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The Narendra Modi-led government will continue with the next-generation economic reforms to make India the third...

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## Two schemes- Rs.500 an LPG cylinder, 200 units of free power launched

**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The State government has launched another two schemes, Rs.500 an LPG cylinder and free power upto 200 units to families with white ration cards, which are promised by the Congress party as part of its poll promises. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers, Congress MLAs and officials launched the schemes at the Secretariat here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the

Chief Minister said the purpose of launching two schemes is to see happiness in the eyes of women and the Gruha Jyothi is meant to light up the homes of the poor. "Congress leader Sonia Gandhi unveiled six guarantees in the name of Abhaya Hastam as part of Congress party's poll promises on September 17, 2023. Trusting the word of Sonia Gandhi, people gave a clear mandate in favour of Congress party in the recent Assembly elections. Now, it is our government's responsibility to fulfil all the promises given to the people," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister alleged that the previous BRS government led by K Chandrashekar Rao did not reduce the price of cylinders and moreover, tried to generate more revenue through GST when the price of cylinder was increased. "Our government's aim is to see happiness in women's eyes. Even if there is an economic crisis, we are systematically approaching for the continuation of welfare schemes while maintaining financial discipline. We are committed to implement all promises given to the people," Revanth Reddy disclosed.



### Our party will hold chalo Medigadda program on March 1: KTR

**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (IANS) :** BRS party working president Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao today announced that their party would hold 'Chalo Medigadda' programme on March 1. He said the programme would be held with 150 to 200 BRS party representatives. KTR held a media conference at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Medigadda programme would be organized from Telangana Bhavan. "As part of the programme, we will go to Kaleswaram on the first day.

Continued on pg 02



### Congress men disrupt Bandi Sanjay's Yatra in Karimnagar

**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (News Pulse) :** Tension prevailed during the Prajahita Yatra undertaken by Karimnagar BJP MP Bandi Sanjay. When the prajahita yatra reached Ramulapalli on Tuesday, several Congress leaders tried to block the yatra. They also tried to attack Sanjay. A scuffle broke out between the Congress and the BJP cadres after the BJP leaders blocked the proceedings. As the situation went on till they attacked each other, the police swung into action and stopped both sides.

Several leaders were arrested and taken to the local police station. Sanjay's prajahita yatra continued amid tight security later. Congress leaders were angry as Bandi Sanjay's remarks at the Prajahita Yatra in Husnabad on Monday were derogatory to their leader Ponnamp Prabhakar. The Congress leaders burnt ef-

figies of the BJP and Bandi Sanjay across the constituency in protest against Sanjay's remarks. Ponnamp Prabhakar's followers.



### Deepadas Munshi sends legal notice to BJP leader

**Hyderabad, Feb.27 (IANS) :** All India Congress Committee (AICC) Telangana in-charge Deepadas Munshi has sent a legal notice to BJP leader NVSS Prabhakar for levelling baseless remarks against her. In a news channel debate, the BJP leader alleged that Deepadas Munshi has received a Benz car as a gift and that he has evidence. However, Deepadas Munshi has condemned the baseless remarks made by the BJP leader and asked him to show the evidence.



### Kishan urges people to ensure 17 of 17 LS seats

**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (NSS):** Union minister G. Kishan Reddy today addressed a public meeting at Jummaat bazar of Gosh amahal assembly constituency as part of his ongoing Yatra. Speaking on the occasion, he said five

Vijaya Sankalpa Yatras were taking place in Telangana and added that from Krishna river near Krishna village and the other one is from Tandur in Vikarabad district.

Continued on pg 02



### Harish Rao slams CM Revanth Reddy

**Hyderabad, Feb 27 (NSS) :** Former minister and MLA Harish Rao today slammed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his remarks. He alleged that the State government was not a real estate business entity. He said those who want to make a profit from the expenditure on the

health and infrastructure of the people also become traders and not the rulers. "It is our misfortune that in Mission Bhagiratha, the one who is looking for profit is the chief minister. KCR's government had brought the Mission Bhagiratha scheme.

Continued on pg 02

### Hundreds of Muslim devotees throng Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

**Ayodhya, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Hundreds of Muslim devotees thronged Ram Mandir in Ayodhya as part of the Sadbhav Yatra carried out under the leadership of Indresh Kumar to promote religious harmony on Tuesday. Muslim devotees from far and wide came to have the darshan of Lord Ram Lalla.

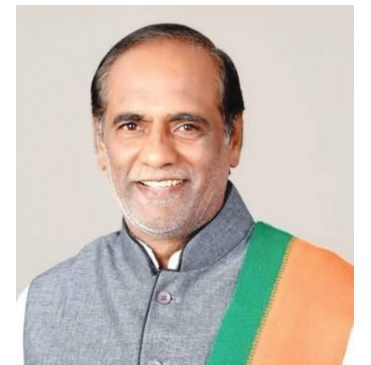
### Jaya Prada declared absconder by Rampur court

**Rampur (UP), Feb 27 (IANS) :** Actor and former MP Jaya Prada has been declared to be "absconding" by a special court in UP's Rampur after she failed to appear for hearings for two cases against her.



### BJP MP Lakshman lashes out at state ministers

**Hyderabad, Feb.27 (NSS):** BJP MP Dr. K. Laxman today came down heavily on state cabinet ministers. He alleged that the ministers had become arrogant after their party came into power and added that "The chameleon was feeling ashamed after seeing the attitude of the ministers."





**Harish Rao slams CM Revanth Reddy**

**Continued From pg 01**  
with the great intention of providing safe drinking water to the people continuously. It has been possible to supply safe drinking water through taps to 100 per cent of the households in a way that no one in the country was able to do. Since this is not a work that will benefit the government.

**IPE hosts ICSSR sponsored workshop on Data Protection & Localization Scheme of Gol on 28 February 2024 at its Shamirpet campus**

Hyderabad, Feb 27 (TIM Bureau) : Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) is delighted to announce an ICSSR-sponsored Workshop focused on "Data Protection and Localization." This workshop marks a significant milestone following the successful completion of the ICSSR-funded short-term Empirical Research Project titled "A Study on the Impact of the Digital Personal Data Protection Framework on National Security and Economic Development in India, with a Focus on Select South Indian States." The upcoming workshop aims to enhance awareness about the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, introduced by the Government of India on August 3, 2023. Participants will explore how this legislation impacts data privacy, security, and economic growth. Distinguished speakers, including Prof. S Sreenivasa Murthy (Director of IPE), Shri Ram Mohan (CEO of Meta Soft Solu-

tions), Shri ADPT Chakradhar (Vice President of Max Life Insurance Co Ltd), Shri Bijjam Anji Reddy (Chief Branch Manager at Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited), Shri Rajiv Gupta (Director of Company Solutions at Global Data), Prof. ML Sai Kumar (Professor and Former Dean of IPE), and Dr. KVK Santhy (NALSAR University of Law), will delve into the study theme. Dr. A S Kalyana Kumar (Project Coordinator) will provide an overview of the research project, while Dr. Shaheen, Dr. S Vivek, and Dr. Rajkumar Pillay (Project Directors) will present key findings.

**Our party will hold chalo Medigadda program on March 1: KTR**

**Continued From pg 01**  
Through this programme, we will show the comprehensive nature of the Kaleshwaram project to the people of Telangana as well as to those who are making allegations." KTR said he was going to Medigadda to tell people the truth. "What is Kaleshwaram will be shown alive. We will visit the Kaleshwaram project in a comprehensive manner and in a phased manner. In addition, we are going to Medigadda to show live to some people, who are speaking knowingly and unknowingly. Kaleshwaram is not Medigadda barrage alone, but three barrages. Kaleshwaram

means 15 reservoirs, 21 pump houses, 203 km of tunnels and 1531 km of flow canals. Kaleshwaram has a storage capacity of 141 TMCs. 240 TMC of the usage of water. Kaleshwaram project is a comprehensive combination of all these," he added. KTR said the Rs 3,000-crore Medigadda barrage has 84 pillars in it and added that if the three pillars meet with an accident, an attempt was made to portray that the entire barrage had been washed away. He said Kaleshwaram was a massive programme to take the Godavari River upwards from a height of 88 meter to a height of 618 meter above sea level.

**यूनियन बँक**  
**Union Bank of India**  
Regional Office :: Mahabubnagar

**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY CREDIT COUNSELLORS (FLCC)**

Union Bank of India invites applications for the post of "Financial Literacy Credit Counsellors" for Lead Bank Office, Wanaparthy district from prospective candidates. The appointment shall be purely on contract basis for a period of one year. Send applications along with the non-refundable application fees of Rs. 1000/-... The job involves creating financial awareness and educate common people on management of money, importance of savings, other facilities extended by the banks, benefits of borrowings from the banks, digital awareness, direct benefit transfer and other finance related aspects.

**Eligibility criteria:** Retired / VRS opted Bank employees be preferred/candidates having banking knowledge/ have completed IIBF certificate course. Age should be above 35 years and upto 64 years, physically active and of sound health. Should be computer literate and must have the knowledge of local language and have aptitude for counseling and rural development activities with good communication skills.

**Remuneration: Consolidated Monthly Pay: Rs.20,000/- + other perks**

Interested Candidates may apply in the prescribed format available with LDM, Wanaparthy.

**Last date for receipt of applications is 02.03.2024.** Filled in applications may be sent to the following address along with the enclosures/copies of a) Pass certificate of 10th class/SSC or equivalent b) Certificate of Degree / PG etc. c) Photocopies of testimonials along with passport size photograph d) Proof of residential address/Aadhaar. Applicants should be resident of Wanaparthy District. The eligible candidates shall be called for interview. Canvassing in any form shall be a disqualification.

**Address:- The Regional Head, Union Bank of India, Regional Office, D.No.8-3-40, G.L. Towers, Venkateswara Colony, Mettugadda, Mahabubnagar-509001. Ph: 08542-271055.**

**Date: 27-02-2024** REGIONAL HEAD, Union Bank of India, Mahabubnagar.

**RARE ASSET RECONSTRUCTION LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 104-106, Gala Argos, Nr. Harikrupa Tower, Gujarat College Road, Ahmedabad-380006. Tel: 079-40092295

**POSSESSION NOTICE (APPENDIX IV (RULE 8(1)))**

The Undersigned, being the authorized officer of the Rare Asset Reconstruction Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Rare ARC"), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, calling upon the below mentioned Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Guarantors to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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. The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Rare Asset Reconstruction Ltd. for the dues as mentioned below together with interest, future interest, penal interest and other charges thereon with effect from September 01, 2023 till realization of the total dues. The publication is being made:

- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Sandeep Reddy Anthugari (Borrower), Ms. Sravanthi Anthugari (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Naveen Kumar Panja (Guarantor-1), Mr. Raju Regula (Guarantor-2).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 09-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.9,34,031/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a Residential House (Tiled/ Acc Sheet) building bearing house number 5-49/1, Total extent of 400 Sq. yds, with building up area of 1035 sq. ft. Situated at Doulatabad Mandal Medak, Dommat Village area and being Formed part of Medak Municipal Limits and, Dommat Village area and being Bounded by:  
**Boundaries:** On the North: Way 8 & House of Kommera Shekar Reddy, On the South: Open place of Anthugari Babu Reddy, On the East: House of Kommera Shekar Reddy and On the West: House of Anthugari Babu Reddy.  
**Taken Possession on:** 22-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Madhan Mohan Reddy Komati Reddy (Borrower), Ms. Manjula Komati Reddy (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Rajalingam Kantam (Guarantor-1) Mr. Sekhar Dhandia (Guarantor-2).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 18-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.12,54,070/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a Residential Open Plot, Total extent of 200 Sq.yards in Sy.No.2034 within the R.D of Siddipet S.R.D of Medak and forming part of Siddipet Municipal Limits, being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: 18 Feet wide Road, On the South: Open Place of Vyasabattu Venkatamma, On the East: Open Place of Gande Mallesham and On the West: Open Place of others.  
**Taken Possession on:** 22-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Kumara Swamy Sontirekka, Ms. Kavitha Sontirekka (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Kanaka Reddy Karka (Guarantor-1) and Mr. Khatija Bee (Guarantor-2).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 17-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.3,57,964/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a residential open plot bearing plot number 52, Total extent of 150.7 Sq.yards, in Sy.No.1476 Situated within the R.D of Siddipet S.R.D of Warangal and Forming part of Warangal Municipal Limits and Cherilal area and being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: Plot No.51 of Malipeddi Rama Swamy, On the South: Plot No.53 of Malipeddi Venkata Narasu, On the East: Land of Avucherala Anjanah and On the West: Proposed Road.  
**Taken Possession on:** 22-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Ravi Emmadi (Borrower), Ms. Elisha Emmadi (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Nagaraju Ellandulah (Guarantor-1), Mr. Babu Emmadi (Guarantor-2).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 26-09-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.7,42,363/-  
**Property Description:** All that the pertaining to bearing H.No 25- 8-135, Land measuring an extent of 121.00 sq.yd, or 101.44 sq. mtrs, with built up area ground floor 457 sq. feets and first floor 439 sq. feets, Situated at Bapuji Nagar, Khajipet, Warangal Rural Telangana and Forming part of Warangal Municipal Limits and, Bapujinagar area and being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: House of E.Babu 25-8-135, On the South: 25-8-136 of Kausar Begum, On the East: 30'Wide Road and On the West: Open plot of others.  
**Taken Possession on:** 22-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Ms. Umadevi Kandhagatta (Borrower), Mr. Srinivas Kandhagatta (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Dharma Kumar Wanda (Guarantor).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 01-11-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.6,55,322/-  
**Property Description:** The Existing House and Open Place Property bearing H. No. 11-25-937/2, measuring to an extent of 60 Sq. yard, situated at Kothawada, Warangal city & District and forming part of Warangal municipal limits and being bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: House of T. Bhulaxmi, H. No.11-25-938, On the South: House of B. Laxmi H. No. 11-25-937, On the East: House of T. Ravi, H. No. 11-25-936 and On the West: 25'-0" Wide Road.  
**Taken Possession on:** 23-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Balakrishna Perelli (Borrower), Ms. Yallamma Perelli (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Veeraiya Bandaru (Guarantor).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 12-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.3,02,998/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a residential house (tiled/ acc sheet) bearing House Number 6-13, Total extent of 107 Sq.yards, situated within the R.D of Suryapreet, forming part of Suryapreet Municipal Limits and Pillala Marri area and being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: Place of Palvayi Mysaiah, On the South: House of Vattikatte Mahesh, On the East: 20'0" wide road and On the West: Place of Vallala Somaiah.  
**Taken Possession on:** 23-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Upendhra Veeramalla (Borrower), Ms. Mounika Veeramalla (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Osman Shaik, (Guarantor).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 19-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.11,64,134/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a Residential Open Plot bearing House Number 2-66/1, Total extent of 1200 Sq.yards, in Sy.No.365A Situated within the R.D of Nalgonda and Gaddipalli area and being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: The Primary School & The Land of Mahatma Gandhi Lift Irrigation Society, On the South: The Grampanchayat Bazar, On the East: The Aravinda Binini Modern Rice Mill & My Own Site and On the West: The House of Uthapalli Ramana.  
**Taken Possession on:** 23-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Shiva Kumar Gummaboina (Borrower), Ms. Venkataramma Gummaboina (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Sathish Yasaraju (Guarantor).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 18-10-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.4,96,378/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a residential open plot, Total extent of 436.04 Sq.yards, Block No.17, in Sy.No.491 Situated within the R.D of Nalgonda and Forming part of Nalgonda Municipal Limits and, Nakrekal area and being Bounded by: **Boundaries:** On the North: Plot of Chigulla Indira, On the South: Plot of Shanala Ueendar Reddy, On the East: 16'0" wide road & Plot of Bheemireddy and On the West: 76'0" wide road.  
**Taken Possession on:** 24-02-2024
- Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors:** Mr. Mohammed Nazeer Ali (Borrower), Ms. Irfana Unnisa (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Mohammed Firdos (Guarantor-1), Mr. Mohammed Anwar (Guarantor-2).  
**Demand Notice Date:** 01-11-2023; **O/s Dues as on 31-08-2023:** Rs.19,49,136/-  
**Property Description:** All that it is a residential RCC building bearing door number 3-7-1, Total extent of 183.33 sq. yards, situated at line wad, Nalgonda town, Mandal & Dist. And being bounded by: **Boundaries:** on the North: 10'0" wide road, On the South: House of Muiaheed, On the East: House of M. Latheef and on the West: Open plot of Sk. Shaker Hussain.  
**Taken Possession on:** 24-02-2024

**Date: 24-02-2024** Sd/- Authorized Officer, Rare Asset Reconstruction Ltd.  
**Place: Siddipet, Warangal & Nalgonda**

**Elaborate arrangements should be made for Mahashivratri fair : Collector Anurag Jayanti**

- Mahashivratri fair held for 3 days from 7th March to 9th March
- Sanitation workers should be appointed in 3 shifts to keep the surroundings clean
- Drinking water facility should be provided every 100 meters
- The district collector inspected the Mahashivaratri fair arrangements at the field level along with the SP



**Vemulawada, (Rajanna Sirisilla) Feb 27 (TIM Bureau) :** District Collector Anurag Jayanti has directed the concerned officials to make extensive arrangements for the Maha Shivratri fair in the Vemulawada Saiva Kshetra, which is known as Dakshina Kashi, and to complete the work as per the plan by the time of the fair. On Tuesday, District Collector Anurag Jayanti inspected the arrangements to be made for the Mahashivratri fair in Vemulawada along with Sirisilla SP Akhil Mahajan. Strict arrangements should be made to organize the Mahashivratri fair from March 7 to March 9 for 3 days in Vemulawada in the most glorious manner and the prescribed works should be completed quickly in order to prepare for the time of the fair. The Collector advised the officials to do so. On this occasion, District Col-

lector Anurag Jayanti said that in order to organize the Mahashivratri fair successfully, the respective departments should be efficiently managed and taking necessary steps keeping in mind the past experiences, the collector suggested that necessary steps should be taken to avoid any difficulties. The collector mentioned that sanitation workers should be appointed in 3 shifts to keep the temple premises and fair surroundings clean continuously, sector wise officials should be appointed to regularly monitor the attendance of sanitation workers, municipal, temple staff and panchayat secretaries should monitor the sanitation programs. "He said that drinking water should be provided to the urinals without any problem. The collector suggested that a special medical camp should be set up under the auspices of the health department and the paramedical staff should be made available with necessary medicines during the fair. Toilets should be set up as necessary to avoid inconvenience to the devotees, rescue teams should be formed around the devasthanam kitchen lines, drinking water should be provided to the devotees through Mission Bhagiratha, and drinking water should be provided every 100 meters. The Collector suggested

that taps should be installed. "Collector should establish a strict security system during the Mahashivratri fair, ensure that the entire premises of the fair is covered by CCTV cameras, ensure that the CCTV cameras are fully operational, that the officers of all departments should perform their duties with the help of the staff, and that necessary flexi, sign boards, entry and exit boards should be installed so that the devotees do not face any difficulties. Said. "On this occasion, District SP Akhil Mahajan said that due to the increase in the number of devotees this time, temporary parking spaces should be arranged as necessary, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid any inconvenience and trouble to the devotees in the queue, necessary accommodation should be arranged for the police personnel, JCB and towing vehicles should be used to control the traffic so that there is no parking problem. SP said to prepare. Vemulawada DSP Nagendra Chari, Town and Country Planning Officer Ansari, Municipal Commissioner Anvesh, Temple EE Rajesh, AEO Jaya Kumari, Town CI Karunakar, temple staff, concerned officials and others participated in this visit.



**Kishan urges people to ensure 17 of 17 LS seats**

**Continued From pg 01**  
He said third Yatra was being held from Basara with the blessings of Goddess Saraswati and the forth started from Bhadrachalam. He said the Yatra would conclude on March 2. He said the 5,500-km yatra would be held in 17 parliamentary constituencies and 114 assembly segments. He said the yatras were launched with the intention of ensuring the retention of power by the Modi government for the third time. He said for the future of children and for the future of the country, people have to ensure the victory of Modi once again. "In 2014, there were 278 seats. In 2019, the BJP won 302 seats.

**Sirisilla Urban Development Rs. 2 crores sanctioned : Congress town President Prakash**

**Rajanna Sirisilla, February 27 (TIM Bureau)** : Sirisilla Congress Town President Chhoppadandi Prakash thanked Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy for sanctioning two crore rupees under the Special Development Fund for the development of Sirisilla town. On behalf of the Sirisilla Town Con-

gress, he thanked the district in-charge minister Uttam kumar Reddy, BC welfare minister Ponnam Prabhakar, government whip Adi Srinivas, and the initiative of KK Mahender Reddy for sanctioning two crore rupees. They asked that two crore rupees should be used for urinal bores in girls' schools, drainages in each ward and road construction works. SC cell president Akunuri Balaraju, district leaders Vaidya Sivaprasad, town general secretary Manya Prasad, Congress leaders Swargam Raju, Nakka Narasaiah, Rafi, Aslam, Nalla Shraavan, Gaddam Krishna and others participated in this program.





## Ex-Odisha minister Debasis Nayak quits BJD, joins BJP

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and former Odisha Cabinet minister Debasis Nayak on Tuesday tendered his resignation from the primary membership of the Naveen Patnaik-led party and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Nayak, along with several others, joined the BJP at a programme in the Odisha unit headquarters of the party. Nayak was a four-time BJD legislator from Bari-Derabasi legislative constituency of Jajpur district.

He also held the portfolios of ministers of Information & Public Relations and Sports & Youth Services. He submitted his resignation to the BJD President and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patanik on Sunday. "With a heavy heart, I am submitting my resignation with immediate effect. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to serve the people of Odisha as well as the party.



## INLD's Haryana unit chief Rathee shot dead in Jhajjar

**Chandigarh, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Indian National Lok Dal's Haryana unit President Nafeen Singh Rathee was shot dead in an attack by unidentified assailants in the state's Jhajjar district on Tuesday, police said.

## Give all 29 LS seats to BJP: Amit Shah to MP voters

**Bhopal, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday appealed to the voters in Madhya Pradesh to give all 29 Lok Sabha seats to the BJP in the upcoming general election. "I appeal to the people of Madhya Pradesh to give all 29 Lok Sabha seats this time to BJP to make PM Modi stronger," the Home Minister said while addressing a public rally in Khajuraho. He said that those Congress leaders who are feeling suffocated or sidelined are welcome to join the BJP. "Those who are not respected in Congress and want to join the BJP, they should be welcomed," the Home Minister said. He said that BJP has to increase 370 votes at every booth to register a massive victory in the upcoming elections. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the

BJP won 28 out of 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh while in 2014, it had won 27 seats in the state. The party has set a target to achieve 370 seats in the upcoming general elections. The only Lok Sabha seat that the BJP lost was in Chhindwara, the bastion of veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. His son Nakul Nath won Chhindwara despite a massive wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Home Minister Amit Shah is on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Before addressing a public rally in Khajuraho, the Lok Sabha constituency being represented by the State BJP President V. D. Sharma, the Home Minister reviewed poll preparation for Parliamentary seats in Gwalior-Chambal region.



## Myanmar-based 'scammers' steal over \$100 mn in crypto payments in less than 2 yrs: Report

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** A single company operating in Myanmar has cheated people out of more than \$100 million in less than two years, a report has revealed. Researchers from blockchain analytics company Chainalysis had tracked digital coins issued by Tether, one of the largest cryptocurrencies in the

world, used in "pig butchering" scams, in which false romantic relationships are engineered in order to gain trust from victims. They noted that Tether tokens had been used to make payments to a company situated in KK Park in eastern Myanmar from the families of trafficking workers who had been forced to pay ransoms in exchange for their release.



## Govt engineer in J&K's Ramban booked for rape

**Jammu, Feb 27 (IANS) :** A case of rape was filed against an engineer of the J&K Jal Shakti Department in Ramban district on Tuesday, police said. Police said accused, Yawar Amin is an Assistant Engineer in the Jal Shakti Department and posted in Samagra area in Ramban. "He has been booked for rape and at the moment, is on the run," a police official said. As per police, the victim in her complaint filed at the Banihal police station said that the ac-



cused raped her when she was alone in his house after his wife had left for Jammu recently. "The complainant said the accused gave her some medicine after which she fell ill and he raped her subsequently. The complainant said that after she disclosed the incident to the wife of the accused when she returned from Jammu, she was thrown out of the house," the official said, adding that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered.

## 'Honour killing': TN man hacked to death for marrying girl from different caste

**Chennai, Feb 27 (IANS) :** In another case of "honour killing", a 25-year-old man was hacked to death by a gang of five in Chennai, police said on Tuesday. In November, the deceased identified as Praveen, 25, married Shami, who was from a higher caste. Shami's elder brother Dinesh, who is a murder accused, ganged up with four others and hacked Praveen to death. Praveen was rushed to Chrompet General hospital in Chennai but was declared brought dead.



## There is substantial scope for entrepreneurship in tourism sector: Haryana CM

**Gurugram, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that there is substantial scope for entrepreneurship within the tourism sector of the state. "There are immense employment opportunities in the hotel business," the Chief Minister said while inaugurating the OYO Accelerator program in

Gurugram. Commending the Aarambh Accelerator program initiated by OYO to foster new entrepreneurs, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that this initiative will effectively promote and support budding entrepreneurs. He said that it does not take long for any small work to prosper and grow.

## PM Modi will inaugurate projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Bihar: Samrat Choudhary

**Patna, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate various projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Bihar. He said that PM Modi will visit Bihar on March 2. "The opposition leaders have always alleged that PM Modi did not give anything to Bihar. I want to inform them that he is going to virtually inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of various projects worth Rs 2 lakh crores within the next ten days," the Deputy Chief Minister said. He said that PM Modi will virtually inaugurate projects in health and railway sectors.



**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
Kamareddy Branch 5-3-53, NH-7 Road, Kamareddy Ph.No.08468-293355

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS**  
Notices is hereby given that gold ornaments pledged to the Bank to the following overdraft/NPA Gold Loan Account will be sold in Public Auction in the State Bank of India, Kamareddy Branch premises on 23-02-2024.

Gold Loan A/c No.	Name of the Borrower and address	Net weight	Gross weight
41295809225	Jorrigala Gopi S/o Rajaram Address: H.No. 1-36/1 Uthloor - 503145	38.10 Grams	52.00 Grams

Loan	Out standing	Market Value
Rs.1,40,000/-	Rs.1,46,000/-	Rs.2,40,000/-

Interested persons can participate in the auction along with EMD DD/Cash (refundable) in favour of State Bank of India, Kamareddy Branch. The Branch Manager may accept / reject / postpone / cancel the auction without assigning any reason thereof.  
Place: Kamareddy Date: 28-02-2024 Sd/- Branch Manager

**BANK OF BARODA**  
Branch: Marketpally, Vill/ Mandal dist Nalgonda - 508254 (Telangana) Ph:91-7993316595

**POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable property/ies)  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 25-10-2023 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Baja murali to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.3,76,102.37 (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Two and Paise Thirty Seven Only) as on 25-10-2023 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described therein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 14th day of Feb. of the year 2024.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount of Rs.3,76,102.37 (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Two and Paise Thirty Seven Only) and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable property :**  
Mortgage created via Doct.No.13898/2016 dated 19-12-2016 at SRO Nalgonda. Mortgage of the property situated at Survey No.255/A, comprising total area 121.00 Sq.Yards. Located at H.No.5-7 Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Marketpally, Nalgonda, Telangana 508254 and bounded as follows: North: House of Bolleddu Gopal, South: House of Thotakuri Krishna Murthy, East: Bazar, West: Bazar  
Date: 21-02-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda  
Place: Marketpally

**APGVB ANDHRA PRADESH GRAMEENA VIKAS BANK**  
HEAD OFFICE: WARANGAL REGIONAL OFFICE: KHAMMAM RAGHUNADHAPALEM BRANCH (6245), SURYAPET DISTRICT-508246.

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Rule-8(1) (For immovable property)  
Housing Loan A/c. No. 73150897775

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank, Raghunadapalem Branch, Suryapet District under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 19-10-2023 calling upon the Borrower: 1.Smt. Chinapangu Yemalamma, W/o. Vandanam, SC colony, Chintriyala, Village, Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet Dist.-508204. 2. Sri. Chinapangu Karunakar, S/o.Vandanam, SC colony, Chintriyala, Village, Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet Dist.-508204 and the Guarantor: 1) Shri. Chinapangu Sudarshan, S/o.Bhaskar, R/o. Chintriyala Village, Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet Dist.-508204. 2) Yesupangu Ramaiah, S/o.Yesupangu Adam, R/o. Chintriyala Village, Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet Dist.-508204. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.2,26,342/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Two only) as on 19-10-2023 You are also liable to pay future interest with effect from 20-10-2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount; notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken constructive possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said rules on this 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) for an amount of Rs.2,26,042/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty-Six Thousand Forty-Two only) as on 20-02-2024 You are also liable to pay future interest with effect from 21-02-2024 & expenses thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing extent of 242.00 Sq. yards situated in Plot No. 511 out of Survey No.459, 460, 461, 466, 498, 499, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 1513 located at Kistapuram Village, Chinthalapalem Mandal, Suryapet Dist. within the Registration jurisdiction of the district registrar Nalgonda and Sub- Registrar Huzurnagar and standing on the name of Smt. Chinapangu Yemalamma, W/o.Vandanam, and bounded as follows: East: 30 ft Wide Road; West: Plot No 514; North: Plot No 510; South: 30 ft Wide Road.  
Date : 22.02.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place : RAGHUNADHAPALEM Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank



OPINIONmail



RAHUL EMPHASISES ON UNEMPLOYMENT, CASTE CENSUS IN UP YATRA TRAIL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, whose UP leg of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra commenced on February 16 had been emphasizing on OBCs, SCs and STs and caste census in his speeches in a bid to dent the BJP's support base in the Lok Sabha polls. Addressing consecutive public meetings in Raebareli, considered to be a bastion of the Gandhis, Rahul called one Vijay Maurya onto the dais at the Super Market Crossing and introduced him as an unemployed youth. Rahul asked Vijay to narrate his story to the crowd, but the youth started sobbing and told of him feeling nervous. Calling him "Babbar Sher (lion)", Rahul said: "Don't fear anybody and tell the people why you are not able to get a job." Vijay replied: "I am competent but this government is giving employment to incompetent people because it works for only those who are their people and not those who are talented and deserving." Rahul said this problem would be resolved only when a nationwide caste census will take place

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has initiated his 11-day Jan Vishwas Yatra on February 20 from Muzaffarpur and criticized Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar stating that the latter completely lacked vision for the state. Tejashwi asserted during the tour that his party was not only of 'MY' Muslim-Yadav], but also of 'BAAP'. Explaining the acronym BAAP, the RJD leader said B stood for Bahujan (the masses including the backwards and the Dalits), A for agda (general or forward castes), A for aadhi aabadi (half population or women and girls), and P for poor, peechre. The public meetings and rallies in the tour, which marked the beginning of the RJD's Lok Sabha poll campaign, turned out to be INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) events as the Congress and Left leaders also shared the dais and their party flags fluttered all around. During his yatra, Yadav will be covering all 38 districts of Bihar and also will address 32 public meetings in which he is likely expected to highlight achievements of the previous mahagathbandhan (grand coalition) government. The Yatra is scheduled to conclude on March 1. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be sharing dais with the RJD national president Lalu Prasad Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI Leader D Raja and CPI(ML) Dipankar Bhattacharya during a maharally to be duly held on 3rd March.

The MNM is most likely to join hands with Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and contest the general elections together. While actor-turned-politician and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder Kamal Haasan said that negotiations with the INDIA bloc were progressing in Tamil Nadu, there has been no conclusive decision on joining the opposition coalition yet. The actor, who has so far stayed away from any party, has recently been cosying up to Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which is a part of the INDIA grouping. During the Erode East bypolls in 2023, MNM supported the DMK-Congress candidate EVKS Elavogan, who won.

In a bid to attain the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, the Congress think-tank is focussing on a plan to field some party stalwarts and Cabinet ministers as candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections. According to sources, the party is taking into consideration the candidatures of Minister for Cooperation K.N. Rajanna or Minister for Home G. Parameshwara for the Tumakuru MP seat. Along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra, Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa is being considered for the Mysuru-Kodagu parliamentary constituency. The Minister for PWD Satish Jarkiholi is being considered for the Belagavi Constituency. The AICC and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) will carry separate surveys and finalise the candidates. There are 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka. BJP had won 25 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, while Congress managed to win only one seat.

the indian mail EDITORIAL



FARMERS SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST CORPORATE ENCROACHMENT IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

Demand for a law guaranteeing MSPs for crops in markets has once again surfaced with renewed farmers' agitation. Of late, several articles in news media and TV debate about the dangers of providing a legal sanctity to the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Economists like Dr Ashok Gulati and Dr Ramesh Chand are major proponents of this argument. They argue

that the purchase of all crops (23 of them) at guaranteed MSP would drive the government to bankruptcy and leave little money left in the budget for infrastructure and development. Farmers reviving the agitation for guaranteed MSP and other demands complain that this is an implementation problem. They say the announced MSPs are notional, as government procurement is limited and the majority of farmers in various states are

often getting prices quite below the MSPs in markets. Hence farmers demand a law legally guaranteeing the purchase of 23 crops at MSPs across the country in markets. Will the guaranteed MSPs drive the government finances to go bankrupt? Let us examine the case. As per a report by Business Today the total value of all agricultural produce in 2020 is Rs. 40 lakh crores.



NEW COALITION GOVT IN PAKISTAN WILL BE TOO WEAK TO PERFORM INDEPENDENTLY

After prolonged negotiations, political leaders in Pakistan have successfully reached a consensus on a power-sharing arrangement for a new government. The ruling coalition will consist of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which enjoys support from the influential military, along with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and various smaller factions.

The two main parties have agreed to reinstate Shehbaz Sharif as the prime minister and appoint Asif Ali Zardari, the spouse of the late former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, as the president. The newly formed government relies on the support of the military.



PRESIDENT BIDEN CALLING HIS RUSSIAN COUNTERPART 'SOB' IS JUST BIZARRE

American President Joe Biden most probably forgot his insulting words for Russian President Vladimir Putin after a couple of minutes of saying them, but the "crazy SOB" also took the insult on the chin, brushing it aside as if it was no more deserving of attention than a passing breeze on a windy day. "Vladimir Putin appeared unfazed" was the fairest assessment made of the Russian President's reaction to Biden calling him a crazy son of a dog. For, even among the

community of canines, "children" are taken seriously and their parents even more so. Neither mom nor dad deserve insult. Ultimately, though, it showed Putin was savvy and he understood Biden better than Biden understood Putin. Definitely, the two should have understood each other more than Donald Trump could get under their skins. Trump drives Biden crazy and for all we know the current White House occupant must have called Trump "crazy SOB", and not Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Anything can happen, when it's known to every Russian that Joe Biden's cognitive faculties have been missing strength ever since Joe and Jill took up residence in the White House. Ask, and Joe wouldn't remember who he called "Crazy SOB"? Could be himself when walking past any one of the legion of White House mirrors.

AFTER TWO YEARS OF WAR WITH UKRAINE, RUSSIA IS LOOKING CONFIDENT AS EUROPE FEELING SHAKY

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its third year on Saturday, February 24 Russian President Vladimir Putin looks totally relaxed as against his competitor US President Joe Biden who lost his temper in an election gathering on Wednesday by calling Putin 'SOB' which is generally not used in public by the government heads even by the American standards. President Putin coolly dealt with Biden's remark by mentioning even then he would like Biden to be the next President of USA as against Donald Trump. The confidence shown by the Russian President is understandable. After defying all speculations in the western media about his failing health, revolt by the military and the collapse of the Russian economy following US and western nations sanctions in the wake of war in Ukraine.



MAMATA'S ARROGANCE HELPING RSS PAINT HER PATRON OF COMMUNALISM

For RSS and BJP leaders, Sikhs are just Khalistanis. The reason is very simple: the Sikhs do not fit in their design. For being acceptable to RSS and BJP, it is imperative that the person should listen to Mohan Bhagwat and Narendra Modi and embrace Hindutva. But regrettably, RSS and BJP have failed in their mission to make Sikhs accept their wishes and co-opt the community into the majoritarian Hindu fold. Primarily, this is the reason for

RSS and BJP leaders being highly critical of Sikhs, not only in India but across the globe, and painting them all with the same 'Khalistani' broad brush. The saffron ecosystem has virtually launched a campaign against Sikhs across the world and any Sikh daring to oppose or raise his voice against Narendra Modi is instantly tinted as Khalistani. It has been in public domain how India's relation got strained with Canada on the issue of describing a Sikh as Khalistani. Isolating Sikhs from the national mainstream is also evident



in the government's approach towards the farmers' movement which was launched on February 13. RSS and BJP leaders have been using the word 'Khalistani' against the Sikh farmers to alienate them

from rest of the country's farmers and denigrate them in the eyes of the common Indians. The word is often used to identify a Sikh who is supposedly indulged in anti-India activities.





### Trump has not yet responded to President Zelensky's invitation to visit Ukraine: FM

**Kiev, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Ukrainian authorities have not yet received a response to an invitation to visit Ukraine from former US President

Donald Trump or his team, media reported on Tuesday. According to Ukrinform news agency report, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said this

in an interview with a US media portal. "There are political signals that come publicly from US presidential candidate Donald Trump. There are public signals coming

from the President of Ukraine. We have not heard a response to the invitation from Trump himself or his team. If there is a response, we will consider it," he added. According to Kuleba, the main thing now is to understand that the key for Ukraine should not even be maintaining bipartisan support, but support at the level of voters, Ukrinform news agency reported. "Because American politicians follow their voters," the Minister said. As reported by Ukrinform news agency, in January this year, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky invited former US President Donald Trump to visit Kiev after the latter promised to stop the war "very quickly" if he won this year's election.



### Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 29,692: Ministry

**Gaza, Feb 27 (IANS) :** At least 29,692 Palestinians have been killed and 69,879 injured during the war in Gaza, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Tuesday in a statement. These figures include both civilians and Hamas members

killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups' own rocket misfires, The Times of Israel reported. The IDF added on Sunday that it has killed more than 12,000 operatives in Gaza, in addition to nearly 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7.

## UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi set to address triple planetary crisis

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** In the backdrop of 2023 being the warmest year on record, with resultant heatwaves, storms and droughts causing havoc, heads of state and more than 5,000 representatives and leaders will gather in Nairobi in Kenya from Tuesday for the five-day sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) to strengthen multilateral effort to address the planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. The Assembly, which usually meets biennially and sees visionaries from the business sector, governments, scientific institutions, and civil society, is the world's top decision-making body on matters related to the environment and includes all 193 UN member states.

Observers told IANS that there are 20 draft resolutions and two decisions on the table, among them a resolution on the metals and minerals issue. "UNEA-VI will place particular focus on how stronger multilateralism can help us to do this," said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen earlier this month. "It will drive united, inclusive and multilateral action that addresses every strand of the triple planetary crisis as one indivisible challenge." In the run-up to the UNEA, aptly called "world's parliament on the environment," ministers and partners of the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) launched a Clean Air Flagship effort to provide a platform to boost regional coordination and private sector engagement, data-led policy action, financing, science and advocacy. UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis will deliver his address at the opening of the

high-level segment that will be held on February 29 and March 1. The segment will consist of an opening plenary with statements by key dignitaries, national statements; three leadership dialogues, a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a closing plenary meeting during which UNEA will take action on the draft Ministerial declaration as well as the draft resolutions and decisions. India will be represented by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's Additional Secretary Naresh Pal Gangwar. Government leaders plan to use the Assembly to renew calls for progress on the sustainable development goals, a global blueprint for protecting the planet and promoting prosperity. Just 15 per cent of the goals, which come due in 2030, are on track. "We must find practical ways to advance the human rights to a healthy environment, which is



crucial for sustainable development," said Leila Benali, Morocco's energy transition minister and the President of UNEA-VI. "We know that when we protect the natural world, public health improves. When we focus on sustainable solutions to the climate crisis, our economies get stronger." Also on the agenda of the Assembly will be ways to tackle the dramatic increase of wasteful and fuel-intensive plastics, which is feeding the climate crisis.

More than 99 per cent of plastic is made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels, the substances responsible for 86 per cent of CO2 emissions in the last decade. Plastic pollution reinforces the need for a binding plastics treaty as well as a fossil fuel treaty that can tackle the root cause of both the plastics pollution crisis and the climate crisis through phasing out oil, gas and coal production. In 2022, the Assembly ended with countries agreeing to launch negotiations on a legally binding global instrument to end

plastic pollution. That was one in a recent string of ambitious international agreements on environment. Last September, countries and businesses inked a landmark pact to prevent pollution from chemicals and waste. Two months later, at the UN Climate Change Conference, countries vowed for the first time to transition away from the fossil fuels that are superheating the earth and driving climate change.



### S.Korea Prez Yoon attends church service marking March 1 Independence Movement

**Seoul, Feb 27 (IANS) :** South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol attended a church service on Tuesday, marking the 1919 independence movement against Japanese colonial rule, his office said. Yoon's visit to Wonchon Baptist Church in Suwon, 30 km south of Seoul, came five days before the nation marks the anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement, Yonhap news agency reported. He is the first sitting President to attend a church service honouring the movement, according to presidential spokesperson Kim Sooyoung. "One hundred and five years ago,

our patriotic martyrs gathered their convictions and determination for freedom and started the March 1 movement," Yoon was quoted as saying in remarks after the service. "The South Korean church was on that great journey toward a free and prosperous future. "As a global pivotal state, we will contribute responsibly to world peace and joint prosperity, and work for a new leap by South Korea," he said. "The government and I will move close to the people's lives from a humbler position, and carry out state affairs warmly by holding each and every person's hands."

### Early voting for Russian presidential election begins in remote areas of Far East

**Vladivostok, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Early voting in remote areas for the Russian presidential election has begun in the regions of the Far East, local media reported on Tuesday. Quoted by Russia's TASS news agency, Igor Shamraev, deputy chairman of the regional electoral commission of Kamchatka, said that about 30,000 people in Kamchatka could cast their ballots early. They include reindeer herders, meteorological station workers, lighthouse keepers and service members at isolated outposts. The Federation Council of Russia has scheduled the presidential

elections for March 17, Xinhua news agency reported. The Central Election Commission of Russia has decided to extend the voting period to three days, from March 15 to 17, making it the first three-day presidential election in Russia. In Yakutia, early voting in hard-to-reach and remote areas is expected to cover 129,000 voters. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia has informed its employees of the planned routes to ensure the safety of the commission members. In the Khabarovsk territory, early voting has been organised for residents of hard-to-reach areas, shift workers, workers in the timber and mining industries and meteorological station workers, among others. More than 4,000 voters in remote and hard-to-reach areas will participate in early voting in Chukotka. Nikolai Goncharov, chairman of the electoral commission of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, said that members of the precinct electoral commissions would reach them by helicopter.



### Canada to allocate \$130mn for Ukraine's recovery

**Kiev, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Canada will provide Ukraine with 169 million Canadian dollars (CAD) (about \$130 million) for several reconstruction and development programmes, media reported on Tuesday. According to Ukrinform news agency reported, this was announced by the Office of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau following his visit to Kiev. Canada will allocate CAD 75 million (equivalent to more than \$57 million) for peace and security assistance, which includes demining, cyber support and intelligence assistance, Ukrinform news agency reported. Another CAD 15 million (equivalent to \$11.5 million) will be allocated to support the completion of the National Museum of the Holodomor-Genocide in Kiev. Canada also announced the allocation of funding to the following: \$17 million for humanitarian assistance, \$30 million for development assistance, almost \$14 million for stabilisation assistance, including chemical weapons reduction.



## Don't blemish police uniform, department: Goa CM tells new recruits

**Panaji, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday appealed to the newly recruited police staff to respect the service pledge and to refrain from doing wrong deeds, which could blemish the department. CM Sawant was speaking during the passing out parade of constables at Valpoi in North Goa. "One thing everyone should keep in mind is that they should respect their police uniform. You should not engage yourself in any act that will blemish this uniform and department," said CM Sawant, who also holds the Home Ministry portfolio. "We are here to

serve the people, give them justice and maintain peace. Hence we should not infringe on these principles," the CM cautioned. "You should not commit any mistake while serving for the people because you have got training, legal knowledge and mental fitness," he said. "In the next 30 years of your service, you will have to face many challenges. By addressing those challenges you have to work and keep respect for the department," CM Sawant said. He said that the Home Department provides training at many stages and is also opting for new technologies to give better services and justice to the people. Goa Police had drawn flak last year after one police constable was allegedly found working with



criminals in the coastal state. In August last year, the police had dismissed services of constable Vikas Kaushik, against whom Goa AAP MLA Venzy Viegas had

sought action after alleging that he extorted businessmen and helped 'chain snatchers' to commit crimes for his 'share'.



## Oppn has no fuel to challenge PM Modi, says Giriraj Singh

**Patna, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh on Tuesday said the opposition parties were making alliances in the country but they have 'no fuel' to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha election. "Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal are showing happiness after making the alliance but the votes are with the people of the country and they are with PM Narendra Modi," Giriraj Singh said. "The opposition (UPA) against Narendra Modi in 2014 but the people of the country made him the prime minister. "They gave more support in

the 2019 Lok Sabha election and this time people of the country will vote in such a manner that the NDA will reach beyond 400 seats in the Lok Sabha," the minister said, adding that, "They don't have the fuel to take on the BJP," "PM Narendra Modi is coming to the land of Begusarai and he will address a rally here very soon. It is a workplace of Bihar's first Chief Minister Shri Krishna Singh.

"The central government has given financial aid to the tune of more than Rs 60,000 crore for the various projects including renovation of Barauni oil refinery, national highway project, flyovers and other projects in the past," he said.



## Himachal's literacy over 88 per cent: Education Minister

**Shimla, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur on Tuesday said the state literacy has risen to over 88 per cent from eight at the time of Independence, the second highest in the country. He said that the rise in the field of education can be attributed to the high standards and excellence of the state's government schools. "Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu and our first Chief Minister Y.S. Parmar also received education from state-run government schools, colleges and universities," the minister said while speaking as a chief guest at the launch of 'Mere Shehar Ke 100 Ratan' scholarship here by Crack Academy in all 68 constituencies of the state. The academy would give scholarships to 100 students per constituency under the initiative. The scholarship test will be held on May 1.



## Bengal Postings: Police transfers within the same LS constituency may not be valid

**Kolkata, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Many transfers of police officers made by the West Bengal government in the run-up to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections might not be valid if the new postings are either within the same Parliamentary constituency, or in the adjacent district. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in West Bengal has clearly communicated to the state government about the transfer rules as framed by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Recently, the West Bengal government effected several transfers in the police department, starting from the ranks of sub-inspectors and inspectors to those in the West Bengal Police Service (WBCS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) throughout the state. However, it has come to the notice of the poll

panel that in case of such transfers, the new postings are either within the same Lok Sabha constituency or in the adjacent district. Sources said the office of the CEO has advised the state administration to take corrective steps in case such transfers. A senior bureaucrat in the state government said the general rule before any Lok Sabha or Assembly elections is to transfer those government servants, especially police officers, who have completed three years or more in a particular posting.



## Ram temple to be completed by December

**Ayodhya, Feb 27 (IANS) :** All ongoing construction work in the Ram temple will now be completed by December 2024. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has set this as the deadline for the completion of construction works at the Ram temple. According to Anil Mishra, a Trust member, some projects inside the whole complex could take time and will be completed by the end of next year. The Yogi Adityanath government has also set deadlines for all ongoing development

projects in Ayodhya, outside the temple complex. The state and central governments are executing projects worth Rs 32,000 crore in the temple town. The key projects in the pipeline are Shri Ram Kund, Karm Kshetra (for rituals), Hanuman Gadhi, Shri Ramlala Purakalik Darushan Mandal, Shri Kamm Keerti, Guru Vashishtha Peethika, Bhakti Teela, Tulsi (open theatre), Ram Darbar, Mata Kaushalya Vatsalya Mandap, Ramangan, Maharashi Valmik Archives Centre and Mata Sita Rasoi Annakshetra (kitchen).



## Will BJP be able to replicate the Nandigram model in Sandeshkhali?

**Kolkata, Feb 27 (IANS) :** As Sandeshkhali, a conglomerate of islands in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, continues to boil over agitation of local women against the sexual harassment of local Trinamool Congress leader, the BJP has gone all out to replicate the Nandigram model in Sandeshkhali. During the Nandigram movement, the incumbent Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Suwendu Adhikari (then in Trinamool Congress) became an pivot around which the movement shaped and took

place, forcing one of the most regimented ruling regime in the history of India -- 34 years of Left Front rule -- first to bend, then to collapse and finally face a dishonorable exit from the state's political landscape. The BJP now dreams to replicate the same Nandigram-model in Sandeshkhali against the ruling Trinamool Congress. "Be it Nandigram or Sandeshkhali, the movement is against rulers' boisterous autocracy. The common factors remain the same which are: forceful land grabbing, harassment of women and suppressing the democratic space.

These factors have led to spontaneous outburst of mass outrage," (LoP) Suwendu Adhikari explained. Land grabbing is a common and root issue in both Nandigram and Sandeshkhali, however, with a difference. The tension in Nandigram flickered from an official government notification from the local Haldia Development Authority (HDA) expressing the intention of land acquisition for a petrochemicals hub to be incorporated by Indonesia-based Salim Group.



## IAF's Sarang team enthralls crowd on culmination of Singapore Airshow

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** As the Singapore Airshow drew to an end, the Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force presented their last display for the event at the Changi Exhibition Centre on Tuesday. The IAF said that it was at this very venue that the Sarangs began their journey 20 years ago, when they performed their first public display as a three helicopter team for the Asian Aerospace Show in February 2004. Since then the Sarangs have graduated to a four helicopter display, and recently included a five helicopter display profile to their achievements. Apart from thrilling aerobatics displays, nationally and internationally.

## Psychotropic drug recovered from car in J&K's Ganderbal

**Srinagar, Feb 27 (IANS) :** J&K Police on Tuesday seized a vehicle from which psychotropic drug was recovered while the accused managed to escape during the raid in Ganderbal district. A statement issued by police said that it has recovered Psychotropic Substance and a vehicle used in the commission of the crime in the jurisdiction of police post Shadipora. "Following specific information a raid was carried

out at the house of one person identified as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat alias SETHA resident of Batwina village. "Psychotropic Substance (Banned Drugs) Supasmoproxyvon-Plus (10 Strips) was recovered from the vehicle Scorpio bearing Registration No. JK16-0901 belonging to the accused. "The Contraband Substance & vehicle used in the commission of the crime was seized on the spot.





## 94 pc of Indian firms plan to boost workers' skills, abilities this year : Report

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) About 94 per cent of Indian companies plan to enhance their employees' skills and abilities, and 53 per cent are looking to provide online training and development programmes in 2024, a new report said on Tuesday. According to the professional networking platform LinkedIn, upskilling employees, aligning learning programmes to business goals, and creating a culture of learning are the top three focus areas for India's learning &

development (L&D) professionals in 2024. "With skills for jobs globally expected to change 68 per cent by 2030, we are seeing a greater emphasis on learning both technical and soft skills with a majority of employers surveyed agreeing that this balance will be critical for organisations to succeed in the age of AI," said Ruchee Anand, Senior Director - Talent, Learning and Engagement Solutions, LinkedIn India.



## Paisalo Digital raises Rs 200 crore from IREDA to lend for EV buyers

Chennai, Feb 27 (IANS) : Listed non-banking finance company (NBFC) Paisalo Digital Ltd has raised Rs 200 crore from the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA).

According to Paisalo Digital, the funds raised will be utilised to expand the company's electric vehicle (EV) loan book portfolio. "Resonating with IREDA's motto of 'Energy for Ever', the funds secured shall be utilized to elevate our competency in promptly meeting the financing requirements for EV buyers."



## 'I don't mean to be a pest' : Elon Musk tells Satya Nadella

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) : Elon Musk on Tuesday further escalated his arguments with Microsoft on X, asking its Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella to allow people to set up a new Windows PC without creating a Microsoft account.

As Nadella posted about the company's partnership with Mistral AI, a leader in generative artificial intelligence, the Tesla and SpaceX CEO replied that he does

not want to "be a pest". "Satya, I don't mean to be a pest, but please allow people setting up a new Windows PC to skip creating a Microsoft account," Musk posted. "This option disappears if the computer is connected to WiFi. Also, even if you do want to sign up, it won't allow you to use a work email address and I only have work email addresses," the X owner further posted. Nadella was yet to reply to Musk's

posts. "We're announcing a multi-year partnership with @MistralAI, as we build on our commitment to offer customers the best choice of open and foundation models on Azure," he had posted. The whole saga started over the last weekend as Musk posted about issues he faced with his new Windows PC. The billionaire was unable to complete the setup process without creating a Microsoft account.



## Govt will continue with nextgen economic reforms in 3rd term : Nirmala Sitharaman

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) : The Narendra Modi-led government will continue with the next-generation economic reforms to make India the third largest economy in the world, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

"The third term that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come in will ensure that India reaches in the top three economies in the world. Reforms will touch all areas of factors of production i.e. land, capital and digital infrastructure," Sitharaman said in her ad-

dress at the national conclave on Viksit Bharat 2047 organised by apex business chamber FICCI. The new government will be formed after the general elections due in April-May and the BJP is confident that Prime Minister Modi will return to power with a greater majority. Sitharaman said that several reforms were undertaken by the government during the last 10 years and the trend will continue. Digital infrastructure is a modern day factor of production along with land, labour and capital. Pub-

lic investment has created digital infrastructure at the bottom and has scaled it up, she said. She said the government was looking at expansion in artificial intelligence, space and extending policy support to give a big push to precious metals and semiconductors," she said. She exhorted the captains of industry to participate in a big way in the nation's economic growth trajectory as "it is our duty to provide the future generations a better India".



## HFCL, MediaTek partner to help Indian telcos address last-mile 5G connectivity

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) : In a bid to push the government's vision of creating a sustainable telecom ecosystem, technology enterprise and communications solution provider HFCL Limited on

Tuesday partnered with chip-maker MediaTek to integrate its chipset with the indoor 5G solution and help telecom operators address last-mile connectivity challenges. HFCL's 5G FWA Indoor CPE of-

fers features like ultra-compact form factor and minimal power consumption, owing to MediaTek T750 chipset. The 7nm compact chipset is equipped with a 5G radio and quad-core Arm CPU, ensuring seamless connectivity across multiple devices with dual-band 4x4 Wi-Fi 6 support, the company said in a statement on the sidelines of 'MWC 2024' in Barcelona, Spain. "The HFCL 5G FWA Indoor CPE helps telecom operators address the last-mile connectivity challenges in an ultra-compact form factor and provides a fibre-like experience to both consumers and enterprises," said Mahendra Nahata, Managing



## AirAsia looks to add Tier 2/3 cities to its India route map

Chennai, Feb 27 (IANS) : The Malaysia headquartered AirAsia airline, which would soon add Jaipur, Vishakhapatnam and Ahmedabad to its route map, is looking to add more Indian Tier 2/3 cities, said a senior official of the airline.

The official said that India is a key market for AirAsia as it contributes about 18 per cent of the total revenue. The 13th largest airline in the world, AirAsia currently flies directly to Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok from 14 Indian cities.

"We are now looking beyond the metro cities in India. We have the bilateral rights for Patna and Calicut. We want to connect Madurai, Coimbatore and other Indian cities as well," said Kesavan Sivanandam, Chief Airport & Customer Experience Officer, AirAsia, told the media here on Tuesday.

According to Sivanandam, the airline fleet strength is 225 aircraft, out of which 200 are flying now post the Covid pandemic.

He said there is a lot of pent up demand in India where passenger load is not an issue. The major issue is the availability of aircraft and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities. Sivanandam said AirAsia has a market share of 51 per cent between India and Malaysia.



## India's rural-urban income gap declines sharply amid fall in poverty level: SBI Report

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) : Along with the sharp decline in poverty in India, there has also been a marked reduction in the rural-urban income divide in the country, according to an SBI Research analysis of

a Consumer Expenditure Survey released on Tuesday. Rural Poverty has staged a significant 440-basis point decline since 2018-19 and Urban Poverty a 170-basis point decline post-pandemic, which

shows that the government initiatives for promoting the welfare of the bottom of the pyramid are having a significant beneficial impact on rural livelihood, the report states.

## TCS likely to lead its peers in revenue growth : UBS

New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) TCS is likely to lead its peers in revenue growth by 100-150 bp along with improvement in margins in FY25, foreign brokerage UBS said in a report.

"We believe the market is not pricing this in, given a divided consensus and the stock remaining at the lower end of its long-term trading premium vs peers," UBS said as it upgraded TCS.

"We see enough drivers to believe TCS can deliver industry-leading growth and margins among peers in FY25," UBS said. These include ramp-up of large deals, revival in the BFSI segment, revival in cloud migration projects; and continued managed services demand strength at industry level.

"On the margin front, we expect a sharp fall in attrition to aid in gross margins with some lag, a potential 200 bp additional improvement in utilisation, and scope for subcontracting cost reductions. Our two-factor regression model suggests gross margin can expand by more than 100 bp in the next four to six quarters," UBS said.

UBS has lifted FY25/26 EPS estimates 3 per cent/9 per cent and upgrade TCS valuing the company at 28x PE (earlier 26x) on FY26E EPS, which is close to the current multiple.

TCS' current multiple premium over peers is below the historical average, and any outperformance makes the case for a re-rating, providing comfort in using the current multiple, the brokerage said. TCS shares gained 2.5 per cent on Tuesday on the BSE to close at Rs 4,102.







**Two die during treatment after accident in UP**

**Lucknow, Feb 27 (IANS)** : A woman and a 13-year-old girl who were among those injured in an accident, died during treatment at the King George's Medical University on Tuesday. In the incident that occurred in the Arjunganj area on Tuesday night and involved a police vehicle, 11 people were injured -- five police personnel and six civilians. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of the two victims and Rs 50,000 for the injured persons.



**Explosive device found in RSS office in MP's Bhind, defused**

**Bhopal, Feb 27 (IANS)**: The Madhya Pradesh Police on Tuesday said they recovered an explosive device at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office in Bhind district, which was later defused. The device was found on Saturday night when an office attendant, Ram Mohan, noticed it. The RSS

office is located in a residential colony, Hanuman Bajarria in the district. Local police were alerted immediately and subsequently, Bhind SP Ashit Yadav along with other police personnel reached the spot around midnight. A bomb disposal squad also reached the spot from the neighbouring district Morena, and the device was disposed of.

"A pin bomb was found at the place where the Dhawaja (flag) was installed in the premises of the Sangh office, which was seized," a senior police officer said, adding that further investigation was underway. The RSS office was empty as the 'pracharaks' and 'vistaraks' had gone to Indore to attend a meeting, said the officials.

**5-year-old files PIL seeking removal of liquor shop near school**

**Kanpur, Feb 27 (IANS)** : A five-year-old student from Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking the removal of a liquor shop near his school. The petitioner, a student of a private school in the Azad Nagar of Kanpur, in his petition, has alleged that there is a liquor shop near his school and often people create a nuisance there after consuming alcohol.

The court has asked the state government counsel to seek a response from the authorities as to why the licence of the liquor shop in Kanpur was being renewed even after the school came into existence in the vicinity. A division bench comprising Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Kshitij Shailendra directed to list the PIL on March 13 for the next hearing.



**Tripura tribal party chief threatens to launch hunger strike over 'Greater Tipraland' demand**

**Agartala, Feb 27 (IANS)** : Former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman, whose party -- Tipra Motha Party (TMP) -- has been demanding 'Greater Tipraland' or a separate state, on Tuesday threatened to launch for a fast unto death hunger strike soon if the Centre does not accept his party's demands at the earliest. Deb Barman, who held

a series of meeting with the Central government officials, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Tripura counterpart Manik Saha and senior BJP leaders for the part more than one year to fulfil the TMP's demand, said that he would soon announce the schedule of his fast unto death hunger strike. "I am ready to die for the cause of

the tribals. My only target is to resolve economic and constitutional problems of the tribals," the TMP supremo told the media and accused the Central government of depriving the tribals of their Constitutional rights." Deb Barman asked: "The Central leaders assured us to fulfil our demands. We trust them but nothing has been done yet. People in Delhi try to avoid us.



The Jammu and Kashmir issue and creation of Telangana were taken up in a short span of time,

so why is the Centre taking so much time about our demand?" He said that his party (TMP) was

neither with the BJP-led NDA or Congress-led INDIA bloc. "Whichever party supports our demand ('Greater Tipraland'), we will support them. We do not want the tribals to remain poor and deprived from their due Constitutional rights," the TMP chief said. Deb Barman on Friday night held a meeting with Tripura unit Congress President Asish Kumar Saha and senior Congress leader and MLA Sudip Roy Barman and discussed the current political situation in the state.



**Private bank employee, aide held in UP for loan fraud**

**Lucknow, Feb 27 (IANS)** : An official of a private bank and his accomplice have been arrested for getting loans sanctioned to customers, without their consent, and then using the money for their personal uses, said officials here. The arrested persons are Fida

Mirza, sales manager of a private bank in Hazratganj, and his aide Vikas Kureel of Chowk. The two were arrested on Tuesday. The matter came to light after one Ankur Singh lodged a complaint against Mirza.

**Bangladesh embraces Indian medico's 'Save Girl Child' campaign**

**Pune, Feb 27 (IANS)** : Thousands of people and medicos in Bangladesh last week pledged to join a unique 12-year-old 'Save Girl Child' initiative by Pune's famed gynaecologist Dr. Ganesh Rakh. Dr. Rakh, who was invited for a 10-day long guidance tour to different parts of rural Bangladesh, led processions in several towns and villages with thousands marching and chanting slogans to 'Save Girl Child'. In the biggest event of its kind, over 10,000 trooped behind Dr. Rakh in villages of Jessore district, carrying banners and placards pledging to 'Save Girl Child'. The marchers comprised mostly women, and girls in the age group of 20-50. Many men

also participated at the remote Hidia village in the Khulna division with people from over two dozen neighbouring villages also enthusiastically joining the procession. "Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. This has various health implications for the girls, especially those from the economically weaker sections. Thus, there is a high mortality rate among the girls born there," Dr. Rakh told IANS on his return from Bangladesh on Saturday. He said that this was an introductory, pilot project with community involvement and now hundreds of private hospitals and clinics have decided to take up the 'Save Girl



Child' campaign in Bangladesh. Dr. Rakh was honoured and felicitated in several towns and villages including by the Bangladesh Private Clinic & Diagnostic Owner's Association (BPCDOA), recognized by the country's government, and conducted around four dozen big and small events in 10 days, including some at night. BPCDOA President Dr. Muhammad Gaji M. Rahman lauded Dr. Rakh's efforts in cre-

ating the awareness and committed to organise similar programs all over Bangladesh in the coming months. BPCDOA Divisional Council Member Dr. M.D. Tarikul Islam underlined the need "to treat all daughters with equality and dignity like the sons" in order to safeguard their future and ensure social and economic progress. "The girl child is our tomorrow and our future.

**The Third Eye: Intelligence is a prime security weapon**

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS)** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime, aided by a brilliant National Security Advisor, has boosted the confidence of national Intelligence agencies about doing their job of protecting the security and integrity of India on a proactive, apolitical and professional note. Intelligence Bureau (IB), the 'mother' organisation that fostered the family of Intelligence entities including SSB, ARC and R&AW, traced its origins in the Central CID established by the British some 135 years ago and the fact that it saw an essential

continuity of its functioning after Independence, is an affirmation of its belief that by and large its goal had been to safeguard the country against the doings of its perceived 'adversaries' at any point of time. IB's charter multiplied a great deal with the emergence of India as a sovereign nation and as the largest democracy that happened also to inherit the destabilising legacy of a religion-based Partition accompanying its freedom. The Bureau derives strength from three basic principles of its working. First is the freedom it exercises in the matter of covering an activity or an entity that - in its 'own judgement' - amounted to a threat to national security.

Secondly, the government at the Centre can task the IB which is only appropriate but it never influences its findings - IB may be the only reliable agency to tell the government what is adverse in the public environment disproving the notions that Intelligence only reported what the political masters 'liked to hear'. Thirdly, the IB's communications with the government are not only confidential but are marked as 'unofficial' notes meant only for the benefit of the recipients and not available for scrutiny by an outsider. Working of India's Intelligence agencies is in line with the principle that they are not police organisations. The IB is led by IPS officers who

join the organisation giving up on the 'glamour' of uniform and accepting 'anonymity' by choice in lieu of the rare satisfaction they had of directly working for the national cause - with full confi-

dence that good work was always given credit for and with a belief that the nation acknowledged the contribution of Intelligence as a prime weapon of security.



**IUML says 'satisfactory' discussion with Cong on 3rd LS seat in Kerala**

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 27 (IANS)** : Senior leader of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) P.K. Kunhalikuttu on Tuesday said the discussion with the Congress party regarding the third Lok Sabha seat was satisfactory. Kunhalikuttu was speaking to the media persons after a meeting with senior Congress leaders of Kerala at Kochi.





### Register FIR against Haryana Home Minister for firing on farmers: Punjab Cong leader

**Chandigarh, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa on Tuesday asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who also holds the Home portfolio, to register an FIR against Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij for "giving the police direction to fire at peacefully protesting farmers in Punjab's territory".

### Myanmar border fencing, FMR likely to be discussed in upcoming Nagaland Assembly Session

**Kohima, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The proposed fencing of the India-Myanmar border and the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between the two countries are likely to be discussed during the upcoming Budget Session of Nagaland Assembly, beginning on February 26, top sources said. An official said that the five-day budget session of the Nagaland Assembly would start and the border fencing and FMR issues are expected to be discussed as "matters of urgent public impor-

tance". Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had earlier said that both the fencing and FMR issues need to be discussed thoroughly before a final decision and the government has to take the opinion of the people to evolve a workable formula before their execution. Almost all tribal bodies and civil society organisations in Nagaland, have strongly opposed the Centre's recent announcement to fence the border and scrap the FMR. The Ministers, politicians, tribal and civil society leaders argued that same ethnic tribal people are leaving both sides of the border while many people living along the



bordering areas have farmlands on either side and the proposed fencing and the scrapping of FMR would create huge problems for the Naga people. Meanwhile, the neighbouring Mizoram government and all the civil societies and NGOs in the state also strongly opposed both the fencing and the scrapping of FMR. Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who earlier met Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and opposed both the fencing and the scrapping of FMR, which allowed citizens residing close to both sides of the border to move 16 km into each other's territory without passport or visa.



### Rajasthan BJP chief thanks PM Modi, Railway Minister for development projects

**Jaipur, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Rajasthan BJP chief and Chittorgarh MP C.P. Joshi on Tuesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for launching "huge development projects" in the railways sector in the state. He said that the Modi government is committed to upgrading rail services and infrastructure in the country. At present, work worth more than Rs 53,000 crores is in progress in the state. Also, in the budget of 2024-25, the state has been provided a record allocation of Rs 9782 crore, he added. A plan has been made to develop 85 world-class railway stations in the state, Joshi said.

The state BJP President further said that Prime Minister Modi will dedicate 554 railway stations and 1500 road overbridges and underpasses to the nation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme on February 26 at 10:30 a.m. virtually. This includes one station and six road overbridges and underpasses in the Chittorgarh parliamentary constituency, he added.



### Delhi Waqf Board case: Court to pronounce order on AAP legislator's anticipatory bail plea on March 1

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved its order on AAP legislator Amanatullah Khan's anticipatory bail plea in connection with the Delhi Waqf Board money laundering case. On Tuesday, Special Judge Rakesh Syal of Rouse Avenue Court had provided the Enforcement Directorate (ED) additional time to file a

reply. The judge has now scheduled the matter for pronouncement of order on March 1. The ED recently summoned the accused in the matter.

The ED has opposed the application, arguing that Khan may not cooperate in the investigation if he is granted pre-arrest bail. Special Public Prosecutor Manish Jain and Simon Benjamin, representing the ED, had earlier said

that Khan had previously approached the Delhi High Court against the summons, which was later withdrawn, alleging concealment of this fact in his current plea. In response, advocate Rajat Bhardwaj, representing Khan, had opposed the extension and urged the court to adjourn the matter to either Wednesday or Monday. He had expressed concerns about the ED's efforts to render the application infructuous, stressing the issuance of three summons and requesting protection until the next hearing.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, representing Khan, had on Monday argued and requested interim protection but the court declined to grant the relief. Guruswamy had pointed out that Khan had been summoned in connection with a money laundering case. She had contested the issue of two FIRs being filed regarding the same case, with the first FIR dated November 23, 2016, filed by the CBI. The allegation was related to Khan's alleged wrongful

appointment as chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board. She had cited the principle of criminal law that prohibits two FIRs for one cause, noting that the second FIR was based on the same allegations as the first, despite the closure of the matter by the agency, terming it as administrative irregularities. She had also noted out that previous bail orders in both cases concluded that there was no loss to the exchequer, as there was no evidence of bribery or recovery of proceeds of crime. Recently, Khan withdrew from the Delhi High Court his plea challenging summons issued by the ED after it gave him no relief.

He had challenged the constitutional validity of Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and also sought a directive to quash the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) and the ED.

Special Judge Syal had recently taken cognisance of an ED chargesheet filed in the case. The ED had filed the chargesheet against Zeeshan Haider, his partnership firm Skypower, Javed Imam Siddiqui, Dawood Nasir, and Qausar Imam Siddiqui. The case pertains to a property worth Rs 36 crore in Okhla being allegedly acquired with illicit funds, purportedly influenced by Khan, who reportedly handed over Rs 8 crore in cash. During the investigation, the ED considered FIRs filed earlier by the CBI, ACB, and the Delhi Police.



### If Constitution is protected, we all will survive: Siddaramaiah

**Bengaluru, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday that "if the Constitution is protected, we all will survive, else we will be in danger". Quoting Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, Siddaramaiah said, "We are the rightful Masters of the Constitution. Not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow those who are against the Constitution." The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating the Constitution and National Unity Conference organised by the Social Welfare Department at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Tuesday. "There are two negative propaganda going on against the Constitution. That the Constitution is for the salvation of Dalits, and it is not in accordance with the socio-economic situation. It should be realised that people who are against it are giving it negative propaganda as the Constitution clearly mentions freedom, equality and fraternity."

### Punjab's Chief Town Planner, coloniser Bajwa Developers booked

**Chandigarh, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Punjab Vigilance Bureau has registered a case against Jarnail Singh Bajwa, director of Bajwa Developers Ltd, Sunny Enclave, Kharar, state Chief Town Planner Pankaj Bawa and revenue patwari Lekh Raj, now retired, for illegally passing housing projects. An official spokesperson for the bureau on Tuesday said during the investigation of a complaint it was found that Bajwa Developers Ltd has got passed a residential and commercial project from the government in villages in Mohali district. According to the decision taken by the empowered committee on March 22, 2013, the



promoter neither deposited one per cent of the project cost nor a maximum of Rs 1 crore as cancer relief fund with the government. Officials and employees of PUDA also didn't initiate any action against the developer as per rules.



### Himachal CM opens winter festival showing tribal culture, heritage

**Keylong, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Tuesday inaugurated the Lahaul Sharad Utsav -- a traditional winter festival spanning over two months showcasing the vibrant tribal culture and heritage of the mountainous region. The festival, celebrated post-snowfall, brings together diverse local customs and traditions from various valleys, offering a plethora of activities ranging from archery and other snow sports to culinary delights and knitting competitions. Addressing the gathering here, the headquarters of Lahaul-Spiti district, the Chief Minister said the Sharad Utsav was a major tourist attraction, drawing thousands of visitors every year. He commended the people of the district for their warm hospitality and steadfast commitment to preserving cul-

tural legacy. Sukhu said five new tourist destinations would be developed in the next fiscal, including Chandratal, Kaza and Tandi of Lahaul-Spiti and Rackchham and Nako-Chango-Khab in Kinnaur district. He emphasised the pivotal role of the tourism sector in driving the state's economy and providing employment as well as entrepreneurial opportunities to the locals. The Chief Minister also launched Discover Lahaul Spiti mobile application, an innovative initiative spearheaded by the district administration. He said the application features modern AI integration, which includes an interactive Chatbot designed to assist tourists in exploring the district's attractions, availability of accommodations, and activities.

### Double-engine govt fulfilled ERCP promise in just 1.5 months : Rajasthan CM

**Jaipur, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Tuesday reached out to the common people to meet them after the MoU for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) was signed, saying the double-engine government of the Centre and the state was working towards fulfilling the promises made to the people.

Sharma was welcomed with flowers and garlands at various places in Alwar, Deeg and Bharatpur districts.

The crowd raised slogans in support of the Chief Minister, calling him 'Bhagiratha of Rajasthan'.

Sharma, while addressing the people, spoke about the benefits of the ERCP project to their areas.

"We had promised to give the gift of ERCP to the state and within one and a half months of forming the government, we signed this MoU for the ERCP project by talking to the Central government and Madhya Pradesh government. We have set a target to complete this project in five years by working rapidly on the ground," he said, adding that the previous government only stalled and diverted the ERCP.

The Chief Minister said that this project will bring a positive change in the lives of farmers, mother power and common

people of eastern Rajasthan and will ensure availability of adequate water to villages, farms and homes.

Apart from the 26 dams included in the DPR, ERCP plans to add 122 more dams in the future.

Sharma said that from the year 2013 to 2018, "our (previous) government had started the Chief Minister Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan to encourage water conservation and storage".





## 'Farmers first' policy is Modi govt's resolve to boost their income: A look at key initiatives

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** With the farmers launching agitation on Delhi borders for the second time in less than three years, the Opposition has launched a scathing attack against the Narendra Modi government, accusing it of not just depriving the farmers of their rightful earnings, but also 'suppressing' their demonstration for genuine demands. The barrage of allegations and rebuttals continues to fly, but the Modi government has maintained that it's commitment to the welfare and upliftment of the farming community remains uncompromised, as it has been consistently working towards bringing a defining change in their lives.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal X handle on Saturday shared a comprehensive booklet, detailing the wide array of steps taken for the livelihood and well-being of the farmers. Titled 'Putting Farmers First', the booklet takes a deep dive into the Centre's policies and decodes the steps taken to improve the living standards of farmers. Notably, PM Modi has been a staunch votary of the farming community's contributions to the nation's growth, and has advocated doubling the income of the farmers ever since he came to power in 2014. Even when he was the Gujarat Chief Minister, farmers' welfare had topped his priorities. "Vibrant Gujarat", the government's flagship investor summit, garnered big headlines. It is a two-day event held once in

every two years. However, Krishi Mahotsav was held every year under Narendra Modi's tenure. Under the month-long programme, all levels of the state government were mobilised to work with the farmers," the booklet said. Here is an account of the Centre's funds allocation and mobilisation of government machinery for the farmers' welfare: Bigger Budget, Better utilisation  
\* The budget for agriculture has increased five times from Rs 1.37 lakh crore during 2007-14 to Rs 7.27 lakh crore during 2014-25.  
\* The PM-KISAN scheme was launched, under which 11 crore farmers got financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year.  
\* For the first time, MSP increase was announced. The minimum support price of all 22 crops was



set at minimum 50 per cent more than the cost.  
\* For the 2020 and 2021 Rabi seasons, Rs 2.37 lakh crore was paid to the farmers during the pandemic in the form of MSP for crops like wheat, paddy, oilseeds and pulses.  
Farming and Soil Health  
\* Organic farming has received an unprecedented boost under the Modi government. Flagship initiatives like Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana were launched,

while steps were also taken for improving soil health.  
\* The Soil Health Card Scheme, first launched during Narendra Modi's government in Gujarat, was introduced nationally in 2014-15. Soil health cards provide the farmers with the nutrient status of their soil and its composition. Hundreds of labs across the country test soil and provide the farmers with detailed information, which help them make informed decisions.

\* In 2015-16, the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana was launched to promote organic farming. Over Rs 70 crore has been released to the farmers. Organic farming covers an area of 64 lakh hectares in the country under various programmes.  
\* Zero budget farming was also introduced to promote farming sans the use of chemical fertilisers. This would make farming more viable for the small farmers and help them get rid of debt cycle.  
\* Under the Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati programme, an area of 4.09 lakh hectares has been covered and a total fund of Rs 49.81 crore has been released in eight states.  
Quality Seeds for Farming  
\* Since 2014, a comprehensive total of 1,971 crop varieties resilient to climate challenges have been created and introduced.



### Take pride in India's potential to bring peace & prosperity, ex-Aus PM tells LPU students

**Jalandhar, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Lovely Professional University (LPU) celebrated its 11th annual convocation on Tuesday with former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott as the chief guest who urged the graduating students to take pride in nation's potential to bring peace, prosperity, freedom, and development to the world. Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot on Sunday told the students at Lovely Professional University (LPU) here in Punjab to take pride in India's potential to bring peace, prosperity, freedom, and development to the world. Abbot said this while addressing the students at the varsity's 11th annual convocation. The former Australian PM was the 'Chief Guest' at the programme. The event also witnessed the conferral of an honorary doctorate, Honoris Causa, upon Abbott.

### Special POCSO court in Bihar awards life sentence to man for rape & murder of toddler

**Patna, Feb 27 (IANS) :** A special POCSO court in Bihar's Jamui district on Tuesday awarded life sentence to a person convicted of rape and murder of a 2-year-old toddler. Special judge of the POCSO court, Direndra Bahadur Singh, also imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 on Ranjit Manjhi, the convict. The court further directed the state government to provide Rs 5 lakh to the victim's family as compensation. Ranjit Manjhi, a rag-picker, had kidnapped the two-year-old girl from outside her home in Jamui city on May 21, 2023. He then took her to an isolated place and sexually assaulted the toddler. After committing the crime, Ranjit strangled the victim to death and dumped her body at a bus stand in Jamui city.



### Kerala Gov sends back list of three Information Commissioners to state govt

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 27 (IANS) :** In continuation of the 'not too pleasant' relationship shared by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the former on Tuesday send back a list containing the names of three Information Commissioners to the state government, seeking more explanation on the selected candidates. The candidature of Chief Information Commissioner V.

Hari Nair, a former law secretary, had been cleared earlier by Khan. Incidentally, Khan was acting on a complaint to this effect lodged by the Save University Campaign Committee (SUCC), which pointed out "grave anomalies" in the list of the three selected candidates for the post of Information Commissioner. R.S. Sasikumar, the Chairman of SUCC, told IANS that there has been a total violation of the guidelines set by the apex court. "There has been blatant violation

of the orders of the Supreme Court as the selections have been made keeping in mind the claims of the political parties, rather than on the merit of the candidates. One candidate is the nominee of a CPI-M leader (M. Sreekumar) while the others are backed by the CPI (T. K. Ramakrishnan) and Kerala Congress (M) (Sonichan B. Joseph, a journalist). "All these parties are constituents of the ruling front in the state. The first two are retired private college teachers of commerce and politics, which will not come under any of the streams of eminence as stipulated by the RTI Act," said Sasikumar. "We believe that more meritorious candidates, who have academic and administrative qualifications in consonance with the objectives of the RTI Act, have not been considered because of the said irrational selection criteria," added Sasikumar. The Governor, according to sources, have sent back the list to the state government seeking clarification following the surfacing of the complaint.

### Ashok Chavan 'injures' Congress again, 55 Nanded ex-corporators join BJP

**Nanded (Maharashtra), Feb 27 (IANS) :** Dealing another hit at the Congress, 55 ex-corporators of the Nanded-Waghala City Municipal Corporation here joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of two-time ex-Chief Minister Ashok S. Chavan, here on Tuesday. The Congress strongman of Nanded, Chavan joined the BJP just 10 days ago, was rewarded with a Rajya Sabha ticket and declared

elected unopposed. The NWCMC elections of 2017, held under Chavan's stewardship, saw the Congress make a clean sweep by bagging 73 of the 81 seats to control this important civic body. In his brief address to 55 ex-municipal corporators, Chavan said that they have chosen the BJP for their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and vision for development. "They also want to be a part of the political mainstream and con-



tribute towards progress," said Chavan. Local party leaders hinted that besides the lot of 55 which quit Congress, many other important district leaders are likely to throw their lot with BJP in the coming weeks. The Congress suffered three

big 'leaks' in the past couple of months starting with Milind S. Deora who joined the ruling Shiv Sena, ex-Mumbai MLA Baba Z. Siddique quitting for the ruling ally Nationalist Congress Party.



### Varun Gandhi likely to contest LS polls from Amethi

**Amethi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** With Congress MP Rahul Gandhi remaining non-committal on contesting from Amethi Lok Sabha seat, the people in traditional grand-old party's bastion is now rooting for the other Gandhi -- Varun Gandhi. Ever since Rahul Gandhi lost the election from Amethi in 2019 to BJP's Smriti Irani, he has shown no interest in reclaiming his 'family constituency'. Rahul is now a Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad in Kerala and if

sources are to be believed, Rahul would prefer to seek election from Wayanad again. If Priyanka Gandhi contests the Lok Sabha elections, she is also likely to choose Rae Bareilly over Amethi. An indication to this effect was already made in a letter that Sonia wrote to the people of her constituency earlier this month in which she said, "I know that you will stand by me and my family in future, just as you have in the past."

### Farmers hold candlelight marches on Punjab-Haryana borders

**Chandigarh, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Agitating farmers on Tuesday evening took out candlelight marches on the interstate borders of Punjab and Haryana to support their demands, comprising legal guarantee of the minimum support price of their crops.



### Ten Sena medals, seven Vishist Seva medals presented at SWC Investiture Ceremony

**Jaipur, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The South Western Command (SWC) Investiture Ceremony was held with customary elan and military grandeur at the Hisar Military Station in Haryana on Tuesday. A total of 10 Sena Medals (Gallantry) and seven Vishist Seva Medals were presented by Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Command, said Col Amitabh Sharma, PRO (Defence), Jaipur.



## Ukraine's Air Force shoots down 16 Russian combat UAVs

**Kiev, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Ukraine's air defence forces destroyed 16 Russian Shahed combat unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the sky over Ukraine overnight on Tuesday, media reported. According to Ukrinform news agency, this was reported by the Ukrainian Air Force on Telegram. "On the night of February 27, 2024, the Russian army attacked with 18 Shahed combat UAVs (from Russia's Primorsko-Akhtarsk and Crimea's Cape Chauda). The Defence Forces'

mobile fire groups, anti-aircraft missile units, and Air Force aircraft engaged in an anti-aircraft battle and successfully destroyed 16 Shaheds within the Poltava, Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Mykolaiv, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions," the report said. As reported, air raid sirens went off in several regions of Ukraine on Saturday night as Russia launched attack drones into the country, Ukrinform news agency reported.



## IDF nabs terror operatives hiding among evacuating civilians in Gaza's Khan Younis

**Tel Aviv, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Tuesday that it had nabbed several terror operatives, who attempted to hide among a group of civilians evacuating from combat zones in southern Gaza's Khan Younis area, media reported. According to the IDF, the operatives were captured

by the 7th Armoured Brigade while trying to flee with the civilian population, The Times of Israel reported. The IDF added on Tuesday that the troops killed several more gunmen and located weapons in the area. In Khan Younis, the IDF said that the Givati Brigade raided several Hamas sites, locating weapons, and an airstrike was carried out

against a Hamas cell operating a drone, The Times of Israel reported. In central Gaza, the IDF added that the Nahal Brigade killed several Hamas gunmen over the past day. Meanwhile in Gaza City, the IDF has continued a large-scale operation in the Zeitoun neighbourhood.



## Israeli airstrike kills 3 in Syria's Homs province

**Damascus, Feb 27 (IANS) :** An Israeli airstrike killed three civilians in Homs province in central Syria on Tuesday. According to reports from the Al-Watan newspaper, the attack targeted two civilian vehicles in the Al-Qusayr area of southwestern Homs. Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attack killed two Hezbollah members, Xinhua news agency reported. The airstrike is the latest in a series of Israeli attacks in Syria. Israel has recently carried out assassination attempts against individuals involved with Iranian militias. The Observatory said in a report on Tuesday that Israel carried out 16 attacks on Syria since the beginning of 2024.

## India-born economist Geeta Batra named as first woman Director of World Bank's GEF

**Mumbai, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Geeta Batra, an Indian economist, has been named as the new Director at the Independent Evaluation Office of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF), making her the first-ever woman from a developing country to hold the coveted post. Batra, 57, is currently the Chief Evaluator & Deputy Director for Evaluation at the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), affiliated to the World Bank. Her name was unanimously recommended for the coveted position at the 66th GEF Council Meeting held in Washington on February 9 and was announced last week. "My top priorities will be to deliver sound evaluative evidence on the results and per-

formance of the GEF, provide leadership to ensure that the GEF IEO stays at the forefront of environmental evaluation and strengthen the IEO teams and invest in skills," Batra told IANS from Virginia, US. She will also build partnerships with multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations and networks, and share knowledge of what works, where and why. Born in New Delhi, Batra studied at the Villa Theresa High School (1984) in Mumbai, then completed her Economics from the Stella Maris College, Chennai (1984-1987), followed by an MBA in Finance from the NMIMS, Vile Parle (1990) in Mumbai. After her MBA, she was inspired by one of her professors, Harkant Mankad, to go to the US (August 1990) to pursue a PhD in Economics. Armed with a doctor-



ate, she worked for a couple of years as Senior Manager, Risk, at American Express, before joining the World Bank's Private Sector Development Department in 1998. Serving there for seven years till 2005, she implemented competitiveness projects in East Asia and Latin America. Subsequently, she took over as the Head & Chief Evaluator at the International Finance Corporation, before moving to the World Bank's IEG as Chief Evaluator and Manager for country and corporate thematic evaluations. In 2015, Batra joined the GEF's IEO

(established in July 2003) - which assesses the progress and impact of GEF interventions - where she manages a team of evaluation professionals, providing oversight on the design, implementation and quality of evaluations. Since the Rio Earth Summit (1992), the GEF has been one of the largest players in the environmental sector, providing around \$24 billion in grants, plus marshalling an additional \$138 billion in co-financing over 5,700 projects in 170 countries till 2020.

## Russia's military death toll in Ukraine rises to 409,820

**Kiev, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Armed Forces of Ukraine eliminated about 409,820 Russian armed personnel in Ukraine from February 24, 2022, to February 25, 2024, including 810 Russian armed personnel on Tuesday alone, media reported. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said this on Sunday in a post on Facebook, according to Ukrinform news agency report. The Ukrainian

armed personnel have also destroyed 6,542 Russian tanks (+8 on Saturday), 12,441 armoured combat vehicles (+16), 9,981 artillery systems (+29), 999 multiple launch rocket systems, 684 air defence systems, 340 aircraft, 325 helicopters, 7,681 unmanned aerial vehicles (+22), 1,907 cruise missiles (+2), 25 warships/cutters, one submarine, 13,011 motor vehicles (+23), and 1,578 special equipment units (+2).



## INLD's unit chief, ex-MLA Rathee shot dead in Haryana's Jhajjar

**Chandigarh, Feb 27 (IANS) :** The Indian National Lok Dal's Haryana unit President and former legislator Nafe Singh Rathee was shot dead in an attack by unidentified assailants in the state's Jhajjar district on Tuesday, police said. Rathee served as an MLA of the INLD from Bahadurgarh where the crime took place in the evening. Two others who were travelling with him have died while two others are critically in-

jured. One of the party activist who died has been identified as Jaikishan. The injured were rushed to nearby Brahm Shakti Sanjivani Hospital for treatment but the former MLA was declared dead on arrival. INLD spokesperson Rakesh Sihag said that Rathee, a two-time legislator, died after unidentified assailants opened fire at him while he was travelling in an SUV in Bahadurgarh town.



## Chinese Police interrogate Tibetans arrested over dam protests

**New Delhi, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Chinese Police have started wide-scale, rigorous interrogations of Tibetans arrested for protesting against a dam project, beating some of them so badly that they required medical attention, the media reported. Chinese Police had arrested more than 1,000 Tibetans -- both Buddhist monks and local residents -- of Wangbuding township in Dege County of Kardze Ti-

betan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province, in central China, Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported. The detainees were "slapped and beaten severely each time they refused to answer important questions", a source told RFA, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "Many had to be taken to the hospital," the source said. Since February 14, monks and residents had been peacefully protesting the planned construction of the Gangtuo hydropower dam on

the Driчу River, known as Jinsha River in Chinese. The dam will force two major communities to be relocated and submerge several monasteries, including the Wonto Monastery, famous for ancient murals dating back to the 13th century, RFA reported. "One of the monks from Wonto Monastery was among those who had to be immediately rushed to the hospital because he had been beaten so badly that he could not even speak," the first source said. "He also had many severe bruises on his body." Many of those arrested were being held in a police station in Upper Wonto while many others were being held in an old prison in Dege County. The detainees are being held in various other places throughout Dege County as the police do not have a place to detain more than 1,000 individuals in a single location, RFA reported.

## 4 LeT terrorist associates held in J&K's Kulgam

**Srinagar, Feb 27 (IANS) :** Four terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT were arrested in J&K's Kulgam district and arms and ammunition recovered from their possession, police said on Tuesday. A police official said that the Kulgam police, along with the army and the CRPF, busted a LeT module and arrested the four terrorist associates, identified as Zahoor Ahmad Pandit, Basir Hussain Pandit, Imtiaz Gull, and Gulzar Ahmad Khar, all residents of Wanpora.







## Chiranjeevi all praise for Varun Tej at 'Operation Valentine' pre-release event

Mega Star Chiranjeevi has heaped praise on actor Varun Tej by saying he is trying different genres and has created his own opportunities in the film industry. At the pre-release event of 'Operation Valentine', Padma Vibhushan recipient Chiranjeevi, who is the uncle

of Varun, attended the event as the chief guest, expressing admiration for the team's efforts in crafting this aerial action film. Chiranjeevi talked about Varun and director Shakti Pratap for their courage in bringing 'Operation Valentine' to life. The actor said: "Varun is trying different genres, and he has created his own opportunities. He

showed plenty of variations in his films." He also praised the director's commitment by saying that the filmmaker's short film on an aerial surgical strike surprised even Air Force officers. Chiranjeevi added: "I feel Shakti Pratap will inspire Tollywood directors."

## Kareena, Tabu and Kriti set the temperature soaring with 'The Crew' teaser

The trailer of The Crew starring Bollywood divas Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tabu and Kriti Sanon, which was unveiled on Saturday, promises to be a laugh riot. Kareena, Tabu and Kriti took to Instagram to share glimpse of the teaser of the film, which is directed by Rajesh Krishnan and is slated to release in theatres on March 29.



## Samantha celebrates 14 years in films, receives congratulations from Nayanthara

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has clocked 14 years in the world of showbiz and her good friend and colleague Nayanthara congratulated her milestone. Samantha took to Instagram stories, where she shared a selfie video of herself sitting on an airplane and counting the years she has given to cinema. She wrote: "14 years already... What!!!", with AR Rahman's track 'Ee Hridayam', which is pictured on the actress and her former husband Naga Chaitanya. In 2010, Samantha stepped into the world of acting with a cameo role in Gautham Vasudev Menon's Tamil film 'Vinnaihaandi Varuvaayaa'. However, the same year she had her first lead role in with Telugu romance film 'Ye Maaya Chesave'.

## Aamir wears 'mostly laapataa' tee as he promotes 'Laapataa Ladies' in Pune

Superstar and producer Aamir Khan is on his way to Pune to promote his upcoming film 'Laapataa Ladies' but with a unique spin. The actor was spotted wearing a T-shirt, which had "mostly laapataa" written on it as he was spotted at the airport while on his way to Pune. The T-shirt caption resonates with Aamir's personality as he surprised everyone with his appearance. Aamir usually keeps himself away from public appearances. The actor is currently shooting for 'Sitaare Zameen Par' and also simultaneously working on the production aspects for the highly anticipated 'Lahore 1947'. 'Laapataa Ladies', which is based in rural India, is about two young brides who get lost on a train



and the pursuit of people who find themselves in a series of confusion on the go. It stars Ravi Kishan, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastav and Nitanshi Goel.

## Akshay, Tiger pose in front of plane as they reach City Of Nawabs

Bollywood stars Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff are in Lucknow ahead of the release of their upcoming film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'.

Akshay took to X (formerly Twitter), where he shared a picture posing with his 'chote miyan' Tiger right in front of their chartered plane.

In the picture, Akshay is seen looking cool in black casual wear, whereas Tiger looks every inch dapper in a white cut-sleeves shirt paired with blue denims.

For the caption, Akshay wrote: "Pehle aap muskuraiye, kiyunki Bade aur Chote ab Lucknow main hai! Milte hain, aaj dopahar, clock tower maidan mein." The two will be seen doing some exciting activities to promote their upcoming film, which also features Prithviraj Sukumaran in an anti-hero, along with actors Sonakshi Sinha, Manushi Chhillar, and Alaya F. The film is presented by Vasu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment in association with AAZ films. Directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, it is slated to release on Eid.



## Yami thanks audience for proving naysayers wrong on 'Article 370'

As 'Article 370' grossed Rs 34.71 crore in its opening weekend, more than any other film in recent weeks, Yami Gautam revealed that when the movie was being made, she was told it won't work as "it's too technical" and is loaded with "political jargon". Yami took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to thank the audience for proving those wrong who thought the film would not succeed in the box office. She wrote: "When we were making 'Article 370', so many people told us that this film won't work with the audience... But we went ahead with our gut because we knew those naysayers were underestimating our audience."

## Priyanka Chopra shares trailer of Oscar-nominated 'To Kill a Tiger'

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is all excited to be part of the Oscar-nominated documentary 'To Kill a Tiger' as an executive producer, shared the trailer of the film. On Monday, Priyanka took to Instagram and treated fans with the powerful trailer. The trailer gives a glimpse of the tale of a father fighting for justice for his daughter. Sharing the trailer, Priyanka wrote, "Trailer. Truly remarkable." As soon as the trailer was shared, fans and industry members chimed in the comment section. Huma Qureshi dropped heart emojis. One of the users wrote, "This is incredible." Another user commented, "Much needed, heartbreaking

to think of the poor victims but the story needs to be told for justice." On Sunday, Priyanka expressed her excitement about joining the 'To Kill a Tiger' team as an executive producer alongside Dev Patel, Mindy Kaling, and others. Taking to her Instagram handle, she wrote in a post, "I'm so proud to join the incredible team of the Academy Award nominated documentary @tokillatigerdoc, and to announce that @netflix has acquired the global distribution rights to this powerful feature directed by @nishappics. When I first watched this film in 2022, I was immediately captivated by its poignant narrative, depicting a father's valiant struggle within the judicial system to secure justice for his daughter. This project serves as a testament to the boundless love and unyielding determi-



nation of a devoted father for his cherished daughter." She continued talking about the project, saying, "This hard hitting piece of art also really hits home on so many levels, but personally, I was born in the state of Jharkhand (where the survivor and her father are from), and as the daughter of a father that was my forever champion...I was moved to

pieces. I cannot wait for audiences around the world to discover this moving story." As per the reports in Deadline, Priyanka Chopra is joining the award-winning feature documentary as an executive producer. The news comes as Netflix inks a deal to launch the film globally on its platform soon.

## 'Kalki 2898 AD' director Nag Ashwin opens up on film's connection to Mahabharata

Touted as one of the biggest and most awaited releases of 2024, 'Kalki 2898 AD' helmed by the visionary Nag Ashwin has fans eagerly awaiting every detail about the film. The magnum opus, starring Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani in pivotal roles, promises to be an extraordinary visual spectacle. Recently, at the Synapse 2024 event in Gurgaon, 'Kalki 2898 AD' director Nag Ashwin spoke about his upcoming epic science-

fiction entertainer and the timeline of events depicted in the film, along with the power of technology.

Nag Ashwin said, "I just wish that there was more technology to help us make this film... like three-four years ago when we were in pre-production stage. We are creating this new world — like I am just looking at this picture right now on the screen, and all these different worlds that we are trying to create..." "We work with so many different concept artistes and giving prompts, obviously.

