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DAILY

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'Bairstow at his best when he has a point to prove', says Root ahead of wicketkeeper's 100th Test

Ahead of Jonny Bairstow playing his 100th Test match when Engl and play India in the fifth Test at Dharamshala on March 7... 12



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Govt allows export of onion to Bangladesh, UAE with riders

The government has allowed the export of 64,400 tonnes of onion to the UAE and Bangladesh through the National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL), according to notifications... 07

YSRCP slams Prashant Kishor over 'Jagan will lose big' prediction



Amaravati, March 4 (IANS): Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has dismissed the prediction of political strategist Prashant Kishor that the party is going to lose big in the ensuing Assembly elections. The ruling party said that he is now a politician and not a strategist. The YSRCP leaders mentioned that Prashant Kishor's prediction had proved wrong in Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Chhatti sgarh. Speaking at a programme in Hyderabad on Sunday, Prashant Kishor, who had played a key role in YSRCP's massive victory in 2019, predicted that it is going to lose big in the ensuing polls.



Congress Govt looting Rs 20000 crore through LRS Scheme: KTR

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (NSS): free. KTR questioned the silence Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K Tarakarama Rao accused the Congress government of looting Rs 20,000/crore from the people through the Land Regularization Scheme (LRS). Speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan today, KTR demanded immediate regularization of plots through LRS without charging any fees from the applicants. He recalled that the Congress party, in the past, had promised that there would be no need for LRS fee, and land regularization would be done for

of the present Congress ministers, who had strongly opposed LRS in the past. He emphasized that the Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka, Seethakka, Komatireddy, and Uttamkumar Reddy, who spoke against LRS during BRS govt, should explain why they are silent now after coming to power. KTR highlighted that 25.44 lakh people, who applied through LRS would be burdened with at least Rs 1 lakh each, as the Congress government appears to be reneging on its promise.



PM lays stones for multiple development projects worth Rs 56,000 cr. in Adilabad

Adilabad, Mar 4 (NSS): not only to Telangana, but also to Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid foundation stones for multiple developmental projects related to power, rail and road sectors worth more than Rs 56,000 crore in Adilabad district.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said Adilabad is becoming a witness to development projects related

the entire country as over 30 development projects worth over Rs 56,000 crore are either being dedicated to the nation or their foundation stones are being laid today. These projects include many projects related to energy, environment sustainability and road connectivity in the State.

The Prime Minister noted that the Central Government and Telangana State have completed 10 years and said his government was providing all possible assistance to the State to realize the dreams of its citizens. Even today, Modi said the 800 MW capacity NTPC Unit 2 has been inaugurated today which will boost the electricity generation capacity of Telangana.

He also said the completion of electrification of Ambari-Adilabad- Pimpalkhuti rail lines and the foundation stone laying for two major National Highway projects in Adilabad.

Telangana CM not for confrontation with Centre, calls PM 'elder brother'

March 4 (IANS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said that the state government does not want confrontation with the Centre and called Prime Minister Narendra Modi an "elder brother".

Sharing the dais with the Prime Minister at the launch of development works in Adilabad, Revanth Reddy said that the state government has no intention of a confrontation

work together for the state's development.

"If there is a clash between the Centre and states the people will suffer. Politics should be only during elections. After the elections, the elected public representatives should work for the state's development with the help of the Centre," he said.

Unlike his predecessor K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who was not receiving the PM on his visits to the state for the last couple of

Adilabad (Telangana), with the Centre and would like to years, Revanth Reddy reached Adilabad to welcome the PM and attended the official programme. This was PM Narendra Modi's first visit to Telangana after the Congress came to power in the

> Revanth Reddy stated that his government gives respect to those who hold constitutional posts.

"For us, Prime Minister means elder brother. If there is support from the elder brother, every CM in his state can carry forward development.



If Telangana is to develop like Gujarat, your help is needed," he said, adding that Hyderabad as one of the five metropolitan cities in the country would also like to contribute to the PM's goal of a \$5 trillion economy.

BRS announces

Telangana's Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Monday

re-election from Khammam and Mahabubabad constitufrom Karimnagar, and Koppula Eshwar from Peddapalli. Minister

four candidates for LS polls Hyderabad, March 4 (IANS) Vinod Kumar has been fielded

announced four candidates for the coming Lok Sabha elections. Nama Nageswara Rao and Malothu Kavitha will seek

encies, respectively, while B.

BRS President and former Chief Chandrasekhar Rao announced the first list of candidates after holding strategy meetings with the leaders of the Lok Sabha constituencies during the last two days.

Babu Mohan joins Praja Santi Party

Film actor and former minister Babu Mohan has joined Praja Shanti Party. Party founder-president KA Pal has invited him to the party by covering him with a scarf. Speaking on the occasion, KA

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (NSS): contest from Warangal Lok Sabha seat. It is known that recently Babu Mohan has resigned from the primary membership of BJP. Speaking on the occasion, Babu Mohan severely criticized the attitude of Telangana BJP Paul said Babu Mohan would leaders.





MLC Kavitha slams Congress govt

Hyderabad, Mar 4 (NSS): BRS party MLC Kavitha has expressed her displeasure over the Congress government's decision to put mud in the mouths of girl children with the issuance of GO No.3.

Speaking to media persons here on Monday, Kavitha said with the issuance of the GO, women's job opportunities would be reduced and added that only 77 of the gurukul posts were given to the women.

Five killed as car hits tree in Telangana

Hyderabad, March 4 (IANS): The accident occurred on the car they were travelling in rammed into a tree in Telangana's Wanaparthy district early Monday.

Five persons were killed when a Hyderabad-Bengaluru national highway near Kothakota when the speeding car went out of control and hit a roadside tree. Seven others were injured in the incident.





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<u>Corporate Office:</u> 835/39, Bren Mercury, 5th Floor, Kaikondanall Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560102, Karnataka. **DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 NOTICE is hereby given by Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd (formerly known a Disha Microfin Pvt Ltd) that the following borrowers who have availed loan agains property from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd and failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan and that their loan account has been classified as Nonperforming Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. the Borrowers have provided security of the immovable property towards the loan, the details of which are described herein below, the details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrowers to FINCARE as on date are also indicated here below, the borrowers as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of FINCARE, the secured creditor has initiand Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrowers fails to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice along with further interest and other charges if any, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SAR-FAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property and sell the same. the public in general is advised not to deal with property described here below.

51. No.		Outstanding
	1.Mr/Mrs. S Ramesh R/at: No. 13-204/A, Dandapalli Road, PALAMANER, Chittor, AP-517408. 2.Mr/Mrs. V Shanthi , R/at: No. 13-204/A, Dandapalli Road, PALAMANER, Chittor, AP-517408. Loan Account No: 20660000099907 Demand Notice Dated: 14-07-2023	

SCHEDULE - "A" Details Of Secured Asset / Details of The Property Mortgaged: All that piece and parcel of immoveable property situated at Property No. Chittoor District, Palamaner Sub-District, Palamaner Mandal, Palamane Town Palamaner Village accounts Survey No. 513/6 (part) APIIC-IALA Palamaner Gram Panchayat 34th ward Bommidoddi Village Plot No. 36 measuring 600.00 Sq Mtrs situated at Industrial Estate Palamaner. Site East to West 60 and North to South 90 total 5400 Sq. Fts. 600 Sq. Yards and bounded on:**East By**:Plot No. 37 **West By**:Plot No. 35 , **North By**:15.15 mts. Wide Road **South By**: Plot No. 43

Sd/- Authorized Officer



OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2)
1st Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad-500001.
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY
OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF
SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/5/2024
22-02-2024

Punjab National Bank Versus Vyshnavi Tobaccos

To (CD 1) Vyshnavi Tobaccos Rep. By its Managing Partner, Vemulapalli Ramesh Babu, H.No.4-19-96/1, 7th Lane, Vikas Nagar Guntur - 522003, Andhra

Vemulapalli Ramesh Babu S/o Kodanda Ramaiah, Occ: Managing Partne of M/s. Vyshnavi Tobaccos, R/o. H.No.4-19-94, Ist Floor, Vikas Nagar

Vemulapalli Sampoornamma W/o Narasaiah, Occ: Partner of M/s. Vyshnav Tobaccos R/o. H.No.4-19-94, 1st Floor, Vikas Nagar, 7th Lane, Guntur (CD 3) 522003 Andhra Pradesh

Vemulapalli Venkata Narsaiah S/o Gopala Rao Occ:Tobacco Trader

R/o.H.No.4-19-94, 1st Floor, Vikas Nagar, 7th Lane, Guntur- 522003

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/774/2018 an amount of Rs3,36,03,258.80 (Rupees Three Crore Thirty Six Lakhs Three Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Eight and Paisa Eighty only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 11.25% simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 16-10-2018 till realization and costs of Rs.2,31,024/- (Two Lakhs Thirty one Thousand Twenty Four 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 yours assets or

or before the next date of hearing 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 21-03-2024 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 f 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

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 22-02-2024

Sd/- Recovery Office DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2)

यूनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank

DEMAND NOTICE Under Sec.13 (2)

To: 1) Mr. T Appa Rao, H.No.11-13-761, Manju Heavence, Flat No.G-2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500035. <mark>2) Mrs. T Vijaya Lakshmi, W/o. Mr.</mark> T Appa Rao, H.No.11-13-761, Manju Heaven, Flat No.G-2, Green Hills Colony Kothapet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500035. **The Guarantor/s: Mr. Mahesh A,** Flai No.302, TNR Enclave, Plot No.31, Near Telephone Colony, RK Puram, Hyderabad Telangana-500035, Business Address: Mr. Mahesh A. Door No.C-83, Near Laxm Hospital, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, Telangana-500074

Notice dt. 19-02-2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Prakasham Nagar branch/ me, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper

The credit facilities/ loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA on 17-02-2024 You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details the credit Facilities and secured assets are as under Credit facilities availed with outstanding amount as on 19-02-2024. Total outstanding

Secured Assets: Residential Flat No.G-2 in Ground Floor admeasuring 900 sq.ft. with undivided share of 30.00 sq.yds. Situated at Manju Heavence, H.No.11-13-761, Plot No.28-A and 28-B, Sy.No.7, Ward No.11, Block 13, Green Hills Colony, Saroor Nagar Village, Saroor Nagar Mandal, RR Dist., Hyderabad, Telangana-500035. Bounded by North: 6 ft common passage, South: Flat No.G-1, East: 3 ft passage, West: 2 ft passage Therefore, you, No.1, as borrower and you, No.2, as guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum of Rs.10,94,152.88 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply there with we, the secured creditor, shall been titled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice with out Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to

Date: 04.03.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India



Invitation of applications for Free Driving Training

Golden opportunity for rural students Last date for application is 15th of this month.

Tarfidu under the influence of the tides

Rajanna Sirisilla, March 4 (TIM Bureau): Tides Principal Raghavan said that under the

auspices of Telangana Institute of Driving Education and Skills (tides), free training will be given to rural youth in Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV)., Employment Generation and Marketing Mission under the joint auspices of 3 months free training program will be held in Rajanna Sirisilla Tangallapally Mandal Mandepalli Tides. He said that the youth attending the training will have free accommodation in Tides."Free driving training will start from 16th of this month and applications will be accepted till 15th of this month. The age of applying candidates should be between 20 to 28

years. Belonging to a rural area, it doesn't matter if you pass or fail class 10. It has been clarified that the height of the candidate should be above 160 cm and ready to work anywhere in the country. Candidates who complete the training will be apprenticed for three months."He said that HMV training will be given to those who have completed one year of LHM license. Interested candidates are advised to bring 10th class certificate, Aadhaar, Ration Card, Caste, Income, bank account xerox copies, 6 photographs. He said to contact the number 8985431720 for details. He asked the youth to take advantage of this opportunity.



District Collector Anurag Jayanthi inspected the works in the background of CM's arrival

Sirisilla, Vemulawada, Mar 4 (TIM Bureau): In view of the arrival of CM Revanth Reddy on the 7th of this month, arrangements are being made for the inauguration of the District Police Office (DPO) building in Rajanna Sirisilla district headquarters. District Collector Anurag Jayanthi and SP Akhil Mahajan inspected the DPO building in the district integrated offices complex Monday."CM Instructions were issued to the officials on the arrangements to be made in the background of the visit. Inspected the site at the helipad. The Collector issued appropriate instructions to the Sirisilla Mu-

nicipal Commissioner Lavanya and other officers to keep the surroundings clean with all the greenery around the CM's visiting places.

Later, he inspected the working women's hostel building in Sirisilla and advised the District Welfare Officer Lakshmirajam about the work to be done there. Also, Collector and SP inspected the sheds to be allotted to industrialists in Apparel Park. From there, he directly inspected the fair arrangements and the facilities provided to the devotees in the premises of Vemulawada Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy temple and made several suggestions to the authorities.

The CM's public meeting should be successful: Government Whip Adi Srinivas

Sirisilla, Mar 4 (TIM Bureau): State Chief Minister Enumala Revanth Reddy's visit will be very useful for the development of Rajanna Sirisilla district and the development of the district will go further, said the Government Whip, Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas. For this, the party leaders have requested to make the huge public meeting to be held in Vemulawada on 7th of this month a success and welcome the CM in large numbers.

The Congress party held a district wide meeting in Sirisilla on Monday afternoon for the success of CM Revanth Reddy's programs to be held in Sirisilla and Vemulawada towns on 7th of this month. Party leaders and public representatives from all mandals and towns including chief leaders KK Mahender Reddy and Katakam Mrityunjayam attended the meeting held at the local Lahari Grand Function Hall. Speaking on this occasion, Adi Srinivas disclosed the details of CM Revanth Reddy's visit on Thursday, 7th of the month. Reach Sirisil at 4 pm on Thursday. First, the newly constructed district police office will be inaugurated. Later, Bhumi Pooja will be held for the construction of the District Congress Party office building, which is a long-standing desire of the Congress party ranks with a history of 130 years, he said. For this, he said that in the past and recently, applications have been made for a place and some places have been examined and one of them will be finalized. He said that this is the first time that after the Congress party came to

power, the foundation of the Sirisilla district Congress party building was laid on an acre of land in the state. Later, he said, the safety knee of Geetha workers will be started on Ragudu Bypass Road. Later, the CM will visit Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy at Vemulawada by road and during the Mahashivratri celebrations, the government will offer silk cloths to the Swamy, he said. It is stated that this is the first time that silk robes are presented to Swami in the capacity of Chief Minister. He said that former Chief Minister KCR's promise for the development of Vemulawada for seven years has been ignored.

On June 8, 2015, former Chief Minister KCR Vemulawada had promised Rs 100 crore every year the development Devasthanam, which has not been fulfilled so far and he had promised to give Rs 5 lakh each to the victims of flooded villages. He said that VTDA was formed in 2016 and the Chief Minister is the Chairman. He said that since the VTDA office was set up in Hyderabad, they have been paying salaries to the staff for seven years, but no development funds

have been received. He said that the then CM KCR did not come down despite sit-ins and struggles for funds for the development of Vemulawada. He said that these issues have been brought to the notice of the current CM Revanth Reddy. He said that he hoped that the funds would be released soon. For the development of Upper Manor Rs. 900 crore was sanctioned while Rs. 700 crores was spent and the remaining Rs. Development works will be taken forward with funds of 200 crores. He also said that the issue of leaders was also discussed during this visit. He said that steps will be taken to provide work to workers and Assam.

He said that the Congress government will go towards achieving development in all sectors and this will be a slap in the face to the previous rulers. It is said that 20 crore people have traveled due to free travel for women. In 2014, during the UPA government, Rs. 500 cylinder price is coming again now. He said that wide publicity should be given to the schemes offered by the state government so that seats can be won rapidly in

the upcoming parliamentary elections. He said that even in the current surveys, it is revealed that the Congress party is heading towards double digit.

Adi Srinivas revealed that de-

spite not being in power for 10

years, all the programs undertaken by the Congress party have been successful, and with this same spirit, they should take responsibility to attract the party's fans and ranks from every mandal. In this meeting Sirisilla Constituency Congress Party Incharge KK Mahender Reddy, former MLA Katakam Mrityunjayam, former DCC Presidents Nagula Satyanarayana Goud, Congress leaders Choppadandi Prakash, Sanjay Srinivas, Gaddam Narasiah, Akunuri Balaraju, Kamuni Vanitha, Velamula Swaroopa, Vaidya Sivaprasad, Mana Prasad, Goli. Venkatar amana, "Leaders of Ellareddypet, Mustabad mandals

Narasayya, Bal Reddy and

other leaders participated.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Plot No.1, Sy.No.275 P Bagh, Arunodaya Nagar, Hayathnagar - Khalsa, Telangana-500070 Bank of Baroda **ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE** Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreeme executed by the parties and same is being auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". ۱D

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Date: 04.03.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Sirisilla Municipal Budget 2024-25 approved at 83.32 crores

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 4 (TIM tor P Gauthami said that this bud-Bureau): District Additional Collector Pujari Gautami has revealed that the budget should fully inform the revenue and expenditure and allocations should be made keeping in mind the needs of the town. On Monday, Municipal Corporation President Jindam Kala Chakrapani held a budget meeting to introduce the budget for the financial year 2024-25 of Sirisilla Municipal Corporation. District Additional Collector Pujari Gauthami was present as the chief guest in this meeting. On this occasion, District Additional Collec-

get has been designed in a wellmeaning manner. Budget-Rs shall represent the full extent of revenue and expenditure, collection of house water tax, other sources of municipal revenue, collection of rent from municipal business complexes, etc. He said that the budget for the financial year 2024-25 has been prepared keeping in mind urban development with various aspects such as allocating funds for Haritaharam program. All people are asked to contribute to the development of the city by paying taxes on time. President of Munici-



pal Corporation Jindam Kala Chakrapani said that a budget of 78 crore 99 lakh 46 thousand rupees has been introduced for the last fiscal year 2023-24. This year, in the same order, for the financial year 2024-25, the budget items of approximately 84.32 crore rupees have been prepared and approved

particular, funds have been allocated for the wages of outsourcing employees, maintenance of sanitation, maintenance of street lights and management of fresh water supply, especially 10 percent of the budget has been allocated for the Haritaharam program according through the budget meetings. In to the 2019 Municipal Act.

Bommai slams Siddaramaiah-led K'taka govt for accepting caste census report

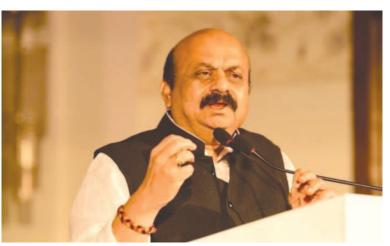
Bengaluru, Mar 4 (IANS): Criticising the Congress-led Karnataka government, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said that accepting the caste census report has created social unrest, and "the government is all set to play with fire".

He told reporters here that "as the general election was approaching, the Congress, which claims to be secular, has developed love for the caste

and made false promises". Bommai, however, clarified that he was not opposed to the caste census as "the castes need to be uplifted based on the population, social and economic conditions". "For that reason, the previous BJP government hiked the reservation for the SCs/STs. Why was the government trying to hush up the report as it needed to be deliberated in public? As many as 150 castes were included into the backward

classes category and reservations

for them must be discussed. The microscopic minority in the backward classes must get the benefit of reservations and other facilities. CM Siddaramaiah must not use this report for political gains as it would be a heinous crime," Bommai said. The BJP leader said the government's action has created unrest in society and even the ministers have raised objections. "Is there no unity in the cabinet? No commitment either? The government was playing a double



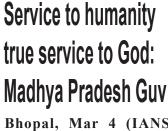
game even in the caste census. It was not wise to play with the oppressed classes and create unrest in society. The report was prepared by someone but submitted

by another person. While CM Siddaramaiah received the report, it was opposed by other ministers?" Bommai wondered.

One candidate from Goa finalised, discussions

on to select second : CM

Panaji, Mar 4 (IANS): Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that one Lok Sabha candidate from the state has been finalised, while the second candidate will be decided soon. "The name of the candidate which has been finalised will be declared from Delhi. We can't do it from here. One candidate has been finalised. Discussion on the second candidate is going on," he told reporters here after returning from Delhi, where he attended the Thursday meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, of BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) to finalise the first list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.



Bhopal, Mar 4 (IANS): Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel on Monday said that service to the suffering humanity 'is true service to God', asserting that such values should be instilled in the youth, and they should be provided opportunities to contribute towards social concerns. Patel said this while addressing the annual general meeting of the state branch of the Red Cross at Raj Bhavan on Monday. He said that the Red Cross plays a significant role in providing health services to the poor, deprived and the needy in the society. He appealed to people from the well-to-do class to extend their support in the supply of modern treatment resources in the Red Cross hospitals. He said: "Sensitisation among doctors and medical staff is very important to eradicate sickle cell anemia.



AllMS-Bhopal to provide free cervical cancer vax for girls aged 9 to 14

an initiative aimed at combating cervical cancer, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here will provide free vaccines for girls aged 9 to 14, an official said on Monday.

Executive Director of AIIMS (Bhopal) Dr. Ajai Singh said at a press conference that the medical facility has received 262 doses of cervical cancer prevention vaccines from Vishwanath Care Foundation. The girls between 9 and 14 years of age would have to visit AIIMS' OPD for registra-

Bhopal, Mar 4 (IANS): In group. Since each beneficiary will be given two doses (one in six months) and we have only 262 doses, we will provide it to 161 girls. It would be the first time vaccines for cervical cancer would be provided free of cost in the country," Singh added. He further stated that cervical cancer affects approximately 13 lakh women in India annually, which claims the lives of around 80,000 individuals. "Currently, we do not have exact data for Madhya Pradesh, but the fact is that state has been bearing a particularly high burden of cases of cervical cancer," he

He said that recognising the urgent need for preventive measures, AIIMS tion. "These vaccines will be Bhopal has decided to spearhead its provided at free of cost to the efforts to mitigate the impact of cergirls of the 9 to 14 years age vical cancer within the community.



6 killed in lightning strikes in Rajasthan

Jaipur, Mar (IANS): A total of six persons on Monday were killed in lightning strikes in differplaces Rajasthan, an official

A 17-year-old girl student and a 25-year-old youth were killed at Lalsot in Dausa. In Daulatpura, another girl student was struck by lightning while she was on her way home from school.

In Sawai Madhopur, a husband and wife --Rajendra (30) and Jalebi Meena (28) died when they were working in the field.

Besides, a youth iden-

4 tified as Dhannalal was also killed in a lightning strike in the same district, the police said.

> Another woman, Beena Devi, was also killed while she was working in the field.

> Meanwhile, officials said that people should take shelter in a safe place during thunderstorms and lightning, and avoid sitting or standing near/ beneath trees.

> The Met Department had earlier sounded 'orange alert' in seven districts including Karauli, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Tonk and Dausa.

Intermittent rain along with wind was witnessed in Ajmer, Jaipur, Tonk, Madhopur and Dausa on Monday.



Will ponder if BJP gives LS ticket', another Bihar Cong MLA hints at switching sides

Patna, Mar 4 (IANS): After as many as seven MLAs of the Mahagathbandhan jumped ship to the NDA in Bihar recently, Neetu Singh, the Congress MLA from Hisua constituency in Nawada district, on Monday hinted at following suit by saying that she will think of joining the BJP if the latter offers her a ticket to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "I have no complaints against the party. However, the people of Nawada want a local MP and hence I am demanding a Lok Sabha ticket from the Congress. Most MPs who represented Nawada were from other districts. If the BJP offers me a Lok Sabha ticket from Nawada, I will think about it," Singh told mediapersons in Patna.

Kohima bench of Gauhati High Court launches online RTI portal

Kohima, Mar 4 (IANS): The move an application through Gauhati High Court's Kohima bench launched its online Right to Information (RTI) portal on Monday with an aim to maintain transparency and efficiency.

Justice Devashis Baruah of the Gauhati High Court formally launched the RTI portal in the presence of Justice Susmita Phukan Khaund and officials of the High Court Registry.

To mark the occasion, Justice Baruah symbolically filed the first online, paperless e-RTI application at the Kohima Bench through the dedicated web portal.

Officials said that Section 6 (1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 stipulates that an information seeker has a statutory right to

electronic means.

So far, RTI applications could be filed only through the physical

The RTI portal has been launched to make it convenient for the people to access information about the Gauhati High Court and its outlying benches. Fee payment can be made online via Internet banking or UPI.

To access the RTI portal, citizens can simply click on the dedicated 'RTI' tab available on the official website of the Gauhati High Court's Kohima Bench, officials

The portal has a user-friendly interface and operates on an endto-end paperless mode.





J&K Tourism dept working on renewed plan to make UT a global tourist destination

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired a meeting to review the renewed tourism development plan in which several new innovative steps were highlighted by the concerned department to make the Union Territory the most popular tourist destination in the country, an official statement said.

During this meeting it was decided that the Tourism department is in a process of working out different progres-

Jammu, Mar 4 (IANS): sive concepts for substantial increase in footfall to our tourist destinations and making Jammu and Kashmir hub of tourism all over the country.

"Among several other initiatives, the department is contemplating to take up projects in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in both the divisions for increasing tourist footfall to such locations, besides adding variety of activities to perform there," the statement added. "It has also decided to conduct a three-day conference inviting high-profile domain experts in areas, including administration,

hospitality, tourism academia, eco-tourism, IT, travel trade associations, film and industrial sectors." "It further intends to hold shows like Grand F4 car shows in association with private players. The department in order to showcase the stunning beauty of J&K wants to create a brand ad film and song of its own featuring it as a premier tourist destination in India, besides having a brand ambassador of high repute promoting the brand J&K all over the world."

UP: 3 booked after woman dies due to treatment by quack

Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Mar 4 (IANS): Three persons have been booked for the death of a 32-year-old woman, who was given an injection by a quack. Additional Superintendent of Police (rural) Manoj Awasthi said after Asma complained of stomach pain on Monday night, her family took her to a local clinic for treatment.

According to the complaint filed by the victim's family, when the pain did not subside.





BJP HAS PERFECTED THE AAYA RAM GAYA RAM POLITICS INITIATED BY CONGRESS

aya ram gaya ram politics began in India when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. She Lused to be accused of decimating the opposition parties by buying wholesale elected representatives. It all started with the former Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal who bought wholesale opposition MLAs to form a Congress government in Haryana, though it was in a minority in the elections. Now Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have perfected it and taken this menace in Indian politics to the next level. As Sanjay Jha, political analyst and former Congress spokesman, once said the way defections are taking place now, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are going to be a contest between Congress (Nehru) vs Congress (Modi). This meant that BJP's grand design to make Indian politics Congress mukt Bharat would instead become BJP full of Congress members. On a serious note this sort of rampant aaya ram gaya ram politics raises a fundamental question—what has happened to morality, especially in Indian politics. One does not see this happen often in mature western democracy. People are in a particular party because of their preference for a particular ideology through which they want to serve the people. Here in India the political ideology seems to be only to serve themselves. What is worse is the BJP, which claims to be an ideology-based party and that a party with a difference, has now started indulging in the worst form of aaya ram, gaya ram politics. It is not only frequent but wholesale. More importantly, the persons against whom serious corruption and criminal cases are pending and alleged by BJP itself are taken into their fold. Once taken, the cases either disappear or put on the backburner, giving great relief to the alleged crimi-

There is now no value for honesty and integrity. This amplifies the fact that our educational system is totally faulty despite all tall claims of substantial improvement in literacy, skill and educational prowess in the country. The fact of the matter is that our education system does not teach the basic requirement in life, that is morality. Moral education does not mean religious education. See the way people drive in this country. There is no semblance of fear in violating rules. Even policemen turn the other side at traffic signals, knowing fully that a sizable number of people have violated rules by crossing the line at signals or jumping the signals.

In India rules are meant to be broken with impunity. Two-wheeler riders do not wear helmets, meant for their own safety and policemen do not take cognisance of this violation. Policemen themselves would have violated rules and indulged in corruption to get a particular posting. Basically there is no fear of law, which can be easily bent, especially by the rich and powerful at the cost of morality. Why blame school students when those who teach them do not have morality. They get jobs in schools, especially those run by the government by bribing the ruling local politicians. There are organised touts for this purpose. In private schools, the teachers are paid less than the scales prescribed by regulatory body and the school authorities get an undertaking from them that they have been paid the official scales. This is the basic morality of our schools. Likewise there is corruption and nepotism in government jobs. There is corruption in reservation, a constitutional guarantee provided for the uplift of the backward people. Some sub-sects of every community other than Brahmin come under reservation category to enable the rich and powerful to abuse this reservation policy by getting false certificates to get admission in educational institutions and jobs. In all these cases meritorious and deserving cases do not get the benefit barring a few. Take the case of DMK's ex minister Senthil Balaji in Tamil Nadu. He has been arrested in connection with corruption charges with regard to jobs in state transport corporations, when he was a minister in the AIADMK government. Now he is in DMK.

(By K R Sudhaman)

DELHI HEADING FOR A VERY TOUGH LOK SABHA CONTEST IN 2024

The indications available from the ground level suggest Delhi is heading for a very tough contests in all its 7 Lok Sabha constituencies. The intermittent political clashes between the AAP led State Government and BJP led Centre in the last five years on several issues affecting the welfare of the people of the state have made citizens to think twice before they vote. It has made the political situation tense.

BJP's stake is too high this time since the party and the PM Narendra Modi are seeking for their third term. BJP had won all the 7 Lok Sabha seats from the state in 2019 polls, and it can't afford to lose any seat this time. Congress-AAP alliance has made the BJP stressed. People in general also are not happy with the Centre's interference in Delhi's welfare schemes, as well as the sitting BJP MPs. Neither the Central BJP leadership nor the state BJP leadership are sure about winnability of sitting BJP MPs.

EDITORIA

the indian mail





LEGAL ICON FALI S NARIMAN PURSUED EXTRAORDINARY CAREER ALONG WITH INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The legal career of Fali Sam Nariman ments, judiciary and the legal frabegan in 1950, along with the coming into force of the Indian Constitution. In the 74 years for which Nariman and the Constitution co-existed, they were inseparable. From I C Golaknath in 1967, where supreme court held that fundamental rights are beyond the amending powers of the Parliament, to Supreme Court Advocates-onrecord vs Union of India case in 2015, where Supreme Court struck down the 99th constitutional amendment to defend the independence of judiciary. Nariman argued and succeeded in cases crucial to the Indian constitution.. Through his long legal career, , he ensured that his long professional success did not come at cost of his fundamental principle and he was that rare personality who straddled the world of extraordinary professional success while being a moral guide to govern-

ternity.

While much will be written about the cases he argued, the element of his life which will possibly be well remembered in posterity is his extraordinary engagement as a public intellectual in the last 20 years of his life, when he slowly reduced his court work, simultaneously increasing his public writings—particularly in respect to the Indian Constitution and the legal system. In the years between 2006 and until his passing away, he authored a total of six books, most of which have been best sellers. His most recent book you must know your Constitution was published last year.

IS POLICE ARREST OF TRINAMOOL STRONGMAN SHEIKH SHAHJAHAN A SCRIPTED DRAMA?



The man also is an alleged land-grabber and extortionist. Men run scared of him and women cower in acquiescence. Intimidation of men whose wives he and his henchmen took away for pleasure is now part of dark lore. Believe it or not, Sheikh Shahjahan – no descendant of the Mughals – upset the lives of a large number of Bengal denizens. One journalist found himself behind bars and one TMC leader continues to be in jail.

Shahjahan will be meeting this leader soon enough. The leader was Shahjahan's mentor and then second fiddle as Shahjahan flirted with fortune and rose higher than the mentor. Shahjahan was 'Bhai' and there is a lot that is fishy about him including that he is the 'Kingfisher of Sandeshkhali', making the fishery business count for him and his "people". Early in his "po-



litical career", Sheikh Shahjahan impressed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Sheikh Shahjahan faces charges of torture, sexual harassment and land grabbing with the Trinamool Congress and the BJP fighting over the question of his arrest, is it true arrest or false arrest? The BJP calls it "staged arrest", fixed and carried out only after the high court said any central investigating agency can arrest Shahjahan. The Trinamool Congress calls it an arrest that was waiting to take place once a few legal irritants were brushed aside.

Sandeshkhali burst crackers and some women danced on the dusty pathways when news of Sheikh Shahjahan's arrest trooped in. From all the stories told and heard, more than half Sandeshkhali's women were walking-talking sexually harassed survivors of Sheikh Shahjahan and his procuring agents' sexual advances. It was a sordid drama played out in plain view in Sandeshkhali.

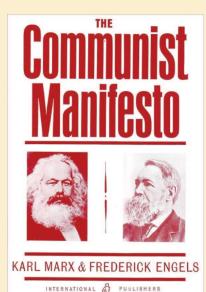


IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA IS IMPERATIVE TO **STOP WANTON KILLINGS BY ISRAEL**

The self-immolation of an active-duty member of the U.S Air Force Aaron Bushnell outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C on 25th February has sent shock waves around the world. He did this as a protest amidst the barbaric aggression by Israel on Gaza and its latest offensive on Rafah. This extreme step is a reflection of sensitivity towards the helpless innocent children and women and anger that is growing against the war mongering policies of his own country.

'COMMUNIST MANIFESTO' OF MARX AND ENGELS REMAINS **RELEVANT EVEN AFTER 176 YEARS**

t is the 176th anniversary of the Communist Mani festo, a program for scientific socialism, a guide ▲ for change. On February 21, 1848, Communist Manifesto was published in London. It was prepared by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The duo were the forerunners of scientific Socialism. The historic task was accomplished with its prophesies. The writing was started in Brussels itself where the Communist League was functioning from underground. Karl Marx had been banished from Belgium as he was writing about the injustices the toilers were facing in that country and also in entire Europe and the world. He had to shift to London and the Manifesto was published from there. In the observation that remained unblemished through centuries, and commanded the highest respect that continues even today, it said, "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles". The emphasis was also clear that it was theory, revolutionary in content and practice both that should be leading the struggle till the end through contradictions, negations and assertions. Dialectics, coming from the great idealist philosopher Hegel in a 'mystified form', Marx had assimilated it as in 'rational form'. Dialectics with its unity and struggle of opposites, includes the negation of the state, of its breaking up, as imperative as is its existence, continuing in fluid movement, keeping change



alive through eternal motion. It was the same fluid movement that had made liberal banker Laffitte say when he was taking his companion, the Duke of Orleans in July of 1848, after the July revolution in France, "From now on, the bankers will rule." The comment of Marx was "Laffitte had betrayed the secret of revolution." The French bourgeoisie was not in power, but one faction of the bankers, stock exchange kings, railway kings, owners of coal mines and forests, all of those called finance aristocracy had ultimately come to rule.



Heavy rains trigger flash floods in Indonesia

Jakarta, Mar 4 (IANS): Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall in Indonesia's capital Jakarta on Monday inundated 34 roads, causing traffic disruptions and evacuation of residents in some areas of the city, according to authorities. The floodwater depths ranged from 15 centimeters to over 50 centimeters, according to the Jakarta Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Indonesia's weather agency on Thursday issued a warning for potential heavy rains across the capital of Jakarta and its satellite cities for the next eight days.

Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) meteorology deputy head Guswanto said in a statement that heavy rains and strong winds could hit Jakarta and its satellites, including Bogor, Depok and Bekasi, between March 1 and March 8, Xinhua news agency reported.

He said an increase in rainfall in Jakarta, home to around 10 million inhabitants, has been observed since Tuesday with rainfall with extreme intensity happening in the northern areas of the city, such as Kelapa Gading and Tanjung Priok.

"BMKG will continue to monitor weather conditions and changes based on the latest data," Guswanto said, calling on the public to remain alert.

South Korea, Japan are partners as they overcome 'painful past': Yoon Suk Yeol

Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday said that Seoul and Japan are partners in the pursuit of global peace and prosperity as they work to overcome their "painful past" and move toward a new future. Yoon Suk Yeol made the remark as he marked the 105th anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement against Japanese colonial rule, a watershed event during Japan's 1910-45 brutal occupation of the Korean Peninsula, Yonhap news agency reported.

Seoul, Mar 4 (IANS): South

"Now, Korea and Japan are working together to overcome the painful past," he said during a commemoration ceremony at the Memorial Hall of Yu Gwan-sun in Seoul. "Sharing the values of freedom, human rights and the rule of law, our two countries have become partners in the pursuit of common interests for global peace and prosperity."

Yoon Suk Yeol cited efforts

under his administration to strengthen bilateral cooperation against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and build partnerships across industries.

"If Korea and Japan build trust through mutual exchanges and cooperation and work together to resolve difficult challenges that history has left us, we will be able to usher in a new and brighter future for our bilateral relations," he said. "I hope that the 60th anniversary of Korea and Japan normalising diplomatic relations next year will serve as an opportunity to take our bilateral relationship to a higher level, one that is more productive and construc-

He also said the independence movement will be made complete only when the Korean Peninsula achieves a unification that brings freedom and abundance to everyone, noting the repressive rule of the North Korean regime.

"Now, we must move toward a free, unified Korean Peninsula where the people are its rightful owners," he said, noting the need to draw on the help of the interna-



tional community.

"The tyranny and human rights abuses of the North Korean regime deny the universal values of humanity. Unification is precisely what is needed to expand the universal values of freedom and human rights," he said.

President Yoon reiterated his commitment to helping the North Korean people, including defectors to the South, citing the government's designation of July 14 as North Korean Defectors'

He also recalled that North Korea recently labeled the South its "primary foe" and "invariable principal enemy," saying, "This is truly deplorable."

Meanwhile, President Yoon called attention to the various

types of independence movements that were carried out under colonial rule, including those who engaged in armed struggle and others who pursued diplomacy around the world or initiated educational and cultural movements to empower Koreans with necessary skills "The blood and sweat of these independence activists enabled our country's independence and became the foundation of the Republic of Korea," he said, referring to South Korea by its formal name. "I believe that the significance of all of these independence movements must be duly recognised and their history should be passed down correctly generation after generation."



Amid walkout by trainee doctors, police raid offices of Korean Medical Association

Seoul, Mar 4 (IANS): Some offices of the Korean Medical Association (KMA), the country's largest doctors' group, were on Monday raided by police as part of an investigation into five current and former Association leaders accused of instigating a walkout by trainee doctors. The raids, the first investigative action that police have taken since thousands of interns and resident doctors walked off the job on February 20, also came a day after the government-set deadline for the trainee doctors to return to

work, Yonhap news agency reported. Investigators from the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency searched several offices, including that of the KMA's emergency committee and the Seoul Medical Association, to secure evidence from the mobile phones and computers of the officials. On Tuesday, the health ministry filed a police complaint against the KMA's emergency committee chief Kim Taek-woo; two others members of the KMA leadership; a former KMA chief; and Lim Hyeon-taek, the chief of the Korean Pediatric Society. The min-

istry accused them of instigating the trainee doctors' mass resignations by expressing support and providing legal assistance in the govern ment's first legal action taken in connection with the walkout. The investigation came as thousands of intern and resident doctors have stayed away from their jobs at general hospitals nationwide since Tuesday last week in their collective action protesting the government's plan to hike the medical school admission quota by 2,000 seats next year.

War causes \$19.6 bn in losses to Ukraine's culture, tourism: PM

Kiev, Mar 4 (IANS): Ukraine's ongoing war with Russia has incurred losses of at least \$19.6 billion to the country's cultural and tourism sectors, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said. Shmyhal added on Monday that 900 historical and cultural sites in Ukraine were destroyed or damaged during the war, Xinhua news agency reported.

Kiev plans to create a special register of the destroyed cultural and tourism facilities, which will be a tool for determining the amount of compensation from Russia, he said. According to him, Ukraine needs \$8.9 billion to restore cultural and tourist sites.





UN peacekeepers briefly detained by locals in Lebanon

UN peacekeepers were "briefly detained" two days ago by "local individuals" in Lebanon while on their way to Beirut, an official of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said. Candice Ardell, Deputy Director of the UNIFIL Media Office, said on Monday that a peacekeeping vehicle was on a routine logistical tour when it ended up on an unplanned route, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The vehicle was stopped, and local individuals detained peacekeepers who were later

Beirut, Mar 4 (IANS): The released," she was quoted by the National News Agency as saying. "We are looking into the circumstances of what happened, but peacekeepers were not harmed," Ardell said, without mentioning the number of peacekeepers involved in the incident.

> "We emphasise that, in addition to freedom of movement inside UNIFIL's area of operations, peacekeepers have the freedom and authorisation from the Lebanese government to move throughout Lebanon for administrative and logistical reasons," she noted.



Malaysia records surge in dengue cases, 2 more deaths

Malaysia has seen a rise in dengue cases over the past week with a total of 3,572, the Health Ministry said.

The number is an increase over 3,483 cases recorded in the previous week, it said on Monday in a statement.

Kuala Lumpur, Mar 4 (IANS): Two more deaths were also recorded in the past week, adding to a total of 16 deaths this year compared to 14 deaths recorded in the same period last year, Xinhua news agency reported. It added that two cases of Chikungunya were recorded over the past week.

Indian envoy thanks governor of quake-hit Ishikawa for helping Indians

Tokyo, Mar 4 (IANS): In- loss of lives due to Noto Penindian Ambassador to Japan Sibi George met Hiroshi Hase, governor of the quakehit Ishikawa, on Monday and thanked him for all the assistance extended to Indians there. A 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck the northernmost peninsula of Noto in Ishikawa this year, killing hundreds of people and rendering many homeless. "Ambassador @AmbSibiGeorge visited #Ishikawa Prefecture & amp; met Hon'ble Governor, Mr. Hiroshi Hase. Expressed his condolences for

sula earthquake," the Indian Embassy in Japan said in a post on X. "Thanked for assistance extended to Indians in #Ishikawa and reiterated India's solidarity to Ishikawa and Japan," the post read. As per a Japan Times report, the death toll in the quake has risen to 240 with 75,000 homes being damaged in the disaster.

Hours after the earthquake, the Indian embassy in Japan set up an emergency control room and issued helpline numbers for its citizens. In a letter to his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed India's

solidarity with Japan and its people and said that he is "deeply anguished and concerned" over the earthquake. "I am deeply anguished and concerned to learn about the major earthquake that struck Japan on January 1," PM Modi

"I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families of those who lost their lives. We stand in solidarity with Japan and its people affected by the disaster," he added. Japan's ambassador to India Hiroshi Suzuki has expressed his gratitude and said India's support is



much valued during this difficult time. "Dear friends in India, I am deeply grateful for so many sincere condolences, prayers, and warm encouragement regarding the Noto (Neng Deng) Earthquake in Japan," Ambassador Suzuki said on X.

Punjab CM inaugurates Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Mohali

Chandigarh, Mar 4 (IANS) : Holding the Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress regimes responsible for the "appalling state" of government institutions, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said his government is committed to offering superior facilities in these institutions, ensuring no citizen is denied access to their services.

Addressing the gathering after

inaugurating the Punjab Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Mohali, he said previous governments and politicians completely neglected government institutions and promoted their privatisation. The Chief Minister said cancer treatment in private hospitals is prohibitively expensive, rendering many patients unable to afford treatment due to their economic condition. Highlighting the steps being taken for the betterment of government institutions in the state, he pointed out the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences is the second in the country and the first in Punjab to have such a plethora of modern machines, surpassing even private hospitals.





Now, unmarried women can become Anganwadi workers in Rajasthan

Jaipur, Mar 4 (IANS): Now, unmarried women can become Anganwadi workers and assistants in Rajasthan as the selection criteria have been amended to bring in the change. According to Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a historic decision has been taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma to promote women's empowerment. Now, all women will be eligible to apply for the posts of Anganwadi worker and assistant, she said. Women and Child Development Secretary Krishna Kunal said that by approving the amendment to the selection criteria of Anganwadi honorarium workers, the Deputy Chief Minister has taken the initiative to provide opportunities to unmarried women in this field.



J&K Police felicitate man for providing info on Pakistani drone

Jammu, Mar 4 (IANS): The jointly by the Samba Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday rewarded Rs 3 lakh to a man who provided information about a Pakistani drone following which it was recovered by the security forces.

The incident was reported on January 18 in Ramgarh sector in Samba, the police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Vinay Kumar presented a cheque of Rs 3 lakh as a reward on behalf of ADGP Jammu Zone to the informer in a felicitation ceremony organised the BSF.

Pertinently, on January 18, the in-

former, a local resident of village

Nandpur, noticed a suspicious object lying in his field near Border out Post (BoP), Chamliyal. On seeing a suspicious object (drone), the informer immediately rushed to the nearest BSF unit, and informed about a drone lying in his field. Acting swiftly on the information, the security forces recovered the Pakistani surveillance drone fitted with a camera from the field of the informer.

Art Dubai 2024 to showcase young Indian artists

Dubai at Madinat Jumeirah, Indian galleries -- Emami Art and Latitude 28 -- will showcase the works of young Indian artists at the Bawwaba section that is curated by Emiliano Valdes. The Middle East's leading international fair will be held from March 1 to March 4. Emami Art is showcasing a solo presentation of multi-disciplinary artist Debashish Paul's new drawings and photographs along with a sculptural costume and headdress from a recent performance at Booth W-6. On the other hand, New-Delhi-based Latitude 28 is bringing emerging artist Manjot Kaur's solo presentation 'Ecosystems are Love Sto-

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): ries' that weaves new myths for mance. The body and landscape At the 17th edition of Art contemporary times by referring to historical miniature paintings of various schools at Booth W-9.

This year's edition will feature over 100 galleries from across 40 countries within and beyond the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) region.

Independently or as part of his sculptural dresses, Debashish Paul's drawings are essential to his practice. They are made from paper pasted on fabric with drawings that carry visual lexicons of his memories, self, stories and imaginations of body and intimate things. Site-specific photography is an extended part of his practice, where he appears in sculptural dresses, signifying certain connections and elements relating to the place and theme of his perfor-

in the photographs on view, blend in, resonating with each other. Paul's unique multi-expressionist practice is devised through dialogues with the self, society and nature. Paul will also present a new piece -- a live performance titled 'Scent of the Celestial Garden' -which is commissioned by Art Dubai 2024. In Manjot Kaur's 'Ecosystems are Love Stories', the artist, represented by Latitude 28, delves deep into the foundational questions concerning ecology and history. What happens when a living tree replaces a king? What happens when trees come together to invoke a mother goddess? What happens when women take over the identity of endangered species? What happens when a heroine runs away with a tree? What happens

when ecosystems decide to produce seeds? Kaur's works are intimate worlds encompassing the anthropology of wonder and awe, proposing narratives that imagine a multispecies future. While providing new meaning to the ancient narratives, ?ctionalisation and a critique of history take centre stage. This process then becomes a paradigm of change to create kinship that generates hope, love, and desperate desires for silent companionship with other species.

Shrine Empire will showcase the works of its artists Neerja Kothari and Samanta Batra Mehta. Both artists work with time and markmaking as a form of recording the sensorium of being. Samanta draws from her intergenerational experience of migration to excavate the traces of arrivals and departures that

become encoded into everyday life, and the senses of (un)belonging that have been handed down through history. Movement does not merely consist of bodies crossing oceans but the sensibilities, temporal rhythms and spatial interactions that carry with them lives left behind. Neerja's experiences in physical rehabilitation and years of therapy to regain movement after a period of immobility due to a medical condition inform time drawings that count the everyday gestures that for her are deliberate, voluntary movements and a test of endurance.





Don't consider Ram Rahim's parole without permission, HC tells Haryana

Chandigarh, Mar 4 (IANS): The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday asked Haryana not to consider Dera Sacha Sauda chief and self-styled godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's parole without its permission.

The direction would remain in force till further orders. A Bench of acting Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji observed that Ram Rahim was released for 91 days each in 2022 and 2023, and observed that it made "interesting reading" keeping in view the background and the antecedents of Ram Rahim who was convicted in three cases.

"It is also to be noticed that in spite of the pendency of the present petition in which notice of motion was issued on January 29, 2023.



Allahabad HC asks Meerut cops to release camels to owner

Allahabad High Court has ordered the police and administration in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district to ensure release of 28 camels, belonging to one Mohd.

The court fixed March 18 as the next date of hearing in the case. The district police are now hunting for 28 camels that local police had allegedly seized from Mohd. Anas here in 2019.

After being seized in 2019, the camels were handed over to one Vikrant Vats, who claimed to have been associated with an organisation that takes care of animals.

Prayagraj, Mar 4 (IANS): The In August 2019, camels in large numbers were brought from Rajasthan to Lisari Gate and Kotwali areas of Meerut for sacrifice on Bakrid. The police are said to have seized them saying there was a ban on sacrifice.

The owner Mohd. Anas then filed a complaint in the office of city magistrate, Meerut, requesting that either the animals be handed over to him or the cost incurred in buying them be given to him. The court ruled in favour of Anas and directed the then city magistrate to hand over the camels to him.

When Anas did not get his camels, he moved the high court.

Chinese national arrested from India-Nepal border in Raxaul

Patna, Mar 4 (IANS): A Chinese national was arrested from near the India-Nepal border at Raxaul in Bihar's East Champaran district on Monday. The arrested person has been identified as Feng Genshan (57), a native of Henan province in China. Genshan was apprehended by the immigration and SSB officials while he was trying to enter Bihar. "We have arrested a Chinese national from the Raxaul border. As he does not know English, we are facing problems questioning him. The central agencies are also questioning him. His motive for entering India is not ascertained yet," said Dhirendra Kumar, DSP of Raxaul range.





Rabri Devi slams rebel Mahagathbandhan MLAs who sold 'honour' for money

Patna, Mar 4 (IANS): RJD leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi on Monday slammed rebel MLAs of the Mahagathbandhan, alleging that they have sold their "honour for Rs 10 to 20 crore".

"If they have guts, they should resign from the party and then join the BJP.

They are shameless people who have sold their 'iman' (honour) for Rs 10 to 20 crore. The BJP is purchasing the MLAs of the Mahagathbandhan. It is playing the game of money which is not a good thing," she said. Asked about claims that her son and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav was not handling the party properly, Rabri Devi said: "If the RJD is not working smoothly, then how did it become the single-largest party in the 2020 Assembly election.

The allegations that the party is not running smoothly are absolutely false." In response to her statement, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said: "The RJD had started horse- trading in Bihar and now it is paying the price for it. The RJD treated its MLAs like bounded labourers.



ADIA acquires shares in Spicelet

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) recently acquired shares of Spicejet from the open market. "Yes, ADIA has acquired shares of the airline from the open market," said the airline's spokesperson, while confirming the development. An airline official claimed that ownership of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in SpiceJet has witnessed a surge, increasing by 5.88 per cent, from 0.33 per

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): cent in December 2023 to 6.21 per cent in February 2024. SpiceJet recently secured investments totalling Rs 1060 crore through a preferential issue, with notable investors including Aries Opportunities Fund Limited and Elara India Opportunities Fund Limited. As per airline officials, part of these funds will be allocated towards settling past liabilities. On February 28, Spicejet had mutually settled their Rs 250 crore dispute through amicable negotiations with Celestial Aviation, a subsidiary of AerCap, one of the largest aircraft lessor groups.

Poultry companies to log 5-6 pc revenue growth

Chennai, Mar 4 (IANS): Credit rating agency ICRA expects the revenue growth for its sample set of domestic poultry companies to improve mildly to about 5-6 per cent in FY2025 after an estimated modest Year-on-Year (YoY) growth of about 3-4 per cent in FY2024.

According to ICRA, the growth will be driven by demand improvement, increasing share of organised players and growing preference for value-added products.

"While broiler meat realisations continued to be strong till 7M FY2024 (YoY growth of about 2 per cent), they started tapering thereafter due to high placement and excess supply in key markets," ICRA said in its recent report. Subsequently, Q3 FY2024 witnessed a about 10% Quarter-on- Quarter (QoQ) drop in average realisations, resulting in overall flat average numbers in 9M FY2024 on a YoY basis. The same could revive gradually, as the oversupply scenario corrects over the next few months, ICRA said. While realisations improved in 7M FY2024 following controlled supply and healthy demand, poultry companies' earnings were further supported by softened feed costs, ICRA said.

Average maize prices during April-November 2023 de-



creased by about 9 per cent vis-àvis FY2023. Likewise, soybean prices softened in the current fiscal and average prices in 9M FY2024 declined by about 14 per cent vis-à-vis FY2023. However, the realisations started tapering from November 2023 onwards and the grain prices, particularly maize, also started rallying since

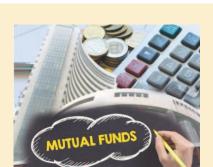
then, ICRA said. Further, significant contraction in soybean harvest during the kharif season and delayed sowing of maize may result in a potential spike in feed costs and is likely to exert pressure on the margins of poultry companies over the next few quarters, ICRA said.

Advisory to mutual funds likely to restrain performance of broader market, says analyst

The massive 350-point rally in the Nifty on Friday was primarily driven by the far betterthan-expected Q3 GDP numbers which came at 8.4 per cent year on year, says V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

This hot number which indicates strong momentum in the economy triggered short covering leading to the 350 point spurt in the Nifty. While the

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): GDP numbers are good, it is important to understand that there is a statistical aberration in the numbers. The GVA in Q3 is only 6.5 per cent. The big difference is due to the 32 per cent spurt in indirect taxes. It is also important to remember that the consumption numbers are tepid. In brief, there is a room for optimism but there is no case for unbridled bullishness, he said. The SEBI advisory to mutual funds regarding the



excessive valuations in the mid and small cap schemes is likely to restrain the performance of the broader market. The irrational exuberance in the broader segment has no fundamental justification, he added.

BSE Sensex is trading at 73,792.61 points, down by 13.54 points. NTPC is trading up 3 per cent, Powergrid is up 2 per cent.

Govt allows export of onion to Bangladesh, UAE with riders

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): The government has allowed the export of 64,400 tonnes of onion to the UAE and Bangladesh through the National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL), according to notifications issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The export of 50,000 tonnes of onion is being allowed for Bangladesh, while another 14,400 tonnes are being permitted for dispatch to the UAE.

The notification states that the modalities for the exports to Bangladesh will be worked out by the NCEL in consultation with the Department of Consumer Affairs. The government wants the exports to take place in a calibrated manner as it is keeping a close watch on domestic prices and does not want them to spin out of control. The notification allowing the export of 14,400 tonnes of onions to the UAE through NCEL has placed a quantity ceiling of 3,600 metric tonnes for each quarter. The government had earlier with effect from December 8, 2023 amended the export policy of onions to bring them from the 'free' to the 'prohibited' category till March 31, 2024. The step was taken as onion prices had started shooting up in the domestic market with supplies falling short.



Small cap stocks

underperform in trade

New Delhi, March 4 (IANS): Small cap stock indices are in the red on Monday amid concerns over exuberance in the space. BSE Small Cap Index is down 0.68 per cent. BSE 250 Small Cap index is down 0.47 per cent. Small Cap Select Index is down 0.66 per cent.

The SEBI advisory to mutual funds regarding the excessive valuations in the mid and small cap schemes is likely to restrain the performance of the broader market, says V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. The irrational exuberance in the broader segment has no fundamental justification, he added.

In contrast, the benchmark BSE Sensex is trading flat. Small and mid cap indices have outperformed the benchmark indices for months now.

In contrast, power stocks are showing strong gains with the power index up more than 2 per cent. BHEL is up 13 per cent, NTPC is up 4 per cent, Tata Power is up 3 per cent, Powergrid is up 3 per cent.PSU stocks are doing well with the index up more than 2 per cent.

OPEC+ members extend oil output cuts to Q2

Vienna, Mar 4 (IANS): Several OPEC+ members have announced extensions of oil output cuts into the second quarter to support the "stability and balance of oil markets". OPEC+ is an oil-producer group comprising member countries of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their allies.



India okays rice exports to Africa in outreach to Global South

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): The government has, as part of India's outreach to the Global South, allowed the exports of 1,10,000 tonnes of rice to three African countries to help them meet their food security needs.

According to a notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the export of 30,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice has been allowed to Tanzania while 30,000 tonnes of broken rice have been permitted for export to Djibouti and 50,000 tonne to Guinea Bissau.

Though exports of non-basmati white rice have been banned since July 20, 2023 in order to ensure adequate domestic supplies and control inflation.

However, some exports are being allowed to friendly countries to ensure their food security which has been adversely impacted as supplies have been disrupted due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.



Indus Appstore launch: Startup leaders vouch for fairer, sustainable future for App Stores

At the launch of PhonePe's Indus Appstore, a compelling panel discussion delved into the critical issue of sustainable business models for app stores, the company said on Monday. The panel deliberated on the sustainable business models for app stores, focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities within the Indian market.

The panel also shed light on the path forward for app stores in India, seeking to foster an ecosystem that supports innovation, inclusivity, and growth, according to the com-

Moderated by Sajith Sivanandan, head of Disney+ Hotstar, the panel brought together insights from prominent Indian startup leaders --

Bengaluru, Mar 4 (IANS): Virendra Gupta, Founder of VerSe Innovation; Neeraj Roy, Founder and CEO of Hungama; Harsh Jain, Co-founder and CEO of Dream11; and Murugavel Janakiraman, CEO of BharatMatrimony.

"We are committed to offering a level playing field for all developers. The Indus Appstore will not mandate the use of any specific payment gateway, allowing developers the freedom to choose any service they prefer," said Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO of PhonePe.

"With this approach, we aim to democratise the app ecosystem by offering an alternative that prioritises the needs of Indian developers and users," Nigam added. Among the key challenges highlighted by the panelists was "limited revenue streams" where the reliance on a small number of dominant app stores often forces



startups into accepting unfavorable revenue-sharing models and constrained monetisation options. Another concern was high commission fees.

The excessive fees charged by dominant app stores were identified as a significant barrier, eating into the already slim profit margins of app developers, particularly those in the early stages of their business.

Lack of discoverability was another challenge where apps struggle to compete for visibility and find their audiences within crowded app stores. This hinders

growth and innovation, particularly for smaller develop-

Other concerns were opaque policies and practices, cultural and linguistic barriers and data security and user trust. To address these challenges, the panelists proposed several solutions aimed at creating a more equitable and thriving app store ecosystem. "App stores should provide flexible monetisation options, including subscriptions, in-app purchases, and tailored advertising solutions to fit various app types.

SC dismisses plea filed by OPS against suo moto revision initiated by Madras HC in DA case

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the plea filed by expelled AIADMK leader and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam (OPS) against the notice issued to him and his relatives in the suo moto revision petition taken by the Madras High Court in the disproportionate asset case.

A bench, headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy, refused to interfere with the Madras High Court's order taking up the revision petition after OPS

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): was set free in the case by a trial court in 2012.

> However, the bench, also comprising Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, clarified that the observations contained in the impugned order of the High Court issuing notice will have no bearing on the outcome of the revision petition.

Justice Anand Venkatesh of the High Court in August last year had observed that Tamil's Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) used to file cases against opposition leaders and when the same op-



position leaders come to power, it opens a re-investigation and closes the file. He added that this was a practice that was unheard off in the criminal judicial system. Justice Venkatesh said that he took

up the case which was closed a decade ago suo moto because the courts are looking at ordinary people, and the MPs, MLAs, ministers in a different manner.



Nitin Gadkari inaugurates NH projects worth Rs 4,142 cr in UP's Raebareli

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday inaugurated eight National Highway (NH) projects worth Rs 4,142 crore at a function held in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli. The Union Minister said in a social media post that 424 km length of roads and other development works will be done through the projects which will improve the connectivity with other areas of the state and the country.

He said districts like Prayagraj, Raebareli, and Sultanpur, situated at the holy confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, have religious and historical importance. Nitin Gadkari also laid the foundation stone of two NH projects worth Rs 1,750 crore in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur.

State ministers, MPs, MLAs and officials were present on the occasion.

In a post on social media platform X, the Union Minister said: "Mirzapur district, situated under shadow of Mother Vindhyavasini, is religiously and naturally important. To develop this entire region, the foundation stone of 2 ambitious National Highway projects costing more than Rs 1750 crore has been laid today."

Among these, a four-lane Mirzapur bypass and a 6-lane bridge on the Ganga river will be constructed on National Highway 135A.

Besides, repair work will be done on a 59 km long road from Mirzapur to Prayagraj and from Prayagraj to Pratapgarh on National Highways 35 and 330. "With the completion of both these projects, it will be easier for the devotees to reach the religious places in Mirzapur district, which will boost tourism. Economic development will get a new impetus in many districts of Prayagraj and Purvanchal including Mirzapur," he said.

"Construction of 4-lane Mirzapur bypass on river Ganga will provide relief from traffic jams and improve connectivity between Mirzapur-Ayodhya, which will increase trade," the Union Minister added.

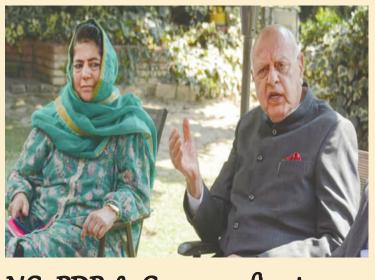


Govt launches new railway plan to cut cost of moving coal from mines

by Rs 21,000 cr a year

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): Union Minister of Coal Pralhad Joshi on Monday launched a groundbreaking 'Coal Logistics Plan and Policy' aimed at a strategic shift towards a railway-based system to evacuate coal from the pitheads of mines, which will cut transport costs by 14 per cent, enabling a savings of Rs 21,000 crore a year. The Coal Logistics Plan proposes a strategic shift towards a railway-based system that will lead to first-mile connectivity projects at the mines. Currently, evacuation of coal from the mining pitheads is done by trucks to the railway points that are located at a substantial distance from the mines.

The minister emphasised on augmenting the railway network through First-Mile Connectivity at the mines. This transformative approach is expected to minimise air pollution, alleviate traffic congestion, and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 100,000 tonnes per annum. Moreover, a 10 per cent savings in average turnaround time of wagons nationwide is expected.



NC, PDP & Congress firming up for pre-poll alliance in J&K

Political circles are agog in J&K saying that a seat-sharing agreement between the Congress, National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is in the offing and an announcement to this effect is likely within the next few days.

NC president, Dr. Faroog Abdullah had earlier said that his party would fight all the Lok Sabha seats in J&K and Ladakh on its own.

Dr. Abdullah appears to have climbed down from his stand as sources within the NC and the Congress are now saying

Srinagar, Mar 4 (IANS): that he never meant to rule out a pre-poll alliance between like-minded political parties. NC vice president Omar Abdullah had told reporters after his father's statement that the NC was engaged in seatsharing parleys with the Congress. Vikar Rasool Wani, president of J&K Congress unit, told reporters recently that the seat-sharing agreement with the NC and the PDP is under serious consideration. Speculation is now rife that the agreement about prepoll alliance between NC, PDP and the Congress could be announced sooner than later.



Delhi Waqf Board case: Court dismisses Amanatullah Khan's anticipatory bail plea

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): A summoned the accused in the mat-Delhi court on Monday dismissed AAP legislator Amanatullah Khan's anticipatory bail plea in connection with the Delhi Waqf Board money laundering case. Special Judge Rakesh Syal of Rouse Avenue Court pronounced the verdict after having it reserved on February 24. The ED had recently

ter. It has also opposed the anticipatory bail application, arguing that Khan may not cooperate in the investigation if he is granted pre-arrest bail. Special Public Prosecutors Manish Jain and Simon Benjamin, representing the ED, had earlier said that Khan had previously approached the Delhi High Court against the summons.

Students clash at JNU as ABVP, Left-backed groups disagree on poll committees

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): Anwesha Rai, Shaurya and Some students were injured in a clash between two groups in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) here, said police on Friday. The incident took place on Monday night between the members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Left-backed groups, reportedly after disagreements over the appointment of election committee members at the School of Languages. The altercation grew uncontrollable and led to the clash. Police have received three medico-legal case reports of students,

Madhurima, regarding the injuries from Safdarjung hospital. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rohit Meena, said, "PCR calls were received at around 1:15 a.m. regarding a scuffle between students at GBM in JNU. Multiple complaints have been received in this regard and the allegations are being verified." A video circulating on social media platform X depicts a person hitting others with a stick, while another video shows someone hurling a bicycle at them.



US to savour Maharashtra's 'Sangola Pomegranates', courtesy APEDA Mumbai, Mar 4 (IANS)

: In a significant achievement, the Agriculture Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated a maiden commercial shipment of Maharashtra pomegranates to the US, an official said here on Monday.

The pomegranates were sourced from Anarnet registered farmers of Sangola in Solapur district, and the first consignment went by the sea route to the Big Apple through the APEDA recognised Inl Farms and the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board

in Navi Mumbai. APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev and Ministry of Commerce & amp; Industry Additional Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal flagged off the first shipment comprising 12.6 tonnes of pomegranate in 4,200 boxes, with officials of the US Consulate and others present, and hailed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

Significantly, for this export order, the farmers received a premium that is 20 per cent higher compared to other export markets and 35 per cent more than the domestic mar-

An important agri-produce of India, the rich history associated with the pomegranate fruit (known as 'Anaar' locally) and its nutrition value plus health benefits contribute to its huge demand. India produces some of the best pomegranate varieties in terms of quality, soft fleshy seeds, low acidity and an attractive



The 'Bhagwa Pomegranate' is contributed by Gujarat, considered among the best varieties globally, and in the past decade, India has seen an increase in the production as well as the cultivation area of the fruit, besides a hike in exports. In the world pomegranate market, India has a distinct advantage of being able to supply it round-the-year with trained expert farmers cultivating quality fruits.

With production growing healthily at around 20-25 per cent, the major pomegranate growing states Maharashtra with 50 per cent of the total share, and the rest

Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

In the past, APEDA has facilitated pomegranate exports worth over \$58.36 million (2022-2023) to Bahrain, Bangladesh, EU countries, Nepal, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the UAE and the UK.

With the consignment to the US, India not only ranks among the largest pomegranate producing countries in the world but also aims to be one of the top exporters of the luscious fruit.



Manipur Assembly again adopts resolution urging Centre to implement NRC

Imphal, Mar 4 (IANS): The Biren Singh, who also holds the Manipur Assembly on Monday once again adopted a unanimous resolution urging the Central government to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to prevent illegal immigrants, especially from Myanmar, to settle in the northeastern state which shares a 398-km unfenced border with the neighbouring country.

The resolution urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement the NRC in Manipur moved by Chief Minister N.

Home portfolio. The Chief Minister posted on 'X': "Today, the Manipur Legislative Assembly took a significant step by reaffirming our resolution passed on August 5, 2022. It is our firm belief that the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur is crucial for safeguarding the interests of our state and contributing to the greater good of our nation. "The decision to urge the Central government to expedite the implementation of the NRC reflects our commitment to ensuring the security and integrity of Manipur. I urge all citizens to support this endeavour as we strive to build a stronger, more prosperous Manipur for generations to come," he said. After coming to power for the second consecutive time in the March 2022 assembly elections, the BJP-led government headed by Singh, unanimously passed a resolution in the state assembly on August 5, 2022 urging the Centre to implement the NRC in Manipur.

'Ours isn't a govt of loot & lies like Congress', Raj CM counters Ashok Gehlot

Raiasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Monday launched a counter-attack against former CM and senior Congressman Ashok Gehlot at a public meeting over the latter's criticism of the present state government, saying the Congress government used to be run from hotels, while the BJP regime works on the basis of values. Sharma also said that Gehlot should see his manifesto to check how many 'fake' announcements were made.

"This is not a government of loot and lies like the Congress. This

Jaipur, Mar 4 (IANS): development. This is the Bharatiya Janata Party, not your Congress Gehlot Saheb," Sharma said.

He also asked Gehlot "how much did the Congress misuse power?" "Look inside yourself to see what the Congress government did not do. This is the BJP party which runs on ideas and values. We always keep in mind what we have promised.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled the promises he had made. You people had said that Article 370 will not be removed, but see, it has been re-





Goa police seize LSD blots worth Rs 25 lakh, two held

Panaji, Mar 4 (IANS): The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Goa Police has conducted a raid at Arambol in North Goa and arrested two Kerala youth for allegedly possessing LSD blots valued at Rs 25 lakh, officials said on Monday. "The accused have been identified as Md Basi Mecheri (26) and Murshid Mustafa Kulangara (24), both natives of Calicut, Kerala, who were presently residing at Arambol," the police said.

"We have seized 250 high-quality triple-dip LSD blots valued at Rs 25 lakh from their possession. As per sources, the blots seized from their possession are three times stronger, effective and much more dangerous. They were meant to be sold in the party circuit at higher rates," the police said.

I want to quit as Trinamool spokesman, but continue as party soldier: Kunal Ghosh

Kolkata, Mar 4 (IANS): a misfit in the system. It has be-Breaking his daylong silence, Trinamool Congress spokesman Kunal Ghosh made it clear on Monday evening that he does not want to continue as the party spokesperson, nor does he want to stay as the state General Secretary of West Bengal's ruling party.

"I do not want to continue as the state General Secretary and spokesman of the All India Trinamool Congress. I am come impossible for me to continue with my assignments.

"However, I will continue as a soldier of the party. Please do not allow any rumours to be spread about me shifting the political camp. Mamata Banerjee is my leader and Abhishek Baneriee is my general. The All India Trinamool Congress is my party," Ghosh said in a message on his official X handle.

In another post soon after this

message, Ghosh referred to the scathing attacks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the state government and the ruling Trinamool Congress on issues such as Sandeshkhali and corruption. "The allegations can be countered with logic. But the problem is that the leaders of the two opposition parties in the Lok Sabha, who are responsible for launching such counter-attacks, have regular contacts with the BJP. The Centre uses them in different

ways. In fact, one of them was tamed when he was saved from the Rose Valley scandal," Ghosh said. Although he did not name anyone, it was clear that the post pointed at the leader of Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha, Sudip Bandopadhyay, who was earlier arrested by the ED in connection with the multi-crore Rose Valley

The second reference, as felt by the political observers, was made at leader of Congress' Parliamentary party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

On Friday morning, Ghosh had removed himself from the official WhatsApp group of Trinamool spokesper-

The speculation about Ghosh severing ties with the Trinamool Congress began doing the rounds since Friday morning after he dropped his party identity from his social media pro-



file, and also accused a section of the party leadership of selfishly indulging in factionalism. In his new bio on X, Ghosh has just described himself as a journalist and social activist, dropping all references to his party. He also put up a post on X blaming a section of the Trinamool leadership, without taking any name.

Student slap case: Children provided counselling facilities, UP govt tells SC

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday apprised the Supreme Court that it has arranged counselling facilities for the children involved in the viral incident where a school teacher was seen instructing students to slap a fellow classmate from a particular community. A bench, headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka, was apprised by Additional Advocate General (AAG) Garima Prasad that the state government has implemented the recommendations made by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in relation to the incident that occurred in UP's Muzaffarnagar in August last

AAG Prasad submitted that the counselling workshops will be continued till April 24.

Taking the fresh compliance affidavit on record, the Bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, posted the matter for further hearing on April 15. In the meantime, it asked the state government to file its affidavit on the larger issue of the effective implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act and the rules framed thereunder.

In an earlier hearing, the top court had taken a stern view of the UP government's failure to provide counseling facilities to the children and ordered the state authorities to implement in true letter and spirit the recommendations made by TISS.

Observing that there has been complete breach of its directions, the Supreme Court had directed the UP government to file a fresh compliance affidavit before March 1.

In the viral video, fellow students were seen slapping a 7-year-old at the behest of the teacher of a private school who referred to



India, Malaysia holding joint naval exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'

Indian and Malaysian navy ships are currently conducting joint exercise 'Samudra Laksamana', the Indian Navy said on Monday. Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Naval Ship KD Lekir are participating in the 3rd edition of this exercise, which began at Visakhapatnam on February 28 and will end on March 2, and comprises both harbour

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): professional interactions, followed by the operational phase at sea. The Navy said that the harbour phase involves professional interactions, subject matter expert exchange on topics of mutual interest, sports fixtures, and other interactions. These interactions are aimed to enhance the knowledge base, share best practices, and enhance further cooperation on maritime aspects.

During the sea phase, both the



participants would be jointly honing skills while conducting various operations at sea. The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and the Royal Malaysian Navy. Recently, more than 50 nations had come together to participate in Exercise 'Milan' with Indian Navy.



'Govt not paying attention to demands of farmers'

Chandigarh, Mar 4 (IANS): Adamant over the continuation of the agitation till demands are accepted, farmer leader Sarwan Pandher on Monday claimed that the government was not paying attention to farmers' demands. "Rather than paying attention to farmers, they are focused on how to win the elections," Pandher told the media.

NPP to field 30 candidates in Arunachal Assembly polls

Itanagar, Mar 4 (IANS): The National People's Party (NPP), the lone national party from northeast region, would put up 30 candidates in the upcoming elections to the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly, party's state unit President Thangwang Wangham said on Monday. The elections to the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly are likely to take place along

with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The NPP leader said that his party is an ally of the ruling BJP in several northeastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh, but the party would field 30 candidates in the ensuing Assembly polls on its own.



Molestation case against AAP Councillor: Police collecting evidence, says cop privy to probe

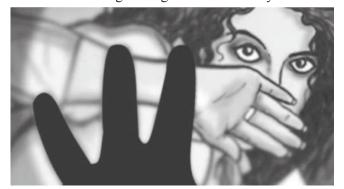
New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): Delhi Police are collecting evidence on the allegations levelled by a 14-year-old girl, who was allegedly molested by an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor and some other people in central Delhi, an officer privy to the probe said on Monday.

"We have formed a team, which is collecting evidence. Action will be taken based on the evidence that comes forth," the officer said.

AAP Councillor Ankush Narang and others have been booked under different sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and POCSO Act for allegedly molesting the teenage girl. "A complaint was received wherein the minor girl alleged that on February 25, she was waiting on a road near the Munshi Ram Bagh Park in New Ranjeet Nagar for her younger brother when Narang and others came there and molested and threatened her," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), M. Harsha Vardhan. "The victim was counselled by a CIC counselor after a medical examination," said the DCP.

The Delhi unit of the BJP, meanwhile, has demanded immediate expulsion of Narang from the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

"An AAP MLA, Prakash Jarwal, was convicted in a murder and intimidation case on Wednesday, and on Thursday, another case of harassment of a minor girl by Councillor Ankush Narang came to light," Delhi BJP Vice President Yogita Singh said on Monday.





Kashmiri scribe re-arrested two days after release from five-year detention

Srinagar, Mar 4 (IANS): A Kashmiri journalist named Asif Sultan has been re-arrested just two days after he was released from a five-year detention. Sultan was released following a high

court order that said proper procedure had not been followed in his detention. He reached home on Monday, but was re-arrested the same evening in another case, officials said. Sultan was first arrested in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in September 2018, when he was working as a reporter with a local magazine. At that time, he was arrested for allegedly providing logistical support to a banned militant group.

In April 2022, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had granted him bail in the case on the grounds that the investigative agencies failed to establish his links with any militant group. However, days later, he was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

He was released from the Ambedkar Nagar district jail in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, following which he reached home on Monday.



Man falls to death off Delhi flyover after being hit by car

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS) : A man on a two-wheeler died as he fell off a flyover in Delhi's Badarpur area after being hit by a car on Monday, police said. The deceased was identified as Pratap Singh, 35, a resident of New Seemapuri area and working as an Assistant Manager at the Yamaha showroom in Noida. Police said information was received at the Badarpur police sta-

tion in the evening from the Apollo Hospital, that a man had been involved in an accident opposite NTPC gate No 1 and was brought to the hospital where he was declared dead. The deceased was identified, and during the inquiry, it was revealed that Singh was travelling from the Faridabad to Sarita Vihar on his scooter. "When he was on the Badarpur flyover near Tughlakabad metro

station, his scooter was hit from behind by a car. As a result of this accident/impact, he fell from the flyover onto the service road," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast, Rajesh Deo said.

The DCP said that his relatives have been notified, and legal action is being taken. The driver of the offending vehicle, Virender Rana, 35, a resident of Uttam Nagar, has also been apprehended, he added.



Assam CM downplays 'threats' issued by Sikh radical outfit

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday downplayed an alleged threat made by a pro-Khalistani leader demanding members of the hardline group 'Waris Punjab De' (WPD), including its leader Amritpal Singh, be moved from the Central Jail in Dibrugarh to Amritsar. "Why do you think that Khalistanis are such a threat? The threat was for me, yet it seemed like you were more afraid," CM Sarma told reporters. The alleged threat was conveyed to the journalists' cell phones through recorded messages from someone claiming to

Guwahati, Mar 4 (IANS): be Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the leader of banned outfit "Sikhs for Justice". The message threatened Sarma with "consequences" if he does not order the transfer of Amritpal Singh and his aides to the Amritsar jail from Dibrugarh. It further stated that "Sikhs for Justice" is bringing a case against India before the UN. Ten members of the pro-Khalistani group, including Amritpal and one of his uncles. were apprehended from different regions of Punjab as part of a crackdown on the group, and they were lodged at Dibrugarh Central Jail since March last year under the National Security Act (NSA).



Those who want to leave the party should go, says Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur, Mar 4 (IANS): Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday vacated the official CM's residence, three months after the Congress lost power to the BJP in the Assembly polls. Gehlot shifted to bungalow No. 49, where he used to stay between 2013 to 2018 when he was in the opposition. The bungalow is located right in front of former CM Vasundhara Raje's residence. Answering a media query on party workers leaving the Congress, Gehlot said, "Those who want to leave the party, should leave quickly. People who don't feel like staying in the party can go. Also, those who are under pressure from the ED and CBI should go."

Better public transport system to boost sustainable mobility in Gurugram, Faridabad

Gurugram, Mar 4 (IANS): and terminals to facilitate A. Sreenivas, the Chief Execuseamless bus services, intetive Officer (CEO) of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority, on Monday chaired a meeting attended by officials of both the departments to discuss the sibility for citizens by estabcomprehensive revamp of the lishing a widespread and public transport system in robust network of city buses Gurugram and Faridabad.

"The expansion of bus fleet in these metropolitan cities, development of adequate infrastructure such as bus depots gration with other public transport services such as the Metro, and adopting smart ticketing solutions are among key focus areas, " Sreenivas said.

"We aim to improve accesto cater to the evolving needs of the riders in the future. Adoption of a longterm strategy to bring in planned improvements in all



aspects of city bus services is being looked into," he added. At present, 150 buses of Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL) ply in Gurugram and 50 are plying in Faridabad. As many as 100 electric buses each are being allotted to both the cities under the PM e-Bus Seva Scheme, which are expected to be added to the fleet by October this year.

Another RJD MLA quits party to join BJP

Patna, Mar 4 (IANS): RJD's Bharat Bind on Monday became the fifth MLA to quit the party and shift to the BJP. Earlier, RJD MLAs Chetan Anand, Neelam Devi, Prahlad Yadav, and Sangeeta Kumari had quit to join the BJP. Two Congress MLAs, Sidhartha Saurav, and Murari Prasad Gautam also quit their party and joined the BJP. Bind, elected on the RJD ticket from Bhabhua Assembly constituency in Kaimur district, said: "I have no complaints with any leader of the party, I came out of the party on my own. It is a democracy and it is my personal decision to go with the BJP." "I am inspired by the works and vision of PM Narendra Modi and hence, decided to go with the BJP. He is coming to Bihar and it is a good thing." Asked about the action the RJD will take against him, Bind said: "We are ready to face the action.



Partha Chatterjee agreed to take financial responsibility of child that Arpita Mukherjee wanted to adopt: ED

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday claimed to have got specific clues that former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chaterjee had signed an undertaking agreeing to take the financial responsibility of a child that his close associate Arpita Mukherjee wished to adopt. Both Chatterjee and Mukherjee are in currently in judicial custody for their alleged involvement in the multi-crore cash-for-school jobs case in West Bengal. The ED had recovered huge quantities of cash and gold from the twin residences of Mukherjee in July 2022, which

Kolkata, Mar 4 (IANS): The the latter had claimed were kept there by former Education Minister Chatterjee. Recently, Chaterjee had moved a bail plea in the Calcutta High Court, and during the course of arguments, his counsel had said that the onus of the cash and gold recovered from Mukerhee's residences cannot be put on his client, adding that the relationship between the two was like that of an 'uncle and niece'. However, the ED now claiming that Chatterjee had signed an undertaking to take the financial responsibility of a child that Mukherjee wished to adopt has given a new twist to the case.

Samajwadi Party reiterates demand for ballot papers instead of EVMs in polls

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has told the Election Commission (EC) that people had lost faith in electronic voting machines (EVMs) and ballot papers should be used in polling. In a meeting with the EC team on Monday evening, other opposition parties raised the issue of alleged malfunctioning in EVMs, irregularities in electoral rolls, abuse of government machinery by the ruling party and strict enforcement of the model code of conduct during elections. SP also raised objection to the EC's directive to the political parties to refrain from using children in election campaigns.

"Elections are considered a festival of our democracy and people of all age groups, including children, participate in the election activities," said Naresh Uttam Patel, SP State President. The EC team led by Chief

Lucknow, Mar 4 (IANS): Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar is in Lucknow on a threeday visit to review the preparation in Uttar Pradesh for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP delegation urged the poll panel for checking voters, who arrived at polling booths with their faces covered under burqas or veils, at multiple levels by women staff to curb bogus voting during the Lok Sabha election.

The poll panel was also urged to conduct the polling process under video cameras at all polling booths across the state. The BJP delegation,

including Co-operative Minister J.P.S Rathor, State General Secretary Sanjay Rai and State Convenor Arunkant Tripathi raised the demand for setting up of polling booths in multi-storied buildings and residential societies to ensure participation of maximum voters, proper seating arrangement at polling booths for the elderly and differently-abled voters, transparent electoral rolls and a clear cut guideline for the installation of party flags and wall writing in the Lok Sabha election.





Ukraine approves plan of cooperation with NATO in 2024

Kiev, Mar 4 (IANS): Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov signed a plan for the implementation of the adapted Annual National Program of Cooperation with NATO for 2024, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry reported. Aiming at reforming Ukraine's security and defence sector, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry mapped out 50 steps to achieve 17 goals in its plan, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

The plan includes creating a joint NATO-Ukraine centre for analysis, training and education, developing national documents based on NATO standards and completing the transformation of its command and control system in accordance with NATO principles and standards. The Ukrainian Parliament earlier declared rapprochement with NATO as one of the key priorities for Ukraine this year. NATO recognised Ukraine as its Enhanced Opportunities Partner in 2020. In September 2023, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that the alliance is not ready to accept Ukraine as a member while its war with Russia is in an active stage.



Finland's new president Stubb takes office

Alexander Stubb took office as the 13th President of Finland on Monday during a session of the Finnish Parliament, succeeding Sauli Niinisto. Stubb, 55, won the presidential election in February. He once served as Finnish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Xinhua news agency reported. In his inaugural address, Stubb called for unity and solidarity

Helsinki, Mar 4 (IANS): among Finns, urging them to cherish the traditions of trust, justice, and communal support that form the basis of Finnish society, and to embrace change and technological advancements with empathy and adaptability.

> Toward the end, he expressed his dedication to promoting an open, safe, and international Finland and ensuring its continued success.

PTI-backed candidate Ali Amin Gandapur elected K-P CM, PML-N's Sardar Ayaz Sadiq new NA Speaker

Islamabad, Mar 4 (IANS): Pa- On economic situation, the chief kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed candidate Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday was elected as chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province while PML-N's Sardar Ayaz Sadiq became the National Assembly Speaker. The chief minister demanded the resignation of Pakistan Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja accusing him of being involved in the "rigging" in the February 8 general elections, Geo News reported.

Ali Amin Gandapur also sought quashing of FIRs against the female candidates of PTI, and asked Pakistan Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to form a judicial commission to probe the May 9 violence.

He demanded fair trial for PTI founder Imran Khan and his release from jail.

He promised to live up to expectations of Imran Khan.

minister said: "We need to stand on our own feet, increase our revenue and give relief to the poor." Gandapur became chief minister defeating Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Ibadullah Khan.

Ali Amin Gandapur had served as the federal minister for Kashmir affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan during PTI's tenure at the Cen-

He had also served as a member of the KP Assembly from 2013 to 2018 and provincial minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Pakistan's presidential election on March 9

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday announced that the election for the office of the South Asian country's president will be held on March 9.

The polling for the presidential election will be held on March 9 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. local time. The voting will be held in the Parliament House and the four provincial assemblies of Pakistan, it said in a notification, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the schedule, contesting candidates are required to submit their nomi-

Islamabad, Mar 4 (IANS): nation papers on March 2, marking the commencement of the electoral process for the presidential election.

> Following the submission phase, the scrutiny of nomination papers is scheduled to take place on March 4, and the final list of candidates will be displayed on March 5, according to the ECP notification. The notification issued by the ECP reads, "In pursuance of the provisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 read with clauses (3) and (4) of Article 41 of the Constitution, Public Notification for election to the office of the Presi-



dent of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is hereby issued and in relation thereto the following programme for receipt of nomination papers, scrutiny of nomination papers, withdrawal of candidature, publication of list of validly nominated candidates, retirement and the polling day," Geo news reported. The Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan will assume the role of the Returning Of-

ficer for the presidential election, supervising the entire voting process. An alliance of major political parties, including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), has nominated Asif Ali Zardari as its candidate for the presidency. Zardari served as the president of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013.



India to implement hybrid power project in Sri Lanka's northern islands

India on Monday inked a pact with Sri Lanka to provide renewable energy to three islands Delft, Nainativu and Analaitivu off Jaffna which are completely cut off from the national grid. On behalf of Sri Lankan government, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority and M/s. U Solar Clean Energy Solutions Pvt. contract for the implementathe the national grid.

Colombo, Mar 4 (IANS): tion of Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems as a grant assistance from Government of India (GOI). The agreement was signed in the presence of High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha and Sri Lanka State Minister for Power and Energy Indika Anuruddha

The hybrid project, which is aimed at addressing energy needs of the people of the three islands combines various forms of energy including both solar and wind, towards optimising capacities, the Indian High Commission said. "GOI's assistance to the project for the people Ltd from India signed the of the three islands, which are not connected to



Russia has no plan to station nuclear weapons in space: Putin

Moscow, Mar 4 (IANS): Russia does not plan to deploy nuclear weapons in space, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with the country's security council members. "We have already discussed false allegations that are currently being made by some Western officials about our supposed plans to deploy nuclear weapons in space," said the Kremlin on Monday, citing the President. In his annual State of the Nation address on Monday, Putin called such allegations "unfounded" and "fake narratives," designed by the West to draw Russia into negotiations on terms that only benefit the US, Xinhua news agency reported. The statement came after a wave of Western media reports claiming US intelligence data has revealed that Russia is working on the development of a nuclear space weapon.

Guterres condemns killing of over 100 around food convoy in Gaza

(IANS): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday condemned the killing of more than 100 people in incidents in northern Gaza and repeated his demands for a ceasefire, his Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

On the day Gaza's Health Ministry announced that the death toll crossed the 30,000 mark since Israel's attacks began on October 8, 104 people were killed and more than 700 injured in the incidents around a food convoy in the Gaza City area, according to the Palestine news agency, Wafa.

The agency said that according to medical sources, Israeli troops had opened fire with heavy machine guns at people

United Nations, Mar 4 waiting for trucks laden with hu- lence caused the incident. manitarian assistance for distribu-

> "The Secretary-General condemns the incident today in northern Gaza in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid," Dujarric said. He added that Guterres "is appalled by the tragic human toll of the conflict in Gaza, in which more than 30,000 people have now reportedly been killed and more than 70,000 injured. Tragically, an unknown number of people lie under unjustifiable," he also conrubble"

His statement did not name Israel in the attack, and Dujarric explained to reporters that the UN did not as yet have direct knowledge of what happened, but he said that acts of vio-

UN Human Rights High Commissioner Volker Turk called the killings in Gaza, "carnage"

"There appear to be no bounds to -- no words to capture -- the horrors that are unfolding before our eyes in Gaza," he said in Geneva at a meeting on Occupied Palestine Territories. While denouncing the 10/7 Hamas attack on Israel as "profoundly traumatising and totally demned "the brutality of the Israeli response" which resulted in "the unprecedented level of killing and maiming of civilians in Gaza, including UN staff and journalists".



Russia ready to

return crash victims'

Moscow, Mar 4 (IANS):

Russia has expressed its

readiness to transfer the bod-

ies of those who perished in

bodies to Ukraine

On January 24, the Ukrainian armed forces shot down a Russian military transport aircraft, the Il-76, over the Belgorod region. The aircraft was carrying 65 Ukrainian prisoners for exchange.

Xinhua news agency re-

ported.



IPL 2024: Sunrisers Hyderabad appoint Pat Cummins as captain for upcoming season

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have appointed Pat Cummins as the captain of the side ahead of the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, said the franchise through its social media accounts on Monday. SRH were captained by Aiden Markram in previous two seasons, but didn't gain any significant success, especially finishing at the bottom of the

points table in IPL 2023, having just four wins from 14 matches. Markram, though, successfully led SunRisers Eastern Cape, a sister team of the SRH franchise to the trophy in the first two seasons of the SA20.

But Cummins had a magnificent 2023, which boosted his leadership credentials – winning the World Test Championship (WTC), retaining the Ashes in England and claiming a record

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): points table in IPL 2023, having sixth Men's ODI World Cup as Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) just four wins from 14 matches. captain of Australia.

It will be the first time Cummins will be captaining a side in the IPL and reunites with Daniel Vettori, the new SRH head coach who also works as an assistant coach for Australia. He also becomes the second Australian to be SRH's captain after fellow country-mate David Warner, who led the franchise in 67 matches from 2015 to 2021. In last year's IPL Auction at

Dubai, Cummins was roped in by the franchise for a whopping Rs 20.5 crore, making him the second-most expensive player in the history of the league. Cummins has previously been a part of Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. Sunrisers Hyderabad, the IPL 2016 winners, will open its IPL 2024 campaign on March 23 against two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens.





Legends Cricket Trophy to kick off with clash between Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh in Kandy

Kandy, Mar 4 (IANS): India's cricketing greats -- Harbhajan Singh and Yuvraj Singh -- are all set to lock horns in the Legends Cricket Trophy opener, starting on March 8 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, here. Yuvraj Singh, the captain of the New York Superstar Strikers, will lead the side comprising the likes of Dan Christian, Isuru Udana, Jerome Taylor, Ricardo Powell, Chamara Kapugedara, Rahul Sharma, and Lahiru Thirimanne, to name a few.



Yashasvi Jaiswal amongst nominees for

ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2024

New Delhi, Mar 4 (IANS): India's in-form opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2024 alongside New Zealand's Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka.

Jaiswal is nominated for the first time in the ICC Player of the Month awards following a sensational month in Tests against England. India began the month trailing 1-0 after losing the Hyderabad Test by 28 runs, but overturned the deficit with thanks in large part to the remarkable form of Jaiswal.

He smashed back-to-back double centuries in Visakhapatnam and Rajkot – the latter equalling the record for most sixes in a Test innings with 12. With more runs

coming in the fourth Test at Ranchi, including a half-century in the first innings, Jaiswal, 22, ended February having amassed 560 runs at an average of 112.

The back-to-back double hundreds at the age of 22 years and 49 days also made him the third youngest batter in the world to record two double centuries in Tests after Sir Donald Bradman and Vinod Kambli. Jaiswal has also rose to the top of the leading run-scorer list in the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle. On the other hand, Williamson is nominated for the honour for the first time since March 2023 after another series of century scores dominated the headlines in New Zealand's first-ever Test series victory over South Africa.

Williamson's two Tests during February heralded 403 runs and the Player of the Series accolade, as he hit twin centuries in the first Test at Mount Maunganui (118 and 109) before his 133 in the second innings at Hamilton helped the hosts chase down 267 to seal a series whitewash. Meanwhile, Nissanka excelled in Sri Lanka's recent three ODIs and three T20Is against Afghanistan, smashing the first ever ODI double-century for his country at Pallekele (210 not out in 139 balls) to begin the month in a blistering fashion.

More runs came in the third ODI, as Nissanka hit 118 in 101 balls to seal another convincing win for Sri Lanka.



'Bairstow at his best when he has a point to prove', says Root ahead of wicketkeeper's 100th Test

New Delhi, March 4 (IANS) Ahead of Jonny Bairstow playing his 100th Test match when England play India in the fifth Test at Dharamshala on March 7, long-time team-mate Joe Root said the wicketkeeper-batter is at his best when he has a point to prove. Bairstow will become the 17th men's Test player from England to play 100 Test matches in the series finale against India. Citing how Sir Geoffrey Boycott inspired Bairstow to convert fifties into hundreds, Root recalled how it fired him up to prove a point, a trait which has now become synonymous with the wicketkeeper-batter.

"He likes to wear his emotions on his sleeve which I think makes him what he is. It brings the best out of him. A good example of that was at the end of one of the seasons at Yorkshire when he had just broken into the first team.

"Me and Gary Ballance were coming through in the second team and we were all called into a meeting with the president at the time which was Sir Geoffrey Boycott. He sat us all down and said to me and Gary, 'you are playing very well in the second team, keep working hard, keep doing certain things right and it won't be long until you get in the first team'.



Tennis: Sebastian Baez beats Alejandro Tabilo for Santiago title

Santiago, Mar 4 (IANS): The Argentine Sebastian Baez won the Chile Open, ATP 250 event, by defeating the Chilean Alejandro Tabilo 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 to clinch the sixth title of his career and the second consecutive of the 2024 season. With the title win, the 23-year-old Argentine will climb to a career-high No. 19 in the ATP Rankings on Monday and will become the best-ranked South American, surpassing his compatriot Francisco Cerundolo.

With the victory this Sunday, Baez completed two undefeated weeks - in which he won the ATP 500 in Rio de Janeiro and the Chile Open, where he chained nine consecutive victories. Tabilo made a quick start and the lefty took the opening set. After an uncharacteristically out-of-rhythm start from Baez, he locked in from the back of the court for the final two sets. Many rallies were grinding duels from behind the baseline and in those situations, Tabilo was unable to consistently find ways to put his opponent under duress.

The Chilean found his moments and hit some jaw-dropping shots, including a stunning backhand down the line to help him break back when Baez served for the match at 5-3 in the deciding set, ATP reports. But the second seed was able to successfully ride those waves of momentum and rely on his heavy forehand to control the action. Despite losing serve on the verge of victory, Baez hit the final forehand winner to capture the title. v"I have many feelings because in the beginning of the match, I didn't feel good. It was all different, the first set, the second set and the third," said Baez. "I think it was from less to high all the time. So I will just enjoy with my team because we fought from years ago to be here and to want to be with high moments, high ranking."

NZ coach Gary Stead admits to 'misreading pitch' in Wellington Test against Aus

New Delhi, March 4 (IANS): Head coach Gary Stead admitted New Zealand had misjudged the pitch of Basin Reserve in the series opener, accepting that the hosts got their selection wrong for the first Test against Australia in Wellington.



Premier League: Foden's brace inspires City to turnaround win over United

Manchester, Mar 4 (IANS): A Phil Foden double and Erling Haaland's stoppage-time strike earned Manchester City a 3-1 turnaround victory over Manchester United to move a point behind leaders Liverpool in Premier League table.

The Pep Guardiola side are now unbeaten in their last 12 Premier League matches.

Man City have completed a Premier League double over rivals Man Utd for a sixth time – with half of these coming under Guardiola (also 2018/19 and 2021/22).

City had fallen behind to a thunderous Marcus



Rashford goal on eight minutes - against the run of play - and spent the next 50 minutes or so trying to find a way past a resolute United back-line. But Foden levelled on 56 minutes with a screamer into the top corner from 20 yards, then scored a delightful second ten minutes from the end of normal time.



World Athletics Indoor C'ships: Duplantis retains pole vault title in Glasgow

Glasgow, Mar 4 (IANS): Olympic and world champion Armand Duplantis made a successful defence of his pole vault title at the World Athletics Indoor Championships, clearing a world-leading 6.05m.

Having skipped at 5.75m, Duplantis returned to the fray after a period of almost 20 minutes and he seemed to have lost his focus as failing twice to clear at 5.85.

He found the way to progress, however. A first failure at 5.95m created another pressure point for him to negotiate – but he responded like the champion in his second effort, marking the clearance with a surge of energy.