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US authority fines Infosys \$225 for violating short payment of tax

The Nevada Department of Taxation in the US has been slapped a fine of \$225 for alleged violation of short payment of modified business tax for two quarters

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Coach McCullum proud of Tom Hartley's heroic debut in Hyderabad Test

England Test coach Brendon McCullum expressed his delight at the team's "educated punt" on left-arm spinner Tom Hartley..

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Telangana CM pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Bapu Ghat

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 76th death anniversary. They offered floral tributes at Bapu Ghat at Langer Houz here, where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi

were immersed at the confluence of Musi and Esi rivers. The Chief Minister, along with Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Director General of Police Ravi Gupta and other officials, paid their respects at the Samadhi and later showered petals on the statue of the father of the nation.



Telangana HC puts brakes on swearing-in of two MLCs

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : The Telangana High Court on Tuesday put brakes on the swearing-in of M. Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan as members of the state Legislative Council. The court directed that status quo be maintained with regard to two vacancies of MLCs till further orders. The interim order was passed by a bench of Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Nanda on the petitions filed by BRS leaders Dasoju Sravan Kumar and Satyanarayana, challenging the rejection of their nominations by the Governor last year.

The court pronounced the order on the plea by the petitioners to stop the swearing-in till their petitions are decided by the court. The interim order will be in force till February 8, when the petitions will be taken up for hearing. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on January 25 nominated Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) P:resident M. Kodandaram and journalist Amer Ali Khan as members of Legislative Council under Governor's quota on the recommendation of the new state government.

Continued on pg 02



I will campaign along with Sharmila for AP Congress : Surrekha

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowment Konda Surrekha made sensation comments on Tuesday, stating that she would take part in the election campaign along with Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president (APCC) Sharmila. "I will definitely go to Andhra Pradesh when the schedule for the Assembly election is issued. I will take part in the election campaign along APCC president Sharmila and will work for the victory of Congress party in Andhra Pradesh," Konda Surrekha disclosed. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat media center on Tuesday, the Minister said she is not in the YSR Congress party and her aim is to get Congress to power in Andhra Pradesh.

Shabbir Ali slams KTR for deceiving minorities

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : Congress senior leader and Advisor to SC, ST, BC and Minority departments Shabbir Ali has slammed BRS working president KT Rama Rao for enacting dramas by showing love towards minorities in Telangana. Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, Shabbir Ali along with Congress party Official Spokesperson Nizamuddin said that the previous BRS government had done nothing for the welfare.



United Phule Front to fight for rights of BCs: Kavitha

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : A United Phule Front will be formed soon in the State to fight for the rights of Backward Classes. A decision to this effect was taken by the leaders of BC organisations and intellectuals who called on Bharat Jagruthi president and BRS MLC K Kavitha here on Tuesday. The United Phule Front would organise agitations in coordination with Bharat Jagruthi. As part of its action plan, the Front has decided to organise a Maha Dharna at Indira Park in Hyderabad in the second week of February to press for its demand to install the statue of Jyotirao Phule on the State Assembly premises.



BJP DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST IAS SOMESH KUMAR

Hyderabad, Jan.30 (IANS) : former legislator Raghunandan Rao today spoke to media persons at a press conference held at the BJP state office in the city.

He said that The Congress government, which came to power in the state, had been unable to take the right decision on many issues. Stating that although A lot of mistakes seem to have been identified

by the government, he said that it failed to take steps to solve them. He said that retired IAS officer Somesh Kumar, who served as chief secretary in the previous government.

Jagadish Reddy attacks Congress party leaders

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : Former minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy today claimed that the Congress and the BJP came together and defeated the BRS party in the assembly elections. He made it clear that there was no participation of the people of Telangana in the BRS party alliance. He was the chief guest at the BRS party meeting of

Medchal constituency held on Tuesday afternoon. Speaking on the occasion, He said that the defeat of the BRS party was the result of the Modi government's decision to give one to two per cent of the votes to the Congress and added that the release of a report on Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project by the central government two days before the assembly elections was the classic example of the same. He claimed that their party cadres were not afraid of cases and attacks on them. He warned that the ruling Congress party would not be able to find a safe place if their party's pink brigade revolted against the anarchy of the ruling party.



12 kg ganja seized at RC Puram in Sangareddy

Sangareddy, Jan 30 (IANS) : Ramachandrapuram Police have seized 12 kg of ganja from a person at the BHEL junction in Sangareddy district on Tuesday. The accused Ajay was allegedly taking the ganja to Karnataka from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. The police have taken him into custody.

Officials should make strict arrangements in Keslapur for CM's visit

Adilabad, Jan 30 (TIM Bureau) : District Collector Rahul Raj P S has directed the officials to make strict arrangements in Keslapur in view of the state chief minister's visit. Collector visited Keslapur, Indravelli mandal of Adilabad

district. The District Collector visited Keslapur as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was coming to Keslapur in Indravelli mandal of Adilabad district on February 2. As part of the CM's visit, the district collector inspected Nagoba Temple, heli pad and meeting ar-



rangements in Durbar Hall and made several suggestions to the officials. It is suggested to set up stalls related to tribal and aboriginal culture and traditions and identify the women of thrift societies. He ordered the immediate completion of various construction works in the Nagoba temple premises. On this occasion, the Collector instructed the officials to make available a fire fighting vehicle.



More awareness should be created on leprosy

Adilabad, Jan 30 (TIM Bureau) : District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Narendra Rathod, said that more awareness should be created about leprosy. A Leprosy Prevention Day was organized at Hamalivada Urban Health Center in Adilabad town. Speaking on this occasion, he said that leprosy is caused by bacteria called Microbacterium leprae. Those with pale copper colored dull spots on the body should contact the nearest primary health center if leprosy is suspected. He said that with MDT treatment, this disease can be completely cured at any stage. He said that although the severity of leprosy in the district is low, new leprosy patients are being detected every month. He urged the medical staff to conduct extensive awareness programs as part of Sparsh Paksotsavam to dispel the misconceptions about leprosy among the people.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIInd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-7) Mis. No. 1033/2023
Between : Smt. Catherine & others
...Petitioners
Smt. Catherine W/o Late Vidyasagar, R/at No. 31, Shanti Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
And : Nalini Jayanthi & Others
...Respondents
NOTICE FOR SERVICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1A) OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
Respondents No. 2 :
2. Sri. V. Ravindranath S/o Late P.B. Vaidyanathan, Aged about 68 years, R/at Flat No. 5, House No. 37-93/374/3, Road No. 5, Neredmet, Madhura Nagar, Hyderabad-500 097.
Whereas, the above petitioner has Filed above miscellaneous petition for Set aside the orders passed in FDP. No. 2017/2011 dated 16.07.2014 against the Respondents. The case is posted for issue. Notice to the Respondent No.2 therefore the Respondent No.2 and you are hereby to appear before the City Civil Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-7) personally or through pleader duly instructed to give answers on 4.3.2024 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the above case will heard and decided ex parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 25.1.2024.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore. ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER V. ANAND B.Com L.L.B, Advocate Court, No.84, Kilari Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

Gadkari rolls out highway projects worth Rs 2,367 crore in MP

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of nine national highway projects worth Rs 2,367 crore covering a total length of 225 km in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district. He said that the projects that were inaugurated include a 1.5 km long bridge on Jamni river on Tikamgarh-Jhansi road at a cost of Rs 43 crore. "This will make it easier to reach Orchha, the tourist destination of Rajaram's temple," the minister said. He said that the construction of a road with a 2-lane paved shoulder from Chandia Ghat to Katni Bypass will bring a qualitative change in connec-

tivity to the coal mines of Katni while widening of Bamitha-Khajuraho road will strengthen tourism in Khajuraho. "Besides, the social and economic condition of this area will also improve," the minister said. He said that the projects include upgradation work of the road from Gulganj Bypass to Barna River, 2-lane road upgradation work from Barna River to Ken River, upgradation work with 2-lane paved shoulder from Shahdol to Sagartola, Lalitpur-Sagar. "The construction of a total of 23 VUPs, bridges, service roads in the Lakhnadon section, construction of a total of three foot



overbridges at Suktra, Kurai and Khawasa and improvement work of 2 black spots at Ghunai and Banjari valley is included," the minister said. He said that these projects will improve the connectivity of the surrounding campus. "Time and fuel will be saved and

the area will develop from the economic, social and tourism point of view," the minister said. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, state ministers, as well as MPs and MLAs of the region were also present on the occasion.

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710 Branch office at WARANGAL - II

DEMAND NOTICE
1. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. 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.Q2, Aarum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. and Branch office at Warangal-II (hereinafter referred as We/ the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1	1) Pendum Sridevi, W/o Ramesh Babu, Occ : Pendum Infra Developers Realestate, Age: 58 Years, R/O.H.No.1-400, Bheemaram (V),Hasanparthy (M) Hanamkonda Dist - 506 001. And Also At Pendum Sridevi, W/o Ramesh Babu, Occ : Pendum Infra Developers Realestate, # House Bearing Municipal No.2-5-350, Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda, Warangal Urban District. And Also At Pendum Sridevi, W/o Ramesh Babu, Occ : Pendum Infra Developers Realestate, # House Bearing Municipal No.2-5-350/1, Nakkalagutta,Hanamkonda, Hanamkonda Dist - 506 001. 2) Pendum Ramesh Babu, S/o.Seetha Ram Rao, Age : 66 Years, R/O.H.No.1-400, Bheemaram (V), Hasanparthy (M), Hanamkonda Dist -506 001. 3) Omprakash Bhinchar, S/o.Ghasi Ram, Age : 34 Years, R/O.H.No.12-7-100, Rammannapet, Arya Vyshya Function Hall, Warangal - 506 002.	08-06-2023	04-12-2023
		Loan Amount Rs. 80,00,000/-	Amount Outstanding Rs.91,41,993/-

WARN1TF203240004 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property holder Name is PENDAM SRIDEVI/ Mortgage deed dated 26.03.2022 Registered as Document No.8335/2022 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal (R.O) Item No.1, House bearing municipal no.2-5-350 (Part) along with its vacant site admeasuring to an extent of 272.48 Sq.Yards or equivalent 227.82 Sq.Mtrs with construction of RCC roof ground floor plinth area 1302.24 sq.feet and first floor plinth area 1595.64 Sq.Feet. Situated at Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda Locality, Warangal Urban District, within the Limits of GWMC, Warangal and Joint Sub- Registrar Warangal (R.O) is Bounded By: East :8 Ft.Wide Lane, West: H.No.2-5-349 of Kesireddy Rajani, North: 40 Ft Wide Road South:House of their Item No.2, House bearing municipal No.2-5-350 (Part) along with its Vacant site admeasuring to an extent of 23.63 Sq.Yards or equivalent 19.75 sq.mtrs with construction of RCC roof ground floor plinth area 149.50 sq.feet and first floor plinth area 149.50 sq.feet situated at Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda Locality, Warangal Urban District, within the limits of GWMC, Warangal and Joint Sub- Registrar Warangal (R.O) is bounded by: East: House part of Vendors sold to P.Sridevi H.No.2-5-350 (Part) West: H.No.2-5-349 of Kesireddy Rajani North : 40 Ft wide road South : House part of Vendors sold to P.Sridevi H.No.2-5-350 (Part)

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date:30-01-2024 Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710 Branch office at WARANGAL - II

DEMAND NOTICE
1. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. 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.Q2, Aarum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. and Branch office at Warangal-II (hereinafter referred as We/ the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1	1) Ramesh Babu Pendum S/o Seetharam Rao, Age : 67 Years, Occ : Pendum Infra Developers Real Estate, R/O.H.O.1-400, Bheemaram, Hanamkonda - 506 001. And Also At Pendum Ramesh Babu, S/o Seetharam Rao, Age : 67 Years, Occ : Business, R/O, H.No.1/305/1, Chanikyapuri, Bheemaram, Warangal, and Also At Pendum Ramesh Babu, S/o Seetharam Rao, Age : 67 Years, Occ : Business, # House and Open Place bearing municipal H.No.55-1-982 (Gp.No.1-305/1) in Plot No.26/B out of Sy.No.44, Chanikyapuri, Bheemaram Village, Hasanparthy Mandal, Warangal Dist 2) Pendum Sridevi W/o Ramesh Babu Pendum, Age : 58 Years, Occ : House Wife, R/O.H.O.1-400, Bheemaram, Hanamkonda - 506 001. 3) Pendum Nikhil Babu S/o Ramesh Babu, Age : 39 Years, R/O.H.O. 1-400, Bheemaram, Hanamkonda - 506 001. Ind Add : R/o. # 3-14-116/26, Chitraseema Colony, Vansthalpuram, Hayathnagar, K.V.Ranga Reddy Dist - 500 070. 4) Vinay Gopal Dalija, S/o Sri Vallabh, Age : 37 Years, R/o. Plot No.204, Suvarna Towers, Back Side of Sushel Talkies Lane, Rammannapet, Warangal Dist - 506 002.	09-07-2023	04-12-2023
		Loan Amount Rs. 25,00,000/-	Amount Outstanding Rs.14,34,885/-

WARN1TF2103120001- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: (Property holder Name is PENDEM RAMESH BABU Mortgage deed dated 21.03.2021 Registered as Document No.10366/2021 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at WARANGAL (R.O) House and open place bearing Municipal H.No.55-1-982 (GP.No.1-305/1) in Plot No.26/B out of Sy.No.44 admeasuring to an extent of 195.00 Sq. Yards or 163.80 Sq.Mtrs situated at Chanikyapuri, Bheemaram village, Hasanparthy Mandal of Warangal Dist, within the limits of GWMC, Warangal is located within the following boundaries : East:20 Ft Road, West:Open Land in Sy.No.42 and 45, North: H.No.1-306 of P.Rukmini Devi, South: H.No.1-305 of L.C.Dorai

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date:30-01-2024 Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited



'Two liver extra' meme fame Kumari aunty asked to shut shop in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : It's unlikely that you haven't seen Kumari aunty's popular videos if you have been active on social media in the recent times. In Madhapur's bustling ITC Kohener street, her roadside food stand feeds hundreds of people, including IT workers. Kumari aunty became meme material for "overcharging" her customers, with bills amounting to Rs 1000. On the other hand, several people even praised Sai Kumari for serving yummy non-vegetarian curries and rice. She became an overnight sensation on social media. Call it a downside of fame, her shop was shut down by traffic police on Tuesday as it has been causing traffic congestion in the lane. Kumari aunty has been asked to relocate with the help of GHMC officials. However, as per reports, the neighboring shops in the lane have not been asked to close.

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)] OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) 1st Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad-500001.

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/ 871/2020 16-01-2024

Indian Overseas Bank
Versus
Surya Industries And Another

To
(CD 1) Surya Industries Plot No.2, IDA Bachupally, Miyapur, RR Dist. T.S.
(CD 2) Sri M. Suresh Reddy A-52, Road No.9, Sri Sai Ram General Stores Premises, Phase-I, Film Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 033.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) in OA/2045/2017 an amount of Rs27,78,986.02 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousands Nine Hundred Eighty Six and Paise Two Only) along with pendentilite and future interest @ 15.25% simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 23-12-2013 till realization and costs of Rs. 20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and Severally/Fully/Limited).

- You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
- You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.
- You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 12-03-2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
- In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
 - Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
 - All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 16-01-2024
Sd/- Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2)

Natural Farming is the answer to Global challenges: World Bank Senior Advisor Bank Nalin Kishore

Vijayawada, Jan 30 (IANS) : The natural farming system in Andhra Pradesh will not only make sandy soils and fallow lands fertile and reduce rural migration but will also contribute to the management of climate change, which is a global challenge, said the World Bank senior advisor Nalin Kishore. The international delegation, which came to inspect the natural farming works in the state, inspected the natural farms in Chola Samudram village in Kooderu mandal on Tuesday on the second day of their visit to the state. Later, Nalin held a meeting with the representatives of farmers and women's organisations at RBK (Rythu

Bharosa Kendra) in Chola Samudram village. He enquired about the role of women's organisations in the implementation of the natural farming programme. He interacted with farmers and women and enquired about the experiences of natural farming in detail. Sheikh Majeed Al-Assimi of the Sharjah royal family, Walter Link, founder president of The Future Economy Forum of Italy, Sheikh Majeed associate Yajen Al Kodmani, us-based World Bank senior advisor Ashok Vaish.

Mining baron Janardhana Reddy showers praise on PM Modi amid buzz of his return to BJP

Koppal (Karnataka), Jan 30 (IANS) : Mining baron-turned-politician Gali Janardhana Reddy showered praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function organised in Gangavathi town in Karnataka's Koppal district on Tuesday. The statements assume importance amid speculations that Reddy may return to BJP. "Modi must be congratulated for getting the

statue of Lord Ram installed in the Pran Pratishtha event at Ayodhya in a way that the whole world appreciated him," he said. Sources in BJP stated that it is being contemplated to pull Reddy back into the party fold who had floated his own Kalyan Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP) party. Though he could win only his seat, he had delivered a blow to the BJP in the Kalyana-Karnataka region districts. More than his capacity and



resourcefulness, the BJP is worried over his ability to spoil the chances of winning of party candidates. In that situation, the Congress will take the advantage. To avoid this, BJP leadership is mulling to take him back to the party fold.

Reddy had played an important role in bringing the BJP to power in 2008 through 'Operation Lotus'. Reddy was close to late Union Minister Sushma Swaraj and developed differences with then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. His political

dream ended with his arrest by the CBI on charges of illegal mining. After his release, Reddy's attempt to gain prominence in BJP failed as the party maintained distance in the backdrop of serious charges against him. Though his close aide Sriramulu and his brothers returned to party fold and held positions, the party did not entertain Reddy. However, State President B.Y. Vijayendra has stated that so far he had not held any discussion with Reddy. Sources say that in the changed circumstances, the BJP leadership is contemplating to get him back into the party fold.



Kumaraswamy slams K'taka govt for collecting money for LS polls

Bengaluru, Jan 30 (IANS) : Former Karnataka chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday slammed Karnataka government for allegedly collecting money for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. "Money was collected and transported during the Telangana assembly election. The task of forceful collection of money has now started for the Lok Sabha polls as well in Karnataka. This is a collection government," he said. He said that the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) is indulged in extortion of money wherever it is possible. "It is a matter of concern from where the money is minted. Open extortion is going on and huge sums of money is being given to the Congress high command," Kumaraswamy said. He said that there is Karnataka Industry Area Development Board (KIADB) to take care of matters such as industry and industrial activities.



Kerala Guv angry with Police, stages sit-in protest on road

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 30 (IANS) : Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Tuesday blew his top against the Police officials for not upholding the law and is sitting on the road in protest at Nilamel, about 60 kms from the state capital. Khan was on his way for a function about 70 kms from here and when his motorcade reached Nilamel where about two dozen SFI stu-

dents was on the wayside waving black flags, shouting. Seeing this, Khan stopped his car and walked towards the protesters expressing his anger against the Police. He then sat on a chair that was taken from a wayside tea shop and asked his secretary Mohan to immediately call the Commissioner of Police. "If not, call the Prime Minister. You (pointing his fingers towards the Police offi-



cial) are responsible for this, I will not go from here. You are giving them (protesters) protection. You are breaking the law, if not you (police), who will uphold the law," said Khan, who was seen fuming against the police officials who got around him.

AIADMK election manifesto panel to tour state from Feb 5 to elicit public views

Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : The election manifesto committee members of AIADMK, the principal opposition party of Tamil Nadu, will be touring across the state from February 5 to 10 in a bid to elicit the views and opinion of the public. AIADMK has formed an election manifesto drafting committee for the 2024 general elections, the dates of which are yet to be announced. Senior party leaders Natham R. Viswanathan, C. Ponnaiyan, Pollachi V. Jayaraman, D. Jayakumar, C.Ve. Shanmugam, S. Semmalai, B. Valarmathi, O.S. Manian, R.B. Udhayakumar and Vaigaichelvan are part of the 10-

member panel. The committee is expected to receive inputs from all the 38 districts of the state within this six day tour of the state. These 38 districts are classified as nine zones and committee members will split as different teams and cover all the zones for public response. AIADMK general secretary and opposition leader of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) called upon his party cadre to facilitate meetings between the panel and various sections of the society. In a statement on Tuesday, EPS called upon the people to express their needs and expectations from the MP and the Central government.



Pran Pratishtha fuels BJP's electoral momentum in Gujarat ahead of LS polls

Gandhinagar, Jan 30 (IANS) : The recent 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya has sparked a political and social ripple effect, particularly in Gujarat, where the BJP is leveraging the event to consolidate its position ahead of the forthcoming general elections this year. Soon after the consecration ceremony, BJP National President JP Nadda, while inaugurating the elec-

tion office in Gandhinagar, underscored the party's achievements under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Nadda cited a substantial poverty reduction in India, with reports from the IMF and NITI Aayog supporting this claim. He emphasised that the BJP's continued governance was essential for fulfilling Modi's vision of eradicating poverty. The BJP's campaign strategy in Gujarat is multifaceted, focusing on economic achievements and social, religious and cultural aspects. The inauguration of election offices across all 26 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state indicates the party's commitment to a robust electoral presence.

Single judge vs division bench: SC stays all further proceedings before Cal HC; issues notice to Bengal & others

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : In a special sitting held on Tuesday, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court suo moto stayed all the proceedings pending before the Calcutta High Court, including directions for CBI probe issued by a single-judge bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, in a case involving fake caste certificates in admission for medical colleges



and hospitals in West Bengal. "We are issuing notice to the State of West Bengal and the original petitioner before the High Court.



Historically tied to Kaushalya & Shabari, C'garh warms up to Mandir message

Raipur, Jan 30 (IANS) : The politics surrounding Ayodhya's Ram temple is

gaining momentum in Chhattisgarh, which is considered the birthplace of Lord Ram's

mother Kaushalya. Apart from being the maternal home of Lord Ram, the tribal state is also associated with Shabari. The BJP, which recently came to power after winning the Assembly elections, is eyeing the 11 Lok Sabha seats of the state. At present, nine seats are held by the saffron party while two are with the Congress. Now, with the Lok Sabha elections drawing closer, the BJP is targeting to win all 11 parliamentary seats in the state. Ahead of the elections, the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla in the Ayodhya temple seems to have a deep impact on the politics of the state. Considering the close bond that the state shares with Lord Ram, the previous Congress government led by Bhupesh Baghel proposed the development of the 'Ram Van Gaman Path', work was done on it and statues of Lord Ram were also installed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. Edulapally Nagesh S/o. E. Mallesh**, Resident of Plot No.225, 226, 233 and 234; Flat No.G-2, Sri Krishna Enclave Apartment, Quthbullapur Mandal, Mallampet, Dundigal-Gandimaisamma Mandal, Medchal- Malkajgiri District, Telangana is the sole and absolute owner of the property situated at Flat No.G-2, bearing Municipal Door No.2-11/SK/G2, (PTIN No.1232600497), on Ground Floor, "HARSHITHA'S SRI KRISHNA ENCLAVE" on Plot bearing Nos.225, 226,233 and 234, in Survey Nos.200, 203, 204, 205, 212, 213, 229, 230, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252 and 245, With a built-up area of 1150 Sft. (including common areas) with undivided share of land 31 Square Yards (out of 1068 Square Yards Situated at MALLAMPET VIL-LAGE, Dundigal- Gandimaisamma Mandal, under Dundigal Municipality, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, by virtue of registered sale deeds No: 8995/2008, 2032/2016 & 2785/2022 while E. Edulapally Nagesh, on 22nd January, 2024 while travelling to Sangareddy by TSRTC bus after his personal works, one Original Document bearing "Sale deed No. 8995/2008" was lost pertaining to aforesaid property. It is hereby called upon the general public that, if any body found or any claims or objections over the aforesaid property may handover to / approached to the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/- **L.V.Rama Krishna, N. Venkateswarlu, Advocates**
#12-5-37, Goodshed Road, Moosapet, Hyd.Mobile No 63001 95000, 9885127854, 93908 55564

SHIRAM 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, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.30-11-2022) 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, Aarum 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 29th day of January 2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1. Mohammed Shafeeq Dakaray, S/o. Mohammed Hussain Dakaray , Aged About 58 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. M/s. Danish Stone Industries, Gouthapur, R/o. H.No. 2-1-82, Saipur, Tandur, R.R.Dist 501141	Rs.1,07,10,180/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand One Hundred and Eighty only)
2. S Aparaj Begum, W/o. Mohammed Shafeeq Dakaray , Aged About 48 Years, Occ: House wife, R/o. H.No. 2-1-82, Saipur, Tandur, R.R.Dist 501141	
3. Mohammed Osman, S/o. Mohammed Ibrahim , Aged About 39 Years, Occ: Business, Milap Juice Centre, Thakur Complex, Opp: Bus Stand, Tandur, R/o. H.No. 6-2-17/2, Subhash Nagar, Tandur, R.R.Dist-501141	

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

VIKRBT1610210011- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the Open Plot bearing No. 3/A, in Sy.No.49, of Gouthapur Village, admeasuring 790 Square yards, or 660.51 Sq.mts and in it constructed RCC house with plinth area of 150 Sq ft situated at Gouthapur Village and Grampanchayat, Tandur Mandal, Rangareddy Dist, Tandur Sub District, and bounded as follows: North: Plot No. 3; South : Land in Sy.No.50:East : 30 ft Width Road West : Remaining land in Sy.No.49 on Plot No.2

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: Tandur, Vikarabad Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 29-01-2024 Shiram Finance Limited

SHIRAM 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, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.30-11-2022) 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, Aarum 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 27th day of January, 2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) SAIREDDY JHANSI W/o. Saireddy Venkatramana Reddy , Aged About 41 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. Sri Venkateswara Fuel Station, Gangawar Road, Nyalkal, Sangareddy R/o. H.No. 2-2-154, Subhash Gunj, Block Road, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy-502220	Rs. 54,94,183/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand and Four Hundred and Eighty Three only)
2) Saireddy Venkatramana Reddy S/o. Krishna Reddy , Aged About 51 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. Sri Venkateswara Fuel Station, Gangawar Road, Nyalkal, Sangareddy R/o. H.No. 2-2-154, Subhash Gunj, Block Road, Zaheerabad, Sangareddy -502220	
3) Thogarpally Jayanthi W/o. Srikanth Reddy , Aged About 36 Years, Occ: Desg: Junior Assistant, O/o. Irrigation & Card Department, Gajwel, R/o. H.No. 1-68, Gollapally, Kondapur Mandal, Sangareddy -502001	

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

ZHRBDF1812310005- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the residential house bearing MC No. 2-2-154(part (eastern side) admeasuring Plot area 2400 sq.ft or 266.66 sq.yards or 222.96 sq. mts., plinth area with RCC roof 576 sq.ft and open area 1824 sq.ft compound wall 42.97 Rmts situated at Subash Gunj Locality, Zaheerabad Town and Municipality, Zaheerabad Mandal, Sangareddy District T.S District Registration at sangareddy Sub-Registration at Zaheerabad, bounded on North : 50 ft wide Road, South : 20 ft wide Road, East : 30 ft wide Road West : Remaining part of MC No. 2-2-154(part (western part).

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:Zaheerabad, Sangareddy Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 27-01-2024 Shiram Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



A RENOVATED AYODHYA CAN ATTRACT 50 MILLION TOURISTS ANNUALLY

India is looking to enhance religious tourism after opening a Ram temple in Ayodhya, an ancient city. This is expected to lead to upgrades of other holy sites and boost visitor numbers nationwide. On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a dedication ceremony for the idol of the Hindu deity Ram in a temple, attracting tens of thousands of people to the quiet town, known for its involvement in political dispute. India's predominantly Hindu community holds the belief that Ayodhya is the birthplace of Ram, who is viewed as an embodiment of the deity Vishnu. Back in 1992, Hindu groups demolished Babri Masjid, a mosque in the city, claiming that a temple had previously stood at that location. The drive to construct a Ram temple has been a key part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) agenda, a Hindu nationalist party ruling for over thirty years. "Ayodhya is anticipated to experience a significant increase in both long-term residents and short-term visitors," stated Dikshu Kukreja, the architect in charge of the city's modernization plan, designed to manage the expected rise, as reported to a media outlet.

He further added, "In response, we concentrated on developing strong transportation links, which include an international airport, top-notch railway stations, and modern bus terminals." The SCMP reports, that the US-based investment firm Jefferies states a \$10 billion (83,000 Crores) revamp of the city is expected to attract more than 50 million tourists annually. This influx is predicted to greatly enhance hotel business and other economic sectors, setting a precedent for infrastructure-led tourism growth. Tourism contributes to 6.8% of India's GDP, which is less than in many advanced economies. India has been working on upgrading the poor infrastructure that affects many of its key religious sites. The opening of the Ayodhya temple is seen as a step towards revitalizing these places.

India is home to 42 Unesco World Heritage sites, many linked to religious sites. The majority of tourists in the country come for religious tourism.

On Monday, celebrations erupted nationwide, primarily among Hindus, following Modi's request to observe the day similarly to Diwali, the festival celebrating Ram's mythological return to Ayodhya. The Confederation of All India Traders reported transactions exceeding 1 trillion rupees or 1 Lakh Crore (about US\$12 billion), including sales of temple replicas, fireworks, and food. Industry leaders suggest that the heightened religious enthusiasm is expected to lead to sustained business prospects, especially with the infrastructure improvement of pilgrimage sites. Kukreja explained that Ayodhya, a town with a history of 2,500 years, is undergoing excavation and modernization. The process includes widening the narrow streets, constructing multi-level parking facilities, and establishing stations for electric vehicles to promote sustainable transportation.

He emphasized that their focus was on enhancing pedestrian access through broad walkways and dedicated bike lanes, while also decreasing dependency on private cars. These efforts are a key component of the continuing development vision for Ayodhya, he noted. The reconstruction started following a detailed examination of other national pilgrimage sites like Tirupati, Amritsar, Ujjain, and Varanasi, and international locations such as the Vatican City, Jerusalem, and Cambodia. Kukreja noted that their research showed temple towns in India typically grow naturally, leading to local authorities facing challenges in meeting basic infrastructure demands. Meanwhile, international religious cities tend to have more systematically planned infrastructure. This insight has resulted in a proposal to create a 1,200-acre smart township in Ayodhya. The goal is to eliminate unsightly and hazardous elements like dangling overhead wires and open drains, replacing them with clean, safe accommodations for tourists. Kukreja explained that their vision plan includes initiatives such as increasing homestay options to enhance tourists' experiences and generate economic benefits for locals.

By Girish Linganna

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

BRITISH PREMIER RISHI SUNAK FACING BIG RIGHTWING TORY CHALLENGE BEFORE ELECTIONS

The Tories descended further into turmoil today as its hard right launched fresh plots against drifting premier Rishi Sunak. Former cabinet member David Davis remarked "this is getting silly" after one-time levelling up secretary Simon Clarke called on the Prime Minister to quit. While few other Tories were prepared to put their heads above the parapet so brazenly, the prospect of a fourth leader in two years was being canvassed in the Commons tea rooms. The infighting has been turbocharged by a detailed opinion

poll apparently organised by hard right peer Lord David Frost showing the Tories risk a 1997-style wipe-out at the next general election. Lord Frost and his supporters spun the poll as evidence that only another shift to the right could avoid electoral disaster. Mr Clarke followed up today with an article urging his fellow Tories to act to install a leader who would follow an aggressively right-wing policy on migration, the economy and "culture war" issues. He was apparently isolated today, with even the hard-right ex-home secretary Priti Patel accusing him of "facile and divisive self-indulgence." But he is scheduled to



share a platform with former premier Liz Truss early next month, launching a new grouping called Popular Conservatism. They are set to be joined by another right-wing cabinet exile, Jacob Rees-Mogg. In his article Mr Clarke called for a leader who would implement radical "supply-side reforms," apparently forgetting that when the country had one such in Ms Truss the outcome was immedi-

ate economic calamity. He warned that the risks of not acting against Mr Sunak outweighed the embarrassment of embarking on yet another leadership election. The only other MP to have publicly written to the backbench 1922 Committee expressing no confidence in Mr Sunak — the formal Tory procedure — is Andrea Jenkyns.

(IPA Service)

INTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME IS NEED OF THE HOUR

The unemployment situation is worse today than it has ever been in post-independence India. There are two distinct elements that have contributed to this situation. One is the fact that the output recovery from the fall caused by the pandemic-linked lockdown has not been accompanied by a comparable employment recovery. In fact, even though the gross domestic product in 2023-24 is estimated to be larger than in 2019-20 by about 18 per cent, employment has shown zero growth over the last five years according to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy. This fall in the employment-intensity of GDP is because the recovery in output has been much less pronounced in the small and medium scale enterprises than in large-scale ones and the former are much more employment-intensive than the latter.

(IPA Service)



CANADA'S TWO-YEAR CAP ON NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VISAS TO IMPACT INDIA

In a bid to tackle concerns about high tuition fees and student exploitation, Canada is imposing a temporary, two-year cap on new international student visas starting in 2024. This move, expected to reduce new permits by 35% in the first year, primarily targets undergraduate programs while exempting master's, doctoral degrees, and existing permit holders. Official data from 2022 indicates that the majority of foreign students, approximately 40%, come from India, with China ranking second at around 12%. Canada's appeal as a destination for international students has undeniable benefits. It boosts the country's skilled workforce and cultural diversity. However, the rapid influx has triggered a

housing shortage and raising concerns about the quality of education being imparted. The attraction of post-study work permits draws many international students to Canada. This route to permanent residency makes Canada stand out among its competitor destinations. However, the surge in student numbers has come at a cost, pushing rental prices upwards by a staggering 7.7% in just a year. This affordability crisis has dented Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's popularity, with opposition leader Pierre Poilievre capitalizing on public anxieties in recent polls. Beyond the immediate housing crunch, the government is also grappling with concerns about the educational experience itself. The influx of students has raised ques-

tions about the quality of education offered by some institutions, particularly those operating as private colleges. The fear is that some institutions prioritize financial gain over delivering a solid academic foundation. This balancing act presents a difficult challenge. Canada wants to maintain its attractiveness to international students, recognizing their valuable contributions to the country. Yet, it also needs to address the legitimate concerns about housing affordability and ensure the integrity of its education system.

Immigration Minister Marc Miller explained the cap aims to ensure quality education and protect students from institutions with inadequate support.

(IPA Service)



MAMATA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF TMC GOING SOLO IN BENGAL CAN BE A PART OF PRESSURE TACTICS

West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Ms. Mamata Banerjee has just publicly rejected an alliance with the state Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but in truth, the Trinamool Congress

(TMC) had decided to shake up the still evolving opposition I.N.D.I.A anti-BJP coalition some days ago. There had been a few disturbing signals — the TMC's leaders/spokesmen from Guwahati to West Bengal, had been suddenly decrying opposition prospects much too frankly

and freely during the last few days.

As expected, the timing of Ms Banerjee's announcement of its 'go-it-alone in West Bengal' message, even as the INDIA opposition barely launched serious seat adjustment talks — perhaps the most difficult part of any alliance formation! — is unusually significant. No wonder, there are suggestions from parties normally critical of Ms Banerjee that the TMC is once more turning out to be a willing Trojan horse for the BJP, wrecking opposition unity from within! Regardless of desperate efforts made by the Indian National Congress leader Mr Jairam Ramesh to salvage whatever remained of his party's credibility, the TMC's unilateral stand was undeniably a major setback for any anti-BJP political initiative.

(IPA Service)

TO PROTECT FREE EXPRESSION, SCRAP BROADCAST SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL

The Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, a draft of which was circulated for public comments by the union ministry of information and broadcasting in November 2023, is yet another step by the Modi government to restrict and stifle freedom of expression. It seeks to replace the nearly three-decade-old Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995. Prior to this, the government has brought in the Telecommunications Act of 2023, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023 and, earlier, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

(IPA Service)

Scholz to meet with Biden in US to discuss aid to Ukraine

Washington, Jan 30 (IANS) : German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will visit Washington in the first half of February and meet with US President Joe Biden to discuss the two leaders' efforts to provide additional support to Ukraine, media sources reported. A bilateral meeting between Scholz and Biden is planned to be held at the White House during the second week of February, Bloomberg's sources noted as reported by European Pravda on Tuesday.

The meeting is being planned at a time when the US presidential administration's emergency request for \$61 billion is stuck in Congress as Republicans demand significant concessions on immigration policy. Meanwhile, the EU is holding a special summit next week to agree on an additional \$50 billion package of support for Kiev. Scholz has called on European countries to increase arms supplies to Ukraine, fearing that US aid could stop. Earlier, it was reported that the



German Chancellor wants to use the EU summit on February 1 to urge its allies to send more weapons to Ukraine. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba reiterated that he was confident that the US Congress would approve supplemental funding for Ukraine despite the

differences between the two parties on the issue of migration. Prior to this, the White House said that a decision on assistance to Ukraine must be made as soon as possible, as the next few months would be critical.



Amid diplomatic tensions, Colombia recalls ambassador to Argentina

Bogota, Jan 30 (IANS) : The Colombian government has recalled its ambassador to Argentina for consultations after Argentina President Javier Milei's contentious remark that Colombian President Gustavo Petro was a "communist murderer". During an interview with jour-

nalist Patricia Janiot, Milei referred to Petro as "a communist murderer who is ruining Colombia," Xinhua news agency reported. The interview, disseminated on Janiot's YouTube account, has caused diplomatic tensions between the two South American countries.



UN agency alleges Israeli protesters blocking humanitarian aid

Tel Aviv, Jan 30 (IANS) : The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has alleged that Israeli protesters blocked humanitarian aid trucks from entering Gaza through the Karem Shalom border crossing. The UN body charged that this has led to preventing much-needed supplies of flour, other food supplies, tents and hygiene items from entering the war-torn territory. The UNOCHA in a statement on Tuesday said.

UNRWA sacks several staffers for 'role' in Oct 7 attacks on Israel

Tel Aviv, Jan 30 (IANS) : The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has sacked several of its employees suspected of involvement in the October 7 terror attacks on Israel. UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini in a statement said that the agency had sacked several of its employees after Israel's accusation. He however did not mention number of employees who were sacked. Sources in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) told IANS that 12 of UNRWA staff had participated in the violent terror attacks of October 7 leading to the brutal slaughter of

1,200 people in Israel. They also said that the information on the alleged involvement of UNRWA staff members was provided by the terrorists who were arrested by Israel. The UNRWA chief in a statement on Tuesday night said, "Any UNRWA employee who was involved in acts of terror will be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution." He also said that Israel authorities had provided information on the alleged involvement of its staff members. The Israeli side has also alleged that UNRWA vehicles were also used during the terror onslaught of October 7. Israel Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, in a social media post after the UNRWA sacked



its staffers for the alleged involvement, said, "Terrorism under the guise of humanitarian work is a disgrace to the UN and the principles it claims to represent." The spokesperson of the Secretary General of the United Nations in a statement on Monday said, "Urgent and comprehensive review of UNRWA will be conducted." The statement also said that United Nations chief Antonio Guterres was horrified on the accusations against an UN agency

and hence has issued a comprehensive review on the functioning of the UNRWA. The US state department also said in a statement that it was extremely horrified by the accusations and that it had temporarily paused additional funding to the UNRWA. It may be noted that the US had contributed a whopping \$340 million to the UNRWA in 2022. Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan in a statement said, "How symbolic that pre-

cisely on International Holocaust Remembrance Day it was proven what we have been claiming for years: that UNRWA employees are collaborators of the terrorist organisation Hamas and that the UN has become not only a place where the existence of the State of Israel is delegitimized, but that its employees physically participated in the attempted extermination of Israel and the murder of innocent citizens." UNRWA provided services including providing relief aid to the Gaza Strip, and parts of the West Bank which help prevent a major chaos in the area for lack of basic necessities. UNRWA also provides relief to Palestinian refugees in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The outbreak of war deteriorated relations between Israel and UNRWA.

S. Africa's Parliament calls for pressure on Israel to comply with ICJ order

Cape Town, Jan 30 (IANS) : The South African Parliament has welcomed the "landmark ruling" of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the country's genocide case against Israel, calling on the international community to apply pressure on Israel to comply with the order. The ICJ has determined that Israel's actions in Gaza are "plausibly genocidal" and has indicated provisional measures on that basis, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement issued by the parliament on Tuesday evening. Calling it "a significant human rights victory", the parliament said "the ruling vin-

dicates South Africa's position on an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities in Gaza". In the statement, the South African parliament called on Israel to respect the binding measures and to cease all plausibly genocidal acts in Gaza and against the Palestinian people. "There is now no credible basis for Israel and its supporters' indiscriminate military actions in the name of self-defense. The ruling is a clear demonstration of Israel's non-compliance with international law, including the Genocide Convention," said the parliament. Therefore, it noted, the ruling compels Israel to stop immediately all hostilities in Gaza and allow more



UN humanitarian aid. "Considering the measures ordered by the court, we call on governments, parliaments, and the international community to respond by applying pressure on Israel to comply with the order," it added. The parliament also called on the United Nations Security Council, upon formal notification of the ICJ's order and pursuant to its statute, to ensure swift action

as "no government or state is above the law." On December 29, 2023, South Africa filed an application to the ICJ for proceedings against Israel, concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide related to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.



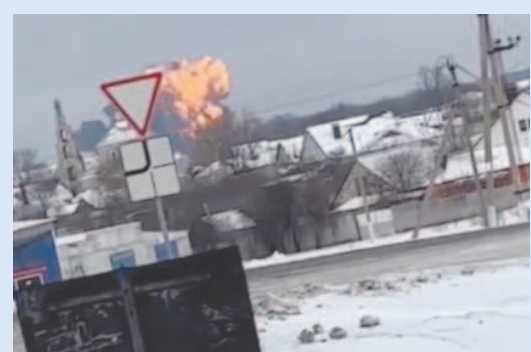
S.Korea delivers state medal for US General MacArthur after 74 yrs

Seoul, Jan 30 (IANS) : South Korea delivered a state military medal for late US General Douglas MacArthur, who led UN troops against North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War, 74 years after deciding to confer the decoration, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. MacArthur, the first commander of the UN Command, had received a certificate for the First Class Order of Military Merit on September 29, 1950, by then South Korean President Rhee Syngman, after South Korean and US-led UN troops recaptured Seoul from North Korean forces earlier that month, Yonhap news agency reported. At the time, South Korea promised to bestow the medal once it was produced but it was never delivered. The Ministry said officials only recently discovered the mis-

hap after being tipped off by a citizen interested in Korean War medals. A ceremony to deliver the medal, now named the Taegeuk Order of Military Merit, to the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia, took place on Friday (local time) at the memorial, attended by Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander, according to the Ministry. MacArthur's son, Arthur MacArthur IV, sent a letter thanking South Korea, noting the award is a "testament" to his father's legacy and an honour that "forever binds him to the people of Korea," according to the Ministry. MacArthur and his wife, Jean MacArthur, are laid to rest at the memorial in Norfolk. The US General spearheaded the amphibious landing of Incheon, just west of the capital, in September 1950.

Russia says downed aircraft hit by missile fired from Ukraine

Moscow, Jan 30 (IANS) : Russia's Investigative Committee has said that the Il-76 military aircraft was hit with a missile that was launched from the Kharkov region in Ukraine. The committee on Tuesday said that the investigation has established that the anti-aircraft missile system that was used to hit the Il-76 aircraft was located in the Lipty village of the Kharkov region, Xinhua news



agency reported, citing a Telegram post. It said that documents were found at the crash site of the aircraft in Belgorod, which belong to the Ukrainian military personnel that were killed. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the missile hit the Il-76 aircraft was obviously fired from the territory controlled by the Ukrainian side.



2 teenagers killed in shooting in Chicago

Chicago, Jan 30 (IANS) : At least two teenagers were killed in a shooting in Chicago when they were returning from their school, local media reported. The incident occurred around 12.25 p.m. when two vehicles pulled up and several people exited and opened fire on the boys who were returning from the school along with four people, Chicago Tribune reported.



'Pariksha Pe Charcha' records 2.26 crore registration: Education Minister

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday said that the 7th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' has recorded a remarkable 2.26 crore registrations on the MyGov portal. "The registration highlights the widespread enthusiasm of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' among students nationwide which is scheduled for January 29 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi," the minister said. The minister said that 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' has become an annual tradition which students, parents and teachers all look forward to. "Pariksha Pe Charcha will host approximately 3000 participants and will also interact with PM Modi. Two students and a teacher

from each state and union territory, along with winners of the Kala Utsav, have been invited. A hundred students from Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) will also attend for the first time," the minister said. He said that 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a unique initiative led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the stress associated with examinations and promote a celebratory approach towards life, aligning with the larger movement of 'Exam Warriors.' The Ministry of Education said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth edition was held online, while the fifth and sixth editions returned to the town-hall format.

Soren counters BJP's Ram wave by tapping into Jharkhand's local sentiments

Ranchi, Jan 30 (IANS) : On the day of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the wave of religious fervour that swept through the Hindi heartland was not limited to just Ayodhya but Jharkhand, with its population of nearly four crore people, was equally immersed in the spirit of Ram. Every corner of this state was infused with a sense of devotion. If the impact of this surge of emotions continues for the next three to four months, the BJP could hope for enthusiastic results in its favour. However, on the other hand, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress-RJD coalition, led by Hemant Soren, counters the BJP's Ram wave by tapping into the state's local sentiments, making the battle neither one-sided nor

easy here. Jharkhand has 14 Lok Sabha seats. As of today, 12 of these seats are with the BJP-All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) coalition. In the 2014 elections, the BJP had won the same number of seats. Despite efforts to focus on emotive issues like the Ram temple this time, maintaining the 2014 and 2019 scores for the third time is a significant challenge. The state BJP President, Babul Marandi, claims, "This time, we will win all 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The country is now with the BJP. Just as the BJP achieved victories on tribal majority seats in the Assembly elections of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, similar results will come in the Lok Sabha as well as the state Assembly elections in Jharkhand. The people, troubled by corruption in the Hemant Soren Government, are in the mood to remove him from power."



During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP coalition, led by Raghuraj Das in Jharkhand, had a favourable position. The results were in line with expectations -- they won 12 out of 14 Lok Sabha seats and secured a lead in 54 out of the state's 81 Assembly seats in terms of votes. Encouraged by this, Das had chanted the slogan of 'Abki baar 65 paar' in the subsequent 2019 Assembly elections. However, the coalition led by Hemant Soren turned the tables, defeating the BJP and forming the government. While leading the government for the last four years, Hemant Soren has taken several decisions for the

welfare of tribals and the indigenous people of Jharkhand. Due to these measures, he has strengthened his grip on the core voters of his party, compared to the previous government. Despite actions by agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), conflicts with the Raj Bhavan on several important issues, legal and court entanglements related to mining leases, and continuous attacks by the Central and state BJP leaders, Soren has kept the coalition government stable.

Two labourers die in Delhi while carrying out construction work, ex-MLA's kin booked

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Two labourers died while carrying out construction work at the farm house of the relative of a former Congress MLA from south Delhi's Chattarpur, an official said on Tuesday. The incident occurred in Bhati Kalan near Fatehpur Beri on Tuesday. The deceased were identified

as Dharminder (35), a resident of Malviya Nagar and Karan Singh (35), a resident of Badaun in Uttar Pradesh. According to police, information about two medico-legal cases (MLCs) was received on Thursday, at 3:45 p.m., and both Dharminder and Karan were declared brought dead at the hospital.



Police arrests four accused in Delhi & UP, unearths Rs 60L money trail linked to Chinese nationals

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Four men involved in supplying and managing bank accounts of the cyber fraudsters were nabbed after a massive hunt in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh (UP), an official said on Tuesday. He said that money trail of 60 lakh have been unearthed so far and the syndicate had links with Chinese nationals. The accused were identified as Harish Kumar, Vipul Sharma, Shiv Pratap and Om Prakash a.k.a. Monu. Their arrest came after a complaint was received by police on August 12, 2023, in which the complainant Ashish Kumar Tomer -- a resident of west Delhi alleged that on August 9, 2023 -- he was approached by some fraudster through

WhatsApp, claiming to be Anitai from Career Builder Ltd. India. She offered him to earn money by rating restaurants on Google. The complainant accepted the offer. "On August 11, the complainant was added to a Telegram group and he was assigned tasks to rate restaurants on Google Map. After completion of tasks, he was paid some money and then was asked to invest Rs 1,000 to get Rs 1,300. One account i.e. www.yt6ba.top was made for him in the name of Sony Corp platform and he was asked to invest for business," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena. Tomar was also added by @david6687 to another group Task Force G305388. "Thereafter, he was asked to pay a huge



amount for investment with assured returns. The complainant got trapped and transferred Rs 23,23,260 for good returns. When he tried to deny them and asked to return his money, the fraudsters told that he won't be able to withdraw without more investment," said the DCP. During the investigation, the de-

tails of the beneficiary accounts were obtained and it revealed that the cheated amount was credited in ICICI Bank of Harish. "Harish was arrested, who on interrogation disclosed that he came in contact with Vipul and sold his account for five percent commission basis.



Autocracy of corruption replaced by meritocracy of democracy: Dhankhar

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said that the autocracy of corruption has been replaced by the meritocracy of democracy as the country is witnessing an overall growth under the present day political dispensation. "Today corruption and middlemen have been eliminated and youth have immense opportunities to realise their

potential. The autocracy of corruption has been replaced by the meritocracy of democracy," the Vice President said while addressing National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers in the Parliament House. He said that every walk of life is dotted by exponential growth, commitment and involvement of girls. "Our girls are the qualitative premium component part of our youth power," he said. He also lauded the performance of the girls and female

participants in the Republic Day parade. The Vice President also expressed his happiness over the recent provision of one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislature and termed it a historic step.



Efforts on to keep INDIA bloc united : Kharge

Kalaburagi, Jan 30 (IANS) : AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said that efforts are on to keep the constituents of opposition bloc INDIA united. Talking to reporters at the Kalaburagi airport, Kharge said he had written letters to all in the bloc in this regard including West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee. On speculation that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar may quit today, Kharge said: "I don't have information regarding Nitish's resignation. I even don't know whether he had met the Governor. "If democracy has to survive, we have to be united. Our efforts are in that direction," he said. If any statement is made right now, it will create confusion, he said. "I will speak after reaching Dehradun and gathering all the information. It will be good if like-minded political parties contest under the India bloc," Kharge said.

NGT seeks report on encroachments of waterbodies, wetlands in TN

Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a report from the Tamil Nadu chief secretary on district-wise encroachments on waterbodies, wetlands and river poramboke land. Following news paper reports concerning the same, Justice Pushpa Satyanarayan and Satyagopal Korlapati of the tribunal took

up the matter suo motu. The tribunal has also sought a list of encroachments in the form of cultivation, temporary or permanent habitations and commercial buildings and a plan of action to evict them. It has sought a report on the number of waterbodies in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram that have been affected.





Glenmark and Ichnos take a collaborative leap to accelerate innovation in Cancer Treatment with their alliance - 'Ichnos Glenmark Innovation'

Mumbai, Jan 30 (TIM Bureau) : Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Glenmark), a leading, research-driven, global pharmaceutical company, and Ichnos Sciences Inc. (Ichnos), its global fully integrated, clinical-stage biotech subsidiary, today announced the launch of their alliance – Ichnos Glenmark Innovation – to accelerate new drug discovery in cancer treatment. This alliance combines Glenmark’s research and development proficiencies in small molecules with those of Ichnos in novel biologics to continue developing cutting-edge therapy solutions that treat hematological malignancies and solid tumors. The newly formed IGI features a robust pipeline of three innovative

oncology molecules targeting multiple myeloma, acute myeloid leukemia and solid tumors currently undergoing clinical trials. Two of these molecules have received orphan drug designation from the U.S. FDA. Additionally IGI has two autoimmune disease assets that have been out licensed to leading companies. Harnessing the combined proficiency of over 150 scientists, IGI will leverage the capabilities of its three global centers of innovation. These comprise the Ichnos’ headquarters in New York City, NY, USA, which is focused on clinical development; the biologics research center in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Glenmark’s small molecule

HP to introduce new AI-enabled Spectre laptops in India

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : PC and printer major HP is set to introduce its latest premium Spectre laptops in India, targeting the contemporary and modern users. According to sources, the price of the new Spectre laptops will be around Rs 1.5 lakh. This new series of Spectre laptops is poised to combine power with a sleek and stylish design. Furthermore, the portfolio is expected to be AI-powered and premium to compete directly with Apple’s MacBook Pro, sources told IANS on Tuesday. The laptops will come with the latest Intel processors to enable better collaboration, performance and privacy for users. As per sources, the new HP

Spectre laptops are said to be world’s most advanced convertible PCs for collaboration. Packed with cutting-edge AI features, the laptops are also expected to offer the world’s most immersive experience display. The portfolio is anticipated to boast IMAX Enhanced Certification, enhancing both entertainment and content creation. The laptops will also offer the exclusive IMAX version of select Marvel Studios and Pixar titles on the Disney+ Hotstar streaming service. Last year, HP introduced the IMAX-enhanced displays for its Envy and Pavilion Plus laptops. The laptops will be equipped with a 9 MP camera featuring hardware-enabled low-light adjust-



ment, ensuring clear calls regardless of the time of day. The launch date of the new HP Spectre laptops is not yet known, but users can expect it to be available in India from early February 2024. HP has been leading India’s PC

market for three years in row. HP has a 29.4 per cent market share in India’s PC market in Q3, 23 as per IDC. The launch of AI-powered Spectre laptops is set to reiterate HP’s position in the premium PC landscape in India.

India's M&A deal activity maintains long-term momentum, mid-market in focus

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : India’s strategic merger and acquisition (M&A) deal activity in 2023 maintained its long-term momentum, with deal volumes surpassing levels seen over the past 10 years, apart from the exceptional record year of 2022, a report showed on Tuesday. The mid-market acquirers (up to \$1 billion in revenue) accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the activity, pri-

marily fueled by a healthy appetite seen in these companies for scale deals to build leadership positions, according to Bain & Company’s sixth annual ‘Global M&A Report’. “Global strategic M&A deal volume was down 12 per cent over the last five-year average while India volume is up by about 10 per cent. Renewable energy, infrastructure, logistics.



Rane Brake Lining logs PAT of Rs 10.12 crore

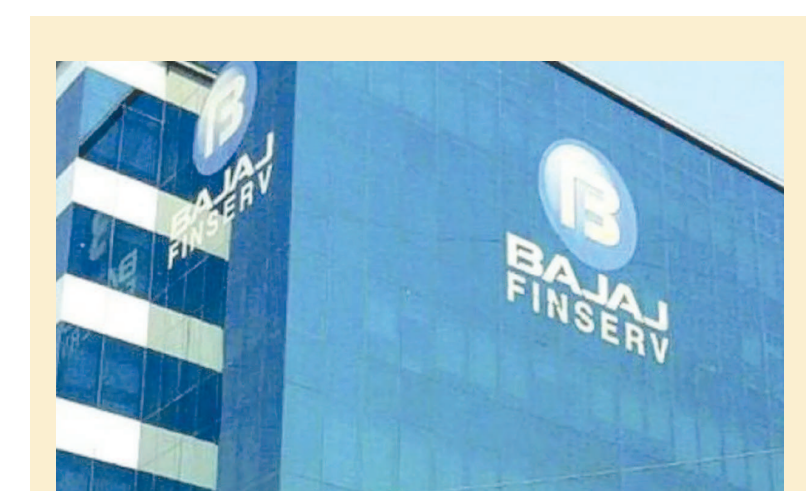
Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : City-based automotive brake lining maker Rane Brake Lining Ltd closed third quarter of FY24 with a marginal increase in its net profit of Rs 10.12 crore. In a

regulatory filing on Tuesday Rane Brake Lining said for the quarter ended 31.12.2023 it had earned an operational revenue of Rs 164.25 crore (Q3FY23 Rs 153.33 crore) and a net profit of Rs10.12 crore

(Rs 9.17 crore). During the quarter under review, the company’s total expenses went up to Rs.151.41 crore from Rs.142.33 crore spent during the previous year’s corresponding period.

Zee shares up 5% amid reports of arbitration hearing in Singapore

Mumbai, Jan 30 (IANS) : Zee Entertainment shares jumped more than 5 per cent on Tuesday amid reports of an emergency arbitration hearing of its terminated merger with the Sony Group in Singapore. Zee shares closed at Rs 170.90, up by 5.75 per cent, on the BSE on Tuesday in a very weak market. As per an earlier communication, Zee Entertainment said it has initiated legal action to contest Culver Max (formerly Sony Pictures Network India) and BEPL’s claims in the arbitration proceedings before Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). Zee also approached the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai bench, inter alia seeking directions to implement the merger scheme. The company issued a reply to Culver Max and BEPL inter alia specifically denying any breach of its obligations under the MCA and reiterated that the company has complied with all its obligations in good faith.



Bajaj Finserv to acquire Vidal Healthcare Services, subsidiaries, associate company for Rs 325 crore

Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd (BFS-Health), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, on Tuesday announced signing of share purchase agreement for acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Vidal Healthcare Services Private Ltd (VHC) and its subsidiaries and an associate company. In a regulatory filing, Bajaj Finserv said the purchase consideration will be paid Rs.325 crore and will be paid in cash subject to satisfaction of condition precedents and necessary legal requirements. As per the agreement, Vidal Health Insurance TPA Private Ltd (VHI-TPA) and VH Medicare Private Ltd, two wholly owned subsidiaries of VHC, would in turn become indirect wholly owned subsid-

aries of BFS-Health and Bajaj Finserv. Further, BFS-Health would indirectly acquire about 21.3 per cent equity stake in IntentHealth Technologies Private Ltd, which is an associate of VHC. According to Bajaj Finserv, VHC is among India’s largest healthcare administrators. VHC’s wholly owned subsidiary, VHI-TPA services premium of over Rs. 5,000 crore, covering 130 million lives. VHI-TPA has significant presence in servicing corporate group policies, retail insurance as well as government health schemes. As regards the rationale for acquisition, Bajaj Finserv said it enables BFS Health to offer OPD, wellness, as well as hospitalisation benefits to customers, thereby providing continuum of care.



Fidelity further marks down Meesho valuation to \$3.5 bn

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Global investment firm Fidelity has further marked down the value of its holding in social commerce platform Meesho, to \$3.5 billion. Fidelity had recently cut the valuation of Meesho to \$4.1 billion from \$5 billion, in a regulatory filing with the US’ Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

According to TechCrunch, the latest valuation adjustment follows a secondary sale transaction late last year. That sale valued Meesho at \$3.5 billion. "Based on Fidelity filings, the number of shares held and the current number of total outstanding fully diluted shares, the valuation is assessed at \$3.5 billion," a company spokesperson said in a statement.

TVS ILP to develop logistics, warehousing park in Goa

Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : TVS Industrial and Logistical Parks (TVS ILP) on Tuesday announced signing of MoU with the Goa Investment Promotion & Facilitation Board (Goa-IPB) for the development of logistics and warehousing park in the Verna Industrial Estate.

The strategic commitment involves an investment of Rs 125 crore and the park will be on 15-20 acre. The signing ceremony took place at the Invest Goa 2024 Summit held at Taj Cicade de Goa, Dona Paula. The MoU was signed between Ramnath Subramaniam, CEO of TVS ILP, and Swetika Sachan IAS, CEO of Goa-IPB. TVS ILP emerged as a pioneer in the logistics parks sector, boasting an extensive footprint with over 18 parks across 10 states.



US authority fines Infosys \$225 for violating short payment of tax



Bengaluru, Jan 30 (IANS) : The Nevada Department of Taxation in the US has been slapped a fine of \$225 for alleged violation of short payment of modified business tax for two quarters. However, the company maintained that it is in the process of determining further steps after checking the veracity of the claim. Infosys said in a stock exchange filing, "On January 25, the Nevada Department of Taxation sent a communication for the collection of penalty. The violations and contraventions commit-

ted or alleged to be committed is short payment of modified business tax for Quarter 4, 2021 to Quarter 1 of 2022." Infosys maintained that there is no material impact on finances, operations or other activities of the company following the development. Short payment refers to partial or reduced payment made that is lesser than the invoiced amount. Earlier, Florida’s department of revenue had imposed a penalty of \$76.92 on Infosys in August 2023 for shortfall of tax payment.

World Court orders Israel to prevent genocide in Gaza, but doesn't demand ceasefire

United Nations, Jan 30 (IANS) : The World Court on Tuesday ordered Israel to ensure that its military does not commit any actions that could be genocide in its campaign in Gaza against Hamas, but it did not dictate a ceasefire. The court, formally known as the International Court of Justice, also ordered Israel to immediately allow "urgently-needed basic services and humanitarian assistance" to the Palestinians of Gaza. Citing inflammatory rhetoric from some Israeli leaders, the court also ordered Israel to punish and prevent incitement

to genocide. The court, which is based in The Hague, has no way of enforcing its judgments and countries can – and do – flout them. It also turned down the request of South Africa to order a ceasefire, while considering whether a genocide had been committed. The interim judgment delivered by the court's President Joan Donoghue spoke at length about the sufferings of the people of Gaza and the long-term effects of Israeli action. "The court is acutely aware of the extent of the human tragedy that is unfolding in the region and is deeply concerned about the continuing loss of life and human suf-

fering," it said. The court reserved judgment on the crux of the case whether Israel had committed genocide, but said that "in the court's view, at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the [genocide] convention". South Africa, with searing memories of apartheid and the suppression of the majority by the White minority rulers, took on the Palestinian cause, and brought the case against Israel to the court. South Africa invoked the international convention on preventing genocide to allege that Israel was

committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel launched a counterattack after Hamas had attacked it killing about 1,200 people and taking about 240 hostage on October 7. Israel's counterattack has led to the killing of about 25,000 people, many of them women and children, and the displacement of about 85 per cent of Gaza's population of about 2 million. The judgement noted both the attacks. The court functions totally independently of the UN, with none of its bodies like the Security Council or the General Assembly having a say other than electing



the judges. Neither does the UN Secretary General have any role in it. Although its rulings are legally binding, the court does not have the power to enforce its rulings and countries can scoff at them with no consequences. The 15 judges of the court were

joined by two ad hoc judges each appointed by South Africa and Israel under its procedures. The court issued a set of six orders, four of them relating to preventing what could constitute genocide, and two on procedural matters.



N.Korea's Foreign Minister meets visiting Chinese vice FM : State media

Seoul, Jan 30 (IANS) : North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui has met with a visiting senior Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang, its state media reported on Saturday, as North Korea appears to be seeking to strengthen ties with Beijing amid its stepped-up cooperation with Russia. On Tuesday, Choe met with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, who is visiting North Korea this week, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a brief statement as quoted by Yonhap news agency report. Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations be-

tween North Korea and China, the two sides agreed to "continue to strengthen tactical cooperation and keep pace with each other to defend the common core interests," the KCNA added. The talks took place in "a comradely and friendly atmosphere," it added. Their meeting came after Choe returned from her visit to Russia this week, during which she met with President Vladimir Putin and her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, in a show of deepening bilateral ties. North Korea is stepping up military cooperation with Russia, while ratcheting up tensions with

South Korea, which it has branded as an "invariable primary foe". North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has been seeking to strengthen solidarity with China and Russia vis-a-vis the strengthening of security cooperation among South Korea, the US and Japan. China is North Korea's traditional ally and key economic benefactor. Sun's visit to Pyongyang is seen as a reciprocal trip after the North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong-ho visited China last month. Also present at Tuesday's meeting were Pak and Wang Yajun, Chinese ambassador to Pyongyang, the KCNA said.

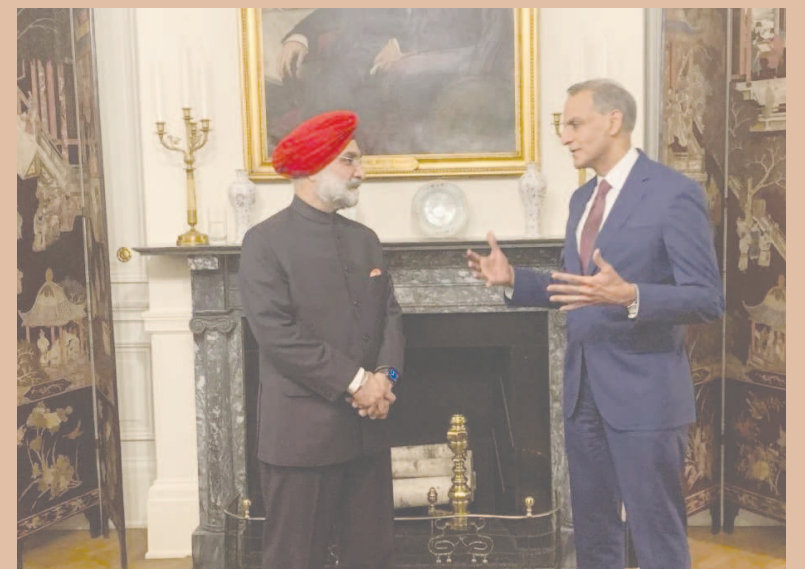
Washington DC gives Ambassador Sandhu a rockstar farewell

Washington, Jan 30 (IANS) : Outgoing Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, is getting a rockstar's farewell. And the host administration is impressed. "Elton (John) did about 340 shows for his farewell," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma said, recalling one of the shows that he had himself attended. He added that he has been keeping track of Sandhu's farewell, which could rival the British singer Elton John's "Farewell Yellow Brick Road".

Verma was speaking at -- where else? -- a farewell; hosted by the State Department for Sandhu on Tuesday. Sandhu went on to attend two more back-to-back farewells later in the evening, one of which was hosted by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum. Its rival US-India Business Council was among the first to host a farewell for the Ambassador. There was one farewell with the senior staff of the White House and a few that the Indian Embassy hosted for the

Indian-American community. Sandhu is leaving after four years as Ambassador to the United States. This was his fourth stint in the US starting out as a first secretary at the Washington DC embassy in 1997. He returned to US to serve at the Indian mission to the UN and came back in 2017 to serve as deputy chief of mission at the embassy in Washington DC. Sandhu and Verma have known each from the former's first stint, when Verma was a congressional aide. Verma would go on to serve as the US ambassador to India. Recalling their long association

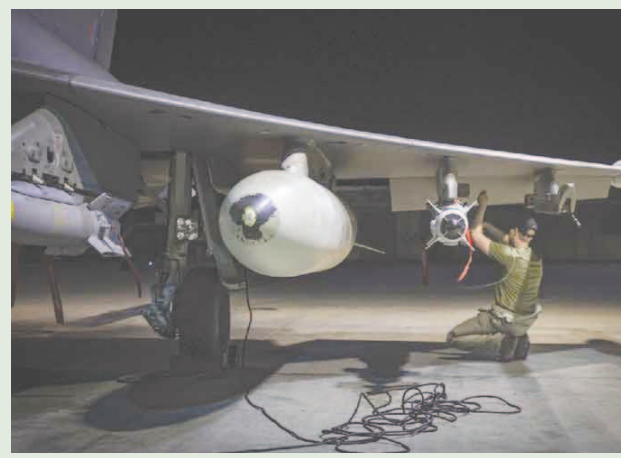
over the years, Verma said: "Your ability to get things done. Your ability to deliver for people is truly amazing. And so you're not only a world class diplomat, you're also someone who we all count as a friend." Also recounting their long association and the arc of the India-US relationship over those years, Sandhu said: "We have actually gone through ups and downs. I mean the relationship today when we look back is definitely at a very different level. And that makes me feel very satisfied, very happy."



US, UK launch retaliatory strikes on Houthi sites in Yemen's Red Sea

Sanaa, Jan 30 (IANS) : The US-British maritime coalition launched two strikes on Houthi positions in Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah on Tuesday morning, the media reported. The strikes, which came a few hours after the Houthis struck a British oil tanker, hit the Ras Issa coastal area in the northwestern part of the city, the report said. Meanwhile, the US Central Command said it conducted a self-defence strike against a Houthi missile, Xinhua news agency reported. (Yemen time), the US Central Command Forces conducted a strike against a Houthi anti-ship missile aimed at the Red Sea and which was prepared to launch," the US Central Command said on X. "The US Forces identified the missile in Houthi-con-

trolled areas of Yemen and determined it presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and the US Navy ships in the region. The US Forces subsequently struck and destroyed the missile in self-defence," it added. The US retaliatory strikes came a few hours after the Houthis claimed responsibility for a missile attack on a British oil tanker, Marlin Luanda, in the Gulf of Aden on Tuesday. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, a British maritime observer agency, confirmed the attack on the tanker and said on X that the tanker called for assistance after it caught fire following the Houthi missile attack.



Iraq, US launch 1st round of dialogue on ending US-led coalition's mission

Baghdad, Jan 30 (IANS) : The first round of dialogue to discuss ending the US-led international coalition's mission in Iraq was launched on Tuesday, the Iraqi government said. A statement by the media office of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said that al-Sudani sponsored the launch of the first round of the dialogue without giving further details, while publishing a picture showing al-Sudani chairing a meeting attended by senior Iraqi military officers and US officials. On Thursday, Iraq said it agreed with the US to form the Higher Military Commission to discuss the end of the US-led international coalition's mission in Iraq, Xinhua news agency reported.

UN chief hopes Israel will 'duly comply' with ICJ ruling on Gaza

United Nations, Jan 30 (IANS) : The UN Chief Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that he hopes Israel will "duly comply" with the ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), ordering it to take action to prevent acts of genocide being carried out in war-torn Gaza, the media reported. Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary General, told reporters in New York that Guterres had taken note of the orders from the UN's top court, which made the ruling

as part of a genocide case brought by South Africa, CNN reported. In the statement, Guterres reiterated the legally binding nature of ICJ decisions, adding that he trusts "that all parties will duly comply with the Order from the Court". The UN Chief has repeatedly called for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, expressing deep concern about the "unprecedented" number of civilian casualties and the "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in the enclave, CNN reported.



Ram Mandir spectacle to be a key driver of BJP's campaign in Bengal

Kolkata, Jan 30 (IANS) : The nationwide euphoria over the Ram Temple's inauguration seems to have spurred the West Bengal BJP leadership to weave that ecstasy into its campaign for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls this year. While it is too early to predict how far this strategy will help the saffron camp achieve its target of winning 35 out of 42 seats in West Bengal in the general elections, as of now the state unit of the BJP has outlined a two-pronged strategy to successfully turn the fervour into votes. The first part of the strategy is to spread the message that the inauguration of the Ram temple is evidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfills the promises that he makes to voters. State BJP leaders have started claiming that just as the promise of the Ram temple has been fulfilled, the promise of freeing West Bengal from the

"triple-cancer" of corruption, violence and underdevelopment will also be fulfilled in the near future if the people of the state vote overwhelmingly to ensure Modi's third term as the Prime Minister of India. The second part of the strategy is to highlight how the Opposition (read Trinamool Congress) through its attempt to create a counter-narrative has insulted the sentiments of millions of Indians, including those from West Bengal, associated with the Ram temple. Apart from this, the state BJP is chalking out its constituency-wise blueprint by dividing the 42 Lok Sabha seats into three categories. State BJP insiders said that the first category includes those Lok Sabha constituencies where the victories are more or less guaranteed, going by the trend of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and the 2021 Assembly polls. The second category includes those Lok Sabha constituencies where the probability is 50:50 or even 60:40 with the swing mar-



ginally tilting towards the Opposition in case of the latter. According to the state leadership of the BJP, an organised campaign programme and the choice of the right candidates can swing the votes into the saffron camp. That is exactly why, said a state committee member of the BJP, the party leadership is in favour of announcing its candidate list after the Trinamool Congress. "This will help us field the right candidates for this second category of constituencies after doing the SWOT analysis of the Trinamool Congress candidates there," the state committee member said. The final and third category includes those constituencies, where the BJP is way behind

the Trinamool Congress, both in terms of organisational strengths and in terms of vote shares in 2019 and 2021. However, in a couple of seats in this category as well, like the Diamond Harbour constituency in South 24 Parganas District, the BJP is expecting a miracle propelled by the twin factors of the consolidation of majority votes and a sharp division in the minority votes because of the emergence of the All India Secular Front (AISF) factor. The Trinamool Congress, on its part, seems to be treading cautiously, in combating these strategies of the saffron camp.

Cross border terror module busted in J&K's Kupwara

Srinagar, Jan 30 (IANS) : J&K Police on Tuesday said that it has busted a cross border terror module in Kupwara border district. Police said that acting on credible information and corroborated by other sister agencies, Kupwara police along with 9 Para Field Regiment busted a terror module involved in smuggling of arms and ammunition sent by two Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) based handlers of LeT namely Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh alias Shakoor and Qazi Mohammad Khushal. "Both at present are operating from across the border," police

said in a statement. Police said that one person identified as Zahoor Ahmad Bhat of Karnah in Kupwara district was arrested from whose possession one AK, one AK Magazine, 29 rounds, two pistols and two pistol magazines were recovered. "Two PoK based handlers from across were in touch with the Zahoor who hails from a village which is close to the LoC," police said. Police said that the consignments dispatched to this side from across were thereafter delivered to other terror associates who were in contact with Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and the PoK based handlers.



Massive reshuffle in Bengal Police, 285 inspectors transferred

Kolkata, Jan 30 (IANS) : West Bengal authorities have transferred at least 285 inspector-ranking officers across the state ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. On January 23, the authorities had also transferred 297 sub-inspectors. Sources in the state administration said most of the transfers are in their earlier postings for a period of three years or more. As per the rules transfer of officers -- before any elections -- completing three years or more in a particular posting is mandatory.

Govt puts development of 68 km Ayodhya bypass on fast track

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : The government has put the development of the 68 km greenfield Ayodhya bypass project on the fast track to decongest the holy city and facilitate economic, social and logistics connectivity across multiple districts in the region. The project has been discussed under the PM GatiShakti initiative to "spur implementation and planning," according to a statement issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Tuesday. The Ayodhya Bypass Project has been evaluated as a critical infrastructure project by the National Planning Group meeting held under PM GatiShakti, the statement said. The 67.57 kms project

comprises construction of 4/6 Lane Northern Ayodhya Bypass of a total length of 35.40 kms and construction of 4/6 Lane Southern Ayodhya Bypass which has total length of 32.172 kms. The project will cover key districts such as Lucknow, Basti, and Gonda. This project will facilitate improvement in connectivity to economic, social and logistics nodes, including tourist and pilgrim sites, across these three districts. Ayodhya is situated between the two economic hubs of Lucknow and Gorakhpur and major commodities such as leather, engineering goods, building materials, iron and steel, etc. pass through the city. Therefore, the construction of this bypass route will facilitate uninterrupted freight flows and decongest the city, the statement said. This bypass which is ex-

pected to cater to multiple forecasted increase in passenger and freight vehicle movement (from 89,023 in 2023 and 216,928 in 2033) around eight influence areas around Ayodhya, will also enable seamless movement of people and goods, and reduced travel time to critical national highways (such as NH-27: Lucknow- Ayodhya - Gorakhpur; NH-330A: Raebareilly -Ayodhya; NH-330: Sultanpur- Ayodhya-Gonda and NH-135A: Akbarpur -Ayodhya). The project will enhance multimodality with integrated infrastructure such as Railway Stations (at Ayodhya Railway Station, Sohwal Railway Station, A N Dev Nagar Railway Station and Ayodhya Cantt Railway Station) and Airport (at Ayodhya Airport). The project is also envisaged to complement and bring synergies



along with other proposed projects evaluated in NPG meetings including (i) Prayagraj - Raibareilly Project (Construction of Prayagraj City bypass (Total Length- 64.763 km) in the state of Uttar Pradesh; (ii) Gorakhpur-Siliguri Corridor Development of project stretch from Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) to Siliguri (West Bengal); (iii) Gorakhpur-Bareilly Corridor- Development of project stretch from Gorakhpur to Rampur. The Railway Station in Ayodhya has

been redeveloped to meet modern standards, ensuring seamless connectivity with major cities across the country. The revamped station will facilitate movement of 60 thousand commuters compared to the current capacity of 10 thousand. Improved rail infrastructure not only facilitates the movement of people but also supports the efficient transportation of goods, contributing to regional economic development.



There is a conspiracy to arrest me, topple my govt : Kejriwal

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Tuesday that there is a conspiracy to arrest him and topple his government. He also claimed that 'Operation Lotus' has been launched in Delhi. Kejriwal said, "Recently they (BJP) contacted our seven MLAs of Delhi and said 'we will arrest Kejriwal after a few days. After that we will make the AAP MLAs defect. Talks have been held with 21 MLAs.

We are talking to other AAP MLAs also. After that we will topple the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi. You can also join. Will give (you) Rs 25 crore and ticket to contest the elections." On his X handle, Kejriwal further shared, "Although he (the BJP functionary) claims that he has contacted 21 AAP MLAs but as per our information, he has contacted only seven MLAs so far and all of them refused (the proposal)."

David Cameron's activities at scandal-hit firm 'matter of interest' in fraud inquiry

London, Jan 30 (IANS) : Former British Prime Minister and incumbent Foreign Secretary David Cameron's activities at the scandal-hit Greensill Capital finance company are a "matter of interest" in a wider investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, the media reported. The SFO, which investigates and prosecutes fraud, bribery and corruption in the UK, has questioned interview subjects about the UK foreign secretary's involvement with the now-defunct company, sources claim, The Guardian reported.



Punjab CM launches dedicated force to rescue road accident victims

Jalandhar, Jan 30 (IANS) : Aiming to reduce road fatalities by around 3,000 annually, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday flagged off 129 hi-tech vehicles as part of the country's first-of-its-kind 'Sadak Surakhya Force' (SSF). Addressing a gathering here, the Chief Minister said this is a historic occasion as Punjab has become the first state to launch this ambitious scheme

to save the precious lives of the people. He said all the officers have played key roles in constituting this force, adding that the move would go a long way in saving the lives of people and streamlining the traffic movement. The Chief Minister said the idea for forming this force did not come overnight, and it has been a result of gross introspection of this serious problem. Mann said that as an MP, he had raised the issue of road accidents

in the Lok Sabha. "Since then, it was in my mind that a force should be formed to save the lives of people, and today the dream has come true," he said. The Chief Minister also said that with the constitution of this force, the police will be able to discharge their duties far more effectively, adding that the vehicles which have been roped in for the force are one of the finest across the world.

No spiritual connect: BJP unlikely to benefit from Ram temple in Telugu states

Hyderabad, Jan 30 (IANS) : Ram Mandir may be a key factor for BJP in north India but the issue is not likely to give it any electoral mileage in Telugu states. Despite the best efforts by the BJP leadership in both the states to cash in on the issue of Pran Pratishtha, the saffron party's prospects in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections may not get any boost, say political analysts. The party tried to create a hype by organising live telecast of January 22 event at Ayodhya and conducting rallies and other programmes at few pockets, especially in Telangana. BJP, RSS, VHP and other right-wing organisations held the programmes in certain towns and at a few places this

also led to mild tension. Analysts say that BJP may not get votes in Telugu states because of Ram temple as there is big difference between how people in north and south view the entire issue. Unlike Hindus in other parts of the country, those in the Telugu states don't find themselves spiritually attached to the temple at Ayodhya. Most of the Hindus in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana prefer to visit Tirumala temple once or twice every year rather than travelling to Ayodhya. "There is general aversion among Hindus in the Telugu states to the kind of politics BJP and other Hindutva organisations have played over the issue for the last 3-4 decades," said political analyst P. Pavan. Majority of people see the entire issue of Ram temple more as a political issue than religious. They

have not liked the way Pran Pratishtha was done by a politician instead of a priest. The Telangana BJP unit along with other outfits went all out to draw mileage from Pran Pratishtha. Some villages and towns had turned saffron as they put of flags, banners and cut-outs and also organised live screening of the event. At the live screening in Hyderabad, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan was invited along with Union Minister and state BJP president G. Kishan Reddy. The BJP has also arranged special trains for its activists to reach Ayodhya for darshan. Under Sri Ram Mandir Darshan Abhiyan (campaign for darshan of Sri Ram temple), 17 trains would go to Ayodhya beginning January 29 covering the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

The trains, known as special 'astha' (faith) trains, originate either from Secunderabad or Kazipet. The first train, covering Secunderabad Parliamentary constituency represented by Kishan Reddy, would leave Secunderabad station for Ayodhya on January 29 and return to the city on February 2. However, analysts believe these attempts may not yield any positive result for the party in terms of seats or votes. The saffron party may go to voters with the image of Ayodhya by projecting construction of Ram temple as a major achievement but this may not garner them votes. They recall that even at the height of the Ramjanbhoomi movement it was not a big issue in Telugu states. "They can't ask people to vote on the Ram temple issue. Hindus here ask what the BJP has done for the



temple at Bhadrachalam which is linked to Ramayana," said another analyst Palwai Raghavendra Reddy. In the campaign for recently held Assembly elections in Telangana, the BJP leaders had raised the issue of Ram temple. At the election rallies, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had declared that the temple is going to be inaugurated and promised free travel to

Ayodhya. In the election manifesto, the BJP promised that if voted to power, it will introduce free Ram Mandir and Kashi Yatra for senior citizens. However, political observers say there were not many takers for this promise. If BJP has increased its tally of Assembly seats and vote share, it was not because of the Ram temple issue.



Protest in Delhi, not a meeting, clarifies CPI-M Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 30 (IANS) : CPI-M's Kerala state secretary M.V. Govindan on Tuesday clarified that the February 8 event at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his entire cabinet besides law makers is not a meeting, but a protest against the Centre's "wrong attitude" towards the state. Vijayan and his team from Kerala will march from the Kerala House to Jantar Mantar and stage a sit in protest. Govindan was peeved after the media here reported that the protest that was earlier announced has been changed to a meeting. What more hurt the CPI-M the most was when the Congress-led opposition took pot shots against Vijayan and his cabinet that they changed from protests to meeting because they are scared of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. The media made this assessment based on the letter that Vijayan had written to his counterparts in Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, and Delhi besides former Chief Ministers Sharad Pawar, Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah that it was a meeting against the dilution of federal principles by the Modi government. "It's not a meeting but it's a protest," Govindan told the media, adding that when the protest will be staged in Delhi, all across Kerala, Left Front activists will stage protests expressing solidarity with the Delhi protesters. Of late, numerous state ministers and even Vijayan have slammed the Centre for its "anti-Kerala attitude", which is going to be the highlight of the Delhi show.

Ex-BJP worker, wife killed in Ujjain; Congress blames MP's law and order situation

Bhopal, Jan 30 (IANS) : A former Sarpanch and his wife were allegedly killed by some unidentified persons at their residence in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, police said on Tuesday. The shocking incident came to the fore after a neighbour visited the couple's house and found them lying in a pool of blood on Tuesday. Subsequently the local area police was informed. Upon

receiving information, the police recovered a middle-aged couple in a pool of blood and sent the bodies for postmortem. The deceased were identified as Ramniwas Kumavat and his wife Munni Kumavat. As per the report, Ramniwas was associated with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and he was a former mandal adhyaksh of the party.



Goa BJP confident of doubling vote share; Oppn says don't use Ram for politics

Panaji, Jan 30 (IANS) : BJP leaders in Goa are in a jubilant mood post the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and are stating that nobody can stop them from winning 400 plus seats in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. However, the Opposition is pointing out that there should not be a place for religion in politics. On the consecration day Hindu organisations and the BJP held rallies across the state and citizens also participated with zeal. Only one or two Opposition leaders participated in the cel-

ebrations but the rest of the leaders of the Opposition parties distanced themselves from the rallies and did not even wish the people on social media. Sources said that Congress MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira welcomed a rally by some Hindu groups in his constituency Aldona. Another Opposition MLA and President of Goa Forward Party Vijai Sardesai also celebrated the day at his residence by inviting people from all faiths. Vijai Sardesai said that 'Ram Rajya' means inclusivity and pluralism, not one-sided governance. "Ram Rajya' means inclusivity and pluralism, not one-sided gov-



ernance. I celebrated the occasion with a Deepotsav along with members of the Hindu, Christian and Muslim community, all together. I believe this is the true spirit of 'Ram Rajya' in which all sections of society are treated justly, fairly and respectfully," Sardesai, former Deputy Chief Minister in the BJP-led Government (last term), said. "While we welcome Ayodhya be-

ing developed into a centre for spiritual tourism, on lines of Mecca and Medina for Islam and Rome for Christianity, we in Goa must preserve our age-old culture of tolerance and coexistence and usher in real 'Ram Rajya' in the state," he said. "Jai Shri Ram is not the slogan to vote for one party. It is a slogan to imbibe values of Ram and bring 'Ram Rajya'.

Attack on ED: Trinamool divided over Sheikh Shahjahan

Kolkata, Jan 30 (IANS) : Trinamool Congress is divided over attack on ED personnel and in supporting the alleged mastermind Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan. State Municipal & Urban Development Minister and Kolkata Municipal Corporation Mayor Firhad Hakim said that Shahjahan has committed a "crime". "I have seen in the media how the government officials attacked and got injured. It was a crime," Firhad Hakim said. Local Trinamool Congress from Sandeshkhali assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas district Sukumar Mahato said that the Shahjahan has been playing a key role in uniting people of Sandeshkhali that is why he is being harassed by BJP. "People associated with Trinamool Congress are being hounded by central agencies and because Shahjahan tried to target the local people of Sandeshkhali that is why he is being harassed.



Archaeological digs at Jharkhand's Gumla dist reveal 16th-17th century mansions

Ranchi, Jan 30 (IANS): In Jharkhand's Gumla district, remarkable archaeological excavations are uncovering the structures of ancient palaces with exquisite architecture in the Navratangarh. It is located in Sisai block of Gumla district in Jharkhand. So far, the excavations have revealed a historical period from 16th to 17th century, which had been buried beneath the layers of time. Last week, a secret door was discovered beneath the ground. Currently, only half of the door is visible, and there is a speculation that it might be part of a tunnel. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is highly enthusiastic about the findings from the excavation. Navratangarh was declared a national archaeological heritage site in 2009 and has now become

a centre of curiosity and exploration for local tourists, archaeologists, and historians. Last year, a special light and sound show was organised here during the broadcast of the 100th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'. During the excavation by the ASI last year, the structure of an ancient subterranean palace was discovered. This palace, built underground, could be around five to six hundred years old. Numerous significant ancient artifacts have been found near the palace, and the department is studying them. During the medieval period, Navratangarh was one of the capitals of the Nagvanshi dynasty. In 1571, a fort was constructed here. It is said that this fort was nine-storey, hence this place is known as Navratangarh. The re-

mains of this fort are still present on the land after several years. After recent excavations, it has been revealed for the first time that the king had also constructed a grand palace under the ground, possibly to protect himself from the attacks of the Mughal rulers. A secret tunnel-like passage has also been found in this subterranean palace, and its excavation is ongoing. Based on the structure of the underground palace, it is speculated that there might be a hidden place for storing diamonds and jewels. King Durjan Shaal, who built Navratangarh, is remembered in history as a connoisseur of diamonds, and several stories are narrated in this regard. One such story is that Ibrahim Khan, the ruler of Gwalior, had imprisoned Durjan Shaal for not paying taxes.



S. Africa welcomes UN court's ruling in genocide case against Israel

Johannesburg, Jan 30 (IANS) : South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has said that the country welcomes the measures that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered by majority decision, asking Israel to take all possible measures to prevent genocide acts in the Gaza Strip. "Earlier today, the ICJ in The Hague issued a ruling that is a victory for international law, for human rights, and above all, for justice," Ramaphosa said in a televised address to the nation

on Tuesday. "The ICJ, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has handed down a ruling that the State of Israel should immediately implement a set of provisional measures to prevent any further acts of genocide in Gaza, to desist from such acts, and to take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence relating to acts of genocide. As the South African government, we welcome the decision of the ICJ," Ramaphosa was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying.

The order is binding on Israel, and must be respected by all states that are party to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, he said, adding that South Africa expects Israel, as a self-proclaimed democracy and a state that respects the rule of law, to abide by the measures handed down by the ICJ. "As South Africa, we thank all in the international community who have supported our application, including a number of countries who have declared their intention to be part of our application," he said. "It is our earnest hope and wish that this court order paves the way for an end to this crisis, for an end to the terrible loss of life and hardship, and for the crucial first steps to be taken towards reconciliation and a just, lasting peace," said Ramaphosa. South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation on Friday also welcomed the ICJ's order, saying the ruling marks a decisive victory for the international rule of law and a significant milestone in the search for justice for the Palestinian people.

Houthis claim fresh attack on British oil tanker in Gulf of Aden

Sanaa, Jan 30 (IANS) : Yemen's Houthi armed group has said it has launched a new missile attack on a British oil tanker in the Gulf of Aden, setting it on fire. "Our forces today (Tuesday) targeted the British oil vessel Marlin Luanda in the Gulf of Aden with several naval missiles. The hit was accurate and caused a fire on the ship," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in a statement aired by the group's al-Masirah TV. Earlier in the day, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), a British maritime observer agency, said it received a report of an attack on a vessel 60 nautical miles southwest of Yemen's Aden. It said two missiles exploded near a vessel, adding that the US-UK maritime coalition had responded to the attack, Xinhua news agency reported. In an updated report, the UKMTO said the vessel was struck and caught on fire, adding that the vessel had asked for urgent help. In the meantime, the U.S. Central Command said earlier on Tuesday that the Houthi group fired one anti-ship ballistic missile toward the US destroyer USS Carney in the Gulf of Aden. "The missile was successfully shot down by USS Carney."



NATO's Steadfast Defender drills could lead to 'tragic consequences for Europe': Russia

Moscow, Jan 30 (IANS) : The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Steadfast Defender drills are "provocative", and could potentially lead to "tragic consequences" for Europe, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova has said. "For several months, 90,000 forces from 31 NATO member countries, as well as Sweden, will be actively operating near Russian borders on the territory from Norway to Romania," Zakharova was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying on Tuesday. Such a step was "provocative," and "deliberately aimed at escalating the situation," she said, warning that it could increase the risk of military incidents and "ultimately lead to tragic consequences for Europe." NATO kicked off the "Steadfast Defender 2024" exercises, its largest military drills in decades, on Wednesday. The exercises will take place in several locations and run until May 31.

Iranian, Pakistani Ambassadors return to embassies



Tehran, Jan 30 (IANS) : Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moqaddam has returned to Islamabad to resume his diplomatic duties after a brief tension between the two neighbours. He left Islamabad for Iran on January 16 before the recent flare-up between the two countries. The deep-rooted relations between Iran and Pakistan can help solve the issues affecting their ties, Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted the Iranian diplomat as saying on Tuesday.

The ambassador also expressed hope that the two countries would cooperate to counter terrorism, Xinhua news agency reported, citing IRNA. The IRNA also reported that Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu went back to Tehran earlier on Tuesday. Tipu said in a post on the social media platform X that he returned to Tehran with the "sincere and good wishes" of Pakistan's leadership, adding it was time to "turn a new leaf".

US Presidential polls: Who will Trump pick as running mate if he wins?

Washington, Jan 30 (IANS) : With former US President Donald Trump bulldozing his way to secure the vital GOP nomination for the 2024 Presidential race, fresh after his victories in the Iowa and New Hampshire voting, speculation is once again rife over whom he will pick as his running mate to become the Vice President, the media reported. Though Nikki Haley's fight is far from over, with her home turf South Carolina set to vote followed by New York and California, Trump's nomination by the GOP is almost certain. Focus is now on who will be his running mate and names of several firebrands crop up. With Donald Trump poised to capture the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, the former president is effec-

tively holding auditions for a running mate -- and a growing list of vice presidential hopefuls is starting to surface, media reports said. Many hopefuls quite literally lined up behind Trump as he delivered a victory speech after winning the GOP primary in New Hampshire, where he easily overcame a challenge from former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley by 11 percentage points, reports said. Principal among them are -- Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, all of whom stood with confident smiles, nodding along in agreement as Trump attacked Haley and her decision to stay in the race post-New Hampshire. While media speculation throws up several candidates, Trump has said very little about whom he or she he has shortlisted or even what qualities he's looking for in a potential candidate, media reports said. "The person that I think I like is a very good person, pretty standard," he said in a recent Fox News interview. "I think people won't be that surprised, but I would say there's probably a 25 per cent chance it would be that person," he said. A closer look at the list reveals the following names for the post. Gov. Doug Burgum -- The North Dakota



governor, one of the earliest to drop out of the 2024 presidential race, ran on small-town, business-savvy, conservative-values charm. The investor turned politician, who shot to the top spot in his state's government in 2016, used his personal wealth to sustain his short-lived campaign. He was on hand in New Hampshire on primary day, stumping for Trump and glad-handing with voters. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene -- The Georgia Republican congresswoman made a name for herself as a firebrand, former Freedom Caucus conservative, and has remained for long as a staunch Trump ally and a central player in his grip over House Republicans and their agenda.

Indian-origin man jailed for molesting domestic worker, hurting man in Singapore

Singapore, Jan 30 (IANS) : A 61-year-old Indian-origin man was sentenced to 10 months in jail in Singapore for molesting a domestic worker in a lift and punching a man with a metal chain wrapped around his fist. Singaram Palaneapan pleaded guilty to a charge of using criminal force to outrage the modesty of a person, and a charge of voluntarily causing hurt with a dangerous weapon. Four other similar charges were considered during sentencing, digital news outlet Today reported on Tuesday. According to court documents, the domestic worker was buying food at a coffee shop when she was approached by Singaram, who offered her S\$2 to buy herself a drink.



Indian-American parents accuse Illinois Univ of negligence after teen son's death

New York, Jan 30 (IANS) : Parents of an Indian-American teen, who was found dead last weekend with signs of hypothermia, have filed a complaint alleging negligence by the police department of the university where the son studied. Akul B. Dhawan, an 18-year-old studying electrical engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, was reported missing last Tuesday just before 1:30 a.m. by his friend, the USA Today reported. According to the University of Illinois Police, he was found nearly 10 hours later on the back porch of a building near the university campus in west Urbana, which experienced brutal cold and freezing temperatures dipping between -20 to -30 degrees. Ish and Ritu Dhawan said on Tuesday that their son was found just 400 feet from where he was reported missing based on location-tracking data on their son's phone. Accusing the university's police department



of negligence, they filed a complaint against them over how the search was handled, The Today reported, citing The News-Gazette. "This is bizarre, that a kid is never found who was just less than a block, like one minute away, sitting there, dead, frozen to death. Imagine as a dad and mom what's going through in our mind. I visualise his every minute that my son froze to death in a university campus," Ish Dhawan told The Gazette. "We really need answers," his mother said. "What is the proof that they totally searched in this area, around the area they're talking (about), this half-block? My kid would have been found."



Aus PM condemns neo-Nazi related activity in Sydney on Australia Day

Sydney, Jan 30 (IANS) : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the activity of a group of heavily disguised people who had boarded a train in Sydney, saying that he doesn't want to see people in balaclavas dressed in black from head to toe, who are engaged in neo-Nazi activity in this country. "It has no place and it is rightly being condemned by all decent people," he said on Tuesday in Orange, Australian state of New South Wales (NSW). The NSW Police Force announced on Tuesday that six among the group of nearly 61 heavily disguised people were arrested.



'I am barely 18, faced so much hatred...': Divya Deshmukh calls out sexism and misogyny in Chess

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Indian chess star Divya Deshmukh has called out the issue of sexism and misogyny in the sport following her participation in the Tata Steel Chess Tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. The International Master finished 12th with a score of 4.5 out of 13 in the tournament that had players like Hans Niemann and Harika Dronavalli. In her social media post on Sunday, Deshmukh expressed her disappointment at the way female players are often treated by spectators. She revealed that despite her strong performance and pride in her games, the focus of the audience was diverted to irrelevant aspects such as her clothes, hair, and accent. "I have been wanting to address this for a while but was waiting for my tournament to be over. I got told and also myself noticed

how women in chess are often just taken for granted by spectators," Divya wrote in her Instagram post. "I played a few games which I felt were quite good and I was proud of them. I got told by people how the audience was not even bothered with the game but instead focused on every single possible thing in the world: my clothes, hair, accent, and every other irrelevant thing. "I was quite upset to hear this and I think is the sad truth that people when women play chess they often overlook how good they actually are, the games they play and their strength. I was quite disappointed to see how everything was discussed about in my interviews (by the audience) except my games, very few people paid attention to it and it is quite a sad thing.

Coach McCullum proud of Tom Hartley's heroic debut in Hyderabad Test

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : England Test coach Brendon McCullum expressed his delight at the team's "educated punt" on left-arm spinner Tom Hartley, who went from being belted around the park in the first innings to spearheading the team to a historic victory against India, marking a remarkable debut in Test cricket. Hartley's Test debut Test was a rollercoaster, with the 24-year-old left-arm spinner despite conceding 131 runs in the first innings set aside a poor performance to pick a sensational 7-62 as

England clinched a famous 28-run win over India in the Test series opener. Speaking on SEN Radio, McCullum revealed that the decision to include Hartley in the playing XI raised eyebrows, considering his limited first-class experience. "Sometimes you've got to be a little bit brave with your selection as well. If you like a character and if you like the skillset, and you think he is going to suit the conditions, then it's kind of an educated punt." Furthermore, McCullum said he and Ben Stokes were impressed by Hartley's character and skill set during their training sessions in Abu Dhabi before arriving in India. The decision to select him was described as an "educated punt," drawing parallels with the early days of Australian spinner Nathan Lyon, who had a modest first-class record before becoming a stalwart for his national side. "When he picked Tom, people sort of raised their eyebrows a little bit. But let's not forget, I think this is quite a pertinent point, I think Nathan Lyon played only a handful of first-class cricket and averaged 40-odd before he got picked for Australia.



PGTI 2024: Italy's Michele Ortolani shoots 65 for first-round lead at Pre-Qualifying II

Jamshedpur, Jan 30 (IANS) : Michele Ortolani of Italy shot a six-under 65 to seize the first-round lead at Pre-Qualifying II of the PGTI Qualifying School 2024 being played at the Golmuri Golf Course here on Tuesday. The 27-year-old Michele Ortolani, on his first trip to India, was not at his best at the start of his round as he was recovering from a bout of food poisoning. The Milan-based golfer, a regular on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) till last year, thus made a slow start with a birdie and a bogey on his first six holes. Ortolani then hit top gear with some fabulous ball-striking as he picked up eagle-birdie-eagle on the 16th, 17th and 18th. Ortolani finally added two more birdies and a bogey on the front nine.



KIYG 2023: Weightlifter Keerthana sets new National Youth records; Maharashtra crosses 50-gold mark (Corr)

Chennai, Jan 30 (IANS) : Tamil Nadu weightlifter R. P Keerthana broke the National Youth record in Snatch, Clean & Jerk and overall to clinch the gold in girls' 81kg category while table-toppers Maharashtra touched the half-century mark in gold medals in the 6th Khelo India Youth Games 2023 here on Tuesday. Keerthana lifted a total of 188 kgs,

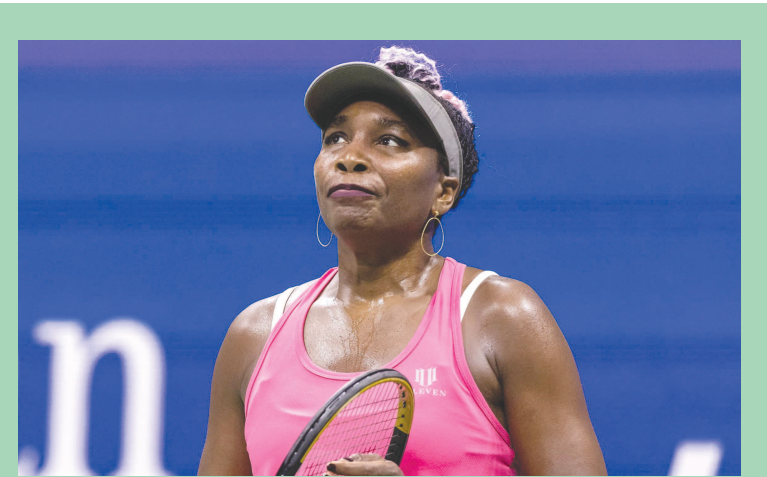
including 85kg in snatch and 103kg (rpt 103kg) in Clean & Jerk to finish ahead of state-mate Oviya K. (184kg) with Uttar Pradesh's Santushti Choudhary taking home the bronze with a total lift of 162kg. The earlier record in Snatch (81kg), Clean & Jerk (104kg) and overall (185kg) were held by Ch. Srilakshmi of Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra added six gold medals to their tally in the morning session, bagging three in archery, two in Kho-kho and the girls' doubles title in badminton. World champion and 2022 Asian Games bronze medallist Aditi Gopichand Swami led the Maharashtra charge at the archery venue in Nehru Park.



Suraj Panwar meets Paris 2024 qualifying mark in 20km race walk event

Chandigarh, Jan 30 (IANS) : Uttarakhand's Suraj Panwar has achieved the qualifying standard for the Paris 2024 Olympics in the men's 20km race walk event at the Indian Open Race Walking Competition, here on Tuesday. Panwar clocked one hour, 19 minutes and 43 seconds (1:19:43.08) to win the silver medal.



'Serena told me I'm not allowed to quit': Venus Williams targeting return for Indian Wells and Miami

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Former World no. 1 Venus Williams is gearing for a comeback during the North American hard-court tennis season. Drawing inspiration from her sister Serena Williams, she is determined to make a successful return to the sport. In a recent video shared on her YouTube channel, the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion expressed her aspirations to par-

ticipate in the WTA 1000 events in Indian Wells and Miami, considering them "big goals". "One of my big goals is to play United States, to play in the Miami Open and at Indian Wells," Williams said. "I have not played there since 2019 due to injuries. It's a long time... It's a lot of years not to play at home. So that's of course one of my big goals on the horizon, is to be there, prepare to do that.



Focusing on process, thinking about the Olympics will build pressure on me : Sreeja Akula

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : India's star paddler Sreeja Akula has said that instead of fixating on results like the Olympics, she prioritises embracing and enjoying the process with passion, striving to get better each day and minimising un-

necessary pressure on herself. Sreeja, earlier this month, won her maiden international title after securing the top spot on the podium in the women's singles event at the WTT Feeder Corpus Christi 2024 in Texas, USA.

Badminton Asia Team C'ships: India men's and women's teams placed in same groups with China

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : The Indian men's team, led by H.S Prannoy in singles and the formidable pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in doubles, finds itself placed in Group A alongside Hong Kong and Asian powerhouse China in a challenging draw for the upcoming Badminton Asia Team Championships.



Chinglensana Singh signs a five-and-a-half-year contract with Bengaluru FC

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) : Indian centre-back Chinglensana Singh has penned a historic five-and-a-half-year contract with Bengaluru FC, marking one of the lengthiest contracts for an Indian footballer to date. This significant development brings to an end Chinglensana's association with beleaguered Hyderabad FC and signals a new chapter in his football journey. The 27-year-old secured the lengthy contract with Bengaluru FC after the All-India Football Federation's (AIFF) player status committee approved four Hyderabad FC players, including Chinglensana, to terminate their existing contracts and seek new opportunities before the transfer window closes on January 31.