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Under Rajanna Sirsilla District Police Department Anti-Drug Awareness 5K Run on 3rd March

Sirsilla DSP Bheem Sharma has called upon everyone to participate in the eradication of ganja and drugs for a better...

02



4th Test: Jaiswal becomes fifth Indian batter to score 600 runs in a Test series, breaks Sehwag's record for sixes

Yashasvi Jaiswal, the prodigious southpaw, became only the fifth Indian batter to score 600 or more runs in a Test series....

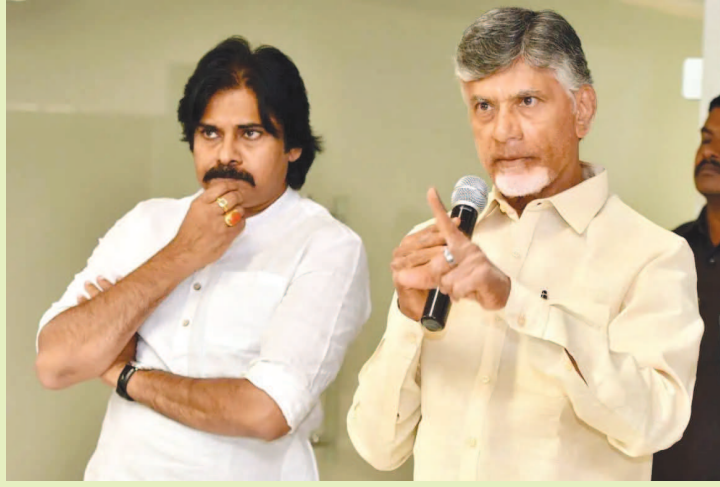
12



Adani Group, Uber to form JV to help expand fleet on green energy?

In a thrust to the government's green energy goals, the Adani Group and Uber may soon announce a joint venture (JV) to help the global ride-hailing major expand its fleet that...

07



TDP leaves 24 Assembly, 3 LS seats for Jana Sena

Amaravati, Feb 24 (IANS) : Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will contest 151 seats and Jana Sena 24 seats under the seat adjustment announced by the two parties on Saturday for the forthcoming elections to the 175-member Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

The TDP has also left three out of 25 Lok Sabha seats for Jana Sena.

The announcement was made at a joint press conference by

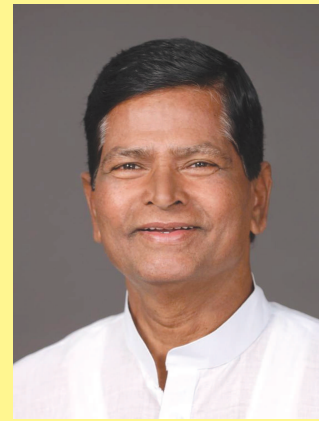
TDP national president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena leader and actor Pawan Kalyan.

Naidu and Pawan Kalyan said that if the BJP comes forward to join them, talks will be held with it and an appropriate decision will be taken at appropriate time.

Naidu also announced the first list of 94 candidates of TDP.

Chinna Reddy appointed as State Planning Board Vice-Chairman

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : Former minister G. Chinna Reddy has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Telangana State Planning Board. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari on Saturday issued orders in this regard. Chinna Reddy will be continued in the post in the rank of Cabinet Minister with immediate effect.



CM directs officials to resolve all Dharani pending applications as early as possible

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed the officials to resolve all the pending applications related to the Dharani portal as early as possible.

The Chief Minister said that necessary arrangements should be made to resolve the issues at the Tahsildar offices

by the first week of March. The Revenue department was directed to prepare guidelines to clear all the pending applications. Revanth Reddy held a review meeting with the Dharani Committee at the Secretariat here on Saturday.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Adviser to Chief Minister Vem Narendra Reddy,

Dharani Committee Members M. Kodanda Reddy, Retired IAS Raymond Peter, Advocate Sunil, Retired Special Grade Collector B. Madhusudan, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Principal Secretary to Revenue department Naveen Mittal and other senior officials were present in the meeting. **Continued on pg 02**

Govt should implement six guarantees before LS schedule: Vinod Kumar

Jagtial, Feb 24 (IANS) : BRS leader and former MP B Vinod Kumar demanded that State government issue GOs for implementation of the six guarantees before the election code for Lok Sabha polls came into force. During the

run-up to the Assembly elections, the Congress party promised to implement six guarantees within 100 days after coming to power. So, the State government should fulfill its promise and not escape on the pretext of parliament polls, he said.



MP Raghurama Krishna Raju quits YSRCP

Amaravati, Feb 24 (IANS) : YSRCP rebel MP Raghurama Krishna Raju has resigned from the ruling YSRCP. He sent his resignation letter to party chief and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "I can't work with you who has a mindset like Ghazni," he said in the letter. It is known that Raghu Rama has been working against the YSRCP for the last three years. Every day, he was criticising the YSRCP through his rachabanda program. In his resignation letter, Raghu Rama said, "Like Mohammad Ghajini, you have made many attempts to disqualify me as an MP and the result you wanted has come today.



Congress cuts 40% eligible recipients in Rs 500 gas cylinders, 200 units free power schemes : Sravan

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : BRS senior leader Dr Dasoju Sravan today accused the Congress Government of cheating the people of Telangana regarding the implementation of six guarantees they gave on the eve of the elections. Addressing me-

dia persons at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Sravan said the Congress Government was not serious about implementing the guarantees and had been resorting to delay tactics. He said despite the availability of data on eligible beneficiaries, the Congress Government enacted the drama in the name of 'Praja

Palana' and forced the common people to stand in long queues and spend money to apply for those schemes. He said the entire exercise of 'Praja Palana' was to delay the implementation of guarantees and cut down a majority of beneficiaries.



Special drive to be held for VIP drivers to check level of fitness : Ponnam

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : Following the tragic death of Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Lasya Nanditha, the State transport department has decided to conduct a special drive for those drivers who are working with Ministers, MLAs, IAS, IPS and other VIPs in Telangana, to check their level of fitness.

Nanditha died in the road accident on Outer Ring Road near Patancheru on Friday due to rash and negligent driving by her Personal Assistant, Akash. Police registered a case against Akash under IPC 304 A following a complaint filed by MLA's sister. In this background, the Minister has shared his thoughts with the media persons.

Balka Suman slams Congress party CM

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : BRS party leader Balka Suman today said it was not right for the goons of the Congress party to attack voices questioning the government. Speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan.



Under Rajanna Sirsilla District Police Department Anti-Drug Awareness 5K Run on 3rd March

Sirsilla DSP Bhimsharma at the unveiling of the posters Those participating in the 5k run should register their names

Rajanna Sirsilla, Feb 24 (TIM Bureau): Sirsilla DSP Bhem Sharma has called upon everyone to participate in the eradication of ganja and drugs for a better future for the youth.

asked a large number of people, young women, youth, students, employees, public representatives and journalist friends to participate in this 5K run and make the 5K run a success.



one should participate in the elimination of ganja and drugs for a better future of the youth. A large number of people of the district, young women, youth, employees, public representatives and friends of the press participated in the drug aware-

ness 5K run organized by the district SP Akhil Mahajan on March 03. He said that the first 13 people who participated in the 5K run would be given a bicycle as a token of their participation and success.

Those who will participate in the 5K run must register with their full details in the link. Everyone wants to participate in the measures taken by the police to eliminate drugs and ganja in the district and work hard to make it a 'Ganja-free district'.



Health Melas should be organized every Saturday

In charge DM&HO Rajitha in the review meeting

Rajanna Sirsilla, Feb 24 (TIM Bureau): The in-charge district medical health officer Dr. Rajitha has suggested that health fairs should be held every Saturday and photos should be registered online.

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. DEMAND NOTICE. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHIRAM FINANCE LTD.

CM directs officials to resolve all Dharani pending applications as early as possible

Continued From pg 01 As there are about 2.45 lakh pending cases related to the Dharani portal across the Telangana State, the Chief Minister discussed with the officials what are the ways to resolve these cases immediately in the first phase.

out troubling the farmers and to make arrangements for the same in the first week of March. During the meeting, the Chief Minister was informed by the Dharani Committee Members that there are flaws in the ROR Act that came into force in 2020 and only

with the hastily conducted comprehensive land survey in just three months, new complications came. Moreover, since the previous government had taken those records as standard, the land problems.

PM to lay stone/inaugurate/dedicate 554 Amrit Stations & Road Over Bridges

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (IANS): Marking another major milestone in the transformative growth story underway in Indian Railways, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be laying the foundation stone / inaugurating / dedicating 554 Amrit Stations and 1,500 Road Over Bridges /Road Under Bridges (ROB/RUB).

vide World-class facilities to the rail passengers. Under the "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme", railway stations across the nation are being redeveloped, not only to provide modern passenger amenities but also to convert them into growth centers to the city's populace.



Taking this ahead, foundation stone is being laid / inaugurated / dedicated for another 554 Stations. This includes 57 Stations of South Central Railways spread across the four States of Telangana (15).

PUBLIC NOTICE. The General Public is hereby informed that the client Mr. A. V. Prasad S/o A. Surya Prakash Rao, R/o Hyderabad is intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from Mr. Kavali Ravinder Yadav S/o Late Kavali Kishthaia, R/o.H-NO 2-60, Kandawada (V), Chevella (M), R.R Dist, TS.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY. LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS: 26.03.2024 UPTO 4.00 PM. Description of Properties (as per available details): All that part and parcel of flat bearing Door No.6-3-1198, Flat No.G-3, Kishore Nikethan Apartments, Uma Nagar, Kundanbagh, Begumpet, Hyderabad, admeasuring 555 Sq.Yds with UDs of land 22 Sq.Yards.

Three held for making spurious materials & selling to shops. Hyderabad, Feb.24 (IANS): The sleuths of Task Force, Central Zone team, along with staff of Kachiguda PS laid a trap near Kumar Theatre, in the limits of Kachiguda PS and apprehended Mahendra Singh of Nagaram and native of Rajasthan. Police said he was illegally procuring and selling general store duplicate adulterate/spurious coconut hair oil on the brand name of Parachute, duplicate Detergent powders, duplicate Detergent soaps, Cleaning liquids, Spurious / Adulterate Tea powders, Masala powders by violating Copy Right Act and selling spurious material to various kirana shops, super markets as genuine ones in and around Hyderabad City and earned easy money illegally.

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH #249/3RT, 1 Floor, S.R.Nagar Main Road, Hyderabad, Telangana-500038. NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2)(b) (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002. To: Borrower: M/s. DSP Rice Industries, Rep. by its Prop. Smt. Banoth Vinoda, Main Road Khanapur, Mandal-Khanapur, Warangal Dist.-504203. Mrs. Banoth Vinoda, W/o. Ajmeera Shree Ram, Prop. of M/s. DSP Rice Industries, H.No.1-8-700/15, Near IIT Ramaiah Vidya Nagar, Nallakunta, Hyderabad-500045.



Odisha CM inaugurates sports infra projects worth Rs 660 crore

Bhubaneswar, Feb 24 (IANS) : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday launched sports infrastructure projects worth Rs 660 crore that includes 48 multi-purpose indoor stadia, Cuttack Table Tennis Academy, Rourkela Gymnastics Academy and 12 new Hockey Training Centres (HTCs), an official said. The infrastructural push will further help in developing sports culture at the grassroots level and encourage people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, the official said. CM Patnaik also laid the foundation stone for 11 sports projects

on this occasion. "We want to provide the best sports facilities for our young sportspersons so that they can realise their potential and bring laurels to Odisha and India. I hope that the facilities launched today will provide a big momentum to the sports development in the state," Patnaik said on the occasion. Official sources said that the 48 multipurpose indoor stadia developed at different places in the state consist of courts, rooms and other facilities for sports like badminton, table tennis, yoga, chess and weightlifting, gym etc.

Amit Shah assured to resolve issue of political reservation for STs : Goa CM

Panaji, Feb 24 (IANS) : Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday said that Home Minister Amit Shah has assured an early resolution on the issue of political reservation for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) of the coastal state. Sawant, along with leaders of the ST community, on Saturday evening met Amit Shah in the national capital, and discussed the issue. "I, along with a delegation of ST leaders, met Home

Minister Amit Shah regarding the matter of reservation of seats in Goa Legislative Assembly for the STs. I wholeheartedly thank the Home Minister for assuring an early resolution," Sawant said. Last week, Goa Schedule Tribe delegation along with Pramod Sawant called upon Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda, seeking political reservation. However, the delegation was not able to meet Amit Shah on that day. Later, Sawant had a one on one meeting with the Home Minister and discussed the issue. Goa Legislative Assembly had unanimously adopted a private member resolution in July 2023, moved by ST leader MLA Ganesh Gaonkar.



K'taka BJP demands probe into 'threat' to burn down train returning from Ayodhya

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (IANS) : Karnataka BJP has demanded a comprehensive probe over the alleged threat to burn down the train returning from Ayodhya. Former Karnataka BJP minister C.T. Ravi on Saturday urged the state government to investigate the Congress MLC B.K. Hariprasada in

connection to the alleged threat. Speaking to reporters, Ravi said that Hariprasada had given a statement about the possibility of a Godhra-like incident in the state. The BJP leader further said that the action must be taken before any tragedy would take place. "It is a serious matter that even after devotees of Shri Ram handed

over the accused to the police, they let him go scot-free. The police have shown dereliction in their duty and action must be initiated against them as well," Ravi said, referring to a recent incident at Hospet Railway Station where some youth allegedly threatened to burn down a special train returning from Ayodhya.



Girl student jumps in front of Bihar Deputy CM's car in Patna

Patna, Feb 24 (IANS) : A girl student jumped in front of the car of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary in Patna on Saturday evening. However, the driver timely applied the brake, averting any mishap. The incident occurred near Biscamaun Bhawan. The girl along with other students was protesting against the state government as the Education Ministry did not allow STET appearing candidates to fill application forms for the third phase of teachers recruitment in the state.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHIRAM FINANCE LTD, (Formerly known as Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of 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. D.Ram Kishore, S/o. D.Sayanna, Aged About 43 Years, Occ: Civil Contractor, R/o. Plot.No.145/B & 146/B, Flat No.202, Sreha Arcade,Raghavendra Colony Near Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Kondapur, Serilingampally Mandal,Ranga Reddy Dist.-500084, 2. D.Anitha, W/o. D.Sayanna, Aged About 58 Years, R/o. Plot.No.145/B & 146/B, Flat No.202, Sreha Arcade,Raghavendra Colony Near Raghavendra Swamy Temple, Kondapur, Serilingampally Mandal,Ranga Reddy Dist.-500084, 3. D.Srinivas, S/o. D.Chinnappa, Aged About 39 Years, Occ: Private Employee R/o. Plot.No.5-4-109,Flat No.303, Saraswathi Arcade,Sangeetha Nagar,Near Bagyanagar Model School,Kukatpally,Hyderabad Dist-500072.

.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs
NPA Date: 11.05.2021 Date of Demand Notice:25.01.2024
Outstanding Amount :Rs.71,06,780/- Loan Amount Rs. 35,00,000/-
Property Address of Secured Assets : MIYPRTF1808240001- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the piece and parcel of the Land Bearing Plot No.509,admeasuring 350 Sq.Yards, equivalent to 292.6 Sq.Mtrs., in Survey No.59(Part), Under Ward No.8,Block No.7,situated at Viveswararaya Engineer's Colony,KARMAHGAT VILLAGE,Saroomagar Revenue Mandal,Ranga Reddy District,Under G.H.M.C., L.B.Nagar Circle, and bounded as follows :- North: Plot No.517, South : 30' Wide Road, East:Plot No.510, West: Plot No.508

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: Saroornagar Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

Three sharpshooters of Tillu Tajpuriya gang nabbed in Delhi after exchange of fire

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Three sharpshooters of Tillu Tajpuriya gang were arrested, after a brief exchange of fire, when they were fleeing after committing a crime in Alipur area on the outskirts of Delhi, police said on Saturday. The trio were identified as Rohit a.k.a Laddu, 24, Mohit, 23, and Siddharth, 19, while a manhunt has been initiated to nab the fourth accused Kunal, who is still at large. Their arrest comes after information was received from a woman caller on Thursday alleging that her husband Vikas was shot and injured by four people, belonging to Tillu Tajpuriya gang. "It was later found that injured Vikas aka Pali, a resident of village Bakoli was seated in his car in front of his chicken shop in the village when a car approached. Siddharth, Rohit, and Kunal alighted from the car, with Mohit remained seated. "They were carrying weapons, and the complainant tried to flee from the scene, but they began firing at him and inflicted gunshot injury on the complainant,"



a senior police official said. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Outer, Jimmy Chiram said that various police teams including local police and special staff and Anti-Gangster Cell teams, immediately started a search and combing operation in the nearby areas and reached Bakhtawarpur, where they saw some movement in the farms. "On challenging the accused, he fired at the local police and the team retaliated in self-defence.

Assam repeals Muslim Marriage Act

Guwahati, Feb 24 (IANS) : In a major development, the long-standing Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act of 1935 was repealed by the state government on Saturday. The decision was taken during a state cabinet meeting on Friday night chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. It comes three weeks after Uttarakhand became the first state to enact Uniform Civil Code legislation. Cabinet Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah referred to it as a major step toward a Uniform Civil Code (UCC). He emphasized that going forward, all matters pertaining to Muslim marriages and divorces would be governed by the Special Mar-

riages Act. "The District Commissioner and the District Registrar will now be in charge of registering Muslim marriages and divorces under the new structure. The 94 Muslim registrars who were employed under the revoked Act will also be released from their positions.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHIRAM FINANCE LTD, (Formerly known as Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of 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 Borrowers/Co-borrowers/ Guarantors:
1. D.Sushma Yadav, W/o. D.Santhosh Yadav, Aged About 38 Years, R/O. H.No.4-8-531, New Nandhini Residency Back Side, Gowliguda, Hyderabad Dist -500012, 2. D.Santhosh Yadav, S/o. D.Sreeraj Saba31, Aged About 43 Years, Occ: IAS Siddhivijaya Distributors, R/O. H.No.4-8-531, New Nandhini Residency Back Side, Gowliguda,Hyderabad Dist -500012, 3. V.Venkatesh, S/o. V.Rama Rao, Occ : Executive Asst In Hsb.Madhapur.R/O. H.No.3-3-796/805/F-304, Minenpatti Masjid, Kachiguda,Hyderabad -500027.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs
NPA Date: 16-05-2015 Date of Demand Notice:25-01-2024
Outstanding Amount :Rs.91,44,619/- Loan Amount Rs. 20,00,000/-
Property Address of Secured Assets : AMRPTTF1306290002- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the house bearing Municipal No.4-8-531, situated at Gowliguda ,Hyderabad , admeasuring 116.50 sq.yards or 97.40 sq.mts.under SRO Hyderabad, bounded on : East: Lane, West:Lane, North: Neighbour House bearing No.4-8-523 of D.Arvind Kumar South: House of Muralidhar Datta

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: Gowliguda Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
Safilguda Branch (0955), Hyderabad Zone. E-mail: bom955@mahabank.co.in

Ref: AG39/K Rajya Lakhmi/SARFAESI/13/4/2023-24 Date: 19/02/2024

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule 8(1)) (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05-12-2023 calling upon the borrowers Mrs. Rajyalakshmi Kaipa, W/o Mr. K.Pratap Reddy and Co-Applicant Mr. K.Pratap Reddy to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.39,11,933.88 (Rupees Thirty nine lakh eleven thousand nine hundred thirty three and eight eighty Paise only) plus un-applied interest at prevailing rate from the date of default plus expenses and other charges. The borrowers having failed to repay the total amount due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 19-02-2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:

Property Details: Equitable mortgage of H.No.30-647/12/9 A on part of Plot No.75 and 76 Sy.No.466, situated at Chandragiri Colony, Malkajgiri Municipality R.R.Dist. Admeasuring 200 Sq.Yards. PIN Code: 500047 and is bounded as follows: North: Plot No.59 and 60, South: Part of primises 30-647/12/9A, East: 25 Mts. Wide Road, West: Part of Plot No.75.

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Asst. General Manager & Authorised Officer Bank of Maharashtra Date: 19-02-2024

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

POSSESSION NOTICE

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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.

S.No.	Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice	Possession Taken on
1	DAYAKAR REDDY VENKANNAGARI, S/o. Venkataram Reddy, Aged About 54 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. Ms. Kamadhana Dairy Farm, Bharath Nagar, Gajwel Mandal, Medak Dist. R/o. H.No.10-112/1, Bharath Nagar, Gajwel Mandal, Medak Dist.-502278. I/nd Adds: 1-108, Dilalpur, Gajwel Mandal, Medak Dist-502278. 2) Venkannagari Sudhama W/o. Dayakar Reddy, Aged About 47 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o. H.No.10-112/1, Bharath Nagar, Gajwel Mandal, Medak Dist.-502278. I/nd Adds: 1-108, Dilalpur, Gajwel Mandal, Medak Dist.-502278. I/nd Adds: R/o. Kasanpally Village, Cheguta Mandal, Medak Dist.-502247. 3) Kolan Laxmi W/o. Kolan Mahender Reddy, Aged About 50 Years, R/o. Flat No.401, Sai Ram Residency, Karthikeya Nagar, Nacharam, Uppal, Hyderabad-500076.	Rs. 1,34,30,243/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Four Lakhs Thirty Thousand and Forty Three only)	23-02-2024

MALKATF1505290012 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Property holder Name is Venkannagari Sudhama W/o. Dayakar Reddy, Mortgage deed dated 30.05.2015 Registered as Document No.2043/2015 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at RAMAYAMPET:- Medak District, Sangareddy Regn. District, Ramayampet Sub-District, Sangareddy Mandal, Cheguta Kasanpally Village Accounts, Sy.No.49/A2 an extent of Ac.0.14 ½ Guntas, Sy.No.49/E1 an extent of Ac.0.07½ Guntas, Sy.No.69/A an extent of Ac.0.10 ½ Guntas, Sy.No.69/Aa an extent of Ac.0.29½ guntas and Sy.No.70/A an extent of Ac.0.04 Guntas out of Ac.0.15½ Guntas total extent of Ac.1.26 Guntas, Bounded on: East: Agricultural Land of Vendors (Chowdarygar Ram Reddy), West: Agricultural Land of Vekannagari Dayakar Reddy, North: Agricultural Land Of V.Sudhama & Chandrayapeta Village Boundary, South: Agricultural Land Of Vendors (Chowdarygar Ram Reddy).

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

Place: CHEGUNTA, Date: 23-02-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiram Finance Limited

SBFC SBFC Finance Limited Registered Office: Unit No. 103, First Floor, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Village Chakala, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SBFC Finance Limited. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder, in the books of SBFC as per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SBFC Finance Limited, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below, calling upon the following borrowers /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.

Name Of The Borrower / Address / Demand Notice & NPA Date	Loan No. and Outstanding Amount	Description of Secured Assets
1. M/s. Sri Naga Sai Manikanta Kiranam, H.No.3-2-56/3/1, Kinnerasani Theater Road, Khammam, Telangana-507003.	Loan Account No.11238 (PR00615898) Loan Amount:Rs.14,60,000/-	All the piece and parcel of Residential House bearing Door No.3-7-182/12/1, Plot No.6 part, admeasuring 140 Sq.Yds., out of Khanna Survey No. 143, 144 & 147, situated at Sundaraiah Nagar, Khammam Corporation limits and District and property bounded as under: North: House of D.Jeevan in Plot No.5 (H.No.3-7-182/12), South: 30 Feet Wide Road, East: Vendor's Plot No.6 part, West: M.Triveni H.No. 3-7-182/11/D, on Plot No.7 & H.No.3-7-182/11/6 of A.Jyothi.
2. Garepalli Praveen Kumar, 3. Garepalli Laxmi, 4. Garepalli Ashok Kumar, 5. Garepalli Jagadeesh, 6. Garepalli Sreesha, 7. Garepalli Mounika, H.No.3-7-182/12/1, Plot No.6, Sy.No.143, 144, 147, Pumping Well Road, Khammam, Telangana-507003.	Loan Account No.14079 (PR00621133) Loan Amount: Rs.10,40,000/- Loan Account No.26963 (PR00736130) Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Total Outstanding Amount: of Rs.29,95,939/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh(s) Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine Only)	

NPA Date: 05 January 2024 Date of Demand Notice: 25 October 2023

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers, 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 this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and the applicable Rules thereunder. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the SARFAESI 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.

Dated: 25th February 2024, Place: Khammam Sd/- Authorized Officer, SBFC Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



ANY DECISION ON FARMERS DEMANDS MUST TAKE CARE OF SMALL AND MARGINAL SECTIONS

India's agriculture sector is the backbone of its economy, with a significant portion of the population engaged in farming activities. Out of the 93.09 million agricultural households in India, a staggering 82% belong to the category of small and marginal farmers, typically holding less than 2 hectares of land. Despite being the lifeblood of the nation's food production, the average monthly income of Indian farmers hovers around a mere \$125 per month, starkly lower than the national average per-capita income of \$200 per month. Notably, Punjab stands out as home to the wealthiest farmers in India, with a per-capita income reaching \$322 per month. However, the geographical distribution of small and marginal farmers paints a different picture, with 73% of them concentrated in the southern and eastern states. In stark contrast, Punjab and Haryana are dominated by large farmers, with only 1% of the farmers falling into the small and marginal category.

Out of 93.09 million, Punjab has approximately 1.46 million agricultural households, while Haryana boasts about 1.96 million agricultural households. Together these two states, account for only 3.67% of India's agriculture household population. Despite their relatively small population within the agricultural landscape, these two states have been at the forefront of farmer protests.

The issue of MSP remains a contentious point in India's agricultural discourse. While the government procures 23 essential food items from farmers through agencies like the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the reality is far from ideal for small farmers. MSP often seems like a lifeline, offering a price floor above market rates. However, logistical challenges and limited procurement centres render MSP benefits inaccessible to many. Firstly, it's important to note that not every village has access to NAFED or FCI outlets. Currently, the NAFED/FCI primarily procures rice and wheat from a limited number of states. Approximately 70% of rice procurement occurs in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh, while 80% of wheat procurement is concentrated in Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh. Moreover, the timing of procurement dates often clashes with harvest seasons, making it impractical for small farmers to sell directly to FCI.

In India, the average agricultural yield is 2070 per hectare. Small farmers, given their landholding size, can at the most produce 24 quintals. To store their perishable stocks in cold storage, farmers are required to book a minimum quantity of 50,000 quintals for their produce, a daunting requirement for small-scale farmers. Alternatively, farmers may choose to take their produce directly to government-designated local mandis. However, with only 7,700 mandis available across 6,60,000 villages, arranging transport poses a significant challenge. Booking an entire 400 quintals capacity truck for themselves may not be financially viable or logistically feasible for individual farmers. Consequently, many are forced to sell at local markets or to village-level aggregators, often falling prey to exploitative pricing. Thus, while MSP discussions dominate headlines, its benefits trickle down unevenly, failing to uplift the majority of small and marginal farmers. MSP always stands to make gains for the large farmers, traders, and middlemen (Arthiyas and Banias) mostly belonging to the states of Punjab and Haryana. The concept of farm loan waivers, though seemingly beneficial, has its pitfalls. In a country where only 15% of marginal farmers have access to formal credit, loan waivers predominantly benefit those with formal loans. Evidence indicates that farm loan waivers often fail to benefit small and marginal farmers. Once a loan waiver is announced, banks typically cease lending to farmers eligible for waivers in subsequent loan cycles. As a result, many small and marginal farmers who are otherwise eligible for formal loans find themselves unable to secure financial assistance. That is, they now have to depend on loans from the informal sector.

(By Dr. Nilanjan Banik)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

SUPREME COURT SHEDS ALL INHIBITIONS TO ACT DECISIVELY TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

The New Year seems to have done some magic to the Supreme Court under the stewardship of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. The judicial journey of 2024, though short as yet, is marked by a series

of nuanced verdicts, which stand in stark contrast to the seemingly favourable tide of 2023 for the Modi government.

A seismic shift occurred when the Supreme Court annulled the Electoral Bond Scheme earlier this month, challenging the unmatched

financial advantage enjoyed by the ruling party. This verdict, grounded in concerns about transparency and the "right to information," emphasized the judiciary's role in upholding democratic principles.

The annulment of the Electoral Bond Scheme was not merely a legal pronouncement; it was a recalibration of the delicate balance between political financing and democratic principles. The court's assertion reinforces the democratic imperative of an informed electorate. In the aftermath, questions about the potential impact on future elections linger, as the ruling party faces a financial setback.

Close on the heels of the electoral bond setback to the ruling party came the Chandigarh mayoral election verdict, which while ensuring electoral integrity, also reignited discussions about the judiciary's susceptibility to politi-

cal influence. Accusations of bias underscore the delicate nature of the Court's role, requiring not only legal acumen but also an acute awareness of its broader societal impact.

In the mayoral election case, the court overturned the BJP candidate's win due to electoral misconduct, paving the way for the opposition candidate's victory. The court found that the presiding officer deliberately defaced eight ballot papers in favour of the AAP-INC candidate, rendering them invalid. This resulted in the BJP candidate, Manoj Sonkar, being declared the winner despite receiving fewer valid votes. The court considered this misconduct by the officer a "deliberate attempt to alter the course of the election" and overturned the original results.

(IPA Service)

INDIA IS WORKING SUCCESSFULLY ON SEA BED MINING TO GET ACCESS TO OCEAN RESOURCES

The head of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a United Nations body that regulates deep-sea mining, has highlighted the growing reality of mining the ocean floor for precious metals. This move is increasingly seen as unavoidable, according to Michael Lodge, the ISA's secretary-general.

During a discussion with CNBC, Lodge pointed out the significant global interest in deep-sea mining, underlining its critical role in the transition to renewable energy, as reported by Interesting Engineering. The ISA, created 30 years ago to oversee mining in roughly half of the world's oceans, is preparing for discussions on deep-sea mining in Kingston, Jamaica.

CREDIBILITY CONCERNS RISE IN JOURNALISM WITH METEORIC RISE OF CHATGPT

A recent report by Cision, a leading media intelligence and communications platform, unveils growing anxieties within the journalism industry. The meteoric rise of AI-powered tools like ChatGPT casts a shadow over the core tenets of the profession: accuracy and credibility. Journalists fear this disruptive technology might exacerbate the already intricate task of delivering authentic and reliable news in an increasingly complex media landscape.

The report — The State of the Media Report — highlights two fundamental concerns: the weaponization of misinformation and the erosion of the human element.

The ability of AI to generate content at astonishing speeds raises concerns about its potential misuse. Malicious actors could exploit this technology to disseminate fake news, manipulate nar-

ratives, and erode public trust in legitimate journalism. This threat to accuracy and ethical reporting deeply worries journalists who see it as a direct attack on the foundations of their profession.

While AI offers advantages in data analysis and content summarization, the irreplaceable human element of journalism could be overshadowed. Critical thinking, nuanced storytelling, and in-depth investigation are at the core of building trust and ensuring authenticity. Replacing these qualities with AI-generated content would fundamentally alter the nature of journalism, potentially sacrificing human insights and critical judgment for mere efficiency. The report emphasizes the need for a measured and critical approach to AI integration in journalism. While automation and data analysis tools hold promise, they should never supersede the core human values of accuracy,

objectivity, and critical thinking. The future lies in finding a symbiotic balance where AI acts as a tool to augment journalists' abilities, not replace them. Only then can journalism thrive in the age of AI, upholding its essential role as a pillar of a well-informed and engaged society.

Surveying over 3,100 journalists across 17 global markets, the report sheds light on a critical juncture within the profession. The study, conducted by Cision, unveils widespread anxieties regarding content accuracy and misinformation, challenges journalists face daily.

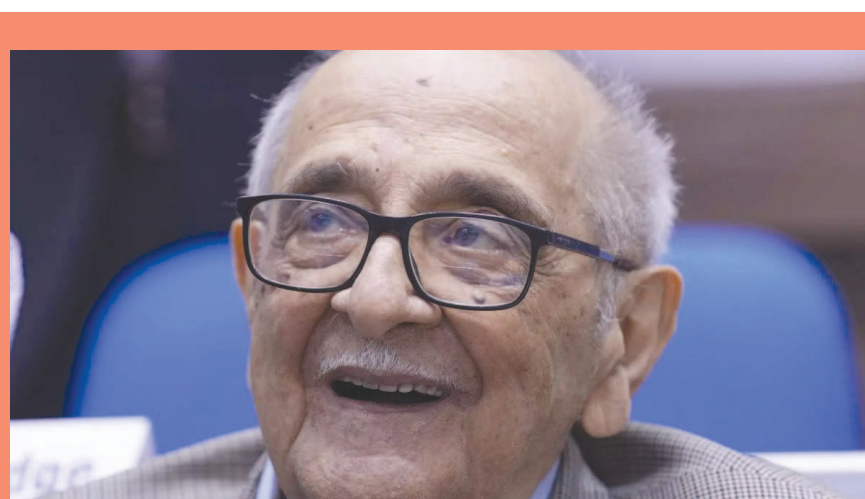
A resounding 58% of journalists, and 43% of their organizations, identified "ensuring content accuracy" as their primary concern. This statistic emphasizes the heightened focus on truth and verifiability in the current media landscape.

(IPA Service)

ISRAEL PUTS QATAR IN CROSSHAIRS AS HAMAS REASSERTS ITSELF ON GAZA STRIP

With the Gaza ceasefire and prisoner exchange talks stalled, Israel and its hardline US supporters have stepped up long-standing efforts to discredit Qatar, the main mediator between Hamas and the Israeli govern-

ment. The anti-Qatar campaign accuses the Gulf state, of forging relations with problematic groups and supporting the likes of Hamas and the Taliban as part of its conflict mediation policy, even though those relationships were encouraged by the United States and, in the case of Hamas, Israel.



EMINENT JURIST FALI S NARIMAN'S PASSING AWAY IS A BIG LOSS TO INDIAN DEMOCRACY AT THIS HOUR

Ninety five years is a ripe old age for an Indian to live, but the passing away of the eminent jurist and the constitu-

tional lawyer of the country at this period of Indian polity, is a big jolt to those who have been battling for protecting the constitutional values from the attacks of the Narendra Modi government.

AGGRESSIVE RAHUL A POTENT THREAT FOR BOTH BJP, SP IN UTTAR PRADESH

Rahul Gandhi in Amethi on February 19, was not the same Rahul Gandhi who launched his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on January 14, 2024 from Thoubal in Manipur with the aim to expose Narendra Modi and his anti-people policies. Instead, it was a Rahul who roared on the streets of Uttar Pradesh cajoling the people to come out of their slumber, hit the streets and raise their voice against their exploitation and injustice that was being perpetrated on them by RSS and BJP under Modi.

This new transformation of Rahul had indeed come as a spicy surprise for the people of Uttar Pradesh. Content of his speech, thrust of the message and manner of exhorting the people have undergone a complete metamorphosis ever since he descended in Varanasi. His aggression was to be seen and realised.

His speech did not sound like the oration by a traditional Congress leader. His discourse sent a clear message that a New Left has emerged. Gandhi emphasised the need for a nationwide caste census and said there was no proper representation.

(IPA Service)



UN chief calls for end to Ukraine crisis

United Nations, Feb 24 (IANS) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an end to the Ukraine crisis. He made the appeal on Saturday at a Security Council meeting scheduled to coincide with the second anniversary of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, Xinhua news agency reported.

Two years on, the conflict in Ukraine remains an open wound at the heart of Europe. It is high time for peace -- a just peace, based on the UN Charter, international law and UN

General Assembly resolutions, said Guterres. International disputes shall be settled by peaceful means and all states shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state, he said.

The danger of the conflict escalating and expanding is very real. Around the world, the conflict in Ukraine is deepening geopolitical divides, fanning regional instability, shrinking the space available to address other urgent global issues, and undermining the shared norms and values that make the

world safer, he said. The conflict accelerated a surge in food prices, economic shocks and a global cost-of-living crisis, which hit developing countries the hardest. In addition, the prospect of this conflict resulting in a nuclear accident chills spines around the world, he added.

"It is time to recommit to the (UN) Charter and renew respect for international law. That is the path to peace and security -- in Ukraine and around the world," said Guterres.



One dead, two missing as fishing boat hits cargo ship in Vietnam

Hanoi, Feb 24 (IANS) : One fisherman died, six injured and two others went missing on Saturday morning after a fishing boat crashed with a cargo ship in the sea off Vietnam's Quang Ngai province.

The fishing boat with nine seamen on board was crushed into two pieces, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Local authorities are searching for two missing fishermen, Xinhua news agency reported.



Ukraine says it shot down another Russian A-50 surveillance plane

Kiev, Feb 24 (IANS) : Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleschuk has said that the Ukrainian military shot down another Russian A-50 surveillance aircraft.

"I am grateful to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and all those who ensured the result," Oleschuk said in a Telegram post on Saturday.

The Ukrainian forces continue their work, Oleschuk added. The Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the plane lost speed and height near the city of Yeysk in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, Xinhua news agency reported. Russia used the plane as an air command post for long-range radar detection.



7 hospitalised after gas leak at Swedish Security Service HQ

Stockholm, Feb 24 (IANS) : Seven people were hospitalised with respiratory problems after the Swedish Security Service's headquarters in Stockholm were evacuated due to a gas leak.

The alarm was raised just after lunchtime on Saturday, and emergency services deployed staff in hazmat suits. As many as 500 people were evacuated from the building, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Swedish channel TV 4.

Around 150 people working in a neighbouring office building

were also evacuated, Swedish Television reported.

"We have cordoned off a radius of 500 meters, something that applies to pedestrians as well as motorists," police spokesperson Anders Bryngelsson told TT news agency. A nearby highway ramp on one of Stockholm's major thoroughfares was also shut down, TT reported.

"The government is following the development and is in contact with the Security Service," Minister for Justice Gunnar Strommer told TT.



Six killed in military, NPA rebels clash in Philippines

Manila, Feb 24 (IANS) : Six people -- a police officer and five suspected NPA rebels -- were killed in a clash in Bohol province in Philippines on Saturday, the military said.

The fighting broke out between a combined force of soldiers and police officers and the New People's Army (NPA) rebels before 7 a.m. local time in a village in Bilar town, Xinhua news agency reported.

Troops recovered a number of rifles and pistols at the clash site. NPA rebels have been fighting the government troops since 1969. They concentrate their attacks on rural areas and have skirmishes with the military. Military data showed that the NPA is estimated to have 2,000 members, significantly lower than its peak strength in the 1980s.



US hits Russia with 500 sanctions over Navalny, Ukraine

Washington, Feb 24 (IANS) : The US has hit Russia with 500 new sanctions on Saturday over the death of jailed Opposition leader Aleksey Navalny and the ongoing war against Ukraine, with the goal of further constricting its energy earnings that fuel and sustain the war effort.

The US has also announced 100 sanctions against entities that are providing "backdoor support" to the Russian war machine, including those in China, the UAE and Liechtenstein.

"These sanctions will target individuals connected to Navalny's imprisonment as well as Russia's financial sector, defence industrial base, procurement networks and sanctions evaders across multiple continents," US President Joe Biden said, announc-

ing new curbs. "They will ensure Putin pays an even steeper price for his aggression abroad and repression at home."

The 47-year-old Navalny died in a Russian prison on February 16. The US has sanctioned more than 2,000 entities in Russia since President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine to deter him by squeezing his energy earnings and sources of material for the war industry. But Russia appears far from being deterred. Its economy grew by 3 per cent in 2023, more than the US economy. And it continues to wage the war, which is now going in their advantage specially with Ukraine's depleting arsenal desperately in need of replenishment.

A legislation providing additional security funding for Ukraine is caught in a political fight between Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, home of the US con-

gress. Pressing Republicans, who control the House of Representatives to clear the bill, Biden said: "History is watching."

The failure to support Ukraine at this critical moment will not be forgotten. Now is the time for us to stand strong with Ukraine and stand united with our allies and partners. Now is the time to prove that the US stands up for freedom and bows down to no one."

These additional sanctions come amidst further deterioration in relations between the world's largest nuclear powers and sharp language exchanged by the two sides.

Biden called Putin a "crazy SOB" at a fundraiser for his re-election campaign earlier this week. And Putin reacted by sarcastically calling Biden his preferred president of the US.

Homes destroyed in bushfires in Australia

Sydney, Feb 24 (IANS) : Homes were gutted due to bushfires fanned up by heat and blustery conditions in Australian state of Victoria, authorities said on Saturday. Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan said: "Now we are sadly hearing reports of property loss that are starting to come through given the active nature of the fire and the diffi-

cult terrain in the area." She said two emergency warnings related to the blaze are currently in place, Xinhua news agency reported. The Western highway and train line between Ballarat and Ararat, remain closed, while crews on the ground are working to reopen the services in the coming hours, she said.



Bangladesh plans to produce FMD vaccine for livestock

Dhaka, Feb 24 (IANS) : Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Bangladesh Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdur Rahman has said the government has a plan to produce foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine for livestock locally as the current local vaccine market for FMD is growing rapidly.

"The government has a plan to produce FMD vaccine for the livestock locally instead of importing," said the minister during a question-answer session at the National Parliament on Saturday,

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported.

The minister said this type of vaccine would be produced locally soon and a decision has been taken to build a research center for manufacturing it, Xinhua news agency reported quoting BSS.

"The FMD is a major challenge for the livestock sector in Bangladesh," he said, adding that at present the country meets the demand for vaccines mostly by import. "Most animals infected with FMD still remain untreated due to the unavailability of the vaccine." Being a home-grown



product, he also said, the new vaccine will be more effective and cost-effective than imported ones. "In many cases, imported vaccines have been proved fruitless for the livestock."

The vaccine is expected to help

boost the country's livestock sector as the disease incurs a loss of 125 million U.S. dollars per year. He said the price per unit vaccine will be halved when they start manufacturing those in the country.



Nitish Kumar rules out free electricity in Bihar

Patna, Feb 24 (IANS) : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday ruled out supply of free electricity to the people of the state. Addressing the Assembly during discussion on the budget of the Energy Department he said: "We are already giving subsidies on electricity and hence the tariffs compared to other states are very low in Bihar. People can check the rates of other states. People's contribution is required to avail

the benefits." Nitish Kumar's statement came at a time when many states, including Jharkhand, have announced free electricity. Recently, the Champai Soren government had announced 125 units of free electricity in Jharkhand ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Bihar Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, while presenting the budget of the department in the Assembly on Friday, said that poor people always deposit electricity bills on time and VIPs often delay payments.

Hence, the department is taking strong measures in this regard to apply pressure on them, he added.

"Many states are providing free electricity and they are under the debt of Rs 3 lakh crore. How could we purchase electricity if we provide free electricity? We have to pay power generating companies like NTPC to purchase electricity. We have given Rs 14,000 crore subsidy in electricity last year and this is a big benefit that the state government has given to the common people of Bihar and this will continue in future as well. The power tariff in rural areas is very low here," Yadav said.

"We are planning to bring an offer to the public in the coming days. If a customer would recharge the prepaid meter for three months or six months, the department will give a rebate of 5.4 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively. The minimum recharge amount to get rebate is Rs 2,000," he said.

Centre working proactively to transform health sector : JP Nadda

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda on Saturday said that the Central government has been proactively working to transform the health sector in the country. He said this at the inauguration of new healthcare facilities and the laying foundation of night shelter at AIIMS-Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh. "The Union Government has been proactively working for the transformation of the health sec-

tor which can not only be witnessed in the expansion of the AIIMS network but also in other areas of the health sector like the doubling of medical colleges, increase in MBBS and PG seats, creation of nursing colleges, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and many other similar policies," Nadda said. "Today, our health policy embraces a holistic approach, emphasising on preventive measures to avoid diseases in the first place.



CBI nabs Mumbai Western Railway officer for Rs 50K graft

Mumbai, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Chief Office Superintendent (COS) in the Western Railway's Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a representative of a private company, an official said here on Friday.

The complainant is a regular supplier of various materials to the Western Railway for which he raised bills for payment and submitted them to the accused, COS Sanjay Waghela.

In the complaint, the company representative said that he also made a regular followup for processing, passing and payments of his bills by the Accounts Department, with Waghela.

Farm loan waivers : Has Congress used it as poll promise or did it walk the talk?

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Besides Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee for crops, farm loan waiver is one of the key demands of farmers agitating on Delhi-Punjab borders. The second round of farmers' stir has also found support from the Congress, which has pledged to fulfil the farmers' demands if voted to power in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Four rounds of farmer-government talks have not yielded any conclusive result, though the BJP government did attempt to soothe nerves by claiming that a legislation on

MSP guarantee can't be hurried upon as it requires consultation with many stakeholders. On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi, in a recent public rally, took a vow to implement the MSP guarantee for crops, as per the Swaminathan Commission recommendations. In his five reports submitted during 2004-2006, Bharat Ratna M.S. Swaminathan had recommended MSP allocation for any crop at 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production. This would ensure 50 per cent return for all the farmers. Soon after Rahul Gandhi's pledge to implement the Swaminathan Committee's recommendations, a

document pertaining to the Question Hour of a Parliament session during the UPA rule in 2010 surfaced, showing Congress' reluctance and resistance to implement the same. In response to a BJP MP's question, the UPA government had termed the report as "impractical and infeasible", and blocked it from rollout. This gave BJP an ammunition to attack the Congress for 'befooling' the farmers with unrealistic promises and then breaking them. It also accused the Congress of making lofty promises to public and then reneging on them, claiming that it must end the practice of lip-service and start 'true ser-



vice' of people. A look back at Congress' poll promises shows that the party-ruled governments in many states promised farm loan waivers to win people's support. But after coming to power, it chose to brush it under the carpet, citing poor exchequer funds. Since farm loan waivers are be-

lieved to be 'sure-shot' means to return to power, the party often resorted to this poll gimmick in many states, and when it was time for walking the talk, Congress governments either floundered or backtracked. Some past instances clearly show the doublespeak of the Congress

in terms of poll promises. In many states, it promised farm loan waivers and then refused to implement the same after coming to power. During the 2018 Assembly elections in five states, the Congress structured its campaign around farm loan waivers. It also got voted to power in three states -- Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. However, in all these states, the party dropped its poll promise, thus inviting charges of 'hoodwinking' the farmers. In Karnataka, the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) promised loan waiver of Rs 44,000 crore during the 2018 Assembly elections. However, it truncated the allocated budget by one-third.



J&K SIA files 4th supplementary chargesheet against 6 accused in narco-terror funding case

Srinagar, Feb 24 (IANS) : Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has filed a 4th supplementary chargesheet against six more accused in a case relating to terror funding, taking the total toll of accused to 18, police said. Police said that Muhammad Sharief Chechi, Farooq Ahmad Jungal, and Saif Din who were arrested by SIA recently have been charge-sheeted under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.



Rajasthan : Anti-Gangster Task Force arrests terrorist on the run for 10 yrs

Jaipur, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Anti-Gangster Task Force team of Rajasthan Police on Saturday arrested a wanted terrorist -- Mohammad Merajuddin, who was carry-

ing a reward of Rs 25,000, in the state's Gangapur city, an official said. Dinesh MN, Additional Director General of Police (Crime) who heads the Anti-Gangster Task Force, said that Merajuddin was

on the run for the last 10 years, and he was in the wanted list for his involvement in terrorist activities. In 2014, a 'sleeping cell' had planned to carry out terrorist attacks at various places in India. In this case, a total of 13 terrorists were arrested from Sikar, Jodhpur and Jaipur districts of which 12 were sentenced to life imprisonment by the court. Merajuddin, who was one of the captured terrorists, had absconded then. On Saturday, the AGTF received an information that Merajuddin was in Gangapur. Based on the information, the team carried out intensive surveillance of the terrorist's residence and surrounding areas.

FEMA case : Delhi HC dismisses Moitra's plea after ED tells court advisory on media policy being followed

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Saturday dismissed Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra's plea seeking judicial intervention to prevent the ED from spreading any "confidential or unverified information" with regard to the ongoing probe against her under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), noting that the advisory on media policy issued by the Centre has been and is being followed by the probe agency. Justice Subramonium Prasad noted: "Dissemination of news and views for popular consumption is a must and any attempt to deny the same has always been frowned upon by courts. "It is also equally well settled that freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) includes freedom of press, and communication needs in a demo-

cratic society, i.e., the right to be informed and the right to inform, however, not at the cost of right to privacy." Moitra had challenged the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) approach in handling the ongoing probe against her in the said matter. The court noted that since public figures are subject to closer scrutiny, unless the publications amount to harassment and invasion in private life of the individual public personality concerned or the family of the public personality, publications regarding the public life of such public personalities cannot be stopped from being published either by the government or by the orders of the court. Earlier, the counsel for ED denied that it is leaking any sensitive information to the press regarding the investigation being carried out against Moitra, saying it is "scrupulously following".



Shri Ramcharitmanas row: SC grants 2 weeks to UP government to file its reply on Swami Prasad Maurya's plea

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Saturday granted two weeks time to the Uttar Pradesh government to file its response on former Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya's plea challenging criminal proceedings initiated against him for allegedly insulting the

Shri Ramcharitmanas and inciting people to tear and burn pages of the Hindu epic. According to the request made by the state government, a bench presided over by Justice B.R. Gawai ordered the matter to be listed after two weeks.

Adani Group, Uber to form JV to help expand fleet on green energy?

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : In a thrust to the government's green energy goals, the Adani Group and Uber may soon announce a joint venture (JV) to help the global ride-hailing major expand its fleet that runs on alternative and renewable energy, sources said on Saturday.

With this, Uber's fleet in the country is likely to grow to 200,000 vehicles in the short term, people close to the development told IANS.

According to sources, the Adani Group is likely to explore partnerships with major

Indian vehicle manufacturers to further build the fleet in the key sunrise sector.

This JV will also provide employment opportunities to several thousands of people directly and indirectly, according to people close to the matter.

On Saturday morning, Adani Group Founder and Chairman Gautam Adani met Uber's global CEO Dara Khosrowshahi and discussed future collaborations, as the country doubles down on green and sustainable energy.

"Absolutely captivating chat with @dkhos, CEO of @Uber. His vision for Uber's expansion in India

is truly inspiring, especially his commitment to uplifting Indian drivers and their dignity," Gautam Adani posted on X.

"Excited for future collaborations with Dara and his team," Gautam Adani added.

Replying to Gautam Adani, Khosrowshahi said the company is committed to scale up its operations in the country.

"An absolutely terrific conversation with @gautam_adani over a delicious breakfast about India's phenomenal growth and rising entrepreneurship," Khosrowshahi posted on X.

Uber came to India in 2013 and

completed over 3 billion trips in the next 10 years. Today, Uber is available across 125 cities.

According to the company, it has helped "over 800,000 Indians earn a sustainable income by getting in the driver's seat".

The significant collaboration comes at a time when India is implementing the world's largest renewable energy expansion programme, envisaging a five-fold increase in the overall renewable energy production capacity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target to install 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030.



Decline in FPI equity outflows despite rising bond yields in US

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : An interesting feature of the FPI trend recently is the decline in FPI equity outflows despite the rising bond yields in the US, says V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Normally when the US 10-year yield rises above 4.15%, the FPIs sell heavily. But this is not happening now. Since the DIIs, HNIs and retail investors are the dominant players now and their sustained buying is pushing the market to newer records, FPIs have taken a backseat, he said.

In February through 23rd, FPIs had net sold equity only for Rs 423 crore, sharply down from the January level, he added.

The resilience of the market is preventing the FPIs from selling aggressively despite attractive bond yields in the US. In debt, FPIs continue to be buyers having bought debt worth Rs 18589 crore in February so far, he said.

Strong economic growth, range bound crude prices and strong DII flows have mitigated the impact of FII selling during the past 2 months, as per a report by Prabhudas Lilladher.

Nifty has shown consolidation with upmove of 2.5% in past 6 weeks as RBI keeps policy rates unchanged with rising probability of no cuts by FED before end of 2Q (higher CPI), FII selling of Rs 316 billion amidst rising probability of NDA retaining power in 2024 general elections after strong show in state elections.

FII outflows have been Rs 316 billion CYTD while strong DII inflows of Rs 441 billion have negated the impact of FII selling and enabled 2.5% move in NIFTY CYTD, it added.

I'm still the CEO, management remains unchanged : Byju Raveendran

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Edtech company Byju's founder Byju Raveendran on Saturday refuted reports of being fired from the company, saying such rumours were greatly exaggerated and he remains at the helm. In an email sent to employees and accessed by IANS, Byju Raveendran said that the management remains unchanged, the Board remains the same and the rights issue has "seen an overwhelming response."

His reaction came a day after key shareholders in Byju's like Prosus NV and Peak XV Part-

ners voted to oust him as CEO at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), saying that the stakeholders "unanimously passed all resolutions put forward for vote."

In the email to staff, Byju Raveendran said that it was "business as usual" at the company.

"Just as you can't change the rules of a game midway without agreement from all players, we can't alter how our company is run without following these strict guidelines. At the EGM, a lot of these essential rules were violated. This means that whatever was decided in that meeting does not count, because it didn't stick to the established rules," he

wrote. Byju Raveendran claimed that the EGM was convened without following the proper procedure set out by the law and the Company's Articles of Association. "Only 35 out of 170 shareholders (representing around 45 per cent of shareholding) voted in favour of the resolution. That in itself shows the very limited support that this irrelevant meeting received," said Byju's CEO.

Additionally, he said the Karnataka High Court had granted interim relief, "clearly stating that any decisions made during the meeting would not be given effect until resolution."



Corporate earnings surprised on the upside due to improvement in margins

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The corporate earnings momentum has improved significantly since FY20. Earnings have surprised on the upside in the recent past, driven by an improvement in margins, foreign brokerage Nomura said in a research report. "We think, from hereon, margin levers are limited and growth will be largely dependent on volume growth," it said. "We are constructive on earnings growth in the medium term supported by government policies and its impact on macro factors. The earnings-to-GDP ratio can continue to improve," it added.

The corporate earnings-to-GDP ratio, which has recorded a consistent decline since the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), has rebounded since FY20. Most segments, particularly the commodity-consuming manufacturing sector, have recorded strong growth

since FY20, Nomura said. In an analysis of a set of 232 companies (referred as BSE 200+), which are part of the BSE 200 index and coverage universe, net earnings recorded 30 per cent y-o-y earnings growth. Excluding financials, commodities and telecom, where earnings tend to be volatile, the aggregate earnings growth was strong at 22 per cent y-o-y. The earnings momentum has improved in the recent past as the four-year CAGR between 3QFY20-24 is at 32.3 per cent, vs 2.9 per cent between 3QFY16-20. On aggregate, net earnings were 4 per cent higher than street expectations, the research said. The year-on-year growth was particularly strong in cement, autos, and infrastructure/transport/logistics (including airline). The growth was muted in IT services and consumer staples, but on aggregate the earnings were ahead of consensus estimates.



IPE organised workshop on Impact of Stand-Up India on Marginalized Sections - A Comparative Study of Women Entrepreneurs in Select States of India

Hyderabad, Feb 24 (TIM Bureau) : The Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad organized a Workshop on the "Impact of Stand-Up India on Marginalized Sections-A Comparative Study of Women Entrepreneurs in Select States of India" sponsored by the ICSSR, at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Osmania University Campus, on 23 February 2024. The workshop was attended by several entrepreneurs, beneficiaries of the scheme, bankers, members from the academia and students. Prof. S. Sreenivasa Murthy, Director, Institute of Public Enterprise, delivered the welcome address, and explained the importance of Stand-Up India Scheme in nation building. Dr M Karthik, Project Director, Stand-Up India research project presented the findings of the study with the stakeholders and participants.

Democratisation of commerce-driven technology in India stands out, says global investment firm KKR

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : India's e-commerce industry will look quite different, and more democratised, than what has unfolded in both the United States and China, said Henry H. McVey, Head of Global Macro & Asset Allocation, CIO, KKR.

This is suggested, he said, by the digitalisation of key consumer and business-focused infrastructure such as payments, which are called Unified Payments Interface or UPI in India, as well as the development of the Open Net-

work for Digital Commerce or ONDC, which is essentially an unbundled version of Amazon for business/logistics/buyers. KKR is a leading global investment firm offering solutions in alternative assets spanning real-estate, private credit, private equity, and infrastructure. "If we are right, it likely means a more balanced outcome as it relates to private sector value creation linked to e-commerce as well as technological innovation than what we have seen in the United States and China so far," McVey said in a note.





Sheikh Shahjahan might escape to London if granted anticipatory bail : ED tells court

Kolkata, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) counsel informed a lower court on Saturday that Sheikh Shahjahan, the absconding Trinamool Congress leader and the accused mastermind behind the attack on ED and CAPF personnel at Sandeshkhali on January 5, might escape to London if he is granted anticipatory bail. The ED counsel argued that Shahjahan is so influential that on the day of the attack, he had arranged a crowd of around 3,000 people in just 15 minutes to launch the attack on the ED and CAPF personnel in Sandeshkhali.

Class 8 student thrashed to death in Delhi

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : A 14-year-old minor boy died on Saturday following an altercation with some boy, an official said, adding he was brutally thrashed following which he succumbed to injuries. The incident took place in north-east Delhi's Brahmpuri area, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said that the incident occurred at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday and information regarding the incident was received at 4.04 p.m. from JPC Hospital, following which the police teams were dispatched to the hospital and spot. The DCP said that the deceased, a resident of Brahmpuri, was a Class 8 student in a private school.



Pune adventurer performs first-ever 'air-parikrama' of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

Pune/Lucknow, Feb 24 (IANS) : In a unique adventure, a Pune extreme sports enthusiast performed a daredevil first-ever 'hawai-parikrama' (circumambulation in the air) of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, and then para-dived onto a small makeshift landing pad in the middle of Sarayu river on Saturday evening. Shital Rane-Mahajan (41) thought of doing 'something unique' to mark the first month of the

inauguration of the grand Ram Temple by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22. "Many people are trying to do different things to commemorate the Ram Temple consecration... I thought of a para-jump and 'hawai-parikrama' and I completed it successfully today," an excited Shital told IANS, after the happy landing. She first flew in a power hang-glider aircraft, which was piloted by none other than the Gonda BJP MP, Kirti Vardhan Singh, popularly called 'Raja

Bhaiya' in Uttar Pradesh. Singh (58) soared the small plane, circumambulating at around 1 km radius from the Ram Temple offering breathtaking aerial views, but did not fly above the temple due to restrictions put in place by the management. Then, the power hang-glider climbed to a height of around 5,000 feet before Shital decided to take her 'plunge' from the sky to the earth. "I jumped out and had a free fall till around 3,500 feet, then opened the parachute... Simultaneously, I opened a large



saffron flag, 10 x 6 feet in size, in the air with the slogan 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirthkshetra Me Aapka Swagat Hai' written on it," she said.

She then guided the parachute to the exact landing pad erected for the jump in the middle of Sarayu river, from where was picked up in a boat.



JU 'indecent proposal' row : First semester exam of concerned dept postponed

Kolkata, Feb 24 (IANS) : Amid the controversy over the recent complaint lodged by a first-year post-graduate female student of Jadavpur University (JU) accusing a faculty member of making an 'indecent proposal' to her, the university authorities have postponed the first-semester examination of the concerned department.

JU insiders confirmed that both the accused faculty member and the complainant post-graduate student are attached to the same department, where examination has been postponed.

The faculty member has been accused of making an 'indecent proposal' to the complainant against promises of giving

her impressive marks in the exams. Another reason for postponing the exam, JU insiders confirmed, is that the Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) has stood in solidarity with the accused faculty member, claiming that he became a victim of a political rivalry between two groups within the university campus.

Earlier this week, the said student forwarded an email complaint to the JU authorities, including Registrar Snehomanju Basu, wherein she alleged that the faculty member called her out of the examination hall and made an licentious proposal against promises of good marks in the examination.

Kerala HC quashes order allotting land to Church at Rs 100 per acre

Kochi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Kerala High Court has quashed the state government's 2015 decision to assign 5.5 hectares of land at Kallodi in Wayanad at Rs 100 per acre to St. George Forane Church, which had encroached on the said land. "Poor landless tribals are agitating to get lands for their livelihood and agriculture. In such a situation, huge government land is assigned to the respondent (church) invoking the powers of the Land Assignment Act and Rules. I am of the considered opinion that this is not only illegal but infringes the constitutional rights of the

tribals including the petitioners. This is nothing but piercing a knife to the hearts of the innocent, ever-smiling tribals in Wayanad," the court said. It said that encroachers of government land are not entitled to any equity and there is no public interest to assign a property when there is admitted encroachment. "There is no vested right in any person to claim assignment on the registry of government land. Encroaching on the government land and making illegal constructions on it will not give any vested right to encroachers. The government land should be allotted to the downtrodden and not to the wealthy and mighty people," the court added.

However, the court, though quashing the government order that assigned the land to the church, has given an opportunity to it to purchase the property at the present market value. It further pointed out that if the church is not agreeable, then the government must recover the land and distribute it to eligible persons. If the church purchases the land, the entire amount received from the sale must be utilised for the welfare of the tribal community in Wayanad. The court order came on a petition moved by a group of social workers who belong to the landless tribal community in Wayanad.

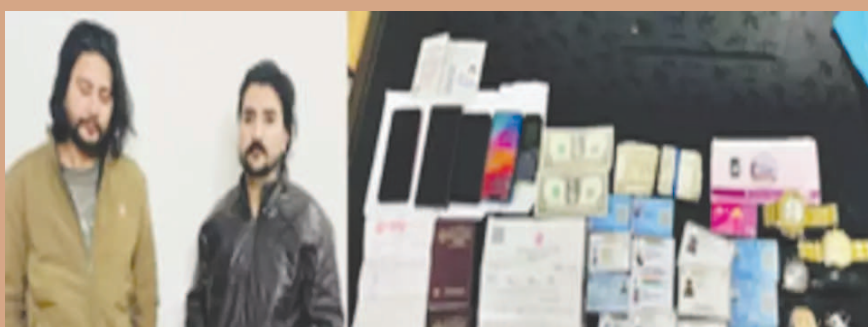


I stand with farmers: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (IANS) : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that he stands with the farmers in their protest, who are demanding to enact the law for Minimum Support Price (MSP).

"I stand with our farmers on this Black Day of protest against the union government. Our resolution in the Assem-

bly echoes the voice of every farmer seeking fair prices for their crops. We demand that the union government should enact the laws ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops and honouring the Swaminathan Committee's recommendations," the Chief Minister wrote on X. He said that Karnataka's commitment to profitable agriculture and supporting our 'Annadaatas' is unwavering.



Gurugram : Two Iranian nationals held for illegal stay

Gurugram, Feb 24 (IANS) : A joint team of the Chief Minister's Flying Squad and Crime Branch of Gurugram Police on Saturday arrested two Iranian nationals for

staying illegally without visa and passport, an official said, adding they had created fake documents and transacting money via the Hawala route. The Chief Minister's Flying Squad received information on Saturday.



Gujarat Police seize drugs valued at Rs 350 crore, 9 arrested

Ahmedabad, Feb 24 (IANS) : Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi on Saturday said that police has seized 50 kilograms of heroin valued at Rs 350 crore from Naliya Goli shores at the Veraval Port and arrested at least nine accused regarding the case. He said that the raids were jointly conducted by the Special Operation Group and the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) teams.

MoS Jitendra Singh calls for integration of 'allopathy with Ayush'

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that with artificial intelligence (AI) revolutionising clinical medicine at a very fast pace, there is an urgent need for optimum integration between the existing and the newer tools of patient care.

Speaking as chief guest in the inaugural session of two-day "International Patient Safety Conference 2024" in Bengaluru, Singh called for integration between the public and private sectors on the one hand and on the other hand among various systems of medical practice combining allopathy with Ayush to

achieve the envisaged health goals through a synergised approach. Singh said that India's recent success stories which have been hailed worldwide including the vaccine story, have proved beyond evidence that working in silos or in isolation has its limitations and further growth from here on is possible only through an integration at multiple levels. Singh pointed out that during the Covid even the West started looking up to India in search of immunity building techniques drawn from ayurveda, homoeopathy, unani, yoga, naturopathy and other oriental alternatives. He said, however, even after the Covid phase passes out.





Haryana making changes in logistics and retail policy to benefit investors : Deputy CM

Gurugram, Feb 24 (IANS) : Keeping in mind convenience of the stakeholders, the Haryana government is making various changes in the state's upcoming logistics, warehousing, and retail policy, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said on Saturday. "The state government intends to take suggestions from investors in the logistics, warehousing, and retail sectors while making this policy on the lines of various policies made in the past. It is the effort of the government that the changes made at the Central government level to promote logistics, warehousing, and retail sectors will be implemented on priority in Haryana also," he said at a meeting organised here to invite suggestions from stakeholders of industries and companies in preparing the draft of the new

policy. The period of the existing logistics, warehousing, and retail policy is ending from next month. The state government has made various changes in the policy keeping in mind the convenience of the stakeholders of these sectors. The minimum policy of 10 acres for logistics and warehousing has been changed to 5 acres, and the requirement for warehouse roads has been changed from 60 feet to 33 feet.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that keeping in view the future, work is being done seriously on the plan to establish Panchgram along with the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway. At the same time, space for the logistics sector will also be marked in the new cities to be established in the future.

In a first, Assam Assembly holds ballot voting to decide private member's resolution

Guwahati, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Assam Assembly used ballot paper voting for the first time in its history on Saturday to decide whether to approve a private member's resolution which Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi had introduced. By a mere nine votes, the irrigation system resolution was defeated.

From the BJP-led ruling alliance, the government received 39 votes, while 30 votes were cast in favour of the resolution.

Prior to this, Speaker Biswajit Daimary had announced that the resolution had been rejected via a voice vote.

However, Gogoi and other op-

position members insisted on 'proper' voting, claiming that the ruling party lacked the necessary numbers for voice vote.

Following that, Daimary adjourned the House for 10 minutes, stating that voting shall take place and that the Assembly Secretariat would need time to get ready for the process. When the House met again, BJP MLA Diganta Kalita was observed counting the members of the ruling party on a sheet of paper during the 30-minute period. Gogoi was also observed approaching nearly every member with folded hands.

As soon as the House reconvened, the Speaker called for a voice vote, this time including more MLAs from the Treasury Bench, and de-



clared that the resolution has been rejected. The opposition as a whole, however, objected to this, claiming that Daimary had already called a vote and that the outcome should hold. Subsequently, the Speaker granted their request, commanded the House doors to be locked, and requested Principal Secretary Hemen Das to oversee the polling. Das then explained the procedure to the lawmakers.

Each member then received a ballot slip from the House staff,

which they filled and placed in the ballot box.

Rakibul Hussain, the deputy leader of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP), pleaded with the Speaker to grant the party chief whips access to their MLAs' votes in accordance with the anti-defection law. Following this, Congress MLAs Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha and Basanta Das quietly left the House during the voting process.



We gave 5L jobs during Mahagathbandhan rule, claims Tejashwi Yadav

Patna, Feb 24 (IANS) : The leader of opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, claimed on Saturday that he had given five lakh jobs to the people of the state during the 17-month tenure of the previous Mahagathbandhan government. Addressing a gathering during his 'Jan Vishwas Yatra' in Rohtas district, the RJD leader claimed that the Mahagathbandhan government gave five lakh jobs to the common people of Bihar in just 17 months, some-

thing which the BJP government at the Centre has "failed to do in the last 10 years".

"I want to ask the BJP leaders, why are they silent on the issue of special status to Bihar? They should reveal how many jobs the Central government has given in the last 10 years," Tejashwi Yadav said.

The RJD leader also appealed to his party workers to conduct door-to-door campaigns and give respect to all sections of the society, especially the poor, Dalit, minority, and EBC people. "My mother and father

both served as Chief Ministers of Bihar. I was the Deputy CM twice, and presently I'm the leader of opposition in the state Assembly. So, I do not want anything personally. I only want the development of Bihar at the ground level," Tejashwi Yadav said.



Neighbours of husband's family cannot be implicated in harassment or cruelty for dowry case: SC

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Supreme Court has held that neighbours of the husband's family -- who had apparently facilitated the marriage -- cannot be implicated for harassment or cruelty for dowry under the Indian Penal Code's Section 498A.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sanjay Kumar quashed the summoning order against the appellants - the neighbours - so far as the allegation of commission of offence under Section 498A IPC was concerned.

Manipur govt must submit recommendation for inclusion of Meitei community in ST list: Lawyer

Imphal, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Manipur High Court's order modifying its March 27, 2023 order in part in connection with the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list has evoked mixed reactions from various quarters in the northeastern state. On Saturday, the single judge bench of Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu, after hearing a review petition filed against Para 17 (iii) of the decision dated March 27, 2023 rendered by then acting Chief Justice M.V.

Muralidharan on a petition filed by a Meitei organisation, ruled: "The direction given in Para No. 17 (iii) needs to be deleted and is ordered accordingly for deletion of the Para No. 17 (iii) of the judgment and order dated 27.03.2023 passed in W.P.(C) No. 229 of 2023."

The contentious paragraph No. 17 (iii) of last year's high court verdict was part of the instruction to the state government to expedite consideration to take up the matter with the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs about the inclusion

of the Meitei community in the ST list. Manipur High Court lawyer Ningombam Bupenda Meitei said that as per the high court's order, the state government must submit recommendations in reply to a letter of 2013 on the Meitei ST issue sent by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the state government.

He stressed on the reading of two judgments arising from writ petition No. 229 and review petition No. 12 of 2023 together, instead of reading one judgment and interpreting it partially.



Raj CM attends LS cluster meeting in UP, raises 'Abki Baar 400 par' call

Jaipur, Feb 24 (IANS) : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma attended a Lok Sabha cluster meeting in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, where he addressed the party workers and people's representations from five Lok Sabha seats, including Sitapura Sadar, Misrikh, Hardoi, Dhaurahra and Lakhimpur. Speaking on the occasion, CM Sharma said that the path to the country's progress and development passes through Uttar Pradesh, which is the land of sages.

"Being in the Awadh region, Sitapur is the land of Lord Ram and Mother Sita. Today, India is shining for which Uttar Pradesh has made a big contribution," the Rajasthan Chief

Minister said while addressing the gathering in Sitapur district.

He also discussed the party's strategies along with various organisational issues related to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Discussing the plans and achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the party workers should start making full preparations from now to ensure a big victory for the party in the Lok Sabha elections.

CM Sharma also attacked the working style of the Congress, saying that despite ruling the country for years, it continues to seek votes from the people in the name of poverty.

Mini gun factory busted in Bihar's Arwal, 14 arrested

Patna, Feb 24 (IANS) : An illicit mini gun factory in Bihar's Arwal district was busted in a joint operation by Bihar Police, Bihar STF, and Kolkata STF on Saturday, and a haul of weapons and equipment seized, officials said. Superintendent of Police, Arwal, Vidya Sagar said 14 accused, including 9 arms artisans and two women, were arrested during the raid and a huge cache of arms, ammunition, finishing machines, a lathe machine, and raw materials were seized as well. Arwal police received an input about the mini gun factory from Kolkata



STF. "We had learnt that a mini gun factory was operational in a house of Nagendra Kumar Singh alias Mukesh Patel in Radhe Bigha village under Karpi police station in the district. Accordingly, we have constituted a special team headed by SDPO.

70K ha rubber plantation achieved afresh under INROAD project in NE in 3 yrs

Guwahati, Feb 24 (IANS) : In a major boost to rubber plantation drive in the North-east, nearly 70,000 hectares (ha) of land has been brought under natural rubber plantation under the Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development (INROAD) project in three years, top Rubber Board officials said on Saturday. According to an official of Rubber Board, 70,000 ha represents one of the highest new plantations ever achieved in the mountainous northeast region in a block of three years. He said that in tune with the spirit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', IN-

ROAD, a project for supporting development of 2 lakh ha of rubber plantations in the northeast is being undertaken under active mentoring of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The INROAD is the first such project in the world where the natural rubber consuming industry (tyre sector) has come forward to partner with government agencies and fund the plantation of Natural Rubber (NR). Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), the apex body of tyre manufacturers in the country, has collaborated with Rubber Board for the INROAD project, under which over three crore trees have been planted so far benefitting

nearly 80,000 beneficiaries across 93 districts in northeastern states. The INROAD project has led to rejuvenation of nurseries in the region. Currently the planting material is being procured from 81 certified nurseries. ATMA Chairman Anshuman Singhania while addressing the seventh edition of India Rubber Meet (IRM 2024) in Guwahati on Friday said: "As against the target of 80,000 ha of plantation in the first three years of the INROAD project, nearly 70,000 ha or 86 per cent of the project target has been achieved despite post-Covid and logistics challenges. "That is a testament to the commitment shown by 4 leading tyre com-



panies in financially supporting the project and hard work of Rubber Board as the implementing agency," he said. Singhania said that the project entails socio-economic development of resource poor populations in these states. Plantations

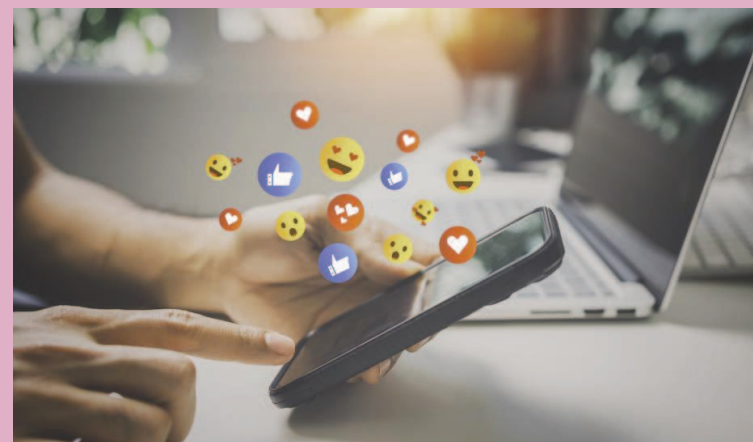
in two lakh hectares will not only benefit nearly 2.5 lakh farmers and their families but comprehensive capacity building and skill training will transform the plantation sector for all time to come, he added. Four member companies of ATMA --

Apollo, Ceat, JK and MRF -- are the financial stakeholders in the project. Rubber Board front ends the project by way of technical support and field level connect, ATMA Chairman said.

Social media feud ignites tensions in Vadodara; probe underway

Vadodara, Feb 24 (IANS) : A dispute that began on Instagram has escalated into communal tension in Vadodara, leaving more than 10 injured, an official said on Saturday. The incident, which unfolded on the evening of February 21, has now led to a police investigation, with authorities now searching for 100-150 people involved in the violence. An official said that the police have managed to restore law and order in the area. A complaint has been filed against the involved parties, and a search is underway to apprehend those responsible for the violence. Jatin Patel, a local entrepreneur who owns a mobile accessories

shop, was at the centre of the controversy. Patel, known for engaging with his customers through live social media broadcasts, initiated a routine session during which he extended greetings with the phrase "Jai Shri Ram". However, the session took a contentious turn when an Instagram user, identified as "sahid-patel-7070", left a comment that Patel deemed offensive and potentially harmful to religious sentiments. Upon further investigation, Patel traced the comment back to Sahid Patel, a resident of the Gujarat Housing Board area, opposite Mahalakshmi Society in Padra district. Efforts to confront Sahid Patel over a phone call were unfruitful; the call went unanswered, and the contentious comment was subse-



quently deleted. Sources shared the situation escalated when members of various Hindu organisations, upon hearing about the incident, converged on the Housing Board society in search of Sahid Patel. Finding him absent, tensions heightened, leading to a standoff outside the Navapura police station where Jatin Patel had lodged his complaint. The demonstrators, demanding Sahid Patel's arrest, chanted "Jai Shri Ram" slogans and vowed not

to disperse until action was taken. The confrontation reached a boiling point when a large group of individuals identified with the Muslim community from Khatkiwad, reportedly numbering over a hundred, arrived and engaged in a violent altercation with the Hindu demonstrators, sources said. The ensuing melee, following by an incident of stone-pelting, had resulted in injuries to several protesters.



MP Chief Minister makes surprise visit to CM Helpline centre in Ujjain

Bhopal, Feb 24 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday made a surprise visit to a CM Helpline centre in Ujjain, where he received two complaints. After hearing people's grievances, he instructed the officials to resolve the issues at the earliest. The Chief Minister heard the grievance of one of the complainants, who had an issue related to a bank. After a brief discussion, CM Yadav directed the concerned officials to provide an assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the complainant and resolve all his problems. The second complainant was a student who had a problem re-

lated to scholarship. Taking immediate action, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to make arrangements for scholarship for the student. CM Yadav later said that he visited the centre to send out a message to the officials that the government is keeping a close watch on them. "I conducted a surprise review of the CM Helpline service and talked with two persons. One complain was related to scholarship and the other was related to bank and cyber fraud," the Chief Minister said. CM Yadav was in Ujjain to review the preparedness for the Vikramotsav Trade Fair 2024 and an investor meet to be held from March 1.

Trinamool worker's murder case: AISF MLA Naushad Siddique gets anticipatory bail

Kolkata, Feb 24 (IANS) : A division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Saturday granted anticipatory bail to the lone All India Secular Front (AISF) legislator in West Bengal Assembly, Naushad Siddique, in a case relating to the alleged murder of a local Trinamool Congress worker at Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district during the panchayat elections held last year. On June 16 last year, Trinamool worker Raju Nashkar was allegedly murdered. A case was registered against 68 individuals, including Siddique, at the local police station on the basis of a complaint filed by another Trinamool worker named Rittik Nashkar. The police even registered an FIR against Siddique, incorporating charges under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code. Siddique was summoned and questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police in the matter.



Water bill issue: AAP withdraws plea against Delhi Police's refusal to allow 'peaceful' protest

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday withdrew its petition challenging Delhi Police's order refusing permission for holding a 'peaceful' protest at Jantar Mantar on February 25. The party wanted to hold the protest against the alleged obstacles to the Delhi Jal Board's one-time settlement scheme for water bill arrears. After Justice Subramonium Prasad of the Delhi High Court refused to grant any immediate relief, saying "there should be some fine for coming late", the petitioner withdrew the plea. At the outset, the judge scheduled the petition for hearing on February 26, but the counsel for AAP urged the court to direct Delhi Police's counsel to take instructions im-

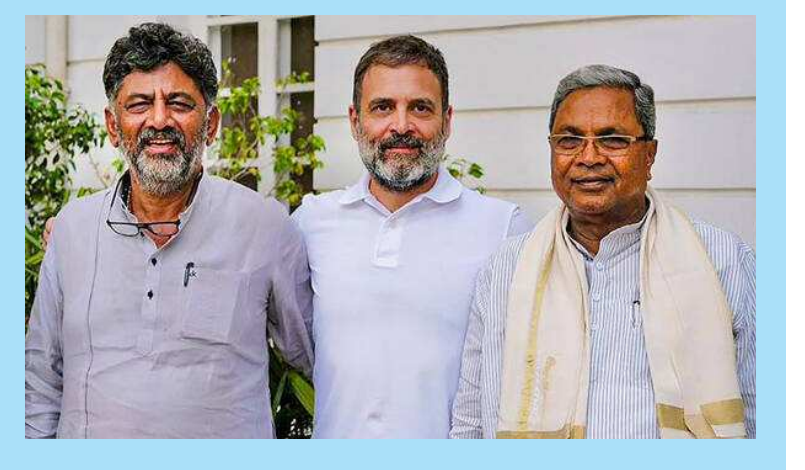
mediately, i.e., within an hour. The court then responded by saying that there should be some fine for coming late, and eventually the petition was withdrawn. The AAP had argued in its petition that the denial of permission infringed upon its fundamental right to assemble peaceably and without arms, a right enshrined in Article 19(1)(b) of the Indian Constitution, especially in a democratic context where peaceful protests are a means to voice grievances and demand accountability from the authorities. "The Respondent (Delhi Police) erroneously and arbitrarily declined the request of the petitioner to hold a peaceful protest on February 25 at the Jantar Mantar, which is in violation of the fundamental rights of the petitioner," the plea read. The said protest by

Delhi's ruling party was slated to be attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, ministers of the Delhi government, MLAs of the AAP and around 800 party workers and members of the public. The AAP had argued in its petition that the request was "erroneously and arbitrarily" declined and that the fundamental right as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India forms an essential part of democracy and the same cannot be taken away summarily by a blanket and prohibitory order issued under Section 144 of the CrPC 1973. "The order dated 11.02.2024 has been passed on the apprehension that the 'farmer unions' will march and try to enter the territory of Delhi and their entry has to be restricted.

Bengaluru court issues summons to Rahul Gandhi, CM Siddaramaiah, DyCM Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (IANS) : A special court here on Saturday issued summons to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President D.K. Shivakumar in connection with a defamation case filed by the BJP. Special Court, MP/MLA cases, judge J. Preeth asked them to appear before the court on March 28. The order came as the court took up a petition by BJP state Secretary S. Shivaprasad, al-

leging that the accused had released full page advertisements in media as they ran a campaign against over 40 per cent commission charges against then BJP government headed by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The court also gave direction to lodge a criminal case against the accused and also make the state Congress unit a party to it under Sections 499 and 500 of the IPC. The Congress had made a 40 per cent commission allegation against the then ruling BJP a major campaign agenda.





Hungary buys Swedish fighter jets before NATO accession vote

Budapest, Feb 24 (IANS) : Hungary has signed an agreement to buy four new Gripen fighter jets from Sweden ahead of the Hungarian parliament's vote on Sweden's NATO accession scheduled for February 26. This agreement was announced on Saturday during a bilateral meeting in Budapest between Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his Swedish counterpart, Ulf Kristersson. Xinhua news agency reported. The leaders also disclosed modifications to the existing contract regarding the rental of Gripen fighter jets and their support systems in Hungary. A new contract has also been

signed for logistical services related to the Gripens, including training programs. Their defence cooperation comes at a crucial time as Sweden seeks to join the transatlantic alliance, abandoning its long-standing policy of neutrality in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict, which started two years ago. The Hungarian parliament will convene on Monday to ratify Sweden's NATO membership after a prolonged delay due to debates within the parliamentary group of Orbán's Fidesz party regarding Sweden's criticisms about the rule of law in Hungary.

Philippines becomes first Asian country to ratify ILO convention

Manila, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Philippines has become the first Asian country to ratify a convention to end workplace violence and harassment, the International Labor Organization (ILO) said on Saturday. The ILO said that the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake on Tuesday, becoming the 38th country in the world and the first Asian country to ratify Convention No. 190, Xinhua news agency reported. The ILO said that the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake on Tuesday, becoming the 38th country in the world and the first Asian country to ratify Convention No. 190, Xinhua news agency reported. The ILO said that the Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake on Tuesday, becoming the 38th country in the world and the first Asian country to ratify Convention No. 190, Xinhua news agency reported.



Iran rejects claims of selling ballistic missiles to Russia

Tehran, Feb 24 (IANS) : Iran has denied Western media reports that it had sold ballistic missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine, saying it was morally bound to avoid fuelling the conflict. Iran's UN mission said in a statement on social media platform X that Tehran had no legal restrictions on ballistic missile sales, but felt obligated to refrain from weapons transactions during the Russia-Ukraine conflict. "This is rooted in Iran's adherence to international law and the UN Charter," the statement said. A media report, citing sources, on Saturday said that Iran had supplied Russia with a large number of powerful surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. The Biden administration warned Iran on Thursday of a "swift and severe" response from the international community if it had provided Russia with ballistic missiles, Xinhua news agency reported. White House National Security spokesman John Kirby said at a virtual press briefing that Washington had not confirmed that missiles had moved from Iran to Russia.

Muraleedharan bats for Global South; urges G20 to maintain focus on development-related issues

Rio de Janeiro, Feb 24 (IANS) : Recalling the consensus achieved in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan has urged the grouping to maintain its focus on development-related issues. Participating in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Rio de Janeiro from February 21-22, he also called upon the grouping to accelerate progress on all the agreed NDLD decisions and outcomes. He also emphasised the importance of an "inclusive and action-oriented response to contemporary global challenges, which have a disproportionate impact on the Global South," the Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday. At a session on 'Global Governance Reform' on Saturday, the minister noted that the global order has undergone dramatic shifts since the creation of the present multilateral governance architecture in the 20th century. He highlighted the critical need for a paradigm shift in the structures and working methods of key global institutions to make them more responsive to contemporary challenges. Recalling that the G20 leaders had, in the NDLD, agreed to deliver better, bigger, more effective, and more representative Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), he called for enhanced financial flows to enable accelerated progress SDGs and climate action. He stressed the importance of an open, transparent, and outcome-oriented process of UN reforms, including the UN Security Council, in a defined timeframe and reiterated India's support to policies that enable trade and investment to serve as an engine of growth and prosperity for all. This came as back home, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pitched for UNSC reforms at the 9th Raisina Dialogue and spoke of the UN's failure to address global challenges. "If you look at the last five years, all the big issues, in a way, we have not been able to find a multilateral



solution," he said at India's flagship conference on geopolitics on Thursday. At another session on 'G20's role in dealing with ongoing international tensions' on Saturday, the minister expressed India's steadfast support to Brazil's G20 Presidency, while noting that four developing countries -- Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) -- are holding the grouping's presidency in a row. According to his X handle, he also shared his views "on the current significance of IBSA, potential areas for future collaboration, and the exemplary role of the IBSA Fund", while participating in the IBSA Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Saturday. Foreign ministers and heads of delegation of G20 members, and international organisations participated in the Foreign Ministers' Meeting that was chaired by Mauro Vieira, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. Muraleedharan also met the Indian community in Rio and had a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Uruguay, Omar Paganini.



Indian-origin former prison officer jailed for bribery bid in Singapore

Singapore, Feb 24 (IANS) : A 57-year-old Indian-origin former prison officer in Singapore was sentenced to more than three years in jail on Saturday for attempting to seek bribes totalling S\$133,000 in exchange for transferring an inmate out of his jail cluster. Kobi Krishna Ayavoo, a retired senior chief warden, was convicted of eight charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act, The Straits Times newspaper reported. In addition, he was found guilty of instigating his colleagues to access the prison system to view the inmate's information in July 2017 following which he was suspended. The prosecution told the court that Kobi sought bribes from an inmate named Chong Keng Chye on eight separate occasions between September 2015

and March 2016 to pay his car loan instalments, house renovations, a birthday celebration, and credit card bills. Chong, who was sentenced to 20 years of preventive detention in 2005 for beating his girlfriend's seven-year-old son until the child died, wanted a transfer out of a cluster in Changi Prison. Kobi tried to obtain between S\$3,000 and S\$42,000 but did not receive any money from him as Chong knew Kobi did not have the capability or the authority to help him, the court was told. Claiming that Chong lied, Kobi denied asking for money from him on any of the eight occasions and said that he spoke to him only during yard time when there were always inmates within hearing distance.

Trump calls on Alabama lawmakers to protect IVF treatment after court ruling

Washington, Feb 24 (IANS) : Calling on Alabama lawmakers to protect fertility treatment, former US President Donald Trump has said that he supports the availability of IVF treatment. Trump made the remarks on Saturday after a recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling led some clinics to pause IVF treatment. "We want to make it easier for mothers and fathers to have babies, not harder!" Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. "Like the OVERWHELMING MA-



JORITY of Americans, including the VAST MAJORITY of Republicans, Conservatives, Christians, and Pro-Life Americans, I strongly support the availability of IVF for couples who are trying to have a precious baby (sic)," he said.

Frozen funds: European Commission to release 137 billion euros for Poland

Warsaw, Feb 24 (IANS) : The European Commission (EC) is set to release up to 137 billion euros (\$148 billion) of funding for Poland, EC President Ursula von der Leyen has said. The funding, under the European Union's post-pandemic recovery package, was frozen by the EC over rule of law concerns, Xinhua news agency reported. At a joint press conference with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw on Saturday, von der Leyen praised Poland's efforts to restore the rule of law in the country, saying the EC will next week table decisions releasing the money. "We are impressed by your efforts and those of the Polish people to restore the rule of law as the backbone of your society," she said. According to national radio station Radio Poland, earlier this week the country's Justice Minister Adam Bodnar attended a meeting of the European Union's (EU) General Affairs Council in Brussels, where he laid out a plan to reverse a massive legal overhaul carried out by Poland's previous Law and Justice (PiS) government. The EC said the previous government of Poland, which was in power from 2015 to



2023, brought Polish courts and judges under political control and undermined democratic checks and balances. A series of clashes were triggered between Warsaw and Brussels, which prompted the EC to hold back billions of euros of recovery funding from Poland. Poland's new pro-EU government led by Tusk has pledged to restore judicial independence and persuaded Brussels into releasing the funds.



US makes 1st lunar landing in over 50 yrs

Los Angeles, Feb 24 (IANS) : US company Intuitive Machines' first lunar lander touched down on the moon early Saturday morning, marking the first American spacecraft to land on the lunar surface in more than 50 years. The uncrewed lander, named Odysseus, landed at the lunar South Pole on Thursday at 6.23 p.m. Eastern Time (4.53 a.m. India time), according to NASA. Odysseus carries NASA science and other commercial payloads to the moon. The spacecraft was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on Thursday last week from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The mission, codenamed IM-1, marks Intuitive Machines' first robotic flight to the moon's surface, Xinhua news agency reported.



4th Test: Jaiswal becomes fifth Indian batter to score 600 runs in a Test series, breaks Sehwag's record for sixes

Ranchi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Yashasvi Jaiswal, the prodigious southpaw, became only the fifth Indian batter to score 600 or more runs in a Test series, as he compiled 73 on the second day of the fourth Test against England at the JSCA International Cricket Stadium here on Saturday. Jaiswal soared past the 600-run mark in a mere seven innings across four Tests. The young sensation has so far amassed a staggering 618 runs in this series against England, boasting an im-

pressive average of 103 and a formidable strike rate of 78.32, hitting two centuries and two half-centuries. Jaiswal joined an illustrious league of Indian legends that includes Sunil Gavaskar (1971, 1978), Virat Kohli (2014, 2016, 2017), Dilip Sardesai (1971), and Rahul Dravid (2002), who have previously breached the 600-run mark in a Test series. With the tantalizing prospect of surpassing Gavaskar's legendary record of 774 runs against West Indies

in 1971, Jaiswal stands on the brink of rewriting the history books, a mere 156 runs away from etching his name in cricketing folklore. On the second day of the Ranchi Test, Jaiswal showcased his audacious stroke play by eclipsing Virender Sehwag's record for the most Test sixes by an Indian batter in a calendar year, unleashing an impressive tally of 23 sixes in just five matches in 2024.



PGA Tour : Wallace rallies on second nine to get into shared lead in Mexico

Vallarta (Mexico), Feb 24 (IANS) : European stars, Matt Wallace and Sami Valimaki were part of a four-way lead at the halfway stage of the PGA Tour's Mexico Open at Vidanta. Wallace, who has

won in as far-off places as India at the Hero Indian Open and Portugal, Denmark and Germany, also has a PGA Tour win in Corales Puntacana Championships in the Dominican Republic.



Can't wait to meet fans in Delhi during IPL 2024 and make more special memories, says Rishabh Pant

Mumbai, Feb 24 (IANS) : Having recovered from a serious accident, India's wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is excited about meeting his fans during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 matches in Delhi and make more special memories.

Rishabh, who missed the 2023 season as he was undergoing rehabilitation following the accident, is looking forward to becoming part of Star Sports' 'Star Nahi Far' initiative, which started from Tamil Nadu and Hyderabad and now gains momentum with the visit of Mumbai Indians and Team India's ace all-rounder Hardik Pandya in Mumbai on Saturday.

As the excitement for the IPL 2024 season builds, 'Star Nahi Far' promises to traverse the nation with activities featuring IPL's brightest stars and Star Sports 'Believe' ambassadors, including Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, and Shikhar Dhawan.

Vooty Masters 2024: Teenager Shaurya Binu wins title with dominant final round display

Vikarabad (Telangana), Feb 24 (IANS) : Bengaluru-based teenager Shaurya Binu joined the winner's circle on the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) after a dominant final round display of eight-under 64 at the INR 1 crore Vooty Masters 2024 played at the Vooty Golf County in

Vikarabad, on Saturday. he 19-year-old Shaurya (66-66-70-64) totalled 22-under 266 for the week to register an emphatic eight-shot triumph and pick up the winning cheque worth Rs. 15 lakh. The win and the prize money moved him from 10th to first position in the PGTI Ranking.

Binu, playing only his second season as a professional, emerged wire-to-wire winner, having led the field in all four rounds. His last round of 64 was the day's best score. Karan Pratap Singh (73-66-68-67) struck a 67 on Saturday to rise three spots and finish runner-up at 14-under 274.



Sumit Nagal receives main draw wildcard for Dubai Championship

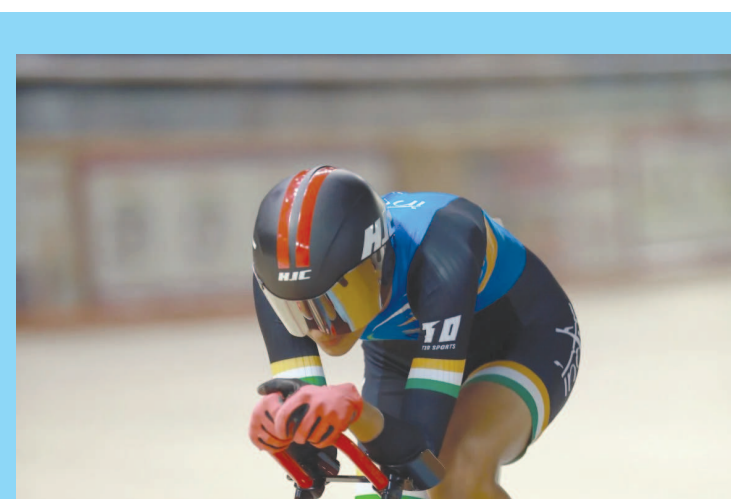
New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : India No. 1 Sumit Nagal has received a main draw wildcard for the ATP 500 Dubai Championships, set to be held from February 26 to March 2. Nagal will lock horns with world number 49 Lorenzo Sonego in the opening round clash, setting the stage for a thrilling encounter on the hard courts of Dubai. Nagal's journey to the Dubai courts is nothing short of remarkable, marked by a historic season that has seen him break into the top 100 rankings

and deliver a stellar performance at the Australian Open. After winning his fifth Challenger championship of the year in Chennai this month, the 26-year-old Nagal, who is presently ranked 101, made his debut in the Top 100. Nagal beat 31-seed Kazakh Alexander Bublik in the first round of the Australian Open main tournament earlier this year. He defeated a seeded player at a Slam, making history as the first Indian man to do it in thirty-five years.

Keep that up and you'll play higher grades quickly, says Nathan Lyon praising Indian fan's bowling

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon praised an Indian fan's video of off-spin bowling in the backyard and advised him to keep working hard, saying that he would play at higher grades quickly.

It all began with a video shared by Balram Kumar, showcasing his off-spin prowess in the humble setting of his backyard on 'X'. Seeking validation and guidance, Kumar reached out to the cricketing world.



Asian Track Cycling: Arshad Shaikh, Jyoti Gaderiya win their third gold; Harshita bags silver as India claims four medals

New Delhi, Feb 24 (IANS) : The Indian contingent continued to excel in the Asian Track Cycling Championship, bagging four medals, including two gold, on the fourth day of competition here on Saturday. The day witnessed stellar performances from Indian cyclists as they dominated the proceedings. In a remarkable display of skill

and determination, Harshita Jakhar of India emerged as a standout performer, claiming a silver medal in the Individual Pursuit of the Women's Junior category. Clocking an impressive time of 2:32.081s, Jakhar exhibited sheer grit and tenacity throughout the race, narrowly missing out on the gold medal to Mariya Yelkina of Kazakhstan.



KIUG 2023 : Shooter Tejaswini bags Delhi University's first medal; Chandigarh on top of medal table

Guwahati (Assam), Feb 24 (IANS) : Pistol shooter Tejaswini dominated the women's 25m Sports Pistol event to give University of Delhi their first medal of the 4th Khelo India University Games Ashtalakshmi 2023, while Chandigarh University went on top of the standings on the back of two gold medals from wrestling.

Tejaswini, who had qualified for the final in second position, with a total of 579 points, opened up a two-point lead over closest competitor Simranpreet Kaur Brar of Panjab University.