

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

FRIDAY, 15 March 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 198 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



'Rahul aur Akhilesh ki khaatir' goes the INDIA bloc song for joint LS poll campaign in UP

"Dilli mein pravesh ki khaatir, Rahul aur Akhilesh ki khaatir" goes the new election song that will now be jointly...

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Iyer out of the field for second consecutive day due to back spasm

Mumbai, Shreyas Iyer didn't come on the field for the second consecutive day due to nagging back pain in the finals of the Ranji Trophy against Vidarbha. After a blistering 95 off 111 balls....

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Adani Green Energy operationalises 300 MW wind power project in Gujarat

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) on Thursday said that it has operationalised 126 MW wind power capacity in Gujarat, marking the completion of the 300 MW of project...

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CM Revanth meets BJP leader Jithender

Hyderabad, March 14 (NSS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy met former MP and BJP leader AP Jithender Reddy at his residence here on Thursday. With the BJP leadership denying the ticket to Jithender Reddy from

Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituency, the Chief Minister's meeting assumes significance and it also triggered speculations in political circles. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy

accompanied the Chief Minister. Jithender Reddy is keen to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Mahabubnagar and has been trying hard for the party ticket for a long time. However, the BJP on Wednesday

announced its second list of candidates and named veteran politician DK Aruna from the Mahabubnagar constituency. BJP's decision left Jithender Reddy completely disappointed.

Continued on pg 02



Mamata Banerjee suffers 'major' injury, rushed to hospital : TMC

Kolkata, March 14 (IANS) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was hospitalised on Thursday evening after she reportedly slipped at her home in South Kolkata and injured her fore-

head, the Trinamool Congress said.

As per the information shared by the party, the Chief Minister tripped while taking a walk at her residence in Kalighat on Thursday evening.



TDP announces 34 more candidates for AP Assembly polls

Amaravati, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Thursday announced second list of 34 candidates for upcoming elections to Andhra Pradesh Assembly. With this the TDP, which en-

tered into an electoral alliance with the BJP and Jana Sena Party, has so far announced 128 candidates. Announcement of candidates for 16 more Assembly seats are pending.



One nation, one election: Committee recommends two-step approach to simultaneous elections

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The High level Committee (HLC) on Simultaneous Elections constituted under the Chairmanship of Ram

Nath Kovind, former President of India, met President Droupadi Murmu, and submitted its report. The Report, comprising 18,626 pages, is an outcome of extensive

consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work of 191 days, since its constitution on September 2, 2023. After careful consideration of all

suggestions and viewpoints, the Committee recommended a two-step approach to lead to the simultaneous elections. As the first step.

Andhra CM reiterates commitment to make Kurnool judicial capital

Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), March 14 (IANS) : Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the National Law University in Kurnool on Thursday and reiterated his government's commitment to make the district the judicial capital of Andhra

Pradesh. The Chief Minister highlighted the historical significance of this initiative. He emphasized the fulfilment of long-awaited promises made to the people of Rayalaseema, echoing the principles of fair justice outlined in the Sribagh Agreement of 1937. Pointing out that it was proposed

to set up the High Court here as per the Sribagh Pact at the time of shifting capital to Hyderabad, he said that steps are being taken in accordance with the Pact. The Chief Minister emphasized the fulfilment of this promise through the establishment of the National Law University.



Pawan Kalyan to contest for Andhra Assembly from Pithapuram

Amaravati, Mar 14 (IANS) : Ending the suspense, Jana Sena Party chief and Tollywood actor Pawan Kalyan on Thursday announced that he would be contesting the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections from Pithapuram constituency. Addressing the party's formation day celebrations at its headquarters at Mangalagiri, he announced that he will be entering the fray from Pithapuram in

Kakinada district. This ended the speculations that Pawan Kalyan may contest the Lok Sabha elections. "For now, I don't have any plans to contest for Lok Sabha polls," he said.

He will contest the poll as the candidate of the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance.

The YSR Congress has appointed the sitting MP from Kakinada, Vanga Geetha, as its coordinator for Pithapuram.

BRS MLA Malla Reddy meets Karnataka Dy CM

Hyderabad, Mar 14 (NSS): Ahead of Parliament elections, former minister and BRS MLA Malla Reddy's meeting with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar triggered speculations in political circles. The speculations are going around on the social media that former minister has made up his mind to join the Congress party

along with his son-in-law and BRS MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, who represents Malkajgiri Assembly constituency.



Modi developing country on all fronts: Etela Rajender

Hyderabad, Mar 14 (NSS) : BJP's Malkajgiri Lok Sabha candidate and former minister Etela Rajender today claimed that the Modi government was developing the country on all fronts and added that the entire world was welcoming Modi with a red carpet. As part of the election campaign, he held a meeting with morning walkers at Mahaveer Harina Vanasthali Park on Mansoorabad-Bandlaguda road.



Students should grow up to be scientists

■ Raghunandan Kumar, Director, Planetary Society of India.
■ A program called Journey to Space.
■ Additional Collector Pujari Gauthami was present.

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 14 (TIM Bureau) : Raghunandan Kumar, Director of Planetary Society of India wished the students to grow as scientists. Collector Anurag Jayanthi, under the auspices of the Planetary Society of India, organized a program called Journey to Space for the students of Kasturba Vidyalayas, government and private schools in the district on Thursday in the auditorium of Rajanna Sirisilla District Integrated Office Complex.

Election duties should be conducted honestly and impartially: Collector, District Election Officer Anurag Jayanthi

Rajanna Sirisilla, March 14 (TIM Bureau) : Rajanna Sirisilla District Collector and Electoral Officer Anurag Jayanthi said that officials should perform their election duties honestly and impartially in the upcoming Parliament elections. Collector and District Electoral Officer Anurag Jayanthi in the meeting hall of the Integrated District Collectorate on Thursday said that the concerned officials were flying over the registration of election expenditure details and the actions to be taken on violations of the Election Code. Squad, Static Surveillance, Video Surveillance, Video Viewing Team, Accounting Team, Assistant Expenditure Observer (AEO) reviewed. "Collector, District Election Officer Anurag Jayanthi said that the election observation teams should carry out their duties in order to conduct the upcoming parliamentary elections in a transparent manner by giving equal rights to everyone as per the guidelines of

the Election Commission of India. He made it clear that the duties should be performed within the scope of the commission, we should conduct the elections transparently, our transparency should be evident in every aspect, officials and staff should not participate in the activities of any political parties. As part of their duties, the Flying Squad and Static Surveillance Teams must take video footage when they seize cash and other ornaments, and they should not show any negligence. If more than 50,000 money is moved, it is advised to hold it, take a video and make a panchnama, and then give a receipt for the money held. PPT on how to prepare report on election campaign, giving permission



- Rules of Election Commission must be followed while confiscation of cash
- Every political party should scrutinize meetings and rallies and record every single expenditure
- The Collector and District Election Officer reviewed with the concerned authorities the registration of election expenditure details and action to be taken against violations of the Election Code

for rallies, monitoring them and preparing expenditure report. Conveyed through presentation. "In this meeting, Additional Collector Khemya Naik, Pujari Gautami, Sirisilla RDO Ramesh, Election Master Trainer Mahender Reddy, Assistant Elec-

tion Expenditure Observers, Flying Squad, Static Surveillance, Video Surveillance, Video Viewing Team, Accounting Team, Assistant Expenditure Observers, concerned officials, Others participated.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
VAZIRABAD BRANCH-20426
NALGONDA DISTRICT.

POSSESSION NOTICE (SYMBOLIC)

Under Rule 8(1) and (2) (For Immovable Property)
WHEREAS, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, VAZIRABAD BRANCH, NALGONDA DIST., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Sec 13(2) of the Act and Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 11-01-2024 and calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.10,92,183/- (Ten Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand one Hundred and Eighty Three Rupees Only) as on 12-01-2024 + interest & expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Borrower: Sri. Kambhampati Sambasiva rao, S/o. Anjaneyulu, H.No.7-112, SBI Road, Dachehalli, Dachehalli (M), Guntur Dist.-522414. A/C No.39126740401 (ABAL).
The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the entire amount notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 12-03-2024.
The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, VAZIRABAD BRANCH, NALGONDA DIST., for an amount of Rs.10,92,183/- (Ten Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand one Hundred and Eighty Three Rupees Only) as on 12-01-2024 + interest & expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of site situated in Guntur District, Narasaraopet Reg District, SRO GURAJALA Dachehalli Mandal Dachehalli Grampanchayath Sy.No. 995/15, Old Door No 7-128 Assessment No.4825 New Door No. 13-171, Assessment No.2571 an extent of 88 yards of site and 759 sq ft RCC House Standing in the name of Sri. Kambhampati Sambasiva Rao, S/o. Anjaneyulu Regi. Sale deed No. 4919/2019. Dated: 09.09.2019. Boundaries: North: House of Yarramsetti Mallikarjuna Rao (36ft); South: Site of Chimata Punyavathamma (36 ft); East: Panchayathi Bazar (22 ft); West: House of Kambampati Brahmaiah (22ft).

Date : 12-03-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : VAZIRABAD STATE BANK OF INDIA



A corporation should be formed for the Vishwa Brahmin community

District President of Vishwakarma United Association Gopal Pedeza

Rajanna Sirsilla, March 14 (TIM Bureau) : President of VishwaBrahman Vishwakarma Aikya Sangam Rajanna Sirsilla district committee Chandanagiri Gopal Sirsilla said in a press club meeting yesterday that on Wednesday the state government of Telangana announced a corporation for BC, SC and ST 16 castes. In the announced corporation, the non-declaration of corporation for the Vishwa-Brahmin community was made when the Congress government was formed, and the Telangana government was formed in the spirit of the immortal Srikanthachari. He appealed to the government to look into it and declare it a VishwaBrahman

Corporation. District President Chandanagiri Gopal, District Secretary Sanugula Satyam, Tummanapally Ramesh, District Vice Presidents Sankoji Ramesh, Bagoji Anjaneyulu, Thippavaram Ravinder, Stanbhampally Ramachandram Sunkoji Sattaiah, Alwala Laxman Chari, Kalvakota Raju, Choppadandi Laxman, Jagadishwar Chari, Mamidipalli Srinivas and others participated in this program.



'Rahul aur Akhilesh ki khaatir' goes the INDIA bloc song for joint LS poll campaign in UP

Lucknow, March 14 (IANS) : "Dilli mein pravesh ki khaatir, Rahul aur Akhilesh ki khaatir" goes the new election song that will now be jointly used in the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress Lok Sabha poll campaign in Uttar Pradesh. With the two constituents of the INDIA bloc in Uttar Pradesh having finalised their seat share, the SP and Congress are now preparing for a coordinated poll campaign. The election song goes thus, "Gathbandhan hai, gathbandhan hai. Yeh INDIA

ka gathbandhan hai! Dilli mein pravesh ki khaatir, Rahul aur Akhilesh ki khaatir, Samvidhaan bachana hai toh, vote karo is desh ki khaatir." The video version of the song includes clips from the joint show that SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi put up in Agra on February 25 when the former CM joined the former Congress President's yatra in Taj city. The four-minute-long song's opening lines call for voting the INDIA alliance to power at the Centre for the sake of the Constitution.

Union Bank of India
MAHABUBNAGAR-II BRANCH (Sol Id: 03501) - Mahabubnagar Region
Mobile: 9620714757; E-mail Id: ubin0803502@unionbankofindia.bank
Ref:03501/SARFAESIA/Demand Notice/38710987/2023-24 Date: 04.03.2024

DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

To,

Applicant: Mrs. Maryada Vinutha Devi, W/o Maryada Prathap Reddy Address: -1-1, Lakshmapur (P.N), Nadimpally, Achampet, Nager kurmool District., Telangana State-509375. Mobile No. : 9502829908
Co-Applicant-1: G Rameshwari Devi, W/o (Late) G V Reddy Address: Villa Address: 61, Jayaberi Temple, Besides Jayaberi Peak, Narsingi, KV Ranga Reddy District., Telangana State-500075. Mobile No: 9849778899
Co-Applicant-2: E G James, S/o E G Gershan, Address: H.No 4-190, Achampet, Nagerkurmool District., Telangana State-509375.
Co-Applicant-3: Mrs. Kamatam Mamatha, W/o K.Pradeep Kumar Reddy, Address: H.No. 6-40, 190, Achampet, Nagerkurmool Mohammadabad Village, Gandeed, Ranga District., Telangana State-509375. Reddy District, Telangana State-509337.

Sir/Madam,
SUB: Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice - In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by you with us - Classified as NPA
We have to inform you that your account 1.Maryada Vinutha Devi - Agriculture Term Loan account number 0350100120383, with Mahabubnagar-II Branch (Sol Id: 03501), has been classified as NPA account on 30.10.2023 pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues' interest / instalment. As on date a sum of Rs.1,12,54,978/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) + Interest + Other Charges from 30.10.2023 till date is outstanding in your accounts as shown below

Sl. No.	Name of Facility	Balance Outstanding (in Rs.)	Applicable Rate of Interest (% p.a.)	Outstanding Amount (in Rs.)
1	ATLHP-035030100120383	1,12,54,978/-	10.45%	Rs.1,12,54,978/- + Interest and charges thereon

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account / you have not discharged your liabilities. We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of Rs.1,12,54,978/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) +Other Charges from 30.10.2023 till date together with contractual rate of interest as stated above from 30.10.2023 with monthly rest as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.
Primary Security: NIL
Collateral Security:
Schedule of the Property-1: All that the Open Plot No.8 in Survey Nos. 43/E and 43/U admeasuring 161.33 Square Yards situated at Kalwakurthy Village and Mandal, Nagarkurnool District, Telangana State, and property belongs to E G James, S/o E G Gershan and Boundaries: East: Plot No.7, West: 30 Feet Wide Road, North: Plot No.9, South: 30 Feet Wide Road.
Schedule of the Property-2: All that the Open Plot No.12 in Survey No.294, admeasuring 73.33 Square Yards situated at Achampet Village and Mandal, Nagarkurnool District, Telangana State, and property belongs to E G James, S/o E G Gershan and Boundaries: East: Plot No.13, West: Plot No.11, North: 30'-0" Feet Wide Road, South: P.W.D Road.
Schedule of the Property-3: All that the Open Plot No.242 & 243 in Survey No. 352 admeasuring 292.50 square yards situated at Jacherla Village and Mandal, Mahabubnagar District, Telangana State, and property belongs to Mrs.Kamatam Mamatha, W/o K.Pradeep Kumar Reddy Boundaries: East: Plot No.241, West: 35 Feet wide road, North: 30 Feet wide road, South: Plot No.222 and 223.

1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.
2) You are requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the Bank. Please note any violation of this section entails serious consequences.
3) Please note that as per Section 13(8) of the said Act, you may redeem the secured assets by remitting the amount demanded along together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tenders from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.
We inform you that the Demand Notice Sec 13(2) under SARFAESIA-2002 was issued/served on 22.11.2023 and published in News Papers on 03.03.2024. It is with drawn, with a right to reissue a fresh notice as one of the Collateral Security (Property No.2) was not included earlier.

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India
Mahabubnagar-II Branch

Women should be economically developed: District Collector Anurag Jayanthi



Rajanna Sirsilla (Vemulawada), March 14 (TIM Bureau) : Rajanna Sirsilla District Collector Anurag Jayanti suggested that women should achieve economic development. On Thursday, District Collector Vemulawada mandal Anupuram village, with the courtesy of NABARD, inspected the training programs being provided to Swashakti women groups under the direction of the District Rural Development Officer on the preparation and tailoring of millets, along with Additional Collector P

- Women should utilize various schemes offered by the central and state governments for business development
- Marketing should be armed with our skills
- The District Collector inspected the training program being offered to Swashakti women's groups in Anupuram village of Vemulawada mandal

Gauthami. On this occasion, the Collector interacted with Swashakti Women's Associations for a while. They inquired about the details of the food prepared using millets. The collector discussed the market demand and marketing method for the millet snacks that we make. The collector suggested that the central state governments are granting low interest and subsidized loans under

various schemes to help women grow economically, and they should take advantage of them and grow economically by doing business. "Later, they inquired about the details of the women undergoing tailoring training and the details of the training provided in tailoring and fashion design.

CM Revanth meets BJP leader Jithender

Continued From pg 01
Speaking to the media, Jithender Reddy said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy coming to his house was nothing new and the latter came to his elder brother's house. "We belong to the same district. The Chief Minister came to console me that I didn't get a seat. I am still in the BJP, but my political future is in the hands of the party," he said. Responding to the question on joining the Congress party, the BJP leader said the MP tickets have been filled in Congress and there are no vacant seats. "While Vamshi Chand Reddy is contesting from Mahbubnagar, Patnam Mahender Reddy family is contesting from Chevella. Moreover, the Chief Minister has not invited me into the Congress party.

Congress announces first list of 10 candidates for R'sthan; Rahul Kaswan fielded from Churu

Jaipur, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Congress on Thursday declared candidates for 10 seats in Rajasthan for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Sitting Churu MP Rahul Kaswan, who joined the Congress from the BJP on Thursday, has been given a ticket from the same seat. Earlier, the BJP had denied him a ticket and fielded Paralympian javelin thrower Devendra Jhaharia from the seat. Similarly, Vaibhav Gehlot, son of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, has been made the candidate from Jalore-Sirohi. Last time Vaibhav had contested from the Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat and was defeated by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The Congress has fielded new candidates on all the 10 seats. No candidate has been given a ticket for the same seat as last time. The

ticket of previous candidate Madan Gopal Meghwal from Bikaner seat has been cancelled as Govind Meghwal has been fielded from here. The tickets of previous candidates Rafiq Mandelia from Churu, Shraavan Kumar from Jhunjhunu, Abhijeet Jatav from Bharatpur and Namonarayan Meena from Tonk have been cancelled. Udaylal Anjana was given a ticket from Jalore-Sirohi last time. This time, he has been fielded from Chittorgarh. Three Congress MLAs have been given Lok Sabha tickets -- Brijendra Singh Ola who contested from Jhunjhunu, Harish Meena has been fielded from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur and Lalit Yadav from Alwar. The Congress has given a ticket to Tarachand Meena, a fresh face from Udaipur.



Court in UP's Hapur sentences ten to life terms in mob lynching case

Hapur (UP), Mar 14 (IANS) : A court in UP's Hapur district on Thursday convicted all ten persons accused in the 2018 mob lynching case and sentenced them to life imprisonment. The court of Additional District Judge Shweta Dixit, after hearing both parties, convicted 10 people of killing 45-year-old Qasim and assaulting Samaideen, 62, on a false rumour of cow slaughter. Government counsel Vijay Chauhan said that the court has also imposed a fine of Rs 58,000 each on the accused -- Rakesh, Hari Om, Yudhishtir, Rinku, Karanpal, Manish, Lalit, Sonu, Kaptan, and Mange Ram of Bajhaida village.



Out of LS race, sitting Kerala MP Prathapan appointed as KPCC working president

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 14 (IANS) : The sitting Congress MP from Trissur in Kerala, T.N. Prathapan, who at the last moment decided not to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, was on Thursday appointed as the Working President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).



Senior Gujarat Congress leaders Bharatsinh Solanki, Jagdish Thakor opt out of LS race

Gandhinagar, Mar 14 (IANS) : Veteran Gujarat Congress leader and former Union minister Bharatsinh Solanki on Thursday announced his decision not to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The announcement, made via a social media post by the former president of the Gujarat Congress, is a strategic choice to focus on his responsibilities as the AICC in-charge for Jammu & Kashmir and spearhead the party's campaign efforts in Gujarat. Solanki, 70, has contributed to the party during his tenure as Gujarat Congress president. How-

ever, following successive defeats in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Solanki has chosen to step aside. He affirms his dedication to the party by stating, "I will accept and obey whatever decision is made by the Central leadership." Jagdish Thakor, another seasoned Gujarat Congress figure, echoed this sentiment of withdrawal from electoral contention. Through a video post, Thakor articulated his decision to forgo participation in the Lok Sabha election, attributing his decision to a blend of personal reflections and health concerns, alongside a commitment to Rahul Gandhi's vision for invigorating the party with new faces. Thakor's decision is grounded in his extensive political journey with the Congress. He has served as a two-time MLAggress, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, among other roles.

J&K cop suspended after murder of Jammu gangster

Jammu, Mar 14 (IANS) : A J&K Police Sub-Inspector was suspended on Thursday after a gangster was killed by another gang in neighbouring Punjab, officials said. 'History-sheeter' and gangster Rajesh Dogra, originally from Reasi district and presently living in Jammu, was murdered in broad daylight in the Mohali area of Punjab on March 4. SSP Jammu, Vinod Kumar has placed Sub-Inspector, Mushtaq Ahmad, posted at Sarwalpolice post, under suspension for alleged negligence for his inability to keep a watch on the gangster.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
CHANDUR BRANCH
Mobile No. +91 9324924731
Mail Id: ubin0824739@uniobankofindia.bank

BIKE FOR SALE
We are going to conduct Auction of the Bike. Details are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Borrower/ Guarantor Name	Vehicle No.	Make	Model	M.F. Year	Reserve Price (Rs.)
1	Mr. Nallaganti Ramesh,	TS 05 FL 9303	BAJAJ PULSAR	Pulsar 200 BS VI 07-2022	2022	70,000/-

H.No.3-70M, Angadipeta, Chandur.
2. Mr. Nallaganti Alivelu, H.No.3-70M, Angadipeta, Chandur.

DATE & TIME OF AUCTION: 22-03-2024 at 11.00 AM
PLACE OF AUCTION: Union Bank of India, CHANDUR Branch
Sealed quotations are invited along with offer letter and EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price (Refundable to unsuccessful bidders) DD drawn in favour of Union Bank of India, Chandur, Payable at Chandur. Successful bidder should pay 25% of the offer amount by cash/DD immediately and the balance within 7 days from the date of sale. The Bike shall be auctioned on "As is basis" condition. The Authorised Officer may accept / reject the offer/ quotation or postpone/ cancel the auction without assigning any reason therefor. **Date of Inspection: 21-03-2024. Further details contact: 9324924731**
Date: 04-03-2024, Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India
Place: Chandur

TMB TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD.
Dinbur Plaza, Ground Floor, No.1-2-71/72 & 73, Old No.96, Park Lane, 5D Road, Secunderabad-500003. Ph. No. 040-27817652, 27720653, e-mail: secunderabad@tmbank.in

SALE NOTICE TO THE GOLD LOAN BORROWER

Account No.	Name of the Borrower	Loan Amount	Balance O/s as on	Gross Wt./ Net Wt.
141700250100148	Ch.Vijay Kumar	Rs. 38,000/-	Rs.42,154.76 as on 29-02-2024	14.590/ 10.000

Auction Date: 28-03-2024 Time: 4.00 P.M.
In case of non-repayment of the above mentioned gold jewelry by the customers, the loan will be auctioned at our Secunderabad branch premises on the above mentioned date as per bank norms. **Terms and conditions:** 1) The buyer should pay the full amount and get the goods on the same day. 2) The Bank has no guarantee for the weight or quality of the jewelry. 3) Conditions of auction without showing any reason, the bank has full authority to change, postpone, stop or cancel the auction. 4) Any of these account holders may be deemed to have conveyed this notice to their deceased heirs. 5) Those who have not received the debt collection notices and those who have rejected the notices may consider this notice as final notice and pay the amount within the auction date. 6) Paper advertisement charges extra. 7) Candidates who want to participate in this auction must come with PAN card and address proof card.
Date: 14-03-2024 Sd/- Branch Manager
Place: Secunderabad Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Secunderabad

बैंक ऑफ बरौदा Bank of Baroda
Branch: Vijayanagar Colony, No.10/3/677, Opp: Post Office, Hyderabad-500057. Ph: 040-23345780, 23348000

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 10-01-2024 calling upon the borrowers Shri Mr SYED ASLAM HUSSAIN and the guarantors Mrs. SYED NAZIMA BEGUM to repay the amount mentioned in the notice aggregating Rs.2,06,00,361.25 (Rupees Two crore six lakhs three hundred sixty one and twenty five paise only) + Interest from 08-01-2024 + other Charges, as on 11-03-2024 together with future interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of the receipt of said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 12th day of March of the year 2024. The borrower and guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda, V.N.Colony Branch for an amount of being Rs.2,06,00,361.25 (Rupees Two crore six lakhs three hundred sixty one and twenty five paise only) + Interest from 08.01.2024 + other Charges + future interest thereon after 08.01.2024 and other expenses thereon till date of payment. The Borrowers attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Properties
All that plot No.528/C (Eastern Part) admeasuring 270.00 Sq.Yds., or 225.72 Sq.Mtrs., out of 500.00 Sq.Yds., or 418.06 Sq.Mtrs. and building there on in Sy.No.150 (Part), situated at Deepthireshree Nagar, Hafeezpet Village, Serilingampally Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District and bounded by: North: 30 Feet Wide Road; South: Plot No.534/2 and 3; East: Plot No.528/B; West: Plot No.528/C Western Part
Date: 14-03-2024 Sd/- (Bakki Rajendra Prasad) Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad Bank of Baroda

SCBA President urges President Murmu to seek presidential reference of SC judgement in Electoral Bonds case

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Senior advocate and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Adish C. Aggarwala on Thursday urged President Droupadi Murmu to seek a presidential reference of the Constitution Bench judgement in the Electoral Bonds case. In his letter written on the letterhead of the All India Bar Association, Aggarwala said that revealing the names of corporates would render them vulnerable to victimisation by those parties which had received less contribution from them and would have a chilling effect on corporate donations and participation in the democratic process. "Besides drying up further donations, such an act



(of disclosing names of corporates and their quantum of contributions to various parties) would discourage and dissuade foreign corporate entities from setting shops in India or participating in the democratic process but contributing to winning horses," he said in the letter to President Murmu.



Arrah district court issues summon to Udhayanidhi Stalin

Patna, Mar 14 (IANS): The district court of Arrah has issued a summon to Udhayanidhi Stalin in connection with his comparison of Sanatan Dharma with dengue, malaria and corona. A hearing in this regard was held in the court of chief judicial magistrate Manoranjan Kumar Jha. The court considered that the statement of Stalin has hurt the sentiment of a section of people who believe in Sanatan Dharma.



Coast Guard seizes Pak boat with Rs 480 crore drugs off Gujarat coast; six held

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : In an overnight joint operation between the ICG, NCB, and ATS Gujarat. The ICG said that on specific intelligence inputs from the security agencies, the ICG strategically positioned its ships in the Arabian Sea on Thursday. The boat was apprehended about 350 km from Porbandar in the Arabian Sea in a sea-air coordinated operation involving ICG ships and Dornier Aircraft. The operation

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS
The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 19-03-2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 20-03-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

SALEEM NAGAR BRANCH, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9000555080

S.No./Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1 / 31-10-2019	304630100008753	Mr. Boddu Ravikanth, 16-11-476/85, Ayyappa Nilayam, Indira Nagar, Moosaram Bagh, Dilusukh Nagar, Hyderabad-500036, Telangana.

KANDIKAL BRANCH, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 7307157124

S.No./Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
2 / 23-09-2022	327606540000041	Mr. R.Mallikarjun Rao Deshmukh, H.No.3-37, Kolpur Maganoor Mandal, Makthal, Hyderabad-509208, Telangana.

Date: 14-03-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS
The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered, to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 19-03-2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 20-03-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

SAIDABAD BRANCH, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9891694706

S.No./Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1 / 05-03-2021	052116530000606	Mr. P.V.S.Koteswara Rao, H.No.11-13-1109/2/2, Sunshine Habitat, F.No.201, Green Hills Colony, Saroor Nagar, R.R.Dist, Telangana-500035.

PEERZADIGUA BRANCH, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 9866998597

S.No./Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
2 / 27-05-2022	118016540000338	Mr. Malaya Ranjan Naik, Flat No.202, IBM Residency, 2nd Floor, Vihar Nagar Colony, Canara Nagar, Opp. Tulip Hotel, Hyderabad, Telangana-500092.

SANTOSH NAGAR BRANCH, Hyderabad. Contact Ph. No.: 7508604983

S.No./Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
3 / 06-01-2021	054830100169744	Mr. Gulam Aleem Uddin, D.No.16-1-486/1, Madannapet Mandi, Hyderabad, Telangana-500059.

Date: 14-03-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

OPINIONmail



BJP-TDP-JSP ALLIANCE TO MAKE ANDHRA PRADESH POLLS COMPETITIVE

Baratiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) have agreed in principle for an alliance on the eve of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha election 2024 in Andhra Pradesh. Both the BJP and the TDP are in urgent need to ally to protect their political interests at the national and state level respectively, and hence there is every possibility of their proposed alliance becoming a reality. BJP hopes to win two seats by this arrangement in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election from the state, in addition to its expectation that TDP may prove to be an asset for achieving the NDA's target to 400+, in addition to finding an opening in the state election again. For TDP, it's a question of re-establishing its political clout in the state again and overcome the political dominance of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Even though, one cannot say with certainty which party could gain how much since considerable size of BJP rank and file consider Chandrababu Naidu as a "traitor" for BJP, and very large number of TDP leaders and workers believe that BJP ultimately ditched them by not conceding their demand of giving special status to Andhra Pradesh leading their loss of power in 2019.

Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan is playing a key role between the two, since his political outfit Jana Sena Party (JSP) is already an ally of BJP in NDA and an ally of TDP in Andhra Pradesh. In 2014 elections, BJP-TDP-JSP alliance won 103 Vidhan Sabha seats out of 175 in the state, after carving out Telangana from Andhra Pradesh as separate state. This bifurcation had also reduced the Parliamentary seats of Andhra Pradesh from 42 to 25, while 17 seats went with Telangana. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu demanded special status for Andhra Pradesh which Modi government refused to grant, which led to split in NDA, and TDP parted ways from BJP in 2018. The political development thereafter has compelled TDP to seek re-alliance after six years. However, electoral outcome will depend much on how they go ahead and finalise seat sharing among themselves, both for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections 2024.

YSRCP emerged as dominant force in both the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections held in 2019. In Lok Sabha election YSRCP was able to win 22 seats out of 25. The ruling TDP in the State could win only 3 seats. YSRCP had gained 14 Lok Sabha seats compared to 2014, while TDP lost 12. In terms of vote share, YSRCP bagged 49.15 per cent of votes with a 20.25 per cent of swing in its favour. TDP suffered 11.49 per cent of swing against it, and could achieve a vote share of 39.59 per cent. JSP's vote share was 7 per cent, while BJP could reach a vote share to only 0.96 per cent, after a swing of 7.54 per cent against it. BJP lost its 2 seats in 2019 that it had won in 2014 Lok Sabha election.

The result of the Lok Sabha election was a clear indication that both the BJP and TDP suffered great loss in terms of seats and vote share when the contested the election separately. Therefore, alliance between the two was imperative. The additional personal reason for Chandrababu Naidu is his recent arrest in corruption case, which he alleges was nothing but personal vendetta of the CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. TDP leader is therefore very keen to come-back to power again. JSP leader Pawan Kalyan also knows that his party has little support base, and he can't hope for gain without an alliance.

It should be noted that BJP and YSRCP have also been in very friendly terms, and almost on all occasions, YSRCP supported Modi government. However, PM Modi needs to increase the number of seats of NDA, and such outside support naturally gets priority. As per the internal assessment of BJP, the party has no hope of gaining any Lok Sabha seat from the state by fighting solo, but if they contest in alliance with TDP, it could regain its two seats that it won in 2014. The reason for BJP's hope is the growing anti-incumbency in the state against ruling YSRCP.

TDP also hopes to considerably regain its lost ground — first on account of growing anti-incumbency against YSRCP regime, and secondly on account of alliance with the BJP and JSP.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

COMMOTION AND CONFUSION AS 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS NEARS

The Rajya Sabha elections have stirred a political commotion, not only because of cross-voting, as has often taken place in the past, but also because the BJP is out to get every seat it can and the defeat of the official Congress candidate in Himachal Pradesh and a Samajwadi Party (SP) nominee in Uttar Pradesh are being viewed as attempts to demoralize a downhearted Opposition on the eve of Lok Sabha polls. The defeat of Abhishek Manu Singhvi, the Congress candidate for the only seat in Himachal Pradesh that was up for grabs, took many by surprise for it wasn't expected to become a close contest. The Congress was far ahead of the BJP with 43 MLAs on its side and only 25 legislators of the opposition party arrayed against Singhvi. In the lead-up to the election, Singhvi had openly hinted at the possibility of the BJP weaning away Congress MLAs. Then, why and how did the Congress fail to manage the situation staring it in the face? Was it only a factional war in the party? The party is, after all, in power in the state with all the advantages that power brings with it. In contrast, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivkumar, who were also in power, managed things in the Southern state and ensured all three Congress nominees were elected to the Upper House despite attempts by the BJP and its ally Janata Dal (Secular) to queer the pitch. When it seemed that the Congress might be on the verge of losing the government in Shimla — Singhvi's defeat raised questions about its majority in the assembly — the party's leadership swung into action and pulled the government back from the brink, at least for the moment.



BJP OPENS UP TO ITS ESTRANGED ALLIES TO SCORE HIGH IN LOK SABHA POLLS

Just 13 months back, precisely on February 10, 2023, Narendra Modi had made an audacious boast on the floor of Rajya Sabha "ek akela sab par bhari" (he alone was overpowering for all). He had even said "one person is proving too much for so many". He is so confident of his abilities, dexterity and political power that he was heard offering "Modi's guarantee" to the common people. During his ten-year rule he virtually turned his allies irrelevant and pushed them out of the political ring. Unfortunately one feels really pity to watch the same person, the iron man of Indian politics, begging to his former allies to come back, join the rank, for fighting the challenge of the INDIA bloc. Modi abhors the idea of listening to advice and suggestions from any other person. He is the wisest person.

It is an open secret that after winning the 2014

general election he had pushed away leaders like Chandrababu Naidu of Telugu Desam and Sukhbir Singh Badal of Akali Dal, once both were the strongest allies of BJP. He even ignored Navin Patnaik of BJD of Odisha. Modi behaved in a very ruthless manner with them. Modi sent an intelligible message that he did not care for such allies and he was capable of single-handedly winning elections, whether in the states or at the Centre. Though the Akalis had severed ties with the BJP over the three controversial and now-revoked farm laws, the fact is Badals were feeling let down.



PRESIDENT BIDEN OPTS FOR ECONOMIC POPULISM AT HOME, IMPERIALISM ABROAD

President Joe Biden's last State of the Union address before the 2024 elections laid out an agenda of sharp contrasts, with economic populism dominating domestic policy and Cold War confrontation and militarism defining his international strategy.

At home, Biden pledged to

impose higher taxes on billionaires and price-gouging corporations, make prescriptions cheaper for Americans on Medicare, and defend democracy and abortion rights from Trump and the GOP. Derailing this otherwise liberal-progressive program, however, was an approach to immigration that outflanks Republicans on the right, a foreign policy of Cold War

confrontation with China and Russia, and a promise of further support for Israel's war against Palestinians.

Public anger over the latter issue disrupted Biden's speech before it even began: A large sit-in protest by ceasefire demonstrators blocked Pennsylvania Avenue, forcing Biden's motorcade to drive an alternate route from the White House to the Capitol.

Once he was able to make it to the House chambers, though, Biden launched into a speech that was combative with Republicans at times, short on progressive substance at others, but crafted from beginning to end with the intention of ending speculation about his age and mental sharpness. Biden continually invited comparisons between himself and Donald Trump, whom he referred to as "my predecessor" and described as a threat to democracy both in the United States and other countries.

He slammed Trump as a threat to the rights and freedoms Americans now take for granted. Ana-

lysts called the speech Biden's formal re-election campaign kickoff. Throughout, on their side of the House chamber, glum-looking Republicans sat on their hands, often looking down.

Biden's criticism of misogynist, 91-count-indicted, and twice-impeached Trump focused on the Republican's instigation and encouragement of Jan. 6, 2021, invasion, insurrection, and attempted coup d'état attempt at the U.S. Capitol.

"It is we who face an unprecedented moment in the history of the union," Biden declared at the outset. "And, yes, my purpose tonight is to both wake up this Congress and alert the American people that this is no ordinary moment either." He sought to warn the country about Trump's increasingly belligerent and erratic statements. Atop them: Trump's promise to be a dictator "on day one" if he takes office again next Jan. 20.

IN MEXICO, LEFTWING MORENA LOOKS POISED TO WIN THE PRESIDENCY AGAIN

On Friday, March 1, Mexico's left-wing Morena party marked the beginning of the country's official presidential campaign season with a kickoff event in Mexico City's central square, or Zócalo. Before a maximum-capacity crowd and following an introduction by the party's mayoral candidate for the city, Clara Brugada, presidential standard-bearer Claudia Sheinbaum laid out a hundred-point plan for building the "second floor of the transformation." MexicoI going for te Presidential elections on June 2 this year.

While many of the proposals dealt with consolidating projects already underway or under consideration — including a package of constitutional reforms sent to the Congress of the

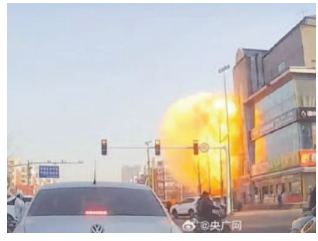
Union by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) in February — Sheinbaum offered glimpses into how this second floor would look different from the first. It includes a greater emphasis on women's issues, building on programs instituted during her term as mayor of Mexico City; the most eye-catching proposal was one to reduce the age at which women could qualify for the universal adult pension, with a partial payment kicking in at the age of sixty.

Sheinbaum's platform also entails greater attention to education, culture, sports, and the arts, including health and social security benefits for artists typically left out of those systems. It offers an increased focus on preventative and mental health, including a national

mental health program that encompasses victims of violence. It promises to tackle Mexico's chronic water problems, including reforms to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-era National Water Law that turned hydric resources over to wealthy licensees and corporations (Sheinbaum has said that water will be a defining issue of her administration). And building on Sheinbaum's strengths as a climate engineer, it promises to drive the energy transition — not along the lines of the greenwashing model promoted by energy multinationals but within a framework of strengthened public control over the sector, which has been one of the most significant battles of AMLO's term.

MAJOR LEGAL-POLITICAL VICTORY FOR CASH-STRAPPED KERALA

Cash-strapped Kerala scored a significant legal-political victory when the Supreme Court directed the Union Government to allow the State additional market borrowing to the tune of Rs 13,608 crore. The apex court's ruling has come as a big relief for Kerala, which has been struggling to meet its financial commitments, including payment of salaries and pensions. To the acute embarrassment of the Union Government, the SC also came down heavily on the Centre's insistence that Kerala withdraw the case before the Centre released the funds.



1 dead, 22 injured in China eatery explosion

Beijing, Mar 14 (IANS) : One person was killed and 22 others were injured following an eatery explosion in China's Hebei Province on Thursday, local authorities said. The blast occurred at 7:54 a.m. at a fried chicken shop in Yanjiao township in the city of Sanhe, according to the city's emergency management bureau. It is suspected to have been caused by a gas leak, the bureau said, Xinhua news agency reported. Rescue workers have rushed to the site immediately. More details are awaited.

Hamas delegation to visit Cairo this week for truce talks, temporary ceasefire likely

Tel Aviv, Mar 14 (IANS) : Bringing an end to the deadlock in ceasefire talks, a delegation of senior Hamas leaders led by its political bureau head, Ismail Haniyeh is set to visit Cairo this week for mediatory talks. Sources in the Israel Defence Ministry told IANS that the talks would be held at the mediation of the special envoy of US President Joe Biden, Brett McGurk, who will visit Cairo this week. According to the sources, Hamas leadership has agreed to release, women, elderly and wounded Israeli hostages in its custody in exchange for

the Palestinian prisoners kept in Israeli jails. Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Al-Thani and Egyptian Intelligence Head Major General Abbas Kamel will also be part of the mediatory talks in Cairo. However, the Israel Defense Ministry source did not give the exact date of the truce talks but instead revealed that the talks will take place this week itself. US President Joe Biden had announced earlier that ceasefire would commence before the holy Ramadan month. While Ramadan month has begun, there was no progress in ceasefire talks and the sudden breakthrough has given hopes for an imminent ceasefire.



In the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas that began on October 7, 2023, more than 31,000 Palestinians, including a large number of women and children have lost their lives. Around 241 Israeli soldiers were killed in addition to the 1,200 people killed in southern Israel on October 7 last year when Hamas militants swarmed into Kibbutz

Beer, Kfar Aza and Reim festival areas of southern Israel. Since the start of the war, there was a one-week ceasefire from November 24 to December 1, which saw the release of 105 Israeli hostages in exchange of 324 Palestinian prisoners kept in Israeli prisons.



Japan's Space One rocket explodes after lift-off

Tokyo, Mar 14 (IANS) : The inaugural rocket launch of Japanese company Space One failed on Thursday as the Kairos rocket exploded seconds after lifting off, marking the first attempt from the country's private sector to put a satellite into orbit. Shortly after 11:00 a.m. local time (0200 GMT) at the launch site in Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, smoke and fire were seen following the take-off of the 18-meter, four-stage solid-fuel rocket, multiple local media live streams showed, Xinhua news agency reported.



Imran barred from holding meetings inside Adiala Jail for two weeks

Rawalpindi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been barred from holding meetings inside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for two weeks, as per a media report. According to a notification issued by Pakistan Punjab's Home Department, all kinds of visits, meetings, and interviews have been restricted in Adiala Jail due to security alerts, Geo News reported. The notification instructed the authorities to install barbed wires outside the jail premises. A fresh security audit of the officials of the special branch of the police, Intelligence Bureau, and the jail staff be done within a single day, it added.

Expressing severe concerns over the abrupt ban on Khan's meetings in the prison, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan feared that the former Prime Minister's life is in danger, The News reported. Addressing a press conference outside the jail, Gohar claimed that they were barred from meeting the incarcerated PTI founder. He said that the authorities did not inform anybody about the two-week ban on Khan's meetings. The authorities gave "terrorism" as a reason for the move, he added. Gohar also demanded an immediate meeting with the incarcerated PTI founder, as he sought details about Khan's health, The News reported.



Biden clinches Democratic nomination, Trump likely to win GOP nod

Washington, Mar 14 (IANS) : US President Joe Biden clinched the number of delegates needed to win the Democratic Party's nomination in primaries held on Thursday. His predecessor Donald Trump will have won the Republican nomination by the end of the day. The Biden-Trump rematch has, thus, cleared its final qualifying threshold. Biden crossed the Democratic Party threshold of 1,968 delegates with a win in the primaries in Georgia, which was critical to his win

in the general election in 2020. Trump won the Republican Party primaries in Georgia as well but will have to wait for results from the three other states that held their primaries on Thursday -- Hawaii, Mississippi and Washington -- to clinch the nomination. Neither of them faced a real challenge for their respective party nominations although the Republican primaries had remained open till March 5 when Nikki Haley, the former Ambassador to the UN, suspended her campaign leaving Trump the only one in the field. In an election system typical to the US, aspirants to the White House

need to win enough delegates -- every state primary or caucus grants them a certain number of delegates -- who will officially anoint their nominees at their party conventions later in the year. But the Biden versus Trump presidential election gets technically underway on Thursday night. Biden cleared the 1,968 delegates on Thursday and Trump will have his 1,215 by the end of the day. "Just a few minutes ago, this team helped me clinch the Democratic Party's nomination for President of the US," Biden said in a statement.

Putin critic Navalny's ally Leonid Volkov attacked in Lithuania

Warsaw, Mar 14 (IANS) : Leonid Volkov, a long-time ally of the late Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, has been attacked outside his home in Lithuania, the media reported. Volkov was assaulted with a hammer and tear gas while in his car in Vilnius on Thursday night, Navalny spokesperson Kira Yarmysh said as quoted by BBC report. The alleged assailant is unknown, as is their motive. The Lithuanian Police have been informed of the incident and are investigating, according to the Reuters news agency. Another member of the Navalny team, Ivan Zhdanov, posted pictures on social media of Volkov with a bloodied lower left leg and what looked like bruising to his temple.



Ukraine-based Russian armed groups claim raids into Russia

Moscow, Mar 14 (IANS) : Three Ukraine-based Russian paramilitary groups said that they have crossed into Russia and are now fighting government troops there, media reported. The Freedom of Russia Legion (FRL) and Siberian Battalion (SB) posted videos purportedly showing their fighters in Russia's Belgorod and Kursk regions, BBC reported. The FRL and an exiled Russian politician claimed two villages were now in control of "liberation forces". Russia's Defence Ministry said the breakthrough attempts were thwarted. It claimed more than 234 Ukrainian troops had been killed and several tanks had been destroyed. According to Belgorod's regional governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, one member of Russia's territorial defence

forces was killed and 10 civilians were injured, BBC reported. These numbers have not yet been verified by the BBC. Ukraine's military denied any involvement in Thursday's cross-border raids. Undriy Yusov, a spokesman for the country's military intelligence, said the paramilitary groups were "independent organisations" of Russian nationals, and therefore operating "at home". In a separate development, Russia said Ukraine had launched 25 drones on targets across Russia, but the attack was thwarted. However, videos have emerged which appear to show several Russian oil facilities on fire, BBC reported. In the Ivanovo region, just east of Moscow, an Il-76 military transport plane with eight crew and seven passengers crashed shortly after take-off, Russia's Defence Ministry was quoted as saying by Russian state-run news



agencies. The Ministry said an engine fire caused the crash. It gave no details of survivors. Videos have emerged purportedly showing the plane on fire circling in the sky, and later plumes of black smoke from the crash site. Elsewhere, at least three people were killed and 38 injured on Tuesday night when a Russian missile struck two apartment buildings in the central Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih, according to the Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs, Ihor Klymenko. Klymenko said children were

among the victims and that the number of deaths may go up as the search and rescue operation is continuing, BBC reported. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the country would "inflict losses on the Russian state in response -- quite rightly". A full-scale invasion of Ukraine launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin is now in its third year, with no signs that the biggest war in Europe since World War Two could end soon.

Increasing medical school admissions based on scientific grounds: South Korean PM

Seoul, Mar 14 (IANS) : South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo on Thursday said the government's decision to increase the medical school enrollment quota by 2,000 to address the shortage of doctors was based on scientific analysis. Over 90 per cent of the country's 13,000 junior doctors have been on mass resignations for nearly a month, protesting against the government's decision, leading to the cancellation of crucial surgeries and crippling the medical system, Yonhap news agency reported. "It is regrettable that the medical community is now claiming a lack of scientific analysis and consultation," Han Duck-soo said during a meeting with relevant officials at the government complex in Sejong. Han Duck-soo referred to a study projecting a shortage of around 10,000 doctors by 2035 and

noted that universities have requested the government to increase the medical school quota. "We have decided to increase enrollment by 2,000 starting from 2025, taking into account the time required for medical training," Han Duck-soo said. The prolonged walkout by medical interns and residents, who play crucial roles in assisting with surgeries and emergency services at the five hospitals, has escalated. Medical school professors at Seoul National University.





DMK asks Cong not to field candidates on Arani, Karur and Tiruchi LS seats

Chennai, Mar 14 (IANS) : Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has asked the Congress not to field its candidates for Tiruchi, Arani and Karur Lok Sabha seats. However, DMK has agreed with the grand-old party to field its candidates on all nine seats which are currently held by the party. A senior DMK leader told IANS that the local DMK units includ-

ing district units are not happy with local Congress leadership in Arani and Karur while in Tiruchi DMK wants MDMK leader Durai Vaiko to contest. The sitting Karur MP, Jothimani is not on good terms with the Karur unit of the DMK led by jailed former minister Senthil Balaaji who controls the party in the area. DMK's Arani leadership also does not favour the sitting Congress

MP, M.K. Vishnuprasad. The party's local units want both these seats to be taken back by the DMK. For Tiruchi, DMK state leadership wants to field MDMK leader Vaiko's son, Durai Vaiko, with Stalin taking special interest in the seat. DMK is willing to allot Kanniyakumari, Tiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar and Sivaganga seats to Congress.



Two-way traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar highway for LMVs

Srinagar, Mar 14 (IANS) : After a fortnight, authorities on Thursday have allowed two-way traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway for Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs). Traffic department officials said that LMVs will be allowed to ply on the highway today from both Jammu and Srinagar sides. Due to bad road condition caused by landslides and shooting stones between Banihal and Ramban towns, only one-way traffic was allowed on the highway for a

fortnight. Carriageway widening was taken up by the National Highways Authority of India at Dalwas while landslide debris clearance also started at a number of places to make the road safe for two-way traffic. This highway is known as the lifeline of the Valley as all essential commodities are brought here through this highway. Meanwhile, Srinagar-Leh, Doda-Chamba, Sinthan-Kishtwar and Mughal Road are still closed for traffic.



Mukhtar Ansari convicted in fake arms licence case

Varanasi, Mar 14 (IANS) : A special court in Varanasi on Thursday convicted gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in a 36-year-old fake arms licence case. The MP/MLA court will announce the quantum of the sentence on Thursday. A case was registered in Mohammadabad police station in Ghazipur district on June 10, 1987, accusing Ansari of obtaining a license for a double-barrel gun on the basis of forged documents. The special court had framed charges under Sections 467, 468, 420, and 120B of the IPC and Section 13(2) of the Anti-Corruption Act. Ansari appeared in court on Thursday via video conferencing.



Driver, woman booked for car stunts in viral video

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : Lucknow police have lodged a case against the driver of a car after a video went viral on social media, showing stunts performed for reels. In the undated viral video, a woman in a black dress can be seen hanging from the gate of a moving Innova, near Shaheed Path in Lucknow. A person inside the car is holding the girl as the car moves at high speed. The video sparked outrage among netizens, some of whom tagged Lucknow police and UP Police. While some suggested that the

video was made for reels, others speculated that the woman might be kidnapped. The police took action on Thursday evening, leading to the registration of an FIR under relevant sections at Sushant Golf City police station. Anjani Kumar Mishra, SHO of Sushant Golf City police station, said: "We have registered the case and are attempting to identify those involved through the vehicle's number." Initial investigations suggest that the video is old. The car is registered in Prayagraj.

Eight railway stations in Amethi get new names

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has granted a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Uttar Pradesh government's request to rename eight railway stations in Amethi district. This approval follows a proposal submitted to the MHA on February 12, 2024, said a government spokesman. The proposed name changes

are as follows: Kasimpur Halt to Jais City, Jais to Guru Gorakhnath Dham, Bani to Swami Paramhans, Misraul to Maa Kalikan Dham, Nihalgah to Maharaja Bijli Pasi, Akbarganj to Maa Ahorwa Bhawani Dham, Warisganj to Amar Shahid Bhale Sultan, and Fursatganj to Tapeswarnath Dham. Rekha Sharma, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of the Lucknow division of Northern Railways, said: "The renamed



railway stations will soon be updated by the Railway CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems). Additionally, we anticipate

receiving the NOC from the state public works department for the station renaming process soon."



Kerala HC asks KSIDC to come clean on deal involving IT firm of CM Vijayan's daughter

Kochi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Kerala High Court on Thursday told the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation that it is a responsible public sector undertaking and must refute all allegations of siphoning off crores of money. The court was referring to the probe by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) into the actions of Exalogic, an IT firm owned by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan, which, according to an Income Settlement Board report, had received Rs 1.72 crore from mining company CMRL, in which the KSIDC has around 13 per cent stake. Incidentally, the SFIO took statements from the CMRL and the KSIDC and it was then the KSIDC approached the court seeking a stay into

the ongoing SFIO probe against it. Justice Devan Ramachandran orally said: "It is to protect your (KSIDC) credibility that I am saying this... You should co-operate with them, actually. It is left to you to take a call, I am not saying you should, I am saying normally, you should have been happier that your name is cleared because you have a nominee director on the board of CMRL." Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamath, instructed by Central government counsel R.V. Sreejith, submitted that the SFIO has the power to investigate this and also pointed out that the investigation conducted by it will help the KSIDC to know if the CMRL had carried out illegal transactions without its knowledge.

Every party contests polls on a single symbol, but BJP fights on lotus, washing machine : Jairam Ramesh

Mumbai, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Congress party, on a day when the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered the tribal district of Nandurbar in Maharashtra, took a swipe at the BJP claiming that the saffron party is contesting on two symbols, -- one is a lotus and the other is a washing machine. There are two more frontals, the ED and the CBI. On the other hand, every other party contests polls on a single symbol. Congress MP Jairam Ramesh claimed that the policy and intention of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to divide the society. He said that against the BJP's divisive policies, the Congress is working to give justice to society through the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Ramesh said that the Congress party's five pillars of justice are justice for youth, women, farm-

ers, workers, and participatory justice. These guarantees are not of one person but of a party while taking a jibe at the BJP for its Modi's Guarantee slogan. Ramesh said that the party has announced legalisation of MSP, caste-wise census and removal of 50 per cent reservation limit. A guarantee regarding women's justice will be announced at the Women's Conference in Dhule, while a guarantee for labour justice will be announced at a meeting at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on March 17 in the presence of leaders from the Maha Vikas Aghadi. The Congress along with MVA partners Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray, NCP Sharatchandra Pawar, and left parties plans to put up a show of unity on March 17 in Mumbai expressing the resolve to unitedly take on the BJP in Maharashtra. Meanwhile, Congress in-charge for Maharashtra, Ramesh Chennithala.



Mamata Banerjee cancels anti-CAA rally in Siliguri

Kolkata, Mar 14 (IANS) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to return to Kolkata and cancel the proposed anti-CAA rally in Siliguri. Besides attending an administrative review meeting, the Chief Minister was also supposed to lead a mega rally at Siliguri on Thursday to protest against the Central government's decision to implement the Citizenship

Amendment Act (CAA). However, on Wednesday it was announced that the Chief Minister will only attend the administrative programs and then return to Kolkata without participating in the anti-CAA rally. The rally was called off. The anti-CAA rally at Siliguri was crucial considering the pathetic results of the Trinamool Congress in north Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.





Adani Green Energy operationalises 300 MW wind power project in Gujarat

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) on Thursday said that it has operationalised 126 MW wind power capacity in Gujarat, marking the completion of the 300 MW of project, with 174 MW being operationalised earlier. The 300 MW wind project will produce around 1,091 million electricity units, leading to an avoidance of approximately 0.8 million tons of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions annually. "With the operationalisation of the project, AGEL continues to strengthen its market leadership, operating India's largest renewable energy portfolio of 9,604 MW," the company said in a statement. "Its operational assets are maintained and monitored by the cloud-based platform, the

Energy Network Operations Centre (ENOC), which enables real-time monitoring and leverages analytics and machine learning, setting benchmarks for industry-leading performance," it added. According to the company, wind energy is critical to India's energy mix for grid balancing. The complementary nature of wind energy, integrated with solar and other sources, strengthens grid stability. As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India has the fourth highest wind installed capacity in the world. The National Institute of Wind Energy has estimated India's gross wind power potential at 695.5 at 120 metres and 1163.9 GW at 150 metres above ground level.



Reliance Industries to acquire Paramount Global's 13 pc stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4286 cr

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Reliance Industries has signed an agreement to acquire 13.01 per cent equity stake of Viacom 18 Media Private Limited (Viacom18) held by Paramount Global through its two subsidiaries for an aggregate consideration of Rs 4,286 crore. Viacom18 is a material subsidiary of TV18 Broadcast Limited. Reliance Industries currently holds Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares of Viacom18

representing 57.48 per cent equity stake (on a fully diluted basis). Post the completion of this transaction, Reliance Industries equity stake in Viacom18 will increase to 70.49 per cent (on a fully diluted basis). The acquisition is not a related party transaction and none of the company's promoter/promoter group/group companies have any interest in the acquisition, Reliance Industries said in a filing.

Tata Technologies appoints Sukanya Sadasivan as Chief Operating Officer

Pune, March 14 (IANS) : Global engineering and digital services company Tata Technologies on Thursday announced the appointment of Sukanya Sadasivan as its new Chief Operating Officer

(COO), who will focus on strengthening delivery, practice and internal digital and IT systems. With over three decades at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in various roles, COO Sadasivan brings a wealth of knowledge and

experience to Tata Technologies, the company said in a statement. She will report to Warren Harris, CEO and Managing Director, and the global delivery, practice organisation and digital information office teams will report to her.



Chinese giant Alibaba plans to invest \$1.1 billion in S. Korea

Seoul, Mar 14 (IANS) : China's Alibaba Group plans to invest \$1.1 billion in South Korea over the next three years, as it seeks to build a logistics centre and expand businesses. As part of the investment plan, the Chinese e-commerce giant plans to spend \$200 million this year to build the logistics center, according to a business strategy document of Alibaba, obtained by Yonhap News Agency. Alibaba also plans to spend

\$100 million to help small and mid-sized South Korean firms sell their products overseas, the document showed. AliExpress, an e-commerce platform of Alibaba, has been under scrutiny in South Korea over growing consumer complaints. Alibaba said it will invest some 100 billion won to help bolster consumer protection in South Korea. Earlier this month, South Korea's antitrust regulator launched an on-site inspection into AliExpress on suspicion of the e-commerce platform's viola-

tion of consumer protection duties. The inspection was part of the regulator's investigation into whether the company has fulfilled due responsibilities to protect consumers in accordance with the country's e-commerce law and relevant regulations. The move came as the number of complaints filed against AliExpress and submitted to the Consumers Union of Korea rose sharply to 465 cases last year from the previous year's 93.



India second-largest region for VC investments in Asia-Pacific : Report

New Delhi, March 14 (IANS) : India retained its position as the second-largest destination for venture capital and growth funding within the Asia-Pacific region last year, a report showed on Thursday.

Despite facing headwinds, India's VC landscape exhibited resilience in 2023, marking a year of continued moderation, according to the report by Bain & Company in collaboration with the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA).

"In a year seemingly rife with hurdles, investors demonstrated resilience by adjusting to the evolving landscape. There was a perceptible shift in investment focus from tech-first bets to more traditional sectors underpinned by strong fundamentals -- such as healthcare, retail, and financial services," said Sai Deo, Partner, Bain & Company.

NTPC crosses record 400 billion units electricity generation mark in 2023-24

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The giant NTPC Group crossed the record 400 billion units (BU) of electricity generation in the current financial year, on March 13, 2024, the Ministry of Power announced on Thursday. "This milestone has been

achieved with an average Plant Loading Factor (PLF) of 77.06 per cent for NTPC's coal stations," the ministry said. During the previous financial year (2022-23), the Government-owned power behemoth had generated 399.3 BU of electricity.



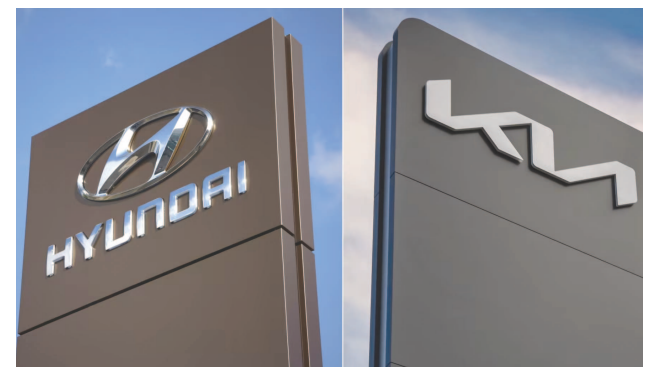
Dell launches new Alienware gaming laptop in India

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Dell Technologies on Thursday launched the new gaming laptop -- Alienware m18 R2, in India, powered by the latest 14th Gen Intel Core i9-14900HX processors and Nvidia GeForce RTX 4090 GPU. The new laptop will be available for purchase at the company's official website, Dell Exclusive Stores (DES), Amazon.com and select multi-brand stores at a starting price of Rs 2,96,490.

Indian businesses building more resilient supply chains globally: Report

New Delhi, March 14 (IANS) : Indian businesses are deploying innovation and technology in supply chains to capitalise on opportunities arising out of the shifting geopolitical and trade landscape, a new report showed on Thursday. Indian companies are turning to technology to build

more resilient supply chains, with 66 per cent employing or planning to employ augmented or virtual reality for troubleshooting and repairs surpassing the 54 per cent global average, according to the report.



Hyundai, Kia to recall 1.7 lakh EVs over charging software issue

Seoul, Mar 14 (IANS) : Hyundai Motor and Kia will voluntarily recall nearly 170,000 electric vehicles (EV) to address a software error in the charging system, the government said on Thursday. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said 12 car models totaling 232,000 units from Hyundai Motor, Kia, Stellantis Korea and Tesla Korea are subject to recall due to manufacturing defects. Of those, 169,932 Hyundai Motor and Kia units were found to have software errors in the integrated charging control unit. Models affected are Hyundai's Ioniq 5, Ioniq 6, Genesis GV60, GV70 and GV80 EVs, totaling 113,916 units, and 56,016 units of Kia's EV6, reports Yonhap news agency.

Over 2.12 cr families have access to pure drinking water in UP now : CM Yogi

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that over 2.12 crore families have access to pure drinking water in the state now. In a high-level meeting on Thursday, the chief minister reviewed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and gave necessary directions, said a government spokesman. He said that prior to the commencement of the Jal Jeevan Mission, merely 5.16 lakh families had access to pure drinking water through taps. With persistent efforts, today the dream of providing pure drinking water has been realised for over 2.12 crore families. To ensure that all remaining

households also receive piped drinking water, this task should be systematically completed in a timebound manner in phases, he stated. The chief minister said that the scheme to provide tap water to every household stands as a remarkable example of fulfilling the commitment to Ease of Living. It signifies a significant paradigm shift. This is 'Modi's guarantee', which means 'guarantee of completion.' He further said that access to pure drinking water was a dream in the Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions. Today, however, this dream is swiftly becoming a reality. Both regions have been accorded top priority, with plans underway to ensure that every household in Vindhya-Bundelkhand receives tap water facility.



The Jal Jeevan Mission has reached its final phase across the entire Vindhya-Bundelkhand region, including Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra. The remaining tasks should be expedited to ensure swift completion. The chief minister said that in villages where the Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved 100 per cent saturation, it is imperative to con-

duct transparent verification of every household's status. If any resident expresses dissatisfaction, their concerns must be addressed promptly. It is crucial to enhance the on-site inspection system. Trained plumbers should be deployed in every village. The chief minister also asked officials to ensure repair of roads after excavation.



Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra gets six-month extension

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Thursday approved an extension in service for Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra. Accordingly, the extension has been granted for six months, and will last till October 31, 2024. An order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said, "The Appointments Committee of the

Cabinet has approved extension in service of Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra (IFS:1988) as Foreign Secretary for six months beyond 30.04.2024 that is up to 31.10.2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier, in public interest, in terms of the provisions of FR 56 (d)." An IFS officer of the 1988 batch, Vinay Kwatra was scheduled to retire on April 30 this year, which has now been extended till October 31.



Slain poetess's sister alleges firing outside her house by ex-UP Minister

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh), Mar 14 (IANS) : Nidhi Shukla, the sister of poet Madhumita Shukla, who was found shot dead at her Lucknow residence on May 9, 2003, has accused former Uttar Pradesh Minister Amar Mani Tripathi of trying to kill her. The allegation came after unidentified men allegedly fired shots outside her house. She has demanded police protection. In a written complaint with police, Madhumita's sister Nidhi Shukla alleged the firing incident took place outside her house in Lakhimpur Kheri in the early hours of Thursday. Both Amar Mani Tripathi, who was a Minister in the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party government in the state at that time, and his wife Madhumani Tripathi were, in 2011 sentenced to life term in Gorakhpur district jail for their involvement in Madhumita Shukla's murder. In August 2023, the state government granted the couple premature release, prompting Nidhi to move the Supreme Court, which upheld the relief.



Delhi HC seeks standard operating procedure for timely release of prisoners on bail

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed authorities in the national capital to develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure the release of jail inmates granted bail within 48 hours. In February, the court initiated a suo motu petition to address the concerns surrounding delays in the acceptance of bail bonds by Jail Superintendents, thereby hindering the timely release of accused or convicts. On Thursday, a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Amit Mahajan, stressed the need for expeditious release, particularly in cases involving emergencies like attending funerals, or marriages. It asked the Delhi government counsel to draft an SOP and submit a fresh affidavit within 10 days. As counsel said potential delays in inmate release are due to police verification of surety details, citing an existing police circular with set timeframes for verification, the court, noting the challenges faced by indigent inmates, stressed the importance of promptly releasing individuals granted bail, especially those represented by legal aid lawyers who may struggle to follow up effectively. The court stressed the urgency of the matter, suggesting a compressed timeframe of 5-6 hours for special emergen-

cies like funerals. Recognising the overcrowded conditions in jails, the court proposed leveraging technology to streamline processes and expedite releases. Furthermore, the court urged the Delhi government lawyer to consult with Jail Superintendents and the Director General of Prisons to identify necessary steps and resources for addressing delays in inmate release. Justice Mahajan had, last month, raised the issue noticing the procedural delays that often negate the immediate benefits intended by bail orders. The court frequently directs that bail bonds be furnished directly to Jail Superintendents to expedite the release process, bypassing additional steps that could delay an accused or convict's release.

'Run for Tea' held in Agartala to boost tea industry in Tripura

Agartala, Mar 14 (IANS) : To promote the tea industry, a colourful rally - 'Run for Tea-2024' - was organised on Thursday in Tripura, the second largest producer of tea in the northeastern region after Assam, producing around nine million kg of tea annually on an area of 12,800 hectares. An official of the Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC) said that the corporation jointly with the Tea Board of India organises the 'Run for Tea' rally every year to promote the tea industry. MLAs, sports personalities, officials, politicians, important

personalities and people from all walks of life took part in the rally, which was flagged off by Tripura Industry and Commerce Minister Santana Chakma, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Tinku Roy and TTDC Chairman Samir Ranjan Ghosh. Chakma while addressing the gathering said: "The aim behind organising such an event is to boost the sale of tea through promoting and popularising Tripura tea besides making the people aware about its health benefits". Tripura has a history of tea plantations dating back to 1916.



MoRD partners with IIT Delhi for applications of geospatial tech, AI

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to formalise their partnership in applications of geospatial technology and ar-

tificial intelligence (AI), marking a significant stride towards technological advancement in rural development. The MoU centres around the project "BhuPRAHARI", an ambitious initiative aimed at leveraging ground.

CAA can't be implemented in tribal autonomous council areas in NE: Experts

Agartala, Mar 14 (IANS) : Even as several organisations in the northeastern region, including the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the North East Students Organisation, are agitating against the notification of the Citizenship (Amendment Act) (CAA), legal and constitutional experts are of the view that the Act will not be enforced in the areas of tribal autonomous district councils created under the 6th Schedule, and the areas where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is in place. Quoting the provisions of the new Act, legal expert Apurba Kumar Dey

said the CAA will not be promulgated in the 10 tribal autonomous district councils (ADCs) of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura. "Besides the ADCs, several states in the northeast have special protections under Article 371 of the Constitution," Dey told IANS. There are three tribal autonomous district councils each in Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram, while Tripura has one such tribal autonomous body. All the 10 autonomous bodies were constituted under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. These 10 tribal ADCs facili-



tate the socio-economic development of the tribals, who constitute 28 per cent of the northeastern region's total population of around 45.58 million. The ILP, under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, has been in force in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram.

Man in Goa booked for recording video of girl taking bath

Panaji, Mar 14 (IANS) : A case has been filed against a man in North Goa for allegedly recording a video of a girl while she was taking a bath, police said on Thursday. The case was registered at Colvale police station in North Goa. The accused is identified as Nagarmal Verma, 35, a resident of Lobowada, Thivim and a native of Rajasthan. Colvale police said that the parents of the 18-year-old girl lodged a complaint that Verma, who is their neighbour, recorded a video on his mobile phone while she was taking a bath.



Fake cancer medicine manufacturing unit busted in Delhi, 7 arrested

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : With the arrest of seven persons, including two employees of a reputed hospital, the Delhi Police on Thursday busted an illegal unit indulging in manufacturing fake life-saving cancer chemotherapy medicines. A senior police official said they have also recovered spurious cancer medicines of seven international brands and two Indian brands worth Rs 4 crore from the illegal unit in the Moti Nagar area and other three locations, which were raided by the police. The accused were identified as Vipphil Jain, Suraj Shat, Neeraj Chauhan, Parvez, Komal Tiwari, Abhinay Kohli, and

Tushar Chauhan. Special Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Shalini Singh said that simultaneous raids were conducted at four different locations in Delhi and Gurugram based on the information. "The prime location for manufacturing spurious cancer medicines was DLF Capital Greens, Moti Nagar, where Jain, the mastermind of this operation, had taken two EWS flats to produce these medicines. Suraj Shat, another accused, managed the refilling and packaging of the vials," she said. During the raid, 140 filled vials of spurious cancer injections from brands like Opdyta, Keytruda, Dextrose, and Fluconazole were seized. Additionally, cash amounting to Rs

50,000 and 1,000 US dollars, three cap sealing machines, a heat gun machine, and 197 empty vials along with other essential packaging materials were recovered. "At South City, Gurugram, Haryana, Neeraj Chauhan hoarded a large cache of spurious cancer injections/vials," the Special CP said. During the raid, 137 vials of spurious cancer injections from brands like Keytruda, Infanzi, Tecentriq, Perjeta, Opdyta, Darzalex, and Erbitux, and 519 empty vials of similar brands along with cash totalling Rs 89 lakh and 18,000 US dollars were recovered. "Neeraj's cousin Tushar Chauhan, who was involved in the supply

chain, was also apprehended," she said. "At Yamuna Vihar, the raid was aimed at nabbing Parvez, who arranged empty vials for Vipphil Jain and was involved in supplying the refilled vials. Twenty empty vials were recovered from his possession," she added. "In another raid at a reputed cancer hospital in Delhi, two individuals, Komal Tiwari and Abhinay Kohli, working in the Cytotoxic Admixture Unit, were apprehended. They were supplying empty vials for Rs 5,000 each," she said. Jain, originally from Delhi, started his career as a medical store employee in Seelampur and gradually ventured into supplying medicines from wholesale markets to

local stores. "About three years ago, he conceived the idea of refilling spurious cancer injections, targeting expensive brands. He collaborated with Parvez for empty vials and Neeraj Chauhan for further supply. Shat assisted Jain in refilling vials at his rented flats in Moti Nagar," said the Special CP. Neeraj Chauhan, who previously worked as a manager in the Oncology Department of reputed hospitals, joined forces with Jain in 2022, leveraging his experience to provide fake chemotherapy injections at affordable rates.



"Parvez, an ex-pharmacist of a reputed cancer hospital, ran a pharmacy shop and supplied empty and filled vials to Jain. Tiwari and Kohli, employed at a reputed cancer hospital since 2013, facilitated the supply of empty and filled vials to Parvez," said the Special CP. "Tushar Chauhan, a laboratory technician, collaborated with Neeraj Chauhan to distribute fake medicines," she added.



Assam Rifles seize drugs, walkie-talkie sets in Mizoram

Aizawl, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Assam Rifles, in two separate raids in Mizoram, recovered heroin valued at Rs 1.27 crore and 175 sets of walkie-talkies and apprehended five people, including a Myanmar national, officials said on Thursday. Assam Rifles sources said that acting on secret information, troopers recovered heroin, being carried in 14 soap cases, from the possession of three drug ped-

dlers, including the Myanmar national, at Siahtla (Bualpui Road) in Siaha district on Thursday night. In another operation, it recovered ganja (marijuana) valued at Rs 10 lakh from Champhai district on Monday. Force personnel recovered a huge cache of war-like stores, including the 175 walkie-talkie sets, worth Rs 26 lakh, from Siaha (New Colony), while they

were being transported to the India-Myanmar border area by two persons to smuggle into the neighbouring country. The five apprehended persons and recoveries were handed over to Siaha Police Station for further investigation. In these operations, officials of the Excise and Narcotics Department and Mizoram Police personnel accompanied the Assam Rifles troopers.

Civil Aviation Minister flags off Fly91's maiden flight from Goa to Agatti

New Delhi/Panaji, Mar 14 (IANS) : Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Thursday flagged off regional airline Fly91's maiden flight from Goa's Manohar International Airport (MOPA) to Lakshwadeep's Agatti Islands. In his remarks at the inauguration ceremony in New Delhi, he lauded the transformative impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership on the aviation industry, noting the emergence of new regional airlines in the past decade.

"In the past 10 years, the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought a new dawn to this industry which resulted in the birth of six new regional airlines," he said. The minister emphasised that under PM Modi's stewardship, the industry had witnessed a paradigm shift from news of airline closures and bankruptcies to a renewed era of growth and expansion. He also highlighted the multidimensional growth of civil aviation in the country.



Govt bans JKNF for 5 years under UAPA

Srinagar, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Centre has banned the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF) led by Nayeem Ahmad Khan under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for a duration of five years. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in a notification issued on Thursday said that the organisation was engaging in activities detrimental to the integrity, sovereignty, and security of the nation. "The leaders and members of JKNF have been involved in mobilizing violent protestors in various parts of Kashmir for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, sustained stone pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir," the notification stated.



Defence Minister approves proposal for NCC expansion with additional three lakh cadet vacancies

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for expansion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) with the addition of three lakh cadet vacancies to cater to its increasing demand from educational institutions throughout the country. From just 20,000 cadets in 1948, the NCC will now have a sanctioned strength of 20 lakh cadets on its roles making it the largest uniformed youth organisation of the world, Ministry of Defence said in a statement on Thursday. With NCC being offered as an elective subject as per the National Education Policy 2020, the expansion will be a step towards

meeting the aspirations of the youth towards playing a pivotal role as future leaders of the nation. The far reaching impact of this expansion will lead to proportionate distribution of vacancies across all States and Union Territories and would reduce the waiting list of institutions aspiring for the NCC. The expansion plan encompasses the establishment of four new Group Headquarters and the addition of two new NCC units. An important facet of the expansion plan involves the proposal for employment of ex-servicemen as NCC instructors thus leveraging their skills and vast experience.

'Zero food children' report a malicious attempt to sensationalise fake news: Govt

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Union Women and Child Development Ministry on Thursday rebutted a recently published article on the "zero food children" in India and termed it a deliberate and malicious attempt by interested lobbies to sensationalize fake news. The article, published on February 12 on the JAMA Network, claimed that the prevalence of mal-

nourished children in India who haven't eaten anything in 24 hours (also known as 'zero-food' children) is comparable to the prevalence rates in West African nations like Guinea, Benin, Liberia and Mali. The ministry in a statement said that it is surprising that no primary research has been conducted by S.V. Subramanian and co-authors in the study to arrive at such broad and incorrect generalizations on the nutritional status of



children in India. "The authors themselves have admitted to deep misgivings on the data and have

referred to at least 9 limitations which make their study absolutely unreliable.

Left, Congress spreading lies about CAA in Kerala : Prakash Javadekar

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 12 (IANS) : Senior BJP leader and the party's Kerala in charge, Prakash Javadekar, claimed on Thursday that the ruling Left and the Congress-led opposition are deliberately spreading lies and misinformation about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the state. Javadekar's 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 Afghanistan.



ECI seeks written report from Bengal govt on 'free & fair polls'

Kolkata, Mar 14 (IANS) : Election Commission of India (ECI) has sought a written report from the West Bengal government on the action taken as well as on the tentative blueprint of the state administration.



'Mission Bharosa' launched in UP for safety of school children

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh government has officially launched 'Mission Bharosa', its portal and mobile application to ensure the safety of school children. Recognising the critical importance of safe transportation of school children, this initiative focuses on implementing appropriate measures, including police verification of drivers and attendants, to ensure safe journey to and from school for students. Vehicles of any type, whether bus, van, auto-rickshaw or e-rickshaw used in transportation of children, are to be registered and integrated on the Bharosa platform and the condition, mandatory documentations and other safety features of school transport vehicles will be verified by the Regional Transport Office (RTO). Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath said, "Bharosa provides a framework to establish proper coordination among various stakeholders like RTO, police, Education department, schools, CMO, transport owners, parents and citizens using an advanced Artificial Intelligence machine learning-enabled technology platform that strives to provide safe driver and vehicle for transport of children." Lucknow Municipal Commissioner Inderjeet Singh said, "'Mission Bharosa' stands as a beacon of commitment to the safety and security of our school-going children. In a world where every journey counts, especially for the young minds heading towards education, this proactive initiative takes lead in ensuring their well-being. 'Mission Bharosa' prioritises safe transportation of school children."

Devotee footfall at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya remains high

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust (SRJTKT) on Thursday said that since the opening of Ram Mandir, the pilgrim footfall has not come down. "The temple is witnessing an average of 1 to 1.5 lakh pilgrims daily," the Trust in a social media post said. It said that the devotees are allowed for darshan from 6.30 a.m to 9.30 p.m. "Devotees can enter the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir for Darshan from 6:30 AM to 9:30 PM," the Trust said. The trust said that the entire process from entry to exit after darshan at the temple is extremely simple and convenient.

"Typically, devotees can have a darshan of Lord Ram Lalla within 60 to 75 minutes," it said. The Trust said that the devotees are expected to leave their mobile phones, footwear, purses, etc., outside the temple premises for their convenience and to save time. "Devotees should not bring flowers, garlands, prasad, etc to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple," it said. The Trust said that to attend the Mangala Aarti at 4 a.m, Shringar Aarti at 6:15 a.m, and Shayan Aarti at 10 p.m, devotees require an entry pass. It said that no entry passes are required for other aartis. "Information such as the devotee's name, age, Aadhar card, mobile number, and city is required for the entry pass. This entry pass can also be obtained from the website



of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The entry pass is free of charge," the Trust said in the social media post. The Trust has clarified that there is no arrangement for special darshan by paying fees or through any special pass at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir. The Trust has also warned devotees not to fall for such claims which could be fraud because the temple management has no connection to this. "Wheelchairs are

now available in the temple for the elderly and differently-abled," the Trust said. It said that these wheelchairs are intended solely for use within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir premises and not for Ayodhya City or any other temple. "There is no rental fee for the wheelchair, but a nominal fee is to be given to the young volunteer assisting with the wheelchair," the Trust said.

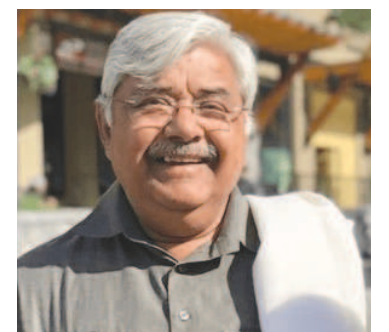


Bengal Guv urges Mamata Banerjee to first study the details before commenting on CAA

Kolkata, Mar 14 (IANS) : West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Thursday advised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to first study and understand the details of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) before passing any comment on it. The Governor's remarks came a day after the Union Home Ministry decided to implement the CAA, paving the way for granting citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. Soon after the ministry's announcement, CM Banerjee had termed the Centre's move as a 'political gimmick' ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Reacting to the Chief Minister questioning the legal sanctity of the CAA, the Governor said the Act has an important legal aspect, which is meant to "unite India" rather than to "divide the country".

VHP to help refugees in getting Indian citizenship after CAA

Lucknow, Mar 14 (IANS) : Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) will get in touch with refugees living in hundreds of various camps in the border states, to facilitate them in getting Indian citizenship. The decision comes two days after the Centre notified the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). VHP President Alok Kumar said that the workers have been asked to allay the fear of refugees, get them registered for citizenship and help them gain access to all the facilities which every Indian is entitled to. "Many of the refugees, essentially persecuted minorities of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are living in subhuman conditions. They need to be reached out immediately," he told reporters. "This is in accord with the Indian tradition of giving refuge, respect and dignity to all those who suffer indignities outside and seek shelter in India," he said. The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the President's assent. However, it was notified on Thursday. Protests had initially erupted in several parts of the country against it in December 2019, stalling the process. Many opposition parties including the Congress and Samajwadi Party spoke out against the law, calling it "discriminatory". The VHP President said that a host of refugees have managed to get ration and Aadhaar but not citizenship and voting rights. "All these problems need to be sorted out by coor-



dinating with the authorities," he said, maintaining that the applicants need to be mollified so that they come into the mainstream of development. Sources said that the cadres within the VHP have been advised to fan out across the country as early as possible and help the refugees complete the requisite formalities. A senior VHP functionary said that the workers have already been working in a host of camps for the past many years. These camps have come up in the past 30 to 40 years in bordering states like Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and North-East states. Communities which would be covered under CAA include Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists.



NIA makes first arrest in Bengaluru cafe blast case

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made its first arrest from Ballari, Karnataka in connection with the recent Bengaluru cafe blast. The accused has been identified as Mohammed Shabbir. Shabbir's arrest comes following intensive investigative efforts by the NIA, which took over the case on March 3. The

anti-terror agency had been meticulously piecing together evidence since the explosion rocked a popular cafe in Bengaluru on March 1. Sources said that Shabbir is believed to be an accomplice of the prime suspect, who was captured on security camera footage leaving a bag at the cafe premises just before the blast occurred.

CM Mamata snaps ties as brother turns rebel after being denied Trinamool ticket from Howrah

Kolkata, Mar 14 (IANS) : Now, Swapan Banerjee a.k.a. Babun, the younger brother of West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has turned rebel after being denied nomination in the Lok Sabha polls from Howrah, the constituency of his choice. The Chief Minister also announced snapping of all ties with Swapan Banerjee soon after the news reached her. From the Howrah constituency, the Trinamool Congress has re-nominated former Indian football player Prasun Banerjee, which has irked Swapan Banerjee. Claiming that Prasun Banerjee was not fit for re-nomination, the Chief Minister's brother said he was even considering contesting as an independent candidate from

Howrah. However, he ruled out the possibility of joining the BJP. "Joining the BJP is out of question. If I contest I will be contesting as an independent candidate. I am a voter from that constituency also. It is not just me, there are several other leaders from the district who are better candidates than Prasun Banerjee," he said.



Excise policy case: Delhi court extends Manish Sisodia's judicial custody

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : A Delhi court on Thursday extended, till March 22, the judicial custody of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, arrested in an excise policy case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Sisodia was produced before Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue Court on the expiry of his previously extended judicial custody of 19 days. On Tuesday, the CBI counsel told the court that the investigation was at a critical stage and releasing Sisodia on bail might impede the ongoing probe or lead to his evasion of justice. The judge also reserved for March 22 his order on Sisodia's application raising an objection to the commencement of arguments re-

garding the framing of charges. The judge had earlier also directed the CBI to submit a detailed status report on the case expressing concerns over incomplete disclosure about the probe's status. The central agency had also filed a report stating that the investigation is ongoing and at a crucial stage, with completion regarding the 16 charge-sheeted accused persons. However, the defence counsel had objected, citing incomplete status reports and the need for time to scrutinise translated documents received recently. The court, recognising the complexity of the case, had directed the CBI to install necessary software in the laptops of defence counsel for efficient access to the voluminous case files. Counsel for various accused individuals in the case expressed concerns regarding the accessibility of certain documents provided to them by the CBI. Complaining



that these documents were not opening on their computers, the counsels sought recourse from the court to address the issue. Responding to the concerns raised, the court granted them one week to visit the CBI office directly and view these documents. The CBI had submitted the status

report to the court, presenting an update on the progress of the investigation. Notably, the report was presented in a sealed cover. The alleged excise policy scam is being probed by both the enforcement agencies – the Enforcement Directorate and CBI.

Food prices in New Zealand see smallest annual increase in almost 3 years

Wellington, Mar 14 (IANS) : New Zealand's food prices increased 2.1 per cent in the 12 months to February 2024, the smallest increase since May 2021, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Thursday. Lower fruit and vegetable prices are welcome news for New Zealanders who have been doing it tough at the supermarket, said Finance Minister Nicola Willis, Xinhua news agency reported. The 2.1 per cent increase is noticeably lower when compared with the 12 per cent increase in the 12 months to Feb-

ruary 2023, Stats NZ said, adding the lower annual increase was due to cheaper fruit and vegetable prices, down 9.3 per cent in the 12 months to February 2024. Cheaper prices for fresh produce such as tomatoes, broccoli, and lettuce drove the decrease in fruit and vegetable prices, said Stats NZ consumer prices manager Will Bell. "Lower fruit and vegetable prices are a step in the right direction for Kiwi families who have been pulling in their belts to cope with rising prices and rising pressures across the board," Willis said, adding inflation continues to be track-

ing down in the right direction and people can start feeling more in control of their own finances. All other broad food groups increased in the 12 months, with restaurant meals and ready-to-eat food prices up 6.7 per cent, grocery food prices up 3.9 per cent, non-alcoholic beverage prices up 4.3 per cent, and meat, poultry, and fish prices up 0.2 per cent, statistics show. "Going out for a meal or grabbing takeaways was more expensive in February 2024," Bell said.



White House to send new \$300 mn weapons package to Ukraine

Washington, Mar 14 (IANS) : The US will send \$300 million (£234 million) in military weapons to Ukraine, including ammunition, rockets and anti-aircraft missiles, the White House has said as quoted by media reports. The surprise announcement on Thursday comes as a bill in Congress to send further aid to Ukraine stalls amid partisan debate, BBC reported. The US shipment, the first in nearly three months, is intended to prevent Ukraine from losing ground to Russia. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said this aid "is nowhere near enough to meet

Ukraine's battlefield needs". "This ammunition will keep Ukraine's guns firing for a period, but only a short period," Sullivan told reporters on Thursday, adding that "it will not prevent Ukraine from running out of ammunition". The White House has been appealing to Congress for months to pass a budget that sends aid to Ukraine, as well as Israel and Taiwan, BBC reported. A \$60 billion aid bill has already passed the Senate, but has yet to face a vote in the House of Representatives. Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, has so far refused to

consider the Senate bill. Johnson, an ally of Donald Trump, has said the House will vote on its own aid bill, but only after Congress passes a budget that overhauls the US immigration system. On Thursday, a group of bipartisan lawmakers in the House launched a longshot petition -- an attempt to force the House to vote on the Senate bill -- using a rare procedural tactic that hasn't been successfully employed since 2015, BBC reported. Thursday's emergency package of weapons and equipment comes from cost savings made in earlier Ukraine weapon contracts.



Interstate vehicle theft racket busted in Gurugram, two held

Gurugram, Mar 14 (IANS) : Gurugram Police have busted an interstate gang of vehicle thieves and arrested two suspects from different parts of Gurugram, said officials on Thursday. The police have also recovered seven cars from their possession. The gang had stolen more than half a dozen vehicles from Delhi and Gurugram for the past year. Varun Dahiya, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) identified the accused as Sunil Kumar and Amit Kumar Jangid. "The culprits used to steal the vehicles and take them to Rajasthan and further sold the car to their other companions for Rs 1 lakh.

Traffic advisory issued ahead of Farmers Mahapanchayat in Delhi

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : In view of Farmers Mahapanchayat on Thursday at Ramlila ground, the Delhi Traffic Police issued an advisory alerting the commuters about traffic regulations and routes diverted. According to the traffic advisory, on Thursday, movement of general traffic will be regulated from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Barakhamba Road, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Tolstoy Marg, Asaf Ali Road, Jai Singh Road, Swami Vivekanand Marg, Sansad Marg, Netaji Subhash Marg, Baba Kharag Singh Marg, Minto Road, Ashoka Road, Maharaja Ranjeet Singh flyover, Connaught Circus, Bhavbhuti Marg, DDU Marg and Chaman Lal Marg.



Congress played vengeful politics over 2G, 3G scams : Goa CM

Panaji, Mar 14 (IANS) : Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday said that Congress played vengeful politics and sent people to jail when they raised its voice against their multiple scams. Pramod Sawant attacked Congress while addressing the 'NaMo Navmatadata Sammelan' in Ponda-South Goa, where students studying in BJP MLA's college attended the program. "Congress has not organised a single program for youths in its ten-year rule. I have been closely watching their politics. They were putting people in prison. Congress was involved in scams and those who used to raise their voice were punished by sending them to jails," Sawant told the student community. "Congress means scams, while BJP is known for success stories. Earlier during the UPA government there were scams like 2G and 3G scams; coal scam; mining scam, and many such scams were exposed. They have done nothing except scams. During their regime every passing day was full of scams and that too from all ministries," Sawant said. While praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sawant said that in the last ten years, people only saw success stories and projects. "We should know what has been done in the last ten years by PM Modi and what was the situation before 2014. There was the UPA government from 2004 to 2014, means Manmohan Singh's government, which is of Congress, the one who is moving around saying 'Bharat Jodo... Jodo' it was his party's gov-



ernment... you need to compare ten years of the Congress regime and ten years of the PM Modi government till 2024. You need to know how reforms have taken place now. We need to know about changes taking place in infrastructure and human resources. Only then we will come to know the difference," Sawant said. He said that under the leadership of PM Modi, India is witnessing a transformation in every sector with an increased number of AIIMS, IITs, IIMs, and Institutes of National Importance like All India Institute of Ayurveda, National Forensic Science University in Goa among others.

Mere breach of contract would not attract criminal prosecution, says SC

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Quashing an FIR arising out of a dispute related to payment of money, the Supreme Court has reiterated that a mere breach of contract by one of the parties would not attract criminal prosecution in every case. A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Prasanna B. Varale was dealing with a criminal appeal filed by two officials of a bicycle manufacturing company against an FIR was filed in 2017 under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, at Bengaluru Rural's

Doddaballapura Police Station. The complainant – who handled a contract for the assembly of bicycles, their transport and delivery – alleged that he was paid only Rs.35,37,390 against an invoice of over Rs. 1 crore. The accused-appellants contended that the FIR primarily involves a civil dispute and the entire criminal proceedings initiated against them were nothing but an abuse of the process. In its verdict, the apex court said that the dispute as to how many bicycles the complainant had assembled and the amount liable to be paid is a "civil dispute". The complainant has not been able to establish that the appellants' intention to cheat him was there



right from the beginning, it added. "We are of the considered view that this is a case where the inherent powers should have been exercised by the High Court under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code as the powers are there to stop the abuse of the process and to secure the ends of justice," said the Supreme Court. Earlier in 2020, the Karnataka High Court had dismissed the petition under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code for

quashing the FIR. Refusing to accept the contention that the dispute between the parties in any case was civil in nature, the High Court had held that prima facie a case of cheating was made out against the appellants. In its 2015 ruling in Vesa Holdings (P) Ltd. vs State of Kerala case, the apex court had held that every breach of contract would not give rise to the offence of cheating.



Odisha Padma awardees to get honourarium of Rs 25,000 every month

Bhubaneswar, Mar 14 (IANS) : Odisha government on Thursday announced to pay Rs 25,000 every month to the notable sons of the land who have been conferred with Padma awards, one of the highest civilian honours of India. The Padma Awards are given to eminent personalities for their

distinguished services to the nation in three categories, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri every year. A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said that the eminent persons of the state who have received different Padma awards have brought glory to Odisha through their talent and service.



Darren Gough quits as managing director of Yorkshire County Cricket Club

London, Mar 14 (IANS) : Darren Gough, the former Yorkshire and England fast bowler, has announced that he is stepping down as managing director of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Taking on the role in December 2021 amidst the aftermath of the Azeem Rafiq racism crisis, Gough assumed the helm during a tumultuous period for the club. Gough's leadership was instrumental in stabilising Yorkshire's cricketing operations, overseeing the appointment of Ottis Gibson as head coach and implementing significant changes to the playing squad as part of the club's rebuilding efforts.



India beat Sri Lanka by 8 wickets, take 4-0 lead in Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Magunta Sai and Debaraj Behara smashed half-centuries as the Indian men's blind cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 8 wickets in the fourth T20 of the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket, at the Karnail Singh Stadium, here on Thursday. Batting first Sri Lanka made 142/7 in the allotted 20 overs, but India chased down the target with 40 balls to spare. While Magunta slammed 50 runs in 42 balls, Debaraj smashed 54 runs in 29 balls. Magunta, who also picked a wicket was named as the Player of the Match. India on Wednesday had already won the series by defeating Sri Lanka in the third T20. With the win on Thursday, India have now taken an unassailable 4-0 lead in the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket, an International bilateral blind men's cricket series. Winning the toss and opting to bat first, Sri Lanka suffered an early blow, losing their opening batter in the third over. The start worsened when the visitors lost the second wicket in the fourth over. Chandana Deshapriya and wicket-keeper Priyantha Kumara rebuilt the innings with a 51-run stand for the third wicket. However, two wickets in quick succession again put Sri Lanka on the back foot. Wickets kept falling at regular intervals and Sri Lanka was found reeling at 117/6. In the end, the side was only able to make 142 runs in the 20 overs.



Shami returns to India post successful Achilles surgery

New Delhi, March 14 (IANS) : Pace bowler Mohammad Shami has returned to India after undergoing successful surgery on his heel to repair his Achilles tendon at the United Kingdom (UK). Shami had to go for surgery to repair his Achilles tendon after getting injured during India's 2023 ODI World Cup campaign and has not played any form of cricket since the defeat in the final to Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium back on November 19. Shami shared pictures on his social media, informing his return to India from the UK and thanking fans for their support.

Golf: Tvesa Malik shoots 71, hangs on to 4th spot in South Africa

Cape Town, Mar 14 (IANS) : Tvesa Malik shot a 3-under 71 and stayed tied for fourth at the Standard Bank Ladies Open golf on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South Africa. Tvesa had a 1-under on the first day of the Par-74 course. At 4-under for two rounds with one more day to go, she is four shots behind the leader, Kyle Henry of Scotland. The first-round leader Kylie Henry of Scotland has rounds of 69-71 at 8 under for 36 holes. Tvesa had three birdies on the Par-5s from her total of six. She started the second day with a bogey but found three birdies between the third and the sixth and added three pars to turn in 2-under. On the back, Tvesa birdied the Par-5s on the 11th and the 14th to get closer to the top before she was pulled back by bogeys on the 15th and the 17th. A closing birdie saw her finish the day at 71. South Africans, Cassandra Alexander (74-69) and Gabrielle Venter (74-69) were tied for the shared second place at 5-under 143.



Singapore Smash TT: India's Sharath Kamal storms into quarterfinals

New Delhi, March 14 (IANS) : Top Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal advanced to the quarterfinals of the Singapore Smash table tennis tournament with a 3-0 win over Omar Assar of Egypt in the men's singles Round-of-16 in Singapore on Thursday. Sharath won the pre-quarterfinal clash 11-4, 11-8, 12-10 to advance to the next round.



WPL 2024: Smriti Mandhana has been very strong in bringing calmness to the group, says RCB coach Williams

New Delhi, Mar 14 (IANS) : Ahead of their Eliminator clash against Mumbai Indians in WPL 2024 on Friday, Luke Williams, the head coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore, has credited captain Smriti Mandhana for being a very strong figure in terms of bringing calmness to the team, which in turn has been one of the key reasons behind them making the playoffs for the first time. Smriti has been the side's leading run-getter in WPL 2024 with 259 runs in eight matches, including two half-centuries. As a leader, she's given an assured look in taking the team to playoffs, which was missing from last year's tournament, where RCB lost their first five games to be ousted quickly from the race to knockouts. "Smriti is having a fabulous tournament with the bat and in her leadership too. The experience of last year's campaign and having 12 months to plan, review and look at the different aspects of how the team should be has been helpful." "Smriti has been fundamental in all sort of that planning ahead of this tournament and has been very strong in bringing that calmness to the group, which has been really important by Smriti in being the leader on and off the field. So, delighted with her leadership and how she's dealing with it," said Williams in the pre-match press conference.



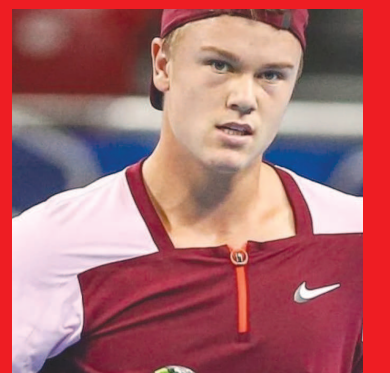
Iyer out of the field for second consecutive day due to back spasm

Mumbai, March 14 (IANS) : Mumbai, Shreyas Iyer didn't come on the field for the second consecutive day due to nagging back pain in the finals of the Ranji Trophy against Vidarbha. After a blistering 95 off 111 balls in the second inning, setting up an imposing target of 538 runs for Vidarbha, Iyer battled with a familiar foe—his troublesome back which saw him out of the field for the whole fourth day. Despite receiving treatment and assurances of recovery, he remained sidelined on the final day too. Following the grueling Test series against England, whispers of discomfort surfaced, particularly after enduring long innings. The BCCI's medical assessment cleared him, but the selectors opted to exclude him from the Test squad, a decision that stung Iyer deeply. Iyer then missed Mumbai's last Ranji Trophy league match citing back spasms. However, during this time, he attended the pre-season camp for Kolkata Knight Riders, the team he will captain at IPL 2024. However, his decision to prioritize IPL commitments over domestic cricket drew the ire of the cricketing authorities. BCCI secretary Jay Shah sent a letter to top players in the country warning them of "severe implications" if they prioritise the IPL over domestic cricket. Iyer went on to miss Mumbai's quarter-final as well, but has played in the semi-final and the final. Iyer was also one of the high-profile names to be dropped from the list of centrally contracted players.



Indian Wells: Rune stages epic comeback to upset Fritz

Indian Wells, March 14 (IANS) : Seventh seed Holger Rune showcased his resilience and tenacity as he fought back from the brink of defeat to stun home favourite Taylor Fritz 2-6, 7-6(2), 6-3 to reach his fifth ATP Masters 1000 quarter-final at the Paribas Open.



Virat Kohli's form will decide RCB's place in the playoffs: Mohammad Kaif

New Delhi, March 14 (IANS) : Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif delved into the stylish batter's form and said Virat Kohli's performance will decide RCB's place in the playoffs. Kohli scored a duck against Afghanistan.

