

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

THURSDAY, 07 March 2024

VOLUME : 14 ISSUE : 190 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Ind vs Eng, 5th Test: I just don't know what bazball means, says Rohit Sharma

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma admits that he is still puzzled by the term "bazball" despite praising England's valiant approach.. 12



Tata Power installs 1,000 green energy-powered EV charging points in Mumbai

Tata Power on Wednesday said it has achieved over 1,000 of its EV charging points in Mumbai which are powered by green energy. 07



Armed security arrangements for Mahashivratri fair :SP Akhil Mahajan

Trainee IPS Rahul Reddy, Additional SP Chandraya and police officers at Rajanna Sirisilla district police office held... 02



Let us tackle drought together : CM Revanth

Hyderabad, March 6 (NSS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has assured that the State government will support the farmers in the difficult drought conditions. The drought situation has prevailed in Telangana and it will be tackled collectively. Due to deficit rainfall this year, water levels in the res-

ervoirs are depleted and hence the water crisis looming large in the state, the Chief Minister said. Revanth Reddy launched an innovative 'Rythu Nest ham' programme through video conference from his residence on Wednesday. Continued on pg 02



Pawan Kalyan meets Chandrababu Naidu amid talk of alliance with BJP

Amaravati, Mar 6 (IANS) : Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan met Telugu Desam Party President N. Chandrababu Naidu at the latter's residence here on Wednesday. The two leaders are understood to have discussed having BJP as alliance partner for the ensuing elections to Andhra Pradesh Assembly and Lok Sabha. Chandrababu Naidu and

Pawan Kalyan are likely to visit Delhi to discuss the issue with the BJP leadership. While announcing their seat-sharing agreement last month, the TDP and Jana Sena leaders have stated that doors are open for BJP to join the alliance. Majority of state BJP leaders are believed to be in support of an alliance with the TDP-JSP combine to take on ruling YSR Congress. State BJP chief D. Purandeswari

has stated that the decision on alliance will be taken by the party's central leadership. The TDP and Jana Sena leaders also reported to have discussed the second list of candidates of their respective parties. The two parties announced their seat-sharing agreement on February 24. The TDP has left 24 out of 175 Assembly and three out of 25 Lok Sabha seats for Jana Sena.

Minister Sridhar Babu assures to reopen Muthyampet sugar factory

Jagtial, Mar 6 (IANS) : IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Wednesday assured to reopen the Muthyampet Sugar Factory by November 2025. The Minister, who visited the sugar factory to get opinion and advice of farmers by interacting with them, was asked by the farmers to start crushing in the sugar factory by December 2025. Responding positively to the request, Sridhar Babu assured to resume the factory operations one month before. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the State government had decided to reopen the factory as the subject was mentioned in the election manifesto of the Congress party.



Uttam briefs NDSA expert committee on Medigadda damages

Hyderabad, March 6 (NSS): Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy met with National Dam Safety Authority's (NDSA) Expert Committee Chairman Chandra Shekhar and other members at Jala Soudha on Wednesday. Accompanied with Principal Secre-

tary Rahul Bojja, Special Secretary Prashanth Patil, ENC Anil, and others officials, the Irrigation Minister gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation to the Expert Committee about the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla bargages of the Kaleshwaram project. He explained to the expert committee the issues of pillars sagging in Medigadda on October 21, 2023. Continued on pg 02

BRS party activists stage protest program against LRS

Hyderabad, March 6 (NSS): BRS party activists today came down heavily on rival The Congress party, which had earlier said that it did not want LRS and would regularise the land free of cost. They alleged that the grand old party had now gone back on its promise. The BRS party leaders and activists across the state undertook protests programmes as per the instructions.



Newlywed couple among 5 killed in Andhra accident

Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh), March 6 (IANS) :Five members of a family, including a newlywed couple, were killed when a car they were travelling in rammed into a parked truck in Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal district on Wednesday.



It's doubtful Harish Rao to continue in BRS after Lok Sabha polls : Komatireddy

Yadadri Bhongir, March 6 (NSS): Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said it is doubtful that former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao will continue in the party after the Parliament elections.

Speaking to the media in the district on Wednesday, the Minister alleged that Harish Rao was in contacts with the Bharatiya Janatha Party leaders and one day, he would definitely join the BJP. Continued on pg 02



TSRTC offers 10% discount in AC buses

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (NSS): There is a Good news for those travelling to distant places. TSRTC management has decided to provide 10 per cent discount on berths in Lahari AC sleeper and AC sleeper-cum-seater buses for the convenience of passengers. A 10 percent discount has been provided on the berths booked by the passengers in the regular ticket price.

DK Aruna slams CM Revanth Reddy

Jadcherla, March 6 (NSS): BJP national vice-president DK Aruna today questioned as to why the Revanth Reddy government was not seeking a CBI probe into the corruption, irregularities of the previous government and added that if the Congress government is sincere, then the Chief Minister should seek a CBI inquiry into the corruption of the previous government. BJP national vice-president DK Aruna was the chief guest at a virtual meeting with women self-

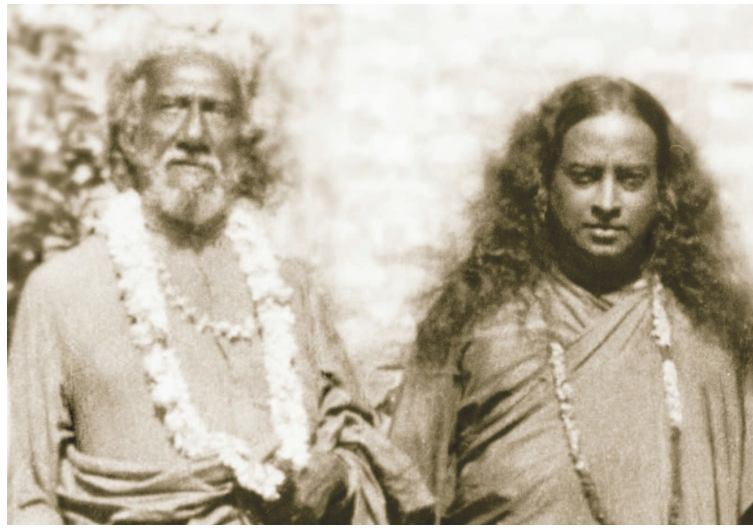
help groups (SHGs) organised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the Nari Shakti Vandana programme held at Kancha Lingamma function hall in Jadcherla town. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "The aim of the BJP government at the Centre was to ensure that women in the country live with economic independence and self-re-



Mahasamadhi Divas of Two Great Saints - Inspiring Remembrances

Hyderabad, Mar 6 (TIM Bureau) : India's hallowed soil has been blessed by the footprints of many great divine personages over the millenniums. Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri, whose mahasamadhi divas is on March 9 and Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda, whose mahasamadhi divas is on March 7, are widely recognized as two such saints. Their inspiring lives have permeated the collective consciousness of untold numbers of devotees with love and wisdom, which have enabled many to hasten their evolution towards the ultimate goal of oneness with God. Yoganandaji first met Swami Sri Yukteswarji at Banaras, seemingly by chance, but clearly according to a divine plan. He was then a young lad named Mukund Lal Ghosh but was already yearning for a

true guru to come into his life and envelope him with his loving guidance. That first meeting on a balmy evening upon the rooftop of Yukteswarji's paternal home at Banaras, though instantaneously joyful, turned out to be inconclusive. Yogananda describes that encounter and their years of togetherness to come, in his iconic bestseller, 'Autobiography of a Yogi.' But during the years to come, at Swami Sri Yukteswarji's hermitage in Serampore near Kolkata, the strict discipline but innately loving heart of the great guru moulded and honed the fledgling monk into the globally recognized guru that Yoganandaji was to become in the years that followed. Those initial years under the ambit of his Guru's guidance sculpted Yoganandaji's persona and innermost qualities to such an extent that he went on to become the main proponent of the



science of Kriya Yoga globally and to carve out an unparalleled spiritual legacy for the ages. Yoganandaji gloriously fulfilled the responsibility bestowed upon him by his visionary guru, who in turn was guided by Sri Lahiri Mahasaya and the peerless Mahavatar Babaji to prepare the young monk to travel across the oceans and shine like a beacon to spread knowledge of the Kriya Yoga path in the western world. The spiritual organization, Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) founded by Yoganandaji, has, for many decades, capably performed the task of disseminating the Kriya Yoga teachings globally to interested truth seekers. Step by step instructions for practicing the scientific techniques of meditation, which Yoganandaji elucidated, are available for devotees in India through the Home Study Lessons and Mobile App of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS). The ideal relationship between

guru and disciple found magnificent manifestation in the form of Swami Sri Yukteswarji and Yoganandaji. Both saints were living out the human drama for legions of their followers to learn from in times to come. Both suffered setbacks just as normal human beings do. Yet, each word, each gaze and each touch that they chose to bless those around them with, carried eternal significance for true devotees of their path. As Swami Sri Yukteswar said, most memorably, "Everything in future will improve, if you are making a spiritual effort now!" And Yoganandaji made monumental efforts, as a true chela of his great guru, to imbibe and implement each utterance that emanated from his guru's lips.



Let us tackle drought together : CM Revanth

Continued From pg 01 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Secretary of Agriculture department and Commissioner Raghunandana Rao, Director Gopi, representatives of farmers unions Sunketa Anvesh Reddy, Nallamala Venkateswara Rao and Y Venkateswara Rao participated in the programme from the Secretariat. Farmers from different districts also participated in the conference and shared their experiences. They have explained how they are making profits in farming. Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy said that he was aware of the demand made by farmers and leaders from Karimnagar, Khammam, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts, asking to release water from the reservoirs, but they should understand the present drought situation prevailed in the State. "The State government is making required arrangements to solve the drinking water crisis in the ensuing summer amidst the water cri-

sis," he disclosed. Meanwhile, the innovative 'Rythu Nestham' programme is designed to solve the problems of the farmers directly by arranging video conference facilities to 2,601 'Rythu Vedikas' across the Telangana State. In the first phase, video conference units are being set up in 110 Assembly constituencies on an experimental basis. The State Agriculture department took up this programme with the help of Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University. The government already sanctioned Rs 97 crore for the programme. The new facility will provide a platform to interact with the agricultural experts directly with farmers and understand the challenges at the field level. The experts and officials will give suggestions to the farmers on the crops and advanced farming techniques from time to time. The digital platform will also help the farmers to share their experiences with other farmers. MLAs and district Collectors participated in the launch of Rythu Nestham through video conference.

NOTICE

This is to inform all the people that Mr. Cherukupalli Kiran Kumar and Vutukuru Haripriya, Flat No. G5, Ground Floor, KVR's Ellora, Bank Colony, Khanapuram (Haveli), Khammam obtained loans (Account Number: 36510668000043) from our Bank by mortgaging Original Sale Deed Document bearing No. 7996/2013, dated: 07-10-2013 of Residential Flat No. G5 in Ground Floor in KVR's Ellora with build up area of 1006 sq.ft., including the common areas together with the undivided share of land equivalent to 24.23 sq.yds, in Plot no. 8, 9, 10 & 11 part, out of sy. no. 286/B situated at Bank Colony, Khanapuram (Haveli), Khammam. This original registration sale deed document and other related records are not found in our bank Union Bank of India, Khammam-1 Branch. For this we have given report in One Town Police Station, Khammam. Therefore above mentioned Original Sale Deed Document bearing No. 7996/2013, dated: 07-10-2013 Any one found can hand over to Union Bank of India, Khammam-1 Branch. Any one who misuses or otherwise uses the above mentioned Original documents shall be liable to civil and criminal action under the law. Sd/- Sr. Branch Manager, Union Bank of India, Khammam-1 Branch, Cell: 8886222562

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - III DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) 3rd Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad - 500001.

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE Under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961. RC/371/2023 28-02-2024

State Bank of India Versus MSC Bikes and Another

To (CD1) MSC Bikes, # Plot No. C-81, 1st Floor, Above Rave Dental Clinic, Rukminipuri Colony, Kapra, Secunderabad, Rep by its, Proprietress Smt. P. Lalitha Devi (CD2) Smt. P. Lalitha Devi, Proprietress, M/s MSC Bikes, Plot No. C-81, 1st Floor, Above Rave Dental Clinic, Rukminipuri Colony, Kapra, Secunderabad.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL Hyderabad (DRT2) in OA/36/2022 an amount of Rs. 47,31,971/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy One only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 11% simple interest yearly w.e.f. 20.01.2022 till realisation and costs of Rs. 76,620/- (Rupees Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

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

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 24/04/2024 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: 28/02/2024.

Recovery Officer Debts Recovery Tribunal Hyderabad (DRT2)



Armed security arrangements for Mahashivratri fair : SP Akhil Mahajan

It should be seen that the devotees do not face any difficulties

Rajanna Sirisilla, Mar 06 (TIM Bureau) : Trainee IPS Rahul Reddy, Additional SP Chandraya and police officers at Rajanna Sirisilla district police office held a review meeting with police officers on the procedures to be taken to ensure that the Mahashivratri fair is held in a peaceful atmosphere on Wednesday, without causing

any trouble to the devotees. Speaking on this occasion, the SP said that in the context of Maha Shivratri fair being held for 3 days from March 7 to March 9 in Vemulawada Sri Rajarajeswara Swamy Devasthanam, which is known as Dakshina Kashi, the of-

ficials were ordered to ensure that the devotees coming from different states and distant places do not face any security problems. During the Mahashivratri fair, a strict security system has been established with 1400 police personnel, the entire fair premises should be under the control of CCTV cameras, officers and staff of all departments and officials and staff from other districts should coordinate and perform their duties to ensure that there is no trouble for the devotees. He said that in view of the increase in the number of devotees this time, 8 parking spaces have been set up and measures have been taken to ensure that the vehicles coming to the fair are parked only in the parking spaces and the staff has been arranged accordingly. He said that traffic management will be in the first place during the fair, keeping in mind the past experiences and taking appropriate measures to prevent traffic problems by allocating staff accordingly.

It's doubtful Harish Rao to continue in BRS after Lok Sabha polls : Komatireddy

Continued From pg 01 He also slammed former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao for failing to discharge his duties as the leader of Opposition in the State. "KCR doesn't have guts to face Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the Assembly. Moreover, he is facing a tough situation as all the leaders are leaving the party one by one. If we include BRS party MLAs like KCR, nobody will be in the BRS party," he pointed out. The Minister also slammed BRS president K Chandrashekar for forging an alliance with BSP leader RS Praveen Kumar and said that KCR doesn't have the face to show the people, that's reason he is touching the feet of BSP leader. He also clarified that LRS guidelines have not been prepared so far and there is no reason to criticise the State government by the Opposition party.

Uttam briefs NDSA expert committee on Medigadda damages

Continued From pg 01 Uttam Kumar Reddy appreciated the Central Water Commission for constituting an expert committee of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) at the request of the Telangana Government. He assured that the State Government would extend full coopera-

tion to the committee in restoring the collapsed pillars of Medigadda. He said that the government would be awaiting the committee's report and assured that all suggestions would be followed to bring the Medigadda back into use. He said the committee has been given a four-month deadline to submit the report. However, the State Government is requesting an interim report as soon as possible. The Irrigation Minister said the NDSA team would conduct three days of fieldwork on the Kaleswaram project. "We will

provide all kinds of support to the NDSA team," he said. He said that the NDSA is expected to give reasons for the damage to the barrage and what steps should be taken before the arrival of the rainy season. He said that the government would explore the possibilities of repairing the barrages. He said that the officials at all levels have been directed to provide all documents and information asked by the NDSA committee. He warned of strict action against anyone who does not cooperate with the NDSA committee and hides documents. The committee

will visit the Medigadda barrage on Thursday morning and then the Annaram barrage. After the night halt at Ramagundam, it will visit the Sundilla Barrage on March 8. "We have suggested that the most advanced technology in the world should be used for the tests. It will be good for the state government to repair the damages and put the barrages back into use. Reddy said that actions would be taken against the construction company if the NDSA committee identified any lapses on its part.

HDB Financial Services Ltd.
Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009.
Branch: Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice U/s 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

You, the under mentioned borrower/ mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No.	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1. Sri Lakshmi Automobiles, 5-5-155/1, Chintalkunta Check Post, LB Nagar, Beside Pallavi Garden, Hyderabad-500074, Telangana. And Also: 5-5-804/38N, Plot No.38, Jahangir Colony, Street No.4, Chintalkunta Hyderabad-500074. And Also: H.No: 5-5-933, Chintalkunta Check Post, LB Nagar, Hyderabad-500074 Telangana. 2. Namu Haritha, 5-5-804, 38N, 2nd Floor, Jahangir Nagar Colony, Street No. 4, Opp. Bharath Gas, Chintalkunta, LB Nagar, Hyderabad-500074, Telangana. 3. N. China Brahmam, 5-5-804, 38N, 2nd Floor, Jahangir Nagar Colony, Street No. 4, Opp. Baharath Gas, Chintalkunta, LB Nagar, Hyderabad-500074, Telangana. 4. Namu China Brahmam, H.No:5-5-804/38N, Plot No:38N, 2nd Floor, Jahangir Nagar Colony, Road No.4, LB Nagar, Hyderabad-500074, Telangana.	7524615, 14231687	Date of NPA: 02-02-2024 Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2024	Rs. 40,80,547.65 as of 09-02-2024 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

Schedule of the Securities:- All that piece and parcel of House Bearing Municipal No. 5-5-804/38N, Constructed on the Northern Part of Plot No.38 Admeasuring 166.5 Sq Yards or 139.21 Sq Mtrs having Residential Ground Floor Plinth Area 1200 Sq Ft and 794 Sq Ft Total Plinth Area 4394 Sq Ft with RCC Roof, Survey Nos 74 Part, 78 Part, 79, 80, 85 And 86 of "Jahangir Nagar Colony" Situated At Sahebnagar Kurdh Village, Ward No.5, Block No.5, Hayathnagar Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Under G.H.M.C of LB Nagar Circle-3, North: Plot No.37, South: South part of Plot No. 38, East: Land of A.I.R, West: 30' wide Road.
Date: 07-03-2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.



Ujjain man undergoes 'bilateral hand transplant' at Mumbai hospital; plans to marry now

Mumbai, Mar 6 (IANS) : In a rare case, a man from Madhya Pradesh underwent a 12-hour long 'bilateral hand transplant' surgery at the Global Hospitals in Mumbai and is now on his way to regaining near-normal movements of his upper limbs, and look forward to marriage, officials said here on Wednesday. The patient, Jeevesh Kushwah (32), sustained a high-voltage electric shock in December 2020 while working at a steel fabrication factory in the pilgrim town of Ujjain. The bachelor suffered severe electric burns on both his arms and legs and was initially treated at an

Ujjain hospital and later in Indore, where the family was given a grim medical verdict. The medics said that in order to survive, the patient's right leg and both hands would need to be amputated, leaving the family devastated. However, to save Kushwah's life, the family agreed and within days, his right leg was amputated at above knee-level, and a couple of weeks later, both his arms were amputated at below elbow-level. Subsequently, the distraught family managed to procure artificial limbs for him and he could stand and walk with the artificial leg. However, the artificial hands were of little or no use as they were not fully functional, and he remained dependent on his family members or brothers to carry out his routine daily tasks. Around a couple of years ago, the Kushwahs heard about the Global Hospitals in Parel, Mumbai, and decided to consult Dr. Nilesh Satbhai, HoD, Plastic, Hand, Reconstructive Microsurgery & Transplantation, for the first time in June 2022.



Twin blows to Congress in Gujarat as Arjun Modhwadia, another leader quit party

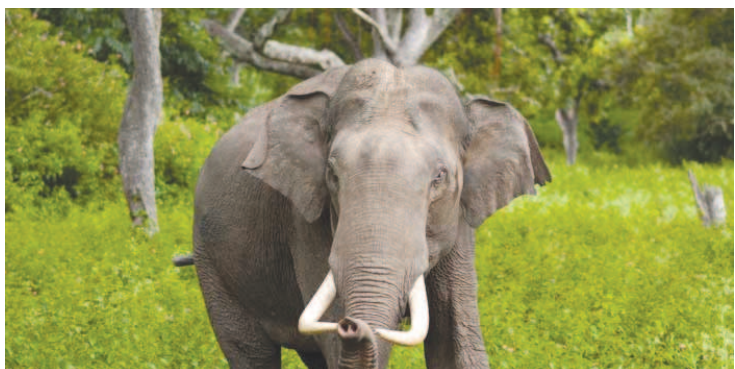
Gandhinagar, Mar 6 (IANS) : In twin blows to the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, its senior leader from Gujarat, Arjun Modhwadia, quit the grand old party on Wednesday, and also resigned from his position of Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA). Modhwadia, a senior leader from the Mer community of coastal Saurashtra, is a former Leader of the Opposition and ex-Gujarat unit Congress president. He submitted his resignation to Gujarat Assembly Speaker, Shankarbai Chaudhary. According to sources, Modhwadia is likely to join the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP). Meanwhile, Ambarish Der, Working President of the Gujarat Congress and a former MLA from Rajula assembly constituency, also resigned from the party on Wednesday. Modhwadia's resignation comes on the heels of public disagreements he had with the Congress' central leadership, particularly concerning the party's decision to decline the invitation to attend Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya in January. Modhwadia's departure is seen as one of the most substantial losses for the Congress in Gujarat.

Kerala woman killed in wild elephant attack, fifth death in five weeks

Kochi, Mar 6 (IANS) : In what has become a recurring feature, a woman in Neriyanamangalam in Ernakulam district was attacked and killed by a wild elephant on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Indira (70). She was collecting

local produce from a farm area when she was attacked by a wild elephant. The victim passed away before locals tried to shift her to the hospital at Kothamangalam. Indira's death is the fifth death in the past five weeks.



SC orders AAP to vacate its office encroaching on Delhi HC's land by June 15

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : In a setback to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the national capital's ruling party to vacate its office encroaching on the land allotted to the Delhi High Court by June 15. A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, set the June 15 deadline in view of the ensuing general elections and asked the party led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to approach the Union government's Land & Development Office (L&DO) for obtaining alternative office space. The bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said that L&DO will decide the party's application for alternative premises within four weeks in accordance with the law. A bench, headed by CJI Chandrachud, had earlier come down heavily on the party for encroaching on a portion of a plot at Rouse Avenue which has been allotted to the High Court to meet the infrastructural requirements of the district judiciary.



BJP councillors win posts in Chandigarh civic body

Chandigarh, Mar 6 (IANS) : The BJP's Kuljit Singh Sandhu and Rajinder Sharma on Wednesday won the posts of Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively, by defeating INDIA bloc candidates Gurpreet Singh Gabi and Nirmala Devi in the re-election in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. Sandhu secured 19 votes and the Congress' Gurpreet Gabi 16 while one vote was declared invalid. For the Deputy Mayor's post, Rajinder Sharma emerged the winner by securing 19 votes, while

the Congress' Nirmala Devi got 17 votes. The results were announced by the INDIA bloc's Mayor Kuldeep Kumar Dhalor, who was the presiding authority for the poll. He was declared elected on the directive of the Supreme Court. In a 35-member municipal House, the BJP has 17 councillors. The BJP's strength increased from 14 to 17 after three AAP councillors switched loyalties. The AAP has 10 members while the Congress has seven. The Shiromani Akali Dal has one councillor. Chandigarh MP Kirron Kher, who is a BJP member.

Cash-for-query row: Delhi HC rejects interim injunction against 'defamatory' posts on Mahua Moitra

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant interim relief to Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra in a defamation suit against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai pertaining to alleged defamatory content



posted by them on social media regarding the "cash-for-query" allegations against her. Justice Sachin Datta denied Moitra's application for an ad-interim injunction, refusing to restrain Dubey and Dehadrai from posting the contested content at this stage. The court had reserved its judgement on Moitra's application on December 20, 2023.

BJP mulling to field woman candidate from South Goa

Panaji, Mar 6 (IANS) : Unable to choose a candidate for the South Goa Lok Sabha constituency from the five shortlisted names of male politicians, the BJP in Goa has decided to look for a woman candidate for the seat. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, during a press conference on Wednesday after a core committee meeting, said that his party respects women and hence before the 33 per cent reservation gets implemented.



OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) 3rd Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad -500001.

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE Under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.
RC/373/2023 28-02-2024

Slate Bank of India
Versus
Sri Balaji Battery Centre and Another

To
(CD1) Sri Balaji Battery Centre, Proprietor Sri Sahadeva Sheelam, S/o Sitarmulu Shadava, situated at H.No. 10, Beside Hanuman Temple, Chinthokata, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad - 500036
(CD2) Sri Sahadeva Sheelam S/o Sitarmulu Shadava, R/o 4-7-11/25, Raghavendra, Near Nacharam, Hyderabad - 500001

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT2) in OA/158/2022 an amount of Rs.27,69,937.53/ Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Fifty Three only) along with pendentelitte and future interest @ 7.40% simple interest yearly w.e.f 03.03.2022 till realisation and costs of Rs.62,724/- (Rupees Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

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

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 24/04/2024 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 are 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: 28/02/2024.

Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Hyderabad(DRT2)

pnb पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Circle Office, Secunderabad, 2nd Floor, Maharishi House, Adjacent to Chutney's Restaurant, Road No.3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034. Mail: cosecunderabad@pnb.co.in

LOCKER BREAK OPEN NOTICE

This is for the information of our valued patrons who have taken lockers on rent at following branches of Punjab National Bank under Circle Office Secunderabad and have committed breach of the agreement. The notices sent as per RBI/Bank's guidelines to the renters at their recorded addresses have been returned undelivered stating either persons/ addresses not found or left or remaining unanswered. Efforts to contact the locker holders in person at their recorded addresses was in vain and their present whereabouts could not be ascertained. Thus having no alternative, the notice is given to all the persons named below for contacting bank and to clear the dues of the Bank within a period of 15 days, failing which the bank will proceed to Break Open the Locker at their cost, risk and responsibility and the Bank shall exercise its right to lien for recovery of Outstanding rent cost and other charges.

S. No.	Name of the Branch & Sol ID	Name of Lessee/ Defaulter Customer	Locker No	Due Amount
1	Secunderabad, RP Road - 042100	V. Krishnaveni & P. Chandrakala	AA00065	11958.92
2	Khammam - 211220	Vipparla Vijay Kumar	AA00033	12007.20
3	Bhizamadab - 272200	Bharatamma	BB00104	13275.00
4	Secunderabad, MG Road - 363100	Magan Lal M Patel	AA00081	12390.00
5	Hyderabad, Habsiguda - 393500	D.Harish Kumar	DD00199	21707.20

Date: 06.03.2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank

Pro-Pakistan slogans : K'taka BJP delegation urges DGP to release FSL report

Bengaluru, Mar 6 (IANS) : A Karnataka BJP legislators' delegation met Director General of Police Alok Mohan on Wednesday and demanded that the forensic report on the alleged raising of pro-Pakistan slogans in the Assembly premises by the supporters of Congress Rajya Sabha MP Naseer Hussain be made public. Dhiraj Muniraju, BJP MLA from Doddaballaipur and state Yuva



Morcha president, stated that DGP Alok Mohan assured the team that the FSL report would be made public in three days.

HDB Financial Services Ltd.
Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009. Branch: Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice U/s 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

You, the under mentioned borrower/ mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No.	Date of NPA & Demand Notice Date	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1. Sai Dinesh Agencies, D.No.11-125, Seetharamapuram, Miryalaguda Nalgonda, Nalgonda-508207, Telangana. And Also: House Bearing Municipal Door No.11-95, 11-95/1, New H.No.11-125, Block No.11 Situated At Seetharamapuram, Nalgonda-508207, 2. Akuthota Nirmala, H.No.11-125, Seetharamapuram, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda, Nalgonda-508207, Telangana, 3. Akuthota Venkateshwarlu, H.No.11-125, Seetharamapuram, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda, Nalgonda-508207, Telangana.	Loan Account No. 8907381, 15028468	Date of NPA: 02-02-2024 Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2024	Rs. 58,31,164.49 as of 09.02.2024 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

Schedule of the Securities:- All that piece and parcel of Residential House Bearing Municipal Door No.11-125, Within the total Area 228.00 Sq Yards=190.60 Sq Mtrs, Plinth Area 1580.00 Sq Feets, Ground Floor, Roof of RCC, Age of the Building 5 Years, Situated at Seetharamapuram, Miryalaguda Town, and within the Registration District and Sub District Nalgonda. North: 12 Feet Wide Road, South: House of Chenuru Saraswathama, East: House of Salyamayya, West: 18 Feet Wide Road.

Date: 07-03-2024, Place: Nalgonda Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.

OPINIONmail

AGITATION OF GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES AND TRADE UNIONS
MAY IMPACT ELECTION 2024

Government Employees and Trade Unions are up in arms against Modi government's policies and preparing themselves for a more aggressive struggle in the coming weeks, including all Indian strike action from May 1 in the midst of Lok Sabha Election 2024. Election Commission of India (ECI) may therefore face some peculiar difficulties on account of potential social tensions, hurdles in traffic movement, clash between the workers and the followers of PM Narendra Modi and BJP rank and file, because workers will be campaigning against them with a call for "Defeat Modi, Defeat BJP, Save India." Since ECI also deposes government employees in election duty, it would need to plan and prepare in advance for any eventuality. ECI will have to take note of the recent development of the call by the Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS) for indefinite strike from May 1, the decision of which was taken through ballot. Participants in the Railways, various departments, and PSUs under the Centre cast their nearly 100 per cent of their vote in support of the strike action. All trade and employees' unions would participate in the strike action except the pro-government Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). This platform of trade unions and associations works among 28 lakh employees of the Union government, including the Railways and Central Public Sector Undertakings, and also among more than three crore employees and teachers with the State governments across the country. Several Railway unions, including All India Railwaymen's Federation, have threatened to stop all trains from May 1, as part of their agitation. All Central Trade Unions, barring RSS-BJP supported Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh have already been agitating since 2020 against the four controversial labour codes Modi government had got passed in the Parliament of India, alleging them to be anti-labour and pro-Corporate and demanding their withdrawal. Farmers and Farm labours are agitating with their chief demand of legal guarantee for MSP. Employees of PSUs, Public Sector Banks, Public Sector Insurance Companies have been agitating against privatization policy of the government.

In addition to these, government employees have been agitating with their demand to revert to Old Pension Scheme (OPS), that was replaced with New Pension Scheme (NPS) by BJP led government in 2004. Joint platform of Central Trade Unions has also been demanding enhancement of minimum pension from the present Rs1000, which Union Ministry of Finance has recently turned down. Agitating farmers and farm labours are also demanding pension. Though agitating government employees and trade unions know that Election Commission of India will soon announce schedule for Lok Sabha election 2024 during which the ruling establishment led by PM Narendra Modi would be legally restrained to announce any policy decision due to the Model Code of Conduct for election in operation, they have decided to go ahead with their agitation, with all their unresolved problems and unmet demands. It is very difficult to visualize at this moment about the turn of events in about 70 days from now, since the trade unions have resolved last year to take their agitation to logical conclusion.

The immediate cause of potential escalation of the workers agitation is the decision of the JFROPS to serve strike notices on March 19 to respective administrations. The Steering Committee of JFROPS have unanimously decided to go on an indefinite strike from May 1 demanding the restoration of OPS replacing the present NPS in operation. It is worth recalling that JFROPS had observed relay hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, state capitals, divisional and district level across the country during January 8-11, 2024 over their demand for restoration of OPS. All the talks between the JFROPS and the Central government has failed so far. The Convenor of the JFROPS and the general secretary of All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) Shiv Gopal Mishra has said that the decision of the indefinite general strike action from May 1 was taken after discussions with the Centre failed. "We held several protests demanding restoration of OPS. We wrote letters to Prime Minister and Finance Minister urging them to restore OPS. We have also been raising this issue in the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) meetings, but the government ignored our demands and we are now forced to go on an indefinite strike," Mr Mishra, who is also the secretary (staff side) of the JCM, has said. JFROPS is aware of the possibility of Model Code of Conduct for election to be in operation by the time when they would serve notice for the strike.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mailArt show 'Reflections of
Womanhood' highlights need to
remove gender inequalities

Reflections of Womanhood, an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, photography, installation and printmaking celebrates not only women but also everything feminine from earth to life and to the inception of the universe with Shiva and Shakti. Highlighting the need to remove gender inequalities, the show houses 54 artists, who have narrated tales of courage, love and dedication of countless women on their canvases and sculptures. It also includes two senior dance dancers who will be inaugurating the show. Three instrumentalists and a troop of kathak dancers will also be present. Curated by Manisha Gawade, the show is a collaborative effort of three art galleries including Pioneer Art Gallery, Divine Art Gallery and digi-

tally partnered by Ehsaas and will be held at both the galleries in the Capital from March 8 to 28. The list of artists includes F.N. Souza, Krishen Khanna and Ram Kumar, Alka Raghuvanshi, Amargeet Chandok, Ananda Moy Banerji, Anil Gaikwad, Anita Kulkarni, Anjolie Ela Menon, Anki Bhutia, Anu Nayak, Anupam Sud, Arpana Caur, Arup Das, Ashok Bhowmick, Asit Patnayak, Bhaskar Rao, Biman Dasgupta, Durga Kainthola, Gagan Vij, Gogi Saroj Pal, Jogen Chowdhury, Kanchan Chander, Kavita Nayak, Laxman Aelay, Manisha Gawade, N.S. Rana, Nagesh Goud, Niladri Paul, Nupur Kundu, Paresh Maity, Praveen Upadhye, Priyendra Shukla, Prof. Niren Sengupta, Qamar Dagar, Ramesh Gorjala, Rashmi Khurana, Ratan Shah, Rini Dhupal, Shakti Burman, Sangeeta Gupta, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Sarla Chandra, Seema Kohli, Shabir Santosh,



Shampa Sircar, Sheela Chamaria, Shobha Broota, Shridhar Iyer, Sonali Durga Chaudhari, Sonika Agarwal, Sudhir Bhagat, Vilas Kulkarni, Vimmi Indra and Vinod Sharma in alphabetical order. The curator of the show and Director of Ehsaas, Manisha Gawade said: "Only a drastic change in our education can lead to economic freedom for women,

leading the way to a progressive new tomorrow. Gender biases cannot pave the way for our generations to come. Ehsaas has always stood for women, artists and weavers. We believe that all the art forms are interdependent. We take pride in staging this wonderful event as a combined amalgamation of the various art forms."

CPI(M) FIELDS
BATTLE-SCARRED VETERANS IN
LOK SABHA POLLS IN KERALA

The Communist Party of India (Marxist)(CPI(M)) and the Communist Party of India(CPI) have fielded powerful candidates from all the constituencies from Kerala. Their list features stalwarts and veterans who have fought – and won - many an epic political as well as electoral battle. While the CPI(M) itself will contest from 15 seats, the CPI will fight from four seats and the Kerala Congress(M) from one. The list of CPI(M) candidates includes a sitting MP and four sitting MLAs including a Minister. The list features a Politburo member, four central committee members and three district secretaries. The Minister in the CPI(M) list is SC/ST Development Minister K. Radhakrishnan; the sitting MP is A M Ariff.

In poll year, Maratha politics 'reigns' as
parties jostle to bask in the Chhatrapati's halo

Normally occupying the centre-stage in state politics, Maharashtra's prime historic icon Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosale Maharaj is again in the limelight in 2024 -- for twin reasons. Firstly, the looming Lok Sabha 2024 elections, followed by the 350th anniversary of the Coronation (June 6, 1674) of the legendary Maratha ruler to be celebrated in a grand manner on June 6 at his awe-inspiring capital, the hilltop Raigad Fort. The state's politics has largely veered around the Maratha community which is estimated to be at least 28 per cent of the state's 13-crore population, as per the latest (February 2024) report of Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission (MSBCC), and in a position to swing the outcome in some 150-plus (of 288) Assembly seats or 25 (of 48) Lok Sabha constituencies. Around 10 years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited the Raigad Fort, and in December 2023, he travelled to marvel at the Sindhurg Fort -- built by the



Chhatrapati -- nestling in the Arabian Sea off Sindhurg district. The politically significant community has been quietly pampered or wooed in many ways, even the most prominent Maratha, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar decided to take a 'palkhi' (palanquin) to board the rope-car of Raigad Fort last month (February 2024), a first after 40 years. Pawar, 83, went up the fort to launch his party's new symbol, a 'Trumpeter', with great fanfare before the statue of the Chhatrapati -- and the symbolic gesture did not go unnoticed among the ordinary Marathas.

The Third Eye : Munich
tests India's foreign policy

In the background of India's clear stand on the Hamas-Israel conflict denouncing the "terror" attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 last year and endorsing the support of the US for the initial Israeli response to the same, and the country's independent line on the much older Ukraine-Russia military confrontation which led India to even abstain from voting on the anti-Soviet resolution moved early on by the US in the UNGA, it was no surprise that at the Munich Security Conference held from February 16 to 18, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar faced some searching questions on India's foreign policy, in one of the interactive sessions. The EAM did extremely well in detailing India's policy approach in clear convincing terms, which is a tribute to his grip on India's interna-



formulation. Munich Security Conference is the world's largest gathering of its kind debating pressing security concerns of the times under its mission of 'Peace through Dialogue'. This time it brought together heads of state and government of a large number of countries, foreign and defence ministers, security experts, military leaders besides defence industry captains and provided a venue for important diplomatic initiatives and interactions. Its membership cuts across BRICS and G7, and includes representatives of NATO and EU countries.

S. Jaishankar, in a brilliant exposition, explained that India was not "anti-West but non-West" and affirmed that India's relationship with the US and Europe was getting strengthened constantly. He highlighted the positive role of India in BRICS and the country's contribution towards the expansion of G7 into G20 -- all through the process of discussions and meetings -- and succeeded in presenting India as a major independent power helping the cause of world peace and economic development.



29 killed, 50 injured due to heavy rains in Pakistan

Islamabad, Mar 6 (IANS) : At least 29 people were killed and 50 others injured due to heavy rains that swept across Pakistan in the past 48 hours, the country's authorities told media on Wednesday. The rains caused several houses to collapse and the rain-triggered landslides blocked roads, particularly in the north-west Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, said the authorities, Xinhua news agency reported. Around 23 people had been killed in rain-related incidents in KP since Thursday night, while five people died in the southwestern Balochistan province due to flooding, it added. Five people died in the southwestern Balochistan province after the coastal town of Gwadar got

flooded, forcing authorities to use boats to evacuate some 10,000 people. National Disaster Management Authority said emergency relief was being provided to people in affected areas and heavy machines have been deployed to remove debris blocking highways, Al Jazeera reported. Landslides have blocked the country's Karakoram Highway, which links Pakistan with China, as per spokesperson for the northern Gilgit Baltistan region, Faizullah Faraq. Pakistan is among the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change despite the South Asian nation's almost zero contribution to global carbon emissions, according to the United Nations.



Iran invites foreign investors in energy projects : President

Tehran, Mar 6 (IANS) : Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has invited international investors and the member states of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) to participate in the country's energy projects. Raisi made the remarks on Wednesday at the seventh GECF Summit in the Algerian capital Algiers, according to a statement published on the website of his office. He noted that Iran welcomed GECF members to start systematic cooperation in making joint investments for exchanging information and experience in gas extraction, processing, transfer, trade and related technologies, Xinhua news agency reported.

He added that Iran has huge natural gas reserves, a favourable geographical position regarding gas transit and advanced technological capacities. Raisi said Iran is ready to become an energy hub and a safe route for gas distribution and transfer between producers and their target markets.



Six killed, dozens injured in road accident in Syria

Damascus, March 6 (IANS) : At least six people were killed and dozen others injured on Wednesday after a bus they were travelling in overturned in Syria's Hama province, local media reported. The incident occurred near the Maarin Al-Jabal village intersection, south of Hama, said local Sham FM radio. The bus overturned on the busy highway while transporting the passengers from Lebanon to Syria's northern Aleppo province, Xinhua news agency reported. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

UNSC expresses 'deep concern' over Gaza food convoy deaths, mentions Israeli forces 'involvement'

United Nations, Mar 6 (IANS) : The United Nations Security Council has expressed "deep concern" over more than 100 deaths in Gaza around a humanitarian convoy and to cite the "involvement" of Israeli defence forces in the incident. The Council issued the consensus statement on Wednesday evening that said all "parties to conflicts must comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law". While the statement does not have the power of a resolution that at least in theory is binding, it expresses the sentiment of the members even if they are not ready to endorse a resolution. The statement came under the Council presidency of Japan's Permanent Representative Yamazaki Kazuyuki, who has the difficult task of forging consensus in a rigidly divided body. The statement, citing observations by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) "lent credence" to reports

that the people at the site of the incident were shot by Israeli forces, while that country has to pass off the incident as a stampede and vehicles running over people. "The Council Members express deep concern regarding reports stating that over 100 individuals lost their lives with several hundred others sustaining injuries, including people with gunshot wounds as observed by UN-OCHA in an incident involving Israeli forces at a large gathering surrounding a humanitarian assistance convoy southwest of Gaza City," it said. It added, "The Council Members take note that an Israeli investigation is underway". The consensus on the statement is a sign that the administration of US President Joe Biden has under domestic and international pressure scaled back its opposition to anything that can be seen as criticising Israel. Last month, the US, in line with Israel's position, vetoed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. On Thursday, when the Council held consultations soon after the Gaza incident, the US opposed a statement on the incident, according to diplomats. US Deputy Permanent Representative Robert Wood told reporters before the



meeting, "We do not have all the facts yet on the ground." Besides getting the facts, he said, any Council action must reflect that "we have done the necessary due diligence with regard to culpability" for the incident. The statement issued on Wednesday acknowledged that it was "an incident involving Israeli forces" but stopped short of directly assigning blame. While vetoing on February 20, the ceasefire resolution proposed by Algeria, the US said that it was proposing its own resolution on Gaza. It is expected to be taken up on Thursday when Yamazaki Kazuyuki said the Council would meet on the Gaza situation. The Council warned that all the 2.2 million people in Gaza "would face alarming levels of acute food insecurity" and demanded that all

parties to the conflict allow "the immediate, rapid, safe, sustained and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance at scale to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip." The statement urged Israel "to keep border crossings open for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, to facilitate the opening of additional crossings to meet humanitarian needs at scale, and to support the rapid and safe delivery of relief items to people in all of the Gaza Strip". In another sign of the Biden administration's slight manoeuvring away from backing for Israel, US Air Force planes on Saturday began dropping food supplies over Gaza.



Jordan, US conduct joint aid airdrops to Gaza

Amman, Mar 6 (IANS) : Jordan and the US have jointly carried out airdrops of aid to Gaza, the first time that the US participated in the multinational humanitarian effort. Two aircraft from the Jordan Armed Forces airdropped in the northern Gaza Strip, while three aircraft belonging to the US Air Force airdropped in the south, the state-run Petra news agency reported on Wednesday. The US Air Force said its

three planes carried 66 bundles containing about 38,000 meals, Xinhua news agency reported. Jordan has been air-dropping supplies directly to Gaza and sending aid planes to Egypt's North Sinai since November last year. Some of the operations involve cooperation with other countries, including the UAE, Egypt, France, and Britain, among others.

S.Korea, US begin key annual military drills

Seoul, Mar 6 (IANS) : South Korea and the US kicked off a major combined military exercise on Wednesday to reinforce deterrence against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats amid concern Pyongyang could use the manoeuvres as a pretext for provocations. The annual 'Freedom Shield' exercise got underway for an 11-day run amid heightened tensions over Pyongyang's continued sabre-rattling, including artillery firings near the western sea border and a series of missile launches, Yonhap news agency reported. The springtime exercise marks the first one after Pyongyang in November 2023 scrapped a

2018 inter-Korean military accord designed to reduce tensions along the border, raising concerns of the North possibly staging provocative military demonstrations. Pyongyang has long denounced the allies' military drills as rehearsals for an invasion against it and has a track record of conducting missile launches in protest of such exercises, though Seoul and Washington have said such exercises are purely defensive. The South Korean and US militaries said the latest exercise is aimed at improving their combined defence posture, noting that it will focus on multi-domain operations by utilizing land, sea, air, cyber and space assets, and countering the North's nuclear operations.



In a briefing last week, Col. Lee Sung-jun, the Joint Chiefs of Staff's spokesperson, said the exercise will simulate various scenarios and will include training on detecting and intercepting the North's cruise missiles. The two sides plan to stage a total of 48 on-field drills this month -- more than double the number over a similar period last year -- although none of them are scheduled near the inter-Korean border, according to the South's military. Personnel from 12 member states

of the United Nations Command, including Australia, Britain, the Philippines and Thailand, will join the exercise, with the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) observing them. Members of the US-led multinational command, established in 1950 under a UN mandate to support South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, have regularly participated in the combined exercise.

Iraqi intelligence rescues Yazidi woman kidnapped by IS militants

Baghdad, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Iraqi National Intelligence Service (INIS) has said that its members rescued a Yazidi woman kidnapped ten years ago by the extremist Islamic State (IS) group. Acting on intelligence reports, the Iraqi intelligence agents carried out an operation inside Syria and were able to reach Kufan

Eido Khorto, a Yazidi woman who was kidnapped by IS militants in 2014 when they took control of the town of Sinjar, nearly 120 km west of Nineveh's provincial capital Mosul, an INIS statement said on Wednesday. The Iraqi intelligence returned Khorto to Iraq and handed her over to her family, it added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.





Delhi HC issues notice on compensation plea for toddler mauled by stray dogs

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice on a father's plea seeking compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the death of his 18-month-old daughter, allegedly mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs in the city's Tughlaq Lane. Justice Subramonium Prasad has issued notice to the Delhi government, Delhi Police, and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). During the hearing, the

court expressed concern over the feeding of stray dogs by individuals, leading to territorial behaviour and posing a threat to pedestrians. It stressed the need for responsible behaviour regarding stray dog populations to prevent similar incidents in the future. The plea seeks enforcement of laws and rules issued by the Central government to prevent tragic incidents resulting from dog bites.

Social organisations come out against sale of illicit liquor in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Mar 6 (IANS) : Social organisations in Tamil Nadu are up in arms against the sale of illicit liquor being sold in the state. Director of Social and Economic Studies Institute P.R. Prakash said that the illicit liquor from Andhra Pradesh is reaching Tamil Nadu in large volumes while the State Police is turning a blind eye to it. He said that Vaniyambadi in Tiruppattur district of Tamil Nadu is fast turning into a hotbed of illicit arrack smuggling in the state. "Minibuses which operate near the Andhra border are being used as the me-

dium of transport for liquor to enter Tamil Nadu," he said. He said that liquor is being sold at Rs 50 per sachet and the illegal sellers are providing an offer of one sachet free for four sachets. Each packet (200 ml) is charged Rs 50 in Andhra Pradesh and once it reaches Tamil Nadu the cost almost doubles. Vaniyambadi Police officials told IANS that they were in touch with cops of Andhra Pradesh and that the illicit smuggling of liquor to Tamil Nadu will be brought to an end soon. Director of Centre for Policy and Development Studies C. Rajeev also said that he too has the information about the illicit



liquor being sold into Tamil Nadu from certain pockets in Andhra Pradesh and wanted immediate action from authorities. Kamaleswari (59), who regularly travels in to Andhra Pradesh for domestic jobs told IANS that the liquor is being smuggled into Tamil Nadu regularly basis. She said that the women are facing

difficulties as large numbers of tipplers visit the border areas to purchase liquor. Manikantan (42), a daily wage labourer from Vaniyambadi told IANS that the town is now becoming famous for illicit liquor. "Government must immediately interfere to prevent smuggling," he said.

Bangladeshi national arrested in Kolkata for sending bomb threat mail at Delhi airport

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : A 29-year-old Bangladeshi national was arrested from Kolkata for sending a hoax threat email at Delhi Airport regarding explosives in a flight on February 27, police said on Wednesday. The accused was identified as Mohd Nazrul Islam, a resident of Bangladesh. According to police, on February 27, a complaint from DIAL Airport Security Officer was received at the IGI Airport police station in which it was said that a threat email was received on Airport Duty Manager's email ID having information that there were

some safety issues in flight from Delhi to Kolkata, as somebody was carrying explosives with him and request was made to check every bag and luggage and to do needful. Based on the information received and considering the gravity and sensitivity of the call, the Delhi Airport was put on high alert and a full emergency was declared at the airport but the threat email was found to be a hoax. During the probe, on verification of the sender's email id, it was revealed that the said email ID was created afresh, just an hour before the said hoax email was sent. "Despite initial challenges, relentless investigation efforts led the

team to Kolkata, where the source of the email was traced to a Wi-Fi connection installed in Classic Hotel, Park Street, Kolkata. At that time 40 guests were staying in that hotel and all of them were using the Wi-Fi connection and almost all of them were Bangladeshi nationals," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI airport) Usha Rangnani. Police team tasked to crack the case examined each of the 40 hotel guests and during verification of the guests, it was revealed that one person namely Amardeep Kumar had come to the hotel to meet his relative after taking the alleged flight from Delhi. "On interrogation, he said that he



had come to this hotel to meet his brother-in-law (Jija) Islam who had been staying here for almost a month. Mobile phone of Mohd. Nazrul Islam was physically examined but he had deleted the entire history from his phone," said the DCP. Islam, on grilling by police, confessed his guilt and disclosed that

he had sent the email to get that flight cancelled as his brother-in-law Amardeep was coming to him in that flight and he did not want him to come. "On asking the reason thereof, Islam disclosed that he did a course of Airlines, Tourism & Hospitality from Lovely University, Punjab in 2017 where he met a girl

Soniya and they became friends," said the DCP. After completion of course, he went to his country and in 2020, he came in touch with Soniya once again through social media and he befooled her by saying that he was pursuing a Phd from the US and that he had received a US Visa. "The girl got impressed by his fake profile and she married him in April 2023. However, soon after marriage, his wife got suspicious of him and insisted him to take her to the USA along with him," said the DCP. Islam kept on deferring his wife on the pretext of being stuck in Kolkata due to ongoing farmers' agitation and therefore, she decided to send her brother Amardeep to check on him.



ED to move court against Bengal CID's notice to officer : Sources

Kolkata, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has decided to move the Kolkata High Court against the notice sent to Deputy Director Gaurav Varil asking him to be present at the CID headquarters at Bhabani Bhawan here for questioning in connection with the cases against the arrested Trinamool Congress leader, Sheikh Shahjahan, said sources on Wednesday. After Gaurav Varil did not turn up at the CID office to honour the first notice of appearance, the latter served him a fresh notice asking him to be present at the Bhabani Bhawan on Tuesday. Thereafter, the central agency decided to move to the court against such notices by CID to its senior official. Sources said that the since a case relating to ED's appeal for an independent CBI probe in the attack on their sleuths on January 5 is already pending at a division bench of the Calcutta High Court there is no point in his officer going to CID office till the time the matter is disposed at the court. To recall, first a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court directed a probe by a joint SIT of CBI.



Schools reopen in Kashmir after 3-month winter break

Srinagar, Mar 6 (IANS) : Capital city Srinagar and other towns of the Valley came to life on Wednesday as thousands of children returned to schools which were re-opened after the winter break of nearly three months. School buses carrying children wearing uniforms of various colours, parents rushing to school bus-stops and some using private transport to reach the schools dotted all the roads in Srinagar city as traffic cops had a tough time bringing order to jammed roads. Children hugged and greeted each other at the school compounds as they met each other after the winter recess for the first time. In the absence of adequate heating arrangements in various educational institutions, authorities had little choice other than to keep these institutions closed during the harsh winter months.

School managements have spruced up their premises and cleaned classrooms, libraries and assembly halls to give a healthy look to their institutions. Authorities have announced that schools will function from 10 am to 3 pm in Srinagar city from Monday till further orders. Teachers started receiving students with affection and warmth as schools without students wore a deserted look during the winter months. Cities and towns echoed with morning prayers as thousands of students gathered for their daily assembly at different places in the Valley. "Life had become a little lazy for children during the winter months and after the schools re-opened today, their faces wore a bright look in the morning," said Muhammad Afzal, a parent living in Hyderpora area of Srinagar.



Crude bombs recovered near Bengal CM's meet venue

Kolkata, Mar 6 (IANS) : As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to address an administrative review meeting on Wednesday afternoon at Tamruk in East Midnapore district, crude bombs were recovered 20 kms away from the Bhupatinagar area. The bombs were kept in an abandoned hut in a field. Sources from the state police said that before any district visit of the chief minister a thorough sanitization of the area is done. It was during one such exercise that the cops recovered the crude bombs. Besides the crude bombs, the cops also recovered some raw material required for assembling these. Initial investigation, sources said, revealed that this abandoned hut was used by the miscreants for assembling crude bombs. A hunt has been launched to track the persons behind it. Incidentally, crude bombs or even blast at their assembling hubs have been reported from the Bhupatinagar area.

MPs/MLAs cannot claim immunity from prosecution for engaging in bribery : SC

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : A 7-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday overruled a 1998 judgment granting immunity to legislators from criminal prosecution for accepting bribes to make a speech or vote in the Parliament or state legislatures. In its unanimous verdict, the Constitution Bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud held that MPs/MLAs cannot claim immunity from prosecution in a criminal court for engaging in bribery for casting a vote or speaking in a particular manner. The Constitution Bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna, M.M. Sundresh, P.S. Narasimha, J.B. Pardiwala, Sanjay Kumar, and Manoj Misra, had reserved its

judgment on the issue in October last year. During the hearing, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, had pleaded that the immunity given to MPs/MLAs should not protect them from criminal prosecution for accepting bribes saying that performance part of the bargain in terms of giving vote or speech is not relevant as the offence is committed outside the House. SG Mehta added that the CJI Chandrachud-led Constitution Bench may have an option to classify the 1998 judgment in P.V. Narasimha Rao versus CBI case as per incuriam which failed to take into account the statutory scheme of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998, instead of making a declaration that it is not a good law.





Airbus, IIM-Mumbai join hands to provide aviation education, skills

Mumbai, Mar 6 (IANS) : Airbus and the Indian Institute of Management, Mumbai (IIM-Mumbai), have joined hands to provide aviation education to professionals and empower them with industry-ready skills through the Airbus Beyond programmes, officials said here on Wednesday.

Asia President and MD, Remi Maillard, and IIM-Mumbai Director, Manoj K. Tiwari, inked the agreement. IIM-Mumbai will offer short-term aviation courses to aspiring and working professionals who will be able to harness the power of the Airbus Beyond programmes in aviation logistics, supply chain management, operations excel-

lence, cargo handling, strategic procurement, business analytics and digitisation. "Skill is the fuel that drives growth. Airbus realises the potential of India's growing aviation industry and strengthens the ecosystem through our sustained skilling efforts. Along with IIM-Mumbai, we shall combine our expertise and resources to create comprehensive programmes that will help advance the future of aerospace education and skilling in India," said Maillard. This will further support the creation of a strong pipeline of industry-ready talent for the aviation sector in the country, he added. "This collaboration marks a significant stride towards fostering excellence in management development within the aviation sector. Together, we aim to blend academic rigour with industry expertise, propelling innovation and leadership in aviation management," said Tiwari. The partnership will help nourish talent and drive transformative impact in the dynamic landscape of the country's aerospace, immensely benefiting professionals in the field of aviation and those seeking opportunities in the burgeoning Indian aviation industry, he added. As per the agreement, IIM-Mumbai will organise courses, onboard students, and provide infrastructure and logistical support, while Airbus will provide trainers.



Tata Power installs 1,000 green energy-powered EV charging points in Mumbai

Mumbai, Mar 6 (IANS) : Tata Power on Wednesday said it has achieved over 1,000 of its EV charging points in Mumbai which are powered by green energy. Tata Power said that it has outlined a plan to expand its green energy footprint to an additional 4,000 charging points across Maharashtra, in a phased manner.

Currently, Mumbai is equipped with over 1,000 green charging points, out of which 44 are public, 385 are in residential societies, 58 are across commercial locations such as malls, hotels, workplaces, etc, and 531 are fleet charging points. "With over 10,000 EVs and growing four-wheelers on the roads, Mumbai is rapidly embracing e-mobility. To support this growth, Tata Power is spearheading the development of an extensive EV charging infrastructure throughout the city," the company said in a statement. Tata Power has provided EV charging services to players like Everest, CAB-E and also has EV charging points at prominent residential societ-

ies. "To encourage intercity travel along popular routes, Tata Power has installed over 19 fast charging points on the Mumbai-Pune highway and about 26 fast charging points on the Mumbai-Goa (via Pune) highway," said the company. The initiative is aligned with Tata Power's 'Sustainable Is Attainable' movement, positioning the company as a pioneer in the shift towards a greener future, it added. Tata Power has a diversified portfolio of 14,453 MW, spanning across the entire power value chain -- from renewable and conventional energy generation to transmission & distribution, trading, storage solutions and solar cells and module manufacturing.

Hyundai, Kia unveil latest electrification technology for EVs

Seoul, Mar 6 (IANS) : South Korea's leading automakers Hyundai Motor and Kia said on Wednesday that they showcased the latest technologies involving their electric vehicles (EV) at the annual EV Trend Korea exhibition here. The annual trade show, now in its seventh year, is hosted by the Ministry of Environment to promote technologies and the adoption of EVs. This year's three-day event kicked off at the COEX convention center in southern Seoul, reports Yonhap news agency. Hyundai Motor has set up special booths, named EV Benefit Zone and EV Experience Zone, where visitors can observe and experience the benefits of EVs compared with internal com-

busion engine models. Visitors can experience Hyundai's V2L technology, through which household appliances can be powered through electricity from the company's EV models. Also, the company has showcased its revamped Ioniq 5 and Kona EV models at the venue. Kia has presented three spaces themed on EV charging, space and technology, and sustainability, the company said. Visitors can experience various services and functionalities offered to Kia model drivers, such as over-the-air software updates and the company's projects related to environmental sustainability.



Gold scales record high on growing bets for US interest rate cut in June

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Gold scaled a record high moving further above \$2,100 in a rally sparked by growing bets for a US interest rate cut in June and on safe-haven demand due to the conflict in the Middle East, says Manav Modi, Analyst, Commodity and Currency, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. A wider robust fundamental backdrop added support, including strong physical demand in Asia and central bank purchases, he said. Gold, which is looked as a store of value during times of political and financial uncertainty, has climbed by over \$300 since the Israel-Hamas war. However, updates regarding ceasefire and an ease off in the war will be important to keep an eye on. US Services PMI and factors data were reported lower than expectations. After a series of weaker economic data last week, focus now shifts to US labour market data scheduled this week, which if reported lower than expectations could further increase gains for bullions, he said. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, LKP Securities, said gold prices experienced an uptick driven by growing speculation that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in June. This rise was fueled by signs of slowing industrial and construction spending in the United States, coupled with a decrease in inflationary pressures.



Indian workers likely to get average salary hike of 9.6 pc this year : Report

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Employees in India are expected to get an average salary increase of 9.6 per cent in 2024, similar to the actual increase in 2023, a new report said on Wednesday. According to the EY 'Future of Pay 2024' report, overall attrition dropped to 18.3 per cent in 2023 (from 21.2 per cent in 2022) and is set to gradually decline over the next few years as companies prioritise cost management and employee well-being, stabilising the workforce amidst high talent demand. "While overall average salary increase in India Inc. holds steady compared to last year, certain sectors such as e-commerce, financial services and professional services firms are poised for significant pay raise in 2024."



Nifty hits fresh record highs in volatile trade

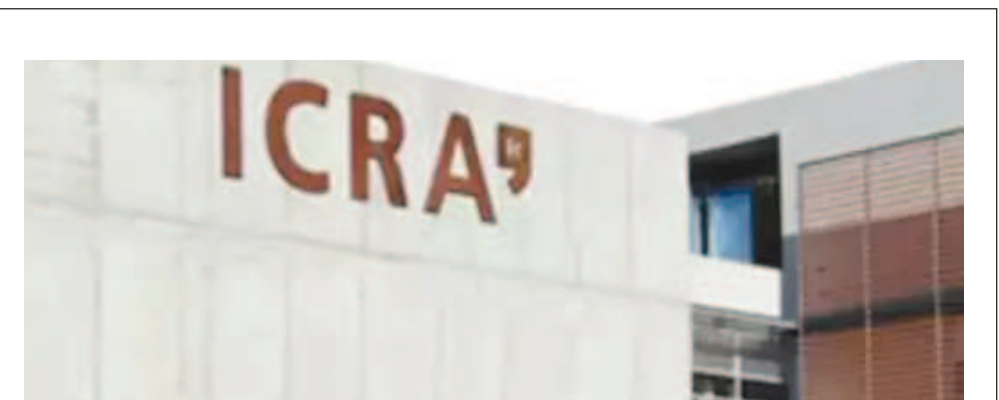
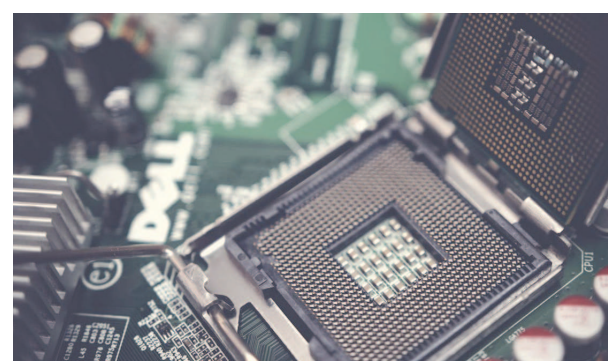
Mumbai, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Nifty ended on a positive note on Wednesday after a highly volatile session, hitting fresh record highs. A sharp recovery was seen in the Nifty post noon on Wednesday. At close, Nifty was up 118 points, or 0.53 per cent, to close at 22,474.05 levels, said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities. The broad market indices ended in the negative even as the advance-decline ratio fell sharply to 0.24:1. Private banks, IT, and healthcare stocks contributed to the gain in Nifty, Jasani said. Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said the domestic equities made a comeback after a minor pause and continued to touch new highs.

India's chip manufacturing progress under PM Modi begins to jolt China's dominance

New Delhi, March 6 (IANS) : As India embarks on its ambitious semiconductor journey with a likely groundbreaking ceremony of three new semiconductor projects worth \$15.14 billion, including two from the Tata Group, next week, the bold initiative under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has started to jolt China's dominance in the global silicon market. The groundbreaking for three chip plants is likely happening in less than two weeks after the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Modi, approved the establishment of these units that are set to generate direct employment of 20,000 advanced technology jobs and nearly 60,000 indirect jobs. The new units, including Tata's

fab with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC) in Dholera, Gujarat targeting 50,000 wafers per month for high-performance chips; Tata's assembly, testing, monitoring, and packing (ATMP) unit in Assam for advanced packaging technologies; and CG Power's Gujarat unit with Renesas Electronics and Stars Microelectronics, mark India's commitment to building a strong semiconductor ecosystem through substantial investments and global partnerships. India already has deep capabilities in chip design. With these units, the country will develop capabilities in chip fabrication too, thus further challenging China's market

share in the coming years, say industry experts. According to a latest Moody's Analytics report, new investments in the semiconductor industry seem to be moving away from China and electronics production will "continue to remain in Asia for the foreseeable future". "The global semiconductor shortage, influenced by the pandemic, led tech companies in various fields - from manufacturing to design -- to seriously consider diversification strategies like the 'China plus one other nation' approach. Capitalising on this, the Indian government provided significant incentives and solid policies for these tech firms."



Aviation industry to see 8 to 13 pc surge in domestic passengers: ICRA report

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Despite facing supply chain challenges and engine failures, Indian aviation industry is set to scale new heights in the coming years, according to a recent report by ICRA, a leading credit rating agency. In its report, ICRA estimated a remarkable 8-13 per cent increase in domestic air passenger traffic for the fiscal year 2024, surpassing pre-COVID levels. "This growth momentum is ex-

pected to continue into FY2025, driven by rising demand for both leisure and business travel, coupled with improving airport infrastructure," as per report. Moreover, international passenger traffic for Indian carriers is expected to rebound strongly.



Bomb threat to Chennai school turns out to be hoax

Chennai, Mar 6 (IANS) : A private school in Chennai received a bomb threat by email on Wednesday and the bomb squad of the Tamil Nadu police was informed. The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad arrived at the school and conducted a thorough search of the school, finding the threat to PSBB Millenium school to be a hoax.

The school had also received a similar hoax bomb threat on March 1. The school authorities told IANS that the bomb threat was from an unidentified person. Following the receipt of the email, the staff immediately alerted the police in Mangadu and the students were evacuated from the school buildings.

'The Cosmic Nexus': IIT Kanpur to host Techkriti '24 from March 14

Kanpur (UP), Mar 6 (IANS) : Techkriti, the flagship event of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), is all set to host its 30th edition from March 14 to 17. This momentous celebration of the 30th year would offer four days of extravaganza filled with innovation, technology, and entrepreneurial spirit. An official said that the theme for this Pearl Jubilee Edition is 'The Cosmic Nexus'. As Asia's largest technical and entrepreneurial festival, Techkriti garners attention from both national and international spheres and attracts a footfall of over 60,000 from around 1500 prestigious colleges worldwide. The event transforms the IIT-K campus

into a hub of intellectual exchange and creative exploration. This year, the various competitions boast a combined reward pool of more than 55 lakhs and will cater to diverse categories, along with prospects for employment and internships. The festival features competitive events spanning various domains, including Robogames, Take Off, Software Corner, Mandakini, Model United Nations, Fintech, ECDC, Design, and Technovation. Techkriti also offers an array of workshops conducted by industry experts from esteemed companies such as CISCO, Mastercard, Autodesk, StockGro, Altair, and more. Covering trending topics from AI/ML to ChatGPT and Electric Vehicles, these workshops provide valuable insights and hands-on learning experi-



ences. Prof. S. Ganesh, Director, IIT Kanpur said that Techkriti has been a bastion of technical and entrepreneurial excellence for decades. "I am sure this 30th edition will be a unique opportunity for all the participating students, including aspiring entrepreneurs and tech enthusiasts to connect, learn, and thrive. Best wishes to the team as we look forward to another successful event bringing together the bright minds from all corners at IIT-K," he said. Techkriti will host workshops on crucial domains such as IoT with

Google, Robotics, Drone, and Blockchain Technology, to demonstrate the advancements in science and technology to future engineers and science enthusiasts. Moreover, Techkriti's exhibitions serve as platforms to showcase ground-breaking innovations and ideas. Highlights include an Auto Expo featuring a stunning Ferrari and other cars, as well as NAO by Softbank Robotics, a humanoid robot revolutionising human-robot interaction.

Kerala HC allows transgender to enroll as NCC cadet

Kochi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Even while a division bench of the Kerala High Court upheld a single-judge decision to allow a transgender person to enroll as a female cadet in National Cadet Corps, it set aside a part of the single-judge's order directing the Centre to amend the NCC Act to allow transgender persons to enroll. "When the petitioner has been given the identity of a female, she is certainly entitled to be enrolled in the NCC under Section 6(2) of the (NCC) Act; in the light of the aforesaid provisions of the Transgender Act and also in the light of the dictum laid down by the Apex Court in National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), said the division bench. But the division bench said that the court cannot pass an order directing the government to amend the law, but expressed

hope that the Centre would amend the NCC Act to expressly allow the entry of transgender candidates to the NCC. "We are hopeful and confident that the Central government would rise to the occasion in the light of the dictum of the Apex Court in NALSA and the provisions of the Transgender Act and take steps expeditiously to include the third gender also within the scope of Section 6 of the Act," said their order. The division bench was looking into the case of Hina Haneefa, a transwoman who had applied for enrollment in NCC after undergoing gender affirming medical procedures and getting her identity card. But she was denied enrollment on account of Section 6 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 that allowed only 'males' or 'females' to enroll as cadets with NCC, and which was interpreted by the NCC to not include transgender candidates. Haneefa



then approached the High Court challenging Section 6 of the NCC Act. In March 2021, a single-judge of the Court allowed Haneefa's petition by directing that she be allowed to participate in the selection process. Besides this, the single judge directed the Centre to amend its enrollment criteria under Section 6 of the NCC Act and to enable the entry of transgender persons. But the Central government and NCC moved an appeal stating that Haneefa cannot be admitted to NCC as she falls within the third gender category, that is 'transgender (female)' and not in the 'female' category.

However, the division bench after perusing various provisions concluded that since Section 6(2) of the NCC Act says that any student of female sex of any university or school may offer herself for enrollment in the girls division, the bench said that Haneefa is also entitled to be enrolled in the NCC as a female cadet. But the division bench said it cannot pass an order directing the government to amend the law, but expressed hope that the Centre would amend the NCC Act.

RITES to help with crowd management in Ayodhya

Ayodhya, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES), a Government of India enterprise, will prepare a report on the crowd management in Ayodhya. RITES had prepared a similar report last year but the same became irrelevant after the huge footfall of pilgrims, following the opening of Ram temple in January this year. Gaurav Dayal, divisional commissioner of Ayodhya, said,

"RITES will submit a new report on crowd management in Ayodhya as per the changed scenario after opening of Ram Mandir." According to the Ayodhya administration, around 60 lakh devotees have visited Ayodhya after the opening of Ram Mandir. Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is also exploring all measures to control crowds and ensure hassle free 'darshan' of Ram Lalla for devotees.



Three of a family die in car crash in Bihar's Motihari

Patna, Mar 6 (IANS) : Three members of a family were killed and two others critically injured after the speeding car they were travelling in crashed into a divider in Bihar's East Champaran district. The accident took place at Bariyarpur village under Mufassil police station in the district around 4 a.m. The deceased are the family members of a mediaperson Shankar Ganesh Maskara, a resident of ward number 11 of Raxaul city. He along with his father Shrawan Maskara (70), Prema Maskara (65) and wife Anju Maskara were on the way to Patna to catch the flight for

Chennai for treatment. Sharawan Maskara, Prema and Anju died in the tragic accident while Shankar Maskara and driver Dabbu were injured. The local villagers, who rushed to the spot, rescued them and took them to the nearby hospital where doctors declared three of them dead. Manish Kumar, the SHO of Mufassil police station, said the bodies were taken to the Sadar hospital Motihari while two other critically injured persons were admitted to a private hospital and their condition was said to be critical.

Kerala student death case: Cong demands probe by Kerala HC, CM's resignation

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Congress-led UDF opposition in Kerala on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and probe by High Court after alleging that criminals who were responsible for the death J.S. Siddharth, a second-year student of Veterinary Science at the Pookode Government Veterinary College in the state's Wayanad district, were being shielded. UDF convenor M.M. Hassan said they will go on a statewide protest on March 7 with various demands, including the resignation of CM Vijayan. "The Chief Minister is shielding those responsible for the death of Siddharth. Among the other demands include a compensation of Rs 10 million to the family of the deceased, a CBI probe into this incident and a probe into what is happening in campus politics by a sitting judge of

the Kerala High Court, for which we will approach the judiciary," said Hassan. State BJP president K. Surendran also slammed CM Vijayan and also alleged that the criminals, whom he knows are the SFI activists, were being protected. "This was a clean organised and well planned murder and now the police are trying their best to destroy the evidence," said Surendran. Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheeshan has already written to CM Vijayan demanding a CBI probe. Siddharth was found hanging in his hostel room on Feb-

ruary 18. For several days things were kept under the carpet till last week when Siddharth's father, Jayaprakash said that his son would never commit suicide and alleged that he was tortured and killed by SFI students in the college. So far 18 accused have been arrested and the local police are going forward with their probe.



Three girl students attacked with acid in K'taka college, attacker caught

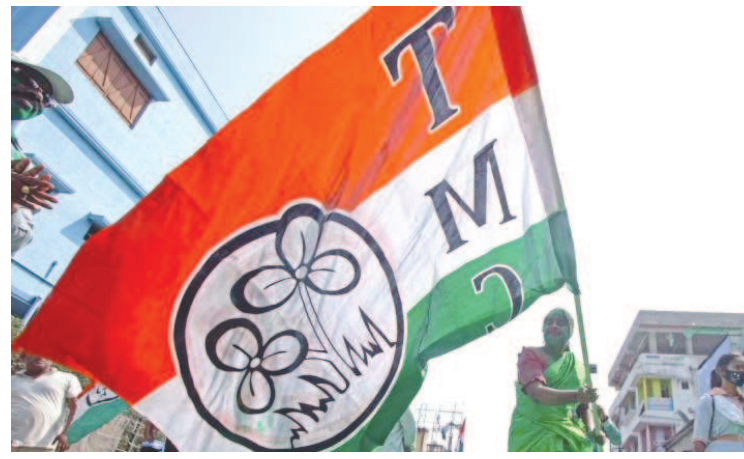
Bengaluru, Mar 6 (IANS) : In a shocking case, three college girls were attacked with acid in the campus corridor in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district on Wednesday. The attacker was caught by the people. The incident was reported from the Government College in Kadaba near Mangaluru city. The victims suffered serious injuries on the face and were rushed to the hospital. According to preliminary reports, the victims are all students of Second Year Pre-University College (Class 12). The accused wearing a mask and hat, who had managed to enter the college campus, attacked the victims as they preparing to enter the examination hall.

Hold single-phase Lok Sabha polls in Bengal : Trinamool urges ECI

Kolkata, Mar 6 (IANS) : A Trinamool Congress delegation, which met the full bench of the Election Commission of India (ECI) here on Wednesday, has requested the poll panel to hold Lok Sabha elections for the 42 parliamentary constituencies in the state in a single phase. Trinamool Lok Sabha member Kalyan Bandopadhyay, who led the delegation, said after the meeting that they have told the ECI officials that seven-phase

or eight-phase polling will essentially give advantage to the BJP in West Bengal. "We also flagged the deployment of CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) personnel in the state even before the announcement of polling dates. As per the information available with us, CAPF personnel are intimidating the common people, including women, to vote for the BJP. They are actually working as agents of the ruling party at the Centre," Bandopadhyay claimed.

The Trinamool MP also alleged that in reality, the leader of opposition in the state Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, is controlling the movements of the CAPF already deployed in the state. "How can the common people have faith in them," Bandopadhyay questioned. He also said that the poll panel should operate in a transparent and unbiased manner. "Besides the ED and CBI, even those within the judiciary who are in close touch with the BJP should



be controlled," Bandopadhyay said. Reacting to Trinamool's demand for single-phase polling, the state BJP leadership said that it stems out of the fear that in case the polls are held in multiple phases,

Trinamool will not be able to unleash large-scale violence to terrorise the common voters. To recall, Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal were held in seven phases in 2019.



Principal shot dead in UP's Gonda district

Gonda (UP), Mar 6 (IANS) : The principal of a private inter-college was shot dead, late on Wednesday, while he was sleeping outside his relative's shop in a village in Gonda district. Dinesh Yadav (35) was the principal of a government-aided inter-college in the Sisani area. According to the police, the assailants fired a bullet into Dinesh's head, killing him on the spot.

The police said that two people, who have been named in the FIR lodged at the Chhapiya police station, have been detained.

It is suspected that the murder may be a result of a dispute that took place at the college premises between the victim and a resident during an event on January 26. Vineet Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Gonda, said they are looking into the allegations made by the deceased's family. According to the police, Dinesh Yadav had gone to his maternal uncle's village, Chandarati, to take part in a wedding.



913 schools, 348 Anganwadi centres to get facelift in UP

Lucknow, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Yogi Adityanath government, under its Aspirational Cities Scheme, will focus on comprehensively transforming schools and Anganwadi centres in the cities.

An official said that a total of 913 schools in the 100 aspirational urban areas of the state will undergo upgradation, with an additional 25 new schools to be established. Besides, new buildings will be constructed for 348 Anganwadi centres currently operating in rented or alternative government facilities within these aspirational urban areas.

The state government has allocated over Rs 143 crores for the implementation of these projects.

As for the upgradation of schools and the construction of new buildings in the financial year 2024-25, arrangements will be made for additional classrooms in 389 schools in the 100 aspirational urban bodies at the cost of Rs 36.89 crores, including Rs 9.27 lakhs per school. Additionally, for the provision of smart classes in 913 schools, an expenditure of Rs 2.5 lakhs per school and a total of Rs 22.87 crores will be made. Similarly, for the furniture of smart classes, the government will spend a total of Rs 6.56 crores.



Ajit Pawar frowns at film stars joining politics, contesting elections

Pune, Mar 6 (IANS) : Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party President Ajit Pawar on Wednesday attacked the trend of film stars joining politics and contesting elections.

Addressing a public meeting in Shirur Lok Sabha constituency to prepare for the upcoming parliament elections, he listed various film stars who entered the political arena to contest polls, and then quit.

"Actors like Rajesh Khanna, Dharmendra, Govinda, Shatrughan Sinha have contested elections... Even Amitabh Bachchan stood for elections and won, but later he felt that politics is not his cup of tea and resigned leaving everything," he said.

Taking potshots at the "star politicians", he sarcastically said that "when a charming

new face comes to the fore (in elections), we feel good for the first few days... they give twirl to their moustache and impress us", and people press the EVM button in their favour.

"But then what is their connection to public life, politics and contribution to the peoples' issues... Ultimately, what matters is whether they (film-stars) are interested in doing developmental works in their constituencies."

Targeting sitting Shirur MP of Nationalist Congress Party-SP, Dr Amol Kolhe, an acclaimed film and television actor, Ajit Pawar said that "even we committed a

blunder of nominating and campaigning for him", thinking that he would shape up well as an elected representative. "We couldn't gauge what was going on in his mind... there's no way to know it," he rued, in a hint at Dr. Kolhe's refusal to align with him after the NCP - founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar - split vertically in July 2023. At one point, Dr Kolhe toyed with joining the Ajit Pawar faction, but then chose to remain with the Sharad Pawar side, irking the former.



Stepfather arrested for raping minor girl in UP

Lucknow, Mar 6 (IANS) : A man has been arrested in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly raping his minor stepdaughter. He has been arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on a complaint lodged by the victim's complaint at the Karhal police station.

The victim has been sent for medical examination.

Rahul Mithas, Superintendent of Police, Mainpuri city said that a minor girl was raped by her stepfather.



Kashi Vishwanath temple to remain open for 36 hours on Shivaratri

Varanasi, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi will remain open for 36 hours after the 'Mangal aarti' on Maha Shivratri on March 8.

The temple authorities expect over 10 lakh devotees to visit the temple on the festival and hence it has been decided to keep the sanctum sanctorum open for 'darshan'.

The temple administration has also started making arrangements for crowd regulation.

The temple's chief executive officer, Vishwa Bhushan Mishra, said, "Devotees will enter temple premises in four queues and get Jharokha Darshan (offering prayer by seeing deity from outside of Garbha Griha) till 11 a.m on March 9. No Sparsh-Darshan (offering prayer by touching Shivaling) arrangements will be available in this period." No ticketed or VIP darshan facility will be allowed on this day and the movement of queues will not be disturbed or stopped for VIP darshan, he said. Following the renovation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham and its opening by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 13.



AAP leader Sisodia urges SC to urgently hear curative pleas

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to urgently hear the curative petitions filed by him against its 2023 verdict denying him bail in the alleged liquor policy scam case.

Seeking directions for urgent listing of pleas, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who appeared on behalf of the AAP leader, apprised a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, that the Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court is not taking up Sisodia's regular bail plea since his curative petitions are pending. At this, CJI Chandrachud said: "Just send an email and I will look into it." Last month, the Chief Justice had said that he has already instructed urgent listing of the curative petitions. The Supreme Court in December 2023 had declined to give an oral hearing on the review petition filed by Sisodia and dismissed it in chambers by circulation.

AIADMK conducts protests against drug menace in TN

Chennai, Mar 6 (IANS) : AIADMK on Wednesday conducted state-wide protest marches against the drug menace engulfing the state and DMK government's failure to crack down on the menace.

During the protest rally at Villupuram, party Rajya Sabha MP and former law minister CVe Shanmugham attacked the government for its failure to act against the drug menace.

He pointed out that DMK leader Jaffer Sadik has gone missing after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) busted a drug racket in New Delhi on February 15 and added that the drug racket had international ramifications.

He said that Tamil Nadu is turn-

ing into a dumping ground for drugs and added that AIADMK has been warning against the menace.

CVe Shanmugham said that the Leader of Opposition in Tamil Nadu and General Secretary of AIADMK Edappadi K.Palaniswami (EPS) had warned the government against the drug racket which has international connections but the state government had not listened to it.

He said that the DMK government is not concerned about the future of the young generation and called upon Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to crack the whip against those responsible and crack down on drug rackets.



Dead bodies become 'headache' for Goa's morgue

Panaji, Mar 6 (IANS) : Two dead bodies, probably of Nigerians, have become a 'headache' for the morgue of the coastal state as they have been preserved since 2016 and 2019, respectively.

Recently two morgues (North and South) in Goa got breathing space after 75 dead bodies were disposed of. However, a morgue in North Goa has been waiting for a procedure to vacate two compartments occupied by foreigners for the last many years. Sources in Goa Medical College informed that there were around 72 dead bodies in North and 32 in South Goa's morgue facility.



Gangster Kala Jatheri granted custody parole for marriage ceremony

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : A Delhi court on Wednesday granted custody parole to notorious gangster Sandeep alias Kala Jatheri for his marriage ceremony. Additional Sessions Judge Deepak Wason of the Dwarka court has allowed Kala Jatheri six-hour custody parole to perform his marriage on March 12, followed by the 'Grih Pravesh' ceremony on March 13. Kala Jatheri, currently in custody for multiple serious offences, including allegations of running an organised crime

syndicate, in which the stringent MCOCA was invoked, sought the parole on humanitarian grounds. The court, after considering submissions from both the defence and the Delhi Police, granted the relief. According to the court order, Kala Jatheri will be escorted by authorities for the marriage ceremony on March 12 between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the Delhi Police instructed to ensure security and safety during the event. Moreover, he is allowed to attend the 'Grih



Pravesh' ceremony in village Jatheri (in Haryana's Sonapat) on March 13 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The application for custody parole mentioned Kala Jatheri's constitutional right to marriage under Article 21. Citing the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, it stated the importance of marriage as a social obligation and also expressed concerns over the well-being of Jatheri's elderly parents, who are reportedly suffering from old-age diseases and lack adequate care due to their son's incarceration.



Three of family commit suicide in K'taka village

Gadag (Karnataka), Mar 6 (IANS) : Three members of a family, including two women, committed suicide after a dispute over loan on a tractor in a village in Karnataka's Gadag district. The incident took place in Gonal village in Lakshmeshwar taluk of the district. The deceased have been identified as 49-year-old Renuka Teli, her son 22-year-old Manjunath Teli and maternal aunt 47-year-old Savakka Teli. According to police, there was a dispute between mother Renuka and son Manjunath over the repayment

of the tractor loan. The family had purchased a tractor after getting a Rs 4 lakh loan from a bank. After the quarrel, Renuka Teli left the house and committed suicide by jumping before a train. Her son Manjunath, who followed her, also came under train while trying to stop her, the preliminary reports suggested. After coming to know of the deaths, Manjunath's maternal aunt Sakavva Teli hanged herself at the residence. The police have taken up the case for investigation and were recording the statements of eyewitnesses.

Case registered against Lalu for indecent remarks on PM Modi

Patna, Mar 6 (IANS) : Patna Police registered a case against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Monday, a day after he claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not a 'Hindu'. The complaint was filed by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) state spokesperson Krishna Singh alias Kallu at Gandhi Maidan police station in Patna on Sunday night and it was accepted on Wednesday. "We have registered a case against Lalu Prasad Yadav and the matter is under investigation," said Sitaram Kumar, SHO of Gandhi Maidan police station. Lalu Prasad Yadav, during the Jan Vishwas rally at Gandhi Maidan on Wednesday said.



ECI asks Bengal police to implement all non-bailable arrest warrants ASAP

Kolkata, Mar 6 (IANS) : The full bench of the Election Commission of India (EWCI), which is on a two-day visit to West Bengal, on Wednesday directed the state police to implement all the pending non-bailable arrest warrants in the state at the earliest. The ECI team also directed the state government to send a report to the commission on this count once the implementation process has been completed.

The Commission on Monday held a meeting with all the bureaucrats and police officers, including district magistrates, police commissioners and district police superintendents, wherein it gave these directions.

Sources said the ECI team also made it clear to the police commissioners and district police superintendents that under no circumstances the civic volunteers, either attached to the West Bengal Police or the Kolkata Police.



Rioters to pay price for vandalising public property, declares Uttarakhand CM Dhami

Dehradun, Mar 6 (IANS) : Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Wednesday that miscreants and rioters will be made to pay a heavy price for instigating violence and vandalising public property. The state government, in a cabinet meeting, approved the setting up of a Special Claims Tribunal with the aim to penalize and punish the perpetrators of violence and also to tighten the noose around those who incite public unrest at such occasions.

The initiative to deter such offenders comes almost a month after Haldwani was rocked by series of violent incidents including stone pelting, torching of vehicles and also burning of police stations. The violence was

apparently fanned by a mob, angered over demolition of an illegal madrasa in Banbhoolpura. The Chief Minister, briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting, said that those who disturb the peace in the state will have to pay for it now.

"The compensation for the damage to public property caused during the riots will be recovered from the rioters themselves. Those who disturb the peace will have to pay a heavy price and the state will set an example which will be remembered for years by the generations of rioters who tarnished the sacred land of Devbhoomi," said CM Dhami. Till date, there was no law in the state to extract monetary compensation from the rioters.

'My work is over here': Justice Gangopadhyay ends judicial career with recommendation for action against district judge

Kolkata, Mar 6 (IANS) : Calcutta High Court's Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Wednesday ended his career on the bench with a recommendation for proceedings against a district judge in West Bengal's East Midnapore. He came to the court on Monday morning and one after another, recused himself from all cases before him, including those which are partly heard or those where the verdicts are reserved. He briefly heard a vigilance-related case against a district judge in East Midnapore and recommended proceedings against him to Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam. "The Vigilance Department of the Calcutta High Court has brought a serious charge against the said district judge.

I would request the Chief Justice to look into the report in the matter. If the contents of the report are true, the said district judge should be terminated," he said in his last order as judge. Justice Gangopadhyay had announced his decision to resign as a judge on Sunday. He had told media persons that on Monday, he will deal with all the cases pending with him, and on Tuesday, send his resignation to the President. "After forwarding my resignation, I will share with you all about my future plans," he had said. On Monday, while he left his court at 2.47 p.m. for the last time, he received tearful farewells from the common people assembled there to meet him. "My work is over here. Now I have decided to do something else," Justice Gangopadhyay told those present in the court.



As one woman approached him to touch his feet, he restrained her saying that he does not allow anyone to touch his feet. Another profusely sobbing woman requested him to reconsider his decision and said the court of Justice Gangopadhyay was a "temple" for them. "I have to go," was his brief answer. He also said that there is no reason to think that the petitioners will not get justice from his replacement.

Is AAP taking a leaf out of BJP's poll campaign with focus on 'Ram Rajya'?

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Did Delhi Finance Minister Atishi centre the budget she presented for the national capital on Wednesday around the 'Ram Rajya' out of the fear of the high-decibel campaign launched by the BJP ever since the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in the run-up to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections? Quoting a 'chaupai' from Ramcharitmanas, Atishi said on the floor of the House on Mon-

day, "We all are inspired by the life of Lord Ram, hence we pledge to realise the dream of Ram Rajya in Delhi. "I understand that we have a long way to go in this journey. However, while presenting the 10th Budget of the (Arvind) Kejriwal government, I can confidently say that in the past 10 years, there have been significant and positive changes in the lives of the common people in the national capital."



K'taka Police instructed to hush up cases against minorities, says BJP leader Ashoka

Bengaluru, Mar 6 (IANS) : Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R. Ashoka on Wednesday alleged that the Congress government has directed the police to hush up cases against the minorities. Ashoka said, "There is clear cut instruction from the government to hush up the cases against minorities and to initiate immediate action when cases are lodged against the majority community. "I am saddened by these developments as a citizen of Karnataka. If the allegations of appeasement in both the cases (Pakistan Zindabad slogan row and Rameshwaram Café blast case in Bengaluru) are proved, will they dissolve the government? "If the terror link is established in both the cases will all in the government submit their resignations? Who spoke about the café blast being the result of business rivalry? These statements will ensure continuation of terror activities in the state.



"The Home Minister is under pressure. He is a person who gives out the facts. He must have told authorities that they have not submitted the report at all. I was also a Home Minister. The date of submission will be mentioned in the report. He is trying to manage things. "The Nobel Prize should be accorded to the Congress government. Home Minister Dr. G. Parameashwara is under the spell of vested interests," Ashoka alleged. The LoP further attacked

that in connection with the pro-Pakistan slogan case, the Congress government "is trying to hide facts". The private report has proved the raising of Pro-Pak slogans. The government has also received an official FSL report. The state government is trying to hush up the case to protect someone, Ashoka claimed. "DyCM D.K. Shivakumar has claimed that no such incident took place in the premises of state legislature.

MP Govt to set up sub-committee to promote religious activities : CM Mohan Yadav

Bhopal, Mar 6 (IANS) : The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has proposed to set up a sub-committee to promote religious activities in the state. The proposed sub-committee will be interlinked with the revenue and cultural departments and would be headed by a senior IAS officer, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Wednesday. A proposal in this regard was brought up during a cabinet meeting chaired by CM Yadav on Wednesday. "A sub-committee interlinking with the revenue and cultural departments will be formed to promote religious activities. The proposal has been made and a detailed discussion will be held during the next cabinet meeting," CM Yadav said.



South Korea doctors hold mass rally protesting medical school quota hike plan

Seoul, Mar 6 (IANS) : Tens of thousands of doctors held a rally in Seoul on Wednesday to protest the government's medical school quota hike plan as South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo hinted at the possible suspension of medical licenses for striking trainee doctors. The rally by member doctors of the Korean Medical Association (KMA), the biggest medical lobby group, came as thousands of trainee doctors have remained off their jobs at general hospitals for the 13th day, protesting the plan to add 2,000 more medical school seats starting next year, Yonhap news agency reported. Crowds of doctors filled a street in Seoul's western dis-

trict of Yeouido, waving protesting flags and holding up signs reading "Absolute opposition to a medical school quota hike without agreement from medical fields," or "Unprepared medical school quota hike compromises medical education." Kim Taek-woo, the KMA's emergency committee chief, warned at the start of the rally that "the government will face resistance from the public if it turns a blind eye to doctors' efforts and attempts to repress them." Kim accused the government of unilaterally pursuing medical reform without prior consultation with the medical field, while calling on the government to engage in dialogue with protesting doctors to resolve the ongoing walkout. "No trainee doctors or members of the KMA's emergency committee have ever en-

couraged or desired the crippling of medical services," he said, protesting that the government is using pressure to bring trainee doctors back to work while remaining uncompromising over its quota hike plan. About 9,000 medical interns and residents, who play a vital role in assisting with surgeries and emergency services at major general hospitals, have maintained their collective labor action for the 13th day, leading to mass cancellations and delays in surgeries and emergency medical treatment. The government gave protesting doctors until last Thursday to return to work, warning them that non-compliance could result in punitive action, including criminal punishment or revocation of their doctors' licenses. So far, the warning has done little to bring them back to work.



"If the situation of illegally vacating medical sites continues, the government will fulfill the duty entrusted by the Constitution and the law without hesitation," Han said at a meeting on the doctors' collective action at the main government building in central Seoul. The presidential office also vowed

to respond with "zero tolerance" after allegations emerged online that some doctors were trying to forcibly mobilize drug salesmen for their rally protesting the government's medical school quota hike plan. Ahead of Sunday's rally, several postings appeared on online com-

munities, claiming that some doctors were forcing salesmen of pharmaceutical companies to join the gathering. Salesmen of pharmaceutical companies are often under the sway of doctors who have the authority to prescribe or change certain drugs.



US Vice Prez Harris calls for increasing flow of aid to Gaza

Washington, Mar 6 (IANS) : US Vice President Kamala Harris has urged Israel to "sig-

nificantly increase the flow of aid" to Gaza by opening new border crossings and not imposing "any

unnecessary restrictions". "What we are seeing every day in Gaza is devastating. We have seen reports of families eating leaves or animal feed, women giving birth to malnourished babies with little or no medical care, and children dying from malnutrition and dehydration," she said on Wednesday in Selma, Alabama. "Just a few days ago, we saw hungry, desperate people approach aid trucks, simply trying to secure food for their families after weeks of nearly no aid reaching northern Gaza. And they were met with gunfire and chaos... Our hearts break for the victims of that horrific tragedy and for all the innocent people in Gaza who are suffering from what is clearly a humanitarian catastrophe," Harris added.

She further said that the Israeli government must ensure that humanitarian personnel, sites, and convoys are not targeted. "And they must work to restore basic services and promote order in Gaza so more food, water, and fuel can reach those in need." Harris also hit out at Hamas, saying that the group cannot control Gaza, and the threat it poses to the people of Israel "must be eliminated". "Hamas has shown no regard for innocent life, including for the people of Gaza, who have suffered under its rule for almost two decades. And Hamas still holds dozens of hostages, for nearly 150 days now -- innocent men and women, including American citizens, who were brutally taken from their homes and from a concert," she added. About truce talks, Harris said: "Hamas claims it wants a ceasefire. Well, there is a deal on the table. And as we have said, Hamas needs to agree to that deal... Let's get a ceasefire. Let's reunite the hostages with their families. And let's provide immediate relief to the people of Gaza."



IDF carries out heavy shelling against Hezbollah in south Lebanon, West Bank

Tel Aviv, Mar 6 (IANS) : The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has carried out heavy shelling against Hezbollah in south Lebanon and West Bank areas, media reports said. Reports said that the IDF fighter jets are continuing their shelling against Hezbollah infrastructure in Ayta As Shab and Kfar Kila areas of southern Lebanon as well as in the West Bank. The Israeli attack comes after Hezbollah allegedly carried out rocket attacks on the northern territories in Metula, Malkia and Ghajar on Wednesday. Israeli intelligence has said that they fear heightened tensions in the West Bank area in the coming days and have also increased the deployment of troops in the border areas of the West Bank. The Hezbollah Chief Hassan Nasrullah has also in a recent televised address lashed out against Israel on the situation in Gaza and the plight of Palestinians. Israel has also warned Hezbollah, and has publicly announced that Israel is prepared for a multi-pronged war if needed.



Hamas delegation joins mediators in Cairo for Gaza ceasefire talks

Cairo, Mar 6 (IANS) : A Hamas delegation has joined Qatari and US mediators in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, for talks on a new ceasefire amid indications that Israel had "more or less accepted" a six-week phased hostage and truce deal before the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The US on Wednesday said that the six-week pause would see the release of more Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the BBC reported. Hamas is reported to have said that an agreement on a truce could be reached within the next 24 to 48 hours, with a source from the group telling Egyptian media a deal depended on Israel agreeing to its demands, the British news broadcaster reported. Pressure for a deal intensified after February 29's incident outside Gaza City in the north of the territory where over 100 people were reportedly killed as crowds rushed an aid convoy. Hamas had accused Israel of shooting at civilians as they attempted to get food. Israel has denied this.

Israel expects heightened tensions near West Bank as ceasefire talks hit roadblock

Tel Aviv, Mar 6 (IANS) : Israel's war cabinet fears heightened tension near the West Bank and Temple Mount during the upcoming month of Ramadan after the ceasefire talks failed to yield the desired results. Sources in the Israeli Defense Ministry said that an urgent meeting of the war cabinet was held on Wednesday, in which it was decided that the troop presence will be increased in these areas (West Bank and Temple Mount), following the intelligence reports. Sources said that the Israelis fear that Hezbollah forces are also likely to join in the attacks in the West Bank and Temple Mount. The Israelis have also conveyed to the mediating countries including the U.S., Qatar and Egypt that they would not send delegations for ceasefire talks. The peace talks between the two

sides were going on in Cairo and Paris but both sides failed to reach to any agreement. A senior official of Israel's Defense Ministry told IANS that Israel will not participate in peace talks again until its demand to release all the hostages is not met. The Israeli intelligence agencies have said that at least 32 hostages out of 134 in Hamas custody have died. However, U.S. President Joe Biden is pushing for a ceasefire before the commencement of the Ramadan month on March 10th. Qataris and Egyptians have also urged both Israel and Hamas to agree to a possible ceasefire agreement. Israel has cited the recent statement of Hamas Political Bureau Head Ismail Haniyeh calling upon the Palestinians to pray at the Al-Aqsa mosque in maximum numbers during the month of Ramadan.



New govt on anvil in Nepal as PM Prachanda splits with coalition partner

Kathmandu, Mar 6 (IANS) : A reshuffle of the cabinet is on the cards in Nepal on Wednesday with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) severing its alliance with its coalition partner Nepali Congress. The chasm has been reportedly widening between the two biggest parties in the Himalayan Kingdom over the claim for chairmanship of the National Assembly. "Government to change today and the new Cabinet will be formed. Swearing in of ministers will also take place today," Surendra Pandey, Vice Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), said in a social media post on Monday. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will reportedly induct ministers from the CPN-UML, Rashtriya Swatantra Party, and Janata Samajbadi Party apart from the CPN (Maoist Centre). The move comes after PM Dahal met CPN-UML's K.P. Sharma Oli, the former prime minister, on Wednesday to discuss a new political alliance following a breakdown in their partnerships in 2020 as well as 2023.



Keen to observe India's general elections firsthand : Australian envoy

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Australia's High Commissioner to India, Philip Green, said on Wednesday that he is keen to observe India's upcoming Lok Sabha elections "firsthand" just as he undertook his first official visit to Bihar to meet "prominent political figures". The country's biggest democratic exercise will take off with the poll schedule and dates expected to be announced by the Election Commission of India later this month.

Ind vs Eng, 5th Test: I just don't know what bazball means, says Rohit Sharma

Dharamshala, Mar 6 (IANS) : Indian skipper Rohit Sharma admits that he is still puzzled by the term "bazball" despite praising England's valiant approach and aggressive mindset of play ahead of the fifth and final Test match at HPCA starting on Thursday. Ever since Brendon McCullum took over as England's head coach and Ben Stokes assumed the captaincy, their unconventional approach to Test cricket, dubbed "bazball," had captured imaginations worldwide. However, after India beat England by five wickets in

Ranchi to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the 5-Test series, it marked the first Test series loss for England since McCullum took over the major role. "I just don't know what bazball means. I haven't seen wild swinging from anyone. England have played better cricket than they were here last time. But I still don't know what bazball means," said Rohit Sharma in the press-conference.



KL Rahul training hard for recovery at NCA, posts photos on social media

New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul on Wednesday posted multiple photos of his gym training on Instagram. He is currently in the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru.



Paris Olympics: India to start men's hockey campaign against New Zealand

Lausanne (Switzerland), Mar 6 (IANS) : The Indian men's hockey team is scheduled to start their Paris Olympics 2024 campaign against New Zealand on July 27. At a ceremony earlier on Wednesday,

the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach, as well as FIH president Tayyab Ikram, announced the schedule at the Olympic House in Lausanne. The clash against New

Zealand holds particular significance for India, as it marks a chance for redemption following their heartbreaking loss in the penalty shootout at the 2023 Hockey World Cup after drawing 3-3 in regulation time.

Indian pugilist Nishant makes a winning start at World Olympic Qualifier



Busto Arsizio (Italy), March 6 (IANS) : World Championships bronze medallist Nishant Dev started his campaign at the 1st World Olympic Boxing Qualifier with an exciting 3-1 win against British boxer Lewis Richardson. Playing in the men's 71kg category, Nishant didn't take much time to settle in against the Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Richardson

and went into the attacking mode from the word go, winning the first round 4-1. The 23-year-old Indian became even more dominant in the second round with the help of his long reach and delivered some effective right hooks to win the second round 5-0 comfortably.



KIUG 2023: Competition is very important for an athlete, says Pratyasa Ray

Guwahati, Mar 6 (IANS) : Pratyasa Ray emerged triumphant at the recently concluded Khelo India University Games 2023 Ashtalakshmi, bagging four gold, one silver and one bronze to finish as the most successful female athlete of the prestigious Games. Returning for her third edition of the Khelo India University Games, the 21-year-old swimmer, representing Utkal University from Odisha, attributed the success to her preparations ahead of the competition and lauded the Khelo India initiative as a platform that provides

much-needed competition for athletes. Clocking her personal best, in 400m freestyle (4:48:22) to win the gold, Pratyasa credited her success to the support of Odisha JSW Swimming High-Performance Centre, where she trains under Olympian Sandeep Sejwal. "I have been preparing rigorously. With Sandeep Sir, we use an approach that relies on a combination of volume and intensity in our training. Furthermore, the High-Performance Centre enables us to incorporate various

other facets of our training, including nutrition, rehabilitation, analytics etc. I am fortunate that I have access to a High-Performance Centre in my home city of Bhubaneswar." Pratyasa further added, "At the High-Performance Centre, not only are we exposed to an elite level of training, but we also meet talented swimmers from around the country. Each of them has a unique approach to training, performance, and competing in important events."

The entire family is built on cricket and to facilitate my career: R. Ashwin



New Delhi, Mar 6 (IANS) : Veteran Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has revealed the aftermath when he had to fly back home due to a medical emergency in the family during the third Test at Rajkot. Ashwin had to withdraw from the second Test after day two's play because of a family medical emergency and missed day three's play entirely, with the statement of his overnight withdrawal from the match. Ashwin had picked his 500th Test wicket in the form of England opener Zak Crawley on day two of the third Test in Rajkot becoming the second fastest to the milestone. However, Ashwin rejoined the squad on day 4 of the third Test after being unavailable for the third day. Ashwin in an interview with ESPNcricinfo 'The Cricket Monthly' shed light on the day's event and termed it as the most nervous moment of his career. "The entire family is built on cricket and to facilitate my career. It hasn't been easy. It has been very hard on them. It's been a big roller-coaster for them - going through the emotions and ups and downs that I myself do. I am sure most parents and families are like that, but my parents' lives are even more intertwined with my cricket."

Gaurika closes in on Amandeep in 5th Leg of WPGT

Gurugram, March 6 (IANS) Gaurika Bishnoi scorched the back nine with five birdies in the last eight holes to close in on the leader Amandeep Drall after the second round of the fifth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Golden Greens Golf Club. Gaurika, who began the second day six shots behind, made up four of them, as she added 6-under 66 to her first 70 and reached 8-under 136. Amandeep Drall, who landed a third eagle in two days, shot 2-under 70 and was 10-under 134 and still two ahead. Amandeep set a new Ladies course record on the first day. Khushi Khanijau (71) was lying third at 1-under 143. She shot 72 in the first round. Hitaashee Bakshi (72-73), Seher Atwal (74-73) and Neha Tripathi (74-74) were placed in fourth to sixth places. Amandeep began the day well with birdies on the first and the fifth to extend her lead as Gaurika bogeyed second and birdied the fifth. Amandeep double bogeyed the sixth and bogeyed the seventh. She did birdie the ninth and eagled the



Par-5 11th but then ran out of birdies, paring the last seven holes. As Amandeep parred, Gaurika was on fire with birdies on fifth, eighth, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, and the 18th, as she played the back nine in 5-under 31 for a round of 66.

WPL 2024: MI's Shabnim Ismail bowls the fastest delivery in women's cricket

New Delhi, March 6 (IANS) : Former South Africa pacer Shabnim Ismail, who plays for Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League, created history when she bowled the fastest delivery ever recorded in women's cricket. Ismail broke the record with a delivery that clocked the speed of 132.1km/h (82.08mph) when bowling for the Mumbai Indians in their WPL clash against the Delhi Capitals at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

It was the first time that a delivery in women's cricket has been clocked at a speed greater than 130km/h, with Ismail's thunderbolt smashing into the



Simona Halep eager to return to tennis after doping ban reduced

New Delhi, March 6 (IANS) Former Wimbledon champion Simona Halep is eager to return to tennis with "renewed vigor and an invigorated spirit" after Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reduced her four-year ban to nine months. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Independent Tribunal

found Halep guilty of both Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRV) and imposed a four-year period of ineligibility on her last September. Now, the former world number one is free to return to the tour as soon as possible as she has already served the nine months of suspension. "The CAS Panel has unanimously determined that the four-year period of ineligibility imposed by the ITF (International Tennis Federation) Independent Tribunal is to be



reduced to a period of ineligibility of nine (9) months starting on 7 October 2022.