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## Virat Kohli awarded ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023

In a year that reverberated with the resounding echoes of his cricketing prowess, veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli stood tall as he was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the..

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## PNB clocks 3-fold jump in net profit at Rs 2,223 crore for Q3

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Thursday announced an over three-fold jump in its profit to Rs 2,223 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year, compared.

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## All should strive for victory of party in LS polls : Kharge

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge today said the party would achieve good results in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections only when all the leaders from the booth level...

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## Another two guarantees to launch next month : CM Revanth

Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has informed that the State government will launch the implementation of another two guarantees in next month. Addressing the Congress Booth Committee meeting at LB Nagar here on Thursday, the Chief Min-

ister said that the State government had already been implementing two guarantees out of six and another two would be launched in February. Revanth Reddy, who is also president of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee ( TPCC), reiterated that the Congress government

would implement all six guarantees within the first 100 days of coming to power and the process of depositing the amount into farmers' accounts under the Rythu Bandhu scheme would be completed by the next month.

He alleged that the previous BRS government didn't implement a single electoral promise during its tenure and said that the BRS had no right to seek votes again in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.



## Lakhs of Asaduddins can't stop Modi becoming PM for third time : Kishan

Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : Union Minister & Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy has said the selection of parliamentary candidates would be completed in a week. He said the announcement of the party candidates was likely to be made in the next week. Stating that the Union home minister Amit Shah will visit Telangana on January 28, he said BJP would hold a preparatory meeting on the Hyderabad Parliament seat.

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## KTR's mind not working properly: Seethakka

Rajanna Sircilla, Jan.25 (IANS) : Minister for Panchayat Raj Seethakka came down heavily on former minister and BRS MLA KT Rama Rao, saying that his mind was not working properly and he was indulging in the destruction of politics. Minister Seethakka visited Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam in Vemulawada

on Thursday. Later, speaking to the media, the Minister said that KT Rama Rao was not able to lead the days without having power and he was behaving badly by the day. 'Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's arrogance is the reason for the BRS party's debacle in the recent Assembly elections. Despite KCR being elected as an MLA, he is not coming to take oath which shows the arrogance of KCR' Seethakka alleged. Minister Sitakka suggested that KTR should work as the best opposition leader and give constructive suggestions to the State Government.

## KCR to chair parliamentary party meeting today

Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : BRS Parliamentary Party meeting will be held on Friday under the chairmanship of party supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao. The meeting will be held at 12.30 pm at KCR's farm house in Erravalli from Siddipet district. KCR will meet with members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of the party in the background of the upcoming Parliament sessions.



## Mahender Reddy appointed as TSPSC Chairman

Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : Former DGP Mahender Reddy has been appointed as the Chairman of Telangana State Public Service Commission ( TSPSC). Mahender Reddy's appointment was approved by Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday. He will soon take charge as the new Chairman of TSPSC. Similarly, Former IPS officer Anitha Rajendram, Palvai Rajani Kumar, Amir Ullah Khan , Yadaiah and Y Rammohan Rao have been appointed as the Members of the Commission. Earlier, Janarthan Reddy was in the post of TSPSC. However, he had resigned from the post when the Congress government came to power in Telangana. During Janarthan Reddy's tenure, TSPSC papers were leaked and the exams were postponed.

## Governor approves names of Kodandaram, Amer Ali Khan as MLCs



Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundara Rajan on Thursday approved the appointment of Professor Kodandaram and Siasat Urdu News paper Editor Amer Ali Khan as MLCs under the Governor quota.

As the State government has nominated both persons as MLCs under the Governor's quota, Tamilisai Soundararajan has accepted the proposal and given her consent on the appointment of Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan.

In 2018, Telangana Jana Samithi ( TJS) president Kodandaram contested in Telangana Assembly elections in alliance with the Congress. This time, Kodandaram announced his support to the Congress party by not contesting the 2023 elections.

## Sharmila slams YS Jagan

Vijayawada, Jan 25 (IANS) : APCC president YS Sharmila today criticized CM YS Jagan for failing to build the Polavaram project. She held a meeting with Congress workers at Surya Kala Mandir in Kakinada. Speaking on the occasion, Sharmila said with reverse tendering.



## BRS will hold extensive assembly level meetings from Jan 27 : KTR

Hyderabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : BRS party working president KT Rama Rao today said the party would hold extensive meetings in the assembly constituencies from January 27.



## Telangana gears up to unveil mega master policy for industrial growth: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Jan.25 (IANS) : Minister for IT and Industries D Sridhar Babu said the State government is poised to unveil a comprehensive 'mega master policy' aimed at catalyzing industrial growth by 2050. Sridhar Babu participated in the 5th edition of CII

Telangana, 'Infrastructure and Real Estate Summit' at a hotel here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu said that as part of its initiative, the Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) was tasked with developing a 55 km stretch of the Musi riverfront. The proposed riverfront will fea-

ture amusement parks, waterfalls, water sports, streetvenders, a business area, and a shopping mall under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, he disclosed. Stating that the Musi riverfront project is strategically designed to transform into a prominent tourism destination.

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## OPINIONmail



## PRIME MINISTER'S CURRENT VISIT TO SOUTH IS AIMED AT LINKING THE REGION WITH NORTH THROUGH HINDUTVA

Modi achievement is the empowerment of the so-called radical Hindus who had got off to an early start after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister and took charge of the India that had passed through several stints of secular prime ministers including the greatest one of all of them — Jawaharlal Nehru, who happens to be Modi's muse but not because Modi has a special admiration for India's first and longest serving Prime Minister. The north-south divide, among other things, is preventing Prime Minister Narendra Modi from aping Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the fullest. Modi's electoral achievements fell short of the Vindhyas and apart from Karnataka, where the BJP scored in both Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the rest of "South India" has to date remained cut off from the Bharatiya Janata Party's feared depredations. The South Indian apparently has more sense than his North Indian counterpart and no less than Congress leader Rahul Gandhi voiced this alleged truism when he praised Wayanad for electing him and berated Amethi for rejecting him. Being his own man, Rahul Gandhi refused to shoulder any blame, whatsoever for his defeat at the hands of Smriti Irani. Ironically, Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' will be snaking through Amethi after it cuts a path through Modi's 'Varanasi' and Sonia Gandhi's Rai Bareilly. For the Congress to revive its fortunes in north India requires Rahul Gandhi's triumphant return to Amethi whether Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani likes it or not. The idea is that by this time, at least, Amethians would have developed sense enough to vote like south Indians and return to Rahul Gandhi his family pocket-borough. But while the Congress fights its north Indian demons, the BJP has south Indian gremlins to reckon with, which have stopped the BJP from crossing into South India with solid ballast. The fact is, the Modi reign is incomplete without the BJP running its gamut of South India. Modi has not been able to bring South India under the BJP's control, except for Karnataka for limited periods. It is not because he hasn't been trying. Despite numerous elections, including the 2019 general elections, which established Narendra Modi as the paramount leader of North India, South India has shunned Modi's charisma. This bothers the Prime Minister. It must hurt Modi that the majority of the Kerala and Tamil Nadu electorate do not see the merit in Modi that north India sees in him. They don't seem to care two hoots for Modi. The Prime Minister is given stony welcomes. Even Telangana and Andhra Pradesh appear out of focus, with the former described as the "BJP's gateway to the south". Even the vaunted "Boss" of the world title that Modi got in Australia did not cut ice with the 'South', which has repeatedly rejected Modi's overtures such that now he has become a "jinx". Above all, at this juncture when Lord Ram reigns supreme in the mind of the north Indian Hindu, the south Indian Hindu is an enigma wrapped in secular cellophane, immune to Modi-rule. So, what does Modi do? He sees opportunity in Ram. He sees the chance to obliterate the north-south divide plaguing the BJP. And his actions up north are impacting the south. Suddenly, 'Ram' is everywhere — on wall-posters, on hoardings, on "flexes"... Ram is the controversy people and politicians are weighing for and against at religious settings and in political war-rooms. Even in 'God's Own Country', where atheists rule in alliance with the religiously inclined, where the BJP cannot get its hands on power, which alternates in the grips of the Congress and the Left, the most Prime Minister Narendra Modi could do was to centrally-administered Lakshadweep and snorkel and take a walk on the beach leading to an India-Maldives "coral". But Modi saw opportunity in Ram and he has been talking of and introducing "Ram Rajya" to the southern states, so much so, his actions down-south match those up-north.

(By Sushil Kuttly)

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail

## BIDEN'S FOREIGN POLICIES ARE ENDANGERING HIS RE-ELECTION CHANCES IN NOVEMBER POLL

The Republican nominee for the presidency will be the 90-times-indicted rapist Donald Trump unless court rulings, guilty verdicts, or acts of God prevent that from happening. Depending upon who you believe, either the anti-MAGA majority will come through again and Biden will win or Trump himself could actually end up re-entering the White House. One thing's for sure: Neither candidate will get there without a determined electorate marching to the polls on their behalf. If we listen to the White House, Trump has been beaten often before and it will happen again. They have a point, of course, but they ignore much of what has been behind many of the anti-Trump victories—the struggles of labor and all its allies for a progressive people's agenda. It is those mass struggles that are reflected in all the initial victories for the people that took place in the Biden administration.



## IRAN'S STRIKES INDICATE SHIFTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONS DURING GAZA WAR

The involvement of Iran in the escalating conflict between Israel and Gaza has been somewhat downplayed and indirect. However, in the last week, a series of direct retaliatory actions by Iran have sparked fresh discussions about Tehran's strategic objectives. There is growing speculation about whether China might be requested to intervene as a mediator between Iran and its neighbouring countries. This comes as analysts suggest that Iran's decision to launch air strikes against non-state groups in Pakistan and Iraq earlier this week was based on a possible misjudgement. Tehran presumably believed that neither nation would be inclined to respond with retaliatory actions. In retaliation for Iran's missile and drone strikes, which targeted purported bases of Israel's Mossad in northern Iraq and a separate ethnic Baloch insurgent group located in western Pakistan, both Pakistan and Iraq have withdrawn their ambassadors from

Tehran. They have also expelled Iranian envoys. These attacks, conducted by Iran against the group fighting in its southeastern Sistan and Baluchistan province, occurred on Monday and Tuesday. According to Abdul Basit, a senior associate fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, Iran's assumption that Pakistan wouldn't retaliate, fearing entanglement in the broader Middle East conflict stemming from the Israel-Gaza war, was certainly a miscalculation on Iran's part.



## CONGRESS GEARS UP ITS ORGANISATION FOR LOK SABHA POLLS IN MADHYA PRADESH

After Vidhan Sabha election, is both BJP and Congress have taken many steps to strengthen their organisation. One step the Congress has taken to oust such elements who by various acts of commission and omission, damaged party's prospects in the election. The Congress has to work very hard to gain their lost position. The party in the last Lok Sabha election could win only one seat — that too its traditional seat — Chhindwara, from where

veteran leader Kamal Nath's son Nakul Nath contested. As Kamal Nath contested Vidhan Sabha he set up his son from Chhindwara. Even Jyotiraditya Scindia, lost from his traditional seat. He was defeated by his former personal secretary. State Congress Disciplinary Committee on Friday issued show-cause notices to 150 party turncoats who contested the assembly elections as independents or as candidates from other political parties. However, none of these rebels won any seat in the

state. The November 2023 assembly election turned out to be a direct contest between the ruling BJP and the Congress in 229 out of 230 seats. The BJP secured 163 seats while the Congress got 66. Only one seat Sailana — in Ratlam district — was won by Bharat Adivasi Party candidate Kamaleswar Dodiya. A release from the PCC office on Friday said "Meeting of the Disciplinary Committee was concluded today at the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee Headquarters.

## HARDLINERS RIDE HIGH IN MIDDLE EAST AS BORDER HOSTILITIES ESCALATE UNEXPECTEDLY

A recent Lebanese public opinion poll suggests there may be limits to Iran-backed Shiite militia Hezbollah's restraint in confronting Israel. It also suggests why Iran feels emboldened by escalating tensions in the Middle East. The poll results are significant with Hezbollah and Israel engaged in tit-for-tat cross border attacks that both parties have sought to contain but could spin out of control at any moment. Hezbollah has wanted to contain the hostilities because a majority of Lebanese oppose their country becoming embroiled in a war, particularly with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warning that Israel could turn Beirut into another Gaza. In the final analysis, the poll, conducted in late November and early December by The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

## A CONFIDENT SHEIKH HASINA IS SET TO COMBAT WEST'S POLITICAL PRESSURE IN HER FRESH TERM

In Bangladesh, the recent Awami League (AL) victory in the 2024 parliamentary polls has left major world powers sharply divided and common people confused. Significantly, the none-too-unpredictable outcome has not left too many Bangladeshis noticeably jubilant, excepting ruling AL leaders. The comfortable margin of the AL's victory has bought ruling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed a much needed breathing space after a prolonged, unusually acrimonious pre-election

campaign. However her relief may yet be short-lived, in the context of the formidable economic and political challenges Bangladesh is currently up against. What worries even her friendliest advisers is whether in the medium term, world economic trends will remain as acutely unfavourable for most developing countries as at present. This is particularly important for Bangladesh, a country which observers now concede, has re-elected to power the AL, because of its aggressive promotion of economic development in recent years. The undeniable economic

progress made during the AL tenure leading to booming exports, rising remittances and a sustained growth in the domestic economy through spectacular infra development projects providing mass employment, is admitted—however grudgingly—by even her powerful political opponents in the US and EU. The 2024 poll results therefore provide confirmation of conventional political wisdom among policymakers that most voters respond to visible economic progress, while sidelining other contro-



versial issues. This is exactly what the beleaguered Prime Minister and her party had been desperately hoping, would happen. For once, the ugly mix of corruption, nepotism and authoritarianism in Bangladesh's domestic politics, mattered less than economic growth.

### Israel cannot build peace only by military means, two-state solution only way forward : EU

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : The EU's Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Thursday said that Israel cannot build peace only by military means and a two-state solution is the only way forward to resolve the Palestine conflict, media reports said. Reports said that Josep Borrell has repeated the condemnation from the United Nations of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "unacceptable" rejection of calls for a Palestinian state after the offensive in Gaza. "What we want to do is to build a two-state solution. So let's talk about it," Borrell told media persons ahead of his mediatory talks with the foreign ministers of various Arab nations. He has also asked the Israelis that peace and stability cannot be built only by military means. "Which are the other solutions they have in mind? To make all the Palestinians leave? To kill them off?" Borrell said.



## 25,000 civilian fatalities reported in Gaza conflict amid mounting humanitarian demands

United Nations, Jan 25 (IANS) : "Intense" Israeli strikes in Gaza and Palestinian rocket fire into Israel persisted on Thursday, with UN humanitarian reports stating more than 25,000 deaths in the enclave since the war's onset on October 7. Referencing information from Gaza's health authorities, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that 62,681 Palestinians have suffered injuries due to Israeli strikes. These strikes were in response

to Hamas-led attacks in Israel, which resulted in about 1,200 fatalities and around 250 hostages. Two Israeli soldiers had been killed in Gaza since Friday, OCHA said, which brought the total to 193 since the start of the ground operation, and 1,203 soldiers were injured, according to the Israeli military as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The same period saw 343 Palestinians killed and another 573 people injured, the UN aid coordination office said. Addressing a summit of the Group of 77 countries and China (G77)

in the Ugandan capital Kampala on Sunday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the Middle East as "a tinderbox," before issuing an appeal to "do all we can to prevent conflict from igniting across the region." "Israel's military operations have spread mass destruction and killed civilians on a scale unprecedented during my time as Secretary-General," Guterres said, having earlier reiterated his support for a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians. Highlighting the scale of need among Gazans after more than three months of "intense" bombardment, OCHA said that only 15 bakeries were now operational in Gaza -- "six in Rafah and nine in Deir al Balah" -- and none is open north of Wadi Gaza.



### 'Envoys can return': Iran FM to visit Pakistan on Jan 29

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Iran and Pakistan on Thursday agreed that their ambassadors can return back to their posts following a discussion between the respective foreign ministers. "Following the telephone conversation between the FM's of Pakistan and Iran, it has been mutually agreed that am-

bassadors of both countries may return to their respective posts by 26 Jan 2024," Pakistan Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch wrote on X. She said that at the invitation of Pakistan Foreign Minister Jalil Jilani, Iranian Foreign Minister will visit Pakistan on January 29. On Thursday,

last week, Iran conducted missile strikes in Pakistan's Balochistan province, killing at least two children and injuring three. Tehran said the rare border intrusion targeted Jaish al-Adl, a Sunni Muslim armed group accused of attacks inside the Iranian territory of Sistan-Baluchestan.

### Targeted IDF preparing to attack inside Lebanese territory: Hezbollah

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Hezbollah has said that it targeted Israeli soldiers preparing to carry out a military operation inside Lebanon, media reports said. "In support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant resistance, we targeted last night with missiles an Israeli force in the vicinity of the Zarit barracks that was preparing to carry out an aggression inside Lebanese territory."



### Not easy to bring Pakistan back on track : Nawaz Sharif

Islamabad, Jan 25 (IANS) : With around two weeks left for the upcoming February 8 polls, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif lamented on Thursday that it would not be an easy task to

bring Pakistan back on track, according to a media report. Nawaz's remarks come as major political parties, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), PML-N and others, have ramped up their electioneering activities with party leaders taking the helm of



### Malaysia's dengue cases rise fueled by rainy weather

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 25 (IANS) : The number of dengue fever cases in Malaysia is on the rise, with the Health Ministry warning that persistent rainy weather is contributing to the problem. The number of dengue fever cases increased to 3,525 cases from January 7 to 13, compared to 3,181 cases the week before, and two deaths have been reported over the same period, Health Ministry Director-General Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan said on Thursday in a statement. "The Meteorological Department noted that the southwest monsoon season will last from November to March this year. This contributes to the increased potential breeding areas of aedes mosquitoes.



#### SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

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

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited, (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Aarun Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 23rd day of January, 2024.

| Borrower Name and Address   | Amount due   |
|---|--|
| 1) Israth Fathima, W/o: Syed Javed, Age: 70years, Occ: House, W/o: H/o: Hno: 723-2823A/160/1, Flat No. 401 Santosh Nagar, Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad. Pin Code: 500028.  | as per Demand Notice Rs. 1,40,72,278/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Eighty Only) |
| 2) Sayad Javed Ali, S/o: Syed Shabbir, Age: 73years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: Hno: 8-1-284/OU/689, Shaikpet, Tolichowki, Hyderabad. Pin Code: 500028. B/o: Proprietor of: Hotel Business At Balanagar, 3) V Dasarani Naik, S/o: Chandya Naik, Age: 70 years, Occ: It Retainers, R/O: Hno: 69/B, Opp. Police Station, Balanagar Village & Mandal, Mahabubnagar(D), Pin Code: 509001. |  |

.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

#### SHADNTF11300016 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Property Holder Name Israth Fathima, Mortgage Deed Dated 28.11.2011 Registered As Document No 5772/2011 On the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Balanagar/ Item No.1: Mahabubnagar District Jadcherla Sub-District, Jadcherla Mandal, Balanagar Gram Panchayath and Village Accounts Sy. No.68/AA, Plot No. 154/A, Site an extent of 1173.33 Sq.Yards, or 976.87 Sq.Mts. Bounded on the: and Bounded as Follows: Towards East: Plot No. 154/C, 154/B, Towards West: Plot No. 153 and Land of Syed Javed Ali. Towards North: 26' Feet Road and Plot No.156. Towards South: Plot No. 154/B.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place: Mahabubnagar Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Date: 25-01-2024 Shriram Finance Limited

#### SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

ACB Gadwal Branch - 05407, Jugulamba Gadwal District, e-mail: sbi.05407@sbi.co.in

#### CANCELLATION OF E-AUCTION NOTICE

Due to administrative reasons, the E-auction of the property published in Sakshi & The Indian Mail newspapers on 02.01.2024 for conducting E-Auction on 05-02-2024 for the Sri. V.Veera Narsimulu, S/o Sri. Venkat Ramulu (Borrower) and Smt. G.Sheshireka, W/o Sri Veera Narsimulu (Guarantor) is cancelled.

Date: 24-01-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place: Gadwal State Bank of India

#### SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

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

#### DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited) 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 Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred 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 allowed, 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. Jolly Motors Rep By Its Managing Partners G.Sandhya Rani & G.Vijaya Narayana Reddy, R/O: Shop No. 1 & 2, Survey No. : 115, Ground Floor, Malle Boyenpalli Village, Jadcherla Mandal, Mahabubnagar Dist-503301, 2. Gavinnilla Sandhya Rani, W/o. G.Vijaya Narayana Reddy, Aged About 49 Years, R/O: Plot No. : 17, Gangsthan, Kompally, Mandal, Doolapalle, K.V.Ranga Reddy Dist-500014, 3. Gavinnilla Vijaya Narayana Reddy, S/o, G.Kista Reddy, Aged About 53 Years, R/O. Plot No. : 17, Gangsthan, Kompally, Mandal, Doolapalle, K.V.Ranga Reddy Dist-500014, 4.K.Kiran Kumar Reddy, S/o K.Sanjeewa Reddy, Aged About 34 Years, Occ: Private Contractor, R/O Hno. : 11-66/3, Christian Pally, Mahabubnagar Dist. -509001. ....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs AMRPTTF1703270008- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the open Land in Sy.No.115/E/2, extent of Ac.01-05 Gts., Or 45 Guntas situated at Malleboinipally Village & Grampanchayath, Jadcherla Mandal, Mahabubnagar District and bounded as follows : North: Land of Smt.Sandhya Rani South: Land of V.Narayana Reddy & Sandhya Rani East : Land of G.Kista Reddy West : Forest Land | 31-03-2021 | 11-01-2024            |

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: 24-01-2024 Place: Kompally Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited



### SC issues notice to CM Shinde and his camp on Thackeray faction's plea challenging ??Maha Speaker ruling

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine a plea filed by Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sunil Prabhu challenging the ruling of Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar which had held that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led faction is the "real" Shiv Sena. A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, issued notice and called for the response of CM Shinde and 38 other MLAs of his camp in the matter. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Uddhav Thackeray-led faction, urged the bench to entertain the special leave petition filed

before the apex court saying that the order passed by Speaker Narwekar involves an interpretation of the May 2023 judgment of the Constitution Bench. As he requested the top court to make the notice returnable within a period of two weeks, CJI Chandrachud said that a fixed date will be given in the matter. Former CM Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction petitioned the Supreme Court questioning the January 10 decision passed by Narwekar holding that the group led by CM Shinde was the real "Shiv Sena" as it commanded a majority in the legislature and also in the party's National Executive.

### Women again outnumber male voters on Manipur electoral rolls

**Imphal, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Once again, women voters have outnumbered male voters on the electoral rolls in the northeastern state of Manipur, an official said on Thursday. As per the final electoral rolls published on Thursday, at 10,46,706, women have outnumbered male voters' count of 9,79,678. The final electoral rolls were published after a three-and-a-half month-long special summary revision of voters' list with reference to January 1 as the qualifying date for inclusion of names. Of 16 districts, in three districts -- Senapati, Jiribam and Pherzawl -- the numbers of male voters were higher than their female counterparts.

Manipur Chief Electoral Officer Pradeep Kumar Jha said that as per the final electoral rolls, gender ratio stands at 1,068 as compared to 1,066 in draft electoral rolls published on October 27 last year. He said that the elector-population ratio was recorded at 55.54 per cent as compared to 55.04 per cent in the draft rolls. The total number of electors as per final electoral rolls is 20,26,623 showing a net increase of 18,191 electors from the draft electoral rolls, the CEO said. In all, 34,700 voters including 15,596 male, 19,095 female and nine third genders were included afresh in the final electoral rolls, while names of 16,509 electors, including 5,280 expired electors have been deleted from the list. Jha said that special drives were



undertaken to facilitate internally displaced people to enroll their names in the electoral rolls. Special campaigns were conducted in relief camps to facilitate enrollment of the eligible voters and make the people aware of the importance of voting, he added. Around 50,000 people including women and children are staying in the relief camps in different districts following the chaos and disorder in the state due to the ethnic violence that first broke out on

May 3 last year. Stating that in order to enroll more young voters in the electoral rolls, intensive activities were undertaken in educational institutions, universities and colleges during the revision period, the CEO said that electoral literacy clubs were also activated, special camps were organised in the educational institutions to create awareness and facilitate registration of prospective voters on the electoral rolls.



### Siddaramaiah is anti-Hindu, says Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

**Bengaluru, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Union Minister for Mine, Coal, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is 'anti-Hindu', adding that 'there should be no doubt about that'. "Siddaramaiah did not declare a holiday. First, he said he would not go to Ayodhya. Now, he says he will visit Ayodhya. All of this is for securing votes," Joshi said. "We will work towards creating 'Ram Rajya' in the coming five years," he added. On the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Union Minister said: "Lord Ram, who had been away for a long time, has arrived home today.

People are working with devotion everywhere. There is a festive mood all over the country." The Minister further said that Lord Ram was waiting for "a great personality to bring him home for 500 years". "Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the job. He has dedicated his life to creating a good society. PM Modi is following the principles of Ram," Joshi said. Meanwhile, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the dream of "Ram Rajya" is being realised through the guarantee schemes launched by the Congress-led government in the state. Expressing happiness over Pran Prathistha of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, Shivakumar said: "Creating Ram Rajya is our dream. In order to realize this dream, five guarantees in the state have been successfully implemented. "A meaningful life is all about inculcating the principles of Lord Ram and the loyalty of Hanuman," he added.

### School job case : Calcutta HC directs WBSSC to sack key official immediately

**Kolkata, Jan 25 (IANS) :** A single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) Chairman to immediately sack one of its key office-bearers for facilitating his wife in illegally getting a teaching job in a state-run school. The Bench of Justice Biswajit Basu not only directed the WBSSC to sack its regional chairman (western zone) Sheikh Sirazuddin but also asked the state administration to initiate immediate proceedings against him after taking him into custody. It is learnt that Sirazuddin's wife Jasmin Khatun appeared for the written examination for recruitment as a teacher in 2011, the panel for which expired in 2016. However, she got her appointment in 2019 and it was alleged that her husband played a key role in getting her that job in an illegal manner. Recently, the Calcutta High Court's Special Division Bench of Justice Debangsu Basak and Justice Shabbar Rashidi, which is constituted to specially hear the matter related to the multi-crore cash-for-school-job cases in West Bengal following an instruction from the Supreme Court of India, too, observed that appointments in state-run schools given to candidates enlisted in expired panels of WBSS will not be valid.



### Haryana embracing digital wave to ensure transparency : Chief Secretary

**Chandigarh, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Thursday said the state has been embracing digital wave to ensure transparency and efficiency in its PM Gati Shakti implementation. The state has uploaded whopping 271 data layers on the PM Gati Shakti portal by 26 departments. Presiding over the third Empowerment Group of Secretar-

ies meeting under PM-Gati Shakti here, Kaushal said regular meetings under the state monitoring programme demonstrate the state's commitment to sustained progress and ensure that the PM Gati Shakti initiative continues to deliver tangible results. Kaushal said Invest India's latest report reveals a substantial surge in Haryana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).



### UP govt frames rules for welfare of adolescent workers

**Lucknow, Jan 25 (IANS) :** The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed stringent rules prohibiting lifting of heavy weight and ensuring mandatory paid weekly holidays for young workers, among others. The move is aimed at eradicating child labour and ensuring welfare of adolescents. "The state government is framing rules as a follow-up to various amend-

ments made to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act), 1986 by the Centre in 2016," said a senior labour department official. "The government has invited public comments to draft rules before finalising the same," he added. One of the key provisions stipulates that no adolescent shall be permitted to lift, carry, or keep a weight exceeding 10 kg. This restriction is aimed at preventing

physical strain and injury to young workers. Recognising the importance of leisure and rest in the growing years, the regulations seek to enshrine the right of each adolescent worker to a paid weekly holiday, and not just a holiday. The rules also address concerns related to the education of adolescent workers. If a child receiving education in a school remains absent consecutively for 30 days without notifying the school authorities, the principal/headmaster will be mandated to report such absences to the nodal officer concerned. "This provision will ensure that educational interests of adolescent workers are protected, and any prolonged absence triggers appropriate intervention since a long absence of a child from the school will be seen as the possibility of a young student being a potential child worker," the official stated.

### MP researchers' incisionless device to boost treatment for diabetes, obesity

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** A team of an international team of researchers, led by those from India's Madhya Pradesh, has developed a completely incisionless device that replicates metabolic surgery without making any cuts and could surpass current technologies for managing conditions such as severe obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH). The researchers found that the

ForePass endoscopic showed extraordinary efficacy in treating these metabolic conditions, providing unmatched treatment for millions of people who reject invasive surgery or do not respond to drugs. "The ForePass device will be a game-changer for treating severe metabolic conditions. It replicates the effects of metabolic surgery without invasive procedures and without making any cuts to internal organs.



### Two sisters beaten up by two brothers in Patna after failed rape bid

**Patna, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Two sisters in a village on the outskirts of Patna were beaten and badly injured by a pair of brothers who entered their house and tried to rape them but had to flee after the victims raised an alarm, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred in a village under Dhanarua police station on Saturday night when the family members were out of the house for some work. Accused Rahul Kumar alias Loha Singh and Rohit Kumar alias Champak alias Pandit entered the house of victims and tried to sexually assault them. As the victims raised an alarm, the accused, who had a pistol and iron rod, though they may be caught by the local residents and attacked them with the butt of the pistol and the rod, breaking their hands and legs.

## Domestic equities plunge on profit booking

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Domestic equities continued with its profit booking trend and plunged once again on monthly F&O expiry day before recovering half of the losses towards the end, Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said. Nifty fell more than 200 points during the day but ended the day with loss of 101 points (-0.5 per cent) to close at 21,352. Broader market however ended on a mixed note with Midcap 100 down -0.5 per cent while Smallcap100 was up +0.5 per cent. IT, Pharma and FMCG witnessed selling pressure while oil & gas, realty and PSUs saw buying interest. Weak results from Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank and HDFC bank continue to weigh on IT and private banks.



## IndiGo announces direct flight between Dubai and Surat from Feb 23

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** IndiGo on Thursday announced direct flights between Dubai and Surat which will operate tri-weekly from February 23. "The addition of this strategic route to the 6E network is designed to facilitate seamless travel for tourists and business travellers and enhance bilateral economic growth and relations between India and the UAE," said an airline official. With the addition of this flight, Surat becomes the second city in Gujarat, with direct connectivity

to Dubai on the IndiGo network. "Moreover, starting from February 22, additional frequencies will be introduced on the Hyderabad-Dubai route," said the official. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo, said, "We are delighted to introduce direct connectivity between Dubai and Surat, the two major commercial and economic hubs in the Middle East and India." "With the addition of these flights, IndiGo operates 108 direct flights a week to Dubai from 13 cities in India. Surat, in Gujarat, is well-known for its flourishing textile and diamond industries, and enhancing connectivity with Dubai, will provide business travellers with trade opportunities and significantly contribute to economic development in both regions," said Malhotra.

## Ola announces ex-Unilever executive Hemant Bakshi as new CEO: Report

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** ANI Technologies, the parent company of Ola, has announced Hemant Bakshi, a former executive at Unilever, as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ola, according to media reports. Bhavish Aggarwal will step down as part of the company's effort to streamline operations. Prior to joining Ola, Bakshi was the executive Vice President (VP) of the marketplace and chairperson of Unilever Indonesia. He joined Ola and moved back to India about four months ago, media reports said.



## Flipkart to cut 1,000 jobs in annual restructuring exercise

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** E-commerce major Flipkart will be laying off 1,000 employees in an annual restructuring exercise. This represents around 5 per cent of its total workforce, reports Moneycontrol, citing sources. According to the report, the company carries out these performance-based job cost reductions every year, and the latest workforce reduction is in line with that. The Walmart-owned company currently has around 22,000 employees. Earlier reports mentioned that the company is also looking at internal restructuring to optimise its resources in order to remain profitable. Meanwhile, Flipkart had a total revenue of Rs 56,013 crore in the 2023 financial year, according to data from business intelligence platform Tofler. The revenue saw a 9 per cent growth in FY23 from FY22 at Rs 51,176 crore. The company reported a net loss of Rs 4,834 crore in FY23, marking a substantial 42 per cent increase from the earlier fiscal year. "Net loss for the financial year ending as on March 31, 2023, was Rs 48,393 million as against that of the previous year ending as on March 31, 2022, of Rs 33,624 million witnessed an increase of 44 per cent in the net loss," according to the financial report.

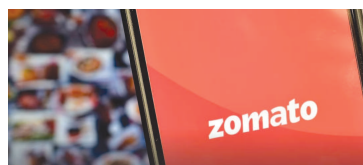


## HPCL posts Rs 529 cr net profit in Oct-Dec quarter

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Public sector oil marketing company Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) reported a profit of Rs 529 crore for the October-December quarter, which is a 3-fold increase over the corresponding figure of Rs 172 crore for the same quarter of the previous year.

However, the Q3 net profit was nearly 90 per cent lower than the corresponding figure

of Rs 5,118 crore reported by the oil major for preceding July-September quarter of the current financial year. HPCL's standalone total income rose 2 per cent year-on-year in Q3 to Rs 1.18 lakh crore from Rs 1.16 lakh crore in the same quarter last year. Domestic sales rose by 3 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2023-24 to 11.3 million metric tonne (MMT).



## Zomato gets RBI approval to operate as 'online payment aggregator'

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Online food delivery platform Zomato on Thursday announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Zomato Payments Private Limited (ZPPL) has been granted a certificate of authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an 'Online Payment Aggregator'. The authorisation came into effect from January 24. "We wish to inform that ZPPL has been granted a certificate of authorisation dated January 24, 2024, from the RBI to operate as an 'Online Payment Aggregator' in India with effect from January 24, 2024, as per the guidelines issued by the RBI," Zomato said in an exchange filing.



## PNB clocks 3-fold jump in net profit at Rs 2,223 crore for Q3

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Thursday announced an over three-fold jump in its profit to Rs 2,223 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year, compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 629 crore in the same period last year. The government-owned

bank's total income shot up to Rs 29,962 crore during the quarter from Rs 25,722 crore in the same period last year. PNB's net interest income (NII) went up 12.1 per cent to Rs 10,293 crore from Rs 9,179.4 crore in the year ago period, according to a regulatory filing. The bank's asset quality also improved during the quarter with

gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 6.24 per cent of total loans from 9.76 per cent in the same period last year. Net NPAs came down to 0.96 per cent from 3.30 per cent. The provisions for bad loans made by the bank came down to Rs 2,739.1 crore from Rs 4,713.34 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

## LG Electronics' profit more than quadruples on home appliances, automotive parts

**Seoul, Jan 25 (IANS) :** LG Electronics said on Thursday that its fourth-quarter operating profit more than quadrupled from a year earlier on robust sales of home appliances and automotive parts. South Korea's leading electronics company said in a regulatory filing that operating income for the October-December period came to 313.1 billion won (\$234.3 million) on a consolidated basis, sharply up from 69.3 billion won a year ago.



## Microsoft now a \$3 trillion company, second after Apple

**San Francisco, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Microsoft has reached the coveted \$3 trillion mark and became the second company after Apple to achieve this feat. Microsoft reached a \$3 trillion market cap, the first time in its 48-year history. The Satya Nadella-run company reached the milestone valuation after its stock climbed 1.5 per cent in trading on Nasdaq late on Wednesday. Tim Cook-led Apple hit the \$3 trillion mar-

ket cap around two years ago. Microsoft's stock has been rallying in recent months, amid its artificial intelligence (AI) push along with OpenAI. In the past five years, Microsoft's stock price has moved from \$107 to the current price of around \$404.

## ACC records 5-fold surge in Q3 net profit

**Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Cement major ACC on Thursday reported a nearly five-fold surge in its net profit to Rs 527 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year on the back of a strong demand for construction materials in the economy. The revenue of the Adani Group company rose 8.4% to Rs 4918.3 crore from Rs 4536.9 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. The demand for cement in India has picked up at a robust pace as the government has been making huge investments in big ticket infrastructure projects to keep India on track as the world's fastest growing economy.



## Bharat Dynamics posts 61% rise in Q3 net profit

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Ammunition and missile manufacturer Bharat Dynamics has reported a 61 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 135 crore for the October-December quarter of 2023-24, compared to the corresponding figures of Rs 84 crore recorded in the same period of the preceding fiscal. The defence major's revenue from operations

grew 30 per cent year-on-year to Rs 602 crore during Q3 of the current financial year. Its EBITDA for the quarter went up by 32 per cent to Rs 119 crore. The company stands to gain from the government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' policy under which more orders for supplying the country's defence forces are being placed with Indian companies.

## An accident grant scheme for migrant labourers in Bihar that beneficiaries have no idea about

**Patna, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Anmol Thakur (30) can never forget that day in July 2014. He was into a house construction work in Kashmir's Shopian, but things changed drastically when two bullets pierced his body in a terrorist strike. "One bullet hit me in the back, another in the stomach," Anmol says, showing the injury marks left behind by the bullets.

A resident of Laharnia in Supaul district of Bihar, Anmol's medical expenses were fully borne by the contractor. "I did not receive any other benefit... I have been sitting without work in my

village for the last six months. I do not have land... To sustain my family, including my wife and two children, I have to go to Delhi or Punjab. I will go again after a few days," he says.

"At the time he suffered bullet injuries, the district magistrate and other officials came home and assured us of compensation. But no one visited us after his recovery," laments Anmol's father Anandi Thakur. "No government gave us any benefit. The contractor provided only for medical expenses. You know how difficult it is for a labourer to stay at home for long," he sighs.

Besides Anmol, Pintu Kumar (20) and Vinod Thakur (27) of Supaul

district and Heera Lal Yadav of Kasimpur in Saharsa district suffered bullet injuries on that day. According to Anmol, all three have not received any government benefit. Thankfully, their medical condition is better than before. The Kosi area is the stronghold of migrant labourers. Pramod Yadav (28) of Ghoghadaria panchayat in Supaul district suffered injuries to the waist in a fall at a construction site in August 2022. He was treated at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. He has been confined to his village due to the disability since then. "I was under treatment for almost a year. It cost Rs 3 lakh. The contractor gave only Rs 1 lakh. I had to bear the rest of the

expenses. The government did not provide compensation. I do not even know that such compensation is given to labourers," Pramod says.

Pramod has three sons and five daughters. He will be entitled to only three bighas of land from the family property. "Our village has been demarcated as Kosi Dam area. Not even one season of farming happens here. In such a situation, our family..." his father Bharat Yadav chokes.

Pramod's nephew Manish is a school teacher and social worker. "There is a scheme for migrant labourers, but no one here knows about it. In every house, three to four persons have migrated for



work. No government official ever organised camps or created awareness about the scheme in any village," he asserts.

Data crunching

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Private Limited, while the national unemployment rate was 7.60% in March 2022, it had reached

14.40% in Bihar. As a result, labourers from Bihar go to every corner of the country in search of work. "You will find Biharis at all labour squares in the country. They have to travel thousands of km just to get daily wages. In such a situation, the government does not arrange for their safety.



## Chillai Kalan sans snow sends shivers of worry across Kashmir valley

**New Delhi/Srinagar, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Scores of people thronged Srinagar's historic Jamia mosque praying for snow to touch the barren grounds of what would have been proudly proclaimed to be a "winter wonderland" in a normal winter season in Kashmir. Chillai Kalan is the most inclement period in Kashmir that begins on the winter solstice (December 21) and ends with the month of January. These freezing days also bring with them the bounty for Kashmir's water resources -- the elixir that makes the valley a place

of prosperous abundance.

"Sheen e peto peto, mama yito, yito" (O snow, come, fall soon, O Mama, visit us soon) is a popular saying, now oft-repeated with pining and anticipation across the valley, for it is rare for Chillai Kalan to go without snow for so long. Kashmir cannot be Kashmir without winter snow. For Ghulam Mohamed Mir, who has seen in Kashmir through 80 winters of his life, this is a time to keep calm and look ahead in the hope for the best. A resident of Shopian, Mir is an inspiring healthy and active

farmer engaged in growing a variety of vegetables and fruits, besides engaging in poultry farming, dairying and fishing.

Referring to the extended dry spell in Kashmir, Mir said: "I've seen it several times over in my lifetime. It will snow for sure during Chillai Bacha." Chillai Bacha is the 10-day period that follows Chillai Kalan and following that is Chillai Khurd. Although not as intense as Chillai Kalan, Chillai Bacha sees precipitation taking place normally. As of now, snowfall is predicted to happen only in the last week of January.

So, Mir believes that a dry Chillai Kalan, which is not happening for the first time, is not something to be intimidated by. In the larger context of matter, though, this eccentric weather pattern is the effect of a bigger climate phenomenon.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir, explained to IANS: "El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) anomalies exert strong control on the climate of the northern hemisphere.

## 17-yr-old girl shot dead by jilted lover in UP's Meerut

**Meerut, Jan 25 (IANS) :** A 17-year-old girl was shot dead allegedly by a 20-year-old youth after he tried to molest her in a market in Uttar Pradesh's. The incident happened on Thursday. The police have identified the accused as Usman Malik, who was apparently in a relationship with the girl earlier. Police said the girl resisted Malik's advances when she was on her way to a store and he then shot at her with a country-made weapon. She died on the spot, police said. Several local residents and the girl's family members reached the spot but the accused had managed to flee by then, police said. They staged a blockade at the market demanding the arrest of the culprit and refused to hand over the body to the police for post-mortem examination.

## Storm Isha causes mass power cuts, travel disruption in UK

**London, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Tens of thousands of homes were left in blackouts and trains were cancelled on Thursday as Storm Isha brought gusts and heavy rainfall across the UK. An unusual wind warning for almost the entire country issued by the UK's Met Office ahead of the storm is still in force and expected to last until Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the National Meteorological Service, strong gusts of 99 miles per hour (159

km per hour) were recorded at Brizlee Wood, Northumberland. About 45,000 people in Northern Ireland, along with thousands more in England and Wales, were left without power overnight. On Thursday morning, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks said that "the severity and prolonged duration of Storm Isha has caused widespread damage to the electricity network" across the region and they were still working to restore power.



## Bengal DA stir : BJP promises support for 'march to secretariat' agitation

**Kolkata, Jan 25 (IANS) :** The leader of the opposition (LoP) in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Thursday promised to extend full support to the state government employees, who have been agitating for dearness allowances (DA) to be made at par with the central government employees, in case they organise a 'march to the state secretariat' in support of their demand. On Thursday early morning, the leader of the opposition reached the dais of the agitating Joint Forum of State Government Employees, the umbrella body organising the movement on this issue, and assured to be present at any 'march to the state secretariat' programme convened by the forum.

From that dais Adhikari also gave a strong note of caution to the state government to see it through to the end in case the latter takes any punitive action against the state government employees agitating for their rights. He also alleged that since the state government employees in general did not back the corrupt practices of the highest functionaries in the state, the state administration is punishing them by denying their legitimate dues. The expression of solidarity by the leader of the opposition is significant as the joint forum has already announced that they will be going for marathon cease-work from January 29 unless the state government makes definite promises in fulfilling their demands.

## Two held from Jharkhand for cheating people via ads on Google

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Two men were arrested from Jharkhand for duping several people on pretext of customer care services by running advertisements on Google, a Delhi Police official said on Thursday. The fraudsters were identified as Mustaqeem Ansari (31), and Md. Rizwan Ansari (26) -- both residents of Deoghar district, Jharkhand. According to police, an FIR was registered last year on August 9 after Rajana Kaul, a resident of Vasant Kunj, alleged that she searched the customer care number of Punjab National Bank on Google and she called on the alleged mobile number mentioned on the website. "The alleged person advised her to download Rust Desk App and took access of her phone and account related information. Later, a total amount of Rs 5,45,000 was debited from her Canara bank account."



## ED vs Thomas Isaac set to become a legal tussle in Kerala HC

**Kochi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** The tussle between the Enforcement Directorate and former two-time state Finance Minister and veteran CPI(M) leader Thomas Isaac is all set to reach the Kerala High Court. Isaac has so far been served four notices to appear before the ED and on Thursday also he did not turn up. According to sources, the ED is making its next move with utmost caution and is now garnering more details against the economist-turned-politician. The ED is expected to approach the High Court with solid evidence that there was violation in financial deal-

ings of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) during his tenure as the minister in the previous LDF government, especially in the issue of 'masala bonds' and despite notices he has not appeared before them.

But Isaac has already sought expert legal advice. He is likely to approach the High Court stating that the ED is haunting him as by now a few KIIFB officials have already placed all documents before them and he has got nothing more to add since he had no official role after he stepped down as the Finance Minister in May 2021.



## BJP MP seeks name change of railway station in Prayagraj

**Prayagraj, Jan 25 (IANS) :** BJP MP Keshari Devi Patel has moved a proposal to change the name of Subedarganj railway station in Uttar Pradesh to Prayagraj Cantonment before the Maha Kumbh 2025.

Keshari Devi Patel, who is MP from Phulpur, moved this proposal during the meeting of the Standing Committee of Railways and Parliament held at North Central Railway headquarters. She has also demanded stoppage of all Rajdhani trains at Prayagraj, expansion of Niranjani Railway Bridge, extension of Delhi-Kanpur Shatabdi to Prayagraj and daily running of Mumbai Duronto. The MP gave suggestions like stoppage of Purva Express at Phulpur station, stoppage of Saryu Express at Dayalpur station.



### 3 IDF soldiers killed as fighting intensifies in Gaza's Khan Younis area

Tel Aviv, Jan 25 (IANS) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has announced the death of three of its officers as fighting between Israeli troops and Hamas terrorists intensified in the Khan Younis region of southern Gaza, an IDF official said. The deceased are identified as Major David Nati Alfasi, 27, a deputy battalion commander from Beersheba, Major Ilay Levy, 24, a company commander from Tel Aviv, and Captain Eyal Mevorach Twito, 22, a platoon commander from Beit Gamlieel. IDF in a statement said that the three soldiers were killed in an RPG attack on the building where they were present.



Palestinian health authorities said that at least 50 Palestinians were killed in the fighting at the Khan Younis area. As fighting intensified in Khan Younis area, people are evacuating in large numbers from the place and moving down south into Rafah, the southernmost city of Gaza. More than two million people are reportedly now in Rafah area following displacement due to heavy Israeli bombings. The IDF has also said that it

knows about the large civilian presence in the area and that its action against the Hamas terrorists will be keeping this factor in mind. The Israel Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, had said on Sunday that IDF would intensify its attack on Khan Younis area where the two topmost military leaders of Hamas -- Mohammed Deif and Yahya Sinwar -- are reportedly hiding surrounded by Israeli hostages.



### Malaysia's FM to back Palestine becoming UN member state

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Malaysia Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan will advocate for the state of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations at meetings in New York this week, media reports said. The proposal would require the backing of the UN Security Council (UNSC), which puts forward proposed new member

states to the UN General Assembly to vote on, and is unlikely to unanimously back the measure. At the meeting, Hasan will "reiterate Malaysia's call for an immediate ceasefire, oppose the continuing forced displacement of Palestinians and stress the urgent need for unhindered humanitarian aid", according to a statement released ahead of the trip.



### Two-state solution must be implemented to end Palestine conflict: China to UN

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun on Thursday called upon the UN to implement the two-state solution to resolve the Palestine conflict. "It's high time to implement the two-state solution with concrete steps, including a full membership for Palestine in the UN," Zhang Jun wrote on X, in response to Secretary-General of UN Antonio Guterres. Earlier, Guterres had said that the refusal to accept the two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians, and the denial of the right to statehood for the Palestinian people, are unacceptable. "The right of the Palestinian people to build their own state must be recognised by all," the UN Chief wrote on X. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has completely refused the two-state solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict proposed by various mediators.

### Iraqi PM stresses determination to end US-led coalition's presence

Baghdad, Jan 25 (IANS) : Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani has said that any attack on Iraqi soil violates its sovereignty, stressing the country's determination to end the presence of the US-led coalition. Al-Sudani made the remarks during his meeting with the Dutch Defence Minister Kajsa Ollongren, whose country is scheduled to assume the presidency of the NATO mission in Iraq in mid-May, according to a statement issued by al-

Sudani's media office on Thursday. The Prime Minister stressed his rejection of any attack on Iraqi territory or any violation of its sovereignty, reiterating "the government's commitment to protecting diplomatic missions and advisors working in Iraq, as well as assisting the NATO mission in carrying out its tasks agreed upon with the Iraqi government," the statement said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. Meanwhile, al-Sudani affirmed "the Iraqi government's decision to rearrange the relationship with

the international coalition" and move from the presence of foreign forces in Iraq to bilateral relations and cooperation with the coalition countries, according to the statement. For her part, Ollongren confirmed that the Dutch government agrees with al-Sudani's vision that victory over the terrorist group Islamic State (IS) requires changing the mission of the international coalition and moving it to equal bilateral relations after the development of the Iraqi security forces' capabilities, according to the statement.



### US, Britain launch airstrikes against Houthi camps in Yemen



Sanaa, Jan 25 (IANS) : The US-British coalition struck Houthi camps in Yemen's capital and other provinces at midnight, the media reported on Thursday. The strikes targeted the al-Hafa camp in eastern Sanaa and the al-Daylami air base in the north. They also hit sites in Rada, a city in the central province of al-Bayda, and Maqbanah area in the southwestern province of Taiz, the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV said without giving details.

### Time to negotiate with Hamas on hostage exchange: Israeli general

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Israeli Major General Noam Tibon has said that time has come to negotiate with the Hamas group over a possible hostage deal to bring back the Israelis, media reports said. "It's time to bring them back otherwise, they will all come back in coffins or not at all," Noam Tibon told an Israeli public radio station. "We will have sent for generations to come a message to the citizens of Israel that they live in an insecure state, and a message to mothers who send their children to the army, that if your child falls into captivity, he will probably not return, and this is not overlooked, so it must be concluded. A deal now," Tibon said. Earlier, a one week ceasefire from November 24 to December 1 last year was observed between Hamas and Israel in which prisoners were exchanged by both sides. On October 7, last year, Hamas attacked the southern parts of Israel killing at least 1200 people, taking over 200 people as hostages. Hamas also released 105 Israeli hostages during the one week truce between the conflicting parties.



### Singapore's top 3 ministers accused of graft in 2023 -- all of Indian-origin

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) : Lauded as the least corrupt country in Asia, Singapore saw three Indian-origin Ministers face graft charges in the year 2023 alone -- the same year an economist of Indian descent took over the reins of the city-state as its ninth President. While two of them -- Vivian Balakrishnan and K. Shanmugam were cleared of all charges as the year drew to a close, S. Iswaran's pre-trial conference is scheduled for March 1, and he is presently out on bail of S\$800,000. The trio belongs to the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), which has been in power since 1959 and holds a sizeable majority in the

country's Parliament. With the next election due in November 2025, political experts say that the graft allegations could hit PAP's support base in a country that is ranked the fifth-least corrupt country in Transparency International's latest Corruption Perceptions Index. Over the years, the government has justified seven-figure ministerial paychecks to keep out corruption. According to a Bloomberg report, the country's public officers are among the world's best-paid, with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong earning a total compensation of about S\$2.2 million (\$1.7 million) per annum. The country witnessed its last corruption case in the year 1986, which saw Teh Cheang Wan, a national development min-



ister, being probed for allegedly accepting kickbacks. The case of Balakrishnan and Shanmugam Home Affairs and Law Minister Shanmugam and Foreign Minister Balakrishnan were accused of corruption relating to the rental of their colonial-era bungalows in the city-state. The 26 and 31 Ridout Road are two 100-year-old bungalows in the Ridout Park area that have been rented to the two Ministers.

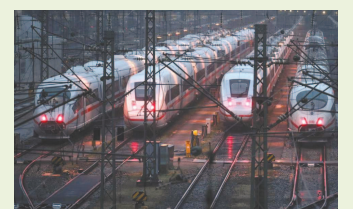
In May last year, opposition Reform Party Chief Kenneth Jeyaretnam questioned if the two Ministers were "paying less than the fair market value" for their rental of the two-state properties. It was debated in the Parliament in July, following a Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) investigation and a review by senior Minister Teo Chee Hean.



### Soldier who killed 5 comrades in Iran arrested: Army commander

Tehran, Jan 25 (IANS) : The soldier who killed five comrades and injured the other two Thursday evening in southeastern Iran was under arrest, an army commander confirmed on Thursday. The soldier, who had been on duty guarding his unit, entered the barracks' dormitory, where his comrades were resting, and opened fire on them, said Amir Gholamalain,

commander of the Iranian army's southeast headquarters, Xinhua news agency reported. The incident took place in Baghin city in the southeastern Iranian province of Kerman at 16:35 local time (1305 GMT), said the commander, noting that interrogations were underway to determine the motive.



### Germany braces for 6-day rail strike amid wage negotiations

Berlin, Jan 25 (IANS) : Despite an improved wage offer, train drivers in Germany announced another strike action on Thursday. It will be the longest strike in recent months, lasting six days from Thursday. Rail operator Deutsche Bahn expects "massive disruptions" during this strike as the planned emergency service "only ensures a very limited train service".

## Bihar Cong expecting Lalu, Nitish to share dais with Rahul in upcoming rallies

**Patna, Jan 25 (IANS) :** With the Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra set to enter Bihar on January 29, Congress leaders in the state are expecting that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and Chief Minister and JD-U chief Nitish Kumar will participate in Rahul Gandhi's rallies in Purnea and Katihar. Prem Chand Mishra, the official spokesperson for Bihar Congress, said that invitation to both the top leaders have been sent by the party, which expects them to share the stage with Rahul Gandhi. Besides them, the party has also sent invitations to other leaders as well, Mishra said. "We are expecting that Lalu Ji and Nitish Ji along with other leaders of Bihar will join the rallies in Purnea (January 31) and Katihar (February 1), and express their views before the common people of the state," Mishra said.



## Odisha Cabinet approves 14 key proposals

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 25 (IANS) :** The Odisha Cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on Thursday, approved several key proposals including approval of a special incentive package for Electric Vehicle and component manufacturing projects by JSW Group, one of India's largest conglomerates. As many as 14 proposals related to 12 departments have been approved by the Cabinet during its meeting on Thursday. The state cabinet approved a special incentive package for the Sajjan Jindal-led conglomerate JSW Group's ambitious Electric Vehicle and component manufacturing projects in Naraj, Cuttack, and Paradip. The company has proposed to invest over Rs 40,000 crores in the said projects which will create more than 11,000 jobs. "The JSW Group has proposed to set-up an EV & EV Battery Manufacturing Project at Naraj, Cuttack. The one-of-a-kind advanced technology-based Battery Manufacturing project with capacity of 50 Gigawatt-Hour (GWh) will be the world's largest single location project in the sector. "The company is also planning to set-up an Original equipment manufacturer(OEM) Plant for Electric Vehicles



and Components in the same facility in two phases," an official said on Thursday.

The company is also planning to set up an EV Components Manufacturing Complex consisting of Copper Smelter along with Lithium Smelter at Paradip in the third phase. The company proposed to invest Rs 15,000 crore generating employment for more than 7,000 people. The state cabinet also decided to expand the existing plantation area of coffee 10,000 acres

by 10 times during the next 10 years. The government will implement the "Coffee Plantation for Sustainable Livelihoods (CPSL)" scheme in six districts of the state namely Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar and Gajapati. The government will encourage Women SHGs for raising coffee nurseries aiming to benefit more than 50,000 farm families.

## PM Modi wants to become immortal, says RJD VP Shivanand Tiwari

**Patna, Jan 25 (IANS) :** In wake of the Pran Pratistha of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya on Thursday, RJD national Vice President Shivanand Tiwari took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that he was seeking to "become immortal". "PM Modi said that after thousands of years, the Pran Pratistha of Lord Ram was conducted in Ayodhya by him and it will be discussed in the next thousands of years, which means Modi ji, like Lord Ram.



## Pro-Babri Masjid slogans raised inside Jamia campus

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Delhi Police on Thursday said that a protest was held inside the Jamia Millia Islamia against the Pran Pratistha ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) Rajesh Deo said that information was received that on Monday evening some protest was held inside the campus by a group called the 'Fraternity Movement' which is led by Lubabib Bashir.

He said that in wake of protests preventive deployment has been undertaken.

"No protest was done outside the campus. Local police did not go inside the campus.

The circulating videos are from inside the campus," said the DCP. Police have been also deployed outside the campus to avoid any kind of untoward incident.

A user with the handle "Fraternity Movement JMI" on X platform

posted a video in which students can be seen chanting pro-Babri Masjid slogans.

The video was captioned: "Boycott for Babri. Resistance is Remembrance.

Fraternity Movement Jamia Millia Islamia orchestrated a university-wide strike, encouraging students to abstain from attending classes and reading rooms in solidarity with Babri Masjid."



## Excise policy case: Delhi court extends liquor bizman Sameer Mahendru's interim bail till Feb 9

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** A Delhi court has extended, till February 22, the interim bail of liquor businessman Sameer Mahendru in the excise policy case. Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of Rouse Avenue Court, who initially granted interim bail to Mahendru due to his wife's surgery, extended the relief after considering the ongoing post-operative care required

for his wife. Noting that Mahendru's wife would continue to be hospitalised for a few more days, the judge directed him to surrender before the jail superintendent concerned by 5 p.m. on February 9. "The interim bail of the accused is being extended further till February 9," the judge stated, considering the totality of facts and circumstances. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had earlier opposed the extension,

contending it violated the court's earlier condition that Mahendru wouldn't seek further relief. The judge had, however, found no evidence that the surgery delay was intentional or caused by any fault of the accused or his wife.

While granting interim bail, the judge observed that during Mahendru's previous interim bail, there was no attempt to influence witnesses or tamper with evidence and Mahendru does not pose a flight risk. According to the prosecution, Mahendru was a significant beneficiary of excise policy violations, operating an alcoholic beverage manufacturing unit and holding wholesale and retail licences in his and his family's names. Earlier, the Delhi High Court had denied regular bail to Mahendru. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma had observed that Mahendru's medical condition does not pose a life-threatening risk or involve an infirmity that cannot be treated within the confines of a jail.



## SDM suspended after two youths beaten up in his presence in MP's Umaria

**Bhopal, Jan 25 (IANS) :** In a disturbing incident that went viral on social media on Thursday, two youths were beaten up in the presence of Bandhavgarh Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Amit Singh, in Madhya Pradesh. The SDM was suspended by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday over the assault on the two men. According to reports the SDM allegedly ordered and oversaw the assault on the two young men for overtaking his vehicle. As per information, the incident occurred in Umaria District and the matter came to light after the video of the brutal assault surfaced on social media on Monday. The incident sparked a controversy and questions were raised asking if senior government officials have been given a free hand to punish people. Senior advocate and Congress Rajya Sabha MP, Vivek Tankha expressed his dismay saying, "What kind of government arrogance and hooliganism is this in MP? Should the state be known for such incidents?" Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday condemned the incident and ordered the suspension of

Bandhavgarh SDM Amit Singh and two more officials who were with him at that time.

"The incident of the assault on two youths by Bandhavgarh SDM is unfortunate. Instructions have been given to suspend the SDM. There is a good governance government in Madhya Pradesh. This kind of inhuman treatment of common people will not be tolerated at all in the state," the Chief Minister said on Thursday.

The SDM in question provided a different version of the events. He denied that the two men were assaulted under his watch and claims that one of them was driving recklessly and nearly collided with his official vehicle. However, the victims, Prakash Dahiya and Shivam Yadav, both residents of Bharola Village, assert that they were attacked by individuals who emerged from the SDM's official vehicle. Police have registered a case on the basis of the statements of the victims admitted to hospital and have assured that legal action would be taken against those responsible for the assault.

## Assam cabinet to visit Ram Mandir on Feb 22

**Guwahati, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma along with his cabinet colleagues will visit Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on February 22, officials said. The decision for Ayodhya visit was taken during a state cabinet meeting held on Thursday night in Guwahati. After the meeting, Sarma wrote on his X handle, "In today's meeting of the Assam Cabinet, we've taken several important decisions. Assam Cabinet to visit Ayodhya on

February 22, 2024."

The decisions read as, "Cabinet extended its heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister and greetings to the people of India on the auspicious occasion of Pran Pratistha of Ram Lalla at Ayodhya.

The entire Cabinet will pay a solemn visit to Ayodhya on February 22, 2024 for darshan of Ram Lalla."

In addition, the state government made the decision to outlaw unfair exam practices.

Last year, Assam's class-10 exam

ran into problems when four papers were leaked, forcing the state government to retake the test.

The state administration has now made the decision to outlaw these actions. Sarma stated, "To curb leakage of question papers and use of unfair means during public examinations.



## Visitors get 'Jai Shri Ram' stamp on their hands in this UP jail

**Farrukhabad, Jan 25 (IANS) :** With the Ram fervour permeating the atmosphere, the Fatehgarh jail administration in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad, has put aside the regular stamp meant for identifying visitors and has been stamping visitors' hands with a red 'Jai Sri Ram' ink stamp. This practice has been in place for a week, according to jail superintendent Bhimsen Mukund. Mukund justified it saying, "As part of rehabilitation efforts, the jail is organising religious rituals like 'Sundarkand' recital and offering block printing training under the 'One District, One Product' scheme. Hindu and Muslim inmates are also collaborating on block printing religious flags associated with Lord Ram, which are being given to visitors as gifts.



## Pakistan, Iran to restore full diplomatic relations

**Islamabad, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Days after Pakistan and Iran were on the verge of a major conflict, the two countries decided on Thursday to restore full diplomatic relations with the return of ambassadors to their respective capitals later this week, a medis report said. "Following the telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has been mutually agreed that ambassadors of both countries may return to their respective posts by January 26," said a joint statement simultaneously issued by Tehran and Islamabad, Express Tribune reported.

undertake a visit to Pakistan on January 29, the statement added, the report said. The two countries would decide the future course of action and work on a new mechanism to prevent the recurrence of events of the last week. Pakistan and Iran may often boast about the "friendly and brotherly" relations, but underneath does exist certain issues that cause suspicion in both the capitals. At the heart of the problem are the concerns both sides often expressed privately about the use of each other's soil by certain terrorist groups. Pakistan has longstanding concerns that Baloch terrorist outfits find refuge across the border in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran.

## Ukrainian President submits multiple citizenship law to Parliament

**Kiev, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that he is submitting to Parliament a draft law that would allow multiple citizenship in Ukraine, the Presidential press service reported. The law will allow all ethnic Ukrainians and their descendants from around the world to have Ukrainian citizenship, except for citizens of Russia, Zelensky said on Thursday in an address to the nation marking the 'Day of Unity'. If adopted, the new legislation would enable those who left Ukraine to emigrate to restore their Ukrainian citizenship, Xinhua news agency reported. It would also pave the way for foreign volunteers.



## At least 50 Palestinians killed by Israeli bombings on Khan Younis: Medical sources

**Gaza, Jan 25 (IANS) :** At least 50 Palestinians have been killed and dozens of others wounded by Israeli bombings on shelter centres of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Palestinian medical sources said. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said on Thursday in a press statement that it had received "reports of deaths and injuries among the displaced as a result of the occupation's bombings of shelter centres". "Israeli tanks approached Al-Amal Hospital, and we completely lost contact with our

crews in Khan Younis as a result of the ground incursion," it added. The organisation said that ambulances were unable to reach the injured in Khan Younis, because of Israeli forces' siege of its ambulance centre and "targeting anyone who tries to move around". In addition, the Hamas-run government media office in Gaza said in a press statement that Israel had targeted five shelter centres in the city of Khan Younis, Xinhua news agency reported. The statement noted that "the Israeli army targeted the displaced

ment centres with direct bombardments, Quadcopter aircraft, drone aircraft, and artillery, which led to dozens of deaths and wounded". Ashraf Al-Qedra, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health in Gaza, said in a press statement that "the Israeli occupation is committing horrific crimes west of Khan Younis". He added that "dozens of deaths and wounded are still in the targeted places and roads," and the Israeli forces prevented ambulances from transferring the wounded people and retrieving the bodies of the victims in the west of Khan Younis.

## Trump welcomes DeSantis' decision to end presidential campaign

**Washington, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Former US President Donald Trump has welcomed the decision of his arch-rival Florida Governor Ron DeSantis dropping out of the presidential race. This leaves only Nikki Haley in the race in New Hampshire, the 2nd early voting state. Ron DeSantis dropped six points in NH and realised he had no chance against Trump and even Hakley was ahead of him, media reports said. Trump's praise of DeSantis

was only lukewarm as he described him as a man whom he proposed as Florida governor and became a rocket ship in 24 hours. He could never forget his disloyalty to him. Trump's familiar ritual is to welcome those who back him after taking him on earlier. The former president avoided mocking publicly Ron DeSantis as "DeSanctimonious" as he usually does, but chose to praise him instead, which was rather unusual. "I just want to thank Ron and congratulate him on doing a very good

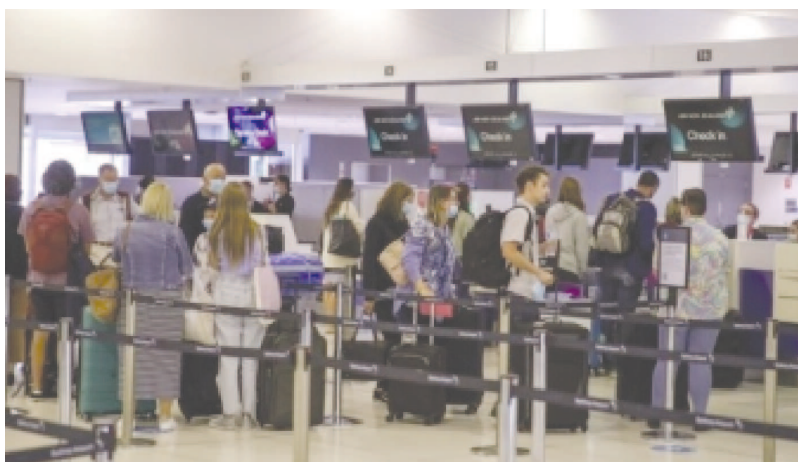
job," Trump said ending months of bitterness and rivalry with a man who was fancied to be his hereditary rival, minus his legal baggage. Trump once again proved that he was the boss of GOP, that the GOP was Trump and Trump was GOP, showing his tremendous sway of the party and his supporters. Praising DeSantis, Trump said, "He (DeSantis) was very gracious, and he endorsed me. I appreciate that, and I also look forward to working with Ron." Trump de-



scribed DeSantis as "a really terrific person." Dropping out after spending a fortune on his campaign trail against the mighty republican, DeSantis

said via video that he would be ending his campaign two days before New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation GOP primary. But Trump's glee Sunday night

aside, it wasn't the warmest of endorsements, media reports said. "It's clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Trump another chance," DeSantis said, offering matter-of-fact analysis through a forced smile, without adding plaudits for Trump, ABC news quoted him as saying. Trump showed little bother DeSantis' new approach, as he struck a tone of camaraderie as fellow political combatants. "I will tell you it's not easy," Trump said Sunday night in Rochester. "They think it's easy doing this stuff, right? It's not easy."



## Sydney Airport sees strong monthly passenger traffic in Dec 2023

**Sydney, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Sydney Airport saw 3.58 million passengers passing through the terminals in December 2023, up 15.8 per cent from the passenger traffic in same month of 2022, said an airport report. The figure represents the strongest monthly passenger traffic since 2019 and a 90.6 per cent recovery of the passenger traffic compared to December 2019, the airport said in a report released on Thursday. The airport's international terminal scored 1.5 million passengers in December 2023, an increase of 29.4 per cent from December 2022 and representing a 93.3-per cent recovery compared to December 2019, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, do-

mestic and regional passenger traffic was up 7.6 per cent in December 2023 from a year ago to reach 2.08 million. Top 10 nationalities travelling through Sydney Airport in December 2023 included Australia, China, New Zealand, the US, Britain, India and South Korea. For the whole year of 2023, Sydney Airport recorded more than 38.65 million passenger traffic, jumping 32.7 per cent from that in 2022 but still 13 per cent less than the annual record of 44.4 million set in 2019. The airport also saw extra international capacity translate into strong passenger volumes in the India and South Korea markets in 2023, Sydney Airport CEO Scott Charlton said.

## 91% of Sri Lankan children vaccinated against measles

**Colombo, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Ninety-one per cent of Sri Lankan children have received measles vaccines, a crucial step in combating a recent resurgence of the disease after eradication, Health Minister Ramesh Pathirana said. Addressing a press conference at the Presidential Media Centre, Pathirana on Thursday outlined further health priorities for 2024, saying that disease prevention takes center stage, with plans to bolster primary healthcare services and improve efficiency for patients. The Minister said tackling non-communicable diseases remains a major challenge, as more than 20 per cent of Sri Lankans battle diabetes, and the country has high prevalence of high blood pressure, Xinhua news agency reported. Amid a rapidly aging population.



## There will be 'total victory' against Hamas : Netanyahu

**New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel will achieve "total victory" against Hamas, media reports said. "Israel will achieve total victory after which there will be no entity in Gaza that finances terrorism, educates for terrorism, or sends terror," Netanyahu said. He said that Israel has brought 110 hostages and is committed to bringing them all back. "I am working on this around the clock. But let it be clear: I reject outright the terms of surrender of the Hamas monsters," he said. "I will not compro-

mise on full Israeli security control over all the territory west of the Jordan [River]. As long as I am prime minister, I will continue to firmly stand by this," he said. Earlier, Hamas had demanded an end to the conflict, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and guarantees that Hamas could stay in power.



## Australian Open: Sabalenka ends

### Gauff's journey to enter back-to-back final

**Melbourne, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Australian Open, reigning champion Aryna Sabalenka showcased her tenacity to knockout Coco Gauff in a compelling semifinal encounter by 7-6(2) 6-4 on Thursday, here at the Rod Laver Arena. The Belarusian's 7-6(2) 6-4 triumph not only avenged a previous defeat suffered at the hands of Gauff in the 2023 US Open final but also etched Sabalenka's name in the annals of history. Her remarkable feat of reaching back-

to-back Australian Open finals mirrors the achievement of tennis royalty, Serena Williams, who accomplished the same eight years ago. With the final horizon in sight, Sabalenka now awaits the outcome of the clash between 12th seed Zheng Qinwen and Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska. The stage is set for a showdown that will determine who stands atop the podium as the Australian Open champion on Saturday.

## Virat Kohli awarded ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023

**Dubai, Jan 25 (IANS) :** In a year that reverberated with the resounding echoes of his cricketing prowess, veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli stood tall as he was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023, a fitting tribute to his exceptional contributions in the 50-over format. The zenith of Kohli's cricketing saga in 2023 was undoubtedly his Player of the Tournament performance at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. With a bat that seemed almost orchestral in its symphony, Kohli not only led India to the final but etched his name in the annals of cricketing history.

Throughout the World Cup campaign, Kohli's willow conducted a melody of brilliance, striking at least a half-century in nine out of eleven innings. The crescendo came

in the form of an astounding 765 runs, the highest individual tally in a men's Cricket World Cup, surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record set in 2003. Kohli's numbers were not mere statistics; they were a testament to his dominance—an average of 95.62, a strike rate of 90.31, and three centuries, including a memorable one in the semi-final against New Zealand. It was in this crucial knockout clash that Kohli walked in at the fall of Rohit Sharma's wicket, weaving a performance that resonated with historic significance. Completing his record 50th century in the ODI format during the semi-final, Kohli's contribution became emblematic of his indomitable spirit and determination. The stunned silence that followed his dismissal in the final spoke volumes about Kohli's pivotal role in India's pursuit of the title.



## Indian team leaves for FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup Oman

**Bengaluru, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Setting off from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Thursday morning, the Indian team embarked on their journey to Muscat, Oman, for the inaugural edition of the FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup. Securing their spot in the tournament by defeating arch-rivals Pakistan 4-4 (0-2 SO) in the thrilling Final of the Men's

Asian Hockey5s World Cup Qualifier, India find itself placed in Pool B, alongside Egypt, Jamaica, and Switzerland. The other teams in the fray include the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan and Poland in Pool A and Pool C features Australia, Kenya, New Zealand, and Trinidad & Tobago while Pool D includes Fiji, Malaysia, Oman and the United

States. India's campaign kicks off with a match against Switzerland on January 28, followed by a clash with Egypt on the same day. India's final group game will be against Jamaica on January 29. The Quarter-Finals are scheduled for January 30, with the semifinals taking place on the same day, and the Final set to take place on January 31.

## Bayern edges Union in rescheduled Bundesliga fixture

**Berlin, Jan 25 (IANS) :** Bayern Munich closed the gap on Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen after securing a narrow 1-0 victory over Union Berlin, thanks to Raphael Guerreiro's goal.

The Bavarians, now four points behind Leverkusen, nearly scored six minutes into the game as Matthijs de Ligt's close-range header tested Union goalkeeper Frederik Ronnow, who also thwarted Dayot Upamecano's follow-up shot from a tight angle, reports Xinhua.



## Cummins honoured with ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023 award

**Dubai, Jan 25 (IANS) :** In a year defined by triumphs and stellar performances, Australia's cricket captain Pat Cummins emerged as the undisputed champion, claiming the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.

Cummins' exceptional run with both bat and ball, coupled with his inspirational leadership, paved the way for a slew of team accolades, including a historic victory in the ICC World Test Championship Final, the successful retention of the Ashes, and a record-breaking sixth triumph in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. In 24 matches Cummins took 59 wickets and contributed 422 runs with the bat. Cummins' journey to this pinnacle of recognition began with the responsibility he assumed as captain in late 2021.

## Winning Australian Open 2024 will be a dream come true, says Rohan Bopanna

**Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) :** A day after assuring the world no.1 rankings, Indian veteran tennis player Rohan Bopanna, partnering Australian Matthew Ebden, sailed into the Australian Open men's doubles final after a win over Czech-Chinese pair of Tomas Machac and Zhizhen Zhang. The second-seed Indo-Aussie pair defeated Zhizhen and Machac 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (10-7) at the Rod Laver Arena on Thursday. The hearts of millions of Indian tennis fans filled with emotions and pride when Rohan Bopanna aced a serve to clinch the third set and book a place in the Australian Open 2024 final. The semi-final itself was a nervy match but Bopanna and his Australian men's doubles partner Matthew Ebden capped their brilliant run in the tournament with a win on Thursday. Speaking on Sony Sports

Network's studio show Extraaa Serve following the triumph, Bopanna was on cloud nine as he expressed his true emotions. "Extremely happy to be playing tennis, especially playing it pain-free. Playing as the World No. 1 I was playing freely and completely enjoying myself out on the court. Overall, I am enjoying myself being where I am today and playing one of my best tennis in couple of decades."



## Hockey 5s Women's WC: India records 7-3 comeback win over USA

**Muscat, Jan 25 (IANS) :** India secured an astounding 7-3 comeback victory over the United States in their second game of the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup in Pool C. The goalscorers for India were Mahima Choudhary (17'), Mariana Kujur (20', 22'), Deepika Soreng (23', 25'), Mumtaz Khan (27'), and Ajmina Kujur (29'). Meanwhile, Jacqueline Sumfest (4', 18') and Captain Linnea Gonzales (14') got on the scoresheet for the United States on Wednesday. The United States took the initiative in the first half, and Jacqueline Sumfest granted them the lead with a reverse

shot that found the bottom corner of the Indian goal. India threatened to equalise immediately, but goalie Kealsie Robles stood firm against a flurry of chances, charging out to deny multiple goal-scoring opportunities for India. The Indian forwards kept piling the pressure on the United States in the later stages of the first half but failed to find the equaliser. With a minute left to play, United States' Captain Linnea Gonzales intercepted a clearance from the Indian defense and unleashed a close-range shot to double their lead. Mariana looked to get a goal back for India, but Kealsie Robles remained vigilant in goal, swatting away the attempt as the first half drew to a close.



The second half began with India pegging the United States into their own half; the pressure resulted in a challenge which was converted by Mahima Choudhary to present India with their first goal and a foothold in the contest. However, the United States remained unfazed.

They were quick to bounce back as Jacqueline Sumfest let loose a thunderous strike from the half-

line to restore the two-goal cushion for the United States. As India looked to get back on level terms, Mariana Kujur was on her toes, deflecting a cross to breach Kealsie Robles's goal and put India within striking distance. Mariana continued to hound the United States' defensive line in the second half.