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PM lays stones for multiple development projects in Sangareddy

Sangareddy, Mar 5 (NSS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 6,800 crore in Sangareddy. The projects encompass key sectors like road, rail, petroleum, aviation and natural gas.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said the Centre has been working continuously to assist the development of Telangana as today marks the second day of his visit to the State. He recalled laying the foundation stones and dedicating multiple development projects to the nation worth Rs 56,000 crore from Adilabad on

Monday in the sectors of energy, climate and infrastructure and mentioned today's occasion where development projects worth about Rs 7,000 crore are being unveiled and foundation stones are being laid which include sectors of highways, railways, airways and petroleum. "I believe in the mantra of rashtira vikas through vikas of

the States", the Prime Minister said, highlighting the government's working ideology. He emphasized that the Central government is working to serve Telangana with the same spirit and congratulated the citizens for the development works of today. The Prime Minister called the inauguration of the Civil Aviation

Research Organization (CARO) center in Hyderabad at Begumpet Airport, a major gift for Telangana in the aviation sector. This center is the first of its kind and will give new recognition to Telangana in the field. This will give a research and development platform to the aviation startups in the country, the Prime Minister added.

Stressing the centrality of modern infrastructure in the resolution of Viksit Bharat, PM Modi mentioned the allocation of Rs 11 lakh crore in

this year's Budget. In an effort to provide maximum benefits of this to Telangana, the Prime Minister said, Kandi to Ramsanpalle section of NH-161 and Miryalaguda to Kodad Section of NH-167 will improve transport facilities between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Prime Minister said, "Telangana is known as the gateway to South India", and highlighted the government's efforts to improve rail connectivity.



CM Revanth orders vigilance inquiry in fish, sheep distribution schemes

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS) : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has ordered the officials to conduct a vigilance and enforcement inquiry into transactions of fish and sheep distribution schemes which were implemented during the previous BRS government in Telangana. The Chief Minister held a review meeting with of-

officials of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries departments at the Secretariat here on Tuesday and asked the officials to conduct a full-scale investigation into the transactions that have taken place since the inception of the schemes. He instructed the officials to submit the vigilance and enforcement preliminary report to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).



BRS forms alliance with BSP in Lok Sabha elections

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS) : A new alliance has been formed in Telangana ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The alliance between the BRS party and the BSP has been finalised. The BSP has decided to go with the BRS

party in the upcoming elections. The party has announced that it will contest in the MP elections in alliance with the BRS party. The BRS party chief KCR today made it clear that there would be an honourable alliance with BSP.



Balmoor Venkat lambasts MLC Kavitha for misleading unemployed on G.O.3

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS) : Congress MLC Balmoor Venkat Narsig Rao has lambasted BRS MLC Kavitha for misleading the unemployed youth and women on the issue of G.O.3. Finding fault with Kavitha's decision to launch protest

at Dharna Chowk on March 8, demanding the State govt to revoke GO.No.3, the Congress MLC said he is ready for open discussion on the subject and will go to the Dharna Chowk if the BRS leader invites.

Another BRS MLA meets CM Revanth

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS) : Another BRS MLA Kale Yadaiah, who represents Chevella Assembly constituency in Rangareddy district, called on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat here on Tuesday. Even though the BRS MLA stated that it is a courtesy call meeting the Chief Minister to seek sanction of funds for the development of the constituency, the BRS cadre is expressing doubts over his move and suspect that he is too likely to join the Congress party soon.



CM Jagan unveils Vision Visakha with Rs 1,05,000 Cr to develop Vizag

Visakhapatnam, Mar 5 (NSS) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy took centre stage at the 'Development Dialogue' in Visakhapatnam today, where he unveiled 'Vision Visakha', a comprehensive plan

to develop Visakhapatnam over the next decade into a megacity on the East coast that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's finest centers of progress, innovation, finance and fintech.

Continued on pg 02



MLC Kavitha lashes out at CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS) : BRS party MLC Kavitha today lashed out at CM Revanth Reddy. Addressing mediapersons,

Sravan slams Revanth for taking credit for jobs given by BRS regime



Hyderabad, Mar 5 (IANS) : BRS party Hyderabad Incharge Dr Dasoju Shraavan has accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of taking false credit for providing government jobs.





Modi alleges BRS & Congress two faces of same coin

Patancheru, Mar 5 (NSS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today alleged that there was a strong "dark bond" between the Congress and the BRS parties. He also alleged that both parties were two faces of the same coin. Speaking at the 'Vijaya Sankalpa Sabha' organised by the BJP at Patancheru in Sangareddy district on Tuesday, Prime Minister Modi alleged that there was a strong corruption bond between the two parties and added that the whole world knew about it. "Telangana has become an ATM for the Congress party. In the name of Kaleswaram, the BRS party looted thousands of crores of rupees. But the Congress was hiding the corruption of the BRS party."



Union bank of india, Regional Office, Bengaluru, South, organised Walkathon on the occasion of International Women's Day. Shri Asim Kumar Pal, Regional Head inaugurated the programme. All Lady Executives, Branch Managers & All lady staff members participated.

Canara Bank ABID ROAD BRANCH Regional Office - II, Recovery & Legal Section Hyderabad

ANNEXURE - 10:

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (for Immovable property)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 11.12.2023 calling upon the borrower **Mrs. SNEHAL SATHISH KASTURE** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.46,12,963.56 (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three and Paise Fifty Six only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 04th day of March of the year 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs.46,12,963.56** and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that the property house bearing flat no 302 in the 3rd floor of PSR ARCADE with admeasuring built up area 855 sqft, including common areas, with an undivided share of land admeasuring 35 sq yards or 28.42 sq mtrs. out of total admeasuring 796.64 sq yards or 665.99 sq mtrs being constructed on plot no s 66 and 67 in survey no 403 part situated at ward no 16 Darmaiguda h/o Nagaram Village, under Darmaiguda municipality, Keesara mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri district. **Boundaries of Flat:** North: Open to Sky; South: Lift And Open to Sky; East: Corridor and Flat No 303; West: Open To Sky. **Boundaries of the Land:** North: By plot no 39 (Sai Chandra colony-Phase-1), South: By neighbors land, East: By 30' wide road, West: By Neighbors Plots (Part of Sy No 403)

Date: 04.03.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Hyderabad CANARA BANK

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1)
3rd Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad-500001.

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RCI/267/2023 21-11-2023

M/s. Maximus ARC Limited.,
Versus
M/s. New Horizon Ind. Ventures Pvt Ltd.,

To
(CD 1) M/s. New Horizon Ind. Ventures Pvt Ltd., H.No. 3-179/NR Plot No.179, Guttaia Begumpet -S1, Phase:1 Kavuri Hills, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana -500081
(CD 2) H. Ramesh, S/o Sri Haridas, R/o. 1016A, R.D.No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500033
(CD 3) Smt. H.Urvashi Ramesh, R/o. 1016A, R.D. No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500033

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT1) in OA/407/2018 an amount of Rs.35,93,93,146.09 (Rupees Thirty Five Crores Ninety Three Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Six and Paise Nine Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 19% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 24-05-2018 till realization and costs of Rs.2,60,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Thousands 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 receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 23-02-2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 21-11-2023

Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 1)

Tata Capital Ltd
Registered Office: 11th Floor Peninsula Business Park, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013.
Branch Office: Tata Capital Ltd., 3rd Floor, Punnah & Vajramma Complex, 59-6-17, Kanchukotavari Street, Ramachandra Nagar, Polyechnic Post, Vijayawada-520008.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Tata Capital Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 08th July 2022, to 1) Mr. Kadir Balakrishna, S/o. Venkaat Narasimha, Door No. 32-10-3G, Gummadivari Street, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, Pin- 520010, Andhra Pradesh Also having address at Door No- 4-164, Mahalakshmi Nagar, 3rd Cross Road, Poranki, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh- 521137 and 2) Mrs. Kadir Aruna Kumari, W/o. Kadir Balakrishna, S. Door No- 32-10-3G, Gummadivari Street, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, Pin- 520010, Andhra Pradesh Also having address at Door No- 4-164, Mahalakshmi Nagar, 3rd Cross Road, Poranki, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh- 521137, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 66,01,559/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs One Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Only)** in Loan Account No. TCFLA0454000010986666 along with interest, future interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, on this the 28th day of February 2024.

The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Tata Capital Limited, for an amount of **Rs.88,02,534/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakhs Two Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Four Only)** as on 21st February 2024 along with future interest, charges, costs etc thereon till the date of payment.

[The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets]

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that is part and parcel of property of immovable property bearing House No 16-18-41 having 172 sq yards in TS No. 479, Block No 4, situated at Burelavari Street, Old Guntur, Guntur Municipal Corporation Area, Guntur Sub Registry, Guntur District and the same is bounded by: **Boundaries:** East: Property of A Koti Veeriah & Others 71.6 ft. **South:** Property of M Venkata Narasimha Rao 27.0 ft. **West:** Property of K Venkallu 33.9 ft. **Again South:** Property of K Venkallu 7.0 ft. **South:** Property of K Venkallu 32.0 ft., **North:** Municipal Road 21.0 ft.

Place: Guntur Sd/- Mr. P. MADHAV (Authorised Officer)
Date: 05-03-2024 Tata Capital Limited

CM Jagan unveils Vision Visakha with Rs 1,05,000 Cr to develop Vizag

Continued From pg 01

The CM proposed investment to the tune of Rs 1,05,000 crore over the next 10 years to enhance the robustness of connectivity, physical and social infrastructure, industry landscape, and sustainability, ensuring that Vizag becomes not only the most sought-after investment destination but also one of the best liveable cities in the world.

Addressing gathering, CM Jagan not only reflected on the reasons why Visakhapatnam should be developed as the capital, but also laid out an ambitious roadmap for the same. CM Jagan began his address by highlighting the unjust bifurcation of the State. He remarked, 'The State's bifurcation deprived Andhra Pradesh of Hyderabad city and the economic benefits associated with it. All the economic resources including 90% of the PSUs, which largely contribute to the growth of the State's tertiary/service sector, were stationed in Hyderabad. Due to the excessive concentration of investments in Hyderabad, including IDPL, NMDC, NFC, ICT, the rest of Andhra Pradesh remained largely agrarian. To bring about a change, we should focus on Vizag's growth story so that ten years down the line we can compete with Hyderabad and Bangalore.'

He said "Time has come for us to leverage our inherent advantages, notably our 974 km coastline, the second longest in the country, which holds immense potential for port-led development. To harness this potential, the YSRCP government is in the process of establishing four new ports. We are rapidly developing ports with an investment of Rs 16,000 crore. These ports will not only attract investments but also create numerous employment opportunities across various sectors such as Cement, Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing, Textiles, Fertilizers, including green ammonia, solar PV manufacturing, and more.'



Narayana urges Centre & SBI to submit data of anonymous donors by election bonds

Chennai, Mar 5 (NSS): CPI National Secretary Dr K Narayana urged the Union government and Reserve Bank Of India to issue necessary directives to State Bank of India to submit the entire data pertaining to anonymous donors through election bonds. Reserve Bank of India is constitutional body and the responsibility lies on RBI to give necessary directives to its subsidiary to honour the verdict of the highest court of the nation. In a statement here today, Narayana said Supreme Court has asked SBI to submit the data by March 6, but it wants to submit it by June 30.

HDB Financial Services Ltd.
Regd. Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-09.
Branch: #Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor H.No: 1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500016

[APPENDIX IV] POSSESSION NOTICE

See Rule 8(1) (For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. HDB Financial Services Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) (3) & R/w Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 calling upon the Applicant/Co-Applicants/Garantor in **Loan A/c Nos.13890076,8741903, 1) SRR Civil Works And Services, 16-4-1022/3, Shiva Nagar, Warangal, Warangal-506002, Telangana, 2) Masani Udaya, H.No.16-4-1022/3, Shiva Nagar, Warangal, Warangal-506002, Telangana, 3) Masani Udaya, H.No.16-4-1022/3, Shiva Nagar, Warangal, Warangal-506002, Telangana. To repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.20,08,101.08 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eight Thousand One Hundred & One Paise Eight Only)** as on 15.12.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The Applicant /Co-Applicants/Garantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Applicant /Co-Applicants/Garantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act R/w Rule 8 and 9, on this 1st day of March of the year 2024.

The Applicant /Co-Applicants/Garantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **M/s. HDB Financials Ltd.**, for an amount of **Rs.20,08,101.08 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eight Thousand One Hundred & One Paise Eight Only)** and interest and charges thereon.

The Applicant /Co-Applicants/Garantor attention is invited to provisions of Sub- Sec.8 of the Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES:-

All that part and parcel of Silt, Ground and First Floors in RCC & G.I. Roof Building Consisting Silt +03 Upper Floors Bearing it's H.No.16-4-1022/3 having it's Silt RCC Plinth Area: 656.00 Sq Feet (1/4 Equal share out of total Silt Plinth area of 2624.00 Sqfeet), G/F RCC Roof Plinth Area: 1134.00 Sq. feet & S/F G.I. Roof Plinth Area: 616.00sq feet (Including Common Areas and Balconies) together with an undivided share of Plot measuring 78.25 Sq yards out of total Plot Admeasuring 313.00 Sq yards situated at Vishwantha Colony, Shivanagar, Warangal City. Here to and along with all elements rights and other rights and interests in respect of the said Flats, which Flats are Bounded As Follows. **Boundaries For Ground Floor With Rcc Plinth Area Of 1134.00 Sq Feet:** North: Common Balcony, South: Open to Sky, East: Common Balcony and Lift, West: Common Balcony and Staircase. **Boundaries For Ground Floor With G.I Plinth Area Of 616.00 Sq Feet:** North: Portion allotted to Fourth Party, South: Common Balcony and Lift, East: Common Balcony, West: Open to Sky.

Date: 01-03-2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Warangal HDB Financial Services Ltd.

Cottage Emporium inaugurated at Salarjung Museum

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS): Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Textiles & Railways inaugurated the Cottage Emporium, popularly known as "The Cottage" at the Salarjung Museum, here today. Addressing the mediapersons, Darshana Jardosh said the opening of the Cottage Emporium at Hyderabad is significant milestone in our Journey and testament to our commitment towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local initiative of Government of India. "I urge the Cottage Industry sector of the State of Telangana to come forward and avail the benefits of the schemes of the Central Cottage Corporation of India, she added. She also stated that Prime Minister launched "PM Vishwakarma" a Central Sector Scheme to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople, who work with their hands and tools. She directed the CCIC officials to facilitate Artisans & craftsmen of Telangana to get their Artisans Identity Cards, so that they are benefited. Darshana Jardosh emphasized on the importance of promoting crafts of Hyderabad, weaving traditions of Telangana and projecting crafts persons of Telangana globally, by providing an efficient and viable marketing platform. She said Central Cottage Industries Emporium is taking many steps in promoting the rich and diverse Indian craft heritage & the craftspeople by giving them a platform to exhibit their best creations thus sustaining their livelihood towards making an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Lal, CCICI Managing Director, stated that over 7000 products variety (exhibiting rich art & craft) are on display from all over India from different products segments.

PM Modi is a global leader: Kishan

Patancheru, Mar 5 (NSS): Union Minister G Kishan Reddy today said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a global leader. He recalled that the Narendra Modi government had worked with dedication for the development of Telangana in the last 10 years. Kishan Reddy spoke at the BJP's Vijaya Sankalpa Sabha on Tuesday. He said the Narendra Modi government in Telangana had undertaken various development initiatives. "For national highways, Rs 1.20 lakh crore and Rs 33,000 crore for fertiliser subsidy spent in the State. Rs 35,000 crore was given on ration subsidy and Rs 30,000 crore was spent under the employment guarantee scheme. Rs 26,728 crore

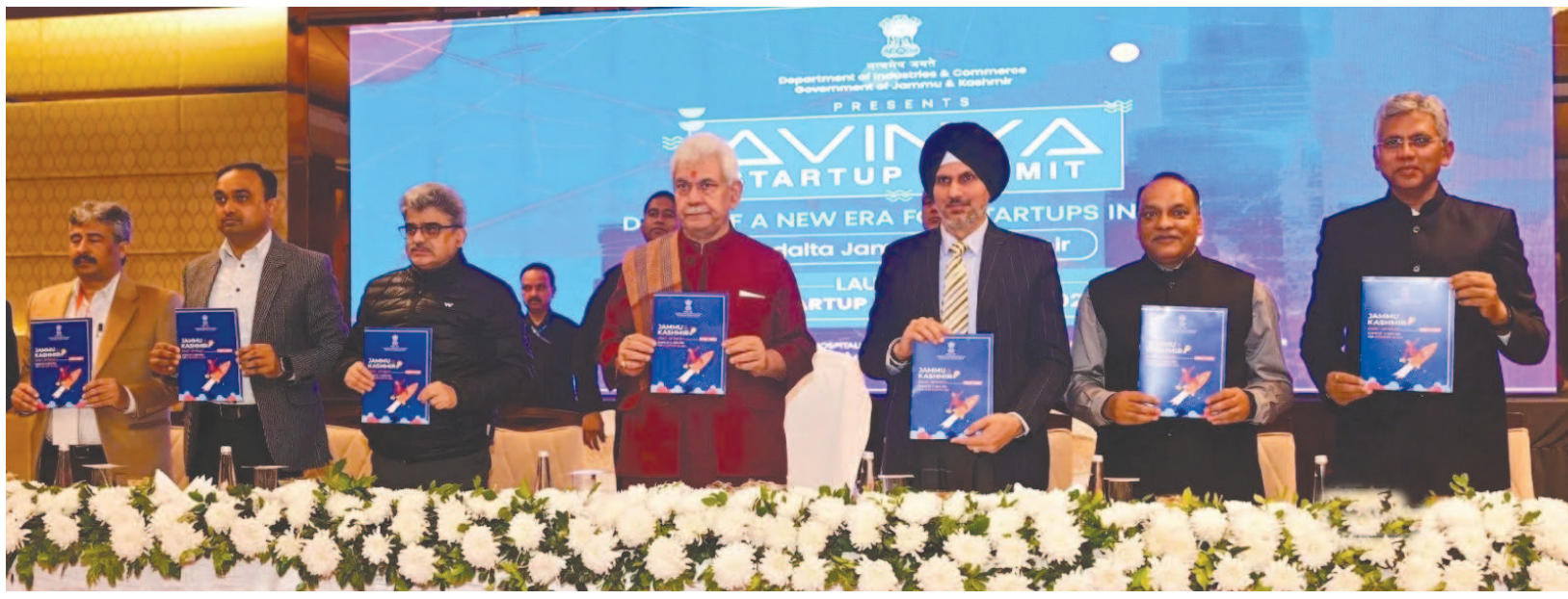
spent for the 1,600 MW power project under NTPC at Ramagundam. Rs 10,998 crore spent under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. Rs 7,500 crore spent under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rs 7,200 crore was spent for the development of gram panchayats. Rs 7,200 crore was spent for urea industry in Ramagundam and Rs 6,338 crore was given as LPG subsidy. The Centre has worked for the development of Telangana in many ways," Reddy said. Kishan Reddy criticised former CM KCR for looting the wealth of Telangana with his family rule. He alleged that the State was looted with land mafia, sand mafia, liquor mafia and contract mafia. "Even after the Congress government came to power in Telangana.

Seethakka to grace Intl Women's Day celebrations at FTCCI

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (NSS): International Women's Day celebrations will be at FTCCI on Wednesday at 3pm at FTCCI, Red Hills. The theme of the celebrations is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress. It will focus on five important issues affecting the welfare of women and children. The FTCCI Women Empowerment Committee is organizing these celebrations by inviting successful women from various fields and conducting a panel discussion on the theme. Dansari Anasuya (Seethakka) Minister Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Women & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana will be the chief guest.

2023 was most successful year for anti-drugs operations in state : Assam CM

Guwahati, Mar 5 (IANS) : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that 2023 was the most successful year for anti-drugs operations in the state. "In 2023, Assam Police seized drugs valued at Rs 718 crore and arrested over 4,700 drug traffickers, making it the most successful year for anti-drugs operations in the state," CM Sarma posted on 'X' on Sunday. "Narendra Modi-led government has been deploying a whole-of-government approach to build a #DrugsFreeBharat," he added.



J&K L-G launches 'New Jammu & Kashmir Start-up Policy 2024-27'

Jammu, Mar 5 (IANS) : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor L-G Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched the much-awaited 'New Jammu and Kashmir Start-up Policy- 2024-27', at the Avinya Startup Summit. He congratulated the young entrepreneurs and innovators on the occasion. "New Start-up Policy

aims to establish J&K as one of the leading start-up ecosystems by 2027. It is a giant leap for startups and innovators of Jammu Kashmir," the L-G said. He said the policy has been meticulously drafted to establish 2,000 startups in J&K by 2027, underscoring the commitment of the UT Administration to foster a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Highlighting the key features of the new J&K Start-Up Policy, the L-G said the policy aims to set up a Rs 250 Crore Venture Capital Fund, with an initial infusion of Rs 25 Crores from J&K Administration. He said that this fund will provide crucial support for growth, early-

stage financial handholding and it will encourage growth of viable business models. He said that the new policy will provide patent-related assistance, financial assistance for mentorship to recognised startups, facilitation for DPIIT registration and additional need-based support to start-ups working in diverse fields. zi/dan



Bengal BJP chief injured as car in his convoy meets with accident

Kolkata, Mar 5 (IANS) : A car in the convoy of West Bengal unit BJP president and Lok Sabha MP Sukanta Majumdar met with an accident on Tuesday on National Highway 12 near Santipur in Nadia district. Majumdar, who sustained minor injuries, is, however, "totally safe", a source said. Two bodyguards of Majumdar also received minor injuries. A police officer said that the accident happened when one of the convoy vehicles tried to overtake a bus. The convoy was coming from Dhubulia, where Majumdar went to attend a football tournament. It has been learned that first, the vehicle in the front row of the convoy collided with the bus, and then it was hit by a car that was trailing it. Recently, Majumdar had to be hospitalised after he had fallen sick after he was trapped in the midst of scuffles between the police personnel and BJP supporters at Taki in North 24 Parganas district.



Rajasthan: BJP flags off 'LED Raths' with suggestion boxes to collect input for poll manifesto

Jaipur, Mar 5 (IANS) : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and state unit BJP president C.P. Joshi on Tuesday flagged off the party's 'LED Raths' (LED-installed vehicles) fitted with suggestion boxes to collect input from the people for the party's election manifesto. C.P. Joshi, while addressing the programme, said that during the Assembly elections last year, BJP had prepared its manifesto by taking suggestions from the common people, organisations and institutions. Joshi said that for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a 'Viksit

Bharat' manifesto is being prepared with the suggestions of the common people. The 'LED Raths' were flagged-off from the party's Rajasthan unit headquarters in Jaipur. Common people and workers can also give their suggestions by giving a missed call on 9090902024 through NaMo app and social media. C.P. Joshi said the 'LED Rath' initiative would be launched in the district headquarters as well. Two 'LED Raths' would visit villages in each Lok Sabha constituency. Suggestion boxes will also be kept at party campaigns and public meetings. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma

said that on the lines of the Assembly elections, "we have flagged-off 'LED Raths' for the Lok Sabha elections with the aim of fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047". "Just as we had prepared a manifesto during the assembly elections by seeking suggestions from the people, similarly, this time as well, suggestions from the common people will be collected by visiting the Lok Sabha constituencies, and we will include the good suggestions in our manifesto," the Chief Minister said.

CBI files charge sheet against 7 accused in arms loot case related to Manipur violence

Imphal/Guwahati, Mar 5 (IANS) : The CBI has filed a charge sheet in a Guwahati court against seven accused in a case of looting of arms and ammunition from the Manipur Rifles camp in Manipur last year, officials said on Tuesday. CBI sources said that a large number of attackers looted around 300 arms, approximately 19,800 rounds of ammunition and around 800 pieces of munitions and other accessories from the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion of Manipur Rifles (Indian Reserve Battalion) at Narenseina under Moirang police station in Manipur's

Bishnupur district in August last year. The CBI registered a case on August 24 last year and took over the investigation of the case registered at Moirang Police station following notifications issued by the Manipur government, and subsequently the Centre. Further investigation against other suspects involved in looting of arms and ammunition and other aspects is continuing. The ethnic violence in Manipur broke out on May 3 last year and several cases of arms looting took place in the northeastern state.



Mixed reactions in Trinamool, Bengal opposition parties to Justice Gangopadhyay's announcement

Kolkata, Mar 5 (IANS) : West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress and other opposition parties, including the BJP, expressed mixed opinions to the possibility of Calcutta High Court's Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay joining politics as he did not rule out such a course while announcing his decision on Tuesday to resign from his post.



After tripartite accord, TMP ends 5-day-long sit-in in Tripura

Agartala, Mar 5 (IANS) : A day after signing a tripartite agreement with the Centre and the Tripura government, the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) on Tuesday ended its 5-day-long demonstration at Hathai Kotor on National Highway-8, the

lifeline of the state. The TMP, led by former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman, has been agitating for constitutional solutions to the tribals' economic and political issues for the past few years.

Three die of electrocution in UP

Kaushambhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Three persons, including the DJ, died when a high voltage electric current passed through the music system during a wedding ceremony in Kaushambhi district, police said. The incident took place around midnight in Dulhaniyapur village of Kaushambhi district when the "dwar puja" was taking place. The three injured persons were rushed to the hospital where all three died during treatment. The deceased included Bhaiyya Ram, 22, younger brother of the groom. The police reached the wedding venue and inspected the site. Chhotelal, father of Bhaiyya Ram, refused to allow post-mortem.

Avalanche damages shops in Himachal

Shimla, Mar 5 (IANS) : An avalanche was reported on Tuesday in Himachal Pradesh's remote Lahaul-Spiti district following heavy snowfall, officials said. An official statement quoting the revenue officer said that an avalanche occurred near the Tandi bridge in Lahaul subdivision. Some shops have been partially buried under it. However, there



was no loss of life reported in the disaster. Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has also issued a travel advisory after the avalanche.



Seahawks chopper squadron to be commissioned into Indian Navy

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Indian Navy will commission the newly-inducted MH 60R Seahawk multi-role helicopter (the maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter) at INS Garuda, Kochi, on March 6, a Defence Ministry statement said. The commissioning of the helicopter, designed for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and

rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP), will mark a pivotal moment in India's defence modernisation journey, the Navy said. The Seahawks will be commissioned as INAS (Indian Naval Air Squadron) 334 and the Navy is set to witness a significant surge in its maritime prowess with the induction, a navy official added.

OPINIONmail



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS TO ENSURE A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN REGIONAL DYNAMICS

It is widely recognized that India is experiencing rapid economic growth, currently ranking as the world's fifth-largest economy. In addition, India's stock market has seen significant growth, making it the fourth-largest globally. The country is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is considered one of the most influential leaders in recent times. While Modi's focus includes economic development, his agenda also encompasses a populist Hindu-first ideology, which at times can border on chauvinism or extreme Nationalism and authoritarianism. However, what is not widely known is that these conflicting forces of development and identity politics are contributing to a noticeable divide between the northern and southern regions of India.

The prosperous southern region of India is where one can witness the emergence of a modern and technologically advanced India, characterized by vibrant startups, renowned educational institutions, and state-of-the-art iPhone assembly facilities. However, interestingly, Prime Minister Modi's party does not receive significant support from this region. Instead, it relies more on the economically disadvantaged and densely populated rural areas of the northern region, where Hindi is the predominant language. This division between the north and south will play a crucial role in the upcoming elections in April and May, where Modi is expected to secure a third term as Prime Minister. The way this divide is handled in the long run holds immense significance for India's future. In a concerning scenario, it could lead to a constitutional crisis and disrupt India's unified market. On the other hand, if managed effectively, it has the potential to mitigate the harshness of India's identity politics and foster a more harmonious future.

Geographical divisions have a significant impact on the development of nations. For instance, in the United States, the politics and economy are still influenced by the consequences of the civil war. Similarly, when Deng Xiaoping aimed to introduce economic reforms in China in 1980's, he embarked on a "southern tour" to Guangdong province. By endorsing its entrepreneurial spirit and historical openness, Deng Xiaoping countered opposition from conservative members of the Communist Party and paved the way for the economic boom that propelled China into becoming an economic superpower.

To understand the division within India, we must start with the economic aspect. Historically, the southern region of India has been wealthier and more urbanized. Among India's 28 states, the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, with only 20% of the population, account for 30% of loans and have attracted 35% of foreign investment in the past three years. This economic outperformance can be attributed to factors such as effective governance, quality education, and strong property rights, which have facilitated entrepreneurship and the development of a sophisticated financial system. The economic gap between the north and south has widened since India gained independence in 1947. In 1993, the south contributed 24% to India's GDP, whereas the latest figure stands at 31%.

When foreign executives visit India, they still acknowledge the national government in Delhi, but the most exciting business prospects often lie in the southern region. This is evident in the shift of global supply chains from China to India, where 46% of the country's electronics exports originate from the south. In India's renowned startup ecosystem, 46% of the highly valued tech companies known as "unicorns" come from the south, particularly from Bangalore. Furthermore, the five southern states account for 66% of the IT services industry's exports. Currently, there is a growing trend of establishing "global capability centres," where multinational corporations bring together their global auditors, lawyers, designers, architects, and other professionals. Remarkably, 79% of these centres are located in the southern region of India.

(By Girish Linganna)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Collaboration should be our future 'mantra': Kochi-Muziris Biennale co-founder Bose Krishnamachari

Stressing that collaboration should be "our future mantra" and it is paramount to encourage collaborations with museums, cultural institutions, writers and artists across contemporary art, theatre, music, performance and audiences, artist and co-founder of the prestigious Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Bose Krishnamachari opines, "I strongly believe we should have more tailor-made travel scholarships."

"Besides, higher-level educational scholarships for students should be opened, and 24x7 studios and sites should be made available. Curated programs and exhibitions must be commissioned. These

are all important towards creating an accessible, nourishing art ecosystem," he adds.

Krishnamachari has been ranked 38th on the Global Power 100 list of the most influential people in art by Art Review, an internationally renowned art magazine feels that it is high time that governments start paying more attention to art infrastructure, betterment of museums, exhibition spaces and update the syllabus in art schools. "Our bureaucracy on all levels must seek advice, outsource and commission the right people. They need to give powers to the learned or the experienced - powers to envision projects, infrastructure and public policy," he tells IANS. A pass-out from Sir J. J. School of Art in Mumbai, and a Master of Fine Arts from Goldsmiths'



College, University of London, Bose, who was recently in Saudi Arabia for the AIUla Future Culture Summit, agrees that Middle-Eastern countries are now investing hugely in culture, thus opening up a wide scope for cultural tourism like many countries in Europe. "I was stunned to see the expanse and extent of culture blooming in the region. One had to see the amazing initiatives to believe. Everywhere in Al Ula, below the sky, the visuals are magical and organic sculpture-scapes in multiple scales. It is one

of the best locations to explore more possibilities for a future destination, an intangible and vivacious site in scale. Gio Forma's designed architecture, 2960 mirror skin absorbing images of surroundings - it was just otherworldly," he says.

Impressed to see an array of talented and educated young women who studied abroad and returned to their origin, the artist adds, "Absolute enthusiasm and inquisitiveness with positive energy.

INDIA BLOC MUST QUELL UPPER-CASTE ANXIETY AGAINST PROGRESSIVE PLANK

Cross-voting by the Congress and Samajwadi Party legislators in Rajya Sabha election has certainly not come as commiseration for the RSS and BJP, precisely for Narendra Modi. Had it been the barometer to show the approving sweep in his favour, Modi surely would not have undertaken a night-long exercise along with other members of the central election committee to finalise only the first list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections.

The CEC meeting, which was wrapped up just before dawn consuming nearly five hours, has wider implications. Apparently, the cross-voting in UP and Himachal look like legislators expressing their lack of trust in the leadership, or may have been conjured for some material and monetary gains. It will also be naïve to look at the development in the present political scenario through the narrow prism of fracture within opposition ranks. It would also be incorrect to construe that element of horse-trading has played a crucial role.



Rajasthan to get 1,917 cusecs of water from Yamuna Water Agreement: Ghanshyam Tiwari

BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Ghanshyam Tiwari on Thursday hit back at the 'lies' being spread by the Congress regarding the Yamuna Water Agreement. Tiwari said the Congress kept important works like the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and the Yamuna Water Agreement in abeyance, while the BJP's triple-engine government in Rajasthan, Centre and Haryana has worked to implement both these agreements on the

ground. "Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra is not only misleading the people of the state, but also confusing them. The people of Rajasthan have also seen the extravagant Congress government, when work had to be done by paying money. Former CM Ashok Gehlot did not go out for one-and-a-half years, even his MLAs remained locked in hotels," Tiwari said.

Earlier at a press conference, Dotasra had accused the BJP government of making fake claims on

ERCP water agreement and the Yamuna Water Agreement. He said, "The Yamuna Water Agreement was signed in 1994 and the Upper Yamuna Water Board comprises five states, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. It was decided that Shekhawati would get 1917 cusecs of water. An agreement was also reached in 2001-2002 in which it was decided from which place Haryana would get water. At that time, Haryana's claim was on 13,000 cusecs. Infrastructure had to be prepared to take additional water, but Haryana did not give NOC to Rajasthan."

Tiwari, meanwhile, said that Rajasthan will surely get 1,917 cusecs of water from the Yamuna Water Agreement.

"This is PM Modi's guarantee and it is also certain that if the Prime Minister's guarantee is there, it is going to be fulfilled. The double-engine government in Rajasthan will prepare a DPR on the Yamuna Water Agreement in four months, and work on providing water to Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Neem Ka Thana districts. Renuka, Lakhwar and Kishau dams will be built as per the agreement of the state government.

FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON DEFENDS INCREASED SUPPLIES OF WEAPONS FROM EU TO UKRAINE

On a recent visit to Sweden, French President Emmanuel Macron made a stop at Lund University, engaging in a lively Q&A session with students. The discussion delved into diverse topics, offering insights into his views on critical issues facing Europe and beyond.

Macron was recently in India as the Chief Guest at the 75th Republic Day. But we never had the opportunity to hear him speak on issues of common interest. We also missed out totally on the French First Lady Brigitte Marie-Claude Macron, who perhaps did not accompany the French President on his India tour. Or did she? At least, this columnist

is not able to verify this from available information on the internet. When Macron fell in love with his drama teacher, he was 15 and she was 39. When Macron became the President, he was 39, and the youngest President in the history of France. Their unusual personal life is as much of interest as the leadership quality of Macron.

But thanks to what we are, we could never get the French President in a Q&A session, where some of these details could be further unraveled. While we all human beings are equal and shaped by our individual circumstances, our actions represent what we are finally. More than the individuals, it's their action and achievements that matter. Sometimes, failings too make you great. Let's remember Mirza Ghalib who was both

drunkard and bankrupt. But what he wrote is still recited and relished.

At the Lund University Q&A session Macron acknowledged the significant changes looming on the horizon, citing upcoming elections across Europe and notably, the US presidential election. He

cautioned against vulnerabilities like manipulated elections and rising disinformation, particularly through social media. Russia's role in destabilizing the continent, through both the war in Ukraine and cyberwarfare, was highlighted as a major concern.





Singapore to legislate for strengthened digital infrastructure protection

Singapore, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Singaporean government will introduce an amendment to the Cybersecurity Act to Parliament next week, which will expand the coverage of crucial digital infrastructure, said Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information. The amendment is part of measures to mitigate the disruptions of digital services that Singapore experienced last year,

Teo added on Tuesday during a debate on the Ministry's budget this year in Parliament. Data centres, cloud services, and key entities that hold sensitive data or perform important public functions will be included, she noted. Teo added that digital failures may occur due to non-cyber reasons, such as misconfiguration in cloud architecture, Xinhua news agency reported.

"A task force is studying a new digital infrastructure act to address broader concerns of key digital infrastructure beyond cybersecurity reasons," she said. The operators of large cloud services and data centres may need to meet higher security and resilience standards to reduce the risk of system disruptions under the new act, Teo noted.

UN expert urges US to drop charges against WikiLeaks founder Assange

Geneva, Mar 5 (IANS) : A UN expert has urged the UK authorities not to extradite WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and the US government to drop the charges. Irene Khan, UN special rapporteur on freedom of expression, said on Tuesday in a media statement that the possible extradition to and imminent prosecution in the US of Julian Assange could have serious implications for freedom of expression. Assange is awaiting the decision of the High Court in the

UK on his appeal against extradition to the US, where he is facing charges for publishing classified information on the WikiLeaks platform, Xinhua news agency reported. "I call on the US and the UK, which profess to uphold the right to freedom of expression, to uphold these international standards in the case of Julian Assange," she emphasised, noting that Assange, if extradited, would be the first publisher to be prosecuted in the US under an espionage act.



UN team visits Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza

United Nations, Mar 5 (IANS) : A UN team visited Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and brought aid, the first time the world body has been able to deliver aid into besieged northern Gaza in over a week, said UN humanitarian. A team from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Health Organisation and the UN Children's Fund visited Al-Shifa and brought with them medicines, vaccines and fuel to help ensure that the medical facility remains functioning, said OCHA. The team also met with people who were among those injured on Tuesday while seeking life-saving aid west of Gaza City, Xinhua news agency reported. The hospital, the largest in the Gaza Strip.



US-led airstrikes hit Houthi targets in Yemen

Sanaa, Mar 5 (IANS) : The US-British military coalition launched two airstrikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, residents and the media reported. The strikes hit Houthi mobile missile launchers in the west of the city, residents said on Tuesday on social media platform X. The coalition has made no comment yet, Xinhua news agency reported. This is the latest in a series of strikes aimed at Houthi targets, initiated after the armed group began targeting international commercial shipping vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in No-

vember. The Houthis claimed these actions were in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. On Tuesday, Houthi leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi vowed to launch further missile attacks to disrupt shipping in the region. In a televised address aired on al-Masirah TV, he declared that these attacks would continue to pressure Israel to cease its war with Hamas. Since the Houthi attacks began, several vessels, primarily US, British, and European, have been damaged. Washington re-designated the Houthi group as a "global terrorist organisation" in January.

Israel demands list of hostages alive for further ceasefire talks

Tel Aviv, Mar 5 (IANS) : The mediatory talks for a temporary ceasefire into the ongoing Israel and Hamas war have come to a halt after Israel demanded a list of kidnapped hostages who are alive. Israeli Prime Minister's office told IANS that this message was communicated to the negotiators after an urgent meeting of the War Cabinet chaired by Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel's intelligence agency-military intelligence agency, Mossad and Shin Bet, have revealed earlier that of the 134 hostages, who are in the cus-

tody of Hamas since October 7, 2023, around 31 are dead. International negotiators, including the US, Qatar and Egypt were expecting a ceasefire for the ongoing war from March 4. However, the decision of the Israeli government has hit a roadblock into the negotiations. Both Israel and Hamas had almost agreed for a ceasefire for six weeks and release of 40 Israeli hostages. Around 400 Palestinians, who are in Israeli prisons would also be released. However, Israel was skeptical on the Palestinians who were to be released and had insisted that those accused of grave crimes, including plotting and executing



mass murders would not be released. A series of peace talks were held in Paris and Cairo a week ago with Israeli headed by Mossad Chief David Barnea, Shin Bet head Ronen Bar, the US represented by William Burns, the CIA Chief, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh

Mohammed Bin Al Thani and Egypt by its Intelligence head, Major General Abbas Kalem. The negotiations were to be continued on at Doha but Israel has informed that they won't participate unless the names of hostages who are alive were announced.

Pak Presidential polls : Asif Ali Zardari, Mahmood Achakzai file nomination papers

Islamabad, Mar 5 (IANS) : PPP and the PML-N joint candidate Asif Ali Zardari and PTI backed Sunni Ittehad Council's candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai have filed nomination for the presidential polls in Pakistan, scheduled on March 9. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on Tuesday. The last date for

withdrawal of nomination papers is March 5 and the final list of candidates will be published on March 6, The Express Tribune reported. Earlier in the day, the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) nominated the Pashtun-khwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai as their presidential nominee.



Ukraine, Netherlands sign deal on security cooperation

Kiev, Mar 5 (IANS) : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte signed an agreement on security cooperation between the two countries, the presidential press service reported. The 10-year deal, which is based on the G7 joint declaration of support for Ukraine, was signed in the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, Xinhua news agency reported on Tuesday. The document stipulates that

the Netherlands will provide 2 billion euros (about \$2.17 billion) in military aid to Ukraine in 2024, and will continue its support in the future. Under the deal, the Netherlands undertook a commitment to provide Ukraine with modern military equipment, including air defence means, artillery and armoured vehicles. Besides, the Netherlands will support Ukraine's air forces as well as maritime and long-range capabilities. The Netherlands also reaffirmed its commitment to support Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU and the NATO. Last year, the Netherlands provided 1.6 billion euros (about \$1.73 billion) in military support for Ukraine.



Egyptian FM calls for Gaza ceasefire before Ramadan

Ankara, Mar 5 (IANS) : Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has called for a truce in Gaza before the holy month of Ramadan expected to begin this year around March 11. "I believe that everyone recognises that it is necessary to reach a ceasefire before Ramadan both for the security of Palestinians and due to its religious nature," Shoukry told the semi-official Anadolu Agency on Sunday in southern Turkey where he was attending the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. The Egyptian Minister emphasised that the military actions during Ramadan would not only affect civilians in Gaza and the West Bank but also create a tense atmosphere in the Arab and Muslim world, Xinhua news agency reported. Cairo calls for an immediate ceasefire, Shoukry said, adding, "We are working on this, and we will continue to make every effort. We hope for the necessary flexibility and understanding in ending dangers and hostilities."



Denial of poll ticket to motormouth MPs in BJP's 1st list sends strong message, says psephologist Pradeep Gupta

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : The first list of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) featuring 195 candidates left out some prominent leaders like Pragya Thakur (Bhopal MP) and a couple of sitting MPs from Delhi including Parvesh Singh Verma (West Delhi) and Ramesh Bidhuri (South

Delhi), leaving many surprised. Their omission from the list left many baffled. However, Pradeep Gupta, the country's leading psephologist and the CMD of Axis My India, told IANS that the BJP has done the 'perfect' thing by dropping the motormouth MPs as this will send a strong message to people that the lawmakers with

'tainted' image do not enjoy place in Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's priorities. He also opined that this shows BJP's clear and tactical strategy to distance itself from 'troublemaker MPs' especially at a time when the opposition parties have ganged up against the BJP with the intent of dislodging it from power.



Schools of Eminence will give wings to dreams : Punjab CM

Ludhiana, Mar 5 (IANS) : To ensure access of quality education to students, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday dedicated 13 new Schools of Eminence to the people. Interacting with the media here, the Chief Minister said the government is giving wings to dreams of students for soaring high in life by constructing these schools. He said after Delhi, now Punjab is witnessing a major revolution in the field of edu-

cation and these schools are a reflection of that. Mann said this is a momentous occasion and the day is not far when Punjab will be a front ranking state in the country. The Chief Minister said this initiative of the government will ensure access of students, especially from poor and underprivileged sections, to the quality education. He said the day is not far when students from these schools will excel in every field and bring laurels for the state.

Tejashwi attacks Nitish Kumar, BJP at Jan Vishwas Maharally in Patna

Patna, Mar 5 (IANS) : Bihar Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Tejashwi Yadav attacked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP during Jan Vishwas Maharally in Patna's Gandhi Maidan on Tuesday. Taunting the Chief Minister for his turncoat politics, Tejashwi Yadav also sang a Bollywood song, "Edhar Chala Main Udhar Chala, Jane Kaha Main Kidhar Chala" from the popular Bollywood movie 'Koi... Mil Gaya'. "My uncle (Nitish Kumar) always shifts alliances. I want to tell him that JD-U will be finished in the 2024 Lok

Sabha election. There is no future for JD-U in Bihar. Nitish Kumar has lost all his credibility as people have no faith in him now," Yadav said while addressing a huge rally in Gandhi Maidan in Patna. Tejashwi also attacked Bihar Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha. "BJP has made two Deputy Chief Ministers. One is a babbler (Samrat Choudhary) who has not contested a single election for the last 14 years. The last time, he contested the election was on RJD ticket. Samrat Choudhary is also following Nitish Kumar's Paltimar feature. He has changed five par-



ties in the last 14 years," LoP Yadav said. He said the second Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha always talks nonsense. "No one understands what he is saying publically," Yadav said. Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said that

Tejashwi Yadav will not take out Jan Vishwas Yatra but will take out "Jan Vishwasghat Yatra" in Bihar. Tejashwi Yadav also appealed to the people to show respect to the poor, Dalit, backwards, minority and deprived sections of society.



Retired TN professor to walk on foot for clean electoral system

Chennai, Mar 5 (IANS) : A retired professor and former head of Political Science of Madras University, Dr. Ramu Manivannan, will undertake a walk on foot (padayatra) from Kanniyakumari to Chennai.

The yatra is to educate the people of Tamil Nadu against the culture of freebies during elections and to make people understand that votes were their rights and that it should not be exercised in exchange for money or other freebies.

UP govt to hold one-day meet on tackling drought through technology

Lucknow, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday will hold a one-day state-level conference in Lucknow on tackling drought with the help of technology, an official said. In its ongoing efforts to address disasters and minimise the loss of life and property within the state, this is a collaborative effort between the Relief Department and IIT-Kanpur. The conference aims to leverage state-of-the-art technology for drought monitoring, mitigation, and improved management. Key stakeholders, including major technical institutes, research organisations, technical universities from both the state and the country, as well as experts from relevant departments, will participate in this event. Principal Secretary Revenue P. Guru Prasad stated that, following Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's instructions, various programmes are being organised in the state to deal with disasters. As part of this initiative, recently, experts from IIM-Lucknow provided disaster management training to the Additional District Magistrates in the state. To address disasters and to stay prepared to deal with them, MoUs have been signed with specialised institutions in disaster management. These institutions will not only provide training but also assist the department during emergencies. Relief Commissioner G.S. Naveen said that the conference will be divided into three sessions. The first session will focus on the subject "Technology for Drought Monitoring" while sugges-



tions will be presented by National Disaster Management Authority member Krishna S. Vatsa, U.P. State Disaster Management Authority Vice Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri, and M.L. Jat from ICRISAT, among other experts. The second session will include discussion on "Technology for Drought Mitigation". The third session will discuss various aspects of "Technology for Drought Management" with the participation of Ashish Tiwari, Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, and Dr. P. Sharma, Principal Scientist and Head at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, among other dignitaries.

Kerala BJP candidate M. Abdul Salam no stranger to electoral politics

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 5 (IANS) : M. Abdul Salam, the former vice-chancellor of Calicut University, who has been named by the BJP as its candidate from the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency, is no stranger to electoral politics. Soon after he joined the BJP in 2019, Salam made his electoral debut by contesting from the Tirur Assembly constituency in Malappuram district. However, he finished third in the contest, securing just 9,097 votes, a mere 5.33 per cent of the total votes polled.



Before being named the VC of Calicut University in 2011 Salam was the professor and head of the department of Agronomy at the Kerala Agricultural University here.

The rise and rise of Pawan Singh, Bhojpuri star forced by trolls to opt out of LS polls

Mumbai, Mar 5 (IANS) : Bhojpuri actor-singer Pawan Singh, who was named in the BJP's first list as the party's candidate from Asansol, West Bengal, has "humbly" declined the opportunity under relentless pressure from social media trolls. But who is Pawan Singh and what makes him so special? Born in 1986 at Jokahri village near Arrah in Bihar (the same Arrah that featured in the 2017 Swara Bhasker film, "Anaarkali of Aarah"), Bhojpuri cinema's 'Power Star' learnt singing from his uncle,

Ajit Singh. He started doing stage shows when he was still a child, and his first album, "Odhaniya Wali", was out when he was still in his teens. In 2004, he turned to acting and made his debut with "Rangli Chunariya Tohre Naam". He kept doing supporting roles until he played the lead in "Rangli Chunariya Tohre Naam", which was released in 2007. In the next year, he released the album "Lollypop Lagelu"; its titular song turned out to be a breakout success across the nation and helped Pawan Singh rise to prominence. And then in the same year, "Saniya Mirza Cut Nathuniya" became a big

hit from the album, "Dont Touch My Body". In 2020, he collaborated with American dancer and actress (and "Jhalak Dikha Jaa" regular), Lauren Gottlieb, for the Hindi single "Kamariya Hila Rahi Hai". His second Bollywood single was "Babuni Tere Rang Me", which was a Holi song featuring Tridha Choudhury. This was followed by the track "Current" featuring composer-singer Payal Dev of "Genda Phool" fame. The next year, he teamed up with veteran singer Sonu Nigam



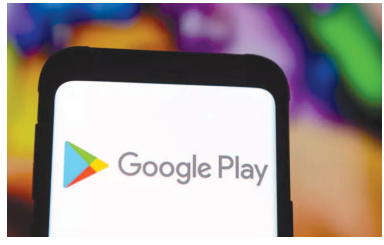
for a Chhath song. He also released Bhojpuri cover versions of popular Bollywood songs, notably 'Lut gaye', originally sung by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Closer home, in Bhojpuri cinema, he has delivered some of the biggest hits, namely, "Satya", "Crack Fighter", "Raja", "Sher Singh", and "Mera Bharat Mahaan".



No impact of INDIA bloc, BJP will win both seats of Goa : Shripad Naik

Panaji, Mar 5 (IANS) : Claiming that the situation for the BJP is favorable and the INDIA bloc does not have any impact, Union Minister of State for Tourism Shripad Naik on Tuesday said that his

party will win both the seats of Goa in the Lok Sabha polls. According to him, BJP has 28 MLAs and support of two MLAs of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and three Independents.



Google temporarily reinstates all delisted apps after Centre's intervention

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Google on Tuesday said that it is temporarily reinstating all the delisted apps of developers with appeals pending in the Supreme Court, as the government met the tech giant and digital startups to resolve the matter. In a statement to IANS, a company spokesperson said that it maintains its right to implement and enforce its business model, as established in various courts.

"We will invoice our full applicable services fees in the interim and are extending payment timelines for these companies," said a company spokesperson. Google further said that it looks forward to a collaborative effort to find solutions that respect the needs of all parties. Earlier in the day, Union IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Google has agreed to resolve the issue and will restore all the apps belonging to the 10 companies.

Nifty snaps four-day winning streak on account of profit booking



Mumbai, Mar 5 (IANS) : Nifty snapped a four-day winning streak on Tuesday on account of profit booking, said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services. While the Nifty 50 closed the day with a loss of 49 points, or 0.22 per cent, at 22,356.30, the Sensex ended at 73,677.13, down 195 points, or 0.26 per cent.

SEBI issues show-cause notice to PC Jeweller alleging non-compliance of disclosure requirements

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : PC Jeweller has received a show-cause notice from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) alleging non-compliance of listing and disclosure requirements. The notice alleges non-compliance of certain provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR Regulations) and SEBI circular dated November 21, 2019, with regard to disclosures required in the matter of the company's accounts turning NPA/legal cases/resolution plan. However, the company has been disclosing the required/relevant information in its quarterly results as well as results presentations and is therefore of the opinion that the show-cause notice is not likely to have any material impact on the financial, operational or other activities of the company as this information is already in the public domain. All the legal cases are also currently sub-judice with no final ruling/judgement, the company said. The notice also provides a settlement mechanism under the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 and the company believes that all the aforesaid alleged non-compliances are covered under the same.



RBI bars JM Financial from giving loans against shares, debentures

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday directed JM Financial Products Limited to cease and desist, with immediate effect, from doing any form of financing against shares and debentures, including sanction and disbursement of loans against initial public offering (IPO) of shares as well as against subscription to debentures. The RBI said the company shall continue to service its existing loan accounts through the usual

collection and recovery process. "This action is necessitated due to certain serious deficiencies observed in respect of loans sanctioned by the company for IPO financing as well as NCD subscriptions. The RBI carried out a limited review of the books of the company on the basis of the information shared by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)," the central bank said in a statement. "During the limited review, it was observed that the company repeat-

edly helped a group of its customers to bid for various IPO and NCD offerings by using loaned funds. The credit underwriting was found to be perfunctory, and financing was done against meagre margins. "The application for subscription, the demat accounts and the bank accounts, all were operated by the company using a power of attorney (PoA) and a master agreement obtained from these customers without their involvement, whatsoever, in the subsequent operations," the RBI said.

Some states slowing capex to maintain fiscal discipline : Bank of Baroda report

Chennai, Mar 5 (IANS) : Some states perhaps are curtailing their capital expenditure (capex) to maintain fiscal discipline though there is no one-to-one link between the two, the Bank of Baroda said in a report. According to the report authored by the bank's Economist Dipanwita Mazumdar, in the case of major states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka, there are traces of this relationship – capex-fiscal discipline. In FY23, states have been seen maintaining fiscal discipline as a major-

ity of them have curtailed their fiscal deficit in absolute terms. "However, there is no one-to-one relation between curtailing fiscal deficit and capital spending," Mazumdar said. According to Mazumdar, in the case of Maharashtra, there has been a capital spending shortfall of Rs 1,287 crore from its Budget estimate and the fiscal deficit, in absolute terms, during the same period, has been reduced by Rs 9,086 crore from its Budget estimates. For Uttar Pradesh, capital spending has been cut by Rs 3,101 crore and the fiscal deficit has fallen by Rs 4,765 crore. For

Madhya Pradesh, the fiscal deficit has been reduced significantly by Rs 29,532 crore while capital spending has been brought down by Rs 5,438 crore. For Punjab, the fiscal deficit has been reduced by Rs 8,578 crore, whereas capital spending has been brought down by Rs 5,060 crore. Thus, the quantum differs according to the state's priority of allocating its spending profile. The majority of the states are in the negative quadrant as both capital spending and fiscal deficit have fallen short of their Budget estimates. Based on the current context, where the focus is on maintaining



fiscal prudence by both the Centre and states, some shortfalls might be visible for larger states in terms of capex. The report also said the actual spending on capital expenditure by the Centre has been at Rs 7.2 lakh crore in FYTD24 (Apr-Jan'24). As a percentage of Budget estimates, the capital expenditure of the Centre is running at

75.9 per cent. "However, for states, it is trailing the Centre. Out of an aggregate of 27 states monitored in the current set, states' capital expenditure stood at Rs 4.7 lakh crore which, as a percentage of Budget estimates, is running far behind at 53.1 per cent in FYTD24, compared to Centre," the report notes.



Centre rolls out 200 CNG stations across 17 states in big push to green economy

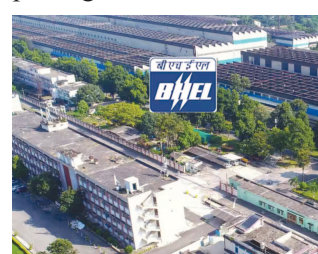
New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday dedicated to the nation as many as 201 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across 17 states and India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh as part of the Modi government's push towards a green economy. These stations will promote the usage of CNG in the transport sector and household kitchens as a greener alternative to conventional fuels and make it available in newer areas. The dedication of the stations was done through video conferencing at a function here attended by senior ministry officials and

top executives of public sector natural gas giant GAIL. The 201 CNG stations have been set up by 15 City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities of the GAIL out of which 53 stations belong to GAIL Gas Limited, 50 to Indraprastha Gas Limited, 43 to GAIL and 20 to Mahanagar Gas Limited, according to an official statement. Of the rest, four belong to Avantika Gas Limited, two to Bengal Gas Company Limited, three to Central UP Gas Limited, one to Goa Natural Gas Pvt. Limited, three to Green Gas Limited, one to Haridwar Natural Gas Limited, two to Purba Bharati Gas Limited, one to Rajasthan State Gas Pvt. Limited, one to Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited and one to Vadodara Gas Limited. After the completion of ongoing CGD

development in GAs awarded under the 12th CGD bidding round of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, almost entire India's population and geographical area will have access to Natural Gas. The total number of CNG stations across the country has gone up to more than 6,200 while the number of domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections stands at around 1.21 crore. GAIL group companies account for 40 per cent CNG stations and 64 per cent PNG connections in the country, the statement said. In accordance with the continuous innovation undertaken in the natural gas value chain.

BHEL gets over Rs 9,500 crore order from NTPC for Singrauli Super Thermal Project

Chennai, Mar 5 (IANS) : Power equipment major Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has secured a power plant engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) order of over Rs 9,500 crore from NTPC Ltd. The order is for the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III (2x800 MW), in Uttar Pradesh. According to BHEL, the order won in international competitive bidding is for the supply of equipment like boilers, turbines, generators, and associated auxiliaries, along with electrical and control and instrumentation, balance of plant packages, and others.



Swiggy, IRCTC ink MoU to provide food delivery service on trains

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Online food delivery platform Swiggy on Tuesday said that the company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide food delivery service on trains. As part of the MoU, Swiggy will deliver food to train passengers travelling via Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. The service is likely to expand to 59 additional city stations across the country in the com-

ing weeks, the company said. "If during these rail journeys, which traverse across states and districts, one has the option to order meals to explore the culinary diversity of India, it would make the experience more convenient and enjoyable, and add to the overall vividness of train travel," Rohit Kapoor, CEO, Food Marketplace, Swiggy, said in a statement. To avail the pre-ordered food services via Swiggy, passengers will need to input the PNR on the IRCTC app, select the preferred station for food delivery.



Woman, three kids killed in house collapse in J&K's Reasi

Jammu, Mar 5 (IANS) : A woman and her three children died on Tuesday in a house collapse in J&K's Reasi district. Officials said that the four persons died when a landslide hit their mudhouse in the Chassana area of the district. "This family of four was buried alive as a massive landslide hit their mudhouse after incessant rainfall.

Himachal to introduce e-governance services in all 60 urban local bodies

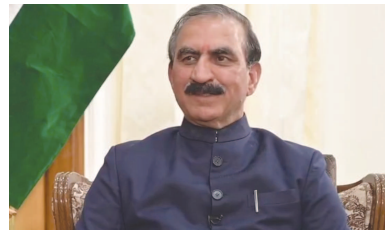
Shimla, Mar 5 (IANS) : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Tuesday said the government was introducing e-governance services across all 60 urban local bodies in order to revolutionize public services. Under the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), the government has signed a tripartite agreement with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the National Institute of Urban Affairs to implement the Urban Platform for DeliverY of Online Governance (UPYOG) platform, which is set to digitize and transform urban services by providing a unified portal for citizens.

CM Sukhu said the citizens

can expect easy access to urban services, automated status updates, and improved collaboration with city officials, while urban local bodies will experience increased productivity, improved time-bound delivery of services, enhanced revenue generation and data-driven performance management.

Furthermore, the government will benefit from real-time data to plan and formulate policies, expedite fund disbursement based on project milestones, and foster innovation and competition among cities.

"The initiative to implement e-governance services across all urban local bodies in the state through a common in-



tegrated digital platform, aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and coordination in urban governance through technology integration," he said. "The government remains committed to leveraging technology across departments to deliver improved services to its citizens," he further said. The CM said that as part of the implementation plan, the State Project Monitoring Unit (SPMU) will be established at the state level to oversee the UPYOG platform. Additionally, the initiative includes the utilization of a drone-based Geographical Information System (GIS) for property mapping and door-to-door family survey for generating Parivar Register in urban local bodies.



Kerala govt suspends College Dean in student death case

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 5 (IANS) : Kerala Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development J. Chinchu Rani on Tuesday announced the suspension of Dr. M.K. Narayanan, Dean of Pookode Government Veterinary College. This comes after the family of Siddharth, the second year BVSC student who died in the campus hostel, alleged that he was tortured to death by the students of the college led by the Students Federation of India (SFI). The college authorities and the Left government has been maintaining that Siddharth died by suicide. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who is the Chancellor of the University, on Saturday suspended Vice Chancellor M.R. Saseendranath.

The post-mortem report of the deceased student has revealed that he was subjected to brutal torture and there were no signs of even the boy drinking a glass of water for 72 hours prior to his death. The opposition Congress and BJP have alleged that Siddharth was tortured to death by the SFI students with the full support of the College dean.

Dr. Narayanan, while speaking to media persons, said that he was not aware of what had happened to Siddharth and did not know whether the student was beaten up. He said that immediately after he had come to know of the incident, he had rushed to the college hostel and found that the boy had been taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead. The dean also said that he was not re-

BJP's Madhavi Latha likely to give tough fight to Owaisi

Hyderabad, Mar 5 (IANS) : Asaduddin Owaisi, whose party AIMIM overcame many challenges to hold on to Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat for 40 years, is likely to face tough battle this time with the BJP fielding businesswoman and philanthropist, Kompella Madhavi Latha, who has been working in Muslim-majority old city.

The BJP has named Kompella Madhavi Latha, chairperson of city-based Virinchi Hospitals, as its candidate for the forthcoming polls. Owaisi, seen by many as the face of the Indian Muslims, may face spirited challenge from the BJP whose leaders are confident of wresting the seat from All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

A professional Bharatanatyam dancer, Madhavi Latha has never been an active politician but multiple factors led to BJP picking her as its candidate to take on Owaisi in his strong-

hold. The BJP had never fielded a woman in Hyderabad and with Madhavi Latha said to be active in philanthropic activities in parts of the old city, the party is looking to tap the Muslim votes.

Known for her pro-Hindutva speeches, Madhavi Latha also campaigned against triple talaq. She is said to be in touch with various Muslim women groups. The 49-year-old is a trustee of Lathamma Foundation and Lopamudra Charitable Trust and also runs a small fund for destitute Muslim women. She also runs a gaushala.

Hoping for a BJP ticket, she had already started meeting women in some parts of the old city. Last month, she posted on social media her photographs distributing ration among burka-clad women. The programme was organised under the aegis of Lathamma Foundation.

Madhavi Latha organises education, healthcare and food distribution programmes and offers to help the needy with a missed call to her mobile number.



After BJP announced her as its candidate, she added 'Mission Hyderabad Parliament' to her profile on social media. She thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President J. P. Nadda, Amit Shah and other leaders for giving her the opportunity to contest from Hyderabad.

A bitter critic of AIMIM, she says that the party never tried to address the problems of poverty and poor civic amenities in the constituency.

A post-graduate in political sciences from Koti Women's College, she is looking to succeed where BJP stalwarts like Venkaiah Naidu had failed in the past.

BJP, which has set the target of winning 370 Lok Sabha seats across the country, is focussing on

Telangana, where it had bagged four out of 17 seats in 2019.

The party is eyeing all the Lok Sabha seats in the state. Union minister and state BJP President G. Kishan Reddy recently exuded confidence that BJP will wrest Hyderabad from AIMIM.

He claimed that minorities in the city wish to see Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive term. "The people of the old city are looking for a change. In the Assembly polls, the BJP's vote share increased considerably in the Hyderabad Parliamentary constituency while the Majlis vote percentage declined."



Odisha : DRI rescues 351 Indian tent turtles

Bhubaneswar, Mar 5 (IANS) : Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials in Odisha have rescued 351 rare Indian tent turtles during a raid at Manguli Square in Cuttack district. Following a tip-off, the DRI intercepted a Tata Tiago ve-

hicle with three passengers, hailing from West Bengal, at Manguli Toll Plaza, Cuttack. "Questioning revealed that they were carrying 351 Indian Tent Turtles (Pangshura tentoria), from West Bengal, to be taken further to Karnataka," said DRI sources.

Protecting farmers' interests, Yogi govt purchases 53.7 lakh tonnes of paddy

Lucknow, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Uttar Pradesh government has purchased around 53.79 lakh tonnes of paddy for Rs 11,745 crore in the kharif marketing season 2023-24, against its target of 70 lakh tonnes. This quantity has been picked up from more than eight lakh farmers, in a move to protect their interests. For the paddy procurement which commenced on October 1, 2023, the government had set a minimum support price of Rs 2,183 per quintal for common paddy and Rs 2,203 per quintal for Grade-A paddy. However, the state failed in meet-

ing its target of procuring 70 lakh tonnes, reportedly due to farmers selling directly in the open market. "The procurement started from west UP on October 1, for Lucknow and Ayodhya divisions on October 20 and for eastern divisions on November 1. Paddy was procured from 8,01,624 farmers at 5,207 centres," said an official spokesman. The Lucknow division has reported the highest procurement with over 7.52 lakh tonnes. Bareilly division stood second with 6.49 lakh tonnes followed by Varanasi division with over 6.18 lakh tonnes.



Mother-son die in Delhi road accident

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : A man and his mother died after the motorcycle they were riding hit a divider in south-east Delhi, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Rahul and his mother Shanti Devi, both residents of Faridabad in Haryana.

Sharing the details, police said that information was received at the Sunlight Colony police station regarding an accident at Gate No.4 IP Park Sarai Kale Khan on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, following which a team rushed to the spot.

Upon reaching the spot, a Bullet motorcycle was found and both the injured were shifted to the LNJP hospital, where they succumbed to injuries.

ICMR's budgetary allowance up four-fold in 10 yrs: Mansukh Mandaviya

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : The budgetary allowance for the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has increased four-fold in the last 10 years, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The Health Minister said this while speaking at the ICMR-convened Governing Council Meeting. The meeting was organised by the ICMR to engage in discussions on its recent contributions, explore the initiatives spearheaded by the Council, and outline the strategic

roadmap for the future of medical research.

In the meeting, Mansukh Mandaviya emphasised that the government's commitment, coupled with ICMR's relentless efforts, will position India on the global stage as a leader in medical research and development.

Among the key achievements highlighted in the meeting, the government noted that ICMR has extended its coverage to over 100 districts nationwide through the recently launched National Health Research Programme.



Security beefed up ahead of PM Modi's visit to Kashmir on March 7

Srinagar, Mar 5 (IANS) : Extraordinary security arrangements were put in place throughout Kashmir on Tuesday as the Valley gears up to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 7. This would be PM Modi's first visit to the Valley after article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019. Last time, he visited the Valley in February 2019.

PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate/lay foundation stone of various developmental projects in the Valley on March 7. He will interact with some local beneficiaries of the national flagship programmes during his nearly two-hour long programme at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar city.



Man kills younger brother over trivial dispute in Lucknow

Lucknow, Mar 5 (IANS) : A man was arrested for allegedly battering his younger brother to death at their under-construction house over some domestic dispute in the Nishatganj area, said officials here. On Tuesday, the accused, Raj Kishore, who is a history-sheeter reached the construction site along with his wife Sushma and daughter Kajla and became furious after seeing that his younger brother Babu Yadav, had tied a cow on the ground floor. By mutual consent, the first floor belonged to Raj Kishore and the ground floor was in the possession of Babu Yadav. Raj Kishore lost his cool and picked a fight with him. Hearing commotion, Babu's

wife Kusum and their daughter Muskan tried to intervene and were attacked by Raj Kishore with bricks. He then repeatedly attacked Babu with a brick until the latter collapsed. "The accused and his family members then fled while Babu was rushed to KGMU trauma centre where he was declared dead," said SHO, Mahanagar, Akhilesh Mishra. DCP, Central Zone, Raveena Tyagi said a case under culpable homicide was registered against the accused and he was arrested. "We are interrogating the accused," she added. The victim's daughter Muskaan said Raj Kishore often argued with her father.

Rajasthan CM inaugurates 'Shakti Vandana' event in Jaipur

Jaipur, Mar 5 (IANS) : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Shakti Vandana' programme organised by Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater from March 2 to 4 at the Jawahar Kala Kendra. On this occasion, he visited the exhibition being organised by self-help groups and other women entrepreneurs. The Chief Minister visited the 'Ek Khat Modi Ji Ke Naam' stall and wrote a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as took a selfie at the selfie point. Sharma congratulated the organisers for the success of the programme.



Petition filed in UP court to remove shoe stands in Gyanvapi complex

Varanasi, Mar 5 (IANS) : An application has been filed in Varanasi district court, seeking an order to the defendants, including U.P. state, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC) that manages Gyanvapi Mosque and two others to remove the shoe stands placed at the Gyanvapi complex. The application has been filed by Kiran Singh, plaintiff of Bhagwan Adi Vishweshwar Virajman and others vs U.P. state and others. Singh filed her plea through her counsel Man Bahadur Singh and Anupam Dwivedi. "The court has fixed March 19 as the date of hearing," Dwivedi said. AIMC Joint Secretary, S.M. Yasin, said that his team of counsels would file an objection against it.



LS polls: BJP announces 12 candidates in 1st list for Kerala; Union Ministers Chandrasekhar, Muraleedharan among big names

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 5 (IANS) : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in its first list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on Tuesday, announced the names of 12 candidates from Kerala. Kerala has a total of 20 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP sprang a huge surprise when it announced the name of Anil Antony, son of former Defence Minister and Congress veteran A.K. Antony from the Pathanamthitta seat. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has been named to take on three-time Congress MP Shashi Tharoor from the prestigious Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha seat, while another Union Minister, V. Muraleedharan has been fielded from Attingal Lok Sabha seat. Another surprise has been the naming of three women candidates, which includes firebrand leader Sobha Surendran from Alappuzha, Mahila Morcha leader M.L.

Ashwini from Kasargod, and Niveditha Subramanian from Ponnani. Popular actor Suresh Gopi who fought the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Trissur and finished third would contest again from the same seat. Former Calicut University vice-chancellor and BJP leader M. Abdul Salam will contest for the Malappuram seat. Senior BJP leader M.T. Ramesh will fight for the Kozhikode seat while Yuva Morcha president Praful Krishna will contest for the Badagara seat.



J&K govt releases Rs 272 crore housing assistance for rural families under PMAY-G

Jammu, Mar 5 (IANS) : Jammu and Kashmir's Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department has released Rs 272.55 crore for disbursement among the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) through Direct Benefit Transfer, an official statement said on Tuesday. The amount included the Central share of Rs 245.30 crore released by the Ministry of Rural Development recently. The department has initiated a

series of interventions at ground level for effective implementation of the scheme aiming at providing housing support to vulnerable families in rural areas. According to the statement, the department has disbursed Rs 200 crore among the PMAY-G beneficiaries in last 10 days, facilitating payment of first installment to 3,450 beneficiaries, second installment to 24388 beneficiaries and third to 9,860 beneficiaries.

Seasoned campaigner Jyotiraditya Scindia to contest LS polls on BJP ticket for first time

Bhopal, Mar 5 (IANS) : The BJP on Tuesday fielded Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia from his family bastion Guna in the Gwalior-Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Scindia, who's at present a Rajya Sabha MP, will contest the Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket for the first time. He had contested the last general elections (2019) on a Congress ticket from Guna, but had lost against BJP's K.P. Yadav. A year

later, Scindia shifted to the BJP and was elected to the Upper House. Scindia's shift to the BJP in March 2020 had triggered a major political crisis within the Congress, as the Kamal Nath-led government in Madhya Pradesh collapsed after 22 Congress MLAs, said to be Scindia loyalists, joined the BJP. Scindia (53) started his political career with the Congress after his father and former Union minister Madhavrao Scindia died in a plane crash in Uttar Pradesh in 2001.



'Indira Gandhi brought concept of free houses for the poor'

Bengaluru, Mar 5 (IANS) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said that food, housing, health and education are the primary focus areas of the state government. He said this while speaking at a programme for the distribution of 36,789 houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana across the state. The programme was organised by

the Karnataka Slum Development Board. Speaking at the event, he said: "It was late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who brought the concept of free houses for the poor in the country. The Housing Department has given an additional grant of Rs 5 lakh as many people expressed inability to pay the amount under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme.

Despite LS polls, process will start to execute tripartite agreement signed with TMP: Tripura CM

Agartala, Mar 5 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has said that even as the date of the Lok Sabha would be announced soon, necessary work and process to execute the provisions of the tripartite agreement, signed with the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) in New Delhi would start immediately. The Chief Minister after returning here from New Delhi added on Tuesday that through tripartite agreement, the history, land rights, politi-

cal rights, economic development, identity, culture, language etc. of the indigenous people would be further protected and strengthened. "Though we would be busy in the Lok Sabha election campaign, the necessary work to implement the provisions of the tripartite agreement would be undertaken immediately," Saha told the media. He said that during the signing of tripartite agreement with the TMP in New Delhi,



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that as many as 11 accords were signed with various organisations during the past 10 years to establish peace and curb violence in the northeast region and to accelerate development of the eight states. Saha, who along with former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb.



BJP will win all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana again: CM

Gurugram, Mar 5 (IANS) : Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has said that the BJP will again "create history" by winning all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The Chief Minister made the remark here on Tuesday during a virtual inauguration of party's election offices in all 90 assembly constituencies of the state.



Congressional review over, US sale of MQ-9B drones to India ready for next steps

Washington, Mar 5 (IANS) : The decks are clear now for India to take the next steps in acquiring 31 MQ-9B SkyGuardian armed drones with ammunition with the lapse on Tuesday of the 30-day period for Congressional review of the deal. These armed drones are meant for intelligence gathering, surveillance, reconnaissance and for land, air and sea warfare. India has two of these drones -- MQ-9A -- company-lease-and-operation basis from the

manufacturers, General Atomics. The entire package of drones with ammunition that India has sought will cost an estimated \$3.99 billion. The drones will come with 161 embedded global positioning and inertial navigation systems; 35 L3 Rio Grande Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites; 170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles; 16 M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles; 310 GBU-39B/B Laser Small Diameter Bombs; and eight GBU-39B/B LSDB Guided Test Vehicles with live fuzes. The proposed sale of these

drones were announced by US President Joe Biden during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington D.C. in June 2023. The administration notified Congress of the deal, as it must for all military exports of a certain value, on February 1, giving lawmakers 30 days to raise objections to the proposed deal, which will be deemed cleared if no there is opposition to it. "The Congressional review period will conclude at the end of the 30th calendar day after notification and the posting of the media announcement," said a US official. The an-

nouncement came on February 1. "After that it's up to the parties to conclude and sign a Letter of Offer and Acceptance." A wrinkle in the deal had emerged before the notification period when Ben Cardin, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is a key Congressional body for clearing foreign military sales, linked his support for the deal to assurance from the Biden administration that India would cooperate in the murder-for-hire case involving the alleged to murder a Khalistani activist. He subsequently announced his support for the deal shortly after Congress was notified. General Atomics says that the SkyGuardian "is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40-plus hours in all types of weather and safely integrate into civil airspace, enabling joint forces and civil authorities to deliver real-time situational awareness anywhere in the world--day or night". And apart from his combat capabilities, "it can be used for humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, search and rescue, law enforcement and border enforcement".



Indian, Japanese armies perform Yoga during joint military exercise in Rajasthan

Jaipur, Mar 5 (IANS) : The contingents of the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force are taking part in 'Dharma Guardian', a joint military exercise, at the Mahajan field firing ranges in Rajasthan, where they are undergoing intense training in room intervention, close quarter battle firing, obstacle clearance and unarmed combat.

Yoga was also practised during the exercise, highlighting its contributions towards attaining a healthy body and sharp mind, said Col Amitabh Sharma, PRO (Defence), Jaipur. The fifth edition of 'Dharma Guardian' between the Indian Army and the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force will continue till March 9. 'Dharma Guardian'

is an annual exercise which is conducted alternatively in India and Japan. The contingents from both sides comprise 40 personnel each. The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment, while the Indian Army is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles. The aim of the exercise is to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The exercise focuses on a high-degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills. Lieutenant General Togashi Yuichi, Commanding General, Eastern Army, Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.



Farmers adopted 67,418 solar pumps last year : Haryana Minister

Chandigarh, Mar 5 (IANS) : Haryana Energy Minister Ranjit Singh on Tuesday appealed to the farmers to contribute significantly to the success of the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan' (PM-Kusum). He said that just like the farmers adopting 67,418 solar pumps during 2023-24 has made the 'PM Kusum' a huge success, likewise they should this time also adopt the solar pumps. The target for setting up 70,000 solar pumps designated for 2024-

25 has been set to contribute further to the success of the 'PM Kusum' scheme. He urged farmers to adopt more solar pumps. The Minister said while installing solar pumps fulfills the irrigation needs of farmers, it also increases their income by supplying excess energy to the grid. "A significant amount is provided by the government as subsidies for solar pumps. With the need to use natural resources like coal prudently for future generations, there is a shift towards exploring alter-

native sources such as renewable energy, clean energy and solar energy." The Minister added that all necessary steps are being taken to fulfill the energy needs of farmers on priority. In addition to solar pumps, demand notices are being issued in a phased manner to farmers who have applied for agriculture tubewell connections, and so far, demand notices have been issued for 27,740 out of 27,826 applications received from 2019 to 2021.

'India has eliminated extreme poverty,' claims US think-tank; says 'decline in 11 yrs comparable to past 30 yrs'

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : India has eliminated extreme poverty and is now 'eligible' to move to a higher poverty line, claimed Brookings, a US-based think-tank, in its report. Citing a comprehensive set of data, it said that the country has registered a decline in headcount poverty ratio (HCR) and a significant jump in household consumption expenditure, which in turn has helped it in getting rid of 'abject poverty'. The report, authored by noted economists Surjit Bhalla and

Karan Bhasin, saw the findings as an encouraging development and said, 'time has come for India to graduate to higher poverty line, much like other developed counterparts.' The Brookings report attributes the country's 'freedom' from extreme poverty to PM Modi government's policy thrust on redistribution under several welfare programs. It says that the government's sharp focus on providing basic amenities to the entire population via cooking gas.



Kerala govt employees protest against delay in salary, minister cites technical glitch

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 5 (IANS) : For the first time in a long time, salaries and pension being paid by the Kerala government have got delayed, prompting a section of employees to take out a protest march in front of the state secretariat on Tuesday. Normally, the salaries are credited to the employees' accounts either on the last working day of every month, or the first working day on the new month. Incidentally, the state is passing through its worst-ever financial crisis with the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government blaming the Centre for adopting a negative approach towards the state. The Kerala government has also approached the apex court and the case will now come up for another round of hearing next week.

My job is to ensure victory for all BJP candidates in Bengal, not just my brother's: Suwendu Adhikari

Kolkata, Mar 5 (IANS) : After the BJP on Tuesday named Soumendu Adhikari, the younger brother of leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, as the party candidate from the Kanthi Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal, the latter said that it his responsibility to secure party candidates' victory in all the 42 constituencies in the state. "My brother has been selected as a candidate based on his merits. As the leader of opposition, my duty is to go all-out to ensure the victory of my party candidates in all the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, not just my brother's," Adhikari said after the BJP released its first list of 195 candidates for the upcoming general elections on Tuesday. However, political observers feel that in both the Lok Sabha constituen-



cies in East Midnapore district, Kanthi and Tamluk, the battle will be more between 'Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Suwendu Adhikari', rather than between the 'Trinamool Congress and the BJP'. The sitting Trinamool MP from Kanthi is Suwendu's father Sisir Adhikari. Suwendu's another younger brother Dibyendu Adhikari is the sitting Trinamool MP from Tamluk.

BJP repeats Jitendra Singh, Jugal Kishore for LS polls in J&K

Jammu, Mar 5 (IANS) : The BJP on Tuesday announced candidates for two of the five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, will fight the Lok Sabha polls from Udhampur-Kathua constituency for the BJP while Jugal Kishore will be the party candidate for the Jammu constituency. Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore won the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from these two constituencies.



LS polls: BJP names ex-Tripura CM Biplab Deb from West Tripura seat replacing Union Minister Bhowmik

Agartala, Mar 5 (IANS) : In a significant development, the BJP on Tuesday, in its first list of 195 candidates, nominated former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb from the West Tripura Lok Sabha seat, replacing Union Minister Pratima Bhowmik -- the sitting MP from the constituency. A party leader said that the Central Election Committee of the

BJP chose Deb, currently a Rajya Sabha member from the state and former president of the Tripura unit of the BJP, to ensure the win of the party in the politically important seat. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and Pratima Bhowmik congratulated Deb for being selected as BJP nominee for the West Tripura Lok Sabha seat in the upcoming Parliamentary polls.

Indian-Americans certain BJP will ride back to power under PM Modi

Washington, Mar 5 (IANS) : As they keenly wait for the grand electoral spectacle to unfold in their country of origin, most Indian-Americans say they are certain that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will storm back to power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Community leaders say that elaborate planning and strategising by the party leaders and supporters in the US are already underway to target a record 400 plus seats in the biggest democratic exercise of 2024. "My sense is that Indians in America are certain that BJP will come back to power under PM Modi. Those critical of him have also resigned to the fact that there is no stopping him, as the INDIA bloc is already fracturing and is not

up to the fight in the upcoming general election," said Chopra. A 2022 Indian-American Attitudes Survey by Carnegie Endowment mentioned BJP as the most popular political party among Indian Americans with a third of respondents favouring the ruling party and just 12 per cent identifying with the Congress. Further, it said that nearly half of all Indian Americans approve of PM Modi's performance as prime minister with the support greatest among the Republicans and the Hindus. A key element of India's foreign policy after 2014 has been its significant outreach to the diaspora, notably in the US where the 4.4 million-strong community has become the second-largest immigrant group. During his successive visits to the US from 2014 to 2023,

the Prime Minister has actively engaged with the community, acknowledging their steady rise in America's economic, political, and social spheres and their significance in India's growth story. Gobind Munjal, National President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA), told IANS that India has achieved a lot under PM Modi and that the US-India relationship has reached new heights, especially after the leader's June 2023 visit. "Under Narendra Modi's regime, the global respect for India and Indians living abroad has gone up substantially. For NRIs, the Indian identity has become more respectful and non-residents have started feeling proud to be Indians," Munjal said in an email interview. Founded in August 1967, the AIA claims to be the oldest association

of Asian Indians in America and says that it represents the "hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment". The reasons for PM Modi's popularity are not too far to seek according to the community and can be seen in the progress that India has made in the last years across the spectrum. "PM Modi's proactive approach to diplomacy and economic reforms has bolstered India's image as a dynamic and forward-thinking nation, poised for sustainable growth and development," Alok Kumar, Chairman of Bihar Foundation, USA, told IANS. Lauding the country's foreign policy, Kumar said that India has exhibited robust diplomatic prowess which is "exemplified by its



handling of crises such as the Qatar situation and its commendable performance in evacuating citizens from war zones, surpassing even the efforts of developed nations".

Citing the success of the Chandrayaan Mission and India's G20 presidency, both Kumar and Munjal added that India has achieved a lot under the present regime.



Three arrested in connection with Bangladesh building fire

Dhaka, Mar 5 (IANS) : Three people have been arrested in connection with the Bangladesh building fire which claimed 46 lives. The arrested were identified as two owners of an eatery called Chumuk and the manager of Kacchi Bhai restaurant, Dhaka Tribune reported. Addressing media persons on Friday evening, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Additional Commissioner Kh Mahid Uddin said the fire broke out at a food shop on the ground floor of the building on Tuesday. He said a case will be filed over negligence in connection with the deaths in the fire incident. Anyone from the victim's family can file a case if they want, he said. When asked whether there was any negligence on the part of owners of the building, he said that legal action would be taken against guilty. He asked everyone to conduct their activities in accordance with the 'Safety First' principle.

9,000 women killed in Gaza since October 2023 : UN

New York, Mar 5 (IANS) : The UN has said that an estimated 9,000 women have been reportedly killed by Israeli forces in Gaza in the last five months of the war. Every day the war in Gaza continues, at the current rate, an average of 63 women will continue to be killed. An estimated 37 mothers are killed every day, leaving their families devastated and their children with diminished protection. More than four out of five women (84 per cent) report that their family eats half or less of the food they used to before the war began, with mothers and adult women being those tasked with sourcing food, yet eating last, less, and least than everyone else. Four in five women (84 per cent) in Gaza indicate that at least one of their family members had to skip meals during the past week. In 95 per cent of those cases, mothers are the ones going without food, skipping at least one meal to feed their chil-

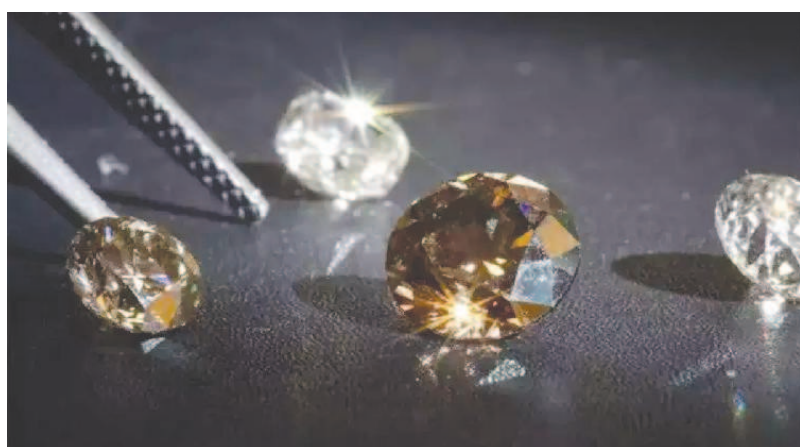
dren. Gaza's entire population of 2.3 million people will be facing acute levels of food insecurity within weeks -- the highest ever recorded as Gaza is on the verge of starvation. Nearly nine in 10 women (87 per cent) report finding it harder to access food than men. Some women are now resorting to extreme coping mechanisms, such as scavenging for food under rubble or in dumpsters. Ten out of 12 women's organisations surveyed in Gaza reported being partly operational, providing essential emergency response services.



Another Pakistan airlines cabin crew member goes missing in Canada

Rawalpindi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Another steward of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has reportedly gone missing from Canada, making it the second such incident in a week, a media report said. Jibran Baloch, 47, was part of the cabin crew on the PK-783 flight from Karachi to Toronto. He was scheduled to report for the return flight PK-782 to Islamabad on Tuesday, according to a PIA spokesman, Dawn reported. When Baloch didn't report for the return flight, the staff opened his hotel room, but he was not there, the spokesman added. Earlier on Monday, an air-hostess, Maryam Raza, also 'disappeared' from her hotel room in

Toronto after arriving on flight PK-782 from Islamabad. So far this year, three cabin crew members have gone missing after arriving in Canada, Dawn reported. Last year, at least seven PIA cabin crew members had gone missing in the country while performing flight duties. Officials said this trend of disappearing in Canada is due to the flexible law, which offers asylum after entering the country. According to the national carrier's spokesman, one of the crew members who had slipped away while on duty some years ago has now settled in Canada and "advises" other crew members mulling asylum, Dawn reported.



Canada announces additional ban on imports of Russian diamonds

Ottawa, Mar 5 (IANS) : Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly has said that Canada is imposing additional import restrictions on Russian diamonds. This ban further builds on Canada's December 2023 import restrictions on diamonds and diamond-jewellery-related products from Russia by targeting indirect imports of Russian diamonds weighing 1 carat and above, Joly said on Tuesday in a statement. It is consistent with the commitments made in February, May and December 2023 by the G7 lead-

ers to reduce the revenues from the export of non-industrial diamonds from Russia, she added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. According to the statement, Russia is the world's largest rough diamond producer and also a significant global exporter of diamonds and diamond products. The value of Russia's total exports exceeded nearly 5.2 billion Canadian dollars (\$3.8 billion) in 2022. Together, G7 countries represent 70 per cent of the world diamond market, the statement added.

Trump wins Missouri's Republican presidential caucus

Washington, Mar 5 (IANS) : Former US President Donald Trump on Tuesday won Missouri's Republican presidential caucus, continuing his march toward the GOP nomination. Trump's victory over former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, in the midwestern state was another piece of good news for the former President, who previ-

ously won Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. In Michigan, a key swing state, Trump won the Republican primary on Tuesday, garnering more than 68 per cent of the vote, Xinhua news agency reported. On Saturday, he was awarded more delegates during a Republican convention, cementing his victory in the northern state. Trump, who has already collected more than 100 delegates in the

contests so far, will need to attain at least 1,215 delegates to clinch the Republican presidential nomination. Super Tuesday, the day in the presidential primary cycle when most states vote, is fast approaching. It's typical for nearly one-third of all delegates to the Republican or Democratic conventions to be distributed on this day. This year's Super Tuesday falls on March 5, when some 15 states and one territory will vote.



Sanctions won't work on solving Russia-Ukraine crisis: Slovak FM

Antalya (Turkey), Mar 5 (IANS) : Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blunar has said that his country opposes imposing sanctions on Russia and won't send any weapons or troops to Ukraine to escalate the war. "Sanction hurts even more the European Union than the Russian

economy," he told reporters on Tuesday after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum held in the southern Turkish city. "We will not support any other sanction which will hurt more Slovakia than Russia," he noted.





Ross Taylor alleges forced retirement for New Zealand's Neil Wagner ahead of Australia Test series

New Delhi, Mar 5 (IANS) : Former New Zealand cricketer Ross Taylor has stirred controversy by alleging that Neil Wagner's retirement ahead of the Test series against Australia was a "forced one". Wagner's retirement announcement, made in an emotionally charged news conference before the first Test, has raised eyebrows, particularly given the circumstances surrounding his exclusion from the XI. Neil Wagner, a stalwart of New Zealand cricket, bid farewell to the international stage after a distinguished career spanning 64 Tests and yielding 260 wickets. Taylor, speaking on ESPN's Around the Wicket podcast.

Santosh Trophy : Manipur outclass Assam 7-1 to clinch berth in semifinals

Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), March 5 (IANS) : Wangkheimayum Sadananda Singh scored three goals as former champions Manipur came up with a powerful display to hammer Assam 7-1 in the third quarterfinal of the 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, here on Tuesday. Manipur surged to a 4-0 lead within 20 minutes, thus virtually eliminating any chances of an Assam comeback. However, Assam managed to salvage some pride with a second-half goal. While Sadananda Singh scored in the 11th, 16th and 70th minutes skipper Phijam Sanathoi Meetei (4'), Ngangbam Pacha Singh (19', P), Maibam Deny Singh (82') and Imarson Meitei (88') were the other scorers for the winners. Joydeep Gogoi scored the only goal for Assam in the 64th minute. Phijam Sanathoi Meetei opened the scoring as he seized the opportunity in the 4th minute from Sadananda Singh's pass outside the box to sneak the ball past Assam goalkeeper Abhinash Mech. This was his 11th goal in this edition, making him the leading



scorer in the 77th Santosh Trophy for the 2023-24 season. This early goal set the tone for Manipur's dominance, with Sanathoi Meetei proving to be a constant thorn in Assam's flesh throughout the match because of his attacking prowess. As if not content with the early goal, Ngathem Imarson Meitei displayed his proficiency with a powerful left-footer in the 6th minute from the edge of the box, although Assam's Abhinash Mech managed to collect it perfectly.



IPL is an emotion, and we love it as much as the fans do, says Rishabh Pant

Mumbai, Mar 5 (IANS) : India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant has said that "IPL is an emotion, and we love it as much as the fans do" ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season 2024. Rishabh Pant is expected to make his return to action in the IPL 2024 playing for his franchise Delhi Capitals after recovering from a tragic accident in December 2022. Pant feels grateful for the love showered by the fans and eyes for a comeback in IPL 2024. Speaking to Star Sports IPL series campaign, 'Ajab Rang Dikhega', Pant said, "As a 'Believe' Ambassador, it is an honour to be a part of the 'Ajab Rang Dikhega' campaign. IPL is an emotion, and

we love it as much as the fans do." "Through the new campaign, we celebrate the unique community experiences that IPL evokes across the country making it a truly unforgettable experience. I'm grateful for the love showered by fans and I'm looking forward to IPL 2024", said Rishabh Pant. Earlier, former India captain Sourav Ganguly revealed the latest update on Pant, who led the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) before he suffered a horrific accident on December 31, 2022, and has not played international cricket since then. "He has done everything to get fit and that's the reason NCA will clear him," said Ganguly, who is Delhi Capitals' Director of Cricket.

Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0, bats with Rohit Sharma

Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh), March 5 (IANS) : Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur on Tuesday inaugurated Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 at Luhnu Cricket Stadium, Bilaspur, in his constituency Hamirpur. The Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid graced the occasion as chief guests. Lakhvinder Singh Vadali, Kuldeep Sharma, "Natti King", "Pines of Harmony" Himachal Police Band, and Apareshakti Khurana also enhanced the grandeur of the inaugural ceremony. While inaugurating Sansad

Khel Mahakumbh, Anurag Thakur said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi says 'Khelega India toh Khilega India', emphasising the importance of sports. Therefore, Sansad Khel Mahakumbh not only provides a platform for talents in my Hamirpur parliamentary constituency but also offers them the opportunity to shine at the national and international levels. Sansad Khel Mahakumbh has become the biggest platform for players in my Hamirpur parliamentary constituency to play, compete, and showcase their talents." "After two successful editions, today's grand inauguration of MP Sports Mahakumbh 3.0 at Bilaspur's Luhnu Ground wit-

nessed the glorious presence of cricket stalwarts Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma, along with other dignitaries. After 40,000 participants in the first edition and 45,000 in the second, our aim this time is to engage 75,000 players. I extend my best wishes to all participants of the event," he added. Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid expressed their joy at witnessing the grand event organized by Anurag Thakur for the youth, considering it a significant initiative. Rohit Sharma said, "Such events carve the future players and elevate India's sporting talents to new heights. When such programs are organized at the grassroots



level, the improvement of young players in the country will not be limited to cricket but extend to other sports as well. I am thrilled to witness this event and Anurag Thakur's hospitality."

Anurag Thakur also showed his batting skills while Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid bowled. Showing his love for sports Anurag Thakur in a social media post on 'X' (formerly Twitter) wrote,

"Swung for the fences and had a blast with Hitman and The Wall Rahul Dravid at the grand opening of Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 at Luhnu Cricket Stadium, Bilaspur.



French Open badminton: Satwiksairaj-Chirag, Tressa-Gayatri move into second round

Paris, Mar 5 (IANS) : Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday beat the Malaysian pair Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi in straight games to move into the next round at the French Open badminton tournament. The Indian double combine won 21-13, 24-22 in the BWF World Tour Super 750 event being played at Arena de la Chapelle in the French capital.

In women's doubles, the top Indian pair of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand defeated compatriots Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto in hard-fought three games, 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 to reach Round 2. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen will take on Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan while Priyanshu Rajawat will face top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark later in the day.

ISL 2023-24 : FC Goa look to address win-drought as pressure increases on East Bengal FC

Margao (Goa), March 5 (IANS) : FC Goa will host East Bengal FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 at the Fatorda Stadium here on Wednesday. FC Goa are still searching for their maiden win in the competition in the second half of this campaign.



Playing 100 Tests means a hell of a lot, says England's Jonny Bairstow

Dharamsala, Mar 5 (IANS) : England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow has said that representing his country in 100 Test matches means a "hell lot for him". Bairstow is all set to mark his 100th Test appearance in the fifth and final Test match against India in Dharamsala. He is set to become the 17th English cricketer to achieve this illustrious milestone and expressed his gratitude and excitement ahead of the landmark match. Reflecting on the significance of reaching the century mark in Test cricket, Bairstow shared his anticipation, jokingly suggesting that the team might surprise him with a celebratory barbecue. In 99

Test matches, Bairstow has scored 5,974 runs at an average of 36.42. Despite his light-hearted remarks, Bairstow emphasised the profound meaning that this milestone holds for him personally, highlighting the honour and privilege of representing England on the international stage. "Playing 100 Tests means a hell of a lot. There might be a surprise barbecue for the team... I am joking," Bairstow said in the pre-match press conference. However, Bairstow's journey to his 100th Test has been full of challenges, as the veteran cricketer has struggled to find his form in



the ongoing series against India. Despite showing glimpses of his best, Bairstow's contributions with the bat have been limited, with only 170 runs to his name from four matches. Nevertheless, Bairstow remains optimistic and determined, maintaining a positive mindset as he prepares to take on the formidable Indian side. "I have been feeling good, but runs haven't come. I have been in the zone every game in the series so far," he said. Dharamsala hosted four matches in the ongoing Ranji Trophy and Bairstow lauded the groundsmen for their dedication and hard work amidst challenging weather conditions.