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Officials should work in coordination and make the district a pioneer : Anurag Jayanthi

Rajanna Sirsilla District Collector Anurag Jayanthi said that all the officers should work in coordination and achieve the best..

02



Reliance Ethane Holding invests in three wholly owned subsidiaries

Reliance Ethane Holding Pte Ltd (REHPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has invested in 34,300,000 ordinary shares of face value of USD 1 each for cash at par, in each...

07



IPL 2024: 'Feels like I'm making my debut again', says Rishabh Pant on joining DC's pre-season camp

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant said he feels like it's his debut all over again ahead of his return to competitive.

12



Govt designing health profile of every citizen : Sridhar Babu

Ramagundam, March 13 (NSS): Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao informed that the State government is designing a health profile of every citizen and it

is also working aimed at providing free medical services on the lines of the corporate hospitals to all sections of the people in Telangana State.

Continued on pg 02



Ponguleti condemns KCR's greedy remarks

Hyderabad, March 13 (NSS): Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has strongly condemned former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's comments during the public

meeting held at Karimnagar that the people have become greedy and cast their votes in favour of Congress in the recent Assembly elections. In a statement here on Wednesday, the Minister criticised

that KCR was insulting the people's mandate and was making fun at the election process saying that people have become greedy.

Continued on pg 02

New vehicles in Telangana will now use 'TG' prefix

Hyderabad, March 13 (IANS) : New vehicles in Telangana will now use 'TG' prefix in registration numbers as the new Congress government has changed the state's abbrevia-

tion. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a gazette notification in this regard. The state government had last month decided to change the state's abbreviation.



Bhutan premier to arrive in India for bilateral talks with PM Modi

New Delhi, March 13 (IANS) : Bhutan Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay will arrive in India on Thursday to expand the enduring ties of friendship and cooperation between the two nations. In his first overseas visit from March 14-18 after assuming office in January, 2024.



Bandi slams former CM KCR

Karimnagar, Mar 13 (NSS): BJP MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar today came down heavily on former CM KCR and claimed that BRS party representatives were hating KCR for his unusual acts when he was the CM of the State.

Addressing mediapersons at Maitri Hotel in Karimnagar, Bandi Sanjay lashed out at KCR and the BRS party leaders. He claimed that KCR was scolded by the Telangana community, but added that the former CM failed to realise their anger. He claimed that the BRS party leaders were again trying to convince the people with blatant lies and fantasies.



TDP-BJP-JSP gearing up for first show of strength in Andhra ahead of polls

Amaravati, March 13 (IANS) : The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been making large-scale arrangements for the successful conduct of the March 17 public meeting at Chilakaluripet, their first after forging the alliance for upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in Andhra Pradesh. The NDA partners plan to mobilise numerous people for the meeting, which will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Jana Sena leader and actor Pawan Kalyan. This will also be the first public meeting to be addressed by the trio after a decade.

CM's Iftar party on March 15, Shabbir Ali reviews arrangements

Hyderabad, Mar 13 (NSS): Advisor to Telangana Government Mohammed Ali Shabbir reviewed the arrangements for the Iftar party hosted by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on March 15 at LB Stadium.

Newly appointed chairpersons Syed Azmatullah Hussaini (Wakf Board), Khushro Pasha Biyabani (Haj Committee), Taher Bin Hamdan (Urdu Academy) and Obaedullah Kotal (Minority Finance Corporation).



Telangana BJP leaders hail decision to celebrate 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'

Hyderabad, Mar 13 (IANS) : BJP leaders in Telangana on Wednesday hailed the decision of the Centre to celebrate September 17 as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'.

north eastern region G. Kishan Reddy, who is also the state President of BJP, termed the decision 'historic' and called September 17 a day of liberation and legacy. He said that the move honours the sacrifices made and instils a patriotic feeling in the minds of the



youth. "This historic decision marks a significant step towards remembering the martyrs who fought for Hyderabad's freedom.



BRS party corporator attacked

Hyderabad, Mar 13 : BRS Party Corporator from Vengal Rao Dedipya Rao has once again in news over the issue.

Naidu sacrificed fight for special status : Vijayasai Reddy



Amaravati, Mar 13 (IANS) : YSR Congress parliamentary party leader V. Vijayasai Reddy on Wednesday said that by partnering with the BJP, the TDP President N. Chandrababu Naidu has sacrificed Andhra Pradesh's fight for special category status. The Rajya Sabha

member alleged that in greed to become Chief Minister, Naidu has also allowed for the privatisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Vijayasai Reddy said by partnering with the BJP, the former Chief Minister also decided to stop the socio-economic caste census and go back to (National Pension Scheme) for government employees. The YSR Congress leader was reacting to Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Ponguleti condemns KCR's greedy remarks

Continued From pg 01

"As long as people vote in favour of KCR, the people are good. When they have cast

votes against the BRS party, KCR is talking as if people are stupid and have no sense," Ponguleti pointed out. He also found fault

with KCR for not issuing a statement till now on the people's verdict and not accepting his party defeat in the recent Assembly

elections. Responding to the Minister said, "If one tooth is decayed, it can be treated."

CHANGE OF NAME

I B KASIVISWANATH(Old name)/S/o. ANJAEYASASTRY H-no: 7-3-409/1, Vijaya nagar colony -2, Sai Baba Temple, Khanapuram Haveli Khammam (Urban) Khammam District, State SHARMA, Here after my name known as BODDUPALLI KASIVISWANTH SHARMA S/o. ANJAEYASASTRY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I BOLLAM PUSHVATHI (OLD NAME) H/o. BOLLAM GANDHI Singareddy palem (Village) Nellokondapalle (Mandal) Khammam District Telangana State. I have changed my name as BOLLAM PUSHPAVATHI. Here after my name known as BOLLAM PUSHPAVATHI H/o. BOLLAM GANDHI.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XIX JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE CITY CIVIL COURTS AT HYDERABAD O.S.No.1708 of 2019

Between: Canara Bank, DPDO Branch, Hyderabad ...Plaintiff And Sri Vazrapu Laxmi Narasimha Rao and another ...Defendants To 1. Sri Vazrapu Laxmi Narasimha Rao S/o. Late V. Satya Narayana Murthy, aged about 59 years, Occ: P.S. to Chief Engineer, R/o H.No. 9-1-19/42/A, Vinayak Nagar, Langer House, Hyderabad - 500008 Ph.No.9440474910 2. Sri Narasimha Rao S/o. Late R.V. Ramaiah, aged about 64 years, Occ: Employee (UDC) R/o H.No. 10-5-819/2, Nandana Nagar, N. Lalaguda, Sec-500017, Ph.No. 9676674259. Take notice that the above named Plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you for recovery of Rs.89,423/- together with costs and future interest. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court in person on the 20th March, 2024, at 10.30 am. In default of your appearance on the day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. // By order of the court // N. Venugopal Rao Advocate



Rajanna District Reddy Welfare Association is happy about the formation of Reddy Corporation

Rajanna Sirisilla, March 13 (TIM Bureau) : The Rajanna Sirisilla District Reddy Welfare Association celebrated the formation of the Rashtra Reddy Corporation to help the development of the poor Reddy children for the upliftment of the Reddy children and celebrated by offering milk to the portrait of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Revanth Reddy organized celebrations in Sirisilla under the leadership of

tion President Kura Anji Reddy, welcoming the Chief Minister and the Congress government to give a green signal to the establishment of the corporation as per the promise that the Reddy children have organized many movements for the Reddy Corporation for years with the aim of achieving the rights of the Reddys who are losing. Palabhishekam was performed for the image, tapas were broken and sweets were distributed. In a press conference orga-

nized on this occasion, the District President of Reddy Welfare Association Kura Anji Reddy said that it is heartening that Revanth Reddy, who took over the post of Chief Minister as per Anandu's promise that if Revanth Reddy comes to power, the Reddy Corporation will be set up within three months, the Cabinet has decided to set up the Reddy Corporation.



Officials should work in coordination and make the district a pioneer : Anurag Jayanthi

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 13 (TIM Bureau) : Rajanna Sirisilla District Collector Anurag Jayanthi said that all the officers should work in coordination and achieve the best results and make the district a pioneer in the development path. District Collector Revenue Khimya Naik, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) P Gauthami presented the 2024 New Year Calendar and Diary organized by District Officers Association

Rajanna Sirisilla in the District Collector Chamber (DOARS) on Wednesday. Invented. "In this program DOARS District Secretary Dr. Vinod Kumar, Treasurer P.B. Srinivasachari, Vice President G. Srinivas Reddy, Joint Secretary Dr. K. Komuraya, "Publicity Secretary Anurag Jayanthi, Additional Collector Revenue Khimya Naik, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) P Gauthami presented the 2024 New Year Calendar and Diary organized by District Officers Association and others participated.



Community contact program for maintenance of law and order

Inform the police if you see suspicious people
52 two-wheelers without proper documents, on auto impounded

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 13 (TIM Bureau) : Rajanna Sirisilla District SP Akhil Mahajan conducted a community contact program on Wednesday morning at Sundarayya Nagar (Shik Wada) under the Town Police Station under the supervision of Sirisilla DSP Chandrasekhar Reddy. He said that this program has been organized so that the problems can be known directly. He said that everyone who drives vehicles must have RC, insurance, and diving license for their vehicles. If anyone is roaming suspiciously in the villages, they should immediately call the

police or dial 100 and action will be taken immediately. "CC for more self defense in villages. He said that there will be co-operation of the police in this matter to install cameras and CC cameras play a vital role in security aspects and crime control. He said that this program will be conducted frequently and strict action will be taken against those who are involved in illegal activities such as ganja, gudumba transportation and sales. In this program, Town C. I Raghupathi, Sadan Kumar, SI police personnel, central police personnel, district guard personnel, police personnel participated.

UCO BANK SD ROAD BRANCH D.No.9-1-38, YMCA Complex, Sardar Patel Road, Secundrabad-500003

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER 9(1) THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the bank has issued a demand notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT and thereafter in exercise of powers under section 13(12) of SARFAESI ACT has taken Possession of properties mortgaged to bank under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT and the undersigned in the capacity of Authorized Officer has decided to sell the properties of Borrowers/ Guarantors detailed herein below for realization of bank dues by inviting tenders from public

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor & Balance Outstanding: Mr. Kancharla Venkata Krishna Rao, S/o. Mr. KVS Bhaskara Rao & Mrs. Kancharla Sree Lalitha, W/o. Kancharla Venkata Krishna Rao.

Balance Outstanding as on 30.01.2024: Rs.45,44,311.40 (Rs. Forty Five Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eleven and Forty Paise Only) plus subsequent interest & other charges.

Description of the Property: All that Flat No.502 in 5th Floor of "Sripada Towers" admeasuring 1010 sq.ft (including common area) and Car parking area of 84 sq.ft in the still floor together with proportionate undivided share of land of 27 sq.yards out of total extent of land 567 sq.yds or 474.84 sq.mts in the entire premise bearing M.C.H. No.8-3-988/18 & 8-3-988/4 situated at SBH Colony, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad & Bounded by: North: Corridor & Flat No.501, South: Flat No.503, East: Open to sky, West: Open to sky. (Sale Deed No.895/2006 Dated 23.02.2006)

Reserve Price: Rs.61,88,000/- Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.6,18,800/- Bid Increment: Rs.25,000/-

Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is. 15.04.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

Date of Inspection of Property: 02.04.2024, 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.

Date & Time of Auction: 16.04.2024, 11:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M. with auto extension of 10 min

Terms and Conditions: 1) Sale shall be subjected to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale available/ published in the following websites/ web portal I) https://www.mstcecommerce.com, II) https://ibapi.in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. Sale will be conducted by the undersigned through e-auction platform provide at the above websites on Date 16.04.2024 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM. 2) The properties is being sold on "As is Where is Basis" & "As is What is Basis" & "Whatever There is Basis" & "Without Recourse Basis". 3) Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the Bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75% of the bid amount. 4) The Particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 5) The sale is subject to conditions/ Rules/ Provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Rules framed there under and the conditions mentioned above. For more details if any prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer/ branch head. 6) It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

Date: 13.03.2024, Place: Hyderabad. Sd/- Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



Food Festival at Gopal Nagar Government School

Sirisilla, Mar 13 (TIM Bureau) : A food festival was organized at Gopal Nagar Government Primary School, Sirisilla, Rajanna Sirisilla district town. In this program, District Education Officer A. Ramesh Kumar, SO Padmaja, School Complex Headmaster L. Motilal, School principals B.Chandrakala school teachers Venu, Ajay Kumar, Shivakumar, Priyanka, Bhavani Pindi, Mamta students also participated. Speaking about this program, the district education officer said that by undertaking such programs, children will know about the importance of nutritious food. Similarly, it has been said that many types of such dishes can be prepared at home. He informed that eating junk food can lead to health problems and eating home-made dishes provides nutritious food. All the children were appreciated to be disciplined to study well.



KCR should be held responsible for drought in Telangana : Jeevan Reddy

Hyderabad, Mar 13 (NSS): Congress MLC Jeevan Reddy said that former chief minister K Chandrashekar should be held responsible for the current drought situation prevailed in the Telangana State. Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, the Congress leader alleged that KCR's inefficiency was the main reason for the non-

availability of irrigation water for the Kharif season in Telangana and he had brought drought to the State. Terming the Mission Bhagiratha scheme as a failure project, Jeevan Reddy alleged that KCR had launched the Mission Bhagiratha only aimed at accumulating the wealth in the name of providing drinking water.

Govt designing health profile of every citizen : Sridhar Babu

Continued From pg 01 Minister Sridhar Babu along with District Collector Muzammil Khan, Police Commissioner M Srinivas, MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new 355-bed hospital build-

ing at an estimated cost of Rs.142 crores at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister informed

that the State government has also sanctioned a nursing college in connection with the medical college in Ramagundam area.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited) Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative Office: 6th Floor (Level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation dt.30-11-2022). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/ guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/ guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1) Sri Krishna Family Restaurant and Bar, Represented by Madasu Venkata Subharao, S/o. Venkateswarlu, Age: 55 yrs, R/o: H.No. 1-780/2, Opp. Bharath Petrol Bunk, Jiljigumadu, Madhira, Khammam, Telangana, Pin-507203. 2) Madasu Venkata Subharao, S/o. Venkateswarlu, Age: 55yrs, R/o: H.No.1-780/2, Opp. Bharath Petrol Bunk, Jiljigumadu, Madhira, Khammam, Telangana, Pin-507203. 3) Madasu Mani Deepak, S/o. Venkata Subharao, Age: 34yrs, R/o. H.No.1-780/2, Opp. Bharath Petrol Bunk, Jiljigumadu, Madhira, Khammam, Telangana, Pin-507203. 4) Addagiri Satish Kumar, S/o. Murlikrishna, Age: 29yrs, R/o. H.No.1-115B, Setyalapadu, Meduru (PO), Krishna, Pin-521401.	08.08.2023	17.01.2024
	Rs. 60,00,000/-	Rs. 50,00,350/-

MDHR1TF2103150002: Description of the Immovable Property, Property Holder Name: Madasu Mani Deepak With Document No.4378/2021: Item No.1: Open Plots Bearing Nos.126 and 127 to an Extent of 600 sq.yards or 501.678 Sq.mtrs in and out of Sy.No.162/A, AA, 163, 131/AA situated at Konda Bheemanapally Revenue Village and GP Devarakonda Mandal of Nalgonda District is Bounded by: Towards East: Site of others, Towards West: Plot No.128 and 129, Towards North: 50 Ft width Internal Road, Towards South: 30 Ft width Internal Road. Item No.2: Open Plots Bearing Nos.128 and 129 to an Extent of 600 sq.yards or 501.678 Sq.mtrs in and out of Sy.No.162/A, AA, 163, 131/AA situated at Konda Bheemanapally Revenue Village and GP Devarakonda Mandal of Nalgonda District is Bounded By: Towards East: Plot No.126, Towards West: Plot No.132, Towards North: Plot No.129, 131, Towards South: 30 Ft width Internal Road.

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

Date: 12.03.2024, Place: Devarakonda Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



SBI PLEA FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE ON ELECTORAL BOND DETAILS IS UNSUSTAINABLE

The Supreme Court of India had struck down the electoral bonds scheme as unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary. That the Modi government would find this verdict unpalatable is not surprising, given the fact that the electoral bonds scheme was devised by it to legitimise political corruption. The government has moved through the State Bank of India (SBI) to undermine the implementation of the judgment. The Supreme Court had directed that all the details of electoral bonds purchased since April 2019 must be made public, including the date of purchase, the name of the buyer and the denomination of the bond. For this, the State Bank of India, which was the sole agency for the transaction of electoral bonds, was asked to submit all the relevant details of the bonds to the Election Commission of India by March 6 and thereupon the Election Commission was to make public all the details by March 13. The SBI has approached the Supreme Court on March 4 asking for more time to submit the details of electoral bond transactions. It has asked for an extension of the time till June 30. This would mean that instead of 21 days given to the SBI by the Supreme Court, the bank now wants another 116 more days to complete the work. In effect, the public will be informed about the details of the electoral bonds only after the Lok Sabha elections are over and a new government is formed.

The request of the SBI has been met with widespread criticism and ridicule. All banking operations of the SBI are digitalised. According to a RTI reply given by the SBI, Rs 60,43,005 was spent on IT system's development for the floating of electoral bonds out of a total cost of Rs 1,50,15,338. If over Rs 60 lakh was spent for developing an IT system for the electoral bonds scheme, how is it that the SBI now claims that certain records of the electoral bonds have been kept manually and in sealed covers at the Mumbai headquarters of the SBI?

When a bond is purchased at a designated branch of the SBI by any person or entity, that would be recorded digitally. When the bearer bond is deposited at any of the other designated SBI branches, for that too there would be a digital record. As early as in 2019, Nitin Sethi writing in the HuffPost India had shown how a bond issued by the SBI carries a secret alphanumeric code, which can be used to keep track of who bought a bond and to which party it has been donated to. Even if some of the records have been kept manually, there is no reason whatsoever to believe that accounting for 22,217 electoral bonds cannot be done in a space of 21 days. All that the SBI needed to do was to put additional personnel for the job. It is, therefore, crystal clear that the SBI has come out with a lame excuse and spurious reasons which amount to insulting the intelligence of the Supreme Court. The ulterior intent is also evident from the fact that the SBI filed its petition in the court just a day before March 6, so that missing the deadline becomes a fait accompli. The Modi government and the ruling BJP have every reason to try and scuttle the publication of the details of the electoral bonds so far issued and redeemed. As the court itself pointed out, the scheme was so devised as to facilitate a quid pro quo. Once the break-up of Rs 6,565 crore worth of bonds received by the BJP is known, then it can be correlated to which company or individual capitalist had donated the bond and what policy or favour was given as a quid pro quo.

There is another angle which will be exposed by the publishing of the details of the electoral bonds received by the BJP. A study conducted recently by the Newsland and The News Minute of corporate donations received by the BJP (not through electoral bonds) shows that there are at least 30 companies, which donated a total of nearly Rs 335 crore to the BJP in the five previous financial years, had faced action by central agencies during the same period.

(By P. Sudhir)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

LATEST RUSSIAN SPACE WEAPONS ARE A GROWING CONCERN FOR WESTERN NATIONS

Recent news about Russia testing new space technology has made countries all over the world worried. The future of warfare is expected to involve autonomous weapons, robots, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Another crucial aspect that has come up is the competition for control over space. Satellites in orbit offer various important functions for combat systems on Earth, such as GPS navigation for weapons and soldiers, monitoring enemy activities, and command and control operations. Attacking or hindering these satellites can significantly impact military effectiveness on the ground. Earlier this month, Michael R. Turner, who leads the U.S. House Intelligence Committee, stated that a new advancement in space technology by Russia is becoming a significant threat to national security. The following day, John Kirby, a spokesperson for the US National Security Council, confirmed that the information had been provided to the US Intelligence Committee and would also be shared with other members of Congress.

(IPA Service)



BOLIVIA'S RULING LEFTWING MOVEMENT VERTICALLY SPLIT BEFORE PREZ ELECTIONS IN 2025

Bolivia which elected the Left wing President Luis Arce in 2020 giving a big boost to the Left and progressive forces in Latin America, is facing a split in its political leadership with the present president fighting the former president and Arce's mentor Evo Morales. Since the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) returned to power under Luis Arce in 2020, ex-president Evo Morales has been honing his support base with the hope of returning as president. But in December last year, Bolivia's Plurinational Constitutional Court ruled that presidents can only hold power for a maximum of two terms and

that indefinite reelection "is not a human right." The ruling dealt a catastrophic blow to the presidential ambitions of the thrice-elected Morales.

Morales has since accused Arce, his former economy minister and close ally, of orchestrating an attempt to outlaw him from holding office, declaring on X, formerly Twitter, that a "judicial coup" is underway.

To force elections for a new judiciary, which should have been held in December in accordance with the plurinational constitution, in late January Morales mobilized his base in the coca-growing heartland of Cochabamba to form roadblocks, along the roads con-

necting Cochabamba with the business hub of Santa Cruz. The blockades, combining demands for judicial elections with other local grievances, have caused food and fuel shortages and have been suppressed by security forces. Huáscar Salazar, an economist and a member of the Centro de Estudios Populares in Bolivia says there is little hope of conciliation between the two camps. "What we are experiencing at this moment is that arm-twist, in which Evo and Arce dispute the acronym of the Movement Toward Socialism and, especially, the candidacy for the presidency of that party for 2025."

(IPA Service)

BJP-BJD ALLIANCE IN ODISHA CAN SHIELD BJP FROM POSSIBLE LOSS IN LOK SABHA POLLS

Talks for BJP-BJD alliance in Odisha is in advanced state. "There were discussions on the alliance among other issues," said BJP MP Jual Oram, adding "the party's central leadership will make the final call." Obviously, there is greater possibility of pre-poll alliance between the two parties, and if it becomes a reality, BJP may hope for shielding its possible loss from Odisha in the Lok Sabha election 2024, especially those seats which it had won by a very thin margin in 2019. BJP wants to "prioritise the greater interests of the people of Odisha" as BJD's Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra told reporters. For Congress, it is indeed a bad news, though it has only one Lok Sabha seat and 9 Vidhan Sabha seats at stake. In National Politics, BJD has always sided with the BJP even without alliance, but BJP's deft move for pre-poll alliance with BJD, would rule out any

possibility of BJD's alliance with INDIA Bloc or any collaboration in future.

In the last 15 years, Odisha politics has undergone a significant change, especially after 2009 when BJP-BJD alliance broke after 11 years of partnership. During this period, the BJP has emerged as chief opposition in the state, while BJD led by Navin Patnaik remained the most popular political leader. Congress has been relegated to the third position, which is evident from the results of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections simultaneously held in 2019.

The state sends 21 Lok Sabha members. BJD had won 12 seats, while BJP had won 8, and only 1 seat went to Congress. Barring only two seats—Koraput and Nabarangpur—Congress was not in one-on-one contest. Congress lost Nabarangpur seat to BJD by a margin of 41,634 votes, while it won Koraput defeating BJD by a



very thin margin of 3,613. In as many as 19 seats BJP and BJD were in contests. The result shows that even after a pro-BJP Hindutva wave after Pulwama attack, BJP could win only 8 seats, out of which it won 6 seats with a very thin margin—Sambalpur by a margin of 9,162 votes; Mayurbhanj by a margin of 25,256 votes; Balasore by a margin of 12,956 votes; Bolangir by a margin of 19,516 votes; Kalahandi by a margin of 26,814 votes; and Bhubaneswar by a margin of

23,839 votes. This time, when there is no wave in favour of BJP, the party is running a risk of losing these to BJD. This is the real cause behind BJP's move to realign with BJD. When PM Narendra Modi and the BJP are seeking for their third term, they can't afford to lose any of the Lok Sabha seats it had won in 2019. BJP not only trying to secure and or retain all the 8 Lok Sabha seats it has at present, but also trying to increase its national tally.

(IPA Service)

LEGAL GUARANTEE FOR MSP AND EXPANSION OF PDS ARE IMPERATIVE

In early March, the price of Kinnor fruit at Gaddiannaram fruit market, Hyderabad is Rs 40 a Kilogram. While oranges and apples are increasingly dumped in to Indian markets from California or New Zealand, small farmers in Punjab are distressed for not receiving even half the cost of production. Today, WTO has become a major barrier for both crop MSPs and Public Stock Holding (cheap ration under PDS). This is the outcome of India's entry in to WTO nearly three decades back. After nearly three decades of WTO, our farmers are in distress and over 10,000 died by suicide in 2019 alone (Down to Earth, 2020). That's why agitating farmers are demanding India to quit WTO. When India joined WTO, big promises were made to farmers.

CONGRESS SEEKS VOTES ON RIGHT TO EMPLOYMENT, MINIMUM WAGE GUARANTEE

Seeking to woo the country's youth, the Congress has promised the "right to employment" as well as Rs.1 lakh a year apprenticeship for youths after graduation as part of its poll promise for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, besides mulling stringent punishment to those responsible for paper leaks in examinations. Addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Rahul Gandhi promised 'five justices' to youths, including filling government vacancies, permanent jobs, freedom from recruitment exam paper leaks, social security for gig workers and a startup fund for youths below 40 years of age. While Rahul Gandhi promised a legal guarantee on minimum support price for crops to farmers and a '5,000 crore fund "Yuva Roshni"



for startups. He said that the Congress promises to provide 30 lakh jobs to youths on priority basis if they come to power, calling it 'Bharti Bharosa'. He assured of bringing out a yearly calendar, which would follow a certain time frame for filling up job vacancies.

(IPA Service)

China considering military facilities in multiple locations including Pakistan : US intelligence

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : China is reportedly considering pursuing military facilities in multiple locations, including Pakistan, Burma, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, and the UAE, as per the latest report by US Intelligence Community. These facilities are beyond developing its military base in Djibouti and its military facility at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia. "Beijing will focus on building a fully modernised national de-

fence and military force by 2035 and for the PLA to become a world-class military by 2049. In the meantime, the CCP hopes to use the PLA to secure what it claims is its sovereign territory, to assert its preeminence in regional affairs, and to project power globally, particularly by being able to deter and counter an intervention by the US in a cross-Strait conflict," the assessment by the US intelligence said. However, China lacks recent warfighting experience, which probably would weaken the PLA's effectiveness



and leaders' willingness to initiate a conflict, it said. "Xi Jinping's prioritisation of security and stability for the CCP is undermining China's ability to solve complex domestic problems," it added. "Beijing's hardline approach to alleged separatism in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Tibet, as well as broader crackdowns on religion and dissent in China, have generated widespread global criticism of China's human rights abuses and extraterritorial interference," it added.



Israel releases 56 Palestinians detained from Gaza Strip

Gaza, Mar 13 (IANS) : Israel has released 56 Palestinians who were detained during the recent ground operation in Gaza, according to the General Authority for Crossings and Borders in Gaza. The Palestinians were released through the Kerem Shalom crossing in the southern Gaza Strip, the Authority said on

Wednesday in a press statement. The statement claimed that traces of torture were observed on the bodies of the released individuals, Xinhua news agency reported. Local sources and Palestinian human rights organisations reported that the Israeli army had arrested dozens of Palestinians during the operation and transferred them to undisclosed locations.



Belarus toughens army combat readiness amid NATO drills

Minsk, Mar 13 (IANS) : Belarus has started a full-scale inspection of the combat readiness of the armed forces, in light of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)'s exercises going on near its borders, said the Defense Ministry. "The armed forces are paying great attention to maintaining a high level of combat and mobilisation readiness in the current aggravated military-political situation," the Ministry said on

Wednesday in a Telegram post, citing Viktor Gulevich, Chief of the General Staff of the Belarusian Armed Forces and first Deputy Defence Minister. Gulevich said that the inspection is also a response to the NATO maneuvers taking place throughout Europe, including the Polish-led Dragon 24 exercises underway within the framework of the NATO Steadfast Defender military drills, the largest in Europe

over decades, Xinhua news agency reported. He said designated military units of the country's armed forces will conduct a series of exercises, and such reactions will be intensified in the future, including increasing the participating troops.



'Food for Gaza' plan unveiled in Italy to coordinate int'l humanitarian aid

Rome, Mar 13 (IANS) : Three multilateral food and aid agencies, together with Italy, have unveiled a "Food for Gaza" initiative aimed at coordinating international humanitarian efforts. The initiative is made to increase food and health aid in Gaza in the short term, and then to focus -- in the long term -- on the human and social reconstruction of Gaza, according to Antonio Tajani, Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation; Cindy McCain, executive director of the World Food Program; and Deputy Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Xavier Castellanos were present at the event held at the headquarters of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Xinhua news agency reported. "This is a program whose objective is to coordinate the activities of these important institutions," Tajani said. "Together we want to focus on projects and the creation of a humanitarian aid corridor." Tajani added the corridor will start from the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus, noting that current efforts to bring aid to the citizens of Gaza via airlifts are "proving to be inadequate".



South Korea providing consular assistance to its national arrested in Russia

Seoul, Mar 13 (IANS) : South Korean foreign ministry on Wednesday said it has been providing consular assistance to its national arrested in Russia reportedly on espionage charges. Russia's TASS news agency reported Monday that South Korean citizen Baek Wonsoon has been held in the Lefortovo detention facility in Moscow since late February, and a court extended his detention until June 15, citing a law enforcement official, Yonhap news agency reported. Baek was arrested by Russian law enforcement earlier this year in the Russian Far East city of Vladivostok and transferred to Moscow for further investigation, according to the news report. TASS cited a law enforcement source as saying that Baek was handing over clas-

sified information to foreign intelligence agencies. South Korea's foreign ministry confirmed the arrest. "Upon learning of the arrest, the local diplomatic mission has been providing necessary consular assistance," the ministry said. It declined to give further details, citing an ongoing investigation. It marks the first time a South Korean has been arrested in Russia on spying charges. Baek, a missionary with a South Korean humanitarian foundation, was working in Vladivostok at the time of the arrest, mostly engaged in helping North Korean defectors flee and providing them with other assistance, people with knowledge of the matter told Yonhap. The Russian authorities had arrested Baek's wife as well but later released her. She is currently in South Korea.

Five killed after school bus collides with semi-truck in US

Washington, Mar 13 (IANS) : Five people, including three children, were killed after a school bus collided with a semi-truck on a highway in Rushville, about 91 km northwest of the US Illinois state capital, Springfield. Addressing a press briefing, Illinois State Police said the crash happened on Wednesday around 11:30 a.m. (1730 GMT) when the school bus heading east on US Route 24 crossed the center line into the westbound lanes for an "unknown reason" and collided with the semitruck carrying sand, Xinhua news agency reported. Both vehicles erupted into flames after the collision. All four people aboard the school bus, including the driver and three children -- one five years old and two three years old -- as well as the driver of the semitruck were pronounced dead at the scene. Following the incident, the school district canceled school on Tuesday and Wednesday.



US sanctions against country caused \$700 bn GDP loss: Venezuelan VP

Caracas, Mar 13 (IANS) : Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez has said the US sanctions against the country have caused losses of nearly \$700 billion in GDP. At an international seminar in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on Wednesday, the Vice President said Venezuela's oil industry sustained losses of almost 232 billion dollars due to the sanctions, which have in addition frozen more than 22 billion dollars Venezuelan assets in international banks, Xinhua news agency reported. The US, she said, has failed to comply with the lifting of sanctions as established in the Barbados Agreement reached between the government and Venezuelan opposition parties in October 2023. The agreement brought a relief, known as General License 44, from the US on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in October 2023, but the Joe Biden administration reimposed sanctions on Venezuela in January, saying the move was in response to Maduro's decision to ban a leading opposition candidate from running for president. In view of US unilateral policies, Latin America "essentially" needs a new financial architecture, Rodriguez said. "If we want to think about a new financial architecture, we must carry out trade in our own currencies," said the Venezuelan vice president.



Yemen's Houthis launch new attack on Red Sea cargo vessel

Sanaa, Mar 13 (IANS) : Yemen's Houthi movement has launched a missile strike in the Red Sea against a vessel identified as the US ship Pinocchio, said the group's military spokesman, Yahya Sarea, on Wednesday. The statement, disseminated via the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, claimed the strike was precise. Sarea also said that the Houthis plan to intensify their attacks during Ramzan in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported. The UK Maritime Trade Operations announced an incident concerning the Liberian-flagged container vessel Pinocchio, which took place 71 nautical miles southwest of Hodeidah, a port under Houthi control, on Monday. No casualties or ship damage have been

reported. Also on Wednesday, Houthi media outlets reported nine airstrikes by what they described as a US-British coalition in areas around Hodeidah port. These strikes were aimed at military positions held by the Houthis,

reported local sources. Since November, the Houthis have increasingly targeted commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which they claim is in retaliation for Israeli strikes in Gaza.





NBW issued against Tauqeer Raza Khan for 2010 riots

Lucknow, Mar 13 (IANS) : The court of Additional District Judge (fast track), Bareilly, has issued a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) Chief Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan for avoiding court orders. ADJ Ravi Kumar Diwakar issued the warrant against Tauqeer Raza and ordered the circle officer city (1) to serve the warrant, arrest and present him in the court by March 13. The court had summoned Tauqeer Raza on Wednesday

accusing him of being the mastermind of the 2010 Bareilly riots. However, despite several attempts, cops could not trace Maulana and his house was found locked. When the police informed the court that Maulana could not be located, the court issued the NBW against him. Police said that Maulana's neighbours informed them that he along with his family members was in Delhi.



3 killed as car rams into bus in UP's Pratapgarh

Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), Mar 13 (IANS) : Three persons, including a six-year-old girl, were killed and two women seriously injured on Wednesday night when a car hit a roadways bus on the Prayagraj-Lucknow highway here, the police said. The police added that the incident took place near Bishia village in the Hathigawan area when some people were going to Mangarh ashram from Prayagraj in a car. Kunda Circle Officer (CO), Ajit Singh, said that the car rammed into a roadways bus, injuring five persons, including two women.

Congress slams Pinarayi Vijayan over 'double stand' on CAA

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 13 (IANS) : Kerala Leader of the Opposition (LoP) V.D.Satheesan on Wednesday asked Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to come clean on his on the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). "He says CAA will not be implemented in Kerala but at the same time he has not released people arrested against CAA in 2019. Despite numerous assurances, the cases have not been withdrawn. It is clear that Vijayan is standing with the people who support the implementation of CAA," Satheesan said. He said that the police have also registered cases against Congress workers who protested on Wednesday following the announcement.

In 2019, Kerala witnessed huge protests against the implementation of CAA. A record 831 cases were registered by the Kerala Police against those who took to the streets protesting against the CAA. Of these, just 134 cases have only been withdrawn and the Congress-led opposition on a few occasions both inside and outside the state assembly had also raised the issue. "We are very clear and we have all along opposed CAA. We will continue our protests more strongly and the details of the protests will be made public after our party meeting on Wednesday," added Satheesan. The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) youth wing of the CPI-M on Wednesday said it will move the Supreme Court against Central government's decision to enforce CAA. Meanwhile, various



political parties took to the streets to protest against the move of the Centre. However, State BJP president K.Surendran said it's foolish of the Vijayan government to say that the CAA won't be implemented in the state. "This is nothing but an election gimmick to please the Muslim community. What does Vijayan think, does he think that Kerala state is a dowry which he got? It's foolish to say that Kerala will not implement CAA," said Surendran.

Welfare programmes announced for servitors of Puri's Jagannath Temple

Bhubaneswar, Mar 13 (IANS) : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced several welfare programmes for the sevayats (servitors) of the Jagannath Temple at Puri. The state government has announced that coaching will be provided to

servitors' children intending to appear in any entrance examination for professional courses, the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement. The servitors' children will also get financial assistance of Rs 50,000 each for various entrance examinations, such as NEET, JEE, Civil Service etc.

coaching. They will get the assistance for a maximum of three times. The health insurance cover of the servitors and their families has also been increased from the existing Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The government also announced that an additional amount of Rs 5 lakh will be given in cases of criti-

cal illness. The state government has provided Rs 10.85 crore to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to bear the additional expenditure to be incurred due to welfare initiatives like enhancement of insurance coverage amount, financial assistance for coaching, etc.



Know the seven Congress contenders from Gujarat named in 2nd list for LS polls

Ahmedabad, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Congress on Wednesday unveiled its second list of 43 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, including seven nominees from Gujarat. In Gujarat, the Congress has fielded seven candidates to fortify its presence and challenge the stronghold of the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The state's slate includes a mix of experienced legislators and newcomers. The candidates from Gujarat: * Nitish Lalan is set to represent the Congress in the

Kachchh Assembly constituency. His campaign is anticipated to focus on local issues such as development and the welfare of the border areas. * Geniben Thakor, a current member of the Gujarat Assembly, is known for her grassroots connections and advocacy for rural development and women's rights. * Rohan Gupta, contesting from Ahmedabad East, brings a modern approach to the campaign trail. As a key figure in the party's digital strategies.



Omar Abdullah calls CAA notification BJP's Ramadan gift to Muslims

Srinagar, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Vice President of the J&K National Conference Party, Omar Abdullah, said on Wednesday that the BJP has given a Ramadan gift to Muslims by notifying the Citizenship (Amendment)

Act (CAA), which is against the very foundation of the Constitution. His remarks came a day after the Union Home Ministry notified the rules for the CAA, paving the way for granting citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghani-

stan. Talking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Omar Abdullah said that notifying CAA days before the announcement of Lok Sabha elections shows that the BJP is not confident of winning 400 seats in the ensuing polls.



Patna youth threatens to shoot Bihar CM, arrested

Patna, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Patna Police on Wednesday arrested a youth for threatening to shoot Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Confirming the development, Patna police SDPO (Law and Order) Krishna Murari Prasad said that two persons were already arrested in this connection and the third accused was arrested on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Vishesh Chaturvedi, is a native of Patna district. He was studying in Mumbai. Chaturvedi, speaking to a YouTube channel last month, used threatening and foul language against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Congress drops one sitting MP in Assam, Gaurav Gogoi to fight from Jorhat

Guwahati, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Congress on Wednesday announced candidates for 12 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam, leaving two for its allies. Party leader Gaurav Gogoi, whose Kaliabor constituency was scrapped in the delimitation exercise, will fight polls from the Jorhat seat. However, Jorhat is a stronghold for the BJP, which won it in the last two Lok Sabha elections. It is believed that Gogoi, son of former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, was keen to fight polls from Nagaon, but its sitting Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi had

been opposing his candidature and insisted that as he won the seat with a good margin in 2019, he must be fielded again from there. Meanwhile, AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal has fielded a strong candidate in Nagaon, fueling the chances of a potential vote division between the opposition parties. Congress has also dropped sitting Barpeta MP Abdul Khaleque and fielded Deep Bayan instead. It has also pitted former Assam minister and MLA Rockybul Hussin in Dhubri against Badruddin Ajmal. Meanwhile, two seats - Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur - were left by Con-

gress for its allies. Lurinjyoti Gogoi, a former General Secretary of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) may fight from Dibrugarh on behalf of the INDIA bloc while it is not clear who will contest from Lakhimpur. The BJP has earlier announced that Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will fight polls from the Dibrugarh seat and he had already started campaigning. If Lurijyoti Gogoi fights against Sonowal, it may become an interesting contest. This is Assam's first election since the Election Commission conducted a delimitation process only



for the state last year, which the opposition parties fiercely criticised, claiming it was done to benefit the ruling BJP.



Ahead of LS polls, Goa Police holds inter-state border coordination meet

Panaji, Mar 13 (IANS) : Goa Police officials on Wednesday held an inter-state border coordination meeting with their counter-

parts from neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.



Capex has emerged as a key growth driver in India : Morgan Stanley

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : A decade after steadily decline in investment to GDP, capex has emerged as a key growth driver in India, global brokerage, Morgan Stanley said. "We think the capex cycle has more room to run, therefore the current expansion closely resembles that of 2003-07," it added. The most important feature of this expansion is that investment ratios are picking up after an 11-year decline, Morgan Stanley said. "We see a long runway ahead for the current expansion cycle and remain constructive," it said. The defining characteristic of the current expansion is the rise in the investment to GDP ratio. Similarly, in the 2003-07 cycle investment to GDP rose from 27 per cent in F2003 (fiscal year ending March 2003) to 39 per cent in

F2008, which was close to the peak. Investment to GDP then hovered around those levels until it peaked in F2011. 2011 to 2021 then registered a decade of decline - but the ratio has now inflected again to 34 per cent of GDP and we expect it to rise further to 36 per cent of GDP in F2027E, Morgan Stanley said. In 2003-07, the capex boom led to acceleration in productivity, job creation and income growth. As more labour was absorbed into employment by the strengthening economy, savings to GDP also rose from 28 per cent in F2003 to 39 per cent in F2008. Against this backdrop, we saw strong growth outcomes yet very few concerns on the macro stability front. During 2003-07, GDP growth averaged 8.6 per cent and headline CPI inflation averaged 4.8 per cent.

Sensex down nearly 1,000 points after massive selloff in markets

Mumbai, Mar 13 (IANS) : Sensex is now down almost 1,000 points in a broad based massive selloff in the markets. BSE Sensex is trading at 72,691.46 points, down by 976.5 points or 1.33 per cent. Deep cuts in PSU, power, infrastructure, metals, realty stocks have led to a sharp fall in the markets. Among the Sensex losers, Powergrid is down more than 7 per cent, NTPC is down 6 per cent, Tata Steel is down more than 5 per cent.

Deep cuts are being seen across sectors. The PSU stocks index is down more than 7 per cent, utilities index is down more than 7 per cent, realty index is down more than 6 per cent, metals index is down more than 6 per cent. This is adding to the misery in small caps which are down more than 5 per cent. Mid caps are down more than 4 per cent. SME IPO index is down more than 5 per cent. The market breadth is very negative with 90 per cent of the stocks declining. As many as 1053 stocks have hit the lower circuit indicat-



ing the extent of the selling pressure. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said in the near-term investors should focus on the sustained weakness in the broader market, particularly the Small cap segment. The excessive valuations

in these segments driven by the irrational exuberance of retail investors have been a concern for many months now. But it has taken the strong message from the regulator SEBI to trigger a correction in the Nifty Small cap index by 10 per cent from the February 8th peak.



Court gives Byju's time till March 28 to file rejoinder to investors' response

Bengaluru, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday granted time to Think and Learn Pvt Ltd, the parent company of edtech major Byju's, to file a rejoinder to the response filed by some of the investors. The stay against the resolutions at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), which the investors passed on February 23 continues, and "none of those resolutions can be given effect to", Byju's said in a statement. The matter will next be heard

on March 28, the company said. The key investors of Byju's -- Prosus, General Atlantic, Sofina, and Peak XV -- had moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in Bengaluru. The tribunal had directed Byju's that the proceeds from the rights issue (about \$250-\$300 million) is to be kept in a separate account till the disposal of the case with the investors. Meanwhile, in a separate case, the tribunal is on track to conclude the hearing regarding the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) plea against Byju's by March 20.

The heart of the dispute lies in the BCCI's pursuit of insolvency proceedings against Byju's, a move prompted by unpaid dues amounting to Rs 158 crore. Throughout the hearings, Byju's consistently expressed its preference for an amicable resolution through negotiations.



Reliance Ethane Holding invests in three wholly owned subsidiaries

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Reliance Ethane Holding Pte Ltd (REHPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has invested in 34,300,000 ordinary shares of face value of USD 1 each for cash at par, in each of its three wholly owned subsidiaries, viz., Ethane Coral LLC, Ethane Diamond LLC and Ethane Jade LLC (Ethane LLCs), aggregating \$102.90 million. Ethane LLCs have entered into ship building contracts (SBCs) for purchase of Very Large Ethane Carriers (VLECs) and each Ethane LLC will own a VLEC. VLECs are being acquired for the transportation of Ethane. The investment is made to enable Ethane LLCs to make part payment towards cost of construction of three VLECs, Reliance Industries said in a filing.

Nazara Tech pledges \$100 mn to propel global expansion via strategic M&A

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Online gaming major Nazara Technologies on Wednesday said that it has pledged \$100 million (around Rs 830 crore) to propel global expansion through strategic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) within the next 24 months. The company said it is looking for emerging possibilities in the gaming, esports, and adtech industries, with a particular focus on established gaming IPs/studios and also those advancing in cutting-edge tech-



nologies like web3, Virtual Reality (VR), and Artificial Intelligence (AI). "Nazara has seen significant success in its 'acquire and scale' strategy over the last few years as can be seen by the post-acquisition growth in Kiddopia.

New chip manufacturing hubs to have a lasting impact on entire nation: Tata Sons Chairman

Ahmedabad, Mar 13 (IANS) : The new semiconductor manufacturing plants will have a lasting impact on the entire nation and the ecosystem from across the globe will mobilise to have India as their preferred semiconductor destination, N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd, said on Wednesday. Addressing the 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit

Bharat' programme where Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of three chip manufacturing units worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore -- including two from the Tata Group -- Chandrasekaran said that today is a special day, "with the foundation stone being laid simultaneously for our projects in Dholera and Jagiroad 2,500 kms apart". "On this historic occasion, I would like to thank PM Modi for his en-

during vision to bring the semiconductor industry to the shores of our country," said the top Tata executive. The semiconductor industry is innovation-driven as it is a foundation for everything digital. "We look forward to closely partnering with industry, academic institutions, and ecosystem players to select an infrastructure of tomorrow, right here in India. We will be creating thousands of

jobs in this journey and this is just the beginning," N. Chandrasekaran told the gathering. Today, every major economy is looking for self sufficiency in the semiconductor supply chain. "From the very beginning, we have been fortunate to pioneer several businesses. And today, our journey of building semiconductor chips has begun". The fabrication facility at the

Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), Gujarat is being set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL). With a total investment of more than Rs 91,000 crore, this will be the first commercial semiconductor fab in the country. The Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam is being set up by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL), with a total in-



vestment of about Rs 27,000 crore. The third semiconductor facility in Sanand, Gujarat will be set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited with an investment of about Rs 7,500 crore.

AdaniConneX's Hyderabad data centre 1st in India to get 5-star grading from British Safety Council



Ahmedabad, March 13 (IANS) In a first for the country, the Hyderabad data centre of AdaniConneX -- the joint venture between the Adani Group and leading data centre operator EdgeConneX -- has received five-star grading in the occupational

health and safety audit conducted by the British Safety Council. The five-star audit is a comprehensive, contemporary and quantified process which benchmarks health and safety management performance against the latest best practice techniques. AdaniConneX is currently building a 1 GW data centre platform, powered by renewable energy, in Hyderabad, Chennai, Noida and Pune. "The award of a five-star grading, following our occupational best

practice Health and Safety Audit, is an outstanding achievement and is reflective of a proactive organisation committed to improvement in its health and safety arrangements, and managing risks to workers' health, safety and well-being," said Mike Robinson, CEO of the British Safety Council. The audit included documentation review and interviews with senior management, employees and key stakeholders, along with a sampling of operational activities. It also measured performance

against key health and safety management best practice indicators and conducted a detailed review of almost 60 components, said the company. "We are steadfast in building a 'culture of care' and zero harm across sites. We have initiated multiple initiatives around people development, site digitalisation, and process enhancement in adherence to global best practices," said Sanjay Bhutani, Chief Business Officer of AdaniConneX.

Asus launches new laptops with thin, light profiles in India

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Taiwanese tech giant Asus on Wednesday launched its next-generation (2024 version) Zenbook S 13 OLED and Vivobook 15 laptops, with thin and light profiles in India. The new Zenbook S 13 OLED (UX5304MA) and Vivobook 15 (X1504VAP) will be available for purchase from March 13 at starting prices of Rs 1,29,990 and Rs 49,990, respectively.

"The latest additions to Asus' lineup reiterate the brand's position as a pioneer in the laptop segment and its focus on further elevating its consumer product lineup for consumers."



ACB raids RPSC member Sangeeta Arya's residence in Ajmer

Jaipur, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Rajasthan on Wednesday searched the official residence of Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) member Sangeeta Arya in Ajmer. The ACB team also questioned Arya regarding the bribe that was allegedly demanded for clearing the RPSC executive officer's (EO) recruitment exam eight months back, in which four brokers have been arrested so far, including Gopal Kesawat, a former Congress leader who was also the chairperson of one of the boards, for taking a bribe of Rs 18.50 lakh. Officials said that the accused demanded Rs 40 lakh as bribe from the candidates appearing for the EO recruitment exam. The ACB during its investigation found that the deal was finalised for Rs 25 lakh. ACB ASP Surendra Singh Rathore said that Arya was questioned in the case related to Gopal Kesawat, who was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe.



J&K L-G Sinha lays foundation of PoJK Bhawan in Jammu

Jammu, Mar 13 (IANS) : Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) Bhawan here at Suketar on Wednesday. With this, L-G Sinha fulfilled the long pending demand of families displaced from PoJK and West Pakistan. The Bhawan will be constructed on the 40 Kanals and 17 Marla area. It will consist of a Balidan Stambh and an Amphitheatre besides other infrastructure to showcase their rich cultural heritage and provide the community office

space for meetings and to run the operations for the welfare of displaced persons. An official statement said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave displaced families all the rights and other benefits after a long wait of over seven decades. "Now, they have the same rights as any other citizen of the country and various other new opportunities are being made available to them. The displaced persons cannot only cast their vote, and contest an election, but also fulfil their aspirations of receiving professional education and government jobs," it added.

Two private bank employees held by Gurugram police for cyber fraud

Gurugram, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Gurugram police's Cyber Crime Cell has arrested two private bank employees for allegedly providing bank account details for cyber fraud, a police official said on Wednesday. Assistant Commissioner of Police, Cyber Crime, Priyanshu Diwan, said that the arrested accused have been identified as Deepak and Dharmender. According to the police, a man filed a complaint at the Cyber Crime Police Station East on March 3 that he was duped of a sum of Rs 1.32 crore on the pretext of investing in the stock market. During the probe, Cyber

Crime Police Station SHO, Inspector Devender arrested the suspects from Delhi's Rohini on Monday. One of their associate, identified as Prakash, was arrested on March 9, police said. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they kept in touch with cyber criminals and provided bank accounts to be used in committing cyber frauds, and in return, they received Rs 1.60 lakh. "Out of Rs 1.32 crore, Rs 10 lakh was also transferred by cybercriminals in a bank account which was provided by the bank officials," the ACP said.



Lok Sabha polls: Congress clears 10 candidates from MP, Nakul Nath to contest from Chhindwara

Bhopal, Mar 13 (IANS) : Congress's lone Madhya Pradesh MP, Nakul Nath, son of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, will contest again from his family pocket borough Chhindwara in the upcoming elections, it was announced on Wednesday. The Congress on Wednesday released the second list of candidates for several states, including for 10 out of 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh. It has fielded senior leader Phool Singh Baraiya from Bhind (SC) and former minister Kamleshwar Patel from Sidhi.

Odisha govt hikes remuneration, allowances of Panchayati Raj representatives

Bhubaneswar, Mar 13 (IANS) : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday increased the remuneration and allowances paid to the representatives in the three-tier Panchayati Raj system in the state. For Zilla Parishads in the state, the monthly remuneration of presidents has been enhanced to Rs 30,000 from the existing Rs 9,380. Vice presidents, who are currently getting Rs 7,040, will now get Rs 20,000 per month. Members will get Rs 10,000 in place of Rs 3,530. The Daily Allowances (DA) and Sitting Fee (SF) charges of the representatives have also been doubled to Rs 600 per month from the existing Rs 300, the Chief Minister's office said in a statement. For Panchayat Samitis, the state government

has enhanced the remuneration of chairmen from Rs 3,530 to Rs 15,000 while the remuneration of vice chairmen and members has been increased to Rs 7,500 against the current monthly salary of Rs 2,350. Sarpanchs, who are currently getting Rs 2,350, will now receive Rs 10,000 while naib sarpanchs' monthly remuneration has been hiked from Rs 940 to Rs 4,000 per month. The DA and SF of chairman, vice chairman, members, sarpanchs, naib sarpanchs and ward members have been raised to Rs 480 per month from the existing Rs 240. The state exchequer was earlier spending Rs 79.88 crore for paying the remuneration and allowances of the representatives in the three-tier Panchayati Raj sys-



tem. The expenditure will now go up to Rs 242.56 crore following the enhancement by the state government. The state government has also announced that the family members of Panchayati Raj representatives will be provided ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakhs if the representatives pass away during their incumbency. The representatives will get financial assistance of Rs 2 lakhs in case of permanent disability (irrecoverable loss of eyes, hands and feet) and Rs 1 lakh in case of partial physical disability (irrecoverable loss of one eye, one hand or one leg) due to any accident while in office.

Tripura CM launches first ever Vidya Samiksha Kendra in state to improve quality of education

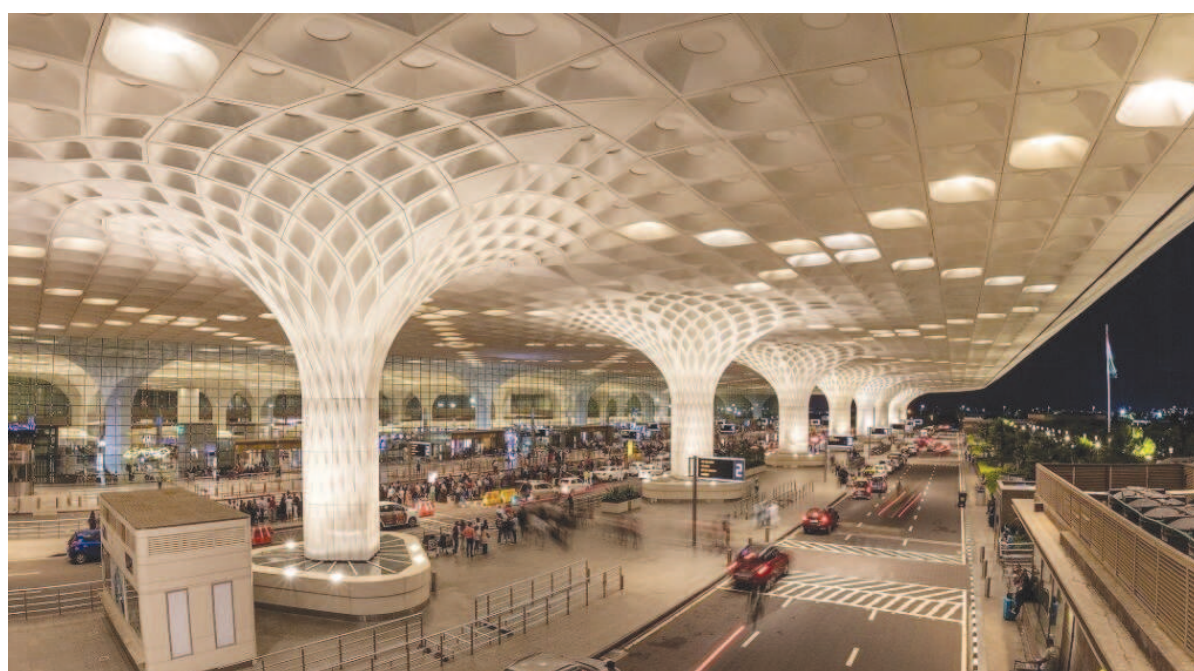
Agartala, Mar 13 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday launched the state's first Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in Agartala to help students fulfil their dreams through quality education, real-time monitoring, and support of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Vidya Samiksha Kendra, which was first launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat in 2022, was envisioned by the Union Education Ministry as a "force multiplier" that would amplify the existing capabilities of

people in the education system, enabling a transformative impact on the desired educational outcomes. The centre is geared towards digitising educational data to provide the stakeholders with real-time visibility into the progress of various educational initiatives, enhancing the existing capabilities, and enabling transformative impact through coordinated efforts to drive improvements in the education sector. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra will serve as an institutional framework designed to facilitate integrated and collaborative data analysis for informed decision-



making in the field of education. Addressing the function, the Chief Minister highlighted that in 2022, the Prime Minister inaugurated the country's first Vidya Samiksha Kendra in Gujarat, inspiring Tripura to follow suit. Saha also distributed Android tab-

lets to the education department staff and teachers, inspected the centre, and interacted with the technical team, urging them to focus on student-centric benefits. Highlighting Tripura's progress in literacy.



Mumbai's CSMIA adjudged best with over 40 mn passengers in Asia Pacific region for 7th time

Mumbai, Mar 13 (IANS) : For the seventh consecutive year, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has been ranked as the 'Best Airport with over 40 million passengers' in the Asia Pacific Region by the Airports Council International's (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards, an official spokesperson said here on Wednesday. The ASQ awards are highly regarded in the aviation industry as they are based on passenger feedback and are considered a testament to the airport's commitment to providing outstanding customer experience. ACI World Director-General Luis Felipe de Oliveira said that "the ASQ awards celebrate more than outstanding

customer experience; it recognises the innovation and dedication of your entire airport team. Congratulations to Mumbai International Airport for your hard work that is redefining the airport experience". The award also celebrates CSMIA's successful efforts and dedication towards providing superior customer experiences and reflects its resolute commitment to delivering exceptional facilities and services, as demonstrated by various initiatives undertaken over the past year. Some of these include completing a major re-carpeting project of Runway 14/32; enhancing safety standards; introduction of 'Taxiway Z', a pioneering effort to reduce ground delays, significantly lowering carbon emissions; and positioning CSMIA as a

leader in environmental sustainability. The CSMIA also introduced a dedicated domestic-to-domestic passenger transfer facility within Terminal-2 (T2), slashing the transit time for the travellers with connecting domestic flights. In a further commitment to safety standards, the CSMIA commissioned a specialised Disabled Aircraft Recovery Kit (DARK), equipped with high-pressure lifting bags, making it the first airport in Asia to possess this facility. DARK ensures efficient recovery processes for even the largest commercial aircraft. Also, the installation of 2D Barcode readers and an advanced Parking Guidance System at Terminal 2 is streamlining the entry procedures and parking experience.



TMC to launch mass outreach programme to counter BJP's CAA narratives

Kolkata, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Trinamool Congress will launch a mass outreach programme in West Bengal to counter BJP's positive narrative about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the notification for which was announced by the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday. Campaigns under the mass outreach programme christened 'Tafsili Sanglap' will start from March 15, as decided by Trinamool General Secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee at an internal party meeting held here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by the party leaders and elected representatives from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Under the programme, the party leaders will extensively travel to those pockets of West Bengal which have a sizable population from the SC and ST backgrounds, and campaign on the reported events of oppression against backward-class people in the BJP-ruled states.



ECI team holds meetings with J&K political parties

Srinagar, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Election Commission of India (ECI) team headed by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar held discussions with representatives of various political parties ahead of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday in J&K's Srinagar city. The political parties whose members met the ECI team include the Congress, the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), BJP, CPI M and the

J&K Apni Party. The NC delegation was led by Nasir Aslam Wani while Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura led the PDP delegation during the meeting with the ECI. Both Wani and Lone told reporters after the meeting that they had asked the ECI to hold the assembly elections simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in J&K. After meeting the representatives of the political parties, the ECI team will hold a detailed review of the ground situation with the district development commission-



ers and the SSPs. The team will also hold a detailed meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer of the UT P.K. Pole. J&K Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and DGP, R.R.Swain are also scheduled to meet the 9-member ECI team headed by the CEC, Rajiv Kumar. The team will hold

similar meetings and reviews in Jammu on Wednesday before leaning back to Delhi. The ECI will announce the Lok Sabha polls in J&K once back in Delhi and after that, the model code of conduct will automatically come into force.



Arunachal Pradesh is 'integral and inalienable part' of India: MEA responds to China

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Stating that Arunachal Pradesh will always remain its "integral and inalienable part", India on Wednesday rejected comments made by China on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the northeastern state to inaugurate the strategically important Sela tunnel. China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, said it "strongly deplored" PM Modi's last week's visit and India's move would "only complicate" the boundary issue. "We reject the comments made by the Chinese side regarding the visit of the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh. Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other States of India," External Affairs

Ministry spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said in a statement released on Wednesday. Asserting that objecting to such visits or India's developmental projects does not stand to reason, Jaiswal said: "It will not change the reality that the State of Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India". The Spokesperson further added that the Chinese side has been made aware of "this consistent position on several occasions". Following PM Modi's visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a media briefing that Beijing "never recognised the so-called Arunachal Pradesh illegally set up by India and firmly opposes it". "Relevant moves by India only complicate the boundary question. China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the leader's visit to the eastern section of the China-India boundary," Wenbin had said. Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the Sela Tunnel - the world's longest twin-lane tunnel -- was inaugurated by PM Modi in Arunachal Pradesh on March 9. The strategically important tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.



There will be tough three-cornered fight in TN, says Sharath Kumar

Chennai, Mar 13 (IANS) : Tamil actor and President of the All India Samathuva Makkal Katchi (AISMK), R Sharath Kumar, said on Wednesday that Tamil Nadu will witness a tough three-cornered fight and that the BJP will make a mark in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls. Sharath Kumar's party has already entered into an electoral tie-up with the BJP in the state. Speaking to media persons at Chennai on Wednesday, the actor-turned-politician said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, coming back to power at the Centre for a third time in a row was a certainty. Sharath Kumar added that he would be campaigning for NDA candidates across Tamil Nadu and that he would also promote fellow actor Suresh Gopi who is contesting polls from Thrissur in Kerala. The AISMK chief said that he will also campaign for BJP's Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha candidate and Union Minister of State for Skill development, Rajeev Chandrasekhar as well as for PC Mohanan, the BJP's candidate in Bengaluru. The actor-turned-politician was a Rajya Sabha MP and also an MLA from Tenkasi Constituency.

Assam CM supports CAA, says the state will not face any influx of foreigners



Guwahati, Mar 13 (IANS) : Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Wednesday refuted claims of the Opposition, All Assam Students Union (AASU) and other organisations that the state would witness an influx of foreigners after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) comes into effect. CM Sarma told reporters, "I assure that not a single person who has not earlier applied for registration in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is going to apply for citizenship under CAA. If my claim becomes untrue, Himanta Biswa Sarma will be the first person to resign from the CM's post." He argued that Assam will not face any burden of illegal foreigners due to implementation of

the CAA. "As the whole process is online, everybody can see whether my statement is true or not," CM Sarma said. The Assam CM also said that the people opposing CAA were actually spreading falsehood. He said, "People can match the data with my claim. Everything will be up on the designated portal." Notably, hours after the Centre notified rules for implementing the CAA, copies of the Bill were set ablaze on Monday by the AASU and 30 indigenous organisations in different parts of the state. Along with announcing a state-wide strike on Tuesday, the 16-party United Opposition Forum, Assam (UOFA) will also hold a series of protests.

Alert issued in Bihar districts after CAA notification

Patna Mar 13 (IANS) : Bihar Police on Wednesday issued an alert for all the 38 districts of the state after the Central government issued Citizens Amendment Act (CAA) notification. Bihar Police Headquarters has directed all SPs and SSPs to keep an eye on vulnerable places in their respective districts, especially in the Muslim-dominated

Seemanchal region of the state. Jitendra Singh Gangwar, the ADGP (Headquarter) directed the SPs and SSPs to enhance the patrolling at vulnerable places and maintain law and order. Officers have also been asked to activate local intelligence at ground level to gather information and convey the messages to the district headquarters.



One-way traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar national highway

Srinagar, Mar 13 (IANS) : One-way traffic was restored on Wednesday on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway after it remained closed for two days. "Vehicles will be allowed to move on the highway from Jammu to Srinagar on Wednesday. Traffic movement will be allowed only till 11 am today after which the highway would be closed for maintenance," Traffic

Department officials said. The highway remained closed from 10 pm on Saturday till Tuesday morning. It was closed for widening of the carriageway at Dalwas in Ramban district and for removing landslide debris at a number of places between Banihal and Ramban town. Meanwhile, all other highways and roads connecting the landlocked Valley with other places remained closed on Wednesday also.



K'taka: FIR registered against Cong leader for making objectionable remark against PM Modi

Bengaluru, Mar 13 (IANS) : Karnataka Police have registered an FIR against the Congress leader on Wednesday for making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The case has been registered against G.S. Manjunath, President of Labour Welfare Board. The complaint was filed by Chitradurga Rural BJP Mandal President Kalleshaiah. The complainant said that Manjunath's statement has brought disrepute to the post of the PM which can disturb the peace in the society. The police have registered a case under IPC Sections 504 (intentional insult to provoke) and 506 (criminal intimidation) against Manjunath. While referring to the announcement of reducing the price of LPG by Rs 100, Manjunath had issued an objectionable statement referring to PM Modi.



Madhya Pradesh's gift to Ayodhya: A 1100 kg 'nagada'

Prayagraj, Mar 13 (IANS) : A 1100 kg 'nagada' (drum), made by a Madhya Pradesh-based social organisation is being gifted to the newly-constructed Ram temple in Ayodhya. According to Vishwa Hindu Parishad (General Secretary Kashi Prant - Gau Raksha) Lalmani Tiwari, "Authorities of Shiv Barat Ayojan and Jan Kalyan Samiti, Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), have made the world's biggest nagada at a cost of around Rs 3 lakh. It will arrive in Prayagraj on Wednesday for its onward journey to Ayodhya." The nagada has received a certificate from ASIA Book Of Records which reads that Shiv Barat Ayojan Evam Jan Kalyan Samiti,

Rewa, of Madhya Pradesh, India, set the record for the biggest nagada. The nagada is a Middle Eastern drum with a rounded back and a hide head. The biggest nagada was created completely using iron on Mahashivaratri. The nagada will be brought on a trailer and a convoy of as many as 101 vehicles would accompany it from Rewa to Ayodhya, Tiwari said.



Man trampled to death by wild elephant in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Mar 13 (IANS) : A man was trampled to death by a wild elephant at the Satyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Mathiya (74), a watchman of a private farm land. According to the local people, a wild elephant entered the farm land and Mathiya tried to scare it off by bursting crackers. However, the elephant came forward and

trampled him to death. The elephant stood at the spot for some time thus preventing the local people from taking Mathiya to the hospital. Forest officials later reached the spot and removed the body after the elephant left the spot. There has been an increasing number of man-animal conflict in various areas of western ghat forest ranges including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Delhi HC grants parole for convict to arrange fine payment, re-establish social ties

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court has allowed a man, Harish Yadav, convicted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, three weeks of parole. The order by Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta allowed Yadav to gather funds to pay a fine associated with his sentence and to reconnect with his family.

Despite nearly completing his 10-year sentence, Yadav faced an additional six months of imprisonment for not paying the required fine. His parole request had been previously rejected due to the generic nature of his appeal under Rule 1211 of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018, which did not state exceptional circumstances for relief.

However, Justice Mendiratta recognised sufficient reasons for granting parole, especially considering Yadav's near completion of his sentence, satisfactory jail conduct, and non-misuse of emergency parole in 2021.

The court mandated a personal bond of Rs 25,000 for Yadav's release.



Infighting in TMC in Bengal's Murshidabad dist over Yusuf Pathan's nomination

Kolkata, Mar 13 (IANS) : Infighting in Trinamool Congress, especially in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, has started brewing over party's decision to nominate former Indian cricketer Yusuf Pathan as its candidate from Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency. Trinamool Congress MLA from Bharatpur assembly constituency in Murshidabad district, Humayun Kabir, has become most vocal on the issue. According to him, the party leadership has announced Pathan's name without any prior discussion with the district leadership of Trinamool Congress. "At least, the district leadership could have been intimated in advance about the party's decision to field Pathan from Baharampur. I am not accepting it. Let the election dates be announced and you will see

my next course of action. I will ensure voting against him," Kabir said. However, he ruled out the possibility of joining any rival political party. "If necessary, I will float my own political outfit," said Kabir. This is not the first time that Kabir raised his voice against party leadership on such issues. In September last year, Kabir accused the party leadership of indulging in ensuring tickets to candidates paying money in the panchayat polls in the state. Since the candidate list was announced on Wednesday afternoon, rumblings of discontent had started brewing in Trinamool Congress over the choice of candidates. On Monday, party state general secretary and actress-turned-politician Sayantika Banerjee tendered her resignation from the party post.



Dalit youth in K'taka hacks girl's father to death for causing their separation

Bagalkot, (Karnataka) Mar 13 (IANS): A shocking incident of a young man hacking his girlfriend's father to death with a machete for causing their separation was reported from Bhagavathi Village in Bagalkot District of Karnataka on Wednesday. A Dalit youth, Praveen Kamble was in a relationship with the daughter of 52-year-old Sangnagouda Patil, who belonged to an upper caste. However, Sangnagouda Patil was not in favour of the alliance and had warned Praveen Kamble to stay away from his daughter.



problems," he said. He said that teachers should take the initiative to help their students build their careers. "If this thing happens then there will be no unemployment. Everyone can get employment," he said. He said that students should take advantage of the 'Dual degree or certificate course' introduced by



MVA wrangles over 10 seats, claims Prakash Ambedkar; hints at going solo

Mumbai, Mar 13 (IANS) : Signalling that all is not well in the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar claimed that the alliance members are still engaged in a tug-of-war over at least 10 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, here on Wednesday.

Rubbishing the statements by MVA constituent Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's that the seat-sharing has almost been finalised amicably, Ambedkar accused him of 'misleading' the media.

"They have yet to reach an understanding on around 10 seats. Sanjay Raut is giving out wrong information on this issue. Everybody is concerned about the delay... The squabble is between the Congress and SS-UBT," Ambedkar contended. Taking umbrage, Raut shot back

asking Ambedkar to prove what he was 'lying' about, adding that the MVA is in touch directly with Ambedkar on the issue. The SS-UBT is reportedly firm on contesting 18 seats, while the Congress is eyeing 20 seats, barely leaving room for manoeuvre for the other allies including the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) or VBA.

Ambedkar also expressed doubts over the national opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc's ability to keep regional parties together and referred to All India Trinamool Congress President and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unilaterally putting up candidates in all 42 LS seats there.

Ambedkar -- whose VBA has allied with the SS-UBT -- again dropped hints at going solo in case the MVA fails to reach an acceptable seat-sharing agreement with all the allies on priority. Interestingly, the VBA chief's

statements came just hours before Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra enters Maharashtra at Nandurbar this afternoon on its final lap which will end at Chaityabhoomi in Mumbai, followed by an I.N.D.I.A. bloc mega-rally on March 17.

Ambedkar added that on March 10, he wrote to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge highlighting his conversation with AICC General Secretary Ramesh Chennithala. Since there was no progress in the seat-sharing discussions in the MVA, Ambedkar said he spoke with Chennithala on March 9 extensively.

"Chennithala shared his concern about Shiv Sena (UBT) being adamant on at least 18 seats. I proposed that VBA and Congress should sit together and have a discussion on all those seats which Congress has in mind and demanded in the MVA.



Web portal for citizenship seekers launched, 'CAA-2019' mobile App to come soon

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday launched a web portal for facilitating the registration of people, seeking citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. The MHA informed on X, that a mobile app called CAA-2019 will also be launched soon to expedite the applications by non-Muslim migrants seeking Indian citizenship. The web portal and mobile app for seeking citizenship under CAA will not only simplify the procedure but also enable non-Muslim migrants to apply for the same, via their mobile phones. The migrants, who escaped Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to India be-

fore 2015, can apply under the scheme. They will have to first register themselves on the web portal and mobile App and create individual logins, before filling applications for the same. Notably, the Centre on Monday notified the rules for CAA implementation and also released the application formats which could be filled by migrants for getting Indian citizenship. The law granting citizenship to refugees pertaining to six religions other than Muslims was cleared by Parliament in 2019.

Translator's post could not be filled in LS due to dearth of qualified talent: Goa CM

Panaji, Mar 13 (IANS) : Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said that there is a dearth of translators in the coastal state and hence the government could not fill the post of 'translator' in Lok Sabha despite it being a highly paid job. "Many learn Konkani (the official language) and yes one should learn it. But we don't have a single translator who can translate from English, Hindi to Konkani or vice versa. We want translators who can do this job," Sawant said was speaking after inau-

gurating a girls' hostel of a government college in Sanquelim, North Goa. "I have a question when students pursue BA, MA and PhD in Konkani language, why don't we find translators? We wanted a translator in Lok Sabha, but we could not get a single person for that job. I feel sad over the issue," Sawant said. Sawant said that students while pursuing education in such streams should acquire a caliber of translation. "We should not pursue education only for the sake of degrees, but it should be brought into practical use. Degrees will not resolve such

Investigation underway in farmers violence in Haveri: K'taka Home Minister

Bengaluru, Mar 13 (IANS) : Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday said that an investigation is underway to find out who triggered the violence in Haveri after prices of the famous Byadgi chilli crop came crashing down at the Byadgi APMC market.

He said that the farmers from Andhra Pradesh also come to Byadgi market. "Six to seven vehicles have been torched by the farmers. We do not know why the prices crashed suddenly. The Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asked for an investigation into the sudden crash of prices," he stated.





Nine killed, two injured as building collapses in Pakistan

Islamabad, Mar 13 (IANS) : At least nine people were killed and two others injured on Wednesday when a three-storey building collapsed in Pakistan's Multan city. The incident took place around 3.30 a.m. at Multan's Mohalla Jawadian after which teams were sent to the spot, Rescue 1122's District Emergency Officer Kaleem Ullah was quoted as saying by Geo News.

Confirming the death toll, the official said that out of the 11 trapped under the debris, nine lost their lives. The two injured were rushed to Nishtar hospital and their condition is stated to be critical. The deceased included seven members of a family.

Congress worker killed, hanged from a tree in K'taka



Gadag (Karnataka), Mar 13 (IANS) : An incident of a Congress worker being killed and hanged from a tree by some miscreants came to light on Wednesday near Dambala village in Mundaragi taluk of Gadag district in Karnataka. The deceased was identified as Sharanappa Sandigoudra, a local Congress leader from Doni village.

More Australians in favour of becoming independent middle power than US ally

Canberra, Mar 13 (IANS) : More Australians believe the nation should aim to become an independent middle power than primarily an ally of the US, a poll has found. Published by the online Australian edition of British newspaper 'The Guardian' on Wednesday, the poll found that 38 per cent of Australia-

lians said the country's role in global affairs should be as an independent middle power, Xinhua news agency reported. Twenty-five per cent said the nation should do its best not to engage in world affairs and 17 per cent were unsure. The poll found that 63 per cent of Australians described themselves as concerned about Israel's military action in Gaza.

Thirty-seven per cent of Australians said Israel should withdraw permanently from military action in Gaza, twice as many than 18 per cent who supported it continuing. Two thirds of participants in the poll said they believed the world is either very or somewhat divided and 10 per cent described it as united. Sixty-eight per cent agreed that global instability



makes trade more expensive and 57 per cent said it would undermine efforts to solve problems including climate change.

UN chief calls for action as women's rights face backsliding, violence

United Nations, Mar 13 (IANS) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has stressed the critical urgency of protecting women's rights, now endangered by regressing achievements, escalating violence, and a widening digital gender divide. Addressing the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the pivotal forum dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women and girls worldwide, the UN chief on Wednesday stressed the disproportionate impact of wars on women. "In conflict zones around the globe, women and girls are suffering most from wars waged by men," he said, urging immediate ceasefires and humanitarian aid, Xinhua news agency reported. He highlighted the dire circumstances in Gaza, where reportedly more than two-thirds of casualties and injuries during Israel's military actions involve women and girls, and pointed out alarming reports of sexual violence against Palestinian women during detentions,

house raids, and checkpoints in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Guterres also voiced concern over the situation faced by women in other countries, including Afghanistan and Sudan. The Secretary-General stressed that despite evidence that women's full participation makes peacebuilding much more effective, the number of women in decision-making roles is falling. "The facts are clear: Women lead for peace," he said, calling for more funding and new policies to boost women's participation and investment in women peacebuilders. The UN Chief also emphasised a growing digital gender divide, noting the dominance of men in digital technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence. He cautioned that algorithms controlled by men might embed disparities across multiple life facets, observing that the design of systems by male leaders and technologists frequently neglects women's needs, bodies, and essential rights. "It's time for governments, civil society and the Silicon Valleys of the world to join a massive effort to bridge the digital gender divide and ensure women have decision-making



roles in digital technology at all levels," he urged. Guterres also drew attention to the pressing need for women to hold leadership roles, particularly in financial institutions. He highlighted the stark gender disparity in finance, with more than eight of ten Finance Ministers and more than nine out of ten central bank governors being men. The top UN official emphasised that dismantling structural barriers is crucial for achieving gender parity in leadership roles. "Overwhelmingly male-dominated financial institutions need to dismantle the structural barriers that are blocking women from leadership roles," he said. Drawing parallels with the UN's successful achievement of full gender parity among senior management and leaders worldwide, he urged governments, banks and businesses to replicate

these efforts, emphasising that change does not happen by accident. In concluding his speech, the Secretary-General called on the global community to rally together for gender equality, highlighting the role of the CSW as a driving force for transformative change. He advocated for joint actions to eradicate poverty in all its forms. "Let's do it by investing in women and girls, betting on women and girls, and pushing for peace and dignity for women and girls everywhere," Guterres said. The President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, continued the call to action, highlighting the urgency of intensifying efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PMLA case: ED raids 27 premises linked to Lalu's aide Amit Katyal in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted raids at several locations in Delhi-NCR on Wednesday as part of an investigation into money laundering case involving a real estate and alcohol conglomerate associated with Amit Katyal. Katyal, who is purportedly a close associate of RJD leader Lalu Prasad's family and named in the land-for-job scam case along with some companies, was arrested by the central agency last year. "The raids targeted a total of 27 premises belonging to Haryana-based Krishna Buildtech Pvt Ltd in Delhi, Gurugram, and Sonapat, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," said the sources. In another case, Katyal has been accused by the agencies of acquiring several lands from aspirants on behalf of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Chief and former Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav.



IUML moves SC seeking stay on Citizenship Amendment Rules

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has moved an application before the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the implementation of the rules notified by the Union Home Ministry under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). In its application, IUML said that the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 are manifestly arbitrary and create an unfair advantage in favour of a class of persons on the ground solely of their religious identity, which is impermissible under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution. It added that around 250 petitions challenging the provisions of the CAA are pending before the apex court and in

case, CAA is held to be unconstitutional, an "anomalous situation" would arise when people who would have got citizenship under the impugned Act and Rules would have to be stripped of their citizenship. "Therefore, it is in the best interest of every person to defer the implementation of CAA and impugned rules till this Hon'ble Court finally decides the matter... The Petitioner had pressed for a stay of the implementation of the provisions of the impugned act. However, the Union of India had told this Hon'ble Court that the rules have not been framed and therefore the implementation will not take place.



Women make a foray in Lucknow's liquor business

Lucknow, Mar 13 (IANS) : In a surprise development, as many as 370 out of 1,046 liquor shops in Lucknow have been allotted to women entrepreneurs in the new fiscal year.

From April 1, the women shop owners will take over the reins of more than one-third of the business which has been predominantly dominated by men in the past. Officials said that overall participation of women has increased by 7 per cent compared to the previous year in Lucknow and more shops have been taken over by women this time. Though no special incentives or relaxations are offered to the women, the upwards trend shows that women are no more hesitant to participate in the alcohol trade.

South Korean minister concerned over SNU medical professors' resignation decision



Seoul, Mar 13 (IANS) : South Korean Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong on Wednesday expressed deep concerns over a decision by medical professors to resign unless there is a breakthrough in a prolonged walkout by trainee doctors, saying that such a collective action would pose a threat to the safety of patients. On Wednesday, medical school professors at Seoul National University (SNU) resolved to submit resignations en masse next week if the government fails to present "a reasonable breakthrough" in the prolonged

walkout, Yonhap news agency reported. "The decision threatens the lives and health of patients, which is a source of grave concern. Another mass resignation will put the lives of the patients at risk and will not be able to win the public's understanding," Cho Kyoo-hong said during a meeting of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters. More than 90 per cent of the country's 13,000 trainee doctors walked off the job in the form of mass resignations more than three weeks ago to protest the government's decision to increase enrollment at medical schools by 2,000 spots starting next year to

address a shortage of doctors. The current quota is 3,058. "The resignation decision threatens the lives and health of patients, which is a source of grave concern. Another mass resignation will put the lives of the patients at risk and will not be able to win the public's understanding," Cho Kyoo-hong said. Medical school professors have warned of action if the government fails to come forward for dialogue without conditions. "We will hold the government responsible if the ongoing situation will cause damage to trainee doctors and medical school students," an association of medical school professors said in a statement. "Voluntary resignation by professors will grow further, which will lead to the collapse of the country's health care system and medical education." Medical professors of the Catholic University of Korea also threatened to further suspend surgeries and cut back on treatments for both inpatients and outpatients.

Ashwin reclaims pole position in ICC Test bowling rankings

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Veteran India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is back at the top position in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings after finishing with a nine-wicket match haul in his 100th Test match, which happened in Dharamsala. Ashwin returned hauls of 4-51 and 5-77 against England as India won by an innings and 64 runs in the fifth and final Test to complete a 4-1 series win, which also puts them in the top position of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship table. Ashwin reclaimed the top spot

from compatriot, fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah to start his sixth stint at the top of the rankings. He first became number one in December 2015. Player of the Match Kuldeep Yadav, who became the fastest Indian in terms of balls bowled to take 50 Test wickets, has risen 15 places to a career-best 16th position after finishing with seven wickets in the match. India captain Rohit Sharma (up five places to sixth) and Shubman Gill (up 11 places to a career-best 20th) have also made notable gains while Player of the Series Yashasvi Jaiswal has moved up two places to eighth place after

notching a half-century in Dharamsala. Jaiswal, the left-handed opener, aggregates 740 rating points after nine Tests, with only two batters having tallied more after as many Tests – Australians Don Bradman (752) and Mike Hussey (741). England batters Zak Crawley and Jonny Bairstow have moved up a slot each in the batting rankings while off-spinner Shoaib Bashir has progressed 11 places to 71st position. On the other hand, Australia completed a 2-0 series win over New Zealand in Christchurch to take second place behind India in the WTC table.



India beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets in 3rd T20 in Samarth Championship

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : A combined batting effort on Wednesday helped the Indian men's blind cricket team beat Sri Lanka by 7 wickets in the third T20 of the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket, an International bilateral blind men's cricket series here in Karnail Singh Stadium. Pankaj Bhue, Dinesh Rathva, Naresh Tumda and Lokesh all contributed as India chased down the target with 27 balls to spare. Batting first Sri Lanka had posted 162/3 in the allotted 20 overs following a fifty by Chandana Deshapriya. With this win, India has sealed a five-match series with an unassailable 3-0 lead. India won the toss and elected to field first. Sri Lanka got off to a decent start but lost two wickets inside the power play.



Our athletes will return with best ever medal haul from Paris Olympics: Anurag Thakur

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : As the countdown to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games accelerates, anticipation mounts to witness India's athletes shine on the global stage. While the players are leaving no stone unturned in their preparations for the Games, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur exuded confidence saying that the athletes will "reflect new India" in Paris 2024 due to their "fearless and competitive nature."

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Anurag Thakur shared his thoughts on the Paris Games, Khelo India, anti-doping programmes and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support to the athletes. The minister specifically mentioned PM Modi's unique approach to encouraging the athletes without burdening them with undue pressure.

Excerpts from the interview:
IANS: This is an Olympic year, how are the preparations going with the government providing all the necessary requirements to the athletes? How many medals are you expecting this time? Will we break last time's record?
AT: I am confident that our athletes will come back with the best medal haul from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. My confidence stems from their hard work and determination, backed by the support from the coaching staff, support staff and enabled by the Ministry through the Sports Authority of India and their National Sports Federations. I am convinced that the athletes will reflect the new India with their fearless and competitive nature.



IANS: Khelo India has boosted the graph of sports in India, your thoughts on that and what more can be done? Education related to dope is also important for both coaches and athletes.

AT: Envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Khelo India Scheme is the country's overarching sports project. It is not only about the competitions – Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Winter Games and Khelo India Para Games. One of the major components of the Khelo India Scheme is the development of infrastructure. As many as 331 projects, costing Rs. 2943.64 crore have been sanctioned since 2014. This has taken modern sports facilities to the doorstep of the grassroots talent.



Singapore Smash: Sharath Kamal beats World No. 13 to reach round of 16

New Delhi, March 13 (IANS) : Commonwealth Games gold medalist Achanta Sharath Kamal advanced to the round of 16 of Singapore Smash for the first time after a thumping victory over World No. 13 Darko Jorgic with a scoreline of 3-1 (8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-9), on Wednesday. It took Darko a while to get off his block as he won the first game and looked sharper, but after that it was all Sharath Kamal as he blew past Darko,

who could not withstand the barrage of smashes and drops that came his way. The two paddlers engaged in several amazing rallies during the game, and Sharath often maintained his cool to win the point. World No. 88 Sharath began his Singapore tour by beating Romania's Andre Istrate, Yuta Tanaka of Japan, and Slovenia's Deni Kozul from the qualifying round to book his place in the main draw.



New Zealand to tour Pakistan for T20i series in April as part of WC preparation

New Delhi, March 13 (IANS) : The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Wednesday that the New Zealand men's team will tour the country from April 14 to play five T20Is. The matches will also serve as vital preparation for both teams ahead of Men's T20 World Cup, happening from June 1-29 in the USA and West Indies. New Zealand team will arrive in the capital city of Islamabad on April 14 and will play three T20Is at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi on April

18, 20 and 21. Following this both sides will move to Lahore, where they will play the remaining two matches of the series on April 25 and 27, respectively, at the Gaddafi Stadium. "In a testament to the unwavering camaraderie between Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and New Zealand Cricket (NZC), we are delighted to present the schedule for New Zealand men's team tour to Pakistan 2024. This tour symbolises the deep-rooted ties.

IPL 2024: 'Feels like I'm making my debut again', says Rishabh Pant on joining DC's pre-season camp

Visakhapatnam, March 13 (IANS) : Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant said he feels like it's his debut all over again ahead of his return to competitive cricketing action after 14 long months. He was declared fit by the BCCI on Tuesday to

participate in the upcoming edition of the IPL. Pant underwent an extensive rehabilitation and recovery process at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru following a life-threatening road accident in December 2022. "I'm excited and nervous at the same time.



WPL 2024: Do keep in mind that if you are available, an opportunity of bowling will come, says Ellyse Perry

New Delhi, Mar 13 (IANS) : Before Tuesday's game against Mumbai Indians at 2024 WPL, Ellyse Perry had been wicketless with the ball in the six overs she bowled for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). In her first over, Ellyse gave away two runs, but after that, the script changed for an astonishing tale. In the ninth over, Ellyse got a nip-backer to crash into Sajana Sajeevan's off-stump and had Harmanpreet Kaur playing on to her stumps on consecutive deliv-

eries. If that wasn't enough, Ellyse then trapped Amelia Kerr lbw and unleashed the nip-backer again to castle Amanjot Kaur in the 11th over. In her final over, Ellyse used the cross-seamer to send Pooja Vastrakar's off-stump on a ride and brought out the nip-backer again to trap Nat Sciver-Brunt lbw to pick 6-15, the best-ever figures in the WPL and in her T20 career. Before the WPL, Ellyse didn't have a bowl in the white-ball games against India, before bowl-

ing four overs each in the ODI and T20I games against South Africa. Though her game began by taking an excellent running catch at deep square leg to dismiss Hayley Matthews, it was the bowling (she made 40 not out), where she made a huge impact to pave the way for RCB entering WPL knockouts for the first time. Ellyse put down her superlative bowling performance at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday to being aware of making an impact with the ball whenever needed.

