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Tendulkar's Kashmir visit to boost local crafts, bat industry

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Piramal Finance launches its first all-women branch in Hyderabad

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Salaries in India to increase by 9.5% in 2024; infra, manufacturing sectors lead

Salaries in India are expected to increase by 9.5 per cent this year as industries such as infrastructure and manufacturing continue to project robust growth, a report showed on Wednesday. 07



Medaram Jatara begins with fanfare

Mulugu, Feb 21 (IANS) : The four-day tribal fair, Sammakka Saralamma Jatara, popularly known as Medaram Jatara, began on Wednesday with scores of

devotees paying obeisance to the tribal deities. The jatara got underway with the customary arrival of goddess Sarakka from Kannepally village to the main shrine at Medaram.

The rituals began late Tuesday evening with the tribal priests performing rituals at a small temple at Kannepally located four kilometres from Medaram invoking goddesses onto them before

coming out of the temple. The tribal priests brought a casket of vermilion and bamboo stick wrapped in red cloth symbolising Sammakka and after three days, they will take back the deities and leave them in the forest until the next Jatara.

The deity was accorded traditional honours by tribal priests and district officials. The police had difficulty in escorting the tribal priests bringing deity Sarakka as devotees tried to touch the feet of the priests.



Modi extends greetings on start of Sammakka-Sarakka Jathara

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended greetings on the start of the Sammakka-Sarakka Medaram Jathara, one of the largest tribal festivals. Modi also paid tributes to Sammakka-Sarakka and recalled the spirit of unity and valour they personify.



Bhatti asks Singareni management to issue notifications to fill 485 vacant posts

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Following directions from Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu to immediately issue notifications to fill 317 direct recruitment posts and 168 internal recruitment posts lying vacant in the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), the company management on Wednesday announced that it would issue notifications to fill these posts on Thursday.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the Energy Minister portfolio, held a high-level review meeting with senior officials of Singareni on the development and welfare programmes, asked the Chairman and Managing Director of the company N Balram to speed up the process of recruitment in the company and provide at least 1,000 jobs.

CM Revanth reiterates all kinds of support to investors, entrepreneur in Telangana

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has reiterated that the State government will extend all kinds of support to the investors and entrepreneurs in Telangana. The Chief Minister attended a CII Telangana & TDF - USA conference on

Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy said the State government's policy is to promote the Telangana to compete with other fast developing countries in the world.



Komatireddy accuses Kishan of showing discrimination towards Telangana

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has accused Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy of showing discrimination towards Telangana in allocation of funds to various proposals.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, the Minister said that he requested Union Minister Kishan Reddy to sanction Rs.200 crores for building a ropeway on Bhuvanagiri Fort four years ago, but there was no response from the Union Minister.

"Kishan Reddy kept the file close to him for four years, but could not sanction even Rs.200 crores for his own State. He should stop making derogatory remarks against the Congress government and allocate funds for the proposals received from the Telangana government," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said.

DGP Ravi Gupta Felicitates Winners Of All India Police Duty Meet

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Telangana Director General of Police Ravi Gupta felicitated the winners of the All India Police Duty Meet, who won the overall championship (Charminar Trophy), at a special function held at the State Police Headquarters on Wednesday.



I stand by my allegations : NVSS Prabhakar

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (NSS) : Former BJP MLA NVSS Prabhakar has reacted to the allegations levelled by him against Deepadas Munshi, in-charge of Telangana Congress party's State affairs. Speaking to media persons at

the BJP State party office here, he made it clear that he stood by the allegations levelled against Munshi. "I will answer only if Deepa Das Munshi or the leaders, who gave her the gift, respond and show the evidence," he said.



Japanese Delegation Meets Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : A delegation from Marubeni Corporation, a Japanese conglomerate, called on Minister for Industries and ITE&C D Sridhar Babu here on Wednesday. They discussed to explore opportunities for developing a high technology industrial park in the State, encompassing world class infrastructure with a potential to attract global manufacturing industry to Telangana.

Jagan Participates In Purnahuti Ceremony Of Sharada Peetham

Visakhapatnam, Feb.21 (IANS) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy attended the anniversary celebrations of Sri Sharada Peetham in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. He participated in the purnahuti ceremony organized as part of rajashyamala yagam.



Piramal Finance launches its first all-women branch in Hyderabad

Secunderabad, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, widely recognized as Piramal Finance and a wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited ('PEL'), today announced the launch of its first all-women branch in Hyderabad at D.No : 8-1-8, 1st Floor, Kura Homes Pvt Ltd, S.D Road, Near Clock Tower, Secunderabad 500 003. The branch has been inaugurated by PraneetSoni, Head-HR, Piramal Finance. The 'Maitreyi' branch in Secunderabad in Hyderabad, will offer a range of services,

including home loans and MSME loans, with the potential for additional features based on customer demand and preferences. This branch is part of Piramal Finance's strategic expansion plan, which includes opening branches in key cities like Ajmer Road in Rajasthan, Mohali in Punjab, Tripunithur in Kerala, Chattarpur in New Delhi and Mumbai in Maharashtra. These locations have been thoughtfully selected to ensure they align with the needs and preferences of our valued customers, as well as to support Piramal Finance's overarching business strategy and cater to our target markets.

With the addition of new branches, Piramal Finance now has 14 full service branches in Hyderabad and 25 branches in Telanganacovering markets like Warangal, Karim Nagar, Nizamabad, Khammam etc. With this, the company is looking at a 500-600 strong branch network across 1,000 locations as it expands to small towns in India. Appropriately named 'Maitreyi,' this branch exemplifies the company's unwavering commitment to fostering diversity and providing women with equal opportunities in the workforce. 'Maitreyi' holds great significance as it represents a wise, intelligent



and knowledgeable lady, embodying the company's belief in the remarkable talent and potential of women professionals who will shape their own destinies while serving customers' financial needs. With the inauguration of the 'Maitreyi' branch in Hyderabad, Piramal Finance aims to inspire women nationwide and promote diversity.

TPE announces a Workshop on Stand-Up India Scheme of GoI on 23rd February, 2024 at 10 am at its Osmania University campus

Hyderabad, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : The Institute of Public Enterprise, Shamirpet, Hyderabad is organizing an ICSSR sponsored Workshop on the "Impact of Stand-Up India on Marginalized Sections - A Comparative Study of Women Entrepreneurs in Select States of India" at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Osmania University Campus, on 23rd February, 2024 at 10.00 am.

The objective of the workshop is to create awareness about the Stand-Up India Scheme launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5 April 2016 as part of the Government's efforts to support entrepreneurship among women and marginalized communities. The workshop will discuss the findings of the research study.

The workshop is chaired by Prof. S Sreenivasa Murthy, Director, Institute of Public Enterprise, Shamirpet,

Hyderabad. The eminent speakers include Mrs. Aruna Dasari, Industrialist and President of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), Telangana Chapter, Mrs. Karuna Gopal Vartakavi, Founder President of Foundation for Futuristic Cities and Distinguished Advisor for Women Policies in India and Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) India and Mr. Ganti Kamalakar, Assistant General Manager of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Loan Point, Union Bank of India, Hyderabad, Dr. M Karthik, Project Director and Coordinator will give a presentation on the findings of the research report. The workshop is free with mandatory registration. The workshop will also be attended by select existing and aspiring entrepreneurs. For more information on workshop you can reach Dr. Vasanthi Donthi, Project Director or Dr. M Karthik at 93465 15819.

Bank of Baroda

Branch: Vijayanagar Colony, No 10/3/677, Opp: Post Office, Hyderabad-500057.

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 28-11-2023 calling upon the borrowers/guarantors/ mortgagors/ partners: 1. M/s. Streamline Facility Services, 2. Mr. Doswada Raju, S/o Mr. Narsimhulu Dandam, 3. Mrs. Kamala Bai Hanuman Singh, W/o Doswada Raju to repay the amount mentioned in the notice aggregating Rs.31,91,938.72 (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight and Paise Seventy Two only) + Int from 31.10.2023 + other Charges, minus Recovery if any within 60 days from the date of the receipt of said notice. Having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower / guarantors 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 Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the 17th Day of February of the year 2024. The Borrowers attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Partners and guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Nagar Colony Branch for an amount of being Rs.31,91,938.72 (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight and Paise Seventy Two only) + interest thereon and other expenses thereon minus recovery if any.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Land & Building on Plot No.2, Survey No.308, Nagarguda, Thallapally Village, Shabad Mandal, R.R.District. Boundaries of Flat: North: Plot No.3 Land of Vendor, South: Plot No.1, East: Shadnagar to Chevella Road, West: Land of Vendor

Date: 17-02-2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad Bank of Baroda

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, Ghanoli, Navi Mumbai-400710 Branch office WARANGAL-I

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. 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.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is a provide 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, Ghanoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at WARANGAL-I (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/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) :

1) Venkanna Pesetti S/o.Rajaram, Age : 57 Years, Occ : Builder, R/O.H.No.5-5-136/A5, Musthafa Nagar, Khammam (Urban) Dist - 507 001. And Also At Venkanna Pesetti S/O.Rajaram, Age : 57 Years, # Open Plot No.114 And Part Of Plot No.115, Sy.No.174, Pakabanda Revunue Village, Khammam Urban Mandal, Khammam District.2) Pesetti Sarojini W/o.Venkanna, Age : 51 Years, R/O.H.No.5-5-136/A5, Musthafa Nagar, Khammam (Urban) Dist - 507 001. And Also At Pesetti Sarojini W/O.Venkanna, Age : 51 Years, # Open Plot No.114 And Part Of Plot No.115, Sy.No.174, Pakabanda Revunue Village, Khammam Urban Mandal, Khammam District. 3) Bayana Laxman S/o.Kumara Swamy, Age : 38 Years, R/O.H.No.5-2-248/E/18, Bonakal Road, Musthafa Nagar, Khammam (Urban) Dist - 507 001. NPA Date: 08-11-2019 Date of Demand Notice:08-02-2024 Outstanding Amount :Rs.34,64,150/- Loan Amount Rs.20,00,000/-

WARNTF1603310010-Description Of The Immovable Property: (Property Holder Name Is Pesetti Venkanna & Pesetti Sarojini Mortgage Deed Dated 07.04.2016 Registered As Document No.3374/2016. On the File of the office of Sub-Registrar at Khammam (R.O.)Part of Open Plot Bearing No.114 and part of Plot No.115 of measuring to an extent of 106.00 Sq.Yards or 88.62 Sq.Mtrs in and out of Sy.No.174 Situated at Pakabanda Revunue Village, Khammam Urban Mandal, Khammam District, Bounded By :- East : Municipal Road, West : House Of Azizi Miya Bearing H.No.5-5-139/3 In Part of Plot No.114, North : Part of Plot No.114 and new house constructed by Bandaru Ramesh in Part of Plot No.115 South : Municipal Road
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:21-02-2024 Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

CAN FIN HOMES LTD. DEMAND NOTICE

Address: First Floor, H.No.MIG-58, Phase-2, P R Pally Village, Sangareddy Dist.-502295. Tel Ph: 08455-277550, Mob: 7625079234, email: sangareddy@canfinhomes.com

Notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules).

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

No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors with address	Amount claimed as per Demand Notice *	Schedule of the Mortgaged Property	Date of NPA:
1	Mrs. Terudalli Indira (Borrower), W/o. Terudalli Nagabhushanam, H.No.14-36 120 sq.yds Narsapur Toen and Mandal, Sangareddy. Also at: 4-4-55/1, Pathakeri Sadashivpet, Medak-502291. Also at: H.No.4-55/1, Pathakeri Sadashivpet, Medak-502291. 2) Mr. Terudalli Nagabhushanam (Co-Borrower), S/o. Chandrappa, H.No.4-55/1, Pathakeri, Sadashivpet, Medak-502291. Also at: 14-36 120, Sq.yds Narsapur Town and Mandal, Sangareddy.	Rs. 18,99,929/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Nineteen Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Only)	All that the House being H.No.14-36 admeasuring 120 sq.yds, with an plinth area 1600 sft, roof covered with RCC thus, Narsapur Village & Mandal Sangareddy, Sangareddy District and Bounded by: Boundaries: North: Mori & land of Manuja, South: Municipality road, East: 4 wide ser & house of Solamma, West: House of Fakeeruddin.	29-01-2024
2	Mr. Shek Kareem (Borrower), S/o. Shaik Ameer, H.No.5-6-68/4, Near Dist. Court Jalalbhag, Sangareddy-502001. Also at: H.No.6-5-92/5 120 Sq.yds, Someshwara Wada, Sangareddy Town Mandal, Sangareddy-502001. Also at: Office of the Executive Engineer MB Intra Division, Sangareddy-502001. Mrs. Ahmed Begum (Co-Borrower), W/o. Shek Kareem, H.No.5-6-68/4, Near Dist. Court Jalalbhag, Sangareddy-502001. Also at: H.No.6-5-92/5, 120 Sq.yds, Someshwara Wada, Sangareddy Town Mandal, Sangareddy-502001.	Rs.23,75,602/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred Two Only)	All that the House being H.No.6-5-92/5 admeasuring 120 sq.yds, with an plinth area 1080 sft, roof covered with RCC thus total plinth area 1080 sft, Someshwara Wada, Sangareddy-502001, Sangareddy District and Bounded by: Boundaries: North: House no.6-5-92/1 after 4 ser, South: House No. 6-5-92/1, 2 after 4 ser, East: Talab, West: 25 wide road.	29-01-2024

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

Date: 21.02.2024, Place: Sangareddy - Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Stuck in the murder case

- Victims of Sirisilla area freed after 18 years of efforts
- Two who reached home on Wednesday, two who are already on their way home, the other one is due in a month
- A special initiative of former Minister, Sirisilla MLA KTR



Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Residents of Rajanna Sirisilla district, who went to Dubai for employment and were accidentally caught in a murder case and spent 18 years in prison, have finally been freed. In the country, five victims have been jailed in areas where our language is not ours, while many others have received help, two residents of the district have already been released from jail, and the latest two from Pedduru reached home on Wednesday. Another person will reach home in another month. Former minister Sirisilla legislator K Taraka Rama Rao took a special initiative this morning and the Dubai court granted amnesty. After 18 years of imprisonment, the victims have returned home. Among the 5 district residents who have been in jail for 18 years, Dandungula Laxman from Konaraopet mandal of Rajanna Sirisilla district was released from Dubai jail two months ago. Another one, Shivratri Hanmantu of Rudrangi mandal Manala village was released two days ago and reached home. At present, the residents of the district have gone home with the amnesty of the Dubai court. Recently, two brothers named Shivratri Mallesham and Ravi from Pedduru village under Sirisilla Municipal reached Swarastate on Wednesday, 21st of this month. Another person from Chandurthi Mandal, Venkatesh, will be released next month, family members revealed. Meanwhile, former minister Sirisilla MLA KTR arranged flight tickets for all

of them. The family members burst into tears when the jailbirds met their family members after 18 years. Meanwhile, if we go into the precedents of this example, Golam Nampally from Chandurthi mandal, Hanumandlu from Shivratri and Dandungula Lakshman from Konaraopet village went to Dubai. Six months after leaving, a watchman named Bahadur Singh from Nepal was murdered. The five residents of the district working there are involved in the case. The police did not know what was said because the language was not good, but the sentence was proved and the Dubai court initially sentenced him to ten years in prison. After going to appeal, 25 years sentence was imposed. According to the laws of Dubai, there is a possibility of release if the family members of the murdered person beg for forgiveness, in 2011, MLA KTR took the initiative and went to Nepal once.



Gananga Vivekananda Vidyaniketan School Anniversary

Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Annual celebrations at Vivekananda Vidyanikethan Pathshala in Ashokanagar, Sirisilla town, Rajanna Sirisilla District "Cultural programs were organized by the children in this annual celebration. Part of this is Telangana culture, our festivals, festivals, arts related to Indian culture, RRR concept, village tour life style related to Balagam movie, relationship between people, relationship with

mother and father, baby dance of little children, duet songs, The celebrations were held in grandeur with scenes showing the importance of trees. D.EO Ramesh Kumar as the chief guest, MEO Raghupathi, 38-Ward Councilor Guduru Bhaskar, Says Town One Director Diddi Ramadevi, School Correspondent Diddi Srinivas, Principal Bucharao, Mahender Reddy C, parents, students and teachers participated in this program.



Armored arrangements for inter and ten examinations

- Mobile phones and electronic items are prohibited
- Additional Collector Khimya Nayak in review with officials of various departments

Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Rajanna Sirisilla Additional Collector (Revenue) Khimya Nayak ordered the officials of the respective departments to make proper arrangements for the conduct of Intermediate and Class X examinations. The Additional Collector held a review meeting with officials of various departments on Tuesday in his chamber in the

complex of integrated district offices on the conduct of Intermediate and Class X examinations. "On this occasion, Additional Collector Khimya Nayak said that examination centers should be cleaned, drinking water should be provided and medical personnel should be made available. He ordered that the medical staff should keep tablets and ORS packets ready.



Saree woven with gold and silver for Renuka Ellamma's mother

Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Sirisilla weaver Veldi Hariprasad looms a gold and silver saree for Renuka Ellamma's mother. If we go into the details, after a month ago the order was given to Sirisilla weaver artist Hariprasad to weave a silver and gold saree for Renuka Ellamma's marriage.



CM Dhami seeks land in Ayodhya for Uttarakhand guest house

Lucknow, Feb 21 (IANS) : Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has requested Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to provide land in Ayodhya for a guest house for Uttarakhand.

“Uttarakhand will build a guest house in Ayodhya as every Ram devotee of Uttarakhand wants to come to Ayodhya,” he told IANS. Dhami said the relationship between Ayodhya and Uttarakhand is deep and people of Uttarakhand will always come to Ayodhya. The CM and his cabinet colleagues visited Ayodhya on Tuesday to offer prayers at the Ram temple.

“Shri Ram has an unbroken connection with Uttarakhand. The Lord’s father, Dashrath performed the ritual to have a child on the banks of the Saryu River in Bageshwar district. When Shri Ram returned to Ayodhya from Lanka and became Maryada Purushottam Ram, he performed pitru yagya in the Raghunath temple of Devprayag,” he said.



Suwendu Adhikari challenges senior cop to prove his allegations on 'turban' comment

Kolkata, Feb 21 (IANS) : Hours after the ADG (South Bengal) of West Bengal Police, Supratim Sarkar, accused a section of the BJP legislators of passing a comment relating to the turban of an IPS officer, the leader of opposition in the state Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, challenged Sarkar to prove his allegations within 24 hours. Adhikari also threatened to initiate legal proceedings against Sarkar if he is unable to prove his charges in the next 24 hours. Earlier on Wednesday, there was a heated exchange of

words between the Special Superintendent (Intelligence Branch) Jaspreet Singh and BJP legislator Agnimitra Paul after Singh accused Paul of passing a comment relating to his turban. “You are making such a comment that is pertaining to my religion. Is this just because I am wearing a turban? I will take action on this,” Singh told the fashion designer-turned-politician. However, Paul denied the allegation, saying: “I did not say anything about your religion.”

Rashly-driven truck hits flyover railing in Delhi, one dead

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : A man sitting on the passenger side of a truck died after the rashly-driven vehicle lost control and collided with the railing on a flyover in south Delhi on Wednesday, police said. The deceased was identified as Hansram, a resident of Uttar Pradesh’s Hardoi district. The impact of the collision was so strong that the vehicle’s door on the passenger side got detached and fell off the flyover, while Hansram also got trapped between the railing and the truck. A police official said information regarding the incident was received at Badarpur Police Station and a police team sent to the spot and found the accident-struck vehicle. “On inquiry, it was revealed that Hansram had been injured and subsequently shifted to Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar.



Kashmir highways closed due to heavy snowfall

Srinagar, Feb 21 (IANS) : All roads leading into Kashmir remained closed for traffic on Wednesday due to heavy snowfall and torrential rains in J&K during the last 48 hours. Traffic department officials said

that due to landslides at multiple places on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, traffic has been suspended. All intending travellers have been advised not to undertake the journey before contacting the traffic

control rooms in Srinagar and Jammu. Efforts to clear the highway have been started, officials added. Meanwhile, all other highways leading into the Valley like the Mughal Road, Sinthan-Kishtwar road.

K'taka: Suspension of SI not possible, action only after report says Cong; BJP hits back

Bengaluru, Feb 21 (IANS) : After a massive political storm erupted over a social media post against the Varanasi judge in Karnataka, the Congress on Wednesday outrightly rejected the demand of suspension of the Sub-Inspector (SI) of Police, Tanveer Hussain while the BJP has warned that the Congress government will be held responsible for disturbing law and order in the state. The BJP earlier on Wednesday raised this issue during the Zero Hour in the state Assembly. Opposition leader R. Ashoka, former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, among others, demanded that thousands of advocates were protesting, demanding suspension of the SI of Ijoor police station, Tanveer

Hussain, for filing FIRs against 40 advocates. Former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP MLA, C.N. Ashwath Narayan said: “PFI workers’ conduct in the case is “unacceptable”. The law is misused. The concerned SI Tanveer Hussain, though he is a lower-rung officer there is a situation where the top police officers have to listen to him. The matter should not be taken as a matter of prestige.” Karnataka Home Minister, G. Parameshwara, replied to the BJP, saying, “I have understood the seriousness of the matter and it can lead to many other developments. I appeal to the counsels and office bearers of Advocates’ Association to call off the protest and cooperate.”



UP girl ends life a day before her Class 10 exam

Lucknow, Feb 21 (IANS) : A 16-year-old girl allegedly ended her life by suicide, a day ahead of her first Board exam for Class 10. The young student was found dead at her residence in the Para area of Lucknow on Wednesday. Her relatives said that despite efforts to save her, she was declared brought dead at the KGMU Trauma Centre. According to additional deputy commissioner of police Vishwajeet Srivastava, the incident came to light when the victim’s mother, who is the principal in the same school where her daughter studied, returned home in the evening to find her daughter unconscious. With the help of neighbours, she rushed the girl to a nearby private hospital before transferring her to KGMU. Srivastava said that the girl’s father is a bishop. The father expressed his disbelief, describing his daughter as a brilliant student excelling not only academically but also in extracurricular activities.

Media open Tribal Museum at Medaram

Medaram, Feb 21 (TIM Bureau) : Media Release 21.02.2024 Exhibition Stall at local Tribal museum displaying different types of products made of bamboo, wooden material, clay and paper that is, tooth brushes, ear buds, pens, glasses, plates, cake cutting knives, teacups made of clay are being displayed for creating awareness among pilgrims and people about harmful effects of Plastic and displaying alternatives to Single Use Plastics. People are called upon to stop using products made from single use plastic and adopt natural products made from clay wood, paper and bamboo in day to day life which will safe guard the health and protect environment.

Street plays in the form of kalajatha are also conducted at Jatara site creating awareness among pilgrims on impacts of using Singleuse plastic on human and animal health, air and water pollution. Staff and officials of PCB are participating in and conducting these awareness programs at Sammakka Saralamma Jatara in Medaram.



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

DEMAND NOTICE
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/465/2017 07-02-2024

State Bank of India
Versus
M/s. Arrow New Industries and Another

To
(CD 1) M/s. Arrow New Industries, Rep. by its Partners Sri R. Ramulu, S/o. R. Rajalah, Shed No.60, Phase-II, IDA, Cherlapally, Hyderabad-500051.
(CD 2) M/s. Arrow New Industries, Rep. by its Partners Smt. R. Padmaja, W/o. R. Ramulu, Shed No.60, Phase-II, IDA, Cherlapally, Hyderabad-500051.

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/503/2014 an amount of Rs.67,72,192.00 (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Seventy Two Thousands One Hundred Ninety Two Only) along with pendente lite and future interest as per Recovery Certificate w.e.f. 29.12.2016 till realization and costs of Rs.0 (Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/ Limited).

2. 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.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 27/03/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.
(b) 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: 07/02/2024
Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Hyderabad (DRT 2)

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Shiram Transport Finance Company 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

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Formerly know as 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 dt.30-11-2022) 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 8 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 20th day of February, 2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) Vijay Kumar Vaddem S/o Seshagiri Rao, Age:44yrs, Occu:Vijay Granite Industries, R/o:Plot No.502, 5th Floor, Sanskruthi Apartments, VDO's Colony, Khammam. Pincode:507158	Rs.61,14,199/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakhs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Nine only)
2) Vaddem Renuka Devi W/o Vijay Kumar, Age:42yrs, R/o:H.No.2-13, Post office Line, Mudigonda, Khammam. Pincode:507158	
3) Reddiboina Srinivasa Rao S/o Saidulu, Age:42yrs, Occu:Saw Mill, R/o:H.No.8-2-57, Balaji Nagar, Khanapuram Haveli, Khammam. Pincode:507002	

Property Holder Name:Vaddem Vijay Kumar,Vaddem Renuka Devi With Document No: 6253/2015 Item No.1)The Open House Plots Bearing Nos. 14 To 25 In Total Measuring to 1849.75 Sq.Yards. Out of Sy.No.160/A/3 Situated at Mudigonda village and Mandal of Khammam District. Bounded By: towards East : Land of Vaddem Venkateshwarlu towards West : 25 Feet Proposed Road, towards North :25 Feet Proposed Road], Towards South : Land of Vaddem Venkateshwarlu. Item No.2) The Open House Plots Bearing Nos. 26 To 32,60 And 61 In Total Measuring To 1896.66 Sq.Yards, out of Sy.No.160/A/3 Situated At Mudigonda Village and Mandal of Khammam District. Bounded By: Towards East : 25 Feet Proposed Road, Towards West : 25 Feet Proposed Road And Plot No.62 And 68, Towards North : 25 Feet Proposed Road, Towards South :Land of Vaddem Venkateshwarlu And Plot No.62.

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 dead with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place: Mudigonda Date: 20-02-2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer Shiram Finance Limited



PM Modi sanctions 32-km-long Puri-Konark railway project: Ashwini Vaishnav

Bhubaneswar, Feb 21 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sanctioned a new railway line project to connect the holy city of Puri with Konark. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Union Railways Minister

Ashwini Vaishnav said that PM Modi has sanctioned the Puri-Konark railway line project, a long-standing demand of the state.

MALAKPET BRANCH: 16-02-677/2 & 2/1, Judges Colony, Malakpet, Hyderabad-500036.

DEMAND NOTICE

All of you the under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against each of you under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the notice under Section 13 (2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by Registered Post ACK. Due has been returned. Hence you are here by called upon to take notice to pay the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against the below mentioned property to realise its dues with interest and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of NPA/ Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Description of the Property
1	1) Mr. K Uma Maheswara Raju, Plot No.73 & 74, Sri Rama RTC Colony, Street No.2, Peerzadiguda, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist.-500098. 2) Mr. Nalka Sharat, H.No.17-3-18, Addagutta, East Maredpalli, Secunderabad-500026. A/c. No.: 862775110000027	NPA Date: 22-05-2023 Demand Notice 15-11-2023	Rs.8,83,605/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Eighty Three Thousands Six Hundred Five) + Interest from 22-05-2023 (contractual dues up to the date of notice) with further interest @ 9.85% p.a. compounded with monthly rests compounded with monthly rests, and all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank, till repayment by you	a) Equitable Mortgage of residential house bearing H.No.19-73, on Plot No.73 & 74, measuring 280.00 Sq.yards in Survey No.125/A, 125/A/1, 126/A, 126/A/1, 125 & 126 situated at Street No.2, Sri Rama RTC Colony, Peerzadiguda, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist., Telangana State in the name of Mr. K. Uma Maheswara Raju.

Date: 20.02.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

OPINIONmail



INDIA'S SPACE INDUSTRY SOARS WITH SURGE IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL LAUNCHES

India is gearing up for an ambitious schedule of up to 30 space missions over the next 15 months, highlighting its plans for a substantial increase in both civilian and commercial space endeavours. These missions, scheduled for the remaining days in the current fiscal as also the entire 2024-25 fiscal year, will encompass a variety of objectives including scientific research, commercial ventures, missions funded by users, and demonstrations of new technologies. Among these, seven trial flights will support India's Gaganyaan manned space mission, while nine additional missions will be conducted under the supervision of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Additionally, 14 launches are allocated for the emerging commercial space industry in India, coordinated by New Space India Limited (NSIL). Of these, seven are slated for launch vehicles including four Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs), one Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) which is typically utilized for reaching geostationary orbit, and two launches using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The remaining seven launches are designated for trials by private sector entities.

In the realm of private ventures, there are plans for both suborbital and orbital missions by commercial companies such as Agnikul Cosmos, which will be launching the AgnibaanSOrTeD (Suborbital Tech Demonstrator), and Skyroot Aerospace with its Vikram-1 rocket. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), an autonomous entity affiliated with the Department of Space created for the encouragement, regulation, and supervise of commercial space activities, disclosed the launch schedule on February 8. This schedule detailed past and future missions, including the early January mission that successfully launched an X-ray astronomy satellite, and the forthcoming mission of the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite. The latter is scheduled for launch aboard GSLV-F14 at 17.35 hrs on February 17. Following the introduction of a new national space policy in 2023 aimed at transforming India into a global space center, these plans reflect an expanding space sector with an increase in private sector participation. However, India's ambitious launch schedule faces several hurdles. These include having only one functioning space launch center, the challenge of managing numerous missions from human spaceflight, NSIL, military operations, and private initiatives all at once, as well as issues with the supply chain. These issues affect the ability to produce a large number of launch vehicles and satellites. Srinivasan Chandrasekhar, a visiting professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), shared these insights with SpaceNews. According to the schedule details, there's significant unpredictability about achieving the outlined launch goals. Srinivasan suggests that a more realistic expectation might be achieving 10 to 12 launches within the 15-month timeframe. Achieving even this reduced number would still be considered a noteworthy success.

Especially concerning are the commercial initiatives. The companies involved are currently conducting development flights, which introduces a lot of uncertainty regarding their ability to adhere to the planned schedule. Srinivasan pointed out that, of the seven additional launches mentioned in the schedule, only two have confirmed payloads. He believes that, even with an optimistic view towards securing more launch contracts, it's improbable that the targets set by NSIL will be reached.

There are promising prospects as well. The launch of the European Space Agency's Proba 3 mission, planned for the third quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, could once again highlight the capabilities of India's PSLV on the international stage. Srinivasan also mentions that launches similar to those done for OneWeb using the LVM-3 launcher could further enhance India's reputation in space.

(By Girish Linganna)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL KNOWS HOW TO TURN A CRISIS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is running circles around the Bharatiya Janata Party. Around the Modi government. Around the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate. Even around a court. Pinning Kejriwal to an ED summons for questioning in the Delhi liquor scam case is proving to be impossible. But more than frustration, there is admiration for the manner in which Kejriwal has been giving the BJP boast "Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai" the short-shrift. The fact that three top AAP leaders are behind bars with chances of bail whittled down to hardly likelihood, Arvind Kejriwal's accomplishment of avoiding central investigating agencies' summons and whatever consequences thereof is something to take to the Guinness. As of now, the confidence level in AAP is the highest it will ever be. Isn't it quaint that Kejriwal used a self-imposed motion of no-confidence against his government to drum up confidence in him and prevent a court from hauling him to its august presence?



SOUTH AFRICA HEADING FOR THE COUNTRY'S BITTEREST NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN THIRTY YEARS

South Africa, the most politically important nation in the African continent, is heading towards its national elections by the end of 2024 which promises to be the fiercest polls since the establishment of democracy in the country in 1994 after the abolition of apartheid.

The African National Congress (ANC) has been ruling the nation since 1994 when Nelson Mandela became the president as the head of the ANC which led the liberation struggle against the British rulers. The ANC from the beginning was a platform of freedom fighters of different shades of political persuasion. South African Communist Party (SACP) which took a prominent part in the anti-apartheid struggle, has been a part of the

ruling ANC all along and its leaders held positions of ministers in the government of ANC. The SACP members, however are in the government as ANC members and they fight elections also on ANC ballot. Another participant in the triple alliance is the trade union body COSATU. SACP has been fighting inside the ANC government for the implementation of its programme. Some demands were approved, some were not, but SACP members remained loyal to the ANC regime.

TORIES EMBATTLED IN STRONGHOLDS OVER SUNAK'S MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

Even before the results for the two parliamentary seats were formally made public, the message was moving around the British political and social circles that Conservatives are set for losing Wellingborough and Kingswood, supposed to be their safe seats. A deeper look into the reasons would make it clear that the outcome could not be construed as defeat for Tories or a win for Labour. Instead, it is a manifestation of no-trust in the policies and style of functioning of the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Though the top Tory leader-

ship is maintaining a passive silence on their next move and continuance of Sunak in office till the final general election is held, what is absolutely clear is that he has lost the support of the decision-makers and Conservative financiers.

Tory donors nurse the feeling that Sunak has lost touch with the ground and is more interested in toeing USA's political and economic line than working to find solutions to the problems faced by average Britons. The results reflect double trouble for the British-Indian leader, as the Conservatives had won both seats by decisive margins in the last general election under Boris Johnson in



December 2019.

Sunak trying to identify with the rightist ideas and policies of the USA has severely damaged his reputation and image. Notably, a section of UK media likes to describe him "British-Indian". What does it imply? There is a lurking impression that he is too close to

the rightist Indian leader Narendra Modi. Of course, the Conservative party has strong political lineage in the rightist ideology and philosophy, but its leadership isn't as orthodox in their approach and functioning as Modi.

(IPA Service)

DESPITE IN ED CUSTODY, FORMER CM HEMANT SOREN IS CONTROLLING HIS PARTY

Hemant Soren looked every bit of the son of soil in a white kurta-pyjama and red 'gamcha' around his neck — a departure from the 'smart casual' western attire that he usually sports—as he arrived at the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha on February 5 to take part in the vote of confidence for the Champai Soren government. The proceedings were necessitated by Hemant's resignation as chief minister just before his dramatic arrest by the Enforcement Directorate on the night of January 31 in connection with the alleged irregularities in a land purchase in Ranchi. Still in ED custody, Hemant was at the centre of the discussion on the floor of the house. He made an emotive speech, playing up his tribal identity speech, and dubbing the ED action as political vendetta by 'anti tribal' BJP. "If they feel that by putting me behind the bars they will succeed in their AIM of finishing an Adivasi leader or finishing the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, they are mistaken", he declared.



FARM LABOUR, SALARIED WORKERS ARE AGITATED OVER DENIAL OF ADEQUATE PENSION

Farm labours have joined the ongoing farmers' agitation, and one of their demands is introduction of pension coverage. They suffered even police atrocities on Haryana and Delhi boarders under BJP's rule which triggered a call for all India rural strike action on February 16. Majority of Central Trade Unions also participated in this strike action supporting all the demands including pension coverage for farmers, agriculture labours, with their additional demand for pension coverage for entire workforce in the country, and adequate pension to salaried workers who are agitated over denial by Modi government to increase their minimum pension from Rs 1000 per month.

Government employees across the states have been agitating for quite some time for restoration of old pension scheme, since they feel cheated under new pension scheme introduced by Union Government led by BJP in 2004 and many of them had been getting a paltry monthly pension amount in the range of Rs 2000-Rs 4000, after 18 years of service in 2022.

During their agitations they had claimed that they would should be getting a minimum pension of Rs 9000 per month apart from other benefits. The issue has been figuring in all the elections thereafter.

Only a week ago, Union Ministry of Finance has turned down a request to increase the monthly minimum pension under the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000, showing the insensitivity of the Modi government towards the workforce, since such a low amount is too little to survive in the old age for a worker after working entire life contributing to development of the nation. The EPS is handled under Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), under which there were only 7.55 million pensioners as per the Annual Report for 2022-23.



French navy shoots down two drones over Red Sea

Paris, Feb 21 (IANS) : The French Navy has shot down two aerial drones from Yemen over the Red Sea where Houthi attacks have targeted international commercial vessels, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces said. The French Multi-Mission Frigates detected multiple drone attacks from Yemen in their respective patrol zones in the Gulf of Aden and the southern Red Sea. Two drones were destroyed," said

the Ministry on Wednesday in a statement. The French Navy's operation contributed to the objective of the operation launched by the European Union, the statement added. On Wednesday, Brussels announced that it launched a naval mission, codenamed "ASPIDES", meaning shield in Greek, in the Red Sea and the Gulf regions to safeguard its commercial and security interests, Xinhua news agency reported. France has

deployed the Alsace, a frigate with air defence capabilities, and the Languedoc, an anti-submarine frigate, in the zone, reported French media. On Wednesday, the Houthi military said it would continue launching missile attacks against Israel-linked commercial vessels and Israel-bound ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and would only stop if Israel halts its aggression on the Palestinian enclave of the Gaza Strip.

12 Palestinians killed in Israeli attack on residential area in Gaza

Gaza, Feb 21 (IANS) : At least 12 Palestinians were killed during an Israeli attack on a residential square in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian medical sources. The medical sources told Xinhua news agency that "the Palestinian civil defence crews transported 12 bodies of Palestinians and dozens of wounded after targeting several homes in the Nuseirat camp, which was crowded

with displaced people". "The bodies of the victims arrived in pieces at a local hospital, while the wounded were transferred to the hospital to receive treatment amid great suffering due to the running out of medicines and the limited number of medical staff present in the hospital," the sources said. The sources added that they are facing "extreme difficulty" in dealing with the large number of victims arriving at hospitals.



In a message from jail, Imran terms Pak polls as 'mother of all rigging'

Rawalpindi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan said on Wednesday that the PTI chief has termed the February 8 general elections in Pakistan as "mother of all rigging", a media report said. Aleema met her brother at the Adiala Jail on Wednesday. Talking to mediapersons afterwards, Aleema said the public's mandate was "stolen" in the aftermath of the elections, Dawn reported. She also said that Imran Khan strongly condemned the suspension of internet service, which he claimed was being used to "hide the real results".

Nikki Haley says she's not dropping out of Republican primary race

Washington, Feb 21 (IANS): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley, former US ambassador to the United Nations and former Governor of South Carolina, has said that she is not dropping out of the race. Haley made the remarks on Wednesday in a "State of the Race" address in Greenville, South Carolina, just days ahead of the Republican primary in the southeastern state, where she served as the first female Governor from 2011 to 2017, Xinhua news agency reported. "When the country's future is on the line, you don't drop out.

You keep fighting. In fact, you fight harder than ever. That's why I refuse to quit," she said in the speech delivered at Clemson University at Greenville ONE. "South Carolina will vote on Saturday. But on Sunday, I'll still be running for President. I'm not going anywhere," she added. Haley, who is trying to challenge former President Donald Trump on her home turf, said the presidential primaries have barely begun, with just three states having voted. Trump won GOP primary in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, cementing his status as the clear front-runner to become the Repub-



lican Party's nominee for the presidential election. "That's not a lot. In the 10 days after South Carolina, another 21 states and territories will vote," she said, eyeing Super Tuesday on March 5, when several states are set to hold presidential primary elections.

The Republican presidential candidate accused President Joe Biden and Trump of turning people against each other and dividing the country at a time "when America desperately, urgently, needs a uniter".

Indian restaurant manager 'killed' in UK; suspect due for court appearance

London, Feb 21 (IANS) : A 24-year-old man is due to appear in a UK court on Wednesday in connection with the murder of an Indian restaurant manager who was hit by a vehicle as he was cycling home from work last week. Shazeb Khalid of no fixed address was arrested and charged with one count of murder on Tuesday, following an investigation by the police, and is due to appear at Reading Magistrates Court on Wednesday. Vignesh Raman, aged 38, was declared dead at the Royal Berkshire Hospital after he



was hit by a vehicle on Addington Road in Reading on February 14. Police said seven other men from Reading, aged between 20 and 48, who were arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender, have all been released on bail.



Biden's top middle east advisor to visit Israel, Egypt

Tel Aviv, Feb 21 (IANS) : With the ceasefire mooted by the US, Egypt and Qatar in the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel not gaining traction, US President Joe Biden's top advisor is scheduled to reach Israel and Egypt on Wednesday. Brett McGurk, the senior most advisor to the US President, will reach Egypt to accelerate the ongoing peace talks for a ceasefire and release of hostages in the ongoing war. The top US official will meet the Chief of Egyptian Intelligence, Abbas Kamal, and hold a series of meetings with him and other senior Egyptian officials. The Israel's ground invasion of Rafah in Gaza Strip which shares the border with Egypt will also be a major point of discussion between the US official and Egyptians. McGurk will then leave for Tel Aviv and will have meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Hamas confirms to Qatar medicines for hostages received in Gaza, delivery begins

Doha, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Qatari government has said that Hamas has confirmed the receipt of a shipment of medicines and the commencement of their delivery to beneficiaries among the Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip. Hamas, the Gaza-ruling Palestinian faction, has informed the Qatari side that it received the medicines and started to deliver them to the hostages in Gaza un-

der an agreement mediated by Qatar, in cooperation with France between Hamas and Israel last month, the Qatari Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday in a statement. The agreement includes "the entry of medicines and a shipment of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially in the most affected and damaged areas, in exchange for delivering the medicines needed by hostages in the sector," the Ministry's official spokesperson



Majed Al-Ansari was quoted by the statement as saying as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. As part of its commitment to ending the conflict in Gaza, Qatar has affirmed its ongoing mediation efforts, in collaboration with regional and international partners, according to Al-Ansari.

Summer-like temperatures felt across Japan

Tokyo, Feb 21 (IANS) : Warm air flowing from the south drove temperatures higher in Japan's Pacific Ocean coast regions on Wednesday, with record-high temperatures recorded at many locations, the weather agency said. By 2 p.m. local time, record-high February temperatures were recorded at 78 locations nationwide, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). The cities of Takasaki and Isesaki in Gunma prefecture had temperatures exceeding 25 degrees Celsius for the first time ever recorded in February, the JMA said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. Some other areas also experienced temperatures as warm as late

April to mid-June, including central Tokyo, which reached 23.7 degrees, the highest temperature this year. Weather officials said the mercury rose because warm air from the south flowed into a front extending near Kanto, but the agency expected the winter cold to return on Wednesday.



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.

DEMAND NOTICE
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/1820/2017 23-01-2024

Versus
Canara Bank (e-Syndicate Bank)
Y. Brahmachary & others

To
(CD 1) Y. Brahmachary S/o Subramanayam, Tilaknagar, Hyderabad- 500007
(CD 2) Yaddanapudi Brahmachary W/o Brahmachary, R/o H.No.2-2-103/36, Tilaknagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500007
(CD 3) Sri Kotugu R. Srinivas, S/o. K.R. Lungam, R/o. H.No.9-33-6, Boduppal Laxminagar, Boduppal, RR District.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT2) in OA/326/2017 an amount of Rs.59,48,876/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Six Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 19%w.e.f. 06-06-2017 till realization and costs of Rs.0 (Only) has become due against you (Jointly and Severally/Fully/Limited).

2. 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.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 12-03-2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 23-01-2024
Sd/- Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2)

HANAMKONDA BRANCH, Dist. Hanamkonda,
Cell: 7993316630, Email: HANAMK@bankofbaroda.com

SALE OF SECURED MOVABLE ASSETS UNDER HYPOTHECAION
Auction Sale under hypothecation of movable property mortgaged to Bank for recovery of the secured debts. In view of the default committed by the Borrowers mentioned below, Bank has repossessed/ seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreement executed by the parties and same is being auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower	Total Dues	Description of the Vehicle	Reserve Price	EMD
1	Mr. Amarnath Nandre	Rs.8,80,952/-+interest wef. 09.10.2023 + other expenses etc. till date. (Less Recovery if any)	Hypothecated - Vehicle i.e., Four Wheeler - Four Wheeler Vehicle (TATA PUNCH CRE 1.2P BS6 AMT); Colour: CAL RED Engine No. REVTRM10GXMB3377 Chassis No. MATS4012NPG85784 Registration No. TS24G5968	Rs. 7,50,000/-	Rs. 75,000/-

Date/Day/Time of e-Auction: 13-03-2024, Wednesday, 11.00 AM to 2.00 P.M.
Last date of submission of BID: 12-03-2024, Tuesday before 4.00 P.M.
Date & time of Inspection of Properties: 08-03-2024, Friday, from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

10% Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer on or before 12-03-2024, Tuesday, before 4:00 P.M. to the designated account, the details of which are given as under:
Account Name: NEW INTERMEDIARY ACCOUNT: Bank of Baroda A/c No.: 59090015181219, IFSC Code: BARBOHANAMK. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E AUCTION SALE: 1. The Auction-cum-Sale shall be conducted through e-Auction mode, through the official portal of https://bob.auctiontntiger.net. 2. Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/reject/Postpone/Cancel the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof. (FOR DETAILED TERM AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO https://bob.auctiontntiger.net/). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in - WWW.BANKOFBARODA.COM

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER HYPOTHECAION TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor/are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in recall notice in full before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.
Date: 21-02-2024, Place: Hanamkonda Sd/- Branch Manager

Emulate ecological preservation approach shown by Arunachal's people: VP Dhankhar

Itanagar, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on Wednesday called upon all the citizens to emulate the approach towards ecological preservation shown by the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Addressing the 38th Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh in Itanagar on his maiden visit to the state, Dhankhar said: "Your way of life exemplifies coexistence with nature."

Terming Arunachal as a "microcosm of Bharat", Dhankhar praised the scenic beauty of the state, drawing attention to its "pristine landscape, misty moun-

tain and lush green forests", which have made it a haven for tourists. He also praised the organic produce of the state for its credibility and authenticity.

Acknowledging the large national and international markets that exist for such produce, Dhankhar said that enabling government schemes would further expand the reach of such resources.

Referring to the eight northeastern states or the 'Ashta Lakshmis' as the "jewels of India", the Vice-President emphasised that the country's cultural fabric is incomplete without its northeastern region. Highlighting the "phenomenal and ex-

ponential rise" in infrastructure and in road, rail and air connectivity in the region, Dhankhar said these outcomes reflected the "changing face of Bharat" as well as the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Tracing India's journey from being one of the 'Fragile Five' economies to becoming one of the 'Top Five', the Vice-President underlined the rising stature of India among the comity of nations.

Taking note of India's leadership of the G20, Dhankhar said the G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering held in Itanagar during India's presidency had showcased the potential of the state to the



world. Commending the Padma awardees from the state in recent years, the Vice-President said that the deserving persons are being recognised for their talent in the present ecosystem, without any patronage or nepotism.

He also urged the youth to embrace their role as foot soldiers on the march towards taking India to the

status of 'Viksit Bharat@2047'. Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Pamaik (Retd.), Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Russian national booked for sexual assault on minor in Goa

Panaji, Feb 21 (IANS) : A case has been registered against a Russian national for allegedly sexually abusing a six-year-old girl during a night camp in North Goa, police said. Police said that the complainant has stated that the accused had organised a night camp at Arambol in North Goa, where he sexually abused her minor daughter, inappropriately touched her body and private parts.

Police are yet to arrest the accused person. An offence has been registered under Section 376 IPC, Sections 8 (2) of GC Act and Sections 4 and 8 of the PoCSO Act and police are investigating. The accused is yet to be arrested.



Oppn leaders welcome SC verdict declaring AAP councillor as Chandigarh Mayor

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Setting aside the election of the BJP candidate as declared by the Returning Officer, the Supreme Court on Wednesday declared AAP councillor Kuldeep Kumar as the Mayor of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation while hearing a plea challenging the mayoral election. The Opposition INDIA bloc leaders were quick to latch on to the top court ruling, stating that the Constitution and democracy have ultimately triumphed.

Taking to X, Congress Presi-

dent Mallikarjun Kharge said: "The Supreme Court has saved democracy from the fangs of an autocratic BJP, which resorted to dirty election manipulation. The institutional sabotage in the #ChandigarhMayorPolls is only a tip of the iceberg in Modi-Shah's devious conspiracy to trample democracy. "All Indians must fight this onslaught on our Constitution, collectively. Never forget. Our democracy shall be at the crossroads in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections!"

Reacting to the development, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said: "Now no one will trust the BJP, which was caught stealing red-handed in the Chandigarh mayoral elections."

Welcoming the top court verdict, AAP National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Truth may be troubled but not defeated."

Congress targets Vijayan over former CPI-M leader TP's murder

Kochi, Feb 21 (IANS) : A day after the ruling CPI-M suffered a setback as the Kerala High Court upheld the conviction of 12 persons in the 2012 murder of former party leader T.P. Chandrasekharan, senior Congress leaders on Wednesday alleged that the crime took place with the blessings and the knowledge of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

State Congress President and Kannur MP K. Sudhakaran noted that when the murder took place, Vijayan was the state CPI-M Secretary.

"The crime took place in Kozhikode district and many of the accused are from Kannur. All who know the way the CPI-M functions, knows that such a thing will never ever take place without the knowledge of the party leaders at the highest level. Vijayan knows everything about it," he claimed.



Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar takes over as Northern Army Commander

Jammu, Feb 21 (IANS) : Lt General M.V. Suchindra Kumar on Wednesday assumed charge as the Indian Army's Northern Command chief, an Army statement said. An alumnus of NDA, Khadakwasla, he was commissioned into the Assam Regiment in June 1985.

Suchindra Kumar commanded 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion (Assam), an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control. He commanded the highly active White Knight Corps and has held the appointments of Additional Director General of Military Intelligence, Director General of Military Intelligence, Deputy Chief of

Army Staff, Strat. He was Vice Chief of the Army prior to taking over his current appointment.

He has held various staff and instructional appointments in Infantry School, Mhow, as United Nation Sector Senior Operations Officer in Cambodia, Indian Army Training Team Lesotho, Military Secretary's Branch and Brigadier General Staff in the Eastern Theatre. "On assuming charge, the General Officer conveyed his greetings to all ranks and expressed his commitment to take forward the excellent work by his predecessors and all ranks of Northern Command under the prevailing challenging conditions," the army statement said.



Major bureaucratic reshuffle in Bengal ahead of LS polls

Kolkata, Feb 21 (IANS) : West Bengal government on Wednesday announced a major bureaucratic reshuffle of the officials ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

As per the government order Principal Secretary of Municipal Affairs & Urban Development Khalil Ahmed has been transferred to Western-Region Development Department. Secretary Backward Class Development Department Sanjay Bansal has been given additional charges Municipal Affairs & Urban Development. Bansal will also hold the affairs of West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) as its Managing Director. Nilam Mina has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Consumer Affairs Department. Roshni Sen, an Additional Chief Secretary level officer.

Modi wants to see India on top, but 'Ghamandiya' Gathbandhan leaders only want to see their sons as PM, CM : Amit Shah

Jaipur, Feb 21 (IANS) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack against the Congress, accusing the grand old party of promoting nepotism in the country.

Addressing a Prabudh Sammelan in Jaipur on Wednesday, Shah also heaped praises on Narendra Modi, saying that the Prime Minister, who accomplished many difficult tasks in the last 10 years, is now working hard to ensure that India becomes the top nation in the world by 2047.

"(PM) Modi has just one aim that is to see India on top of the world. However, the leaders of the 'Ghathbandhan' of seven parties only want to see their sons and nephews as the PM and CMs.

"Sonia Gandhi aims to see her son (Rahul Gandhi) as the PM, Uddhav Thackeray wants to see his son (Aditya Thackeray) as the CM, Lalu Prasad too wants to see his son (Tejashwi Yadav) as the CM, while Mayawati wants to see her nephew (Akash Anand) as the CM.

"Can such people who dream to see their sons and relatives as PM and CMs help in nation building," Shah asked the gathering, which replied loudly: "No."

"Such leaders only want their families to benefit, whereas the BJP wants Bharat to benefit," Shah added.

Recalling the tenure of former Prime Min-

ister Manmohan Singh, Shah said, "There was time when people used to enter India and carry out blasts. You people elected PM Modi in 2014. This government carried out surgical strikes within 10 days after the Pulwama attack in 2019. Earlier, there were only two countries which were known to hit the enemy nation by conducting strikes after crossing its borders -- America and Israel. But now India has entered the list." Stating that PM Modi has paved the way for the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir, Shah said that today, the tricolour is hoisted with pride in Kashmir, where cinema halls have become operational after 30 years.

"The Prime Minister has scrapped Article 370, so you should now bless him with 370 seats," Shah told the gathering.

The Union minister also mentioned the four threats to democracy -- nepotism, appeasement, corruption and casteism.



Hooda pans Haryana Governor's address to Assembly

Chandigarh, Feb 21 (IANS) : Haryana's Leader of Opposition Bhuminder Hooda on Wednesday said the state's BJP-JJP government has made the Governor's address "a medium for telling official lies and spreading formal misconceptions". "This time too, as always, the address lacked truthfulness, factuality and reality. The government, put the dignity of the Governor at stake, and handed over an address to him, which is far from the truth," he claimed in his reaction to the Governor's address.

The two-time Chief Minister said the government has made big claims of development,

"but the people of Haryana are at a loss to understand how development is possible without building any university or medical college, without establishing any power plant or IMT". "People are asking how can there be development in the state without establishing any national and international level institute, without setting up any big industry, without investment and without employment. "It seems this coalition government is considering scams as development, record-breaking unemployment as growth, uncontrolled crime as progress, increasing drug addiction and inflation as upliftment," Hooda said in a statement.

Salaries in India to increase by 9.5% in 2024; infra, manufacturing sectors lead

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Salaries in India are expected to increase by 9.5 per cent this year as industries such as infrastructure and manufacturing continue to project robust growth, a report showed on Wednesday. While global capability centres (GCCs) are expected to see a pay hike of 9.8 per cent in the country, manufacturing will witness a salary improvement

of 10.1 per cent and life sciences, 9.9 per cent, according to the report by global professional services firm Aon. The workforce in financial institutions is expected to receive a salary hike around 9.9 per cent while tech platforms and services and products will see a pay growth of 9.5 per cent this year. The report analysed data across 1,414 companies from almost 45 industries.



Amazon plans to launch low-priced fashion vertical 'Bazaar' in India

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : E-commerce giant Amazon is set to launch a low-priced fashion and lifestyle vertical called 'Bazaar' in India. According to a communication the company has sent to its partners, the new vertical Bazaar is a special store where no "extra charges" will be imposed on vendors supplying unbranded and "trendy" fashion and lifestyle products, reports TechCrunch. "Your products will be featured in a special store on Amazon, making them easy for customers to find," the company wrote in the communication. The items sold via Bazaar will be priced under Rs 600, the report noted. In the communication, the e-commerce giant also mentioned that Bazaar will offer sellers access to tens of millions of customers, "hassle-free" delivery and levy zero referral fee. Meanwhile, net sales for Amazon increased 14 per cent to \$170 billion in the holiday quarter that ended December 31, 2023, compared with \$149.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2022. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said the past holiday season was "record-breaking." Net income increased to \$10.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023, compared with \$0.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 2022.



PFRDA notifies simplified rules for Pension Funds, NPS Trust

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified the amendments to the regulations of the National Pension System Trust and the Pension Fund to reduce the cost of compliance and enhance the ease of doing business. As per the official statement issued on Wednesday the National Pension System Trust (Second Amendment) Regulations 2023 and Pension Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2023 have been notified on February 5 and February 9 respectively. The amendments to NPS Trust Regulations simplify the provisions related to appointment of Trustees, their terms and conditions, holding of meetings of Board of Trustees and appointment of CEO - NPS Trust. Amendments to Pension Fund Regulations simplify the provisions related to governance of Pension Funds in line with Companies Act, 2013 and enhanced disclosure by Pension Funds. The other amendments include:

- *Clarity of roles of Sponsor of Pension Fund & Pension Fund along with compliance to 'fit and proper person' criteria.
- *Constitution of additional Board committees by Pension Funds such as Audit Committee and Nomination & Remuneration Committee.
- *Inclusion of name 'Pension Fund' in name clause and requirement of existing pension fund(s) to comply with this provision within a period of 12 months.
- *The annual report of schemes managed by the pension fund to include Directors' responsibility statement.

Detailed information on the amended regulations is available on the PFRDA website:



'Money mule' bank accounts on the rise in India : Report

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Banks in India need to bolster their fraud defences as the number of mule accounts surge and third-party account takeover fraud (55 per cent of all frauds in the country) represents a bigger threat than social engineering scams, a report showed on Wednesday. Mule accounts are owned by people who are duped by fraudsters into laundering stolen/illegal money via their bank accounts. When such incidents are reported, the "money mule" becomes the target of investigations due to their involvement. According to the '2024 Digital Banking Fraud Trends in India' report by BioCatch, a global leader in digital fraud detection, every device found to participate in mule activity in India logged into an average of 35 accounts each.

India's FY2024 Q3 GDP growth at 6 per cent: ICRA

Chennai, Feb 21 (IANS) : Credit rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would grow at 6 per cent in Q3 FY2024 from 7.6 per cent in Q2 FY2024. Further, the Gross Value Added (GVA) growth is estimated to ease to 6 per cent in Q3 FY2024 from 7.4 per cent in Q2 FY2024, driven by the industrial and agriculture sectors, amid an improvement in the services sector. According to ICRA, the anticipated deterioration in the industrial sector growth in Q3 FY2024 is partly attributable to an adverse base effect and a de-

celeration in volume expansion even as the continued deflation in commodity prices kept profitability of some sectors favourable. Additionally, a mild 0.2 per cent contraction in the total spending of Government of India and 25 state governments (all states except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Manipur) in Q3 FY2024 is expected to have dulled the GVA growth in the quarter. "Lower volume growth for the industrial sector, flagging momentum in certain indicators of investment activity, a slowdown in Government expenditure and an uneven monsoon are expected to dampen the GDP growth to 6.0 per

cent in Q3 FY2024 from 7.6 per cent in Q2 FY2024," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head-Research & Outreach said. ICRA estimates the industrial GVA growth to record a broad-based moderation to 8.8 per cent in Q3 FY2024 from 13.2 per cent in Q2 FY2024, led by all four sub-sectors, namely, manufacturing, electricity, construction and mining and quarrying. ICRA projects manufacturing GVA expansion at a healthy 10 per cent in Q3 FY2024, twice as high as the 4.7 per cent seen in Q1 FY2024.



Coal sector PSUs poised to cross Rs 21,030cr Capex target for 2023-24

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : The capital expenditure (CAPEX) by public sector coal companies has touched 20,153 crore as on January this year, marking 95.83 per cent progress towards the target of 21,030 crore fixed for the current financial year ending on March 31, 2024, the Coal Ministry said on Wednesday. "Coal sector PSUs (public sector undertakings) have been at the forefront with their CAPEX to assist and contribute in transforming Indian economy and as we navigate through the current fiscal year of 2023-24, both CIL and NLCIL are on track to exceed their CAPEX targets yet again," the ministry said.

CAPEX is one of the crucial parts of the economic dynamics, which has a multiplier and trickle-down impact on the overall economy boosting consumption., demand and spurs industrial growth, creates employment and long-lasting infrastructure from which durable benefits accrue to the country over a long period of time. Over the past few years, Coal CPSEs has been over achieving the CAPEX Target. In FY 21-22, CIL & NLCIL had achieved 104.88 per cent & 123.33 per cent respectively of their target. Similar performance was repeated in FY 2022-23 where both Coal CPSEs achieved around 113 per cent of its target.



Nifty pattern indicating at potential pause in ongoing rally

Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Indian market is facing stiff resistance at higher levels; the valuation of a broader index is at a significant premium, leading to an unfavourable risk reward, which influences investors to book profits, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Global markets traded cautiously awaiting the US Fed minutes, while Chinese markets were buoyed by policy interventions. Concerns lingered since invest-

tors were heavily betting on a US FED rate cut, which is put at risk by January's higher-than-expected inflation, Nair said. On Wednesday, Nifty closed at 22,055.05, down 141.90 points or 0.64 per cent, while Sensex ended lower by 434.31 points or 0.59 per cent at 72,623.09. Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said the Nifty has formed a bearish engulfing pattern on the daily chart, indicating a potential pause in the ongoing rally.

Byju's rights issue to raise \$200 mn fully subscribed

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Edtech firm Byju's rights issue to raise \$200 million at a 99 per cent valuation cut has been fully subscribed. In a shareholders' letter accessed by IANS, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran said that this \$200 million raise will give the company "the capital it needs

to ensure that we can take care of the current liabilities and also provide sufficient growth capital to get us back to our former glory". The company, valued at \$22 billion in its last financing round in early 2022, announced last month that it would raise approximately \$200 million through a rights issue.





Digital flight control computer for Tejas Mk1A flown successfully

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : In a significant development towards the Tejas Mk1A programme, the Digital Fly by Wire Flight Control Computer (DFCC) was integrated in prototype LSP7 and successfully flown by the Indian Air Force. The IAF informed the aircraft with DFCC was successfully flown on Wednesday. The DFCC has been indigenously developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, for Tejas Mk1A.

The DFCC features Quadraplex Power PC based Processor, high-speed autonomous state machine based I/O controller, enhanced computational throughput and complex on-board software complied to DO178C level-A safety requirements. All critical parameters and perfor-

mance of the flight controls were found satisfactory. The maiden flight was piloted by Wg Cdr Siddarth Singh KMJ (Retd) from the National Flight Test Centre. The Aeronautical Development Agency, under the aegis of Department of Defence R&D and Ministry of Defence, has successfully certified the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). The Indian Air Force has already operationalised Tejas LCA Mk1. The improved version of the aircraft, Tejas MK1A, features advanced mission computer, high-performance DFCC, Smart Multi-Function Displays (SMFD), Advanced Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Advanced Self-protection Jammer, Electronic Warfare Suit etc.

Govt to foster equality in healthcare, make last mile delivery accessible : Mandaviya

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : The government is striving to foster equality in healthcare, and making the last mile delivery affordable and accessible, said Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday. He was speaking at the inauguration of Vivekananda Cancer and Super Speciality Extension Hospital of Vivekanand Medical Foundation and Research Centre in Latur, Maharashtra. "Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.



PM Modi to unveil Okha-Beyt Dwarka signature bridge on February 25

Dwarka (Gujarat), Feb 21 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to inaugurate the Okha-Beyt Dwarka signature bridge in Gujarat on February 25.

Built at a cost of Rs 978 crore, the Okha-Beyt Dwarka Signature Bridge is a longest cable-stayed bridge connecting the Beyt Dwarka island in the Gulf of Kutch and Okha. The total length of the bridge is 2,320

metres (7,612 ft). The initiative for the bridge was taken by the Modi government in 2017, addressing the long-standing reliance of pilgrims on water transport to visit the Dwarkadhish Temple.

The bridge will reduce travel time and enhance the safety and comfort of the journey. Additionally, the bridge is seen as a boon for those seeking a sustainable and affordable alternative to boat cruises, especially beneficial for

residents facing commuting challenges, particularly at night.

The bridge stands out as India's longest cable-stayed bridge, featuring solar panels along its foot-path capable of generating one MW of electricity.

Aesthetic enhancements include verses from the Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna adorning its sides, blending spiritual reverence with modern infrastructure.



Gujarat identifies 16 more villages for smart village development

Gandhinagar, Feb 21 (IANS) : Gujarat government on Wednesday announced the inclusion of 16 more villages into its Smart Village program, spanning five distinct districts.

The villages were selected based on criteria, including road connectivity, the condition of roads and gutters, street lighting, cleanliness, and a population range of 2,000 to 6,000 residents.

The newly designated Smart Villages include Raydi, Thanagalol, Virnagar, Anandpara(Nava), Satapara, and Lodhika from the Rajkot district; Chorwadi.



PM Modi has taken historic steps to develop Jammu : Pralhad Joshi

Bengaluru, Feb 21 (IANS) : Minister for Mine, Coal and Law Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken historic steps to develop the region of Jammu.

"Central government has released Rs 3,600 crore for various universities across the nation, including Karnataka and

Jammu and Kashmir. The era of development has started in Jammu and Kashmir. PM Modi has released grants for universities and inaugurated various development projects in Jammu," he told media persons after participating in a virtual programme organised at Rani Chennamma University in Belagavi.

My mother has advised me to remain in Cong always: Assam LoP

Guwahati, Feb 21 (IANS) : Assam Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Debabrata Saikia on Wednesday said that his mother has advised him to remain in Congress always.

"My mother, Hemoprova Saikia, called me and said that I must remain in the Congress even if I am the

lone man standing in the state. I cannot disobey my mother's advice. I guarantee you that I will not leave Congress," Saikia told Congress. After two Congress MLAs "supported" the BJP government in the state, rumours are rife that more Congress MLAs may also soon join the ruling dispensation.



Punjab CM hails SC order to declare AAP councillor as Chandigarh Mayor

Chandigarh, Feb 21 (IANS) : At last, the truth prevailed, remarked Punjab Chief Minister and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday, thanking the Supreme Court for its verdict on the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

"We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Mayor election in Chandigarh...CJI declared AAP's Kuldeep Kumar as Mayor, upholding the 8 votes rejected by the Presiding Officer," wrote Mann on X. "They have got a befitting reply to the hooliganism openly committed by BJP...Many congratulations to the people of Chandigarh on this big victory of democracy," he added.

Mann responsible for breakdown of talks with farmers: Akali Dal

Chandigarh, Feb 21 (IANS) : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday held Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann responsible for the breakdown of talks between farmer unions and the Centre, stating the Chief Minister's double talk during negotiations had failed the farming community and forced them on the path of agitation. Senior SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumajra also appealed to the central government not to try

to muzzle the peaceful protest of farmers, adding "in a democracy, peaceful protest is a fundamental right and farmers should be allowed to peacefully proceed to Delhi".

He also appealed to the Centre to consider waiving off farmer loans saying "if lakhs of crores of loans of corporates can be waived, farmers, who contribute to the food security of the nation, should not be discriminated against".



Come clean on your daughter's IT firm dealings : Satheesan asks Vijayan

Kochi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Kerala Leader of the Opposition (LoP) V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday asked the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to come clean over the dealings of his daughter Veena Vijayan's IT firm Exalogic after Karnataka High Court turned down her plea to stop the ongoing Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

probe. Satheesan posed five questions to the Chief Minister, asking him to let the people know which Central agencies have probed Veena's dealings.

"Vijayan had informed the assembly that Central investigating agencies had asked for details about Veena. I had challenged the Chief Minister to reveal about it but he has not informed any of us about it. I am today again asking

him about it," the LoP said. He said that the Chief Minister has publicly claimed that neither Veena nor her company was investigated by the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board. "It is a blatant lie. It is now in public domain that Veena's IT firm received money from various charity organisations on a monthly basis. The Chief Minister claims that he has done no wrong. If he is clean, why is he not revealing the names of all the organisations from which his daughter's firm received money," said Satheesan. He said that it must be probed that companies which gave money to her firm received any relief in tax from the state government. "We also now know that the NBFC company of CMRL has given loan to Veena's firm and the probe by the Registrar of Companies (ROC) also reveals that not all the loans taken by her firm have not been deposited in the firm's account.

Yemen's Houthis warn EU not to join US-British coalition in Red Sea

Sanaa, Feb 21 (IANS) : Yemen's Houthi group warned the European Union (EU) not to join the coalition of the US and Britain in the Red Sea, otherwise its ships would be targeted, the media reported. "A message to the EU, don't play with fire and take a lesson from Britain," the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV on Wednesday cited a statement from Houthi leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi in reference to his group's recent missile attacks against British-registered

cargo vessels, including an oil tanker that caught on fire in the southern Red Sea two weeks ago, Xinhua news agency reported. "Your presence increases the militarisation of the sea, which would affect your countries' needs of shipping chains through the Red Sea," al-Houthi said, referring to the EU's oil shipments from the region. "If your coalition in the Red Sea commits any foolishness, you will bear the consequences and your navy ships and commercial vessels will be targeted," the state-

ment added. On Monday, the EU said it launched a naval mission in the Red Sea to protect shipping as cargo vessels continued to come under Houthi attacks. It said the Houthi attacks on the international shipping in the Red Sea are casting a shadow over global stability and prosperity. The Houthis have been attacking Israel-linked vessels transiting the Red Sea since mid-November last year, a move the group describes as a display of its support for Palestinians in Gaza.



South Korea: More than 6,400 trainee doctors submit resignations



Seoul, Feb 21 (IANS) : More than 6,400 trainee doctors have submitted their resignations to protest the South Korean government's plan of boosting the number of medical students, leading to delays in surgeries and medical treatment, officials said on Wednesday. Talking to reporters, Second Vice Health Minister Park Min-said that the ministry has ordered 831 trainee doctors to return to work, Yonhap news agency reported. Tensions brewed between doctors and the government over the latter's plan to add 2,000 to the country's medical school enrollment quota next year. Till Monday, 6,415 trainee doctors at 100 hospitals submitted their resignations, with about 1,600 of

them walking off the job, Park said. Park said the government will extend operating hours at 97 public hospitals and emergency rooms at 12 military hospitals will be opened to the public to cope with a potential disruption of medical services. The admission quota needs to be enhanced to address a shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas and essential medical fields, such as high-risk surgeries, pediatrics, obstetrics and emergency medicine. As per the health authorities, the number of doctors in South Korea relative to the size of the population is among the lowest in the developed world.



As onslaught on Rafah looms, US vetoes Gaza resolution at UNSC

United Nations, Feb 21 (IANS) : With an Israeli attack looming on Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians are huddling, the US on Wednesday vetoed a Security Council resolution opposing "forced displacement" of civilians and calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. The US was isolated in the Council where the resolution proposed by Algeria on behalf of Arab nations received

13 votes with the UK abstaining in the 15-member Council. Explaining the veto, US Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that the resolution would hinder the negotiations taking place with the involvement also of Qatar and Egypt to release the hostages held in Gaza and for a ceasefire to facilitate it and the sending of humanitarian assistance there. She said that Washington would offer an alternate resolution. This was the sixth resolution on Gaza to suffer vetoes by the US,

Britain, Russia or China. Only two, calling for the provision of humanitarian aid have been adopted. Algeria's Permanent Representative Amar Bendjama said that a vote against his resolution "implies an endorsement of the brutal violence and collective punishment inflicted against them". "Today, every Palestinian is a target for death, extermination and genocide. Each one of us decides on where to stand in this tragic chapter of history," he said. With Rafah threatened with an attack, the vetoed resolution opposed the "forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population in violation of international law". It included a generalised condemnation of attacks on civilians. The resolution also made a reference to the World Court declaration last month ordering Israel to take steps to prevent a "genocide" in Gaza and to allow humanitarian assistance to the people there. The institution, formally known as the International Court of Justice, is currently holding hearings on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. After three weeks of negotiations over its draft, the vetoed resolution also demanded the release of the hostages taken by Hamas in its

terrorist attack from Gaza on Israel on October 7, which also killed about 1,200 people. After Israel launched a counter-attack on Gaza in which 29,000 people, mostly women and children, were killed, and it ordered Palestinians there to move south to escape its onslaught. Now, according to the UN, more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million are sheltering in Rafah. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that a military offensive on Rafah was imminent, which added a sense of urgency to the calls for the Council to act. This was foremost in the minds of even the Western countries. Although Britain abstained, its Permanent Representative Barbara Woodward said: "We are particularly worried about the situation in Rafah, where a military operation could have appalling consequences for civilians sheltering there with nowhere else to go." Slovenia's Permanent Representative Bostjan Malovrh said that if an attack on Rafah takes place, the world will awaken to a "nightmare".

Pakistan's major parties agree to form coalition govt

Islamabad, Feb 21 (IANS) : Pakistan's two major political parties, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), agreed to form a coalition government in Centre, leaders of the two parties said. "Both the parties have agreed on a power-sharing formula as we have the required number of seats in the National Assembly (NA) to form the government," PML-N President and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday evening during a joint press conference in Islamabad. Following days of negotiations

between the two parties, it has been decided that Sharif will be the joint candidate for both parties for the slot of Prime Minister and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari will be the joint candidate for the President's slot, Xinhua news agency reported. Sharif said that the independent candidates, who emerged victorious in majority by securing more than 100 seats, were invited to form the government, but they failed to achieve the required numbers. He added that other parties such as the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, the Pakistan Muslim League.



Hamas leader arrives in Cairo to hold talks on Gaza truce

Gaza, Feb 21 (IANS) : Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh arrived in Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the Gaza truce. Hamas said on Wednesday in a brief statement sent to Xinhua news agency that Haniyeh arrived in Cairo at the head of a delegation from the movement's leadership. It added that the talks will focus on the political and on-the-ground situation in light of the aggressive conflict in Gaza and the efforts made to stop the aggression, provide relief to citizens, and achieve the goals of the Palestinian people, Xinhua news agency reported. The Hamas leader on Saturday accused Israel of impeding efforts to achieve a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.



Afghan govt allows girls to enroll in state-owned medical institutes

Kabul, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Afghan caretaker government has allowed girls graduating from 12th grade to get admission to state-owned medical institutes, the media reported. "The enrolment of girls who graduated from 12th grade has

started in state-run medical institutes in Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, Wardak, Ghazni, Paktika, Logar, Khost, Badakhshan, Paktia and Bamyán provinces," the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported on Wednesday without giving further details.

Since the Afghan caretaker government took over power following the withdrawal of US-led forces in August 2021, girls from 7th grade and above cannot attend classes until further notice, Xinhua news agency reported.



New Zealand to bring back over-the-counter sales of cold, flu drug in pharmacies

Wellington, Feb 21 (IANS) : New Zealand will bring back over-the-counter sales of cold and flu drugs in pharmacies by getting rid of unnecessary red tape. This act allows New Zealanders greater freedom and choice to purchase effective cold and flu medicines, Xinhua news agency reported. "Cold and flu medicines containing pseudoephedrine will be reclassified from prescription to restricted medicines, which will allow the public to purchase these medicines from a pharmacy without a prescription," Associate Health Minister David Seymour said on Wednesday. A bill amending the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1975, is being introduced and changes to the Medicines Regulations, 1984, are being made to reclassify pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine was banned be-

cause of fears it would be used for methamphetamine production, Seymour said, adding the gangs have far more effective ways of obtaining pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine which should be tackled instead. "Alternative cold and flu medicines have been shown to be no more effective than a placebo. New Zealanders are being denied decent cold and flu medication, but the gangs are selling more methamphetamine than ever," he said. The use of these medicines will still be subject to a level of oversight as consumers will be required to purchase them directly from a pharmacist, Seymour said, adding restrictions on importing and exporting these medicines will also be retained. Taking into account supply chains and the ability of companies to prepare products, it is expected the medication will be back on shelves in 2025. Rhys Ponton of the School

of Pharmacy at the University of Auckland said pseudoephedrine was removed from community pharmacy sales in 2011 due to concerns that it was used as a precursor to the manufacture of methamphetamine. However, the restriction on this precursor has not reduced the availability or stopped the use of methamphetamine in New Zealand as dem-

onstrated by police and customs seizures data. It is unclear if the return of pseudoephedrine will lead to changes in the criminal supply of methamphetamine, Ponton said, adding concerns from pharmacists surrounding potential security risks should be listened to, and any such events should be closely monitored.



Australia to double naval warships, largest since World War II

Canberra, Feb 21 (IANS) : Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy on Wednesday announced the major overhaul in Navy and said the government is committed to more than doubling the size of the nation's naval warships. With the announcement, Australia's fleet of combat-ready warships will be expanded from the current 11 to 26, Xinhua

news agency reported. The government will spend an additional \$7.2 billion over the next decade to accelerate the delivery of the future fleet, which Marles and Conroy said will be Australia's largest since the end of World War II. The plan in total will boost the country's defence spend in the early 2030s to 2.4 per cent of GDP, compared to the 2.1 per cent it was planned to be when the government came to office, said reports



SP announces five more LS poll candidates, Shivpal to contest from Badaun

Lucknow, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Samajwadi Party on Wednesday announced its third list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections, with five names. Senior SP leader Shivpal Singh Yadav will contest the Badaun seat while Iqra Hasan is the candidate for the Kairana seat. The Bareilly seat candidate is Praveen Singh Aron and Ajendra Singh Rajput will contest the

Hamirpur seat. Surendra Singh Patel will be the SP candidate on the Varanasi seat. The Samajwadi Party has also appointed in charge for Lok Sabha seats. Dharmendra Yadav is in charge of Azamgarh and Kannauj seats, Manoj Chaudhary is in charge of Baghpat seat, while Mehboob Ali and Ram Avtar Saini are in charge of Amroha seat.

India, NZ Navy chiefs discuss maritime cooperation

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Indian Navy chief, Admiral R. Hari Kumar and his visiting Royal New Zealand Navy counterpart, Rear Admiral David Proctor on Wednesday discussed maritime cooperation and sea operations-related engagements, a Navy statement said. During the interaction, the two chiefs discussed avenues to strengthen bilateral mari-

time cooperation, including increased operational engagements, training exchanges, and information sharing. Rear Admiral Proctor is also scheduled to participate in Indian Navy's Flagship Exercise Milan 24 at Visakhapatnam and also undertake high level engagements at Western Naval Command. Maritime cooperation between the Indian and New Zealand navies has witnessed significant growth since the Indian Navy

chief's visit to New Zealand in October 22, when the Technical Arrangement on White Shipping Information Exchange was concluded. Further, warships from both navies have been making regular port calls at each other's ports, last being port calls by INS Kolkata and INS Sahyadri at Auckland and Wellington in September last year.



TN govt to obtain GI tags for ten native agricultural products

Chennai, Feb 21 (IANS) : Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare M.R.K. Panneerselvam on Wednesday said that Geographical Indication (GI) tags will be obtained for 10 agricultural products native to Tamil Nadu. "A sum of Rs 30 lakh has been allocated for obtaining the GI tags," the minister said while presenting the budget in the assembly. He said that the GI tags would be obtained for Sathayamangalam Red Banana (Erode), Kolli Hills Pepper (Namakkal).



Ayush Ministry to launch ayurvedic health screening for over 20k tribal students

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Ayush Ministry on Wednesday announced that it will launch a national level project of health screening and management through ayurvedic interventions that will benefit over 20,000 tribal students. The project, to be launched here on Wednesday by Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, aims at screening the general health condition, with special focus on anaemia, haemoglobinopathies, malnutrition and tuberculosis, of the students enrolled in Classes 6 to 12. The screening will be carried out in selected 55 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

(EMRS) spread across 14 states of the country. EMRSs impart quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) children in remote areas. Tribal health in India is still an area of concern after more than seven decades of independence. Despite commendable efforts, there are several obstacles that hinder the successful delivery of healthcare services to these underserved populations. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total population; 89.97 per cent of them live in rural areas and 10.03 per cent in urban areas.

Arunachal, Mizoram celebrate Statehood Day with variety of functions

Itanagar/Aizawl, Feb 21 (IANS) : Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on Wednesday separately celebrated their Statehood Day by holding a variety of colourful cultural programmes and other functions. President Droupadi Murmu,

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, BJP President J.P. Nadda and several Union ministers and Chief Ministers of the neighbouring northeastern states greeted the people of the two states on the occasion.



Calcutta HC gives relief to Bengal LoP's counsel from appearing before Kolkata Police

Kolkata, Feb 21 (IANS) : A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, gave relief to Suryanil Das, the counsel of Leader of Opposition (LoP) in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu

Adhikari, from appearing before the Kolkata Police on Wednesday. On Wednesday, after receiving a notice from the city police asking him to be present at the headquarters of the city police at Lalbazar in central Kolkata on Wednesday for ques-

tioning, Das approached the single-judge bench of Justice Kaushik Chanda complaining of unnecessary harassment.

Goa is striving to become first Green Tourist hotspot : CM

Panaji, Feb 21 (IANS) : Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said that Goa is striving and planning to become probably the first Green Tourist hotspot in the Global Map. "I appreciate the World Bank team for its technical and financial support and for choosing Goa to design and set up the new Blended Finance Facility.





Palestine rejects Netanyahu's remarks over Israeli security control in West Bank, Gaza

Ramallah, Feb 21 (IANS) : Palestine has rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about Israel's security control over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, considering it a challenge to international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the spokesperson of the Palestinian presidency, said on Wednesday in a press statement that these Israeli policies "do not bring security and

stability to anyone here or in the region," warning against the continuation of this "destructive approach that will lead matters to a complete explosion".

"Palestine rejects this Israeli policy that challenges the world," he added.

Abu Rudeineh called on the US government to "force" Israel to stop the conflict first "because the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people is a red line".

Assange in final UK appeal against extradition to US

London, Feb 21 (IANS) : WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange began his final legal challenge in the UK on Wednesday against his extradition to the US on espionage charges.

The UK approved his extradition to the US in 2022 under then Home Secretary Priti Patel after a judge initially blocked it on Assange's mental health concerns. Assange and his lawyers have appealed since then, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a two-day hearing that ends on Wednesday, two judges at the UK High Court, namely Victoria Sharp and Justice Johnson, will hear his final appeal against being sent to the US.

Assange, 52, is wanted in the US on allegations of disclosing national defence information following WikiLeaks's

publication of hundreds of thousands of leaked military documents relating to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars a decade ago, which included an Apache helicopter video footage documenting the US military gunning down Reuters journalists and children in Baghdad's streets in 2007.

Assange has been held at south-east London's high-security Belmarsh Prison since 2019. Lawyers for the US said earlier that he would be allowed to transfer to Australia, his home country, to serve any prison sentence he may be given.

If the two judges at the UK High Court rule in Assange's favour, a full appeal hearing will be scheduled to consider his challenge and could lead to a new decision about his extradition.

If he loses the case on Wednesday, Assange's legal team has promised to apply for an emergency injunction at the European



Court of Human Rights. According to his legal team, Assange is not attending the hearing as he is unwell. His wife Stella Assange warned last week that his health was "in decline, physically and mentally". Holding a placard saying "FREE JULIAN ASSANGE" among hundreds of protesters outside the High Court, local resident Aya Sycamore told Xinhua news agency that she believes the case is "politically motivated".

"He did nothing wrong, so he doesn't deserve to be in prison. He deserves to be free," she said.

"This is really wrong to keep an innocent man who only meant well for everybody to tell about the atrocities committed by the Americans," said Ela Ciecierska, also a local resident. Edward George Green, who came from Birmingham on Tuesday morning, told Xinhua that Assange's being extradited to the US will set "a horrible precedent" that could see people who want to "uncover the truth about war crimes" end up being imprisoned.



73 students hospitalised following wasp attack in Sri Lanka

Colombo, Feb 21 (IANS) : A total of 73 school children from Passara National School in Sri Lanka's Uva province were admitted to hospital following a wasp attack, police said. Piyyarathna Ekanayake, officer in-charge of Passara police station, told media on

Wednesday that the children were in the school playground when the attack took place, Xinhua news agency reported.

Ekanayake said the students were admitted to Passara hospital and 18 were still undergoing treatment by 4 p.m. local time on Wednesday. He added that wasp attacks

were common in the area and police will contact wildlife officials to remove wasps from the area where school children frequent.

In January, seven estate workers in Hatton police division fell victim to a wasp attack.

Ex-Malaysian PM Mahathir recovering : Aide

Kuala Lumpur, Feb 21 (IANS) : Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is recovering even as he remains hospitalised, his press team said.

The 98-year-old, who has a history of heart problems, has been receiving treatment at the National Heart Institute since January 26 over an unspecified infection, Xinhua news agency reported.



Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 29,195 amid Israeli attacks

Gaza, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Gaza-based Health Ministry said that the death toll in the Gaza Strip has risen to 29,195 with 69,170 others wounded as the Israeli attacks continue.

During the past 24 hours, the Israeli army killed 103 Palestinians and wounded 142 others in the Strip, the Ministry said on Wednesday in a press statement.

It noted that some victims remain under the rubble amid heavy bombardment and a lack of civil defence and ambulance crews, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Israeli media outlets said that the Israeli army forces are continuing their operations in the north, centre and south of the Gaza Strip against Hamas and have killed many fighters.



Italy imposes restrictions to curb rising air pollution

Rome, Feb 21 (IANS) : Temporary restrictions were enforced in northern Italy, especially the Lombardy region, on Wednesday in response to persistent high levels of air pollution. These measures were initiated after air quality indicators exceeded the limits stipulated by domestic and European legislation for particulate matter (like particles with a diameter of 10 micrometers

or less, or PM10) and other pollutants for four consecutive days, regional authorities said.

A Level-1 ban entered into force in eight provinces of Lombardy, including the regional capital Milan, early on Wednesday. It prohibits all Euro 0 and Euro 1 vehicles, as well as Euro 2, Euro 3, and Euro 4 diesel vehicles in urban areas with more than 30,000 inhabitants from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Xinhua news agency re-

ported. The Euro emissions standards, labeled from Euro 0 to Euro 6, are set by the European Union to limit the amount of exhaust emissions of newly-sold vehicles. They specify the maximum levels of harmful gases and particles that vehicles can release into the environment.

Additionally, restrictions in Lombardy further prohibit heating homes above 19 degrees Celsius, using wood generators for



domestic heating, and spreading fertilisers and slurry on land in farms.

Authorities in the western Piedmont region also imposed similar restrictions on diesel vehicles from Euro 3 to Euro 5, which were banned in Turin and surrounding areas until at least Wednesday.

These measures were adopted based on air pollution data collected across Italy.

According to data released on Wednesday by IQAir, a Swiss company providing air quality monitoring.

Hungarian parliament to ratify Sweden's NATO accession on Feb 26: Ruling party

Budapest, Feb 21 (IANS) : Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz party has said that its parliamentary group will ratify Sweden's NATO accession on February 26. Mate Kocsis, leader of the Fidesz parliamentary group, shared his letter to Speaker of the Parliament, Laszlo Kover, on his Facebook page on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported. In the letter,

Kocsis said his group "wishes to support" Sweden's accession to NATO.

Kocsis asked the Speaker to include the final vote on Sweden's NATO accession in the agenda of the first spring session of the National Assembly on February 26. Given that the Hungarian ruling party controls over two-thirds of the seats in the National Assembly, their endorsement of Sweden's NATO membership vir-

tually guarantees that the Parliament will vote in favour of Sweden's bid to join NATO.

Hungary has delayed ratifying Sweden's NATO accession for over a year, making it the last NATO member yet to do so.

The delay has been attributed to internal debates within the Fidesz parliamentary group over Swedish criticism of Hungary's rule of law.



4 killed in building collapse in Beirut's southern suburbs

Beirut, Feb 21 (IANS) : A four-storey building in the Choueifat area, south of Lebanon's capital Beirut, collapsed two days ago, killing four people and injuring four others. The National News Agency (NNA) reported that the civil defense teams continued on Wednesday.



Tendulkar's Kashmir visit to boost local crafts, bat industry

Srinagar, Feb 21 (IANS) : Shah Rafi owns the Art & Craft Bazaar at Dhobiwan in Kunzar village on Gulmarg-Srinagar road. He is still rubbing his eyes to believe that the cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar visited his place on Wednesday. Shah Rafi told IANS, "Trust me, I couldn't believe for a while that Sachin Tendulkar was standing in front of me! "When his vehicle stopped outside our art bazaar, initially I thought it must be some buyer. But, what I saw was beyond my wildest expectation.



Turkish Women's Cup: Manisha steals the thunder in closely-fought Estonia battle

Alanya (Turkey), Feb 21 (IANS) : India withstood firmly a late charge by Estonia to pick up a hard-fought 4-3 win in the Turkish Women's Cup. The teams were locked 1-1 at halftime.



WPL: Sutherland will add a lot of firepower to our team, says DC captain Lanning

Bengaluru, Feb 21 (IANS) : Ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 season, Delhi Capitals captain Meg Lanning believes the inclusion of all-rounder Annabel Sutherland, who the side roped in for Rs 2 crore at the auction, will add a lot more firepower to the

team. Annabel recently starred in Australia's one-off Test against South Africa, making a double century and taking a five-wicket haul in the hosts' win by an innings and 242 runs at Perth. "She comes into the team in hot form. I have played a lot of cricket with her and she's a great addition, both with the bat and the ball." "She has matured a lot on and off the field over the past 12 months. She will add a lot of depth, a lot of firepower to our team and I am excited to see how things go," said Meg to broadcasters JioCinema ahead of the tournament.



'It is miraculous': Aakash Chopra on Rishabh Pant potential comeback in IPL 2024

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra has expressed his views on Rishabh Pant's potential comeback for Delhi Capitals (DC) in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season, saying the wicketkeeper batter's inclusion to the squad will be miraculous after recovering from severe injuries sustained in a severe car crash. Pant miraculously survived a near-fatal car crash on December 30, 2022. The left-handed wicketkeeper-batter has been doing extensive rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. He has been making remarkable progress in his recovery, with him being fit for IPL 2024 looking as a realistic possibility for making a return to competitive cricket. "There are filtered reports that Rishabh Pant will be seen playing this year in the IPL, which is ab-

solutely phenomenal. It is miraculous, considering where he came from and where he has reached," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. "Cricket is a very small part of life. It's very important but cricket is there only if there is life. The sort of accident it was, I was just happy that he was alive. I am pretty sure he would have had to work very hard during the journey from there to here because it's difficult and extremely lonely as well," he added.



Vaughan feels Smith's T20 WC spot at risk without opening role

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Former England captain Michael Vaughan believes that if veteran batter Steve Smith isn't utilised as an opener in the shorter format, his spot in the squad for the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States in June could be at risk. Australian captain Mitch Marsh's confirmation that Travis Head and David Warner will be an opening pair for the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, which commences on Wednesday in

Wellington, could present difficulties for Smith's prospects in the upcoming World Cup this year. "I think his only position really is to open, because he has the skill in the game to maximise that first six overs brilliantly. He is a skilful player," Vaughan told foxsports.com.au. "But if he is not going to open, I don't think he should play. If you are going to play him, he bats in the top two, and that is great. He will face 50 balls and get you an 80 or 90.

WTT: Indian women's team loses to Chinese Taipei, Olympic hopes still alive

Busan, Feb 21 (IANS) : The Indian women's team lost to Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals of the World Table Tennis Team Championships, here on Wednesday, which prevented them from earning a direct entry to the 2024 Paris Olympics. After reaching the Championships quarterfinals, the Chinese Taipei team secured their place at the Games. Playing for the second time today, Manika Batra overcame

Chen Szu-Yu in a thrilling five-game (11-8,8-11,4-11,11-9,11-9) match that saw India, who upset Italy 3-0 in the Round of 32, win just one game against Chinese Taipei. Chinese Taipei leveled the match, nevertheless, as the national women's team was unable to build on a 1-0 advantage after Sreeja Akula lost against Cheng I-Ching in three straight games (6-11,9-11,5-11).



Yashasvi gains big in ICC Test rankings after double ton in Rajkot

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) : India's young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal continues his rise in the Test rankings after scoring an unbeaten 214 in the third Test against England in Rajkot as he jumped 14 places to be placed 15th position on the updated rankings for Test batters, released by the Inter-

national Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday. The 22-year-old left-hander, who joined a select band of seven cricketers to score double centuries in two consecutive Tests including two Indians -- Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli, also attained a new career-high rating of 699.



Swiatek sweeps past Stephens in Dubai opener

Dubai, Feb 21 (IANS) : World No.1 Iga Swiatek got off to a winning start at the Dubai Tennis Championships with a 6-4, 6-4 second-round win over American Sloane Stephens. After Swiatek recorded four wins to capture the Qatar Open title last week, the Pole needed nearly 2 hours to extend her unbeaten run in the Middle East this year to five in her return to Dubai after a runner-up finish to Barbora Krejickova in 2023. Swiatek didn't have it all her own way against Stephens, who secured an early break of serve to take a 2-1 lead. An unforced error on break point on her own serve in the very next game restored parity but the experienced American atoned for her mistake straight away, taking on the Swiatek serve to record a double break with some aggressive tennis. The pair proceeded to trade breaks in games six through eight. But Swiatek started to show why she is the world's top-ranked player, holding serve and taking out Stephens' serve for a fourth time to seal the first set. With both players seemingly trying to work each other out, the second set got off to a cagey start.

'Giving their best': Shubman Gill rallies behind the team despite key India players unavailable for Ranchi Test

Ranchi, Feb 21 (IANS) : Stylish Indian opener Shubman Gill commended the youngsters for stepping up in the absence of senior teammates leading up to the fourth Test against England. India has showcased remarkable resilience in the series, bouncing back from a 1-0 deficit in Hyderabad to lead 2-1 after securing significant victories in Vizag and Rajkot. As they aim to clinch the series, India faces a challenging task due to the absence of key players. Jasprit Bumrah, the leading wicket-taker with 17 wickets, will be rested to manage his workload. Additionally, KL Rahul is still recovering from injury, and Virat Kohli continues to be on leave after welcoming his second child. While the bowlers have earned their plaudits in the series, the Indian batters, including Shubman Gill, came under the scanner after a rare defeat in the first Test. Like the other batters, Gill too bounced back and played an important role in India's two wins with a century in the second

match and 90 in the previous match. "We have scored close to 400 in the first innings of every match so far in the series. Every batter can't score big runs in every game, everyone goes through ups and downs," said Gill in the pre-match press conference. "In the first match, multiple players scored over 80. In the second match, Yashavi Jaiswal scored a double hundred. In the previous match, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja scored centuries. "It's not that only one batter is performing.

