

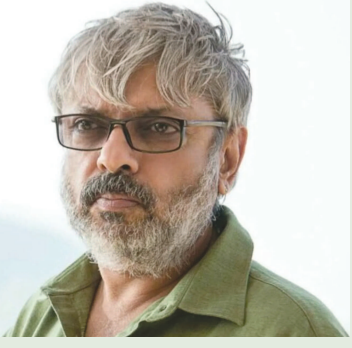
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Sanjay Leela Bhansali calls 'Heeramandi' web series his "biggest" project

Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali talked about his directorial web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' and called it his "biggest" project. He said, "I've made big films, I enjoy making...." **12**



EV startup Fisker to lay off 15 pc of workforce amid cash crunch

Electric vehicle (EV) startup Fisker is laying off at least 15 per cent of its workforce, as its current resources are "insufficient to satisfy its requirements over the next 12 months". **07**



NMDC Crosses 40 MT Milestone Achieved Best Ever 11 Month Volumes

India's largest iron ore producer delivered its best ever cumulative volumes upto February 2024. NMDC produced 3.92 million tonnes and sold 3.99 million tonnes of iron ore in.... **02**

BRS leaders leave for Medigadda to counter Cong govt's 'propaganda' on Kaleshwaram project

Hyderabad, Mar 1 (IANS) : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders on Friday left for Medigadda barrage as part of their 'Chalo Medigadda' to counter what they call "propaganda" by the Congress government against the Kaleshwaram project. Barring BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, all top party leaders including MLAs, MLCs, and MPs left for Medigadda from Telangana Bhavan, the party headquarters in Hyderabad. Led by BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao, the leaders left in buses for Medigadda in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. Some of the piers of the barrage sank in October last year, prompting the Centre to send a team of National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). The issue took a political colour with both Congress and BJP targeting the BRS government.



Telangana starts implementing 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme

Hyderabad, Mar 1 (IANS) : Power distribution companies in Telangana on Friday started issuing 'zero bills' to eligible households as the 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme for 200 units of free electricity came into force. Employees of power distribution companies were seen visiting people's homes and issuing 'zero bills' to eligible beneficiaries of the scheme, which was one of the

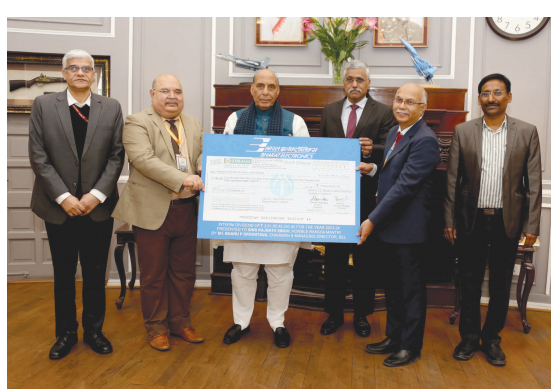
guarantees of the Congress party in the recent Assembly elections. Officials said those families who hold white ration cards (BPL families) and have linked the same with Aadhaar cards and have applied for the scheme during Praja Palana will be issued 'zero bills' if their monthly consumption is below 200 units. A customer, who consumed 114 units with a total bill amount of Rs.489, received a 'zero bill' on Friday. Officials said necessary changes have been made in the billing software to issue 'zero bills'. The process started in Hyderabad and it will be extended to the entire state in the next few days. To cover the subsidy cost, Discoms will send details of the subsidy to the state government by the 20th of each month. The Telangana Congress government on February 27 began implementation of two guarantees including 'Gruha Jyothi'. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also launched another scheme to provide one cooking gas cylinder for Rs.500. The Telangana government had started implementation of two of its guarantees two days after coming to power as the Congress party had made 13 promises as part of its six guarantees during the elections.

India is one of the fastest-growing major economies in world : PM Modi

Dhanbad, Mar 1 (IANS) : Stressing the importance of making India a developed nation by 2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India is one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world today and highlighted the economic statistics for the latest quarter that emerged yesterday. Addressing a public rally in Dhanbad's Sindri, PM Modi underlined that the growth rate of 8.4 percent.



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graces the 25th convocation of Berhampur University, in Odisha on March 01, 2024.



Defence Ministry inks MoUs worth Rs 39,125cr to procure military equipment

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Friday said that it has signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth Rs 39,125.39 crore to procure military equipment which includes procurement of Aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft, Close-in Weapon System (CIWS), high-power radar and ship-borne BrahMos system. The ministry said that out of the five contracts, one has been signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for procurement of Aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft; two contracts have been signed with Larsen and Toubro Limited for procurement of CIWS and procurement of High-Power Radar (HPR); while two more contracts have been signed with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) for procurement of BrahMos missiles.

TDP leaders through Andhra Revenue Intelligence : Chandrababu Naidu to Governor

Vijayawada, Mar 1 (IANS) : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu shot off a letter to Governor S Abdul Nazeer alleging that the ruling Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) is targeting his party leaders through the Andhra Pradesh State Directorate for Revenue Intelligence (APSDRI). "This is to bring to Your Excellency's notice about the manner in which the ruling YSRCP is targeting opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and cadre by weakening them economically and politically," Naidu said in his letter. "For this, the ruling YSRCP has formed the Andhra Pradesh State Directorate for Revenue Intelligence (APSDRI) and started targeting TDP leaders in order to weaken them financially."



Repair works to be done to Medigadda barrage based on NDSA report : Uttam

Hyderabad, March 1 (NSS) : Minister for Irrigation Uttam Kumar Reddy has informed that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) will give its report within a month on the sinking piers (foundation) of Medigadda barrage and the seepage of water at Annaram barrage and based on its recommendations, the repair works will be done and irrigation water will be given to farmers. In an informal chat with media persons at the Secretariat here on Friday, the Minister said the State government has received a vigilance report on the Medigadda barrage.



The person who was rejected by people four times.. Criticizing KTR is pointless

Rajanna Sirisilla March 1 : The ranks of BRS flagged for KK Mahender Reddy who has never fought on public issues and criticized the local legislator Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao who is working for the development of the people of Sirisilla constituency. The leaders of BRS have expressed strong objection to the incident where Congress leader KK Mahender Reddy has accused MLA KTR of many issues as if he had also worked to help the victims of Peddur Gulf. To this end, a press conference was held at Sirisilla BRS Party Telangana Bhavan under the leadership of District BRS President Thota Agaiah, Zilla Parishad Chair Person Nyalakonda Aruna, BRS State Secretary Guduru Praveen, Sirisilla Municipal Chair Person Geodham Kala and Town BRS President Jindam Chakrapani. On this occasion, District President Thota Agaiah said that it is not appropriate to criticize KK Mahender Reddy KTR, who was rejected by the people in four elections. He said that they are activists for the achievement of Telangana state and have been working for the

- Orders for Bathukamma sarees should be given immediately to netannas who have fallen on the road
BRS district president Thota Agaiah and leaders flag in media conference

party since the beginning by tying the flags of villages and villages, but KK Mahender Reddy has tried to gain benefits by joining KCR's fraud out of lust for office. He said that he never participated in the movement, did not fight for the achievement of the state, did not care about the problems of the people, did not see the good, did not think about them, never fought on the issues of beedi workers, farmers, electricity or dry fields. It is said that KTR supported the leaders by giving them packages of crores of rupees. He said that the people know who the ascetics and reformers are. He said that KTR is winning only with the blessings of the people, and KK Mahender Reddy, who has contested ten times, has not won. Also, Thota Agaiah said that Kaleshwaram 9th package works have been completed and trial run of

Malakapeta Reservoir has also been done, but it is not correct to criticize that this package work was not done when only child canals were to be done. BRS State Secretary and former Chairman of Powerloom and Textile Development Corporation Guduru Praveen said that the Powerloom workers are out of work or on the roads and demanded immediate support by placing orders for Bathukamma sarees. He said that orders for Bathukamma sarees are given every year in the month of February, but so far the netannas have not received the orders. Every year led by KTR Rs. He said that 500 crores of funds have been spent and the laborers, Assamese and porters have also benefited by providing employment.

NMDC Crosses 40 MT Milestone Achieved Best Ever 11 Month Volumes

Hyderabad, Mar 1 (TIM Bureau) : India's largest iron ore producer delivered its best ever cumulative volumes upto February 2024. NMDC produced 3.92 million tonnes and sold 3.99 million tonnes of iron ore in February 2024, taking the cumulative tally to 40.24 million tonnes production and 40.48 million tonnes sales in 11 months of FY24. NMDC's sales performance in February 2024 is the company's best ever February month sales since inception. The 3.99 million tonnes sales are 6% higher than the volume of iron ore sold in February 2023. The company reported a growth of 13% in cumulative production and 21% in cumulative sales upto February 2024 over CPLY. Achieving its highest ever 11 month iron ore volumes in company history, NMDC is geared up to set new milestones in FY24.



Congratulating his team for this performance, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) said, "The first mining company in India to cross the 40 million tonne mark and to achieve this milestone three times in row, we are poised to deliver historic iron ore volumes in FY24. NMDC's growth has a multiplier effect throughout the economy. We are strategically positioning ourselves to augment this growth by ramping up production capacities.

Truck involved in MLA Lasya Nanditha's accident seized

Sangareddy, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Patancheru police have seized the truck that was reportedly involved in the accident in which Cantonment MLA Lasya Nanditha died. Police suspect that the MLA's vehicle had hit the truck before crashing into the roadside railing on the Outer Ring Road near Sultanpur under the Patancheru police station limits on February 23. Nanditha died on the spot while her personal assistant Akash, who was at the wheel, suffered serious injuries in the road mishap. Following the accident, the police had examined CCTV footage to identify the vehicle involved in the accident after traces of concrete were found on the MLA's vehicle. The truck driver, however, is learned to have gone absconding. The Police are expected to disclose further details regarding the incident by evening on Friday.

Inauguration of LIC International Business Centre



Hyderabad, Mar 1 (TIM Bureau) : Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC of India, today presented the cheque of Rs.2441,44,91,124/- being Interim Dividend to Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister. Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI, Shri M P Tangirala, Additional Secretary, Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI were

present along with Shri J.P.S.Bajaj, Zonal Manager(I/C),Northern Zone on this occasion. Further, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister also virtually inaugurated 'LIC International Business Centre' at GIFT City, Gandhinagar. This strategic move is aligned with LIC's commitment to providing world-class insurance and financial services on a global scale.

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH #249/3RT, I Floor, Main Road, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad-500038 (T.S.) [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Securitisation) Act, 2002 (Act No.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 02-01-2018 by our KPHB Colony Branch calling upon the borrower and Mortgagee Mr. Chanda Bhadrachari, H.No.5-11-698, Flat No.403, Kakatiya Towers, Hanamkonda, Warangal Dist.-506009, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.35,00,101.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs One Hundred and One and Zero Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Distribution of pulse polio drops on 3rd March, District Collector Anurag Jayanthi Rajanna Sirisilla, March 1 (TIM Bureau) : Arrangements were made for the distribution of pulse polio drops in the district on Sunday, 3rd of this month. The health department officials have made polio vaccines available in all health centers. There are a total of 44,770 children under the age of five in the district in 394 centres Every year, central and state governments are conducting a polio drop distribution program with the aim of taking care of the health of children from newborn to five years of age. There are 44,770 children under the age of five in the district.

CHANGE OF NAME I, GUNDETI NARENDAR (Old Name), H.No.6-108, Ellampally, Saidapur(M), Godshala (PO), Karimnagar Dist-505468, T.S, have changed my name as GUNDETI NARENDER (New Name), S/o, GUNDETI VENKATA NARAYANA for all purposes.

INTHECOURT OF THE XXI JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE, CCC, HYDERABAD OSNo.93/2023 Between: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK, Banjara Hills Branch ...Plaintiff/s Vs. 1)Mr.Shaik Imam Saheb S/o. Haneef Shaik, aged 54 years H.No. 8-2-310/A/5/5, Ibrahim Nagar, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 2)Mr. Imran, S/o. Haneef Shaik H. No. 8-2-310/A/5/5, Ibrahim Nagar, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 ...Defendants The above named Plaintiff filed the above suit against you for recovery of money before the Hon'ble Court. The summons/Notice sent to you were returned unserved. Therefore, the Hon'ble Court ordered substitute service of summons to you by way of publication. Therefore, take notice the above case is posted on 14-03-2024 for your appearance either personally or through an advocate at 10-30 AM, failing which, ex parte orders will be pronounced against you by the Hon'ble Court (By order of the Honorable XXI JCJ Court, CCC at Hyderabad) Sd/- A. Venkataramayya/ N.Ramanakhar Raju Counsel for the Plaintiff/s Victoria Chambers, J N Road, ABIDS Hyderabad 500001 Mobile Nos: 9052263989, 9704706648

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)] OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Hyderabad-500001. DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961, RC/693/2019 Bank of India Versus Indelu Srinivasa Reddy and Another To (CD 1) Sri Indelu Srinivasa Reddy S/o Venkateswara Reddy R/o Flat No 202, Vallurama Residency, Kapilnagar, Hyderabad-500008. (CD 2) Indelu Uma Maheshwari Flat No 202, Vallurama Kapilnagar, Hyderabad-500008. This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT2) in OA/248/2019 an amount of Rs.25,01,819.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine and 00/100) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 10.25% simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 08-11-2019 till realization and costs of Rs.0(Only) has become due against you (Jointly and Severally/Fully/Limited). 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 18-03-2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date:29-01-2024 Sd/- Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2)



A trip to Medigadda is a journey without sincerity

- 9th package laid and revegetation of Gajwel areas of Siddipet
Why was Sirisilla Netannala Bathukamma not questioned in the assembly on the dues of sarees
Congress leader KK Mahender Reddy in a media conference

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 1 (TIM Bureau) : Sirisilla Constituency Congress Party in-charge KK Mahender Reddy revealed that the BRS leaders' trip to Medigadda is not honest and nature is not on their side. He said that even nature believed that the Kaleshwaram project was meant to be looted and hidden. KK Mahender Reddy spoke to the ranks of the

Congress party in a media conference held at the Sirisilla Constituency Congress Party office on Friday evening. He said that all the people have realized the manner in which former Chief Minister KCR, who was elected as a legislator, did not go to the legislature as the leader of the opposition, and acted without respect and courtesy towards the legislature.



Manipur Police commandos stage 'arms down' protest after ASP abducted

Imphal, Mar 1 (IANS) : A section of Manipur Police commandos on Friday staged an "arms down" protest, surrendering their weapons, in wake of the abduction of an Additional Superintendent of Police by some armed activists in Imphal West district. The police commandos were reportedly miffed with higher authorities asking them to "show restraint" after the Thursday night firing at the residence of the ASP before he was kidnapped at gunpoint. The police commandos reportedly wanted a free hand against the armed abductors. ASP Amit Kumar, posted with the Operations Cell of the Manipur Police, was abducted along with his security guard by a group of armed activists from his residence at Wangkhei in Imphal West on Tuesday night. The abductors also ransacked his house and damaged at least four vehicles with gunfire. A large contingent of Manipur Police quickly launched a search operation and safely rescued the ASP within hours. The police official was admitted to a hospital where his condition is stated to be stable. Police said that the armed activists were annoyed with the police officer as he had recently arrested six members of the abductors' group as the detainees were accused in vehicle theft cases. Following the arrests of the six members, a local group had protested and blocked roads demanding their release. After the Tuesday night incident, Assam Rifles and other security personnel were deployed in the tension-ridden Wangkhei area.



Smuggled snake venom worth Rs 5 crore seized in North Bengal, 3 arrested

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : Four kilograms of smuggled snake venom worth Rs 5 crore was seized in North Bengal. Three persons were arrested for smuggling following a joint operation by the West Bengal Forest Department and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, near Siliguri, in the northern sector of West Bengal.

Over 80 pc Indian adults underestimate shingles risk : Report

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : More than 80 per cent of Indian adults above 50 years of age -- a group that is most susceptible to the disease -- lack understanding of shingles and its lifetime risk, according to a global report released as part of the ongoing Shingles Awareness Week. The report by drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline is based on a survey conducted among 3,500 adults aged 50 and above from 12 countries, including India.

The findings show that globally, a significantly high proportion of people do not understand the risk of developing shingles, with 86 per cent underestimating the risk. The survey in India involved 500 participants, with 250 respondents who spoke Hindi and another 250 who spoke English. In India, 81 per cent of the English-speaking and 86 per cent of the Hindi-speaking people were found to underestimate the risk of shingles. A significant number was also found unaware of the symptoms of the painful condition. Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox. As people age, the strength of their immune response to infection wanes, and this increases their risk



of developing shingles. The disease typically presents as rash, with painful blisters across the chest, abdomen, or face. The pain is often described as aching, burning, stabbing or shock-like. "The survey findings underscore the need to raise awareness about shingles risk in adults over 50. Shingles can significantly disrupt the daily lives of ageing adults and cause them a great deal of discomfort.

"In this Shingles Awareness Week, we encourage everyone to talk to their doctor about this agonising condition and how to prevent it," Dr Rashmi Hegde, Executive Vice President - Medical Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals, India, said in a statement.



Congress announces candidates for Meghalaya Lok Sabha seats

Shillong, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Congress on Friday announced its candidates for Meghalaya's two Lok Sabha seats. The party has fielded sitting MP Vincent Pala from Shillong, while Saleng A. Sangma will contest the Tura Lok Sabha seat. The ruling National People's Party (NPP) declared its candidates in December last year, fielding Health Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh against Pala and sitting member Agatha Sangma from Tura.

Minor thrashed, raped by social media friend in Delhi

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : A minor girl was allegedly thrashed and raped in Delhi by a person she met through social media site Instagram, police said on Friday. Police said that the incident came to light after the girl was found with injuries on her body lying near Dabri Metro Station in the southwest Delhi's Sagarpur area.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena said that the girl went to coaching and thereafter went to meet one known person, whom she had met through Instagram.

"Thereafter she was raped. A case has been registered under appropriate sections and the accused has been apprehended. Further investigation is underway," said the DCP.



Police have played crucial role in the transformation of UP's image: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, Mar 1 (IANS) : In a scathing attack on the previous governments of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that they were sympathisers of rioters and conspired to dismantle the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), which played the crucial role in handling communal riots and violence in the state, by abolishing 54 of its companies.

He said that his government has reorganised the disbanded units of the PAC. Speaking at a function held to inaugurate and lay the

foundation of 144 infrastructural development projects worth Rs 2310 crore for the Uttar Pradesh Police at Lok Bhawan here, the chief minister stressed the crucial role of UP Police in the changed perception of the state. He remarked, "Uttar Pradesh has now emerged as the biggest investment destination in the country. The state is experiencing prosperity with the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. The contribution of UP Police towards the transformation of UP's image is crucial. Everyone can feel the hard work of UP Police in the state's changed perception." The Chief Minister announced that a special security



force will be formed in UP soon. He also mentioned the establishment of the SDRF, Forensic Lab at the zone range levels and Forensic Institute in UP, adding that the SSF is also in charge of ensuring security at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The chief minister appreciated the changes in the behaviour of UP Police, pointing out that speaking politely while in uniform has a very positive impact.

Zaheerabad MP Joins BJP sending shocks to BRS party

Hyderabad, Mar 1 (IANS) : BRS party got a big shock. The party's BB i Patil has joined BJP ahead of the upcoming general elections. He joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Rajiv Chandrasekhar. After the formation of a separate Telangana state, Patil contested and was elected on behalf of the BRS party in 2014 and 2019 elections.

Four from Maharashtra killed in road accident in Karnataka

Bengaluru, Mar 1 (IANS) : Four persons were killed and five others injured in a road accident in Karnataka's Bidar district on Friday. The deceased have been identified as 36-year-old Dastagir Dawala Saab, 41-year-old Rasheeda Sheikh, 31-year-

old Wali and 51-year-old Aman Sheik, hailing from Udgir region in Maharashtra. The injured were being treated in a hospital.



Sandeshkhali can't be equated with land movements in Singur or Nandigram, hints Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : Amid the ongoing political debate over whether the BJP can replicate the model of land movement seen in Nandigram in 2008-2009 at the troubled Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday indirectly claimed that the current developments in Sandeshkhali cannot be compared to the situation in Singur or Nandigram. "Singur is Singur and Nandigram is Nandigram. The natures are different. There is a definite attempt to create a



riot-like situation by comparing one with the other," the Chief Minister said while addressing a meeting in Bankura district on Wednesday. Although Banerjee did not mention Sandeshkhali, political observers feel that she hinted at the current developments in the trouble-torn village in North 24 Parganas district, which has been on the boil for some time now following protests by the local women against alleged sexual harassment and violence by a section of the local Trinamool Congress leaders. To recall, Trinamool had spear-headed the movement against land

acquisition at Singur and Nandigram. While the Singur movement was against land acquisition for Tata Motors Limited's Nano small car project there, in Nandigram the movement was against the Indonesia-based Salim Group. Both the projects were scrapped in the face of stiff opposition. In case of Sandeshkhali, besides allegations of sexual harassment

यूको बैंक UCO BANK
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Asset Management Branch(2804), #6-3-1108, Ground Floor, Navabharat Chambers, Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082 (Telangana), Phone: 040-29554098, E-mail: asmahy@ucobank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
Whereas the Authorized Officer of the bank has issued a demand notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT and thereafter in exercise of powers under section 13 (12) of SARFAESI ACT has taken Possession of properties mortgaged to bank under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT and the undersigned in the capacity of Authorized Officer has decided for sale of the following properties of Borrowers/Guarantors detailed herein below for realization of bank dues from public.
Name of the Borrower/Guarantor:- 1) M/s Sowmya Stationers, Prop. Mr. Avula Ratnakar, 70/A, Vengalrao Nagar, Hyderabad. 2) Mr. Avula Ratnakar, Flat No.403, Chistia Estate, Rajeev Nagar, Hyderabad. 3) Mr. Moova Bapaiah, S/o Mr. Tirupathiah, Plot No.748, Padmanagar Colony-II, Kukatpally, Hyderabad. 4) Mr. V.Nagameswara Rao, H.No.7-1-304/1/D, B.K.Guda, Sanathnagar, Opp. mantha tent House Hyderabad. 5) Mr. Boddapati Seshiah, S/o Mr. B.Ramakrishna, Plot No.6, Block No.10, Janapriya Apartments, Mohanagar, Uppal, Hyderabad. 6) Mrs. P.Jagathi Devi, H.No.1-98/76/1, Madhapur, Sainagar, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.
Date of Demand Notice: 19.11.2012 Date of Possession: 14.02.2024
Present outstanding dues: Rs.72.91,752/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Two only) plus subsequent interest and other charges.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES:- All that piece and parcel of Plot No.748 admeasuring 500 Sq.Yards in Survey No.100, 101 and 105 situated at Padmanagar Colony II, Qutbullapur Village and Mandal Ranga Reddy District belongs to Mr. Moova Bapaiah, S/o Mr. Tirupathiah and Bounded by: North: Plot of No.747, South: Plot of No.749, East: 30' Wide Road, West: Plot No.758; (Sale Deed No.7351/1996 Dated 07/12/1996 SRO of Medchal)
Reserve Price: Rs.2,43,45,000/-, EMD: Rs.24,34,500/-, Bid Increase Amount: Rs.50,000/-
Date & Time of Inspection of Property: 18.03.2024 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Bid submission Last date: 02.04.2024 upto 4:00 pm
Date & Time of E-Auction: 03.04.2024, 11:00 am to 05: 00 pm with auto extension of 10 mins
DETAILS OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-
1. Sale shall be subjected to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. 2. Detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale available / published in the following websites / web portal https://www.mstecomm.com, https://ibapi.in https://www.mstecomm.com/auctionhome/ibapiindex.jsp 3. Sale will be conducted by the undersigned through e-auction platform provide at the above websites on Date 03.04.2024 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. 4. The properties is being sold on "As is Where is Basis" & "As is What is Basis" & "Whatever There is Basis" & "Without Recourse Basis". 5. Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the Bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75% of the bid amount. 6. The Particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 7. The sale is subject to conditions /Rules/Provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Rules framed there under and the conditions mentioned above. For more details if any prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer/branch head.
Date: 01.03.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

OPINIONmail



RAHUL GANDHI IS FOCUSING ON CASTE CENSUS AS A MAJOR PLANK OF INDIA CAMPAIGN

Congress spearhead and INDI-Alliance's only hope Rahul Gandhi's hoarse voice is what's giving hope to those praying Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not get a third term. The Wayanad MP is asking people lining up to receive his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and listening to his speeches at the halts to "think hard". He is asking the "low castes and the OBCs" in the electorate to deny Modi "Abki baar 400-paar". "Think Caste" is Rahul Gandhi's election-winning slogan. His focus on "oppressed castes" and "OBCs" is part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra route to achieving power through the ballot-box. Rahul Gandhi's search for "low castes" in the judiciary, media, civil services, India Inc., has so far drawn a blank, which is good news for Rahul Gandhi's campaigning strategy. It can be said that Rahul Gandhi is keeping the Congress still in the race and the INDI-Alliance more or less intact, despite the odd rumblings, with this "Think Hard-Think Caste" line of campaigning. With "caste" in the lexicon, Rahul Gandhi is speaking the lingo of many opposition regional parties who make up the INDI-Alliance including the Samajwadi Party of Uttar Pradesh and the Rashtriya Janata Dal of Bihar. For sure, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar must be nostalgic about his Caste Census, which is now not his to flaunt. Rahul Gandhi owns the concept now and it is Rahul's proposal for a nationwide Caste Census. Rahul Gandhi single-handedly eradicated Nitish Kumar from the Caste Census and Nitish's Caste Census is Rahul's strategy to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party's Hindutva.

In India, people identify with castes. Identity politics will never disappear. The feeling one gets is Lord Rama knows better than any of his bhakts that the Sangh Parivaar stopped thinking after the January 22 'Pran Prathista'. The BJP-RSS wants a casteless society, but it is a fact that even after 75 years, caste identities dictate life; and voting the most.

So Rahul Gandhi is gambling with his political career. If even one "low caste" individual in the crowd at a Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra halt stands up and shouts "I am a Dalit in the Civil Services...", Rahul Gandhi's election-campaigning strategy to present "low castes" as victims would go for a toss. Rahul Gandhi is taking a risk with questions like "Is any of you a Dalit and in the media?" and "Is there even one low caste in any of India's top 200 companies?" Rahul Gandhi asked: "Why are you all asleep? Don't you see you're being fooled...you are 73% of the population. What kind of society is this where you don't make any decisions?" Searching questions, probing enquiries. Has Rahul Gandhi made people understand his intent, why is he asking such questions? Rahul Gandhi can directly pose questions to the hoi polloi for now, but one more Modi victory, this time with the "Abki Baar 400 Paar" slogan, and Rahul Gandhi will be taking a long vacation. Rahul Gandhi's previous two campaigns to oust Modi have been failures. This is the third time in 10 years that Rahul Gandhi is going after Modi with a vengeance. Is Modi's persistence in ending 'Parivar Raj' coming to a close or will Modi close the "Parivar" down? The Congress hopes that Rahul Gandhi's hoarse voice is telling more than one tale.

A "Caste Census" will identify people of varying means and standards, it will be a stark reminder of who wears foreign-made designer jeans and who the "Killer Jeans" merchandize sold at the weekday bazaars in India's small towns? Yup. Think hard and ask questions. Is the Gandhi scion's election strategy working, or did the man start too little, too late to make a difference? There are those who are calling Rahul Gandhi crazy for some of the questions he's throwing, and some of the statements he's making. But even mentioning Aishwarya Rai serves an election purpose. Gandhi is using all sorts of examples to highlight his point that Modi leads and works for an elite India and it's for the non-elite deprived Indians to "think hard" and vote accordingly.

(By Sushil Kutty)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



BSP IS FACING AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS BEFORE 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

Bahujan Samaj Party is like the sinking ship in countless high seas stories. Should anybody be bothered? BSP Supremo 'Behan' Mayawati gives the impression she doesn't see the BSP floundering. If Bahujan Samaj Party MPs are leaving the BSP, that is because they might not get BSP tickets this time. That they don't see a role for themselves in the BSP is another

matter. But time is running out and the 2024 general elections are getting closer than what can be made of the cloudy image in the rear-view mirror. For how long can the MPs afford to remain tied to Behan Mayawati's apron strings? If anybody's to blame for their "exodus" from the BSP, it is Behan Mayawati. The reason why they stuck with the BSP was also 'Behan Mayawati'. Meaning, Behan Mayawati ran a tight BSP ship and it's only in recent times

that the ship started going adrift.

Otherwise, the 10 BSP Members of Parliament had been steadfast around 'Behan Mayawati' and had seen Mayawati's fortress-like mansion in Lucknow come up from dust. Therefore, watching loyal BSP politicians ditching the mother-ship is depressing and people are questioning why MPs are leaving.

HOW TO BRING DOWN BJP'S PRESENT LOK SABHA SEATS TO 220 IN 2024 LOK SABHA POLLS?

For the opposition INDIA bloc, after a chilling two months of despair and political setbacks following the desertion of Nitish Kumar led JD(U) and Jayant Choudhury led RLD to NDA, the last seven days of February have brought new optimism in the INDIA ranks. The period beginning February 20 when the Supreme Court installed the AAP candidate as the Mayor of Chandigarh Corporation, has witnessed the conclusion of the electoral alliance between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress for the crucial 80 seats for Lok Sabha in Uttar Pradesh and finally AAP-Congress alliance

in Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Goa and the Chandigarh seat.

Now talks are on for the conclusion of seat sharing in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. This will be followed by talks in Bihar and Jharkhand. The Congress election committee led by Mukul Wasnik is working with big speed and in every step, the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi are being apprised so that if needed, high level intervention from the top is done to solve any dispute which can not be solved at state level. This composite approach is a result of the recent feeling of the major INDIA constituents that all is



not that bad after January 22 hype of Ram Mandir generated by the saffron camp. If united, INDIA can meet the BJP challenge in 2024 polls..

The impact is being felt all through. Even in the corporate media embedded to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, views are being expressed that it will not

be a cake walk for the BJP. Prime Minister's mentioning the 370 seats for BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as against 303 won by the Party in 2019 polls, may remain a distant dream. The BJP led NDA may win for the consecutive third time but it will not be that overwhelming as the ruling party leaders.



KUMAR SHAHANI WAS AN UNCOMPROMISING FILM MAKER PURSUING HIS OWN AESTHETICS

Does austerity match with aesthetics? Art house cinema icon, Kumar Shahani who passed away on Sunday at the age of 83 placed these two unlikely attributes side by side in his works in celluloid. It was no square peg in round whole existence. A look at the films he directed underscored the point. Of course, the films Shahani made cannot be called hits by any stretch of imagination. But the fact remains that those were feted films. The discerning film buffs made a beeline for them. Unfortunately, they did not make either a large or an increasing number of viewers. Shahani's was not a large oeuvre.

INDIA CAN'T AFFORD GOVERNMENT'S COERCIVE POLICIES AGAINST CRITICAL MEDIA

The internet has many reports from all around the world proclaiming that journalism is dying or the business of journalism is dying. Those who are part of this industry already know the truth. For several years, journalists stopped getting promotions as newspapers would just do with the minimal and entry level staff. Then, competition became too harsh to maintain the class and dignity of the profession. The good old days of journalism, where accuracy and refinement of language were as important as cross-checking the facts, were left behind. With that, we abandoned the tradition of independent journalism and the legacy of some of the stalwarts in this arena. Growing up in a small town and attending a government college, we would stop by the magazine shops at railway stations. One of the magazines that we would find affordable was one called Mainstream. This weekly magazine, whose

cover itself will have an article, was priced at Rs 3 in the late 1980s. Some may recall it was even cheaper a few years back. We later read about the guy who ran this magazine - Nikhil Chakravarty. Among many distinctions, he is known to have not interviewed any political leader in his entire journalistic career. That was the kind of pride and respect journalism endowed to its practitioners at one point in India's contemporary history as it moved from the infancy of Independence to Amrit Kaal of today.

There is no doubt that journalism as we know it is dying, and we are not worried about it either. Change is the only constant, and we must move with time and embrace what it brings. But, logically, we expect the government to understand this and make decisions that align with the glorious history of this profession. In 2019, the BJP government at the center stopped giving government advertisements to three major newspapers, which received about Rs 15 crore to Rs 10 crore in government ads monthly. While this news about the top newspa-

pers in the country was reported widely, including in the international press, similar coercive actions against smaller newspapers and news agencies, including IPA whose subscriptions have been withdrawn by central and state government agencies, were not even discussed.

The new business model in the newspaper industry targets government ads and legal and tender notices. All these advertisements are issued by somebody from the government sitting in the chair that decides who should get the advertisement and who should not. Let's not forget overzealous party workers and leaders who go beyond the call. In other words, the time for bold and independent media is over, as independent corporate advertisers are not getting the bang for their money by advertising in the traditional newspaper industry. The situation for the TV news channels is no different. For them to survive, they have to toe the government line.

EUROPE FACING A BIG DILEMMA OVER ITS STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA

After the completion of two years of Russia-Ukraine war, Europe is facing a series of strategic issues concerning its relationship with Russia under President Putin. America is becoming less dependable and Europe is not adequately prepared. The problem is clear, but a solution on such a large scale is incomprehensible. The security agreements that emerged from NATO after World War II, which have successfully prevented another major conflict, are deeply rooted in Europe's foundation. Therefore, reshaping these agreements will be an enormous and challenging task. European leaders must urgently discard their complacency that has persisted since the Soviet era. This entails increasing defence spending to levels not witnessed in many years, revitalizing Europe's neglected military traditions, reorganizing its arms industries and making preparations for potential conflicts. However, it is important to note that these efforts are still in their early stages.



Thousands of devotees take part in 'Palkhi Yatra' at BAPS UAE temple

Dubai, Mar 1 (IANS) : Thousands of devotees took part in a grand procession of the Hindu community members at the newly-inaugurated BAPS Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi which is set to open its doors to the general public from March 1. Dressed in traditional Indian

attire, singing and dancing to devotional songs, more than 1,100 people participated in the "Palkhi Yatra", which usually precedes or follows the opening of a new temple, Khaleej Times newspaper reported on Friday. Idols from the seven main shrines of the temple were placed on decorated palanquins and taken around

the temple during the Sunday's procession, held as part of the 'Festival of Harmony' -- an event that marked the majestic temple's opening on February 14.

This was followed by an address to the community by Brahmviharidas Swami, the project head of the BAPS Hindu Mandir.

"I've never seen so much devotional joy and colour as we danced around the Mandir. We thank the BAPS Mandir for opening their hearts to all of us and making everyone feel welcome. We truly feel it is our Mandir. And all that is thanks to the guru, Mahant Swami Maharaj," Lina Barot, a community member, told Khaleej Times. The temple authorities announced on Tuesday that the Mandir will open its door to the public from March 1 from 9 am to 8 pm and it will remain closed to visitors every Friday.

The temple was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Gulf nation and was attended by over 5,000 invitees.

Built at a cost of approximately Rs 700 crore, the temple is spread over a 27-acre plot in Abu Mureikhah, near Al Rahba, and is constructed using more than 1.8 million cubic meters of sandstone sourced from Rajasthan.

Japan releases 4th ocean discharge of Fukushima nuclear-tainted wastewater despite opposition

Tokyo, Mar 1 (IANS) : Japan on Friday started the fourth-round of release of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean. Despite opposition from local fishermen, residents as well as backlash from the international community, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the plant's operator, started discharging the radioactive wastewater at around 11:30 a.m. local time, Xinhua news agency reported.

Similar to the previous three rounds, about 7,800 tons of the wastewater, which still contains tritium, a radioactive substance, will be discharged over about 17 days. Hit by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and an ensuing tsunami on March 11, 2011, the Fukushima nuclear plant suffered core meltdowns that released radiation, resulting in a level-7 nuclear accident, the highest on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale.



Guinea's transitional president appoints prime minister

Conakry, Mar 1 (IANS) : General Mamady Doumbouya, Guinea's transitional president, appointed Amadou Oury Bah as prime minister, announced Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Amara Camara. The announcement was made in a televised address late Thursday night. Amadou Oury Bah is a former collaborator of Cellou Dalein Diallo, Guinea's former prime minister and leader of the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea, Xinhua news agency reported. In 2008, he briefly served as minister of National Reconciliation, Solidarity and Relations with Institutions. On February 19, Doumbouya announced the dissolution of the transitional government led by Prime Minister Bernard Goumou.



Israeli strikes hit Damascus

Damascus, Mar 1 (IANS) : Israeli aerial attack hit areas south of the Syrian capital, Damascus, according to the Syrian Defence Ministry. The aerial attack originated from the occupied Golan Heights, targeting multiple locations on the outskirts of Damascus on Friday night, said the Ministry. It added that Syrian air defence units successfully intercepted the missiles, with only material losses reported, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the Israeli missiles hit sites belonging to Iranian militias and Lebanese Hezbollah in Sayyida Zaynab and Babila, and resulted in casualties and missing individuals. The observatory said it is the 17th Israeli strike recorded by the observatory this year.



Myanmar declares martial law in 2 townships of eastern state

Yangon, Mar 1 (IANS) : Myanmar's State Administration Council imposed martial law in Momeik and Mabein townships in Shan state of eastern Myanmar, media reported. According to the media report, the council said on Friday in its order statement that the martial law was imposed to ensure security, uphold the rule of law, and maintain peace and stability in the region, Xinhua news agency reported. Subsequently, in its separate order, the council granted administrative and judicial power for the townships to the commander of the northern command to effectively carry out the works on security, law enforcement.



China agrees to rollover Pakistan's \$2 bn debt on existing terms

Islamabad, Mar 1 (IANS) : China has agreed to rollover a \$2 billion debt on existing terms after initially seeking a hike in price, as Pakistan's policy to maintain foreign exchange reserves through deposits by three countries is becoming costly due to a 118 per cent surge in interest cost, a media report said.

An understanding has been reached with Beijing to further extend the repayment period of the \$2 billion loan maturing on March 23 -- the Pakistan Day, The Express Tribune reported. Sources said that China had initially asked to further increase the interest rate on the \$2 billion debt. Pakistan is currently paying 7.1 per cent interest on the basis of the six-month Secured Overnight Finance Rate (SOFR) plus

1.715 per cent, the report said. The officials said that China has informally communicated its decision to further extend the repayment period and the Finance Ministry is waiting for a formal response. Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar had last month formally requested the Chinese government to rollover the maturing loans, according to officials, The Express Tribune reported.

Pakistan paid Rs 26.6 billion in interest in the last fiscal to China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE on the \$9 billion deposits that these three nations placed with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the SBP balance sheet showed.

In the preceding year, the country had paid Rs 12.2 billion which jumped by 118 per cent within a year.

The authorities said that a major factor behind the 118 per cent increase in the interest cost was the currency devaluation in the previous fiscal, The Express Tribune reported.

The central bank's gross official foreign exchange reserves stand at \$8 billion.

Over the past one decade, Pakistan has adopted a policy to borrow from the regional countries during difficult economic times.



Palestinian death toll in Gaza nears 30,000 : Ministry

Gaza, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Palestinian death toll in the Gaza Strip has risen to 29,954 as the Israeli military killed 76 in the past 24 hours, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said.

Meanwhile, 110 others were wounded, bringing the total number of Palestinian injuries since the Israel-Hamas war broke out in early October to 70,325, the Ministry said on Friday in a statement. It noted that some victims remain under the rubble amid heavy bombardment and a lack of civil defence and ambulance crews, Xinhua news agency reported. On Fri-

day, Israeli media outlets reported that two officers were killed and seven soldiers were injured during battles in the Gaza Strip, pushing the death toll to 582. Citing IDF sources, the reports said Israel's ground operations continued throughout the Gaza Strip under the support of air and naval bombardment.

Indian Coast Guard ships arrive in Sri Lanka for training

Colombo, Mar 1 (IANS) : Indian Coast Guard ships Samarth, an Offshore Patrol Vessel and Abhinav, Fast Patrol Vessel, arrived at Southern port city of Galle for training and professional interaction, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said.

"The ships will visit Colombo from March 2 to 5 before departing the Island nation. The Commanding Officers of the Indian Coast Guard Ships, Deputy Inspector General P Pradeep Kumar and Commandant (JG) Prabhat

Kumar will be calling on Director General Sri Lanka Coast Guard and other senior officers," the Indian High Commission said.

During the stay, the ships will undertake training for Sri Lanka Coast Guard on VBSS, Fire Fighting and Damage Control, Maritime Pollution Response and hold few other professional interactions.

Other activities such as yoga, beach cleaning and walkathon will also be held during the visit.

Additionally Passage Exercise (PASSEX) is to be conducted with Sri Lanka Coast Guard

Ship, on departure, off Galle and Colombo.

The ships will be open for visit by school children. The ships would host a reception onboard for guests from Sri Lanka including senior officials from defence hierarchy and civil administration.

"The visit of these Indian Coast Guard Ships will significantly aid in augmenting capabilities of Sri Lanka Coast Guard and personnel in order to efficiently address maritime security challenges in the region," the High Commission said.

Indian Naval Ships and Sub-



marines Kora, Kabra and Karanj had visited Colombo in past few months. Visits by Indian Navy and Coast Guard vessels to Sri Lanka aim to enhance camaraderie and interoperability between the

two friendly neighbouring Navies, which is in keeping with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine and 'Neighbourhood First'.

Mothers Against Vaping throws light on WHO's warning over use of new-age gateway devices

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Mothers Against Vaping, a united front of proactive and concerned mothers who are combatting the escalating vaping crisis among youth, has highlighted the urgent need to take immediate action on the World Health Organisation's call on South East Asian countries to curb use of new-age gateway devices such as e-cigarettes and vapes, particularly among children and youth. The WHO's warning against the increasing rise of vaping in the region underscores and reemphasises the required urgency to control the viral spread of e-cigarettes and other new-age gateway products. Mothers Against Vaping has reiterated that there is insufficient evidence to support the efficacy of e-cigarettes in smoking cessation and these devices pose significant health risks to children and youth. In

December 2023, WHO emphasised that e-cigarettes have not demonstrated effectiveness in quitting tobacco use, with emerging evidence pointing to adverse population health effects associated with these new-age electronic devices.

"WHO is right in asserting that e-cigarettes are not effective in smoking cessation. Scientifically, claiming that e-cigarettes can eliminate nicotine addiction is not accurate, given that these devices contain nicotine. Furthermore, the use of e-cigarettes poses a risk of delivering higher doses of nicotine and other harmful chemicals, potentially causing more harm to users. Hence there is an urgent need for effective measures to curb their usage, especially among the youth," said Dr. Rajesh Gupta - Additional Director, Pulmonology & Critical Care, Fortis Healthcare, Noida. According to WHO, the South-East Asia Region has a significant



prevalence of smokeless tobacco users, accounting for a massive 77% of the global smokeless tobacco user population. Alarmingly, there are around 11 million adolescent users in the age group of 13-15 years, constituting nearly 30% of the global total. The region is witnessing a rising trend in the use of e-cigarettes and other new-age gateway products, particularly among young people. "The surge in the use of e-cigarettes among young people is not surprising, influenced by a variety of factors including peer pressure and aggressive advertising by manufacturers. Beyond the evident physical harm caused by vaping or e-cigarettes, there is a

critical concern about the serious mental health impacts such as mood and anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts and depressive symptoms," said Dr. Bhavna Barmi, Clinical Psychologist, Founder, Happiness Studio. Mothers Against Vaping has drawn attention to a survey conducted by the American Heart Association, presented in February 2023. The findings of the survey revealed a concerning correlation between vaping nicotine and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the psychoactive component in marijuana and self-reported symptoms of depression and anxiety.

NDPS Act's Sec 37 doesn't fetter grant of bail on grounds of undue delay in trial completion: Delhi HC

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Friday granted bail to two accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act), saying that while Section 37 of the Act sets stringent conditions, prolonged incarceration due to trial delays warrants a re-evaluation of bail eligibility. "... it is apparent that in spite of the stringent test to be met by the accused under Section 37 of the NDPS for being released on bail, it has been held that the same does not fetter grant of bail to the

accused on the ground of undue delay in the completion of trial," Justice Navin Chawla noted. The judge noted that extended detention contradicts constitutional rights to life and liberty, and that conditional liberty should prevail over the statutory restrictions. The court stated, "It has been held that prolonged incarceration generally militates against the Right to Life and Liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and therefore, the conditional liberty must override the statutory embargo under Section 37 of the NDPS Act."



Bengal Congress leader Kaustav Bagchi quits party

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : Rebel Congress leader and counsel of the Calcutta High Court, Kaustav Bagchi, on Friday, announced his resignation from the party. He said that he has sent copies of his resignation letter to Congress' national president Mallikarjun Kharge and the party state president in West Bengal Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. The differences between Bagchi and the Congress High Command had surfaced since the party leadership had been initiating alliance dialogues with Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. A number of times he had also been vocal, demanding immediate withdrawal from the process of alliance talks with West Bengal's ruling party. He had also been vocal against high-profile lawyer-leaders in Congress namely Abhishek Manu Singhvi and P. Chidambaram holding briefs at different courts on behalf of the West Bengal government and prominent Trinamool Congress leaders.



SC orders TN govt to properly train police officers on collection of digital evidence

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Supreme Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to impart proper training to state police officers on the procedure to collect digital evidence. A bench, headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka, said that the state government must ensure that the police officers are imparted proper training of the procedure to be followed for obtaining a certificate under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, which deals with admissibility of electronic records. The bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, was hearing a criminal appeal against the Madras High Court order confirming the conviction and sentence of the two accused under Section 364A (kidnapping for ransom), read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

The appellants were sentenced to undergo life imprisonment. The High Court had discarded the prosecution evidence in the form of the call records for want of a certificate, as required under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act.

Turning the conviction into the lesser offence of kidnapping under Section 363 of the IPC, the apex court observed that the call records could have been the best possible evidence for the prosecution to prove the threats allegedly administered by the accused and the demand of ransom. In its judgment, it noted that the Investigating Officer was not aware of the procedure to be followed for obtaining a certificate under Section 65B of the Evidence Act.

Madras HC dismisses bail petition of ex-TN Minister Senthil Balaji

Chennai, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Madras High Court on Friday dismissed a bail petition moved by DMK leader and former Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthil Balaji in a money laundering case. Senthil Balaji was arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on June 14, 2023, and remains in judicial custody since then. The single bench of the Madras High Court, Justice N. Anand Venkatesh, also directed the trial court to complete the trial within three months by conducting the proceedings on a day-to-day basis, as far as practicable, since the petitioner has been in jail for more than 250 days.

The judge had heard the arguments by the senior Supreme Court lawyer, C. Aryama Sundaram for Senthil Balaji and Additional Solicitor General A.R.L. Sundaresan. The judge had reserved the orders on the bail plea on February 22 after hearing the arguments of the two sides.

The Chennai Central Crime Branch (CCB) Police had registered multiple FIRs to investigate the scam. After that the ED had registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 on the basis of those FIRs. Senthil Balaji was serving as the Minister for Electricity and Prohibition when the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) conducted raids at his residence on June 13, 2023 and arrested him in the intervening night of June 13 and June 14, 2023. Senthil Balaji, had during the arrest complained of chest pain and



a medical checkup at a government hospital in Chennai revealed that he was having three blocks in his coronary artery. Subsequently his wife moved a habeas corpus petition in the Madras High Court and transferred him to a private hospital (Kaveri Hospital, Chennai) where he was operated upon. Till recently Senthil Balaji was a minister without portfolio even during his period of incarceration in the Puzhal central prison. When the second bail petition had come for hearing, Justice Anand Venkatesh asked in the open court as to how the petitioner could continue as a minister even after months of being in custody. The minister resigned from the post soon after the court mentioned this.

No question of protecting anyone if FSL report proves allegation: K'taka CM on pro-Pak slogan issue

Bengaluru, Mar 1 (IANS) : Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said that if the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report proves that the slogan raised in favour of Pakistan is true, serious action will be taken. "There is no question of protecting those who raised slogans in favour of Pakistan," said the CM. He was speaking to the media at the Vidhana Soudha here. "Strict action will be taken against whoever shouted slogans against the nation," he said. Answering a question from the media that this incident happened in Vidhana Soudha, he said, "What difference will it make to those who want to raise slogans?" The incident had allegedly taken place during the victory celebration of Syed Naseer Hussain, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha.



Pune cops bust fake Indian currency notes racket with six arrests

Pune, Mar 1 (IANS) : Pimpri-Chinchwad Police have busted a racket which used to print fake Rs 500 Indian currency notes on Chinese paper ordered online and arrested six persons, including an engineer, officials said here on Friday. A team led by Dehu Road Police Station's Senior Inspector of Police, Nitin Fatangare seized 440 counterfeit Rs 500 denomination notes, 4,700 partly-printed notes bills, 4,484 printed and ready-to-cut notes, 1,000 sheets of Chinese made currency paper, a printing machine sourced locally, laptops, paper-cutting machines and other articles from

the accused. The incident came to light after a tip-off that a young IT engineer, Hruthik Khadse, 22, had started a printing business with some of his friends.

They had bought a used printing machine from the Appa Balwant Chowk area and started their printing unit in Dighi, to publish pamphlets, handbills and other odd publicity materials. However, the business went into losses as they failed to get sufficient orders, and then one of the prime accused, a driver named Suraj Yadav, 41, suggested the idea of printing fake Indian currency notes to make easy money.

IUML in Kerala gets two LS seats

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 1 (IANS) : Despite bargaining hard, the second biggest ally in the opposition Congress-led UDF, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) on Friday got two Lok Sabha seats and the sitting members have been asked to contest again but the two will swap their seats. The names of their candidates- E. T. Mohammed Basheer, the sitting MP from Ponanni, will contest from Malappuram while M. P. Abdusamad Samadani, the sitting MP from Malappuram will shift to Ponanni, was announced by their party supremo Sayyid Sadik Ali Shihab Thangal after a short meeting of the top brass of the IUML at Malappuram.



Thangal said the IUML will contest from Ramnathapuram Lok Sabha seat in Tamil Nadu and its sitting MP Kani K. Navas has been asked to defend his seat. Both the seats in Kerala are located in the IUML dominated Malappuram district.



Venkatesh Tarakkad named as upGrad's first Chief Financial Officer

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Ronnie Screwvala-founded upGrad on Friday said that the edtech unicorn has appointed Venkatesh Tarakkad as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Tarakkad led finance, inventory, and strategic initiatives at DealShare and assumed his role at upGrad effective March 1. He will be based out of upGrad's headquarters in Mumbai. "We've laid a rock-solid business foundation so far, built and scaled our offerings, and as we strive for global leadership, his operational excellence will ensure a robust credit profile, end-to-end compliance.



EV startup Fisker to lay off 15 pc of workforce amid cash crunch

San Francisco, Mar 1 (IANS) : Electric vehicle (EV) startup Fisker is laying off at least 15 per cent of its workforce, as its current resources are "insufficient to satisfy its requirements over the next 12 months". Announcing its quarterly results, Fisker said it is also in negotiations with a large automaker for a potential transaction which could include an investment in Fisker, joint development of one or more electric vehicle platforms, and North America manufacturing. "To address potential liquidity is-

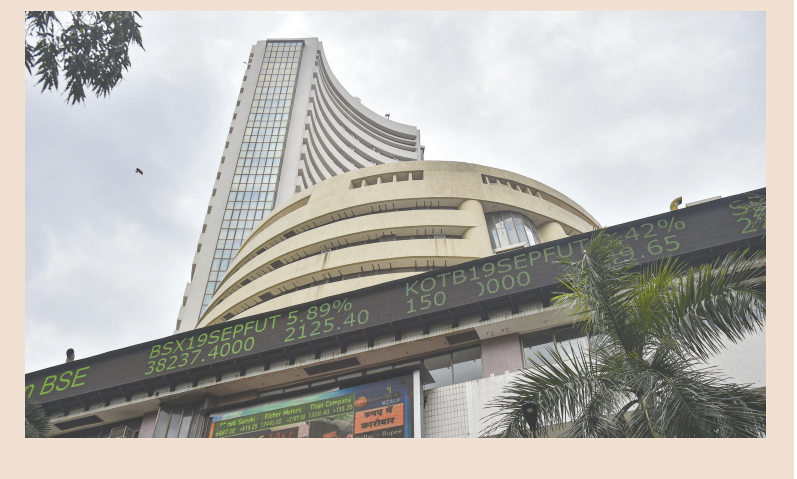
ssues, Fisker is already taking action. The company is currently in discussions with an existing noteholder about potentially making an additional investment in the company," it said. In addition, "Fisker intends to reduce its workforce by approximately 15 per cent". "Headcount reductions are predominantly related to the change in sales strategy from direct-to-consumer to a Dealer Partner model. In addition, the company is streamlining operations, including reducing its physical footprint and overall expenses," the com-

pany informed. Fisker reported total revenue of \$200.1 million in Q4 2023, an increase of \$128.3 million from Q3 2023. "2023 was a challenging year for Fisker, including delays with suppliers and other issues that prevented us from delivering the Ocean SUV as quickly as we had expected," said Henrik Fisker, Chairman and CEO. "We also encountered unexpected headwinds in our efforts to establish a direct-to-consumer sales model in both North America and Europe at the same time," he added.

Sensex jumps more than 1,000 points on impressive GDP numbers

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : BSE Sensex jumped more than 1,000 points on Friday reacting to India's impressive GDP numbers. Sensex was trading up by 1045.99 points up by 1.44 per cent at 73,549.64 points. Metal stocks are top gainers with Tata Steel, JSW Steel up more than 4 per cent, L&T up 3 per cent, Titan up 3 per cent. ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Maruti, Indusind Bank, Powergrid are up 2 per cent. The main factor influencing the market on Friday is likely to be the better-than-expected Q3 GDP growth number which has come at an impressive 8.4 per cent, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Finan-

cial Services. The impressive GDP numbers provide the fundamental support to the bull market. Large-caps like RIL, Bharti Airtel, L&T and ICICI Bank have the potential to lead the rally. Tepid private consumption numbers will be a drag on consumer staples stocks like HUL, he said. The broad trend of the market, going forward, will be the outperformance of large-caps over the broader market, he added. Devarsh Vakil - Deputy Head, of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said surpassing the expectations of analysts, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a robust growth of 8.4 per cent on an annual basis in the third quarter (October-December).



Centre fast-tracks bypass projects to decongest Indore, Guwahati

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Centre's Network Planning Group (NPG) has fast-tracked three highway projects including a 141 km new bypass for Indore and a 64 km bypass to decongest Guwahati. The 66th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM Gati Shakti held on Feb 27 also took up for discussion the upgradation of NH 216H in Andhra Pradesh, according to an official statement issued on Friday. The project for providing a bypass around Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, being taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and

Highways, will stretch across 141 km through Dhar, Indore, and Dewas districts of Madhya Pradesh. The greenfield corridor, starting near Khandwa village and terminating at NH-52 near Bhardala, aims to reduce traffic congestion in Indore, offering an alternative route and ensuring seamless transportation of goods and people. The second project is a ring road of approximately 64 kms, around Guwahati city. The proposal includes an elevated structure at Jorabat and a new bridge across Brahmaputra.

Google begins to enforce Play Store policies in India, to remove non-compliant apps

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Google on Friday said that after giving developers in India more than three years to prepare, including three weeks after the Supreme Court's order, it is taking necessary "ensure our policies are applied consistently across the ecosystem, as we do for any form of policy violation globally". The company said in a

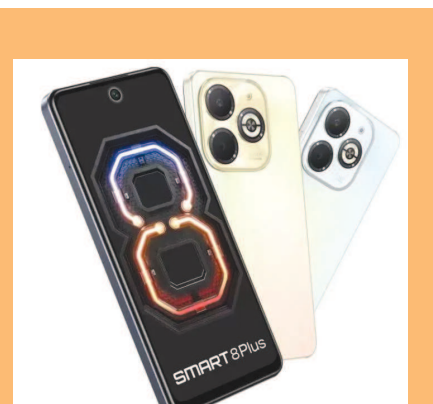
blog post that enforcement of its policy, when necessary, can include removal of non-compliant apps from Google Play. Developers are welcome to resubmit their apps to be listed on Play by electing any of the three billing options as part of the company's payments policy. One of the options is to operate on a consumption-only basis without paying a service fee, even if it is part of a paid service.



RBI streamlines Bharat Bill Payment System, customers get more protection

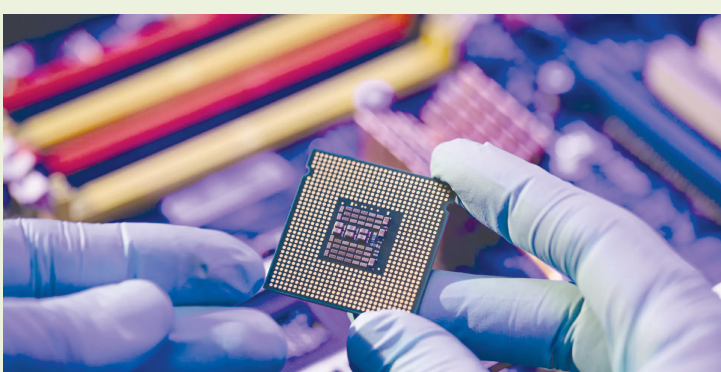
Mumbai, Mar 1 (IANS) : The RBI has put in a revised regulatory framework - Bharat Bill Payment Systems Directions, 2024, which will be applicable to NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL - a wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India); and all Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs). These directions seek to streamline the process of bill payments, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection among other changes. The directions were issued on February 29 and will come into effect from April 1, 2024. The directions state that NBBL is the entity authorised as the Payment System Provider for Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). Any entity, other than a biller, operating a system for payment of bills outside the scope of BBPS is a 'payment system' and will require RBI authorisation to undertake the activity. The directions clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of the system operator and system par-

ticipants. It states that Bharat Bill Pay Central Unit (BBPCU) will provide guaranteed settlement of all transactions routed through NBBL. It will also: *Ensure that all transactions have BBPS reference number from the payment initiation stage *Ensure no funds in the system flow through any TSP *Provide a framework for redressal of consumer disputes The Biller Operating Unit (BOU) will have to ensure compliance to due diligence requirements in respect of onboarding of merchants.



Infinix launches smartphone with 6,000mAh battery in India

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Smartphone brand Infinix on Friday launched its latest device in India, the Smart 8 Plus, with a massive 6000mAh battery. Available in three colour variants -- Galaxy White, Timber Black and Shiny Gold, users can purchase this new smartphone at Rs 6,999 (inclusive bank offers) starting March 9 on Flipkart. "The latest smartphone by Infinix offers a plethora of features that combine style, innovation, and performance," the company said. The Smart 8 Plus features a 50MP Dual AI Camera, complemented by a Quad-LED ring flash for professional-grade photography in any lighting condition. The device comes with an 8MP front camera with LED flash for taking selfies,



India's emergence as global chip manufacturing hub no distant dream : Industry

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Top industry bodies on Friday hailed the government's decision to clear three semiconductor fabrication (fab) manufacturing projects worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore, saying that the

emergence of the country as a global semiconductor manufacturing destination "no longer seems to be a distant dream." The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Tripura tribal party blocks state's lifeline over 'Greater Tipraland' demand

Agartala, Mar 1 (IANS) : Thousands of tribals led by opposition Tipra Motha Party (TMP) leaders on Friday held their pre-announced demonstration on National Highway-8, the lifeline of Tripura, at Hatoi Katar (Baramura) demanding constitutional solutions to the tribals' problems. TMP supremo and former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman also launched a 'fast-unto-death' strike demanding fulfilments of the commitments made by the Centre with regard to the demands of the tribal party. Deb Barman claimed that in the midst of the demonstration, he was called by the Central government to Delhi to discuss their demands.

The tribal leader, who did not disclose whom he would meet in Delhi, said: "After returning from the Delhi meeting, I would discuss the issue with our leaders in Agartala and then the next course of action would be decided." The TMP, which has been demanding 'Greater Tipraland', or a separate state for the tribals under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution, held their demonstration on NH-8, disrupting vehicular movement on the vital road. A large contingent of security forces was deployed at the demonstration site at Hatoi Katar, some 30 km from here, to prevent any untoward incident. Deb Barma, who last week held a meeting with the Home Ministry

officials in Delhi, said that they want a written assurance from the Centre towards their demands. "What we are asking for is as per the Constitution. We want the government to fulfil the tribals' constitutional and land rights related issues," the TMP chief told the media, as he urged all the political parties to join their agitation for the overall interest of the tribals. On Monday night, Deb Barman had held a meeting with the senior leaders of the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and state minister Sukla Charan Noatia during which TMP's demands were discussed. The IPFT is an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura.



Land-for-job case : Delhi court grants regular bail to ex-Bihar CM Rabri Devi, daughters

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : A Delhi court on Friday granted regular bail to former Bihar Chief Minister and RJD chief Lalu Prasad's wife Rabri Devi and her daughters -- Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav -- in a money laundering case pertaining to the alleged land-for-job scam matter. The accused were presented before Special Judge Vishal Gogne of Rouse Avenue Court on expiry of their interim bail, which was granted on February 9.

The court had taken cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s first charge sheet on January 27. On Wednesday, Judge Gogne granted them and co-accused Hridayanand Chaudhary bail saying that they were not arrested during the probe, and that there is no doubt of accused fleeing from the law. Appearing for the financial probe agency, special public prosecutor (SPP) Manish Jain along with Snehal Sharda submitted that if the bail is granted, strict conditions may be imposed in view of the gravity of the allega-

tions. The court, however, gave them relief on furnishing of bail bond of Rs one lakh and surety in the like amount. The court had, on February 5, granted till March 4 interim bail on medical grounds to Amit Katyal, an alleged close associate of former Union Minister Lalu Prasad's family, who has also been named along with some companies in the charge sheet. Katyal, promoter of AK Infosystems, was arrested in November last year by the central probe agency.

Akhilesh Yadav warns of appropriate action against rebel SP MLAs at the right time

Lucknow, Mar 1 (IANS) : Samajwadi Party (SP) President, Akhilesh Yadav, said on Friday that appropriate action would be initiated against the party's rebel MLAs at the right time. Akhilesh Yadav's statement came a day after the party's chief whip in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Manoj

Pandey, quit while voting was underway for 10 Rajya Sabha seats from the state on Tuesday. The SP's National Spokesperson, Rajendra Chaudhary, said that the rebel MLAs would be served a show cause notice and further action against them would be taken thereafter.



Akbar an invader who raped women can never be great : Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar

Jaipur, Mar 1 (IANS) : From organising 'Surya Namaskar' in all schools to announcing bulldozer action on educational institutes indulging in malpractices, Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar is being seen as a man of action in the desert state. The Education Minister has ordered the setting up of a committee to review the school syllabus to find if facts were being taught to students. In an exclusive interview with IANS, Education Minister Madan Dilawar says that Mughal Emperor Akbar can never be considered 'great' as he came as an invader to India and raped

women. Excerpts from the interview: IANS: BJP is back in Rajasthan and a debate has started on the need to review the school syllabus. What is all this discussion about? Madan Dilawar: Yes, it is true that we have ordered a committee to review what is being taught to the students, whether the information given in the syllabus is right or not. If these facts are not right, then we will decide how to get them right. Our schools are still teaching 'Akbar the Great'. However, Akbar was an invader who raped women and organised Meena Bazaars; an invader and rapist can never be great. We are reviewing the historical facts that are being taught in schools. IANS: But, other school boards

across the nation will continue to teach that Akbar was great. Madan Dilawar: My jurisdiction is Rajasthan only and I can work within my domain. However, as said, our committee will present a report to us and we will definitely forward it to other states if they ask for it. IANS: There has been a lot of controversy over 'Surya Namaskar'. Some pleas were filed in court too. Your take on it? Madan Dilawar: We made a Surya



Namaskar world record in schools across the state on Surya Saptami. Now, looking at its success, orders have been given that all schools will practice yoga during the morning assembly session. In fact 50 per cent madrasas also do Surya Namaskar. IANS: There was resistance from other communities and some pleas were filed in court too. Madan Dilawar: It is just an eyewash. Even the Muslim community has no objection to Surya Namaskar. No one called me or wrote to me, 50 per cent madrasas do Surya Namaskar on their own. Some people had filed a plea in the court against it, however, these 10-20 people can never represent a whole community.



Congress expels two rebel MLAs from party in Bihar

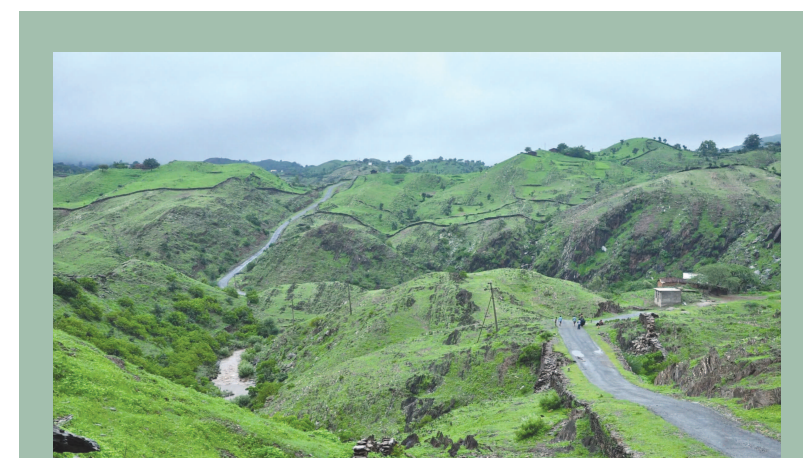
Patna, Mar 1 (IANS) : A day after two Congress MLAs joined the BJP in Bihar, Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan said on Friday that the party has expelled both the 'rebel' leaders. The two MLAs -- Siddharth Saurav from Bikram and Murari Gautam from Chenari -- first went over and sat with the BJP legislators in the House on Friday, before joining the party in the presence of state BJP President Samrat Choudhary later the same evening.

Human trials may reveal efficacy of new Rs 100 cancer pill : Docs

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : Only human trials will help understand the efficacy of the new Rs 100 pill developed to prevent recurrence of cancer, said doctors on Friday. According to a report by NDTV, researchers at the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) in Mumbai claimed to have discovered a treatment to prevent relapse of cancer that would cost only Rs 100. The study on mice showed that the pill, named 'R+Cu', containing a pro-oxidant combina-

tion of resveratrol and copper, generated oxygen radicals in the stomach to curb cancer recurrence. The experimental mice study "is not a substitute for established treatments, which continue to result in cures in a substantial proportion of cancer patients," Dr Shyam Aggarwal, Chairman, Department of Medical Oncology, at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital told IANS. In a post on X, Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman Na-

tional IMA Covid Task Force called it "an exaggerated claim". While calling the research "interesting, praiseworthy", he said it cannot be seen as "cancer cure." Dr Shyam Aggarwal explained that the research shows the effect of cell-free chromatin (fragments of chromosomes released from cancer cells after chemotherapy) on normal tissues causing a cascade of inflammation leading to side effects such as mucositis, low blood counts, etc.



Gurugram DC directs officials to step up vigil in mountainous areas of Aravali range

Gurugram, Mar 1 (IANS) : Following complaints of illegal activities in the inaccessible mountainous areas of the Aravali range, the Deputy Commissioner of Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav, has directed the concerned officials to increase vigil in the area. Yadav also directed the SDM of Sohna and officials of the District Mining Department to conduct a joint visit to stop such activities. The

direction came when the DC was presiding over a meeting of the district-level task force committee of the Mining Department here on Friday. At the meeting, the DC also gave instructions to form special monitoring teams to strictly deal with illegal mining activities in the district. These special teams will keep a watch on the vehicles involved in illegal mining activities on various roads in the district.



Pro-Pak slogan row: Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje demands NIA probe

Bengaluru, Mar 1 (IANS) : Union Minister for State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje has demanded NIA probe into the allegations of raising pro-Pakistan slogans in Karnataka legislature premises. She said on Friday that she

will write a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah in this regard. Speaking to reporters in Udupi, the Union Minister said, "How can police allow those with the mindset of shouting 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans to be let inside the premises? Rajya Sabha member Syed Naseer Hussain must be

subjected to investigation. There is a possibility of big controversy behind this.

"The Congress is talking about dividing the country. The power is not permanent to any government. There is a systematic effort to create confusion in the country. The truth will come out if the NIA probes the incident.

"The police should find out the forces behind this development. "I have requested the police chief of Karnataka to arrest the accused," she stated.

Syed Naseer Hussain, however, has offered clarification on the issue. He said that some of his supporters celebrated the victory of three candidates, of which he was one of them, He said slogans such as 'Naseer saab Zindabad, Congress party Zindabad' were raised. But, all of a sudden when he was leaving for home he got a call from the media about the raising pro-Pakistan slogans.

"I would like to say, when I was

there and in the midst of people, I never heard the slogan 'Pakistan Zindabad' there. We already asked the police and let them investigate it. If someone has raised such a slogan he should be dealt with sternly and strictly as per law.

"If someone has morphed and played the video, even that has to be inquired. Even if someone has raised the slogan, who is he, from where did he come and enter the premises, what was his intention...everything should be probed.

"When I was there, the slogan was never shouted, if the slogan was raised in my presence, no sane person or Indian citizen could have tolerated it. Let us wait for the inquiry and whatever comes out will be in the public domain," he said.



MP man booked for 'objectionable' social media post against Jyotiraditya Scindia

Bhopal, Mar 1 (IANS) : A man has been booked for allegedly issuing objectionable post on his social media account against Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and a BJP leader in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district. The accused has been identified as Sunil Singh, a resident of Orchha in Niwari district, police said on Friday. According to po-

lice, the accused, in the post on Facebook, dared Jyotiraditya Scindia and BJP MLA Pritam Lodhi to visit Pichhore (in Madhya Pradesh) together. "A case was registered against Sunil under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 294 (obscene acts) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and further legal steps are being taken," a police official said.

Rootedness, rootlessness & artist Kanwal Dhaliwal's varied tales

Chandigarh, Mar 1 (IANS) : The moment you enter, a portrait of Lal Singh Dil, one of the major revolutionary Punjabi poets emerging out of the Naxalite Movement in Punjab towards the late sixties of the 20th century, stares directly at you. Village landscapes envelop the Punjab Kala Bhavan gallery in modernistic Chandigarh.

There are also portraits of Gaihal Singh Chhajjalwadi, Madam Cama, Saadat Hasan Manto, and Kartar Singh Sarabha -- the unsung ones. In a corner, the soft-spoken major Punjabi painter, sculptor and linguist Kanwal Dhaliwal, now based in the UK, is sitting.

As his latest exhibition, 'Back to the Roots', curated by Anju Bala, now travels in Punjab, he refrains from talking about the immigrant experience, highlighted in his latest work, with the cliches most immigrant artists love to use. "The rootlessness may be for me, but for our children, what we call the 'new'

is not alien. Thus, what emerges are newer roots, assimilation, where the outsider slowly becomes the insider," he told IANS. Originally from the rural Malwa region, Dhaliwal has worked in almost every medium, such as oil, watercolour, clay, wood, and stone. Trained at the Government College of Art, Chandigarh, the latest exhibition has works from his previous series, including 'The Village' -- where, through drawings and sculptures, he portrays the resilience of village life, and 'The Valiant Ones'. "I've been thinking of doing an exhibition in Chandigarh for almost five years now. Whenever I would come along a few works with me," he said. Talk to him about the 'assimilation' of different series in one exhibition and the natural apprehension of disjointedness, and the artist asserts that while the works may be very different individually, in the context of India, all of them come together seamlessly.

"Is it not effortless to see the connections between earth, villages, and a slow life walking hand-in-hand with the mad pace of metros?

This country in itself offers a certain sense of assimilation," he opines.

And Chandigarh -- towards which artists have always had extreme views? Dhaliwal asserts that it is surprising that a foreigner (Le Corbusier) was asked to design a new city as if we were incapable of the same. "It seems a part of Europe has been imported and set up here. The design is alien, but those who live in these houses are not, so how can complete synchronisation take place? How can an identity be carved? This place will never have a culture in the true sense of the word. People who are born here, are also not born here..."

The artist studied at the art college when it was dominated by students from the rural areas, and there was no quota for Chandigarh residents. He feels that the ones from the countryside did not just have more depth, but also understood the real concerns of people -- a major



reason many are now well established. "Those with rural roots have a naturally instilled sense of culture, their idiom is strong, and thus their work boasts of a certain sensitivity. I am not sure if I can say the same about the ones from the urban backgrounds, who were more interested in Applied Arts." Looking at his portrait of Prof. Lalli, a legendary teacher of Anthropological Linguistics at Punjabi University Patiala, to whom many artists in Punjab attribute their broader worldview and sensitivity towards self and those around, Dhaliwal remembers the 'Bhootwara' (from ghosts) group and times, led by Lalli. "There would be discussions the whole night. He would come to live in our 'barsaat' in Chandigarh for days. Discussions never followed a linear pattern. From world literature, and theatre to architecture -- everything would be covered in one night. I went to Russia after

passing out and later got a job in Himachal Pradesh, but kept meeting him, and have written a series of articles on him. I had gone to meet him in April 2014. and that is when I started this portrait. This is his last one," he added. All set to paint more portraits under 'The Valiant Ones', Dhaliwal holds around two exhibitions annually in the UK too. "While working on the village series, so many new facets of my childhood home came alive. Perhaps that is what art does -- reintroduce a part of us to us," he added.



ED raids Kolkata bizman's places in gaming app scam case

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted raid and search operation at the residence of a businessman in the Salt Lake area in connection with a gaming app scam case. Sources said the ED action was taking place at the residence of Suraj Chokhani, the owner of ability games limited. A second team of the ED was conducting raid and search operations at the office of the said corporate entity at the information technology hub of Sector-V also in Salt Lake. Both the raiding teams were being escorted by armed personnel of the Central Armed Police Force.



Hindu petition seeks to restrict entry on terrace of Gyanvapi cellar

Varanasi (UP), Mar 1 (IANS) : The Hindu side in the Gyanvapi case filed a new petition on Friday at the Varanasi district court, seeking to stop the entry into the terrace of the 'Vyas Ji Ka Tehkhana', located in the southern area of the Gyanvapi mosque complex. The petition said that there was a possibility of an accident

since the terrace is 500 years old. In the petition filed by plaintiff Ram Prasad Singh, the Hindu side also demanded to restrict people from offering namaz on the terrace. It sought repair of the terrace as there could be a major accident while devotees are worshipping inside the restricted area. The development comes two days after the Allahabad High Court dismissed a petition challenging the district court's January 31 order that allowed Hindus to offer puja in the southern cellar.

AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal convicted in abetment of suicide case of Delhi doctor

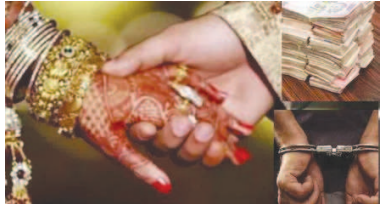
New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : A Delhi court on Friday convicted AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal in an abetment of suicide case linked to the death of a South Delhi-based doctor in 2020. The order was pronounced by Special Judge MK Nagpal of the Rouse Avenue court. In 2021, Additional Sessions Judge Geetanjali Goel had framed charges against Jarwal and his aide Kapil Nagar under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including abetment of suicide, criminal conspiracy, extortion, criminal intimidation, and common intention. Another accused, Harish, was discharged from some of the charges but held liable for criminal intimidation. The case stems from the suicide of 52-year-old Dr. Rajender Singh on April 18, 2020, with a purported suicide note implicating Jarwal and his associates for alleged harassment over the victim's water supply business.



Men can be victims of sexual assault too, observes Kerala HC

Kochi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Kerala High Court on Friday observed that men too can be victims of sexual assault, not just women. "Sexual assault is not confined to girls, it happens to boys also. It is rare but it is possible. I know that it is happening. But generally, we take care of women. Generally, 99 per cent of sexual assault victims, for some reason, are women," the court orally observed while considering a petition by a doctor challenging a

protocol followed in Kerala by which only gynaecologists, preferably women practitioners, are called to examine victims of sexual assault. The court noted that the protocol is meant to support victims, which, in most cases, happen to be women or girls. "I don't know why you should be concerned. We are trying to give maximum support to the victim. It has nothing to do with you and everything to do with the victim," it said.



Man poses as sub inspector to marry for dowry, gets exposed and arrested

Kushinagar, Mar 1 (IANS) : A person has been arrested on charges of concealing his religious identity and posing as a sub inspector to get married for a hefty sum as dowry in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district. Police said that they received a complaint that Tabrez posed as Aryan, claimed to be a sub inspector with UP police because he wanted to get married for dowry. He was arrested on Friday and sent to judicial custody. The matter came to light when someone accidentally pushed Tabrez during the wedding ritual and his wig was revealed. His Aadhar card dropped out which confirmed his identity as Tabrez. Ahirauli Bazaar, Station officer Manoj Verma, said, "Tabrez allegedly deceived the girl into a relationship under false claims."

'No papers shared, no blame to share', Delhi L-G slams Kejriwal over water scheme

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, has written an open letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal stating that not a single piece of paper was brought to his notice, officially or unofficially, on the supposed 'water scheme' of the Delhi government. The letter begins by pointing out that all the departments associated with the water scheme, including Water, Finance, and Urban Development, fall under the direct control of the Chief Minister, leaving no room for the L-G's involvement. Saxena said that neither officially, nor unofficially, has any information regarding the scheme been brought to his notice. "The DJB (Delhi Jal Board) is totally under your control... Take decisions, don't blame others. You are saying that there are 27 lakh water consumer connections

in Delhi, of which about 10 lakh have not paid their bills and you aim to benefit them. "I advise you that if at all something like waiving bills, penalties, LPSC and arrears of 10 lakh consumers is being considered, the payments made by the remaining 17 lakh consumers, who have paid their bills all these years honestly, should also be reimbursed, along with interest," the L-G said. In a scathing rebuke, Saxena also dismissed Kejriwal's accusation that the L-G is stalling the scheme as "white lies" and part of a pattern of deflecting blame. He accused Kejriwal of scapegoating successive L-Gs, Central governments, and even government servants to maintain a 'facade of victimhood'. The L-G also put on record gross contradictions in statements issued by the ministers. "In a post issued yesterday subsequent to a press conference, the Hon'ble Minister (UD) has enumerated a 'chronology' of deci-



sions taken. The decision with regard to 'one-time settlement scheme' was taken by the Delhi Jal Board on January 13, 2023," the L-G said. The letter added that the same was sent to the Finance Department, GNCTD, for comments on January 25, 2024 (i.e., after a gap of one year). Subsequently, the minister recorded his directions on the file regarding this 'scheme' and sent it to the Chief Secretary as late as on February 21, 2024, clearly indicating that the supposed 'scheme' was yet in the process of formulation and was far from reaching any finality, Saxena said. "Surprisingly, the Delhi Legisla-

tive Assembly passed the resolution 'BJP exercises direct control over the L-G' on February 19, 2024. The said post, therefore, proves that even as the GNCTD was yet moving files from here to there, a damning unconstitutional resolution was passed," the letter read. Saxena said that moreover, if the 'scheme' was cleared by the Delhi Jal Board on January 13, 2023, as put out in the public domain by minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Tuesday, then the assertion in the resolution that the 'scheme' was approved by the Delhi Jal Board on June 13, 2023 amounts to severe breach of privilege of the entire House, wherein

the mover MLA of the resolution, who is also the Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board, has deliberately misled the entire House and his own party colleagues, who passed this resolution," the L-G said. "The timing of this manipulated false political exercise makes it obvious that it has been undertaken to deviously distract and divert the attention of the people of Delhi from the abject failures of GNCTD's part in addressing critical issues facing the people of Delhi and charges of corruption that are being probed," he added.



No family will remain landless in Assam, says CM Sarma

Guwahati, Mar 1 (IANS) : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday that no family will be left landless in the state. Attending a ceremonial distribution of land pattas to the eligible beneficiaries of Mission Basundhara 2.0 in Majuli district, Sarma said, "Of the 50,000 families residing in Majuli, nearly 30,000 didn't have land pattas. There-

fore, providing land pattas to a huge chunk of landless families is indeed a matter of great satisfaction." Referring to the importance of land pattas in securing loans from banks, and compensation from the government during natural calamities, the Chief Minister said the state government aims to ensure that every family in Assam possesses legal documents backing their claims over their land by

2026. "Rules and document proofs for the upcoming Mission Basundhara 3.0 shall be relaxed to a great extent in comparison to the first and second editions of the scheme," he added. Sarma also said that due to the efforts of the current government, non-tribal but indigenous communities of the state have been able to receive land pattas even in areas that fall under tribal belts and blocks. He also mentioned that in less than three years of the current government, a perceptible positive development can be observed in Majuli. Apart from the rapid public infrastructure development in the river island, there has also been a change in the mindset of the residents of Majuli, he claimed. Sarma also said that more than 700 youths from Majuli have managed to secure jobs in the government sector entirely on merit in the last three years.



Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi eyes 27 Maha LS seats, wants to put up Jarange-Patil

Mumbai, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) led by Prakash Ambedkar is coveting 27 Lok Sabha seats where it has built up a strong base and wants a ticket for Maratha leader and Shivba Sanghatana chief Manoj Jarange-Patil from Jalna. The VBA submitted a proposal on the seats it claims are election-ready strongholds to the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) of Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (SP)-Shiv Sena (UBT) and other parties at its meeting on Friday. Besides Jarange-Patil, it has sought the candidature of Dr. Abhijit Vaidya from Pune plus three minority nominees and at least 15 OBC contestants across the state.

Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' to chart through Gujarat's tribal belt on March 7

Gandhinagar, Mar 1 (IANS) : The 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', spearheaded by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, is set to pass through the tribal corridors of Gujarat after entering the state on March 7. Scheduled to enter the state through Jhalod in Dahod district on March 7, the Yatra aims to cover a strategic path through Gujarat's eastern tribal belt. The march, which is on hold now due to Rahul Gandhi's commitments in Europe, will resume its stride into Gujarat on March 7. The Yatra is expected to cover a distance of 467 km in Gujarat, traversing seven districts including Dahod, Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Bharuch, Tapi, Surat, and Navsari, before entering Maharashtra on the evening of March 10. The Yatra will cover 14 of Gujarat's 26 Lok Sabha seats. The planned route underscores the Congress' focus on the tribal-dominated seats in Gujarat's eastern region.



Ayodhya to have its own beach soon

Ayodhya, Mar 1 (IANS) : One of the banks of Saryu river in Ayodhya will be developed as a beach, popularly known as 'chowpatty', an official said. The Uttar Pradesh Housing Department has given its consent to the proposal of the local development authority to set up a chowpatty at Ram Ki Paidi. The Ayodhya Development authority (ADA) has started its homework to provide a variety of food items that are made in a hygienic manner.

"The idea is to create multiple temporary structures, zones for housing food carts and covered spots under canopies or pergolas at Ram Ki Paidi," said a senior officer from the authority. A tender has been floated to begin work at the site and the selected agency would be given six months to complete the civil works, after which space would be given out to food vendors. A budget of close to Rs 4.66 crore has been set aside to give shape to the project.



AIADMK undecided on electoral alliances after snapping ties with NDA

Chennai, Mar 1 (IANS) : The AIADMK leadership is uncertain on the political alliance it has to forge for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. After cutting ties with the BJP-led NDA in Tamil Nadu following differences of opinion with the state

BJP President, K. Annamalai, the AIADMK is in political uncertainty on new combinations and permutations. While the party leadership has travelled across Tamil Nadu and met people before its manifesto was finalised, the party is unable to stitch in a credible al-

ternative to DMK. The AIADMK, which is the principal opposition party of Tamil Nadu, had more than 33% vote share in the 2021 assembly polls and is planning to win a few seats from the state in the Lok Sabha elections. Party general secretary and

Leader of Opposition in Tamil Nadu assembly, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), had recently met a senior leader of Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and also Vijayakanth's party Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK).



Terrorist associate arrested in J&K's Sopore

Srinagar, Mar 1 (IANS) : A terrorist associate has been arrested in Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and a hand grenade recovered from his possession, police said on Friday. "Sopore police, along with personnel of 22 (RR) and CRPF's 179 Bn, arrested a terrorist associate following specific information," police said. The arrested man has been identified as Arif Hussain Bhat, resident of Mundji Bomai. "During questioning, it surfaced that he was in constant touch with terrorist handlers across the border and on his disclosure, a live hand grenade was recovered," police said. An FIR has been registered and further investigation has been initiated.

Sandeshkhali Crisis : Courts grants bail to BJP, AISF leaders

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Calcutta High Court on Friday granted bail to BJP leader Bikash Sinha, who was arrested recently for allegedly instigating the local women at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district to take law in their own hands. On the same day, the Basirhat sub-divisional court granted bail to All India Secular Front leader Ayesha Bibi, who was also arrested by the police recently on similar charges. Sinha's wife Swapna Sinha told mediapersons that even after her husband is released on bail.



Calcutta HC allows central fact-finding team, LoP to visit Sandeshkhali

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Calcutta High Court on Friday, while acting on two separate petitions, permitted the central fact-finding team and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, to visit Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas District. However, the court gave the nod with a few riders. In the first case, the single-judge Bench of Justice Kausik Chanda while allowing the central fact-finding

team to visit the trouble-hit area restricted its movement to only those spots in Sandeshkhali where prohibitory orders under Section 144 were not in place. In the hearing on a separate petition, Justice Kausik Chanda allowed Suwendu Adhikari and BJP legislator Shankar Ghosh to visit Sandeshkhali, but directed the LoP to give an undertaking to the local police station stating that he would ensure that there would not be any fresh tension over his visit. The Bench directed that the LoP would not be allowed to make any



provocative statements in Sandeshkhali. It is learnt that Adhikari and Ghosh will go to Sandeshkhali on Thursday. While the Trinamool Congress has remained silent on the two orders so far, state BJP leaders

said that the state government has made a habit of first refusing permission to Opposition parties to go to any place and then getting humiliated by court orders that go against it.



Suwendu Adhikari submits list of 17 lakh 'fake' voters in Bengal to ECI

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : The leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, on Friday submitted a list of nearly 17 lakh alleged fake voters in the state to the Election Commission of India (ECI). Adhikari on Friday went to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal with 24 bags containing the list of 'fake' voters. He also submitted a deputation to the office of the CEO, wherein he claimed that the exact number of fake voters identified by the BJP in West Bengal stands at 16,91,132. "The list includes the names of deceased voters as well as those who have moved elsewhere. There are also instances of names appearing in the lists at multiple places," Adhikari claimed. He also claimed that the number of bogus voters is almost equal to the margin between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

India among top 5 countries in scientific research : Union Minister

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : India is now among the top five countries in scientific research, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, said on Friday. He said this while addressing the "National Science Day 2024" programme in Vigyan Bhawan. "We are globally among the top five countries in scientific research publications, 40th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) showcasing a remarkable climb from 81st rank in 2015 and our patent filings have crossed 90,000 which is the highest in two decades," the Union Minister said. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that in the wake of recent scientific achievements, it may be underscored that the rising trajectory of India over the past 10 years is being witnessed globally. Meanwhile, the Minister also noted that India's

bio-economy has grown 13 fold in the last 10 years from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$130 billion in 2024. "India is ranked as the world's third-largest Startup Ecosystem with more than 100 unicorns and Incubators under DST are providing job opportunities to nearly 1.5 lakh youth. The Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution are examples of Agricultural transformation through science, innovation and technology which also gave a new avenue for Agri-startups," he said.



Six personalities named for Akademi Ratna, 92 for Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The general council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi has unanimously elected six eminent personalities from the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). These personalities are Vinayak Khedekar, R. Visweswaran, Sunayana Hazarilal, Raja & Radha Reddy, Dulal Roy and D.P. Sinha. The General Council also selected 92 personalities from the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional/folk/tribal music, puppetry and for their overall contribution to performing arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi award (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2022 and 2023.



Pendency in courts a big problem, says Rajasthan HC Chief Justice

Jaipur, Mar 1 (IANS) : Rajasthan High Court's Chief Justice M.M. Srivastava on Friday termed pendency of cases a big problem for the courts, but noted that the problem cannot be eliminated unless the number of courts and judges is increased. "There is no such organisation where everything is going well. Similarly, there are several challenges here too.



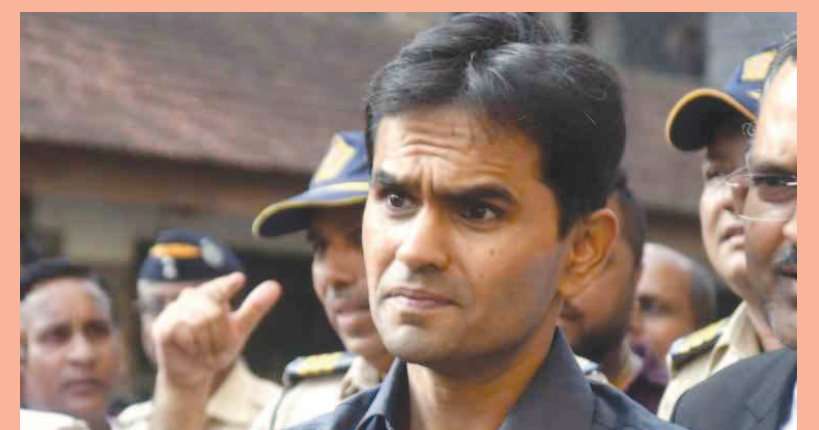
60 pc area under illegal poppy cultivation reduced in Manipur in 3 years: Governor

Imphal, Mar 1 (IANS) : Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey said on Friday that 3,010 acres of illicit poppy cultivation have been destroyed in the state, adding that due to the government's efforts, illegal poppy cultivation areas have reduced. Addressing the fifth session of the 12th Manipur Assembly, which began on Wednesday, the Governor said that areas under poppy cultivation was assessed for the last three years covering nine districts of the state.

"The area under poppy cultivation assessed during 2021-22 was about 28,599 acres. It reduced to 11,288 acres during 2023-24, which is a reduction of about 60 per cent. The decreasing trend in areas under poppy cultivation reflects the positive impact of the government's efforts on 'War on Drugs'," she said. The Governor added that the 'War on Drugs 2.0' is now going on and in 2023, 72.9 kg heroin, 147.1 kg opium, 195.2 kg ganja (marijuana).

Cordelia cruise case : Delhi HC sets aside CAT order on Sameer Wankhede, says no requirement for personal hearing before action

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court has set aside the order issued by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) regarding the procedure for taking action against senior IRS official Sameer Wankhede in connection with the Aryan Khan drugs case. Wankhede, who is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 2008 batch, is currently serving as an Additional Commissioner under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. A division bench of Justice Rekha Palli and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar, partially allowed the Central government's appeal against the order of the CAT, in favour of Wankhede, a former NCB Mumbai Zone Director, against whom certain allegations were raised regarding the "conduct of the raid/investigation" in



connection with the Aryan Khan drugs case. Wankhede had filed an application seeking quashing of a report dated June 16, 2022, prepared by the Special Enquiry

Team, led by Narcotics Control Bureau Deputy Director General Gyaneshwar Singh. During this tenure, Wankhede received some information.



ED summons Bengal Power Minister Arup Biswas in chit-fund case

Kolkata, Mar 1 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned West Bengal Power Minister and Trinamool Congress Treasurer Aroop Biswas for questioning at the agency's headquarters in Delhi in connection with the funding received by the party during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from chit-fund entity Alchemist Group.

Man jumps in front of Delhi Metro train, dies

New Delhi, Mar 1 (IANS) : A 39-year-old man, who was reportedly unemployed and suffering from a serious disease, died after he jumped in front of a Delhi metro train approaching the Udyog Bhawan station on Friday, police said. "A male passenger allegedly jumped in front of the approaching train at Udyog Bhawan Metro station (going toward Vishwavidyalaya) platform 2 at 11.30 a.m. today. The passenger's body was retrieved and was sent to the nearest hospital and Delhi Metro Rail Police was also apprised."



Raashii Khanna dons ethnic look for 'Yodha' promotion in Hyderabad

Actress Raashii Khanna on Wednesday gave some major ethnic fashion goals, oozing elegance in an olive green ensemble. The actress, who will be soon seen in the action thriller 'Yodha' alongside Sidharth Malhotra, took to Instagram, where she enjoys 10.8 million followers, and shared a series of pictures from the film's promotion in Hyderabad.

The pictures featured Raashii wearing a mirrored sleeveless olive green coloured blouse, and a green lehenga with a golden border. The lehenga had birds, trees, and some animals imprinted on it. She completed the look with a matching dupatta.

For the makeup, Raashii opted for nude brown lips, kohl rimmed eyes, thick brows, and a black bindi. Her hair is tied in a low bun.

Amitabh Bachchan, RGV have 'non-stop breather conversation' on films, AI

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan met filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma while he was in Hyderabad for the "last day at work" and had revealed that they had a "non-stop breather conversation" on "films, content and AI". Big B took to his blog and wrote: "The last day at work in the elms of the city of Hyderabad, get visited by the exalted genius and his thoughts and expressions, that are mysterious and mystifying – Ram Gopal Varma, alias Ramu."

"And he pours out in a non-stop breather conversation on film contents and the much talked about and meticulously practiced – AI Where are we going ... ? a mystery unknown and in its changes and revolutions by the day almost." He added: "Fact was never looked upon with doubt and skepticism, and disbelief as it is today... what be real, non fake, is ever up for debate and discussion each hour... living side by side... almost complimenting each other... but never the belief that it be the truest and correct... information has 'inform' in it for its delivery... but does it really inform. "Or does it simply put out for its content existence... impotence and all... as what was expressed some time back in the days of the year gone by."

The cine icon and RGV have been friends for years and have even worked in films such as the 'Sarkar' franchise and 'Ram Gopal Varma Ki Aag'. The thespian will next be seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD' which also stars Kamal Haasan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone.



Vishwak Sen's 'Gaami' trailer a visual treat; out now

Gaami, an adventure drama, written and directed by Vidhyagar Kagita, is set to be released on March 8. The film was hugely crowd-funded and produced by Karthik Sabareesh. V Celluloid is presenting the film. The makers released the trailer for the film today, and one can only call it 'Incredible'. Gaami stars Vishwak Sen as an orphan who lives with Aghoras and fights with a rare condition where he can never experience human touch. After leaving his

clan, he is suggested by a sage to reach the Himalayas and grab a rare flower that is available every 36 years to treat any conditions of the human touch. Interestingly, destiny also plays a huge role in his life, where his condition and pain are threaded with the lives of two other characters, a Devadasi and a Scientist.

Gaami is truly a rare visual spectacle that Indians can experience.

Every visual in the trailer reflects the standards at the international level, and the credit completely goes to the visionary Vidhyagar and the cinematographer Vishwanath. The VFX and DI teams equally need big applause. Achieving this kind of big-screen output on a small budget, and that too with the crowdfund, is a rare feat in Indian cinema.



'Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi' trailer out now

Rural entertainer, 'Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi' is all set to hit the screens across Telugu States on March 9. Newcomer Ravi Teja Nunna is paired opposite Neha Jurel in the film

directed by Satya Raj. Produced by Kumari Nunna and Mutyala Ram Das under Venkata Siva Sai Films and Tanvika and Mokshika Creations, it is presented by Manikonda Ranjith and has music by Roshan Saluri, son of popular composer Koti. The trailer of the film was just released in the presence of the cast, crew and other technicians.



Sonakshi Sinha to headline romantic thriller

Dahaad star Sonakshi Sinha is set to star in an untitled romantic thriller backed by in Echelon Productions, the makers said on Thursday. The project will be directed by first-time filmmaker Karan Rawal and produced by Vishal Rana of Echelon Productions.

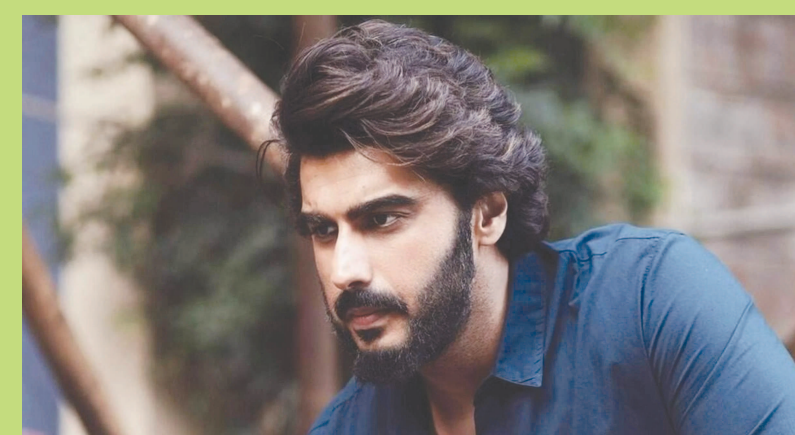
Sinha, who made her streaming debut with the Prime Video series "Dahaad", said she is thrilled about exploring a new genre. "It's my first venture with Echelon Productions and I'm always looking for new and exciting roles to play.

Mrunal Thakur, Vijay Deverakonda to shoot Family Star's final schedule in Chennai

Actor Mrunal Thakur is all set to commence shooting for the final schedule of the highly anticipated family drama 'Family Star' alongside Vijay Deverakonda in Chennai.

Mrunal and Vijay starrer is being helmed by Parasuram Petla and is being produced by Sri Venkateswara Creations. As per a source, close to the actor, "Mrunal has already departed for Chennai to team up with Vijay and commence filming the final

schedule of Family Star. The shoot, spanning a week, will take place entirely in Chennai. The entire cast and crew are filled with anticipation and a touch of emotion as they near the conclusion of this wonderful journey. However, this marks the start of a captivating film featuring the talented duo of Vijay and Mrunal, who will grace the silver screen together for the first time."

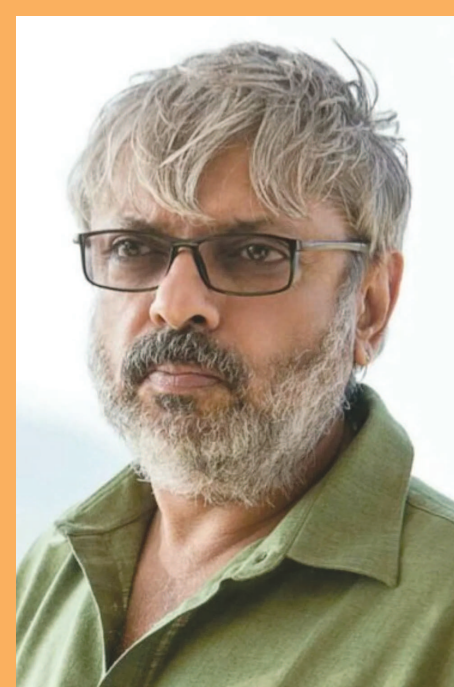


Arjun Kapoor reflects on full-circle journey playing antagonist in 'Singham Again'

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who plays the antagonist in director Rohit Shetty's

upcoming film 'Singham Again', has said that life has come full-circle for him with this role as he

started his career by doing characters with grey shades. The actor also said that he owes it to Aditya Chopra and Rohit Shetty for believing in his ability to portray negative roles. Talking about the same, Arjun said: "I started my career in the industry by playing characters with negative shades in 'Ishaqzaade', 'Aurungzeb' and after all these years, here I'm, playing a villain in 'Singham Again'. While, Aditya Chopra saw it in me to play characters that are flawed then, now, I'm thankful to Rohit Shetty for having the belief that I could play an out and out villain in his ambitious and much-loved cop universe film. Rohit Shetty instilled faith in me and has been a guide at every step of the way." The actor continued, "Both these people have been true mentors in my film career and I'm grateful that a hit-machine film-maker like Rohit Shetty believes that I could surprise people by playing a villain in 'Singham Again'."



Sanjay Leela Bhansali calls 'Heeramandi' web series his "biggest" project

Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali talked about his directorial web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' and called it his "biggest" project. He said, "I've made big films, I enjoy making those big-scale films, and it comes naturally to me. But while shifting to digital, I've taken it up a notch. 'Heera mandhi' is my biggest project; I wanted to make it really special, and I have surprised myself with this one," he said. Bhansali added, "This is not just a series; it's a world.