Warangal and Sub Registrar, Warangal RO is Bounded by: East: Land of Palakurthi Raja Lingam, West: Land of Bandi China Kumaraswamy, North: Land of M. Venkateshwari, South: Way.**

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within **60 days** from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of **60 days** of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 05.02.2024, Place: HANAMKONDA  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited



# Health of Home Guards personnel is our first priority : SP Akhil Mahajan

**Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 6 (TIM Bureau) :** Rajanna Sirisilla District SP Akhil Mahajan has called upon Home Guards personnel who perform continuous duties not to worry about their health. "As part of health protection of Home Guards personnel and family members, a mega medical camp was organized at District Police Headquarters with the courtesy of Indian Medical Association Sirisilla under the special initiative of District SP. "Trainee IPS Rahul Reddy attended the mega medical camp organized at the district police headquarters as the chief guest and started it along with doctors. "The district SP especially congratulated the members of the Indian Council Association and the doctors for conducting medical examinations by the home guard staff ENT, ORTHO, PEDIAT-

RIC, PHYSICIAN, Gynaecologist, Cordioallogist, Dental, Eye specialist working in the district under the auspices of Indian Council Association Sirisilla. " On this occasion on Tuesday, the District SP said that the health of the 198 Home Guards personnel working in the districts is our first priority, as they are facing many obstacles every day in addition to working day and night, free health camp is organized under the auspices of the District Police Department to support the 198 Home Guards personnel working in the district. He said that sports, yoga and sports are

being organized and health cards have already been handed over to the home guards working in the district. He also explained that health is the greatest wealth of everyone and how health plays a vital role in the life of every policeman in providing impeccable services to the public. He directed the policemen to follow the advice of doctors to take care of their health. "We should make walking, exercise and yoga a part of our daily routine to maintain health. He said that diseases are spreading very fast in the current situation and it is very good if proper health instructions are followed to avoid getting infected. In today's society where so many modern medical facilities are not available, everyone above 40 years suggests that it is better to take preventive measures than to consult doctors and take medicines for our health once every three months.



**Union Bank of India**  
Miryalaguda-II Branch - Mahabubnagar Region # Near Rajiv Chowk, Sagar Road, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda District, Telangana State-508207. Mobile: 7902607829, e-mail Id: UBIN0803570@unionbankofindia.bank

## DEMAND NOTICE

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

To, APPLICANT : Mr. Pandiri Sridhar, S/o Papa Rao, Flat No.403, Balaji Residency, Reddy Colony, Miryalaguda-508207; Mobile No.9399329448. Co-APPLICANT: Ms. Pandiri Madhavi, W/o. Pandiri Sridhar, Flat: 403, Balaji Residency, Reddy Colony, Miryalaguda-508207; Mobile No.9347569943.

Sir/Madam, SUB: Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice - In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by Mr. Pandiri Sridhar (Applicant), S/o Papa Rao & Ms. Pandiri Madhavi (Co-Applicant), W/o. Pandiri Sridhar with our bank Classified as NPA on 09.01.2024.

We have to inform you that the HPLGN account of Mr. Pandiri Sridhar (Applicant), S/o Papa Rao & Ms. Pandiri Madhavi (Co-Applicant), W/o. Pandiri Sridhar (Account No:035730100198959) and UCPLS account of Mr. Pandiri Sridhar (Account No: 035730100198959) with Union bank of India, Miryalaguda-II(Sec Id: 03571) Branch has been classified as NPA w.e.f.09.01.2024 pursuant to the default in making repayment of dues/interest by the borrower Mr. Pandiri Sridhar As on 09.01.2024, a sum of **Rs.19,18,928/- (Rupees Nineteen Laks Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Eight)** + interest and other charges till date plus interest and other charges till date) is outstanding in the said accounts as shown below:

Name of Facility	Limiting Amount in Rs.	Applicable Rate of Interest (% p.a.)	Outstanding Amount (in Rs.)
HPLGN-035730100163801	23.00	8.75	Rs.17,73,228/- Interest and other charges till date
UCPLS- 035730100198959	3.20	9.30	Rs.1,15,304/- Interest and other charges till date
Credit Card - 652863XXXXX2003 CIF ID: 10547962	0.30		Rs.60,396/- Interest and other charges till date
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>Rs.19,18,928/- Interest and other charges till date</b>

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account / you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.19,18,928/- (Rupees Nineteen Laks Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Eight)** + interest and other charges till date together with contractual rate of interest as stated above from 09.01.2024 with monthly rest as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

**Primary Security:**

**Schedule of the Property**  
Residential Flat, Flat No.403 Plint area 1245 Sq. feets in the third floor of Balaji Residency Apartment and 31 Sq.yards undivided share and 50 Sq.ft parking & Door No.19-75 in Block No.19 in Sy.Nos.727, 728, 729 & 730 situated at Reddy Colony, Miryalaguda town and Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana-508207. Bounded by: Plot: East: House of J.Renuka & J.Malathi, West: Road, North: Road, South: Road. FLAT: East: Way (Corridor), West: Open to Sky, North: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky.

1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.

2) You are requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note any violation of this section entails serious consequences.

3) Please note that as per Section 13(8) of the said Act, you may redeem the secured assets by remitting the amount demanded above together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred us at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tenders from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.

Sd/- CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORISED OFFICER  
UNION BANK OF INDIA, MIRYALGUDA-II BRANCH



# To remove darshan difficulties for common devotees

**Vemulawada (Rajanna Sirisilla) Feb 6 (TIM Bureau) :** Government Whip, Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas advised the authorities to arrange a VIP break darshan line for ordinary devotees. A special queue line should be established for VIP break darshan and VIPs should be given an opportunity to break darshan every morning and evening. They want to study the field. If possible, they want to make arrangements for the break darshan during Shivratri fair itself. Arrangements should be made to give a new grand look to Maha Shivratri so that the spirituality and devotion can be enhanced and the devotees will appreciate it. The temple authorities were advised to put up white cloth canopies for the devotees. "A coordination committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Collector Anurag Jayanti in the open slab of Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy Devasthanam in honor of Mahashivaratri fair on Tuesday. "In the meeting Zilla Praja Parishad Chairperson Nyalakonda Aruna Raghava Reddy, "SP Akhil Mahajan, Additional Collector Pujari Gauthami, Municipal Chair Person Ramatirathu Madhavi, Trainee IPS Rahul Reddy, Temple EO Krishna Prasad, Vemulawada RDO Madhu Sudan, DSP Nagendra Chari, District Officers of Government Departments, Temple staff and others participated. "Government Whip, Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas, who was present as the chief guest, directed the officials of the government departments to organize the Mahashivaratri smoothly.

**CAN FIN HOMES LTD.**  
Branch Office: Plot No.28, Brahmanagar Colony, Beeramguda, Sangareddy District-502032. Tel: 08455-280777, E-mail: ramachandrapuram@canfinhomes.com, CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

## DEMAND NOTICE

**DEMAND NOTICE under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below. The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers. Hence the Company by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice (as per the provisions of Rule 3 (1)). The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be posted on the premises of the said Borrowers, as per the said Act. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to the Company by the respective parties as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors with address	Amount claimed as per Demand Notice	Description of the Secured Asset	Date of NPA
1	<b>Borrowers:</b> 1. Naini Raviteja, S/o Naini Srinivas, H.No.1-4-263/1, Road No.07, New Maruthi Nagar, Kothapet, Hyderabad, Telangana-505526. 2. Naini Raviteja, S/o Naini Srinivas, Flat No.312, Third Floor, Hi-Rise Paradise, Bachupally Village and Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District-500090. 3. Naini Raviteja, S/o Naini Srinivas, Enterprise Softlabs Private Limited, Level-7, Building 2A, Maximus Towers, Mindspace Complex, Hitech City, Hyderabad-500081. <b>Guarantor:</b> Mr. Ravi Shankar, S/o Venkata Sallu, H.No. 1-4-363/1, Road No.07, New Maruthi Nagar, Kothapet, Hyderabad-500035.	Total Outstanding: Rs.45,46,684/- Demand Notice Dated: 06-02-2024	<b>SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY</b> All that the Flat No.312, Third Floor, "Hi-Rise Paradise", On Plot Nos: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 in Sy.No's: 13/A, 14/A, & 33, situated at Bachupally Village and Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District and Bounded as follows: North: Open to Sky & Staircase, South: Open to Duct, East: Corridor, West: Open to Duct.	29-01-2024
2	<b>Borrowers:</b> 1. Mr. Pullaiah Giri Vinod Reddy, S/o Pullaiah Giri Venkat Reddy, H.No.7-6, Ram Mandir Road, Patancheru, Hyderabad-502300. 2. Mrs. Pullaiah Giri Kavya, W/o Pullaiah Giri Vinod Reddy, H.No.7-6, Ram Mandir Road, Patancheru, Hyderabad-502300. 3. Mr. Pullaiah Giri Vinod Reddy, S/o Pullaiah Giri Venkat Reddy, Building Material Suppliers, H.No.7-6, Ram Mandir Road, Patancheru, Hyderabad-502300. <b>Guarantor:</b> Mr. M.S.Prasad Rao, S/o Rao Balaji, H.No.2-129/A, Raghavendra Nagar, Patancheru, Sangareddy District-502300.	Total Outstanding: Rs.11,08,979/- Demand Notice Dated: 06-02-2024	<b>SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY</b> All that the House No.7-6, Admesurung 226 Square Yards, as shown in the Schedule Plan Annexed Herewith, Situated At Gonemba Basthi of Patancheru Village and Mandal Medak Dist. Under City Municipality, Patancheru, Z.P. Medak, Sangareddy, Registration Dist. Medak at Sangareddy, and Bounded as follows: Boundaries For Flat No.204: North: House of Prakash H.No.6-336, G.P.Road, South: Neighbours House, East: Part of H.No.7-6, West: House of Venkateshwar Rao.	29-01-2024

\*Payable with further interest at contractual rates as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment.

You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contractual rate of interest thereon within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the under signed will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers/ guarantors is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 06-02-2024, Place: Hyderabad  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd.

## UP DGP directs officials to improve response time, visibility

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The newly-appointed Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police, Prashant Kumar, has issued a series of directives to improve police response time, visibility and crime prevention measures. The DGP has instructed officials to implement a zero tolerance policy for delayed response to any incident and conduct regular foot patrolling to ensure police presence in important areas and foster public interaction.

He stressed the importance of evaluating resources and personnel requirements in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The DGP also directed the officials to exercise effective control over criminals and take strict action against lawbreakers. "This includes regular checks and verifications of history sheets, mandatory use of body worn cameras by police personnel on duty for enhanced transparency, and strict enforcement of laws to check cow slaughter," he said.



Recognising the growing challenges in the digital space, he highlighted the need for immediate action against misleading and objectionable social media posts. He asked the officials to be sensitive in matters related to women and children. To combat rising threat of cyber crime, Kumar said that police personnel should be trained about the preventive steps.

## Someshwara temple Shivling desecrated in K'taka

**Uttara Kannada (Karnataka), Feb 6 (IANS) :** An incident of miscreants desecrating the 'Shivling' in the famous Someshwara Temple in Narabail village in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka was reported on Tuesday. Some scribbling was found on the Shivling. According to the police, the incident came to light after the priest opened the door of the sanctum sanctorum on Tuesday. The miscreants had forcibly pushed the door, broken the smaller lock and gained entry. The scribbling was found all over the

Shivalinga and had been made with chalk. The miscreants left markings that read "JES 2024, 2026" on the Shivalinga, leading to many suspicions. The Sirsi Rural police rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation. A tense situation is prevailing in the region following the incident. Police said that the scribbling was suspicious, and experts were aiding in the investigation. The temple authorities informed the police that there was no confusion or internal strife related to the temple management.



## BJP in Bengal sets up 20-member election management committee for LS polls

**Kolkata, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has set up a 20-member election committee in the state for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, a source said on Tuesday. According to party sources, among the 20 members of the committee, four are special invitees. They are BJP's IT department chief Amit Malviya, the party's national general sec-

retary Sunil Bansal and the party's two central observers for West Bengal, Mangal Pandey and Asha Lakra. The other prominent members on the committee include state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar; leader of the opposition in West Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari, party MPs like Dilip Ghosh, Subhash Sarkar, Nisith Pramanik, Shantanu Thakur, John Barla, Locket Chattopadhyay and Jyotirmay Singh Mahato. Fashion designer-turned politician and the party's legislator Agnimitra Paul has also found a place in the committee. Political observers feel that in the committee, a balance has been made in accommodating both "old timers".



## Nigerian national held for carrying drugs; 4 gm cocaine recovered

**Gurugram, Feb 6 (IANS) :** A Nigerian national has been arrested here in the DLF Phase 1 area for allegedly possessing drugs, the police said on Tuesday. Police seized four grams of cocaine from his possession. The arrested individual was identified as Age Chidubem Declan. He was living

in the Lohia Apartment in Delhi's Mehrauli. A Crime Branch team of Gurugram Police arrested the accused from a place near a petrol pump in the DLF Phase 1 area with cocaine following a tip-off.



## UP Board exams: Yogi govt to deploy local intelligence units at sensitive centres

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Uttar Pradesh government is implementing extensive and foolproof measures to ensure transparency and security at every stage in the secondary Board examinations. The government will deploy the local intelligence unit (LIU) for meticulous monitoring of examination centres categorised as sensitive or highly sensitive. These centres, with a history of irregularities, are under constant vigilance, with patrolling by jurisdictional officers and officer-in-charge of the concerned police station to deter external cheating, said a government spokesman. Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Council secretary Divyakant

Shukla emphasised that the government has involved armed forces in monitoring strong rooms. This stringent measure aims to prevent any potential paper leaks or security breaches. A comprehensive strategy has been devised involving coordination with various departments to facilitate the smooth conduct of the examinations scheduled from February 22 to March 9. The mammoth task involves catering to the needs of 55,25,290 students, encompassing both high school (29,47,325 examinees) and intermediate



## Will ensure safety of Gyanvapi mosque till 'last breath' : AIM

**Varanasi (UP), Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM), the panel that manages the Gyanvapi mosque, has stated its commitment to continue efforts "until the last breath" for the safety and preservation of the mosque. The AIM has expressed "severe disappointment" with the Varanasi district judge's decision to allow puja in the basement of the Gyanvapi mosque. On January 31, the Varanasi district judge's court granted permission for the worship of deities inside the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque by priests appointed by the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust. Following the court's verdict, the district administration ensured prompt compliance with the or-

der on the same day. In a letter addressed to the Muslim community, AIM secretary and Mufti-e-Banaras, Maulana Abdul Batin Nomani, said, "We assure you that we will continue our efforts until our last breath for the safety and conservation of the Gyanvapi mosque." Criticising the district judge's decision, the AIM secretary said, "On the basis of the permission given by the district judge for worship in the southern basement of Gyanvapi, the district administration not only placed idols in it overnight but also involved the deployed CRPF, in whose functioning everyone had faith, in this conspiracy." He added, "This one-sided action has hurt the sentiments of all of us, and we condemn this decision."

## Dhami-led Uttarakhand Cabinet approves draft UCC Bill

**Dehradun, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Uttarakhand Cabinet led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday approved the draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill. The Bill would be taken up during the 4-day Assembly session, beginning on February 5 and continuing till February 8. The draft of the UCC

Bill was approved during a meeting at CM Dhami's official residence on Sunday evening. Meanwhile, the Muslim Seva Sangathan, based in the hill state, has opposed the Bill. Section 144 has been implemented to maintain law and order while the Bill is tabled in the Assembly, an official said on Tuesday.



## 36 prisoners test HIV positive in Lucknow jail

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Thirty-six prisoners lodged in Lucknow District Jail have tested positive for HIV infection, pushing the total caseload of viral infection in the prison to 47. All HIV-infected patients are receiving treatment at a hospital in Lucknow. Before the fresh 36 cases, 11 prisoners had earlier tested positive for HIV. The diagnosis came as part of health tests conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Health Department in December 2023. As part of the prisoners' treatment, the jail administration has started counselling for the in-

fectured prisoners. The authorities have been vigilant after these cases were reported and allowed dietary changes for the infected people. A jail official said that the diet of infected prisoners had been increased. Also, all the prisoners found positive have been kept under the observation of doctors. They are receiving treatment at KGMU's Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Centre. The health screening of prisoners was carried out on the orders of the state AIDS Control Society, said Ashish Tiwari, Jail Superintendent, Lucknow.



(25,77,965 examinees) levels, across 8,265 examination centres statewide, including 566 government, 3,479 funded, and 4,220 non-funded centres. From safeguarding strong rooms to overseeing answer sheet collection centres, the government has left no stone unturned to prevent cheating and other malpractices during the exams, he said. Shukla underscored the commitment to taking strict action against any hindrance to the examination process.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Munugala Rukkamma, W/o. Munugala Papaiah, R/o. H.No. 5-121, SN Colony, Near Pochamma Temple, Ramchandrapuram, Sangareddy District, TS., has lost the Original Gift Deed Doc. No.17389/2021 dtd. 17-04-2021, registered at SRO, Patancheru. My Client made all possible efforts to trace the same and was unsuccessful. Thereby, my client further informs and cautions the General Public that, if any person or persons found the said Original document in any manner, they may please return the same to my clients or the undersigned immediately. If anybody keeps, misuses or tries to misuse the said Original Sale Deed those persons are liable for prosecution and to face other consequences as per Law.

**Description of the Lost/ Misplaced Document:** Original Gift Deed Vide Document No. 17389/2021 dtd. 17-04-2021, registered at SRO, Patancheru.

**Sd/- A. Venkatarayanna (Advocate),**  
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## OPINIONmail

AI-GENERATED CONTENT  
HOLDS PROMISES AS WELL AS PERILS

Artificial intelligence has made tremendous strides in recent years—from beating human champions in chess to revolutionizing self-driving cars and setting up life-like virtual assistants. Now, AI is putting its creative hat on and venturing into the world of content generation. While AI shows great promise for automating routine, and mundane, writing tasks and producing large volumes of content, its use also raises important questions about originality, quality and its impact on jobs. The question whether—or even when—AI will eventually replace human intervention in writing is being hotly debated even as we write this piece. Let us take a closer look at how AI is shaping the future of content and the challenges it present. On the positive side, AI content holds potential benefits for productivity and economies of scale. With the help of AI, businesses can generate basic articles, blog posts, social media updates and other forms of written work much more quickly than humans can. This allows companies to inundate their websites and online channels with a constant stream of fresh content to engage customers. In recent times, AI algorithms that are capable of producing not only articles, but even poetry and novels have emerged. These AI-generated pieces often demonstrate impressive linguistic capabilities and can closely resemble varied scholastic writing styles. This development has been greeted with both excitement and concern by authors and creative writing buffs. However, leading publishing companies like Amazon, as well as admission officers of leading universities, have strong reservations—and rules—against using AI for books written by aspiring authors and SOPs written by aspiring students. From a commercial point of view, there are open questions around how to integrate AI creativity while respecting copyright and paying creators for their work. Some debate whether AI should even be termed an ‘author’ or assigned legal rights over its writing. These issues take on greater importance as AI systems become more general and human-like in their abilities. While the final output can still be riddled with errors, biases, or simply plain bad or basic writing, and even though the programme, at present, has not been creating as much as collating data and replicating common patterns, a future may not be too far off when artificial intelligence processes even more data, ‘learns’ from it and gets more adept at writing at frightening speed. In spite of these apparent advantages, the idea that AI will one day completely make human intervention in creative writing defunct remains a matter of debate. Creative writing is an immersive human endeavour involving intuition, emotions and subjective thought processes based on analysing deeply personal experiences. It involves crafting content that resonates with readers at an emotional level, building empathy and connection between creator and consumer.

These attributes are intrinsically tied to the human condition, making it challenging for AI to replicate human experience and feelings with the same authenticity and depth. Creative writing is not merely an exercise in stringing words together, but involves exploration and simulation of ideas, expression of unique angles of thought and, mostly, ability to capture the spirit of human existence. It requires wide imagination, intuition and a profound understanding of the intricacies of language.

Although AI algorithms have the capacity to mimic different styles of writing, they often lack the creativity that thrives on capriciousness and extrapolation of imageries and sensitivities of original writing that stems from the human mind’s capacity to think outside the box, challenge conventions and generate fresh ideas. AI algorithms, instead, rely on patterns collated from existing data. It can generate content that conforms only to existing and established structures, but is yet to produce path-breaking work.

Another plus point for AI, for the first time, is that it makes it feasible for companies to automatically localize content for different regions and languages. Language has always proved to be a significant barrier in consumption of media content. However, AI-based translation apps have significantly broken down these barriers. State-of-the-art machine algorithms can provide real-time translations of text, audio and video content, allowing media organizations to cater to a global audience, facilitating cross-cultural communication and enabling a wider range of viewers to access content. A recent article in Nieman Reports says that, in the months immediately following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, tens of thousands of Ukrainians displaced by the war who fled to Finland had a great deal of difficulty understanding local public broadcasts in Finnish.

(By Girish Linganna)

EDITORIAL  
the indian mailCULTURE OF ADJOURNMENTS HELPS THE  
HIGH AND MIGHTY TO HIJACK JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud’s call for an end to the ‘ad-journment culture’ in the functioning of the courts could not have come a day sooner. “In the near future, we must address structural issues affecting the judiciary such as the

pendency of cases, our archaic procedures, and the culture of adjournments,” he said while delivering an address at the inauguration ceremony of the upcoming year-long celebrations marking the diamond jubilee of the Supreme Court.

(IPA Service)

IRAN FACILITATES BIDEN'S SUPPORT  
FOR ISRAEL, BUT TEL AVIV  
MAKES IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT

The irony of Middle Eastern geopolitics is that Israel makes it increasingly difficult for US President Joe Biden to support it, while Iran strengthens domestic US anti-Iranian and pro-Israeli hardliners. The hardliners are emboldened by the failure of calibrated US strikes in response to numerous attacks on US forces in the Middle East and on shipping in the Red Sea to deter Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. The deaths this week of three American soldiers in an attack on a US military base on the Jordanian-Syrian border by an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia alliance potentially mark a watershed that could send regional tensions spinning out of control. American anti-Iranian hardliners and pro-Israeli forces pressure Mr. Biden to strike back hard, possibly by targeting Iran directly.

Iran may not direct or plan the attacks but likely can persuade its non-state allies, who justify their attacks with the Israeli assault on Gaza, to step back. Iran and its non-state partners have publicly affirmed that various militias benefit from Iranian funding, weapon supplies, and training. Iran would like to keep the Middle East at a boiling point without tensions expanding Gaza into a regional war. Iran benefits from Gaza fuelling popular anti-Americanism in the Middle East.

MYANMAR JUNTA LOSING MORE AREAS TO  
REBELS AS THE COUP COMPLETES THREE YEARS

On the third anniversary of the military coup in Myanmar, a joint statement from the European Union, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States condemned the ongoing violence and human rights abuses perpetrated by the military regime. The statement released by Global Affairs Canada highlighted the devastating impact of the coup. Thousands of civilians have been jailed, tortured, and killed. Its military rule has caused the widespread destruction of infrastructure and the displacement of millions of people, it said.

“Under the military regime, violence against civilians has escalated, with thousands jailed, tortured and killed. Airstrikes, shelling and arson have been used to destroy civilian infrastructure, including homes, schools, healthcare facilities and places of worship.... The military’s actions have fuelled a growing humanitarian crisis with 2.6 million people displaced from their homes and more than 18 million people in need,” the statement from Global Affairs Canada stated. The statement urged the

military to engage in meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders and implement the Five-Point Consensus adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It also called on the UN Security Council to strengthen its efforts and urged all member states to support humanitarian needs in Myanmar and neighbouring countries.

Three years ago, on February 1, 2021, Myanmar’s military overthrew the democratically elected government, detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders. The coup plunged the country into an ongoing conflict with significant humanitarian consequences.

(IPA Service)

OPPOSITION TALKS ON SEAT SHARING IN  
ASSAM FOR LOK SABHA POLLS NOT PROGRESSING

In Assam, bad news continues for the opposition: Little tangible progress has been made in pre-election seat sharing talks among major parties opposing the ruling Bharatiya Janata party (BJP), as they desperately struggle to build a united anti-Saffron front, in recent weeks. Unless major opposition parties in-

cluding the Congress, Raisor Dal, Asom Jatiya Parishad and Trinamool Congress (TMC) — not to mention the unpredictable AIJDF — settle their numerous differences more effectively to put together a minimally credible political alliance and launch a vigorous anti-BJP campaign, their prospects in the coming Lok Sabha polls look bleak. No wonder, the ruling BJP exudes a confidence going into the 2024 LS polls that cannot normally be explained by the quality of its controversy-marred governance under Chief Minister Mr Himanta Biswa Sarma.

RAW DEAL AGAIN TO  
KERALA IN 2024-25 UNION BUDGET

There is no change in the Budget script as far as Kerala is concerned. It has been an unredeeming tale of severe neglect from the Union Government, repeated ad nauseum over the years.

For once, both the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government and the Congress-led opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) were united in condemning the raw deal meted out to the State. In his reaction, Chief Minister

Pinarayi Vijayan said the Budget has ridden roughshod over Kerala’s demands and interests. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s sixth budget holds little promise for not only the State but also for the country, youth, farmers and women, Pinarayi added.

The interim budget has maintained a deafening silence on one of the State’s main demands — that the Union Government refrain from limiting the borrowing limits of state governments. The Budget has also violated the basic principles of cooperative federalism. It reveals a thinly-disguised attempt to centralize fiscal power. Leader of the Opposition (LoP) V D Satheesan also turned a scathing tongue against the Modi Government for its neglect of the State.

INTERIM UNION BUDGET 2024-25 REVEALS  
MODI GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-LABOUR STANCE

Reduction in the total allocations for Union Ministry of Labour and Employment and also workers’ social security in the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 has revealed PM Narendra Modi government’s anti-labour stance, an allegation that has been labelled by the joint platform of Central Trade Unions (CTUs) since the passage of four controversial labour laws in the Parliament of India in 2019 and 2020. In the backdrop of very high level of unemployment in the country, even PM Narendra Modi has been appearing in public events to distribute appointment letters to unemployed youths, only to show his concern, but the Interim Union Budget shows his government has really little concern. The total allocation of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has been reduced from Rs 13,221.73 crore for 2023-24 to Rs 12,531.47 crore in 2024-25. Even allocation for the pet scheme of PM Narendra Modi, the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, has been drastically cut from Rs 2,272 crore in 2023-24 to just Rs 150 crore in 2024-25. It is shocking that allotment of Labour Welfare Scheme for 2024-25 has been reduced to less than half to Rs 50.68 crore from Rs 102 crore in 2023-24 (RE). It was even less than Rs 75 crore in 2023-24 (BE), and Rs 80.78 crore in 2022-23 (actual).

(IPA Service)



### Former Trump official Mike Gill dies after being shot by carjacker in US

**Washington, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Mike Gill, a former official in the Trump administration, has died, a few days after being shot during a deadly carjacking rampage in the US capital of Washington, D.C., the media reported. Gill, who was attacked on Monday afternoon, the first of many reported in a carjacking rampage, died on Tuesday, Fox News reported.



### Amid Spring Festival travel rush, snowfall disrupts transport in China

**Beijing, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Amid the ongoing Spring Festival travel rush, heavy snowfall disrupted transport in China's Hubei, Hunan and Anhui provinces. Many travellers were inconvenienced in Anhui province after over 95 highway toll sta-

tions refused entry to vehicles on Tuesday morning, due to snowy and freezing conditions. Adverse weather condition forced closure of both runways at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport on Saturday evening, according to the Hubei Airports Group Company, Xinhua news agency reported.

The airport in the province's city of Jingzhou has also been closed since Tuesday. China Railway Wuhan Bureau Group Co., Ltd. said it plans to suspend the operation of 141 round trips due to the widespread snowfall and freezing weather. Meanwhile, the railway authority has organised nearly 3,000 employees to conduct snow removal at nearly 4,000 sets of railroad switches to ensure the smooth functioning of railway tracks. In the neighboring Hunan Province, the railway authority imposed speed restrictions on the Chongqing-Xiamei and Zhangjiajie-Jishou-Huaihua high-speed railways, leading to delays for some trains. From Tuesday to Monday, China Railway Guangzhou Group Co., Ltd. suspended 20 high-speed train services passing through the province



### Jordan denies involvement in US airstrikes on Iraq

**Amman, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Jordan has denied any involvement in the airstrikes carried out by the US Air Force targeting Iraq, the state media reported. "There is not truth in news reports regarding involvement of Jordanian aircraft in the operations conducted by US planes inside Iraq," source at the General Command of the Jordan

Armed Forces-Arab Army, Petra news agency reported. Emphasising on the depth of relations between Jordan and all Arab countries, the Jordanian Armed Forces said it respects the sovereignty of Iraq, Xinhua news agency reported. It appealed to the citizens not to indulge in rumours and to obtain information from official sources.



### Balochistan imposes restrictions on public meetings, citing security threat

**Quetta, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The provincial government in Balochistan on Tuesday imposed restrictions on public meetings and electoral gatherings, citing security threats, local media reported. Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai took to social media platform X to announce the ban and elaborated that the step has been taken in "response to a terror alert", indicating the presence of a suspected female suicide bomber in Quetta, The Express Tribune reported. Achakzai emphasised the neces-

sity of imposing restrictions on public gatherings and electoral meetings. He urged all political parties and candidates to conduct their meetings indoors. While recognising the importance of the electoral campaign, the Balochistan government underscored that public safety must be prioritised. As Pakistan braces for polls on February 8, a concerning surge in violence marked by several acts of terrorism has unfolded in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provinces.



### UK PM speaks on racism, says parents wanted him to speak without an accent to 'fit in'

**London, Feb 6 (IANS) :** UK's first Indian-origin PM Rishi Sunak shared his experiences of facing racism as a child, saying his parents sent him for extra drama lessons so that he could "speak properly" without an accent to fit

into society. In an interview with Anushka Asthana of ITV News, Sunak recalled the pain of hearing slurs directed at his younger siblings, adding that racism "stings" and "hurts in a way that other things don't", The Guardian reported.

"You are conscious of being different... It's hard not to be, right, and obviously, I experienced racism as a kid," he told Asthana who detailed her encounter with the Prime Minister in The Times. The PM also spoke about the "sting" of racism in July last year when he made a special appearance at the England versus Australia Ashes Test match at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. Born in Southampton in a Hindu Punjabi family that had migrated from East Africa, the 43-year-old leader said his parents, his mother in particular, were keen for him and his siblings to "fit in and not for it to be, in any way, shape or form, a barrier". "One of the things my mum was obsessed with was that we didn't speak with accents and we would speak properly," he said. "So she was keen for us to try to do some extra drama."

Calling any form of racism "simply unacceptable", he also mentioned Britain's reputation among global leaders as a model for racial harmony and equality. Addressing his first Conservative Party conference as party leader in Manchester in October 2023, Sunak, using his example as proof, said that the UK is not a racist country and that his skin colour is not a "big deal" in the country. Sunak admitted while speaking to Asthana that he never expected to see an individual from the ethnic minority community becoming Britain's prime minister one day "because you didn't have role models like that... hadn't happened yet". From lighting diyas on the steps of 10 Downing Street on Diwali to praying at Hindu temples, the Southampton-born leader has shown that he is proud of his Indian roots and Hindu faith, which he says "guides him in every aspect of his life". Attending a 'Ram Katha' ceremony at the University of Cambridge's Jesus College last year, Sunak said: "Being Prime Minister is a great honour, but it is not an easy job. There are difficult decisions to make, hard choices to confront and our faith gives me courage, strength, and resilience to do the best that I can for our country".

### PTI's future 'prospects' in Pakistan politics

**Islamabad, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Future of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which emerged as a major political party in the country in the 2013 general polls, is in the doldrums as nomination papers of several party leaders, including founder Imran Khan, have been rejected by the Election Commission of Pakistan over corruption charges. Though Khan, former prime minister, is languishing in jail on charges of corruption and misplacement of secret document for 14 years and 10 years respectively, he enjoys love and support of many. The PTI also lost its electoral symbol 'bat' leaving the party's nominated candidates with no other option but to contest as independent candidates. With PTI and its leader Imran Khan out of the picture, many believe that the tone for the polls has already been set as the country heads towards another process of "selection" rather than "election". It is believed that the May 9, 2023 riots, triggered after the arrest of Khan in Islamabad, which saw angry party supporters storming



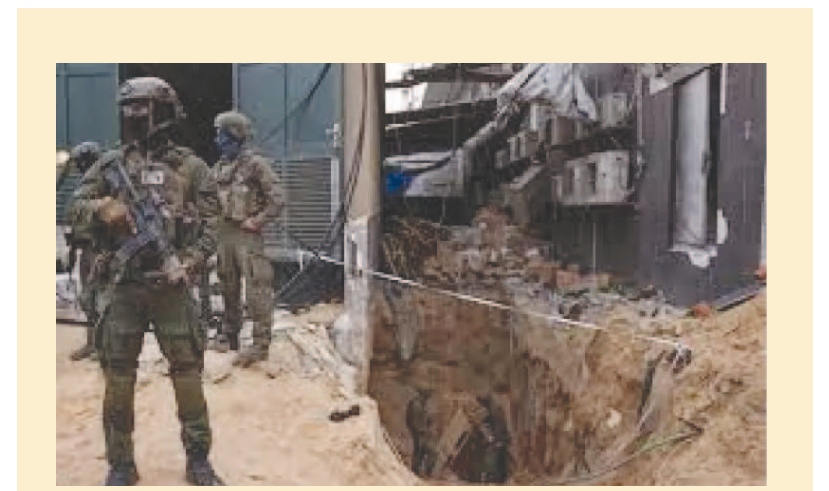
military installations across the country, became the prime reason for the downfall of PTI and its leadership. "The military establishment under COAS (Chief of Army Staff) General Syed Asim Munir seems to have decided to dismantle and destroy PTI as part of their punishment for attacking military installations on 9th May," said senior political analyst Javed Siddique. "We see an open, blatant and targeted dismantling of PTI, its workers, its leaders and its founder as anyone and everyone who tries to even come out of their home with a PTI flag are taken

into custody. The party is not allowed to hold even a corner meeting for political campaigning. Its candidates are now contesting polls under multiple election symbols in independent capacity. It is almost clear to all now that PTI has been kept out of these elections deliberately," he added. A different version of analysis on PTI still remains that while it may not be contesting the upcoming elections, the party itself may be a major asset for the military establishment after the formation of the new elected government.



### One injured as fire breaks out near Tokyo railway station, train services affected

**Tokyo, Feb 6 (IANS) :** A man was injured in a fire that broke out in the vicinity of a railway station in Tokyo on Tuesday, after which train services were affected and 800 persons were evacuated, local media reported. The fire broke out at a restaurant in Yamao, Ota Ward, Tokyo, near JR Oimori Station after which Fire Department pressed 24 firefighting vehicles into service, national broadcaster NHK reported. Train operations were suspended on the JR Keihin-Tohoku Line between Shinagawa Station and Kamata Station in both directions, Xinhua news agency reported quoting JR East.



### IDF destroys Hamas hideout apartment tunnel shaft

**Tel Aviv, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in a statement said that soldiers of its 5th Reserve Brigade combat team have destroyed a tunnel shaft that led to a Hamas hideout apartment. The IDF soldiers operating in northern Gaza under Division 162's command discovered and destroyed the hideout apartment, which also contained an underground elevator. The Israeli Air Force also participated in the demolition of the tunnel shaft that took

place in the al-Shati neighborhood in the Gaza Strip, the IDF statement said. The soldiers of the 5th Reserve Brigade combat team also located many weapons and intelligence documents. While the intelligence documents were confiscated, weapons that include arms and rocket launchers were destroyed. The soldiers were also stationed in defense missions in the surrounding area and later fought in the depths of the Strip as well.

## After coastal K'taka, BJP making Vokkaliga heartland Mandya its Hindutva lab

**Bengaluru, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The coastal region of Karnataka has long been referred to as the Hindutva laboratory by progressive thinkers and Congress leaders. Now, with the BJP gaining ground in south Karnataka following an alliance with JD(S), there is ongoing debate in political circles about the BJP making Mandya district, considered the heartland of Vokkaligas, the new laboratory for Hindutva. The discussion was triggered by a statement from Minister for RDPR and IT and BT, Priyank Kharge. He mentioned that the BJP and Sangh Parivar, having

made the coastal region its Hindutva laboratory, are now active in Mandya district, conducting Hindutva experiments. Kharge's statement was followed by the BJP's strong opposition to the removal of the flag of Lord Hanuman from a 108-feet-tall flag post on government land and the subsequent hoisting of the national tricolour. Mandya district, along with other south Karnataka districts like Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Hassan, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Chikkamagaluru, and Chamarajanagar, has a concen-

trated Vokkaliga population. The region traditionally supported former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, JD(S), and Congress parties. Even after Operation Lotus, the BJP struggled to make inroads. The BJP's Rath Yatra movement, opposition to Tipu Sultan Jayanthi, a series of communal incidents in the region, and attempts to glorify Vokkaliga warriors Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda as the slayers of Tipu Sultan did not yield results. Even controversies like the Hijab issue and the boycott of Muslim traders did not significantly help the BJP in this region.



## Shahnawaz Hussain criticises Owaisi for 'provoking' people

**Patna, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Former union minister Shahnawaz Hussain on Tuesday criticises AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi for allegedly provoking people following his claims that incidents like December 6 may take place again. "Owaisi's remarks are always provocative and that is why we call him Bhadkai Bhaijaan. He always provokes people," Hussain said while interacting with the media persons in Nalanda. Asaduddin Owaisi in Hyderabad had said that the permission given to Hindu community for prayers in Gyanvapi mosque is absolutely wrong and that incidents like December 6, 1992 (Babri mosque demolition) may take place again. "Asaduddin Owaisi himself remains within tight security but he creates tension with his statements," Hussain said.



## Akhilesh and other UP leaders whose political future hinges on LS polls

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The upcoming Lok Sabha polls are crucial for the political survival of leaders who are hoping to reverse their fortunes and emerge as game changers in the elections. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav faces the biggest challenge of his career as party leader this time. This will be the first major election that SP will face after the demise of party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Under the leadership of Akhilesh, the SP has been facing a series of defeats. Akhilesh's attempts to forge alliance with Congress (2017) and BSP (2019) have failed to yield results. The Lok Sabha polls pose a major challenge for him, especially when it comes to resurrecting his own party. Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), is confident of emerging stronger after the gen-

eral elections. Since the past six months, he is all dressed up and has nowhere to go. His induction in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet has been unduly delayed and if sources are to be believed, the chief minister is unwilling to take Rajbhar back on board. One of the best known motormouths of state politics in recent times, Rajbhar has made several personal comments against Yogi Adityanath and the latter is not known to forgive easily. If Rajbhar fails to make it to the council of ministers before elections, he will lose his clout as an OBC leader of substance. He has already burnt his bridges with the Samajwadi Party and even though he has softened his stand towards his parent party -- the BSP -- chances of his return are bleak since Mayawati rarely takes back expelled leaders. Rajbhar is one leader in Uttar Pradesh whose future hangs on the 2024 polls.

## CBI challenge to K'taka govt's no to DKS probe may inspire new legal precedent

**Bengaluru, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Congress has successfully checkmated the CBI inquiry against Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and party's state president D.K. Shivakumar (DKS) in the disproportionate assets (DA) case. The case was handed over to the Lokayukta after the state government's withdrawal of the consent for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The matter, however, shows

no signs of dying down, with the CBI challenging the state government's decision in the Karnataka High Court and experts predicting that it is bound to reach the Supreme Court and become a landmark case. Sources elaborate that, more than anything, political circles are following the development with regard to Shivakumar keenly as there is alleged personal enmity of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. BJP and JD(S) leaders in the state had categorically claimed that Shivakumar would land up in jail

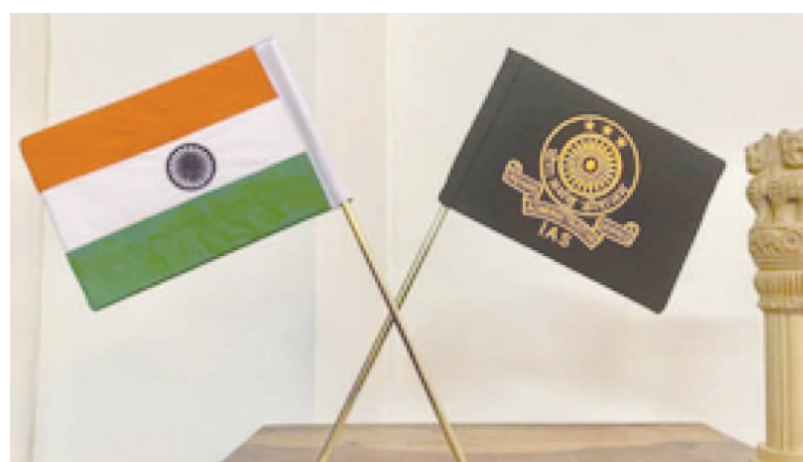
very soon. However, Shivakumar managed to get the cabinet nod to withdraw the consent of the state government for the CBI probe in the case at the time when the Central agency was preparing to file a charge sheet against him. Presently, the Karnataka High Court has referred the petitions challenging the withdrawal of consent to a larger bench. The case is first of its kind in the state and the enormity of legal issues required consideration by a larger bench, it said. Shivakumar says: "They (BJP

leaders) are taking revenge for my contribution to the election of Ahmed Patel to the Rajya Sabha. Ahmed Patel is not alive today but they continue to torture me. I know who is behind this but I will fight this out legally." Sources say that Union Home Minister Amit Shah "made a personal request to Shivakumar to prevent Ahmad Patel from getting elected to the Rajya Sabha. However, Shivakumar had sheltered Gujarat Congress MLAs in Bengaluru and foiled all attempts to poach them".



They also claim that Amit Shah even narrated the "personal ordeal he suffered at the hands of Ahmad Patel. However, Shivakumar did

not budge and told Amit Shah that Ahmad Patel was the tall leader of the party and he would back away.



## Centre greenlights appointments in senior administrative roles

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has given the nod for the appointment of nine Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and a former IAS officer as secretaries in various ministries. The decision was formalised by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). The order passed on Tuesday stated that Apurva Chandra, currently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, has been appointed as the Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu (retd. IAS) will take on the

role of Secretary to the Lokpal on a contract basis for a period of one year, or until further orders, on the usual terms and conditions applicable to re-employed Central government officers. "Raj Kumar Goyal, currently in the cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary for the Department of Border Management in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Niten Chandra, serving as Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, will now be the Secretary in the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Ministry of Defence," the order stated.

## Vasan to mediate for AIADMK's return to NDA in TN

**Chennai, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) leader and former Union Minister G.K. Vasan has taken up the mantle for a patch up between the AIADMK and BJP, said sources here. Sources in the BJP told IANS that Vasan, the son of illustrious Congress leader late G.K. Moopanar, is having an excellent personal rapport with the top leadership of AIADMK, including former Chief Minister and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) and other AIADMK leaders like C.V. Shanmugham and K.P. Muniswamy. Sources told IANS that the central BJP leadership was desperately looking for a breakthrough in Tamil Nadu politics and needed a few seats for the party at any cost. According to information available, BJP has in an internal survey held recently found out that it will not

be able to win seats without proper alliance and AIADMK was the only bet for this. As the local leadership of the BJP is not on good terms with the AIADMK leadership, the BJP central leadership has approached G.K. Vasan, who has been loyal to the NDA for long. Vasan, according to sources, has already met the top brass of the AIADMK and is working on formulas for a patch up. G.K. Vasan has also met the PMK founder leader.



## Pasupati Paras constitutes RLJP's new parliamentary board

**Patna, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) led by Union Minister Pasupati Kumar Paras has constituted a new parliamentary board of the party and given the charge to former MP and 'Bahubali' leader Surajbhan Singh. Besides Singh, Paras also appointed 21 members to new parliamentary board. The move has been taken in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, Vaishali MP Veena Singh was the president of RLJP parliamentary board but as she went with

Chirag Paswan, Paras dissolved the parliamentary board. Surajbhan Singh is considered a Bahubali leader from Mokama region of Patna. He has multiple cases lodged against him in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Surajbhan Singh contested the Bihar Assembly election from Mokama in 2000 from jail and defeated Dilip Singh, the brother of another Bahubali Anant Singh. In 2004, Ram Vilas Paswan, after the formation of LJP, gave ticket to Surajbhan Singh from Ballia Lok Sabha seat and he won the poll.

## Tata AIA appoints Venkatachalam H as Chief Executive officer and Managing Director

**Mumbai, Feb 6 (TIM Bureau) :** Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited, one of India's fastest growing life insurance companies, announced today that its Board has appointed Venkatachalam H. as the new Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, subject to regulatory approval from IRDAI. Venkatachalam H. will take over from current Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Naveen Tahilyani who moves to another role in the Tata Group and has been elevated as a Non-Executive Director of Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Ltd. Venky as he is fondly known, has over 27 years' experience spanning Life Insurance, Asset Management and Custodial Services. He has expertise in Sales & Distribu-

tion, Strategy, Business and Process Development and Key Account Management. He joined Tata AIA in 2016 and was President and Chief Distribution Officer in his previous role. Venky has also led several initiatives in areas such as marketing, strategy, analytics, and direct digital business.

Naveen has been a visionary leader, spearheading the transformation of Tata AIA into a market-leading and digitally enabled multi-channel business. Tata AIA has consistently outperformed the market, with VONB increasing by three and a half times between 2018 and 2022. Under Naveen's leadership, Tata AIA has risen to become number 3 company on retail weighted new business premium and is ranked number 1 in retail sum assured among private sector life insurers. Tata AIA has been awarded the Kincentric Best Employer seven times in a row as well as certified as a Great Place to Work.

About Tata AIA Life

Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA) is a joint venture Company formed by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA). Tata AIA Life combines Tata's pre-eminent leadership position in India and AIA's presence as the largest, independent listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world, spanning 18 markets in the Asia Pacific region.

Tata AIA reported an Individual Weighted New Business



Premium (IWNBP) income of INR 7,092 Cr in FY23, an increase of 59% over FY22. The Individual Death Claims Settlement ratio improved from 98.53% in FY22 to 99.01% in FY23. The Persistency ratio, reflecting the percentage of consumers who choose to renew their policies with Tata AIA, has earned the Company the top rank in four out of five cohorts, including 13th-month persistency. Compared to FY22, the 13th Month Persistency ratio (based on Premium) of the Company improved to 88.1%.



## Sitaram Jindal honored with Padma Bhushan for exemplary contributions to nature cure and philanthropy

**Bengaluru, Feb 6 (TIM Bureau) :** Dr. Sitaram Jindal, a distinguished figure in the realms of philanthropy and healthcare, has been bestowed with the prestigious Padma Bhushan, eliciting widespread excitement throughout India. The accolade is attributed to his significant role in his unparalleled philanthropic endeavors, particularly in the field of Naturecure. Dr. Jindal's groundbreaking contributions to drugless therapy and the establishment of the Jindal Naturecure

Institute (JNI) have earned him this esteemed recognition.

Born in 1932 in the remote village of Nalwa in Haryana, Dr. Jindal's journey towards Naturecure began during his university years when he battled abdominal tuberculosis. Faced with a seemingly incurable condition, he sought refuge in a small Naturecure clinic, experiencing relief through fasting, enemas, and other unconventional methods. This transformative experience sparked his unwavering faith in Naturecure and Yoga.



## UBS deepens cost-cutting drive launched after its acquisition of rival Credit Suisse

**London, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Swiss lender UBS has deepened a cost-cutting drive launched after its emergency acquisition of rival Credit Suisse, as it slashes thousands of jobs and tries to boost earnings to make sure the mammoth deal pays off, a media report said. UBS said on Tuesday that it is now targeting \$13 billion in savings by the end of 2026 -- \$3 billion more than what it had announced six months ago, CNN reported. The savings will provide

"necessary capacity for reinvestment to reinforce the resilience of our infrastructure as we absorb Credit Suisse and to drive sustainable growth by investing in talent, products and services", it added. The additional cost reductions are likely to mean thousands more job cuts. Already, UBS has slashed headcount in the fourth quarter by more than 3,100 to under 113,000, taking the number of layoffs announced last year above 16,000.



## Flight from Delhi to Jabalpur to restart from March 1, says Scindia

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia, on Tuesday said that the direct flights from Delhi to Jabalpur and Mumbai to Jabalpur would restart from March. According to offi-

cial, SpiceJet will operate the flight service between Delhi-Jabalpur two days a week starting from March 1 while the flight service between Mumbai-Jabalpur will be operated from March 2. "I am delighted that with the

support of SpiceJet, Jabalpur will get additional connectivity to Mumbai and Delhi," said Scindia. "This will not only ensure an easy and time-saving travel experience for the people of Jabalpur but also enhance trade, commerce and employ-

ment opportunities," said the minister. "Jabalpur Airport is also set to get a new terminal building, being built at a cost of Rs. 412 crore which will further give new energy to travel and economic growth," he added.



## Seros Energy pioneers environmental responsibility and innovation in India's CBM exploration

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Seros Energy Private Limited, an innovator in Coal Based Methane (CBM) exploration, participated in India Energy Week, presenting its cutting-edge initiatives and advancements in the field. Seros showcased its deployment of state-of-the-art drilling rigs, including the Schramm TXD Drilling rigs and ServiceKing Intl. drilling rigs. These rigs are equipped with advanced technology that enables the reduction of the drilling footprint to as small as 150x150 feet pad. This ground-

breaking approach aligns with Seros' commitment to minimising the environmental impact of its operations, showcasing its dedication towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and its environmentally responsible ethos. Ashish Agarwal, CEO, Seros Energy Pvt Ltd said: "In an era where our nation increasingly leans on cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, Seros is not just exploring coal-based methane but leading a transformative journey towards a greener and more efficient future.

## India's EV charging station count rises to 12,146; Maharashtra leads, Delhi 2nd

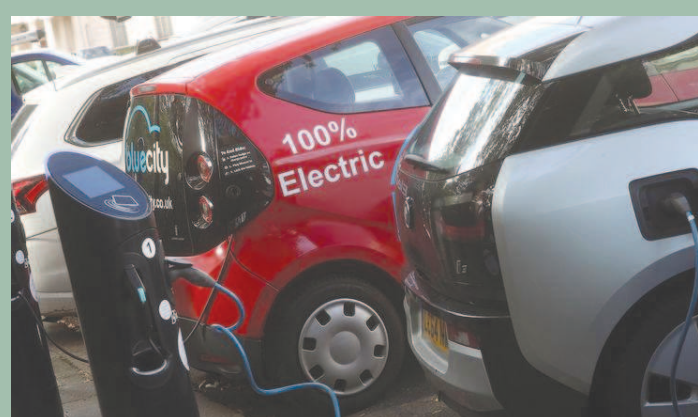
**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations that are operating in the country has gone up to 12,146 as of February 2 this year, Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Krishan Pal Gurjar, said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The data provided by the minister shows that Maharashtra leads with 3,079 EV charging stations followed by Delhi with

1,886, while Karnataka is at the third spot with 1,041 charging stations.

The top three states are followed by: Kerala (852), Tamil Nadu (643), Uttar Pradesh (582), Rajasthan (500), Telangana (481), Gujarat (476) and Madhya Pradesh (341), making up the top 10 list.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has been making consistent efforts for facilitating the promotion of EVs in India.



## Nifty closes near day's high with gains of 158 points

**Mumbai, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Nifty opened positive and gained strength throughout the session on Tuesday to close near the day's high with gains of 158 points, or 0.7 per cent, to close at 21,929.40, said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services. The broader market too ended in the green with Midcap 100/Smallcap 100 up 1.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively. Barring banks and FMCG, all sectors ended with gains, with oil & gas and IT emerging as

the top gainers, up 3 per cent, he said.

BLS e-services had a bumper debut, listing at a premium of 129 per cent and closing with total gains of 175 per cent from the IPO price, he said.

Majority of the European and Asian markets were trading positive on back of healthy earnings updates and signs of fresh stimulus in China. This coupled with strong services PMI data supported the domestic equities.

"Overall, we expect the market to continue its positive momentum with sectoral rotations.



## In a first, SSB appointed three women handlers for dog squads

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** In a first, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has appointed three women to handle its dog squads. The three cops -- Kalpanaben Manubhai (24); Anchal Rani (23); and Neha Sonkar (22) -- underwent rigorous six-month training and are now posted in the 42nd battalion in Nanpara in Bahraich district. Commandant of SSB, Lucknow headquarters, A.K Sinha said that this is for the first time in the state that any force has given women the responsibility to handle dog squads. "This is a milestone for gender equality in central forces.

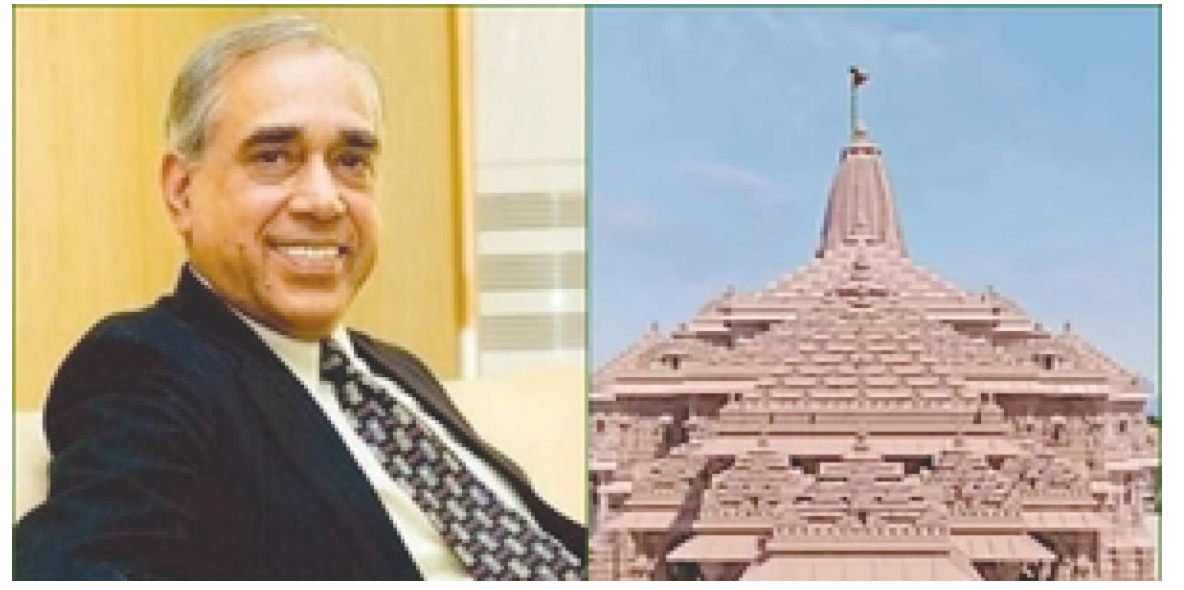
Specially trained sniffer dogs play a crucial role in detecting substances like drugs, explosives, and even blood, and aid the police in their critical duties," Sinha said. He said that women were inherently more compassionate and hence it was decided that women general duty officers would be asked to apply. "After receiving applications, we screened the candidates and tested them on basic parameters like temperament, fearlessness and the extent to which they can bear the aggression and tantrums of an animal," said Sinha.

## UP ATS arrests man for sharing info with ISI

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Tuesday arrested a man in Hapur for reportedly sharing classified information with the Pakistan-based Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The man identified as Satendra Siwal, 27, was posted as a multi-tasking staff member at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, said Additional director general of ATS, Mohit Agarwal.

Siwal allegedly spied for the ISI and passed on vital information to his handlers across the border. "He was under surveillance for the past six months.



## Work on first & 2nd floors of Ram temple to begin soon

**Ayodhya, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Ram temple construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra has said that work on the 'darbar' of Lord Ram on the first and second floors of the Ram Jannabhoomi temple will start immediately. "Work on the 'darbar' of Lord Ram on the first and second floors will be started at once now. This will be completed

in December 2024," Mishra said on Tuesday. He reached Ayodhya over the weekend and caught up with the engineers of the construction company to find out the timeline for the pending works to be carried out over the first and second floor of the temple complex as well as the completion of 'parkota'. Meetings between Mishra, senior executives of the construction company, office-bearers of the temple trust, local

administration and police officials among other stakeholders took place on Tuesday and Saturday. "Construction work is beginning at the temple once again. Work on the 'parkota' has to be completed, and work on the 795-metre 'parikrama' wall will also be completed," Mishra said. "Besides this, the work of the iconography on the temple's lower plinth will be started," he added.



## What made the BJP ally with Meghalaya CM they rubbished as 'most corrupt'

**Guwahati, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Although the BJP has teamed up for the second time with the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) government in Meghalaya, many leaders including the top brass of BJP termed Sangma the most corrupt Chief Minister in the country in the run-up to state polls in February last year.

The former BJP president in Meghalaya Ernest Mawrie had asserted that the departments like power and others where most of the corruption happened over the last five years were either with the NPP or their alliance partner, the UDP. "Through a lot of RTI applications we filed in the last year or so, we have seen how rampant corruption was going on in Meghalaya under

the current regime. We have all the records," he claimed. According to Mawrie, the corruption issues of Conrad Sangma were discussed with the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other top BJP leaders. Prior to the election in Meghalaya, the BJP was very confident about a good show in the hill state. Mawrie had also predicted that the BJP would cross the second digit this time. However, the election results were rather disappointing for the saffron party, as it could secure only two seats in the 60-member assembly constituency. In 2018, the BJP also won two seats, and their vote percentage was 9.60 percent, which further deteriorated this year and dropped to 9.30 percent. A top local BJP leader said that as the party fought all seats in Meghalaya for the first time, the vote percentage showed a minor dip. The BJP was hoping big in the Garo Hills region of the state, and in internal surveys, the party was projected to win at least 10 seats there. Riding high on the expectation, the BJP top brass launched a sharp

attack against Conrad Sangma, the NPP chief, with Amit Shah calling the Meghalaya Chief Minister the most corrupt in the entire country. The Union Home Minister alleged that the money sent by the Centre for the welfare of the people of Meghalaya could not reach the beneficiaries as there was large-scale corruption in the state going on under Sangma. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took part in the high-voltage campaign in Meghalaya and took a swipe at the National People's Party. Soon after the poll results were announced, the BJP immediately tendered its support to the NPP to form another coalition government in Meghalaya. The BJP's two candidates, Sanbor Shullai and A. L. Hek, won this time in the Meghalaya election. Shullai was a minister in the previous Meghalaya coalition government, and Hek has been made a minister by the BJP this time.



## Headwinds of corruption slow down Vijayan's flight to new heights of popularity

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 6 (IANS) :** No leader in Kerala in the recent past has reached a high like Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and none either has had such a bad fall like him, as the once indomitable tough Vijayan is finding the going tough in the wake of allegations of corruption which are now reaching dangerous proportions. Even though Vijayan in his first term came under massive attack from Swapna Suresh, who is alleged to have been in the good books of Vijayan, his wife and daughter. She went hammer and tongs making grave allegations, including smuggling of gold and foreign currency. Amid all this Vijayan managed to win a second term in 2021 and that too with an increased margin.

Since then, though initially his stock rose like never before, the sailing now appears to be not that smooth as the opposition is going all out against him. First time Congress legislator Mathew Kuzhalsadan has attacked Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan and her 'Exalogic' IT firm. For the past few months, the issue with regards to Veena surfaced after a media report, quoting an Income Tax Department office claimed that her firm had received Rs 1.72 crore from a Kochi-based mining company CMRL, where the state-owned Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) has a stake. Kuzhalsadan went hammer and tongs both inside and outside the Assembly, which left Vijayan running for cover.

## Shadows of doubt over handling of Vyapam scam sullied MP's image

**Bhopal, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The multi-layer 'Vyapam Scam' which came to the fore a decade back in Madhya Pradesh, had grabbed global headlines especially because of mysterious deaths during the investigations. The scam pertaining to forgery, cheating, bribery, misuse of government office and many more was an exposure of strong and

multi-layer nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and outsiders, which has not only put a dent on state's reputation but also ruined the future of lakhs of youths of Madhya Pradesh. As it was exposed (2013) during the second tenure of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, made all his efforts to get rid of from until the end of his regime by renaming it twice, however, irregularities in exams and recruitments for the state government employees continues as an evident that the nexus still have a presence in the system.

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## BJP reshuffles cluster in-charges for 29 Lok Sabha seats in MP

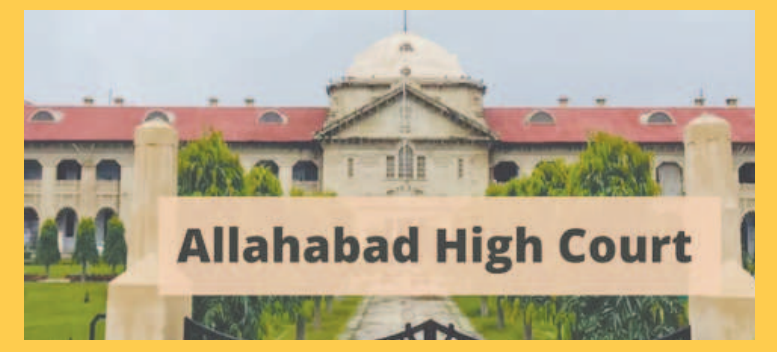
**Bhopal, Feb 6 (IANS) :** In the run-up to the general elections, BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit has reshuffled cluster in-charges for 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state and shifted them from their respective home districts or regions. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, who was earlier appointed as cluster in-charge for his home turf Rewa, has been shifted to Bhopal region. While, State Youth Affairs Minister Vishwas Sarang, who was in-charge for Bhopal region cluster and also hails from the state capital, has been shifted to Ujjain. Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, who was earlier appointed for Indore, now has given responsibility of Jabalpur cluster.



## Allahabad HC transfers two petitions on Gomti pollution to NGT

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court has transferred two public interest litigation (PIL) petitions seeking directives regarding removal of pollution from the Gomti river to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The court directed the senior registrar of the Lucknow bench to transfer all the records

to the NGT within a fortnight. The order was passed by a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Saurabh Lavania on the two PIL petitions filed by Sewage Treatment Plant, Lucknow, through Narendra Kumar and Banwari Lal in 2003. and 2008 respectively, on Tuesday.







## Far from speeding up delivery of justice, Odisha's village courts battle backlogs

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Odisha was among the states that were the first to introduce Gram Nyayalayas, or village courts, after the Act paving the way for them came into effect on October 2, 2009. A little less than 15 years later, far from ensuring speedy justice to those who need it the most, the state's Gram Nyayalayas are mired in a pile of pending cases because of the apathy of the key stakeholders, including the police, lawyers and the state government. The Law Commission, in its 114th report in 1986, had proposed that Gram Nyayalayas be set up across

the country to ensure access to justice for the weaker sections of the society and reduce delays in the delivery of justice. The Gram Nyayalayas Bill was passed by Parliament on December 22, 2008, and the Act came into effect on October 2, 2009. Though the Act does not make it mandatory for states to set up Gram Nyayalayas, yet Odisha was among a few states to roll out the concept in 2009, hoping to deliver justice to citizens literally at their doorsteps. Odisha has 20 operational Gram Nyayalayas out of the 24 that have so far been notified by the state government. As per the information available with the Department of Justice under Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Odisha received Rs 524.4 lakh from the central government for the establishment of the village courts. But the village courts are yet to fully achieve the objectives they were set up for. The Gram Nyayalayas, which were expected to reduce the pendency of cases in subordinate courts.



## AAP to hold hunger strike in Chandigarh over mayoral poll rigging

**Chandigarh, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders -- who are protesting against the rigging in Chandigarh mayoral election -- have announced to stage a relay hunger strike in front of the Municipal Corporation office in Sector 17. AAP Chandigarh co-in-charge Sunny Ahluwalia told the media that daily five leaders, one councilor and four volunteers, will go on a hunger strike for 24 hours and then the next day another five leaders will be fasting against the "murderers of the democracy".



## International fake call centre busted in Delhi for duping US citizens

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed to have busted an international fake call centre that was allegedly duping US nationals on the pretext of providing online support to foreign citizens by impersonating themselves as executives of top companies like Microsoft and Apple. Police said that they have arrested three accused and identified them as Shubham Chaudhary (24), a resident of Rani Bagh; Akhil Baradia (30), a resident of Rajouri Garden; and Rahul Gusain (26), a resident of

Hari Nagar. Police said that on January 30, specific information was received at Cyber Police Station, Outer District regarding a call centre is being run in Paschim Vihar area which may be involved in large scale cyber cheating with US citizen impersonating as the executives of leading internet firms and inducing the citizens to pay them money on the premise of solving a non-existent problem. "Working on the specific input, the police team conducted a raid at the spot in Paschim Vihar area and apprehended three persons.

## Delhi Police serve notice to Atishi over MLA 'buying' allegations

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Tuesday served notice to Delhi Minister Atishi with regard to allegations that the BJP was trying to "buy" AAP MLAs. Earlier in the day, when the police team had reached Atishi's residence, she had directed her officer to receive the notice, as per sources. On Saturday, the Chief Minister's Office had received summons from Delhi Police. "An enquiry is being con-

ducted by the Crime Branch, on a complaint received in respect to the allegations made by you that BJP has offered Rs 25 crore each to sitting MLAs of AAP for leaving the party and to join the BJP. These allegations were posted by you on X (formerly Twitter) on 27.01.2014," reads the Crime Branch notice served to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The notice said that the plain reading of the said tweet indicates that the Chief Minister is privy to certain information regarding commission of a cognisable offence.

"Therefore, you are hereby requested to provide answers to the questionnaire endorsed herewith by 05.02.2024 to the office of undersigned at Central Range, Crime Branch, second Floor, Police Station Kamla Market Building, New Delhi," read the notice signed by ACP Pankaj Arora. It added that any additional/supplementary information that you may wish to share or which may be deemed by you to be of any assistance for the enquiry, may either be tendered in writing or can be got recorded by the un-

dersigned on the date and venue mentioned above. On Friday, as per sources, besides Kejriwal's residence, the Crime Branch team also went to AAP Minister Atishi's residence to serve a notice. However, the notices were not accepted at either location. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva had said the saffron party welcomes reports of Crime Branch launching an inquiry into AAP's allegations of the BJP "luring" AAP MLAs. The Delhi BJP had filed a com-



plaint on January 30, stating that it has made no such offer to AAP MLAs, while demanding a police inquiry into Kejriwal's allegations. Sachdeva had said that the Crime

Branch has served a notice to Kejriwal, he should either submit evidence to support his allegations or be prepared to face criminal proceedings.

## UP DyCM blames Mulayam govt for stopping worship in Gyanvapi

**Lucknow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has hit out at the then Mulayam Singh Yadav government for stopping 'puja' at the Gyanvapi mosque's southern cellar, also known as 'Vyasji Ka Tehkhana', in 1993 due to vote-bank politics. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function on Tuesday evening, Maurya said, "Not only people of Kashi but those all over the country are familiar with the way Mulayam Singh Yadav government had stopped worship in the basement of Vyasji in Gyanvapi in 1993 under a conspiracy." This is the same cellar in which the Varanasi district court by an order of January 31 allowed the performance of 'puja'. The worship by priests designated by the Kashi Vishwanath temple trust began during the wee hours on

February 1. "After Ayodhya, now Har Har Mahadev is reverberating in Mahadev's city Kashi as well," Maurya added. He further said, "Once our government was formed in 2017, we could have started puja, but we maintained decorum. Shiva devotees also showed restraint, went to the court, got orders from there and started worshipping Mahadev. Owing to this, not only us but all the people of the world, who believe in Sanatan Dharma, got equal happiness." Referring to Guru Vashishtha (one of the most revered Vedic rishis or sages), Maurya said Lord Ram was the disciple of Shri Guru Vashishtha Ji, and finally, after five centuries, he (Lord Ram) has returned to his abode with the Pran Pratishtha held on January 22. "This is a matter of pride for all of us," he said.



## Bengal ration scam: ED tracks fictitious transaction through Dubai-based bank

**Kolkata, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the ration distribution case in West Bengal has been able to track a fictitious transaction made in dollars through a Dubai-based license-expired corporate entity linked to the arrested Trinamool Congress leader, Shankar Adhya. Sources said this transaction was made in October 2019 just a few months before the license of the said corporate entity expired. ED sleuths, sources added, have strong hunch that the corporate entity was floated only for the specific purpose of diverting the proceeds of the ration distribution case in West Bengal. Adhya was arrested on the late night of January 5 from his residence at Bangaan in North

24 Parganas district after the ED sleuths conducted a marathon raid and search operation there. Initially, sources said, during the interrogation the arrested ruling party leaders claimed before the central agency sleuths that Adhya floated the Dubai-based company with the purpose of entering into export business. However, sources said, the ED sleuths on cross-checking found the only business where the company's name surfaced was in relation to some fictitious transactions made in foreign currencies through the Dubai-based bank account. That is where the ED sleuths became quite sure that the said corporate entity was basically a shell company floated for a limited period with the purpose of diverting the scam proceeds externally. Since the beginning of investigations in various cases of money laundering in West Bengal, the ED sleuths have noted the prevalence of the use of shell companies for the purpose of fund diversion. The directors of such entities are mainly the close relatives or associates of scam masterminds, some of whom are already behind the bars.



## Haryana bans plastic bottles for country-made liquor

**Chandigarh, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Tuesday announced that from March 1, country-made liquor would not be sold in plastic bottles. This move makes Haryana the first state in the country to impose a ban on the use of plastic. Chautala, who also holds the portfolio of Excise and Taxation, told the media here that with a 30 per cent increase in GST collection over the past four years, the government achieved 16 per cent growth this fiscal with the collection of Rs 32,456 crore as tax. Despite initially setting a target of Rs 36,000 crore for GST collection, Chautala expressed confidence in meeting the target in time.

## Vehicular movement partially restored on Jammu-Srinagar highway

**Jammu, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Vehicular traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway has been partially restored after remaining closed due to landslide triggered by incessant rains and snow in Banihal area. "Jammu-Srinagar NHW partially restored at Kishtwari Pather, Banihal (single way) stranded vehicles are being cleared in a regulated manner," Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police said. Police said that the weather is snowing between Ramsoo and Banihal, raining on the whole NH-44.





## Doghouse to PM House? Master of comebacks Nawaz Sharif takes centre stage

**Islamabad, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, who has made a comeback into country's politics after five years of self-imposed exile; is being tipped as the next Prime Minister of the country with army in his corner and his opponent PTI founder Imran Khan in jail. Sharif, who was ousted from power three times, his daughter Maryam Nawaz Sharif and brother Shehbaz Sharif continue to stage impressive political power shows in the country's largest province

Punjab ahead of the February 8 general polls. It is widely believed that Nawaz has the stage set for him to win the elections and form the next government. This assured optimism prevails as his return is being linked to an alleged deal he has done with the military establishment to come back into power. Even if Nawaz fails to become the prime minister or form the government; whoever assumes the premiership will need his blessings and support. It is now an open secret in Pakistan that the tides have been turned in favor for Nawaz.

Since Nawaz's return, the PML-N has been accelerating the momentum of its election campaign, staging big gatherings in parts of Punjab and the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) provinces, claiming that his credentials are the most suited to get the country out of its wreckage of inflation and put it on course to development and growth.

Another reason for Nawaz's easy way to success is that Khan is in jail on charges of corruption, among others, and PTI has been stripped off its election symbol 'bat'.

Nawaz's confidants said that the strategy to engage with the masses is focused on two main points -- connecting with the voters and patronisation on relevant issues of rural constituencies.

"During his speeches, Nawaz asks: 'How much one roti (bread) cost when I left in 2017? How much did a kilo of sugar cost during his tenure? How much did one electricity unit cost? How much did a bag of urea fertiliser cost?' All these questions are focused on using the old patronage machines that run the rural and per-urban constituencies", said political analyst Javed Siddique.

"Nawaz smartly varies in the list of questions he asks to his voters

during his speeches. The variation is based on the constituency's urban or rural character. So he is playing it smart and reminding the people of his time in comparison with today's situation, Siddique added.

Nawaz's messaging is crafted smartly and carefully as since his ouster in 2017, Pakistan has witnessed unprecedented surge in inflation and unemployment. What's important is Sharif doesn't emphasize on why it happened and has to only point out that it happened.

Keeping 2017 as his starting point, Nawaz smartly glides over the 16 month government performances of his brother and former premier Shehbaz Sharif, and promises all of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects, motorways, medical colleges, among others. While the tides have certainly and forcefully turned in favor of Nawaz, the big question is if he would be able to deliver on his promises in the country which is facing challenges like inflation, energy prices and weakened foreign demand.



## Bilawal Bhutto promises end to traditional politics while carrying on family legacy

**Islamabad, Feb 6 (IANS) :** PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the former foreign minister of Pakistan and the heir to the Bhutto family with a legacy of political history, struggles and sacrifices, is geared up to disseminate a parallel political narrative, which aims to introduce a way out of the polarised politics of hate and revenge, making him a strong candidate in the February 8 general elections in the country. Bilawal said arrow, the emblem of Pakistan People's Party, he inherited from his mother and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in 2007, symbolises "self-re-

specting, trustworthy, victory. He said: "We are promising to end the traditional politics and hatred and division, and appealing to the people of Pakistan to choose a new way of thinking." Bilawal's prime contention, after the removal of PTI founder Imran Khan and his party symbol from February 8 general elections, is PML(Nawaz) and former three time premier Nawaz Sharif.

The PPP chairman alleged that Sharif has returned through a "deal" with the country's military establishment and has been focused on asking why his government was overthrown.



## Iran unveils homegrown anti-armour missile system

**Tehran, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The Iranian Army's Aviation has unveiled an upgraded version of a domestically developed air-to-surface anti-armour missile system, according to a media report. Dubbed Shafaq (Dawn), the smart precision-guided missile system was unveiled in a ceremony attended by Chief Commander of the Iranian Army Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Kioumars Heydari and other high-ranking military officials during an exhibition in Tehran on Tuesd, the semi-official

Fars news agency reported. Designed and developed by Iranian experts, the Shafaq missile system is capable of hitting targets with pinpoint accuracy within a range of 20 km and can be used for different tactical and operational strategies, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Fars.

The missile system, which can be installed on different helicopters of the Iranian Army's Aviation, is equipped with fire-and-forget guidance technology, an upgraded warhead and an infrared search and track system, which enable it to hit

targets in different climate conditions and during night hours, the report said. Among the other Iranian weapons and military equipment showcased in the exhibition were the homegrown Yusef night vision system, combat simulation systems, air-borne self-protection systems, various air-launched long-range cruise missiles, air-to-surface anti-tank guided missiles, Qadr-29 missile system, different kinds of reconnaissance and suicide unmanned aerial vehicles, flight simulation systems and super-heavy tank transporters, according to Fars.

## Russia condemns US strikes on Syria, Iraq

**Moscow, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Russia strongly condemns the US strikes on Syria and Iraq and is seeking an immediate review of the emerging situation through the United Nations (UN) Security Council, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova has said. "American airstrikes involving strategic bombers across Iraq and Syria, ... once again demonstrated to the world the aggressive nature of US policy in the Middle East and Washington's complete disregard for international law," Zakharova said on Saturday in a Telegram post.

The spokesperson said the US is purposefully trying to plunge the largest countries in the region into conflict by conducting the strikes, Xinhua news agency reported. "Recent events confirm that the United States is not and has never been looking for



solutions to problems in the region," she added. The US on Friday carried out strikes on Iran-linked militia targets in Syria and Iraq in retaliation for a deadly attack on its military base in Jordan.



## Post Feb 8 vote, new leadership has to walk tightrope between IMF & China

**Islamabad, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Pakistan is a country hit with severe levels of inflation and poverty due to the recent policy decisions undertaken by the government to meet the demands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). When the inflation hit and poverty stricken voters make way to the polling stations on 8th February 2024.

## Better living conditions may be linked to more successful stroke recovery : Study

**San Francisco, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Stroke survivors living in areas with high unemployment, low income, poor education levels, and poor housing quality are twice as likely to suffer poor recovery after a stroke compared to those living in areas with better conditions, a new study has shown. In the study published in the jour-

nal 'American Stroke Association', the researchers found that among 2,164 people with ischemic (clot-caused) stroke, the one-year unadjusted risk of poor outcomes was 35 per cent, 40 per cent and 46 per cent for patients residing in neighbourhoods with low, intermediate and high deprivation, respectively.



## Ballot 2024: What do Indian-American voters want

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** A robust economy, safety and security of citizens, fixing the southern border crisis, and thriving relations with India are some of the demands put forth by the nearly four-million-strong Indian-American community as the US rolls up its sleeves for Ballot 2024. Surprising many political voters, the community emerged as the most coveted bloc in the 2020 election with a record 71 per cent rate of voting among Asian Americans and ensuring President Joe Biden's victory. At least 10 Indian-Americans, mostly Democrats, won local and state-level elections held in several parts of the country last year, reflecting the growing political prowess of the ethnic community. For the first time in the history of the country, two Indian-American candidates -- Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy -- locked horns on the Republican presidential debate stage, giving a tough fight to former president and GOP frontrunner Donald Trump.

## Key US Senator clears decks for MQ-9B drones for India

**Washington, Feb 6 (IANS) :** A senior US lawmaker, whose approval paved the way for the Joe Biden administration formally notifying US Congress of the proposed sale of MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone, has said he has in return extracted a commitment from the administration that India will fully cooperate in the investigation of the murder-for-hire case in which an Indian official is alleged to have tried to kill a Khalistani activist. The decks are clear now for the smooth passage for the deal through Congress, which has 30 days to either

do nothing and let the administration take it to the next stage, or kill it though a "hold" by leaders of the foreign and armed services committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives; the former is controlled now by the Democrats and the latter by the Republicans. The administration notified the US Congress on Thursday that it proposes to sell 31 MQ-9B drones made by General Atomics to India for nearly \$4 billion. The deal was announced way back in June last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden.





## 1st BIMSTEC C'ships: India's initiative to develop 'sporting culture' in Bay of Bengal region

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** India is hosting the BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships in the national capital which will see athletes from the Bay of Bengal region competing under several disciplines at the Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool complex starting Tuesday. The sporting competition involving South Asian and Southeast Asian nations is said to be the 'brainchild' of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and over the next four days, it will see sportspersons from seven countries compete for top honours. BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises five members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two members from Southeast Asia (Myanmar and Thailand). The grouping was

formed in 1997 to foster closer economic and social relations among member nations. Kicking off the championship on Tuesday, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said that this will sow the seeds for sporting culture in a region that is home to about 1/4th of the world's population. "World's 25 per cent population lives in South Asia and Southeast Asian region," Thakur said while launching the water sports tournament. Notably,

Modi had announced the BIMSTEC Youth water sports competition at the 2018 Summit. The event was initially proposed for 2021, but its launch got deferred due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships is seen as a groundbreaking initiative and experts are hopeful of this region emerging as a 'breeding ground' for new sporting talent.



## Case registered against Tokyo bronze medalist Varun Kumar under POCSO Act : Report

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist hockey player Varun Kumar was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act by Karnataka Police on Tuesday, according to a report. According to NNIS Sports, a 22-year-old woman has filed a formal complaint accusing Varun of raping her under the pretence of marriage. The woman asserts that she met Varun on Instagram when she was 17 years old, and the two of them used to get together frequently. The lady has accused Varun of having sex with her while he was in Bengaluru to attend the Indian men's hockey

team's national training camp at the Sports Authority of India Centre. The case was registered a few days before India's opening match against Spain in the FIH Pro League season 2023-24 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Although Varun was included in the tournament's 24-person roster, the most recent event now calls into question his selection. Varun was a member of the historic team that won the bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics and has been a consistent member of the Indian men's hockey team for the past few years. In addition, he competed for the team that won the gold medal in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in 2023.



## Zaheer Khan wants improvement in Indian batting lineup, says: 'There is a lot of work to be done'

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Following India's impressive 106-run victory over England in the second Test in Visakhapatnam, former India cricketer Zaheer Khan has raised a pertinent point about the team's batting unit, despite the triumph. While acknowledging the stellar performances by Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill, Zaheer Khan emphasised that there remains significant room for improvement within the batting lineup. The Vizag Test witnessed standout performances from Jaiswal, who etched his name in the record books with a memorable 209 in the first innings, and Gill, who displayed resilience with a gritty knock of 104 in the second innings. These exceptional innings laid the foundation for India's commanding position in the match, setting up a daunting target of 399 runs for England to chase. However, beyond the heroics of Jaiswal and Gill, Zaheer Khan expressed concern over the inconsistent performance of other batters. Despite promising starts, players like Shreyas Iyer and Rajat Patidar failed to capitalise on their opportunities, highlighting a glaring issue that needs to be addressed within the team.



## He struggles to pick up pace, says Atherton as he advises Stokes to pick length early against Bumrah

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Former England captain Michael Atherton has heaped praise on Jasprit Bumrah for his remarkable ability to unsettle even the best in the business with his variations and lethal yorkers. Atherton's commendation comes in the wake of Bumrah's consistent success against England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes. In the ongoing Test series between India and England, Bumrah has proven to be a thorn in Stokes' side, dismissing him twice in four innings.

## AIFF's 2024-25 domestic season to start with Durand Cup on July 26

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday announced the domestic competition calendar for the 2024-25 season, with the senior men's calendar set to kick off with the Durand Cup on July 26. The Indian Super League (ISL) will begin on September 14 and will end on April 30, 2025, the I-League in mid-October, the Indian Women's League in late October, IWL 2 in late January and I-League 2 in mid-January. All these senior leagues are set to finish by the end of April 2025. I-League 3, which will act as a qualifying tournament for I-League 2, will be held in August and September. The Super Cup will run concurrently with the

league season from October to mid-May. The AIFF Youth Leagues (U13/U15/U17) are set to have a nine-month calendar from September to May. As far as the national state tournaments are concerned, the season will begin with the Junior Boys and Junior Girls National Football Championship Tier 1 and Tier 2 in July, followed by the Sub-Junior Boys and Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship Tier 1 and Tier 2 in August.



## Zimbabwe to host India for T20I series in July

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced that Zimbabwe will host India for a five-match T20I series in July. The five-match series is scheduled to take place from July 6 to 14 at Harare Sport Club in Harare. The confirmation of this



tour comes after productive discussions between ZC and the BCCI, with the primary objective of fortifying bilateral ties and fostering a spirit of collaboration between the two cricketing boards, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) statement read.



## PKL : 'Puneri Paltan looking to finish on top,' says head coach BC Ramesh

**New Delhi, Feb 6 (IANS) :** After securing a place in the Pro Kabaddi League season 10 playoffs, Puneri Paltan coach BC Ramesh is adamant that his side will finish the league stage in top two. Puneri Paltan became the second team to qualify for the PKL 10 Playoffs after registering a 30-30 tie with Dabang Delhi K.C. here on Monday. When asked about qualifying for the playoffs, head coach Ramesh said: "We will certainly finish first or second in the league stage. I have no doubt about that. We'll look to perform well in our upcoming games and finish at the top of the table."