

# THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

THURSDAY, 29 February 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 183 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



## WPL 2024: 'Renuka's two wickets gave Gujarat shock they couldn't recover from', says Saba Karim

Royal Challengers Bangalore's fast-bowler Renuka Singh Thakur wreaked havoc with her spell of 2-14, giving Gujarat Giants....

12



## Maha Shivratri fair should be organized grandly with spiritual splendor : Ponnampalapati Prabhakar

State BC Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar has ordered the concerned officials to take strict measures to organize..

02



## SpiceJet settles Rs 250 crore dispute with lessor Celestial Aviation

Budget airline SpiceJet and Celestial Aviation, a subsidiary of AerCap, one of the largest aircraft lessor groups have mutually settled their Rs 250 crore dispute through amicable....

07

## Satyavathi Rathod slams CM Revanth



Hyderabad, Feb 28 (NSS) : Former minister Satyavathi Rathod today alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had made derogatory remarks against the women of the State. She said Revanth Reddy's language was the language used by leaders of the Congress party. "Revanth Reddy's comments are aimed at disrespecting women in the name of 'Indiramma Rajyam', she said. Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Satyavathi Rathod said, "Does Revanth Reddy know how many of the six guarantees given by the Congress are there? Out of the six guarantees.



## Telangana language is a 'classic language' : Governor

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (NSS) : Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said Telangana language is a 'classic language' and it brings a lot of happiness while speaking.

Participating in the 16th graduation ceremony of Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University at Ravindra Bharathi here on Wednesday, the Governor said that Telugu language and culture should be spread throughout and it should be taught to all the people who speak other languages.

Stating that there is no short cut to achieve progress, hard work is only the criteria to achieve the success, Tamilisai said that there were many Telugu speaking people in many countries and it's language and culture should be protected for the future generations.

She also suggested that Telugu language books should be published at a low cost and should be available to the common people for reading.

## CM Revanth orders comprehensive inquiry into ORR lease tender contract

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (NSS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday ordered the officials to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into irregularities in Outer Ring Road lease tender contract.

The instructions have been given to Hyderabad Metro Development Authority (HMDA) Joint Commissioner Amra Pali to submit complete details in this regard immediately.



## Congress to make declaration on special category status to Andhra

Vijayawada, Feb 28 (IANS) : The Congress will make a declaration on special category status to Andhra Pradesh at the March 1 public meeting at Tirupati, state Congress chief Y. S. Sharmila Reddy said on Wednesday. Sharmila Reddy told media persons here on Wednesday that special category status (SCS) is the most important issue for the state, and the Congress will be making the declaration at the same venue in Tirupati where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that SCS will be accorded to the state. She recalled that in 2014 when the Congress had promised SCS to Andhra Pradesh for five years, the BJP promised that it would grant SCS for 10 years. The Congress leader said people would be explained the benefits the state would get with the SCS.



## Kisan Congress takes out rally in Hyderabad in support of agitating farmers

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (IANS) : The Kisan Congress Cell organised a rally in Hyderabad on Wednesday in support of the farmers protesting near Delhi to demand a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP). The Telangana unit of Kisan Congress cell took out a rally from L.B. Stadium in the heart of the city to Indira Gandhi statue at Necklace Road on the banks of Hussain Sagar lake. The participants, led by Kisan Congress national vice-president Kodanda Reddy, expressed solidarity with the farmers who started their 'Delhi chalo' march from Punjab. Over 200 farmers' unions have undertaken the march to press the Centre to address their demands, including the enactment of a law guaranteeing MSP for crops. The protesters at the rally held in Hyderabad were carrying placards, demanding legal guarantee for MSP and withdrawal of all cases registered against farmers during the 2020-21 agitation.

## SC extends protection to KCR's daughter Kavitha from ED action

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Wednesday extended protection, till March 13, to BRS MLC K. Kavitha from action by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which has summoned her in connection with the ongoing probe into the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy case.



## NRI policy should be implemented like Kerala

- We stopped the frauds of Gulf agents during their ten-year tenure
- KTR visiting Peddur Gulf victims
- KTR learned about the problems of families who were sentenced to 18 years in Dubai jail

Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 28 (TIM Bureau) : BRS state working president ex-minister Sirisilla MLA Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao said that they will try to bring the people of Telangana who are languishing

in Gulf jails because of cases in countries where they do not know the language out of innocence. On Wednesday, KTR visited the families of the victims who had recently served 18 years in Dubai Jail and were released from early



seven-year sentences due to KTR's financial initiatives and efforts. In the village where he went to Peddur in Sirisilla town, he visited the affected families and inquired about their difficulties. The victims spoke to the families

of Sivaratri Mallesham, Sivaratri Ravi and Dandagula Laxman. As the victims told that five more Telangana residents are currently serving prison sentences in Dubai, Muscat and other jails.

## BJP wants to crush people's right, says Priyanka Gandhi on Himachal crisis

Shimla, Feb 28 (IANS) : Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday slammed the BJP, saying it wants to "crush Himachal people's right to choose their government by misusing money power, central

agencies". Amidst the political crisis in the hill state, it is learnt Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge spoke to former party chief Rahul Gandhi and General Secretary Priyanka Vadra on the developments.



**Bank of Baroda**  
VIJAYANAGAR COLONY BRANCH  
10/3/677, Opp. Post Office,  
Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad-500057

**SALE NOTICE TO THE GOLD LOAN BORROWER**

Name of the Borrower: **Mr MUDDULA BHASKAR SAI** H.No. 10-3-638,224-3RT  
Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad  
Sir/Madam,

Sub: **Auction of Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins of your Gold Loan Account**

We refer to our letters dated 18-11-2023 and 01-01-2024 informing you to repay the dues of Rs. 80,318/- + UCI from 09-11-2023 (Rupees Eighty Thousand Three Hundred and Eighteen only) in your gold account within 21 days of receipt of our letter. As we have not yet received the repayment in your account within the stipulated time as mentioned in our letters, we are constrained to auction the Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins pledged to the Bank to realize our dues. The auction of Jewels will be held at **Vijay Nagar Colony Branch at Time: 11.00 A.M. on 28.02.2024**. Please notice that if the Bank's auction of the pledged Gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the gold Jewellery/Ornaments/Coins, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in the court of law for recovery of balance amount from you.

Date :28.02.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer,  
Place:Hyderabad BANK OF BARODA

**Bank of Maharashtra**  
ZONAL OFFICE  
H.No.4-3-448 To 460 & 465 to 468,  
1st Floor, Vinoothna Pitte's Majesty, Gopal  
Bagh Near Bank Street, Kofit, Hyderabad

**Public Notice for Sale of Vehicles through Auction, Hypothecated As Security to Bank under Hypothecation Deed**

In exercise of the powers conferred to the Authorised Officer of the Bank under law and pursuant to the default made by the Borrowers/Guarantors in repayment of dues against availed credit facility(ies) and seizure of secured/hypothecated assets (vehicles) as per the terms and conditions of Hypothecation Deed, the public and all the concerned including the concerned borrowers/mortgagors/hypothecators, their legal heirs/representatives may be, are hereby informed that for realization of the Bank's dues, E auction of the Hypothecated & seized vehicles described herein below is scheduled to be held on **15.03.2024 at 1:00 pm** onwards on "As is Where Is Basis", "As is What is Basis" and "Without Recourse Basis" and on the terms and conditions specified hereunder. The Details of the Vehicles are as under: -

Sl No.	Branch & Borrowers Details	Total Dues	Description of the Hypothecated Property
1	Khammam Branch Borrower: - <b>Mr. Suvarnakanti Venkata Babu</b> Guarantor: - N. A. A/c No. 60377368570	Total dues as on 25.04.2023 <b>Rs.1,25,318/-</b> plus further Interest at applicable rates plus other costs, charges and expenses etc	Auto Rickshaw in the name of name of <b>Mr. Suvarnakanti Venkata Babu</b> Regd. No. TS04UD5108 Year of Making: 11/2020 Chassis No. MD6M1LLF7L4N00050 Engine No. LF4NL4300107 Model & Colour - Eco Green
<b>Reserve Price: Rs.1,33,000/- EMD: Rs.13,300/-</b> Bid Increment amount :Rs.10,000/-			
2	Khammam Branch Borrower: - <b>Mr. SHAIK RAHEEM</b> A/c No. 6033054009	Total dues as on 25.04.2023 <b>Rs.1,14,469/-</b> plus further Interest at applicable rates plus other costs, charges and expenses etc	Auto Rickshaw in the name of name of <b>Mr. SHAIK RAHEEM</b> Registration no. TS04UC8339 Year of manufacturing - 02/2019 Model & Colour - Eco Green Chassis No - AK48K4367364 Engine No - AK48K4367364
<b>Reserve Price: Rs.75,000/- EMD: Rs.7,500/-</b> Bid Increment amount :Rs.10,000/-			
3	Kothapet Branch Ph. 8698534896 Borrower: - <b>Yerra Praveena</b> A/c No. 60361772355	Total dues as on 20.02.2023 <b>Rs.9,08,366/-</b> plus further Interest at applicable rates plus other costs, charges and expenses etc	Model: KIA-SELTOS D1.5 CRDI VGT Year of Making: 2020 Chassis No. MZBEN13LLN134963H Engine No. D4FALM037605 Regd. No. TS07HJ3696 Fuel Used : Petrol Vehicle Color : Polar White
<b>Reserve Price: Rs.9,24,300/- EMD: Rs.92,430/-</b> Bid Increment amount :Rs.10,000/-			

• **Inspection Date and Time: 07.03.2024 between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm** (With prior appointment only) • **Date and Time of Auction: 15.03.2024 at 1.00 p.m. onwards** • **Last Date for depositing EMD Amount 12.03.2024.**

**Note:** The Vehicles mentioned above are under Physical Possession of the Bank

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:**

1). No responsibility attaches to the bank for quality, condition and specification of the vehicles. The vehicles are being auctioned on "AS IS WHAT IS", "AS IS WHERE IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" condition and at the risk of the borrower and the purchaser. Bidders to satisfy themselves regarding the quality, condition and specifications of the vehicles kept for sale in auction. 2). The EMD should be deposited before 12.03.2024 through RTGS/NEFT in Account The Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra, through RTGS/NEFT in Account Name: The Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra, Account No. 60237061503 Branch name: Sultan Bazar Branch, IFSC CODE MIBH0000019. No interest will be paid on the said amount. Photos of CD/PO are not acceptable. 3). The successful bidder shall pay the entire balance amount (Bid amount minus EMD) by the end of the next working day after the auction date and take delivery and possession of the vehicle within two days at his/her absolute risk and responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to our Bank for any reason whatsoever. In the event of default thereof the 10% of the amount deposited earlier shall be forfeited and vehicle will be re-sold or will be offered to the person offering the next highest bid. 4). Purchaser shall have to bear registration charges, Permit transfer expenses, all taxes, cess, GST, Insurance premium expenses etc. for getting the vehicle transferred in his/her name. 5). This is also notice to the Borrowers/Guarantors, their legal heirs/representatives about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date if the dues are not repaid in full before the date of auction. 6). The Authorized Officer/Bank is not bound to accept the highest bid and the Authorized Officer / Bank has absolute discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale and to modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason thereof. The Authorized Officer / Bank has absolute discretion to either reject or accept any bid without assigning any reasons whatsoever. 7). If any bidder after deposit of EMD amount, fails to attend the auction on the scheduled date, Bank shall deduct 10% of the deposited EMD amount. 8). The Authorized Officer / Bank reserves its right to put to auction or withdraw from auction all or any of the vehicles hypothecated in the account as considered necessary or stop auction all at any time without any prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and at its absolute discretion. 9). The interested Party may contact the concerned branches of **BANK OF MAHARASHTRA** as mentioned in the above table or to the Authorised Officer (Shri Sunil Bank CM ARC, Hyderabad zone, Contact number - 964974398) for further details. 10). If the successful bidder fails to deposit the entire bid amount as above and/or does anything which may give rise to a necessity of adjourning/postponing/cancelling the auction or holding fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify to the Bank to the extent of loss if any, caused on account of his/her act / abstinence / negligence or lapses which may come in the way of completing the auction. 11). Separate auction sale will be conducted for each vehicle and the vehicle will be sold at the highest bid to the highest bidder. 12). The participating bidders shall have to submit self-attested ID proof for participating in the auction before or at the time of deposit of EMD. 13). All the rights in respect of vehicle auction are reserved by the Bank. The decision of the Authorised Officer / Bank shall be final and binding on all the concerned.

Date :28.02.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer,  
Place:Hyderabad BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

## Maha Shivratri fair should be organized grandly with spiritual splendor : Ponnamp Prabhakar

- Abolition of the system of special passes... Issuance of Rs.300 tickets for special darshan
- Strict arrangements should be made to make the Mahashivratri fair a grand one
- After the fair, plans should be made to develop Vemulawada, a Shaivite shrine, on the lines of Srisailem
- Activity to build 500 guest houses with the help of donors
- Efforts are being made to set up a Nitya Annadanam Satram for devotees in Vemulawada in the future as well
- State BC and Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar conducted a review on Mahashivratri fair arrangements along with Government Whip District Collector SP



**Rajanna Sirisilla (Vemulawada), Feb 28 (TIM Bureau) :** State BC Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has ordered the concerned officials to take strict measures to organize the Mahashivratri fair with spiritual splendor. On Wednesday, State BC Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar in Vemulawada Raja Rajeswara Swami temple open slab in the Mahashivratri fair coordination meeting organized under the direction of Govt. Adi Srinivas, District Collector Anurag The minister participated along with Jayanthi and Government Whip Adi Srinivas. A department-wise review was conducted of the arrangements being made to organize the Maha Shivratri fair from March 7 to March 9 in Vemulawada in a grand manner. The minister ordered the officials to complete it expeditiously. "On this occasion, BC Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said that the fair organized in honor of Maha Shivratri in Vemulawada Kshetra, known as Dakshina Kashi, should be conducted in accordance with spiritual and divine rules and where no mistakes should be made. The minister should ensure

that there are no mistakes in the pujas in the Vemulawada temple and that the pujas of Lord Swami should be performed scientifically. The minister instructed the authorities to take measures so that the devotees can get darshan quickly and make strict security arrangements for the fair. "The minister suggested that more bus services should be run to Vemulawada from March 7 to March 9 during the Mahashivratri fair, as there is a possibility of a large number of devotees since there is free travel for women in the background of the Mahalakshmi scheme, the depot managers should coordinate from time to time and run additional services on necessary roads based on the traffic of devotees. "In Vemulawada, the Minister directed the authorities to make arrangements for parking in the open spaces and fields near the temple

with the full cooperation of the farmers, to immediately fill the potholes on all the main roads leading to Vemulawada town, to remove the wild plants on both sides of the road, to set up fencing for the wells on the side of the roads. He said that drinking water facilities should be established everywhere without any problems. The minister said that sanitizing staff should perform duties in three shifts to prevent unsanitary conditions in the temple premises. Medical camps should be set up during the fair, steps should be taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply, and fire engines should be installed at all canopies in important places. "On the occasion of Mahashivratri Jagaram, cultural programs should be organized on a grand scale, necessary arrangements should be made for devotional programs such as Mahabharata Shiva Puranam, a control room should be set up in coordination with the nodal officers of all departments to monitor the fair, and help desks should be set up everywhere for the devotees. "The minister said that the special passes provided earlier during the Mahashivratri fair are being completely cancelled, and in their place a ticket of Rs.300 has been arranged for a special darshan. He said that plans should be made to include a separate

temple and details of every service offered in the temple online. "The minister mentioned that a plan should be made to construct a guest house with 500 rooms for the devotees in the available space with the help of donors and the procedures adopted by the Vemulawada Temple Committee in Srisailem and Tirupati should be adopted here in terms of providing facilities to the donors. "The minister said that a report should be prepared with the details of the annadana satram in Vemulawada, the staff present there, and in the future, with the help of devotees, a regular annadana satram should be set up in Vemulawada as well and activities should be prepared to give food to the devotees who visit Vemulawada Rajarajeswara Swami every day. "Government Whip Adi Srinivas, who participated in the meeting, said that the Mahashivratri fair should be organized successfully and the Vemulawada town should be equipped in such a way that the spiritual beauty is enhanced. [5:41 pm, 28/02/2024] Muthyam Kambhoja: District Collector Anurag Jayanthi, who participated in the meeting.

## National Science Day Celebration in Vivekananda Vidyaniketan

**Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 28 (TIM Bureau) :** Rajanna Sirisilla District Sirisilla Town "Science fest was organized on the occasion of National Science Day at Vivekananda Vidyaniketan High School in Ashoknagar. In this program, more than a hundred projects and models prepared by the children with their creativity were displayed.

These include: Hygiene, ATM Machine, Earth Quake, Detector, Tesla Coil, Napier Strips for easy maths learning, Blood Samples, Weight, Height Measurements, Solar System, DNA, Rain, Detector, Fire Alarm, Rocket Launch Model, Light scattering, solar and



lunar eclipses, hydroponics, wind mill, cooler, solar electricity, plasma ball, human lungs, volcano etc. were impressive. "Parents, students, Correspondent Diddi Srinivas, Principal Bucharao, Mahender Reddy and teachers attended the program and appreciated the performances of the children.

**Chola**  
CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED  
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, Super B, C54 & C55, 4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032, T.N.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules")

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. (the Secured Creditor) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sl.No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt. of Demand Notice & O/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1.	Loan A/c No(s). : HL1GA0000033714 & HL04GA0000007453 <b>1. Mr. / Mrs. Sateesh Rapaka 2. Mr. / Mrs. Rapaka Shailaja</b> Both are R/o. :- H. No. 8-17, Opposite Market Yard, Mandalam, Nalgonda, Tirumalgi, Telangana, Thungathurthi-508 223, Talangana. *Mob. No. : 99664 16243; Also at :- H. No. 3-5-161/1, Sy. No. 36, Jammaigadda Area, B. Madharam VII, Nr. Jammaigadda 1. Park, Suptet Dist, Telangana-508 213. *Mob. No. : 99664 16243; Also at :- Sy. No. 36, H. No. 3-5-161/1, Jammaigadda, Nr. to Old Hyderabad to Vijayagadda High Way Road, Suryapet Town & Municipal Limits, Suryapet Mandal, Nr. to Old Hyderabad to Vijayagadda By Pass Road, Suryapet Dist., Telangana-508 213. *Mob. No. : 99664 16243. *E-mail ID : sateesh1985@gmail.com	₹ 39,35,487/- (Rs. Thirty Nine Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Seven Only)	28.02.2024 as on 27.02.2024	House Property bearing H. No. 3-5-161/1, measuring 242.00 Sq. Yards (or) 202.34 Sq. Meters, in which built up area of R. C. C. 604.00 Sq. Feets, A. C. Sheet extent of 268.00 Sq. Feets in Ground floor and RCC constructed area of 20700 Sq. Feets in First Floor, situated at Madaram Revenue Village, Suryapet Municipality District, within the Jurisdiction of sub-registrar, Suryapet District Registrar, Nalgonda bounded by : * <b>Unit Bounded by</b> - * East : 29'-6" Feet wide Road; * West : House of Kasim Sahed; * North : House of Rahim; * South : 20'-0" Wide Road

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights under section 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured assets(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured assets(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured assets(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
Date : 28.02.2024  
For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

**THIS NOTICE IS SENT IN SUPPLEMENT OF OUR EARLIER NOTICE DATED 18.07.2023. Please be informed that earlier Notice dated: 18.07.2023 issued under 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, stands withdrawn with immediate effect.**



## Students should adopt a scientific attitude : SRR Government Polytechnic College Principal Dr. Bhagyanagar Rajagopal

**Rajanna Sirisilla, Feb 28 (TIM Bureau) :** Celebrating National Science Day Rajanna Sirisilla district Sirisilla town Shivanagar Kusuma Ramaiah Zilla Parishad Boys High School on Wednesday on the occasion of science week celebrations, drawing and quiz competitions were held. Addressing the students, SRR Government Polytechnic College Principal Dr. Bhagyanagar Rajagopal as the chief guest of the program urged the students to stay away from superstitions, believe only in science, adopt the philosophy of questioning and usher in new innovations. He said that today's students have the greatest opportunity to make our country a developed India. It was informed that India is among the top five countries in the world in science and technology. He said that the responsibility of increasing the scientific knowledge among the students is on the teachers.

## CDM holds Annual Webinar on 'Viksit Bharat@2047

**Hyderabad, Feb 28 (NSS) :** College of Defence Management (CDM), a premier tri-service training institution of the Armed Forces, commenced its national webinar on 'Viksit Bharat@2047: Envisioning Economy, Society and Security' in Secunderabad on February 27. The webinar is an annual event conducted at the College of Defence Management and focuses on contemporary issues of Leadership, Strategy, Management and National security. The Chief of Integrated Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of the Staff Committee (CISC), Lieutenant General JP Mathew delivered keynote address. He stressed on the vision of Viksit Bharat, as a prosperous nation, in harmony with both modern infrastructure and nature, and giving opportunities for all citizens of all regions to reach their potential. He stressed that India must transition from a largely agrarian, informal economy to the one based on

services, advanced manufacturing, technology, and knowledge. Equally important is the need to harness the potential of the five springboards namely, green economy, technology leadership, skills for 21st century, demographic dividend, and sectors of tomorrow. Rear Admiral Sanjay Dutt, VSM, the Commandant of the CDM, in his opening address, brought out the relevance of annual seminar in its mission of developing Strategic Management thought and competencies in mid-level Armed Forces Officers for the last five decades. Since 1976, 27 National Seminars on subjects of contemporary relevance in the strategic domain have been conducted as a keystone event in the college almanac. The current edition of the webinar will focus on discussing some fundamental questions about the Economy, Society, and the Security that India should aspire for as a developed nation in 2047 and its sustenance beyond.

## RLD MLAs meet CM Yogi, assure him of support in RS polls



**Lucknow, Feb 28 (IANS) :** All nine Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) legislators, on Wednesday, met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in his office at Lok Bhawan here. The legislators are said to have assured the chief minister that they would vote for the BJP candidates in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections, polling for which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday. The MLAs set at rest speculation of a rift in the party over supporting the BJP candidates. Earlier, there were reports of the Samajwadi Party trying to garner support

of three RLD MLAs, who were earlier in the SP and still have a good rapport with Akhilesh Yadav. The absence of three RLD MLAs from the recent Ayodhya trip organised by the government for all MLAs to have 'darshan' of the Ram temple, added to such speculation. Meanwhile, in a related development, Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) met former minister Raja Bhaiyya on Tuesday to convince him to support the BJP candidates.

## TN: One fisherman killed, one missing following clashes between two groups



**Chennai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** In a mid-sea fight between two groups of fishermen in Tamil Nadu, one fisherman has been killed and another is missing while a third one has been admitted to hospital with serious injuries. The incident occurred near the eastern side of Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu fishing harbour. The deceased has been identified as S. Sivanesa Selvam while the missing has been identified as S. Kalathinathan. The injured has been identified as S. Athmanathan and is admitted at Nagapattinam Medical College hospital. All three are brothers and hail from Akkaripettai coastal hamlet of Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. Vedaranyam Police said that they have arrested seven persons related to the case. They were identified as R. Balakrishnan, M. Velayudham, S. Srithar, S. Kaliyappan, S. Mariyappan, P. Kannan and R. Dhandapani. The police have also launched a search to arrest

R. Balakumar, who is absconding. Reportedly, the three brothers had ventured out into the sea to fish, in a fibreglass boat, on Sunday evening. While they were fishing about two nautical miles east of the Nagapattinam fishing harbour, a group of fishermen from Keechankuppam, in a mechanised boat, reportedly damaged their fishing nets. An argument broke out between the two groups and the Keechankuppam fishermen banged their mechanised boat against the fibreglass boat. The injured fisherman Athmanathan told hospital authorities that the mechanised boat fishers reportedly attacked the trio using fishing equipment. Sivanesa Selvam and Kalathinathan suffered severe blows, while Athmanathan, who suffered injuries on his left hand and face, managed to escape.

## Will not let child marriages happen, says Assam CM

**Guwahati, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the menace of child marriage will be eradicated from the state in the next two years, and he will not let such marriages happen. "I

will not let child marriages happen in the state. Till Himanta Biswa Sarma is alive here, child marriages can not happen in Assam," he said. The Chief Minister also said that the state government has prepared an action plan to eliminate child marriage by 2026.



## 3 killed as car hits tree in Odisha's Kendrapara

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Three women artists died while several others sustained grievous injuries after the SUV they were travelling in crashed into a tree in Ostapur area of Odisha's Kendrapara district early Wednesday, police said. The identity of the deceased persons is yet to be ascertained.

"The jatra troupe was going towards the bus stand in an SUV when the driver lost balance of the vehicle and rammed into a tree along the road near Ostapur on Wednesday. The victims were returning home after finishing the rehearsal at nearby Naranpur village. Investigation is on to find out the reason behind the accident," said Inspector In-Charge of Sadar police station. The locals and fire services per-



sonnel rushed the victims to Kendrapara District Headquarters hospital (DHH) where doctors declared three women artists as 'received dead'. "Three women have been received dead at the hospital while three others, including two women, who sustained serious head injuries were referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Another person with minor facial injuries is currently undergoing treatment here," said Medical Officer, Kendrapara DHH. Locals claimed that several accidents have occurred at the particular spot during the last couple of months.

## Raja Bhaiya announces support to BJP in RS polls



**Lucknow, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Former minister and president of Jansatta Dal, Raghuraj Pratap Singh a.k.a. Raja Bhaiya has finally announced support to the BJP in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections, polling for which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday. Raja Bhaiya, whose party has two members, later attended a meeting of NDA legislators at the Lok Bhawan where the MLAs were given directives regarding voting in Wednesday's polls. The Samajwadi Party had made efforts to win over Raja Bhaiya's support and Akhilesh Yadav had even personally sought his support for the SP candidates. The BJP had also reached out to the Jansatta Dal leader.



## Five minor girls rescued from Pune, four held for human trafficking

**Patna, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Five minor girls who fled from their respective houses on February 2, were rescued from Maharashtra's Pune by Bihar Police. The police said that they were habitual of an online game Free Fire. Samastipur Police with the help of a special cell team of Bihar Police managed to rescue the girls from Pune. The police also arrested four youths. They are the residents of Deoghar in Jharkhand, Jokihat in Bihar's Araria district, Sahadatpur in Uttar Pradesh and Rajpura in Punjab. On Wednesday, the accused were produced to Samastipur district court which sent them to judicial custody. "We have received a complaint in Vibhutipur police station about four girls of one family including two sisters and two cousin sisters of Kalyanpur village who disappeared from their respective houses on February 2 this year.

## FM Sitharaman, Jaishankar's candidature in LS polls almost certain : Pralhad Joshi

**Bengaluru, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said that it is almost certain that Union Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar and Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman will be contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Speaking to reporters, Joshi said, both the union ministers are surely contesting the Lok Sabha elections. However,

it is yet to be decided from where and which constituency they will contest. He said that Jaishankar and Nirmala Sitharaman may contest from Karnataka or from other states as well. FM Sitharaman is presently a member of Rajya Sabha elected from Karnataka. Jaishankar is Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat. When asked about the road block over allocation of Mandya seat between allies BJP and JD (S), Joshi said that the issue will be sorted out soon.



**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, SECUNDERABAD  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To: Shri. Sreekanth Chowdary Peddineni, S/o Kondaiah Peddineni, Deputy Manager, PF:6540945, AO, Secunderabad (11774), Secunderabad-500003 Residential Address: D.No.7-1-503, NGO Colony, Badvel, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh-516227.  
It is observed that you have been absenting from duty without submitting an application for leave since 01.09.2020.  
In terms of Rule 40(3) of State Bank of India Officers Service Rules, you are advised to report for duty and submit satisfactory explanation for your absence within 30 days from the date of this letter, failing which it will be deemed that you have voluntarily vacated your service amounting to voluntary resignation from service without giving requisite notice.  
**Sd/- BRANCH MANAGER / DEPARTMENTAL HEAD**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE SECUNDERABAD(11774)  
PATNY CENTRE SECUNDERABAD-500003

**Bank of Maharashtra**  
H.No.4-3-448 To 460 & 465 to 468, 1st Floor, Vinootha Pittie's Majesty, Gopal Bagh Near Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad  
Date: 24.02.2024  
**AX-21/Recovery/SARFAESI/2023-24**  
**(Rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)**  
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 11.12.2023, calling upon the borrowers Mr.Bandari Krishna, Mrs. Bandari Swarupa and the guarantor Mr.S.Vinod Reddy S/o Rukma Reddy to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.6,00,573/- (Rupees Six Lakh Five Hundred Seventy Three only) plus unapplied interest at prevailing rate from the date of default along with other cost and expenses.  
The borrowers having failed to repay the total amount due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 24.02.2024  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned.  
The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:  
**Property details:** Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces and parcel of House property bearing Municipal No.6-5-63/8, admeasuring 1474.68 sft=163.85 Sq. Yard=137.17 Sq.mtrs, out of which built up area is 800 Sft. Manglore tiled roof situated at Dwarika Nagar, Adilabad and bounded as follows:North: House of B Ramulu, South: House of G Poshetty, East: 20' wide road, West: Drainage  
Date:24.02.2024,Place:Hyderabad  
Sd/- Authorised Officer,  
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

**FORM NO.14 [See Regulation 33(2)]**  
**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1)**  
3rd Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500001.  
**DEMAND NOTICE**  
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961  
RC/245/2023  
**STATE BANK OF INDIA** 21/02/2024  
Versus  
**KONDAVEETI SEETHA**  
To,  
(CD 1) Kondaveeti Seetha W/o. Sri K Narayana, H.No. 4-4, Cheriyal, Ranga Reddy District - 501301. Also At: Office At Sy.No. 34, Opp. Geethanjali Engineering College, Cheriyal, Keesara, Ranga Reddy District- 501301.  
(CD 2) Sri Kondaveeti Chandra Mouli S/o Sri K Narayana, R/o. H.No. 4-4, Cheriyal, Ranga Reddy District- 501301.  
(CD 3) Sri Kondaveeti Rajashekar S/o. Sri K Narayana, H.No. 4-4, Cheriyal, Ranga Reddy District - 501301. Also At: Office At Sy.No. 34, Opp. Geethanjali Engineering College, Cheriyal, Keesara, Ranga Reddy District- 501301.  
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 1) in OA/131/2023 an amount of Rs. 26,60,984/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Sixty Thousands Nine Hundred Eighty Four Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 11.75 % Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 28/03/2023 till realization and costs of Rs. 46,475/- (Rupees Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).  
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.  
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.  
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 10/04/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.  
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 21/02/2024.  
Sd/- Recovery Officer  
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1)

**Bank of Baroda**  
R.P.ROAD BRANCH  
7-2-583/589, Upper Ground Floor, Opp. Aple Lights, Near Bata Show Room, R.P.Road, Secunderabad - 500031  
**DEMAND NOTICE**  
(UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest act 2002  
Whereas at their request the below mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors have been granted credit facilities by the Bank from time to time by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The particulars of properties Mortgaged / Charged by you by way of deposit of Title Deeds / Hypothecation of furniture, stocks, equipments etc., creating security interest in favour of the Bank are mentioned hereunder. As you have failed to discharge the debt due to the Bank your account has been classified as Non-Performing assets on 06-02-2024 as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. as the Demand Notice Dated 17-02-2024 Sent to you and Guarantors by registered post calling upon to discharge the debt due to the Bank were returned by the postal department, hence this notice is issued.  
**Name of the Borrower :** M/s. Premier Polymer Industries, Rep by its partners: Mr. Venkateswar Rao Kuntla & Mr. V.Sunil, Plot No. 6 & 7 (part), IDA Phase-V, Palancheru Medak Dist., Telangana. **Guarantors:** 1.Mr. V. Surya Prakash S/o Late Narappa.H.No. 1-39/ 1A, Shankar Nagar, Chanda Nagar, Hyderabad- 500050. 2.Mrs.M.Satyavathi, W/o. K. Venkateshwara Rao, H.No. 675, LIG Bharathi Nagar, Ramachandrapuram, Medak-Telangana.  
**Outstanding amount: Rs.69,08,499/- as on 17.02.2024 (inc. of interest up to 06.02.2024)**  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:**  
All the semi-finished flat bearing no. 504 in fifth floor of "SP's genesis Icon" having super build up area of 1419 Sqft (including common areas and car parking) together with proportionate undivided share of land admeasuring 65 sq yards (out of admeasuring 1089 sq yards) in part of Survey no 177, situated at Chandanagar village Serilingampally Mandal and GHMC Circle, Rangareddy District, Telangana in the name of Mr V Sunil.  
**Boundaries for entire complex:**North: land of Lanchaiah, South: Land of M Kunta, East: Part of sy.no. 177, West: Land of dhoi Ramulu & Road. **Boundaries of flat:**North: 5'-3" corridor, South: Open to Sky, East: Open to Sky, West: Open to Sky. Property was Mortgaged to our Bank vide Mortgage Deed No. 1763/2015, dated 24-03-2015.  
**Personal guarantee of V. Suryaprakash and M. Satyavathi**  
If You, The Above mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest, incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under section 13(2) of sarfaesi act, within 60 days from the date of this notice the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under section 13(4) of SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the Said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other provisions of Law.  
Date: 28.02.2024, Place: Hyderabad  
Sd/- Authorised Officer,  
BANK OF BARODA

## OPINIONmail

COERCED DONATIONS TO BJP  
MAY BE MOTHER OF ALL SCAMS  
UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT

The accusation by the Congress party on how the Modi government used the central agencies such as the CBI and Enforcement Directorate to coerce donations, has the potential to become the biggest scandal of Modi's rule, perhaps something with the dimensions of the 2G spectrum scandal of the UPI regime. The Congress party has demanded a probe into allegations of quid-pro-quo between BJP and 30 companies that have allegedly donated huge sums of money to the ruling party while being under the scanner of federal agencies and demanded a thorough investigation. Adding further mystery to the arrangement is the charge that among these firms as many as 23 had never donated any money to BJP between 2014 and the time of raids by CBI, ED and the tax department ordered against them.

The claim has further lengthened the dark shadow over Indian democracy and exposes a dangerous nexus between political funding and institutional autonomy, potentially warping the very foundation of fair elections and accountability. While the BJP is taking great pains to deny the charge, the underlying issues demand scrutiny and will linger for a long time to come.

The Congress has alleged that several companies facing investigation by central agencies mysteriously donated to the BJP soon after, hinting at a possible quid pro quo: donations in exchange for leniency or withdrawal of investigations. The obstinacy of the government in defending the opacity surrounding political funding further fuels the suspicion. While the BJP claims these donations are voluntary, the lack of transparency leaves room for speculation and erodes public trust in the system. If a company facing investigation donates to the party in power, it creates a perception, even if unproven, that the donation could influence the investigation's outcome. This not only undermines the independence of investigative agencies but also creates an uneven playing field for political parties, favouring those with access to deep pockets and the ability to curry favour with the government. This is apart from policy favours bestowed by the government in gratitude of generous help from the big corporates, the most stunning example having been the Modi government's equations with the Adanis. The concern has been amplified by the Supreme Court verdict in the electoral bond scheme, which has outrightly rejected the idea and questioned the sincerity of the government to fight corruption and money power in electoral politics. While aiming to curb anonymous donations, the scheme ironically created an opaque system where the identities of donors remained hidden. This lack of transparency makes it difficult to track the source of funding and identify any potential pressure exerted on donors. In essence, the scheme shields the identity of those who bankroll political campaigns, raising concerns about potential influence peddling and corruption.

With the help of opaque funding mechanisms, the ruling party has been amassing vast sums of money, which are then used to buy elected representatives to destabilise opposition governments, bribe voters, influence media coverage, and sway opinion through targeted campaigns. This creates an uneven playing field, where candidates with deeper pockets have a distinct advantage, drowning out the voices of genuine merit and public service.

The government has been resisting calls for greater transparency in election funding and has not complied with even the Supreme Court orders in this respect. Not only that the government has allowed little light to fall on these donations, it has been stonewalling all moves for transparency. It argues that the names of donors should not be made public in order to protect their privacy and that releasing the names could lead to harassment and intimidation of donors. The government is citing even the secrecy angle in the banking laws to thwart disclosures, which the ruling party feels would be highly embarrassing whenever it happens.

(By K Raveendran)

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail

Insecurities that led to Indira falling out  
with her aunt Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

The origins of the fragile relationship between Jawaharlal Nehru's sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, and her niece, Indira Gandhi, which ended with the aunt becoming one of the fiercest critics of the Emergency (1975-77), has been a mystery for historians. Pandit's latest biographer, Manu Bhagavan, a professor of Modern Indian History at Hunter College, New York, untangles the complex relationship, showing how the unraveling had started in the last years of Nehru. Bhagavan shows how Pandit was rumoured to be the chosen one to succeed the then vice-president, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, but Nehru, reportedly with his sister's consent, opted for Zakir Hussain.

COLOMBIA'S LEFT GOVERNMENT IS  
PURSUING TRANSFORMATIVE LABOUR REFORMS

Over the past few months, Colombian pop star Shakira's newest song, "El Jefe," has taken off throughout Latin America, highlighting the intense economic inequality and exploitation in the region. Perhaps surprisingly, the song has a fan in the upper echelons of power — Gustavo Petro, Colombia's first leftist president. First on Twitter/X and later at a rally in Bogotá's Plaza Bolívar, President Petro expressed that Shakira's "El Jefe" captures the unequal situation that his government seeks to end in one of its most ambitious projects, an overhaul of Colombia's labour laws through comprehensive reform. "That is why labour

reform is needed," he tweeted, along with the song's music video. Petro was swept to power by a wave of social upheaval — social movements driven largely by Colombia's dispossessed working class. His labour reform would reintroduce long-lost labour rights, giving workers protections and unions breathing room in a climate dominated for decades by elite and reactionary interests. Unsurprisingly, those conservative and pro-business forces — Colombia's real-life "Jefes" — are intent on stopping the reform in its tracks. Since the 1990s, neoliberal reforms have dealt a serious blow to union density and the political power of the Colombian labour movement. These reforms were coupled with a wave of violence against union leaders in Colombia. In the 1990s and

early 2000s, right-wing paramilitaries, supported by the Colombian military, waged war on organized labour as they threatened, kidnapped, murdered, and internally displaced thousands of Colombian unionists amid Colombia's sixty-year armed conflict. While the 2016 Peace Agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army (FARC-EP) and the Colombian government brought an official end to one of the world's longest conflicts, Colombia continues to be one of the worst offenders against labour rights, and among the deadliest countries in which to be a labour leader.

(IPA Service)

ASSAM TO BE SECOND STATE IN  
THE COUNTRY TO MOVE  
CLOSER TO UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has repealed the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935, thereby dealing a body-blow to child marriages, which Assamese Muslims are favourable to. Sarma, who even otherwise is bombastic, says this move had led Assam several steps closer to implementing the Uniform Civil Code, which is code for one nation-one law, which has been dormant in the directive principles since 1950.

RAHUL STOOPS TO CONQUER, SACRIFICES  
FEW SEATS FOR INDIA BLOC'S BENEFIT

Pursuing the famous Marxist doctrine, one step forward and two steps backward, the Congress has relented to the demands of the satraps of the regional parties like TMC, SP and is virtually pitching to play second fiddle to them. To be reckoned as less important or being in weaker position is certainly not a small bet. By resorting to this strategy, Rahul has succeeded in sending out a strong message that the INDIA bloc would bring down Narendra Modi from power. Rahul Gandhi's tactical move has also denied the critics a

stick to beat the Congress with and indulge in games of one-upmanship. Ironically, leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and earlier, Nitish Kumar, instead of strengthening the INDIA bloc, have been demeaning it and even blaming Rahul for being more interested in rejuvenating his own party than fighting Modi. Nitish Kumar had cited the delay in seat-sharing as Rahul's averseness to truly strengthening opposition unity, as the reason for his parting ways with INDIA. Mamata Banerjee was so angry with the delay in seat-sharing that she announced her decision to quit INDIA and go alone to the polls.



AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal had also expressed his desire to pull out of INDIA only for this. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had virtually shut his door for Congress by unanimously announcing his candidates for at least 23 constituencies. He even blamed the Congress for INDIA being a non-starter and even projected his PDA as the real alternative to the BJP.

Certainly, this nature of posturing by these regional satraps does not enthrone the voters. They are sceptical of their future moves. On the other hand, Rahul relenting to their demands has boosted his image and projected him as an altruistic and selfless leader. In a way, through their jibes and accusations.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU'S 'DAY  
AFTER' PLAN FOR  
GAZA'S FUTURE IS A NON-STARTER

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's plan for Gaza's future once the guns fall silent is likely to be a non-starter. Rather than provide a pathway to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the plan aims to squash Palestinian national aspirations and ensure continued Israeli control. It also assumes, against all

odds, that Israel will succeed in destroying Hamas. Destroying Hamas is a goal of Israel's war that a majority of Israelis believe is unachievable.

Netanyahu's proposal entitled 'Plan for the day after Hamas' also flies in the face of formal and/or informal red lines laid down by the United States; various Arab states, including Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestine Authority, and, yes, Hamas. Those red lines include no Israeli reoccupation of any part of Gaza, no reduction of Gazan territory, and no rejection of Palestinian national rights to a state alongside Israel.

The red lines also mandate a credible process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a concept absent from Netanyahu's suggestions.

INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT ELECT  
PRABOWO SUBIANTO IS KNOWN  
FOR ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

At a time when India is gearing up for national elections, Indonesia chose its next president. It merits mention not only because it was the world's largest single-day vote but it was an election which is a beacon of hope in a region plagued by autocrats and juntas.

The defence minister, Prabowo Subianto who exit polls suggest won comfortably, declared victory soon after voting ended though his rivals were yet to concede.





## 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed since Russia's full-scale invasion: Zelensky

**Kiev, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Around 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed since Russia's full-scale invasion began two years ago, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said. The Ukrainian President said at a news conference on Sunday that he is providing the updated death toll in response to the inflated figures that Russia has quoted. "31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have died in this war. Not 300,000 or 150,000, or whatever (Vladimir) Putin and his lying circle are saying. But each of these losses is a great loss for us," Zelensky was quoted as saying by the BBC. The Ukrainian President said he would not give the number of wounded as that would help Russian military

planning. Speaking about the wider losses in the war, the Ukrainian President said that tens of thousands of civilians had died in the areas of Ukraine occupied by Russia but the true number was unknown. "I don't know how many of them died, how many were killed, how many were murdered, tortured, how many were deported," he was quoted as saying by the British news broadcaster. Zelensky's tally differs sharply from estimates by US officials, who, in August last year, put the number of Ukrainian soldiers killed at 70,000. In terms of Russian losses, he said that around 180,000 Russian soldiers have been killed and tens of thousands more injured.

## Jordanian king warns of Gaza conflict expansion during Ramadan

**Amman, Feb 28 (IANS) :** King Abdullah II of Jordan has warned that a continued war in Gaza during the holy month of Ramadan could risk expanding the conflict. King Abdullah made the remarks on Wednesday at a meeting in Amman with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, during which he called for maximum efforts to reach an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and



to protect innocent civilians, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement by the Royal Hashemite Court. The king noted that Jordan will continue to provide humanitarian, relief, and medical assistance to the people in Gaza, the statement added. The king reiterated Jordan's rejection of any attempts to separate the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while urging the continuation of Arab coordination to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue



## Over 45.8 mn children to receive polio vaccination in Pakistan : Health Ministry

**Islamabad, Feb 28 (IANS) :** A week-long countrywide polio vaccination campaign is going to start in Pakistan from Wednesday, in which more than 45.8 million children under five years of age will be vaccinated, the Pakistani Health Ministry said. The second campaign of the year will be held across the country from Feb. 26 to March 3, and in 33 districts of the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province from March 2 to 6, Xinhua news agency reported.

## 5 killed, 10 injured in Russian attacks against Ukraine

**Kiev, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Five people have been killed while 10 others have been injured in Russian attacks against Ukraine, regional authorities reported early Wednesday as quoted by media reports. Civilian casualties were reported in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kherson and Sumy oblasts, The Kyiv Independent reported. In Sumy Oblast, a couple were killed when Russian forces used guided aerial bombs to attack the village of Yunakivka, situated less than 10 km (6 miles) from the border with Russia. One house was destroyed and five others were damaged in the attack, the Sumy Oblast Military Ad-

ministration reported. Nikopol in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast came under attack multiple times during Sunday morning. One man was killed when a Russian drone dropped explosives directly on his truck. The truck driver was 57-years-old, The Kyiv Independent reported. Later on Wednesday evening, four people were injured when Russian forces targeted the regional centre of Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Governor Serhii Lysak reported. Two men, aged 41 and 49, and two women, aged 20 and 60, were hospitalised. The attack also damaged 10 homes and several cars. In Kherson Oblast, Rus-



sian attacks killed two people and injured one person over Sunday, Kherson Oblast Governor Oleksandr Prokudin reported. The Kyiv Independent reported. Two people were killed when Russian forces attacked the village of Tiahynka, killing two people, a 44-year-old man and a 62-year-old woman. Donetsk Oblast Governor Vadym Filashkin reported that five people were injured in Kostiantynivka, Kurakhove, Zakitne, Maksymilianivka and Chasiv Yar. Russia also carried out attacks in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv oblasts, but no civilian casualties were reported.

## Iraqi Shiite militia says current calm with US forces 'temporary tactic'

**Baghdad, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The leader of an Iraqi armed Shiite militia has said that the current period of calm among Iraqi armed groups in their conflict with US forces is a "temporary tactic", stressing that the Islamic Resistance in Iraq did not abandon its support for the Palestinians. Akram al-Kaabi, secretary general of the Iranian-backed al-Nujaba Movement, said in a statement on Wednesday that the current calm is only a tactic for repositioning and deployment, stressing, "It is only the calm before the storm". He said that the Islamic Resistance in Iraq "is an essential part in the battle to confront the Zionist aggression (the Israeli military campaign)

and its supporter America against the Gaza Strip", Xinhua news agency reported. Al-Kaabi also said that there is high-level coordination between different "open fronts" against the Americans and Israelis in the region, stressing that "any calm on one front and ignition on another is an intentional, purposeful and coordinated strategy". "Although the Islamic resistance did not reject the government's negotiations to schedule the US withdrawal from Iraq, we affirm that the US occupier is a liar, a deceiver, and an arrogant one," the statement said. Days after fighting broke out between the Gaza-ruling Islamic Resistance Movement ( Hamas) and Israel in the Gaza Strip on October 7, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq launched rocket, drone, and



mortar attacks on military bases housing US forces in Iraq and Syria. On January 27, Iraq and the United States began the first round of dialogue to discuss ending the US-led international coalition's mission in Iraq, but later three US soldiers were killed in an attack on a military base near Jordan's border with Syria. The US said the attack was carried out by Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella term for pro-Iran Shiite Islamic armed groups in Iraq. The death of the US

soldiers prompted the US forces to retaliate by striking some headquarters of Iranian-backed armed groups affiliated with the Iraqi paramilitary Hashd Shaabi forces, killing and wounding dozens of them. Later, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq suspended their attacks on US bases to pave the way for the Iraqi government to hold negotiations with the US-led coalition to end their presence in Iraq.

## Netanyahu for stepping up attacks in Rafah even as truce talks underway

**Tel Aviv, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that a military operation in Rafah was necessary to ensure victory in the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza strip. Speaking to Hebrew media on Wednesday night, PM Netanyahu said that once the Israel Army begins the Rafah operation, the war would be completed in a few weeks with full victory. The Israel Prime Minister said, "We won't give up." He also said that Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have destroyed 18 of the 24 battalions of the Hamas terror force, but added that four of the remaining battalions were concentrated in Rafah. He said that these battalions have to be taken care of to ensure total victory and to wrap up the war as soon as possible. The statement of the Israel Prime Minister has come just as hectic mediatory talks for a temporary ceasefire and re-

lease of Israeli hostages were taking place at the behest of the US, Qatar and Egypt. Meanwhile, the IDF presented to the War Cabinet its plan to both evacuate Palestinian civilians from Rafah and to militarily destroy some of the last Hamas battalions in the area of Gaza near the Egyptian border. The Israel Prime Minister's office in a statement said, "The Israel war cabinet has approved a plan late Sunday night to provide humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip in a manner that will prevent the looting that has occurred in the northern Strip and other areas." It may be noted that there are over 1.3 million Palestinians in the Rafah area, many of whom fled to this area to escape the IDF bombing in the north of Gaza. The US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed that Israel, Egypt and Qatar had come to an understanding in Paris about the "basic contours of a hostage deal for a temporary ceasefire".

## 1 dead, 3 injured in German asylum centre fire

**Berlin, Feb 28 (IANS) :** One person died while three others suffered minor to serious injuries following a fire in an asylum centre in Nordlingen, a town in the southern German state of Bavaria, authorities have said. The cause of the fire which broke out on Wednesday is still under investigation, a police spokesperson said in a statement.

## Pak President urges united fight against poverty, malnutrition

**Islamabad, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Pakistani President Arif Alvi has called on the nation to work together to fight the challenges of poverty, malnutrition, stunting and maternal and neonatal deaths. The President made the remarks during an event, noting that 26 million children in Pakistan remain out of school, Xinhua news agency reported. He said China focused on the health and education sectors, which helped the country lift nearly 800 million people out of poverty, adding that Pakistan should follow the same development model. Highlighting the role of women in the country's growth, Alvi said that the provision of health and education facilities to them is an important element in achieving the goal of women empowerment



in Pakistan. He underscored the importance of providing a safe working environment to women in order to include them in the workforce and make them contribute to the economic growth of the South Asian country.



**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 overdue/NPA Gold Loan Account will be sold in Public Auction in the State Bank of India, Kamareddy Branch premises on 05-03-2024

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 Uthnoor - 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 24,000/- 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: 29-02-2024 Sd/- Branch Manager



## Ajit Pawar compares his 'working style' with PM Modi, Amit Shah

**Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar has claimed that his 'working style' is similar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in different ways, and shirked off uncle Sharad Pawar's contribution to his political progress, here on Wednesday.

In a signed open letter to the

people of Maharashtra that created a flutter in political circles, Ajit Pawar said he was very much inspired by the strong leadership and quick decision-making of both PM Modi and Home Minister Shah, both top Bharatiya Janata Party leaders.

"I get up at 5 a.m. daily to work, for years. We accord more importance to our work. My working style matches theirs (PM Modi and HM Shah), as we love our work. With their guidance, I can

effectively implement several projects in my mind. This is the reason I decided to join them. My aim is to ensure that the state remains at the top in terms of development. After coming to the (MahaYuti) government, I have witnessed the speed of progress," said Ajit Pawar.

He promised to provide a blueprint for taking the state ahead in development without resorting to personal criticism of anybody, and called upon the people to support

him and the elder leaders in the state to bless him in his endeavors, without taking any names. Battling severe criticism after the Election Commission of India and Maharashtra Assembly Speaker awarded the NCP founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar contended that he "never intended to insult senior leaders, betray anyone or hurt sentiments", but his move to align with the MahaYuti was in the interests of the progress of the state without compromising on his ideology. Virtually erasing Sharad Pawar's contribution to bring him to politics, grooming him for over three decades, Ajit Pawar said that "my entry to politics was accidental since at that time (1991) there was a need for a youthful leader in the state. So as a (Pawar) family member I got the chance. I worked day and night to ensure that I used the golden opportunity, and immersed myself in public welfare for the past three decades," said Ajit Pawar. He added that in his public life, he experienced bouts in the ruling side and the Opposition, noticed how development was

speedy while in government, but lagged when in the opposition side, but as a peoples' representative he could not ignore the reality that in order to progress, it was imperative to remain in power.

Ajit Pawar declared that his intention was to root for development, but without compromising on his ideology or principles, without hurting anybody, insulting or backstabbing, and would never allow it to happen.

"I have always respected the seniors, took my colleagues along with me and also gave the youth an opportunity to ensure that progress doesn't get stuck, that has been my clear motive," added the Baramati MLA.

Ajit Pawar's letter came amid speculation that he is seriously toying with the idea of fielding his wife Sunetra against his cousin sister Supriya Sule -- daughter of Sharad Pawar -- in the high-profile Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, a veritable 'bhabhi versus nanand' fight in the offing.



## One-way traffic allowed on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway

**Srinagar, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Authorities on Wednesday allowed only one-way traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH) keeping in mind the safety of commuters and the poor condition of the road.

All traffic movement had been stopped on the Srinagar-Jammu NH due to heavy rains in Ramban District that led to land and mudslides plus shooting stones along the highway for the last few days.

However, on Monday one carriageway of the NH was opened and Traffic Department officials said that only one-way traffic would be allowed on the highway. This was done keeping the safety of travellers in mind.



## SC issues notice to ED on Sanjay Singh's plea seeking bail in money laundering case

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea filed by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh against the decision of the Delhi High Court rejecting his bail plea in money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Issuing notice to the anti-money laundering agency, a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna directed tagging of the bail plea along with another petition filed by Singh challenging his arrest and subsequent remand in the money laundering case.

The bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, was apprised by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who appeared on Singh's behalf, that the pending petition is coming up for hearing on March 5 and both the petitions should be heard together.

Taking note of the above submission, the apex court posted the matter for hearing on March 5.

Singh has filed a special leave petition challenging the February 7 order passed by the Delhi High Court saying that no ground is made out for releasing the AAP leader on bail.

## Delhi HC refers Gautam Gambhir's defamation suit against Punjab Kesari to mediation

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday referred former India cricketer and BJP MP Gautam Gambhir's defamation lawsuit against Hindi daily Punjab Kesari seeking damages of Rs 2 crore, to mediation. The lawsuit, which sought to prevent the newspaper and its reporters from publishing any allegedly defamatory content against Gambhir, saw a potential resolution pathway as both parties appeared inclined towards an amicable settlement. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma made the decision to refer the case to mediation following submissions by Advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, representing Gambhir. Dehadrai suggested that the dispute might be resolved amicably, prompting the court to explore mediation as a means to formalise the terms of any potential settlement.

Gambhir had filed a fresh application seeking to withdraw the lawsuit, citing the possibility of a friendly settlement between the involved parties. The court has now scheduled the mediation for February 29, with a follow-up hearing set for March 12. Last year, the court had refused to pass any interim injunction order in favour of Gambhir. Dehadrai had submitted before the court that the newspaper has been targeting Gambhir and that it is not the case of fair or objective reporting. "The articles are deeply malicious. This is perhaps at the behest of someone else," he had said. Even though it has been held in various judgments that the opinions and views of the concerned person must be taken before publishing any article, Gambhir's opinions were not sought by Punjab Kesari newspaper or its reporters, Dehadrai had argued. Justice Chandra Dhari Singh, who was hearing the matter had orally told Dehadrai: "You are a public servant, you need not be so sensi-



itive." To which, the advocate responded that it could possibly be that two reporters in the same style keep attacking me? "That he is busy with IPL, he is a useless politician who shouldn't be taken seriously. It's disturbing, any innocent man's reputation is targeted in this fashion," Dehadrai had said. "Any public person should be thick skinned...Nowadays, judges should also be thick skinned," Justice Singh had said.

The judge, saying that that prima facie it was satisfied that the matter requires consideration and summons must be issued against the defendants, had issued notice on Gambhir's application seeking interim relief and listed it for hearing in October. Senior Advocate Rajshekhar Rao, who had appeared

for the newspaper and its editor in chief, was also told by Justice Singh that "if you read the articles, in the prima facie opinion, the reporter is behind this person. Some of the words and sentences that he has used are not proper for your publication."

Gambhir has taken legal action against the paper, its editor Aditya Chopra, and correspondents Amit Kumar and Imran Khan, alleging that they abused their journalistic freedom by publishing a series of malicious and defamatory articles specifically aimed at him. He has referred to several reports as evidence to support his claim that the paper "distorted" its stories in a "misleading" manner.



## TN's IJK to contest Lok Sabha polls in alliance with BJP

**Chennai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Indiya Jananayaka Katchi (IJK) will contest the Lok Sabha elections in alliance with the BJP in Tamil Nadu.

This was announced on Wednesday by party founder and Chairman Paarivendhar alias Patchimuthu. He said that he will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in alliance with the BJP-led NDA from the Perambalur Lok Sabha seat. Paarivendhar interacted with the mediapersons at the BJP headquarters here and said that his party has requested for two seats -- Perambalur and Kallakurichi.



## MP's health infra is being upgraded with modern technology : Dy CM

**Bhopal, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla on Wednesday said that his state continued to witness all-round growth in health infrastructure under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction. He added that district and community health centres across the state are being equipped with advanced technology. The Deputy Minister said the initiative of 'One State-One Health' of Bhopal AIIMS is a much needed step, which will help in strengthening the state's health system. He asserted that regular assistance from AIIMS will help to upgrade health services at district and community health centres across Madhya Pradesh.

## Startup owner arrested in Delhi hit and run case

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** A 31-year-old man, the owner of a startup called Tug Sports, was arrested for a hit-and-run case that led to the death of a motorcyclist in southwest Delhi, police said on Wednesday. Police said that they have also seized the vehicle, Audi SUV, involved in the incident. The accused was identified as Kunal Kanwar, a resident of Greater Kailash-1. His arrest came after a case under section 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at Delhi Cantonment police station regarding the accident of a motorcyclist rider by unknown vehicle.



## Goa: Nigerian national held with drugs valued at Rs 74 lakhs

**Panaji, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Anti-Narcotic Cell of Goa Police conducted a narcotic raid at Arpora, Bardez in North district and arrested a Nigerian national allegedly for possessing drugs worth Rs 74.75 lakh in the international market. The police have identified the accused Nigerian national as Innocent Okezuonu

Anaemem (56) native of Uburu-Ekwe, Abuja, Nigeria. "He was arrested for being in possession of 480 grams of cocaine valued at Rs 72 lakh, 15 grams of Ecstasy powder of Rs 1.50 lakh and 250 grams of Charas of Rs 1.25 lakh," police said. Police said that based on specific information, they kept watch over him for almost a week.



## India makes strong pitch for restoration of Appellate Body at WTO

**Abu Dhabi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** India emphatically called for the restoration of the Appellate Body at the World Trade Organisation as the top-most priority of the reform process that was discussed in the working session of the 13th ministerial conference on Wednesday. WTO Members noted that the Appellate Body of the Dispute Settlement system had been non-functional since December 2019, due to the blocking of ap-

pointment of its Members by the United States. This had called into question the WTO's overall credibility and the rules-based trade-order it upholds. India recalled the commitment of WTO Members of 12th Ministerial Conference to conduct discussions with a view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024.

## Emcure Launches Unmask Anemia, an Initiative to Help Women Assess Anemia Risk with a Self-test

**Pune, Feb 28 (TIM Bureau) :** Emcure Pharmaceuticals is an Indian pharmaceutical company with a focus on the women healthcare segment, announced the launch of 'Unmask Anemia', an initiative to create awareness around iron deficiency anemia in India. The initiative aims to raise awareness and improve detection and treatment of iron deficiency anemia in women across India". In a video message released by Emcure, actress turned author Twinkle Khanna, who is also an advocate for women's rights, draws interesting inferences around women empowerment from various ad campaigns. She also urges brands to join Emcure in spreading awareness about anemia calling upon women to visit Un-

mask Anemia website (<https://unmaskanemia.com/taketest>) and take the self-test. Through this compelling message, Emcure and Twinkle Khanna ask Indian women to stop ignoring the symptoms of iron deficiency and get themselves assessed for the risk of anemia. Iron deficiency is one of the most common causes of anemia and its prevalence among Indian women is the highest in the world. As per the latest National Family Health Survey, the prevalence of anemia in women between the age group of 15 to 49 years is as high as 57.6% in Telangana. The symptoms of anemia like fatigue, weakness, hair fall etc. usually considered normal and are often ignored by women. Lack of awareness and action about their health and nutritional parameters makes testing for anemia imperative. The online



self-test aims to simplify the process of assessing the risk of iron deficiency anemia. The test is designed based on the common signs and symptoms of the condition. These symptoms often go unnoticed or are misattributed, hence unmasking becomes crucial. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Namita Thapar, Whole-time Director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals, said, "Despite advances in anemia interventions, its burden remains significant in India. Every second woman in the country suffers from

iron deficiency anemia, but the lack of awareness prevents timely diagnosis. Emcure has been trying to address this deficit of iron in women for many years and we are proud to have a strong woman like Twinkle Khanna supporting us in our endeavour. We hope that our initiative of 'Unmask Anemia' will help bring about awareness and an increase in anemia screening, diagnosis and treatment.

## SpiceJet settles Rs 250 crore dispute with lessor Celestial Aviation

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Budget airline SpiceJet and Celestial Aviation, a subsidiary of AerCap, one of the largest aircraft lessor groups have mutually settled their Rs 250 crore dispute through amicable negotiations, the company said on Wednesday. Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "SpiceJet and Celestial

Aviation have successfully resolved our Rs 250 crore dispute through mutual agreement." "This settlement marks a significant step forward for both parties and underscores our commitment to finding amicable solutions to complex challenges. With this resolution, we can now focus on revamping our fleet and driving our business forward. I am grateful for the support of our stake-

holders, including our investors, as we navigate through this process," said Singh. The representatives of both parties informed a bench of NCLT last week that settlement terms had been reached and requested an adjournment. The Court had granted the adjournment. The matter is now scheduled to be formally withdrawn on March 1.



## All sectoral indices in red as markets see sharp selloff ahead of GDP data

**Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** After a positive opening on Wednesday, Nifty soon entered into the negative territory dragged by profit booking in index heavyweights, said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal

Oswal Financial Services. While the Nifty was down 247.20 points, or 1.11 per cent, at 21,951.15 on Wednesday, the Sensex ended the day at 72,304.88, down 790.34 points, or 1.08 per cent. The broader market saw a sharp selloff down 2 per cent, Khemka said.



## Small and mid cap stocks crack as markets plunge

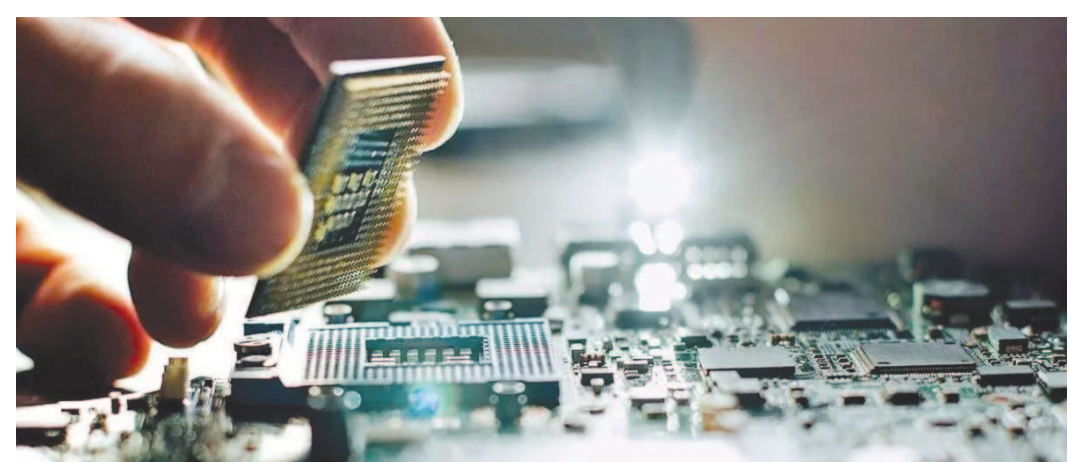
**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Small and mid cap stocks fell sharply on Wednesday amid a big fall in the broader market. Small cap index is down 1.7 per cent and mid cap index is down 1.5 per cent. BSE Sensex is trading at 72,574.68 points, down 520.54 points or 0.71 per cent. Small and mid cap indices have fallen more than the benchmark index reversing a trend of the past few months. Among small cap stocks, Eureka Forbes is down 6 per cent, ITDC is down 6 per cent, Arvind Fashions is down 6 per cent, PNC Infra is down 6 per cent, Infibeam Avenues is down 5 per cent, HFCL is down 5 per cent, JP Associates is down 5 per cent.



## 'India electronics manufacturing sector to employ 4.5 mn people in next few years'

**Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Indian electronics manufacturing sector currently employs close to 2 million people and the country aspires to take that figure to about 4.5 million in the next few years with initiatives like local chip manufacturing, said S. Krishnan, Secretary, IT Ministry here on Wednesday. During a virtual fireside chat at the 'India Digital Summit' (IDS) 2024, Krishnan said that semiconductor is the next big space for the country to grow. "More companies are likely to come into the space. I think that is the space to grow over the next five to 10 years. Our interest in semiconductors is open," he told the gathering. "We have close to 2 million people who are employed in the electronics manufacturing sector and we would

like to go up to about 4.5 million as well". In a conversation with Deepak Jacob, Group General Counsel, Dream Sports, Krishnan said that "we expect the digital economy to really grow at an increasing pace in the next few years". On regulation, the IT Ministry secretary said that while balancing consumer protection and diverse requirements, "we thoroughly examine regulations to ensure the safeguarding of user information".



## Embattled Chinese developer Country Garden faces winding-up petition

**Hong Kong, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Embattled Chinese developer Country Garden is facing a winding-up petition in Hong Kong, months after the company started what is expected to be the second-largest restructuring effort among its peers, following that of China Evergrande Group, a media report said. Country Garden received a winding-up petition filed by Ever Credit, a wholly-owned unit of Kingboard Holdings, on Tuesday due to non-repayment of a term loan worth about HK\$1.6 billion (\$204 million), including accrued interest, according to a filing with the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday, South China Morning Post reported. The petition comes after the developer – once China's largest by sales – defaulted on a dollar bond in last October.

causing jitters in both the bond and stock markets given the scale of the company's projects. A Hong Kong court ordered the liquidation of China Evergrande Group, the world's most indebted property developer, in late January, South China Morning Post reported. There are still questions about how the collapse of Evergrande, the poster boy of China's real-estate crisis, will affect investors, thousands of workers and homebuyers waiting for their apartments, CNN reported. As for Country Garden, it said in the filing that it would "vigorously" oppose the liquidation petition, which was filed at Hong Kong's High Court on Tuesday. A court hearing has been set for May 17, it added.



### Congress repeats Sudhakaran from Kannur LS Seat in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Congress on Wednesday cleared the candidature of K. Sudhakaran for the Lok Sabha election from the Kannur seat in Kerala. He is the sitting Lok Sabha member from the constituency and also is Congress' Kerala chief. Sudhakaran, a two-time MP from Kannur, was not keen to enter the fray due to some health issues. But following pressure from several quarters in the party after the CPI(M) decided to field local strongman M.V. Jayarajan, the Congress asked Sudhakaran to enter the fray. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress-led UDF had won 19 out of the 20 seats in the state, losing just the Alappuzha seat. The Congress contested on 16 seats, the IUML two and the Kerala Congress and RSP one each. In the 2019 polls, the UDF allies -- IUML won two seats, as did RSP candidate at Kollam and Kottayam which was won by Kerala Congress (Mani) party's candidate, who later moved to the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Front. The only seat that the Congress lost in 2019 was the Alappuzha seat and now with all the sitting Congress MPs cleared to contest, all eyes are on who will contest from Alappuzha.

### Hectic political activity in Lucknow as countdown for RS polls begins

**Lucknow, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Hectic political activity is being witnessed in Lucknow as the countdown for the polling for Rajya Sabha biennial elections to ten seats begins. The ruling BJP and the main opposition, the Samajwadi Party (SP), have the numbers to send seven and three members respectively, unopposed to the Rajya Sabha, but with the BJP fielding Sanjay Seth as its eighth candidate, a keen contest is now on the cards. The BJP and the SP are the two largest parties in the 403-member state assembly with 252 MLAs and 108 MLAs respectively. Seth, a local real estate giant, is a former SP leader who joined the BJP in 2019. Since the outcome of the polls, being held just ahead of the general elections, are likely to have an impact and both SP and BJP are reaching out to voters in a big way. Former minister and head of the Jansatta Dal, Raghuraj Pratap Singh a.k.a. Raja Bhaiyya is among the most sought after 'voter'. Two days ago, SP leaders went to Raja Bhaiyya's residence to seek his support and hours later state BJP President Bhupendra Chaudhary drove to his residence for a 'discussion' on the same subject. Akhilesh Yadav also met Raja

Bhaiyya and sought his support for the RS polls. What makes Raja Bhaiyya a much sought after 'voter' is the fact that his party has two members but he wields influence over at least four Thakur MLAs who could go his way during the voting.



### 'Chauvinist males want power only to be vested in them', Shobha Karandlaje on 'Go Back' campaign against her

**Bengaluru, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Reacting to the 'Go Back' campaign against her at a Karnataka Parliamentary constituency, Union Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje on Wednesday said "chauvinist males want power only to be vested in them, and they were carrying out malicious campaigns and carrying out of arrogance". She said this while interacting with the reporters in Chikmagalur on the 'Go Back' campaign against her in Udupi-Chikmagalur Parliamentary constituency -- the seat she represents in the Lok Sabha.



### TMC leader in Bengal's Ashoknagar dies after being shot from point blank range

**Kolkata, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Tension was brewing in Ashoknagar, a hamlet near the Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal on Wednesday following the murder of local Trinamool Congress leader and deputy chief of a panchayat late on Sunday night. The deceased, Bijan Das (49), had gone to the house of one of his associates to rest as he was feeling unwell after attending a public function near the Guma Railway Station. According to the residents of the area, suddenly a man barged into the room where Bijan Das was resting and shot him from point blank range. Bijan Das was immediately shifted to the Barasat Government Medical College & Hospital where he was declared brought dead. Villagers told the police that internal party rivalry might be the reason behind the murder. Police have identified a local resident named Gautam Das as the killer of the Trinamool Congress leader. Gautam Das, who has a criminal record, is absconding and police have registered a case against him under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code. The body of the deceased Trinamool Congress leader has been sent for post mortem.

## Tufts University bets big on Liberal Arts to nurture change agents of the future

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** In the era of Industry 4.0 and the digital revolution, it has become increasingly imperative for students to receive a holistic learning experience. This will empower them with the required skills to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape. Furthermore, with conventional education rapidly becoming insignificant, there is a growing recognition that students need to have the ability to think outside the box and effectively communicate their ideas. In line with this

transformation, Tufts University, a prominent educational institution with over 170 years of history in the US, is betting big on liberal arts education with its undergraduate programme. The Boston-based university recognises that Liberal Arts is essential for every student, irrespective of their major, as it prepares them to interpret the world around them and be better professionals. With an emphasis on collaboration, research, and quality education, Tufts University is well-positioned to make a significant impact in India and beyond. Accord-

ing to Sunil Kumar, President of Tufts University, "The knowledge landscape is changing so rapidly that most of the specific knowledge that is delivered, especially in fields like engineering, will be outdated in 20 years' time. In this regard, Liberal Arts teach you how to learn on your own and how to evolve." "Another major benefit of the liberal arts programme is exploration, as students can explore diverse domains before deciding on a major. They can figure out which career path they want to choose at their own pace, and this flexibility is especially helpful for

those who may need more clarification about their future career paths," adds Kumar. Tufts University is also a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), making it among the top 70 research universities in the US. The university's liberal arts-oriented undergraduate programme admits about 1600 students a year and 6,000 students overall in other courses, with close to 1200 faculty. The institution also aims to expand its presence in India by collaborating with Indian universities and the industry to conduct research in several domains. This



is especially significant as out of 13 per cent of international students in the university's undergraduate programme, about 7 per cent of them are Indian. According to Kumar, "India has a unique opportunity to evolve models of quality education, which the West has been unable to do. The country should provide quality

education at scale using technology, and with increasing investment in the education sector, there is ample potential for growth". On the challenges front, Kumar opines that India needs distinctive and innovative education delivery models for shaping future leaders.



### Delhi excise scam case: Kejriwal skips 7th ED summons

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday skipped the seventh summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with alleged excise policy scam case. "Instead of sending summons every day, ED should await the court's decision. We won't leave the INDIA alliance," sources said. Last week, ED had issued summons to Kejriwal and asked him to appear before the financial probe agency on Wednesday. On February 19, Kejriwal had skipped ED's sixth summons in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. The financial probe agency's complaint alleged that Kejriwal intentionally did not want to obey the summons and kept on giving "lame excuses."



### Hindu prayers to continue at Gyanvapi, Allahabad HC rejects Masjid committee's plea

**Prayagraj, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday rejected the plea filed by Muslim side challenging the Varanasi court order allowing Hindu parties to offer prayers and puja in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi Mosque. Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal delivered the verdict. The single-judge had reserved order in the matter on February 15. The plea was filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging a January 31 district court order, permitting the conduct of Hindu prayers in the southern cellar or

basement (tekhana) of the Gyanvapi Mosque. The said order was passed amid an ongoing civil court case involving conflicting claims over the religious character of the Gyanvapi compound. Among other claims, the Hindu side has said that Hindu prayers were earlier offered by the family of one Somnath Vyas in the mosque's cellar until 1993, when the Mulayam Singh Yadav-led government allegedly stopped it. The Muslim side has opposed this claim and maintained that Muslims have always had possession over the mosque's building.

### One more dies of monkey fever in K'taka; toll rises to four

**Uttara Kannada (Karnataka), Feb 28 (IANS) :** An aged woman died of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), known as monkey fever, in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district, taking the death toll due to the disease to four in the state. The deceased is a 60-year-old woman from Koorlakai village in Siddapur taluk. The victim was being treated for three days at Meggan Hospital in Shivamogga and succumbed on Wednesday night. She was diagnosed with monkey fever 20 days ago and was suffering from symptoms of high fever. In Siddapur taluk alone, the number of monkey fever cases has risen to 43. The state, which has 103 active monkey fever cases, had recorded three deaths so far, one each in Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga districts.

### K'taka BJP criticises Cong over plan to shift MLAs to resort ahead of RS elections

**Bengaluru, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Karnataka BJP has criticised the Congress over its plan to shift MLAs to a resort ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections for four seats scheduled to be held on February 28. "The Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is mired in enjoyment which came to power through blatant lies. It has indulged in enjoyment of the taxpayers' money of the state and is back to resort politics again," the Karnataka BJP wrote on social media. BJP alleged that the people in Karnataka are migrating to other

states after getting their children out of the schools but the Congress is taking the MLAs to resort for enjoyment. "The ATM government has come to power not to develop the state, or to ensure welfare of the people. The Congress government is carrying out foreign trips, tours during Telangana state election, New Delhi trips to meet high command and resort tourism in the money of Kannada people and rendering them bankrupt," the BJP said. The BJP alleged that the single agenda of the Congress is to spend recklessly for the amusement of party leaders.







## Man feels neglected by parents, kills elder brother in UP's Prayagraj

**Prayagraj, Feb 28 (IANS) :** In a shocking incident, a 24-year old man in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj killed his elder brother merely because he felt that their parents were favouring the elder son, said officials. The accused, Satyam, killed his brother Shivam, 26, on Wednesday when the latter was sleeping in their home, located in the Cantt police station area. The police have arrested the accused. Satyam and Shivan are sons of Sandeep Mishra, who is in the business of catering. His elder son, Shivam, was a final-year student of LLB at a college in Sirathu, while the younger son, Satyam, is pursuing M.Com. "Shivam was sleeping in the room upstairs while Sandeep was sitting

outside, and his wife Kiran was cooking. According to police, Satyam went to Shivam's room with an iron rod and attacked him several times while he was sleeping. On hearing the screams, Sandeep and Kiran ran up to the room to find Shivam bleeding profusely. Neighbours helped take Shivam to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead," said the police spokesman. On the father's complaint, the police have registered a case and Satyam has been arrested. A senior police official said, "During initial interrogation, the accused claimed that he was feeling neglected because his parents lavished all their attention on Shivam who was good in studies.

## Performance, intelligence not linked to any specific language: Goa Minister

**Panaji, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Goa's Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai said on Wednesday that performance and intelligence are not linked to any specific language. Minister Phal Dessai was speaking during an educational programme in South Goa's Ponda. "We send our children to 'big schools' only because they teach them to speak good English; we have a misunderstanding that mere speaking good English makes students expert. If they speak good English, it doesn't mean that they may be good in performance and intelligence. So don't link intelligence with language," he said.



## DRDO hands over licensing agreements for transfer of technology to 22 industries

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The DRDO on Wednesday handed over 23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT), across the domains of electronics, laser technology, armaments, life sciences, materials science, combat vehicles, naval systems and aeronautics, to 22 industries, an official statement said. The Defence Ministry statement said that these include manufacturing of carbon/carbon aircraft brakes for

LCA Tejas, 100 m floating infantry foot bridge, 40 mm high-explosive anti-personnel (HEAP) grenade for UBGL, full trailer of 70t tank transporter for MBT Arjun Mk-1A, expendable mobile solar-heated shelter, NMR-supercapacitor, weaponisation of hand-held thermal imager with LRF, and high-pressure water mist fire suppression system. Secretary, Defence R&D and DRDO Chairman, Dr Samir V Kamat, was present at the handover at a DRDO-Industry

Meet during the Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024 at Pune, it said, adding that the products based on these DRDO technologies will further boost the defence manufacturing sector and self-reliance in defence, it said. The DRDO handed over SAMAR (System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating) -- a benchmark to measure the competency of defence manufacturing enterprises -- certificates to nine Industry partners.

## Trinamool to flag off LS campaign with mega rally in Kolkata on March 10

**Kolkata, Feb 28 (IANS) :** West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday announced will flag off its campaign for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls with a mega rally at Brigade Parade

Ground here on March 10. Trinamool supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and party General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee will be the principal speakers at the rally.



## DMK to hold meetings with alliance partners to finalise seat sharing

**Chennai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The DMK, which aims at a clean sweep in the upcoming general elections, will conduct seat sharing talks with its alliance partners on Wednesday. The Dalit political party, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), the left parties, CPI and CPI-M and Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) leaders will hold talks with the DMK leadership led by former Union Minister T.R. Baalu at the DMK headquarters in Chennai. The DMK leadership will also hold a similar meeting with the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee

(TNCC) leadership on Wednesday. The DMK is adamant on not allocating the Coimbatore Lok Sabha seat to the CPI-M for the upcoming general elections. Sources said that the DMK has told CPI-M leaders that they can contest from Madurai and another seat but not from Coimbatore. The CPI-M State Secretary K. Balakrishnan has however said that the party is keen to contest from Coimbatore. The CPI is likely to get the Nagpattinam and Tiruppur, the two seats it is representing since 2019. The DMK has also been holding discussions with Tamil super star and President of Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) Kamal Haasan. The DMK leadership is keen that Kamal Haasan



should contest the elections along with its alliance from either Coimbatore or from one of three seats in Chennai. Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) will be contesting on two seats. Party founder Thol Thirumavalan and General Secretary C. Ravikumar -- sitting MPs are likely to be fielded again from these seats. In the 2019

general elections, DMK led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) won 38 of the 39 seats from Tamil Nadu. The party is expecting a clean sweep in the upcoming election by winning all the 39. The party leadership is conducting several layers of screening before finalising on the seat distribution among allies.



## 55 projects worth Rs 400 cr being pursued under iDEX: Indian Army Chief

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Currently under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) route, 55 Indian Army projects, worth Rs 400 crore are being pursued, which encompass 65 startups. Four contracts worth Rs 70 crore have been concluded for procurement of equipment in limited quantity for field exploitation, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj

Pande said on Wednesday. He elaborated that under the iDEX procurement all projects are mandated to be progressed through startups. The iDEX route also follows the Spiral Mode of development of indigenous technology and platforms, since exploitation of limited quantity in field conditions, enables concurrent development of equipment based on user recommendations, he added. The COAS mentioned about In-

dian Army's in-house Ideas and Innovation initiative, and informed the gathering about two innovations and the technology transferred to industry for mass production, namely 'VIDYUT RAKSHAK' an Internet of Things (IoT)-based generator protection system and a bio-medical device. He mentioned that Indian Army's endeavour to promote innovation also entails pursuing of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the products developed in collaboration with the industry.

## CBI probes killing of INLD's state chief: Haryana Home Minister

**Chandigarh, Feb 28 (IANS) :** According to the demand of the main Opposition Congress, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Wednesday informed the state Assembly that a probe by the CBI has been ordered into killing of Indian National Lok Dal's State Chief Nafe Singh Rathi. "If the House wants the probe to be conducted by the CBI, it will be conducted," Vij said. The Congress described the killing of Rathi as the state's "first political murder" and demanded a probe into the incident either by a high court judge or a high court judge-monitored CBI investigation.



## Sandeshkhali: Trinamool leader who locked himself in house after being chased by women rescued by cops



**Kolkata, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Ajit Maiti, a Trinamool Congress leader from the unrest-struck Sandeshkhali area in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, has been rescued by the police after he locked himself in his house for over four hours as he was being chased by a group of local women on Wednesday. He was detained by the police after he was persuaded by the cops to come out of the house even as an angry crowd assembled outside his residence. The allegation of the local women against Maiti is that, like two other arrested Trinamool Congress leaders -- Shibu Hazra and Uttam Sardar, he was also responsible for the oppression of women for a long time.



## Cong MP from Jharkhand's Singhbhum seat, Geeta Koda joins BJP

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** In yet another setback to the Congress which has been reeling under a series of defections by its MPs and MLAs ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, Geeta Koda, its Singhbhum MP and wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda, quit the grand old party and joined the BJP on Wednesday.

Geeta Koda, who joined the Congress in 2018, was the lone Lok Sabha MP of the party in Jharkhand. She joined the BJP on Wednesday in the presence of Babulal Marandi at its state headquarters in Ranchi. Geeta Koda was said to be miffed with alliances forged by the Congress party in Jharkhand and reportedly sent in her resignation to the party's High Command in New Delhi. After the changeover Geeta Koda hit out at her former party saying, "I joined the BJP today. The Congress has put the country in trouble by indulging in appeasement politics."

## Madras HC sets aside order discharging TN minister Periyasamy, directs him to face trial

**Chennai, Feb 28 (IANS) :** A single-judge bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday set aside an order passed by a trial court in 2023 discharging Rural Development Minister I. Periyasamy in a case booked of alleged irregular transfer of plot to the personal security officer of former Chief Minister late M. Karunanidhi. The plot in question belonged to the Tamil Nadu Housing Development Board (TNHDB).

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh directed the minister to face trial along with two other accused persons in the case, as he ordered the proceedings to be held on a day-to-day basis.



## J&K: Sajad Lone to contest from Baramulla LS seat

**Srinagar, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) has nominated Party President Sajad Lone as its candidate for the Baramulla parliamentary seat. Party General Secretary Imran Raza Ansari said that after holding discussions with all stakeholders the party has decided to field President Sajad Gani Lone from Baramulla. "We will fight only where we believe we can win on our own," he said. He said that it has been decided that the party will not contest in the Jammu region.

## Congress cry in political wilderness of J&K

**Srinagar, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Vikar Rasool Wani, president of J&K Pradesh Congress committee said on Wednesday that the Congress, the regional National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will fight the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections jointly. The statement is a tall claim given the fact that the NC president, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has categorically said that his party would fight the Lok Sabha polls on its own. Dr. Abdullah's statement had also sounded the death knell for the People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) which the elder

Abdullah heads. If there is no seat-sharing among the member political parties of the PAGD how could the Congress claim to forge an alliance with the NC and the PDP for the Lok Sabha polls? Interestingly, the Congress is not even one of the constituents of the PAGD and if the members of the PAGD cannot look into each other's eyes for seat-sharing, how can an outsider like the Congress make them sup together? The PDP had met immediately after the NC president made the statement of going solo for the five Lok Sabha seats in J&K and one seat in the Ladakh UT. Senior leaders of the PDP had expressed their dismay and resentment against Dr.

Abdullah's decision to ignore the PDP in seat-sharing. Insiders told IANS that it was decided at the PDP meeting of senior leaders that if the NC went ahead and decided to field its candidates for all three Lok Sabha seats in the Valley, then the PDP would also field its candidates for these three seats. Omar Abdullah, had said immediately after his father's statement that the option of seat-sharing with the Congress is not over and the NC could negotiate with the Congress for the Jammu-Samba-Reasi Lok Sabha seat. In another interesting development, former deputy chief minister and senior leader, Muzaffar Hussain Beigh told reporters recently that he has



not re-joined the PDP. This happened after Beigh had gone to late Mufti Sayeed's mausoleum on his death anniversary and the PDP leadership had announced the same day that Beigh had returned

to the PDP. Beigh recently attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in Jammu city and also praised the Prime Minister for his people friendly flagship programmes. "I live in a

village and I know how much the Prime Minister has done for the common man", Beigh told reporters on the sidelines of the Prime Minister's public gathering in Jammu.



## Woman Maoist cadre with Rs 6L bounty lands in Maha police net in Gadchiroli

**Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Maharashtra Police have arrested a woman Maoist leader carrying a reward of Rs 6 lakh on her head from the terror-hit Gadchiroli district, officials said here on Wednesday. The arrested person has been identified as Kamla Padaga Gota, alias Rajeshwari, who became an outlaw in 2006

when she was barely 13 years old, said Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police, Neelotpal. The arrest came in the midst of CPI-Maoist's four-month long 'tactical counter offensive campaign' (February-May) when they take up various subversive activities, arson, attacks on security forces, destruction of public properties and other violence. Hailing from Bada-Kakler village

at Bijapur in Chhattisgarh, Rajeshwari (30) had multiple cases against her for several serious offences her in different police stations in the district. Taking the extremist route as a teenager, she was recruited through the Chetana Natya Manch and in five years, she took over as its Deputy Commander.



## SC stays criminal proceedings against TN BJP chief Annamalai

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** In an interim order, the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed criminal proceedings initiated against Tamil Nadu BJP President K. Annamalai -- who in an interview given to a YouTube channel in October 2022 -- claimed that it was a Christian NGO that had first filed a case to ban use of crackers during Diwali. Observing that prima facie no case of hate speech is made out, a bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna ordered stay on further proceedings pending before the trial court.



## Foundation of media should be based solely on truth: Yogi Adityanath

**Lucknow, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, said that his government takes cognisance of all authentic news reports brought out by the media, which are not propaganda. "Media is a powerful medium to convey the sentiments of society to the government," he said. According to an official release, the chief minister -- while speaking at a media conclave -- said that his government considers every piece of news as a suggestion and takes cognisance of news reports based on facts. He emphasised that the media, encompassing print, TV, and increasingly, social and digital platforms, stands as a cornerstone of a flourishing democracy, exerting significant influence on society. "Even today, the role of print media cannot be undermined. Each of these mediums has its own set of followers," he stated. He further said, "Many people do not consider their day complete without reading a newspaper even today. At the

same time, numerous individuals have connected with digital media through smartphones and have not turned on their televisions for years. Regardless of the platform, the foundation of media should be based solely on truth." Moving beyond 'Rising UP' and discussing 'Shining UP', he mentioned that a lot has changed in the country in the past 10 years. "India is respected globally today, with secure borders, effective internal governance and world-class infrastructure. The confidence of the people has gone up and people are benefiting from welfare schemes without discrimination. For the first time, the government is paying attention to fulfilling the livelihood needs of the people while respecting their faiths," he stated. "Before 2017, more than 300 riots used to take place in the state in a year while curfew remained imposed for half of the year. Entrepreneurs were scared of investing in the state for lack of security of both themselves and their capital."

## Rajasthan : Rape accused who attacked victim loses leg after coming under train

**Jaipur, Feb 28 (IANS) :** A rape accused who attacked the victim girl in Rajasthan's Kotputli-Behror district on Saturday, forcing her to withdraw her complaint, lost one of his legs on Wednesday morning after coming under a train at a railway line in Jaipur. The accused, who has been identified as Rajendra Yadav (33), had attacked the 25-year-old victim woman and her

brother on Saturday. The girl is battling for her life at the Sawai Man Singh Medical College here. The Rajasthan police arrested Yadav on Wednesday in an injured condition. The accused was reportedly trying to escape by crossing a railway line, only to lose one of his legs after coming under a moving train. DGP U.R. Sahu said, "The police were raiding various places to ar-

rest the accused. A GRP team informed the police about a person losing his leg after coming down under a train. When the ambulance reached the spot and took the injured person to the hospital, he was identified as accused Yadav with the help of his identity card. The accused is still undergoing treatment." The officer also said that to avoid detection, the accused had changed his look by shaving his

and beard cutting his hair short. Yadav had served jail term last year on rape charge, and was reportedly pressurising the victim woman to withdraw the case that she had registered against him on June 17 last year. Soon after being released on bail, he started putting more pressure on the girl to withdraw the case.



### Afghan Education Ministry annuls 700 "ghost schools"

**Kabul, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Afghan caretaker government's ministry of education has identified and annulled 700 "ghost schools" across the country, the spokesman for the ministry Mansour Ahmad Hamza said. "The ministry of education has culled up to 700 'ghost schools' from official lists since the government took power more than two years ago," the local Television channel Tolonews quoted the official on Wednesday as saying. Xinhua news agency reported that during the previous U.S.-backed regime in Afghanistan, "ghost" schools, teachers, students, soldiers and police personnel existed as a pretext to enable those at the helm to earn money illegally from the foreign donors. Based on the information of the ministry of education, over 18,000 primary, secondary and high schools are operating in Afghanistan where 260,000 teachers are currently working, the report added.

### 25 killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza City

**Gaza, Feb 28 (IANS) :** At least 25 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza City on Wednesday, medical sources and eyewitnesses said. Fifteen people, including children, were killed and several others were wounded after warplanes hit a residential building in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City, Xinhua news agency reported, citing medical sources. According to local sources and eyewitnesses, the warplanes fired a missile at the three-story house without prior warning.



### MEA rejects reports of Indians with Russian Army seeking help for discharge

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** The Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday that it remains committed to pursuing all the relevant cases of its nationals for an early discharge from the Russian army. The remarks were in response to "inaccurate reports" in the media regarding Indians with the Russian army seeking help for discharge. "We have seen some inaccurate reports in the media regarding In-

dians with the Russian army seeking help for discharge," the ministry said in a statement. "We remain committed, as a matter of top priority, to actively pursuing with the Russian authorities all the relevant cases of Indian nationals for an early discharge from the Russian army." "Each and every such case brought to the attention of the Indian Embassy in Moscow has been strongly taken up with the Russian

authorities and those brought to the attention of the Ministry have been taken up with the Russian Embassy in New Delhi." As a result, several Indians have already been discharged, the statement read. Last week, spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal acknowledged that the ministry was aware about the recruitment of Indians by some agents who duped them into joining the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

### Ukrainian FM calls for Europe to suspend ammunition sales to third countries

**Kiev, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Europe should suspend ammunition exports to third countries other than Ukraine in light of the shortages faced by the Ukrainian military, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in an interview with a German media portal published on Wednesday, media reported. Kiev is being confronted with critical shortages of ammunition, as \$61 billion in funding from the US remains stuck in Congress, causing defence aid deliveries to run dry, The Kyiv Independent reported. Reports suggest Ukraine could face a catastrophic shortage of ammunition and air defences within weeks. "All contracts for the export of ammunition produced in Europe to third

countries must be put on hold, and all such ammunition should be sent to Ukraine," Kuleba told the media portal. "Every cartridge produced in Europe should serve the purpose of defending Europe." Ukraine's European allies are aware of the lack of ammunition and have admitted they were "too late" in deciding to "ramp up their own production, sign long-term contracts, and put new production lines into operation," according to Kuleba. "Unfortunately, we are now paying for these mistakes." The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said on February 19 following a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels that he urged member states to procure ammunition for Ukraine outside the bloc if this source of supply is "better, cheaper and quicker". Borrell added that the European defence



industry claims to be capable of increasing ammunition production, The Kyiv Independent reported. The Ministers discussed how to increase the EU's provision of shells to Ukraine through bilateral and European frameworks, according to Borrell. Earlier in February, Czechia began to push a plan to jointly finance the purchase of 800,000 artillery shells outside the bloc. Prague has suggested that Europe could turn to arms companies in South Korea, Turkey or South Africa, according to US media portal Politico. Canada has signalled that it is ready to help Czechia with the

plan, but details of the cooperation are still being established, according to CBC News on February 22. Canada may contribute up to \$22 million, CBC News said. Plans to buy ammunition from outside the bloc face opposition from France, Greece and Cyprus. While France wants to boost its domestic defence industry, Greece and Cyprus do not wish to buy arms from Turkish producers, given their tense relations with Ankara. Denmark responded to Kiev's calls for help by deciding to donate all the artillery rounds from its stockpiles to Ukraine, The Kyiv Independent

reported. "If you ask Ukrainians, they are asking us for ammunition now, artillery now. From the Danish side, we decided to donate our entire artillery," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said at the Munich Security Conference on February 17. Ukraine's withdrawal from the city of Avdiivka in Donetsk Oblast on February 17 demonstrated Ukraine's need for more artillery shells, as well as air defence systems, long-range weapons and fortifications, Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov said. Umerov had said earlier in February that Ukraine was unable to fire more than 2,000 shells per day, around a third of Russia's average daily shell usage. Estonia's Foreign Intelligence Service reported on February 13 that as well as producing new shells, Russia refurbishes Soviet stocks of artillery ammunition, allowing it to produce as many as four million units in 2023.

### MDP leader denies India backed his appointment as party president

**Male, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Maldives' main opposition leader Abdulla Shahid has denied allegations that India backed his recent appointment as the president of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), a media report said. The accusations by several government officials came after the 61-year-old leader was named to the new role without an election last week, the Sun Online news outlet reported on Wednesday. "The people currently running the government use India as their go-to excuse to invalidate anything I attempt to achieve," Shahid, who served as President of the 76th UN General Assembly between 2021 and 2022, told the news website. "At this point they may go as far as to claim my birth was influenced by India. This is the extent of their narrative right now," he added.

Asserting that the present government should realise his potential and give credit to his political achievements to date, the veteran politician clarified that he is "not a political insert by any other party or power". Shahid's comments come just after he debunked President Mohamed Muizzu's claims about "thousands of Indian military personnel" as "lies", adding that there "are no armed foreign soldiers stationed in the country". In a post shared on X yesterday, he wrote: "100 days in, it's clear: President Muizzu's claims of 'thousands of Indian military personnel' were just another in a string of lies. The current administration's inability to provide specific numbers speaks volumes. There are no armed foreign soldiers stationed in the country. Transparency matters and



the truth must prevail". The seasoned diplomat told the Sun Online in an interview that regardless of foreign policy changes, Maldives cannot distance itself from India as a regional ally. "[India] is tied to us historically, culturally, and in several other ways," he said, adding that India was among the first of its allies to assist in the 2004 tsunami crisis and the 2020 pandemic. Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu, after winning the country's presidential election in November 2023, promised to remove Indian troops from the island nation. Earlier this month, he said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back before March 10, while the remaining will be withdrawn by May 10.



### France to host allied conference to reaffirm support for Ukraine

**Paris, Feb 28 (IANS) :** French President Emmanuel Macron is due to host a conference for Kiev's partners on Wednesday to strengthen the allied commitment to Ukraine after the full-scale war entered its third year, media reported. Ukraine faces mounting challenges in early 2024. Delays in US aid caused ammunition shortages that contributed to the Ukrainian withdrawal from the key frontline city of Avdiivka, The Kyiv Independent reported. Meanwhile, Russia is ramping up pressure along the front while hiking defence spending and securing military assistance from its partners like North Korea and Iran. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. local time, will be a chance to "reaffirm their (allies') unity as well as their determina-

tion to defeat the war of aggression waged by Russia in Ukraine," the French presidency said. "We want to send Putin a very clear message, that he won't win in Ukraine," Macron's advisor said, according to Reuters. "Our goal is to crush this idea he wants us to believe that he would be somehow winning." According to the French newspaper Le Monde, the meeting is also a chance for France's head of state to present himself as a champion of the pro-Ukrainian coalition amid waning support from the US, The Kyiv Independent reported. "Two years of war. Battered and bruised, but still standing. Ukraine is fighting for itself, for its ideals, for our Europe. Our commitment at its side will not waver," Macron said on the social media platform X on February 24 on the second anniversary of the full-scale war.



### Inflammatory protein potential key to treating severe asthma : Study

**Canberra, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Australian researchers have made a breakthrough in treating severe cases of asthma. In a study published on Wednesday, researchers found that beta common cytokines, a family of proinflammatory molecules, control inflammation and scarring of the airways in severe and steroid-resistant asthma cases, Xinhua news agency reported. Asthma is a chronic lung disease that the World Health Organization estimates affected 262 million people globally in 2019.

### Jordan to continue efforts to ensure aid reaches Gaza: FM

**Amman, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has said that the Kingdom would continue to work extensively to ensure adequate aid reaches the Gaza Strip. Safadi made the remarks on Wednesday during a joint

press conference with Bulgaria's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mariya Gabriel in Amman, during which he stressed Jordan's ongoing efforts to ensure sufficient entry of aid into Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.





### Santosh Trophy: Kerala end Arunachal's quarterfinal hopes; Services trounce Assam

**Itanagar, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Kerala ended Arunachal Pradesh's hopes of making it to the knockout stage of Santosh Trophy 2023-24, handing them a 2-0 defeat at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, on Wednesday. Forward Muhammed Ashiq S and substitute Arjun V netted one in each half to win the match for Kerala. The 2021-22 Santosh Trophy champions thus gave a major boost to their chances of making it to the knockout stages; they now have seven points from four matches. Arunachal, on the other hand, have just one point from their four matches, with their hopes of making it into the top four positions in Group A going up in flames. Needing nothing short of a win to keep their chances alive, Arunachal Pradesh began the game with great gusto. Olik Tayeng, on the counter, played a defence-splitting pass to Rahul Singpho, who went through on goal. However, much to the disappointment of the local fans in the stands, the shot went agonisingly wide.

### WPL 2024: 'Renuka's two wickets gave Gujarat shock they couldn't recover from', says Saba Karim

**Bengaluru, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Royal Challengers Bangalore's fast-bowler Renuka Singh Thakur wreaked havoc with her spell of 2-14, giving Gujarat Giants a shock from which they could never recover from, believes former India men's wicketkeeper-batter Saba Karim. At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Renuka dismissed Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield by bowling from round the wicket angle. While Beth was castled through the gate, Phoebe was drawn out of the crease to drive off her and stumped easily. "It was a fantastic display. This is exactly what RCB was looking for. Renuka Singh was excellent tonight. When she bowls to right-handers, her ball comes in. It's a new skill she's developed and worked hard towards being able to deliver balls like that.



"It's not easy to add a new skill like that. She's proving to be one of the main players for RCB. Her two wickets gave Gujarat Giants the shock they couldn't recover from," said Karim to JioCinema after the match ended. Fittingly named Player of the Match, Renuka said she had been

working hard to add new deliveries and angles to her repertoire. "Very happy, bowled such a spell after a long time, especially after (coming back from) injury. I have been doing a lot of hard work, hence I am happy because I am now getting the results.

### IVPL: Munaf Patel shines as Chhattisgarh Warriors thrash Rajasthan Legends by 7 wickets

**Greater Noida, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Chhattisgarh Warriors registered a convincing seven-wicket victory over the Rajasthan Legends in the tenth match of the Indian Veteran Premier League (IVPL) at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, here on Wednesday. Former Indian pacer Munaf Patel was the star of the show, claiming a magnificent five-wicket haul and effecting a crucial run-out to dismantle the Rajasthan batting line-up. Rajasthan Legends, electing to bat first, were bundled out for a meager 110 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Their innings never really got going, losing wickets consistently throughout. Munaf Patel, the Man of the Match, wreaked havoc with his bowling, picking up five wickets for just 9 runs in just three overs. He also displayed exceptional fielding skills, running out Sri Lankan all-rounder Seekkuge Prasanna. Skipper Shadab Jakati, Amit Mishra, Milinda Siriwardana, and Jitendra Giri chipped in with a wicket each to restrict Rajasthan to a below-par total. Chasing a modest target of 111, the Chhattisgarh Warriors never looked troubled and cruised to victory in just 12.3 overs.




### Anurag Thakur emphasises the importance of sports science at National Centres of Excellence

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Sports minister Anurag Thakur emphasised the importance of sports science at the National Centres of Excellence in the country while addressing the Bharat Sports Science Conclave, here on Wednesday.

### ACA says teammates were 'threatened' to sign letter of support in favour of Hanuma Vihari, claims report

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Days after India batter Hanuma Vihari vowed to never play for Andhra in domestic cricket following political interference in him being forced to leave captaincy, the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA).



## WPL 2024: Want to create another pool of 20-25 players for the Indian team, says Amol Muzumdar

**Bengaluru, Feb 28 (IANS) :** Amol Muzumdar, head coach of the India women's cricket team, sees the ongoing 2024 Women's Premier League (WPL) as an opportunity to create a pool of players for the national team, including from a fast-bowling perspective. "In the series against Australia and England, we fielded 22 players, owing to all three formats of the game being played. I would try to want an-

other pool of 20-25 players to create a bench strength for the Indian team. "I would also intend to create a pool of fast-bowlers from the WPL, as India fielded four fast bowlers in the last series against Australia and England. It makes a lot of difference if you strengthen the bowling attack with an ample pool of pacers and spinners," said Muzumdar on the Hindi commentary feed of Tuesday's game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Giants at the M

Chinnaswamy Stadium. While talking about his vision for strengthening fielding and fitness of the national team, Muzumdar also lauded Kerala's batting all-rounder Sajana Sajeevan, who won Mumbai Indians the opening game of WPL 2024 with a six on the last ball of the game to get a four-wicket victory over the Delhi Capitals. "Sajana Sajeevan's last-ball six in the opening match gives you an idea of the depth in Indian cricket, either men's or women's

cricket. It was made clear in the first meeting to every player that fitness and fielding are the two things which are non-negotiable for me, even before the start of the two series and WPL as well." "To be at the top of these two aspects, a lot of hard work will be put in and every player is working hard for it. Plus, it's not like just talks are happening, the thought has been seen in the WPL when the players are trying to put in the effort to become better fielders."



### Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from, says James Anderson

**New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) :** England's veteran fast-bowler James Anderson revealed that former India left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan was someone he used to watch a lot and tried learning from to understand about the deliveries which can work well in conditions here during the Test matches. "There are not many better bowlers than Jasprit Bumrah,

Mohammad Shami and Mohammed Siraj. They're world-class bowlers. You put Ishant Sharma in there as well, and that's a really strong bowling attack. For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he used the reverse swing, how he covered the ball when he ran into bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," said Anderson to JioCinema. Anderson also admitted to being left in awe of Jasprit Bumrah's magical spell at Visakhapatnam.

## Shooter Arjun wins back-to-back trials, Ashi beats world record score

**Bhopal, Feb 28 (IANS) :** India's top rifle shooters continued their impressive showing at the ongoing national rifle/pistol selection trials for Group A after Paris quota holder Arjun Babuta won back-to-back trials and triple Asian Games medallist Ashi Chouksey beat the world record enroute to the victory, here. Arjun shot 252.5 in the men's 10m air rifle T4

finals, just 1.2 short of Divyansh's world record (253.7), which he had equalled on Tuesday before winning the T3 trials as well. Tamil Nadu's Sri Karthik Sabari Raj (252.2) improved upon his third place in the T3 match to finish second while Rajasthan's Yash

Vardhan came in third with a score of 230.8. In the women's 25m air pistol T4, former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat ranked first with a score of 33 in the finals, having scored 583 in the qualifications.

