

THE INDIAN MAIL

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2025 to see new growth opportunities in tier 2, 3 cities for Indian real estate sector

After witnessing a bumper growth in 2024 across residential, office and industrial domains, 2025 is likely to be a year of... **07**



Mandhana climbs to second in ODI and third in T20I batting rankings

India's star opener Smriti Mandhana climbed three spots to second in the ICC women's ODI batting rankings and one place to third in the ICC women's T20I player rankings... **12**



Workshop on Regulating Open Burning Under National Clean Air Program

Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) conducted workshop on regulating open burning under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) focusing on environmental... **02**



Ready to face legally: KTR on Formula E race case

Hyderabad, Dec 17 (IANS): Days after the Telangana Cabinet gave its nod to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to initiate action against Bharat

Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao in Formula E race case, the former minister said on Tuesday that he was ready to face it legally. **Continued on pg 02**

'One Nation, One Election' Bill tabled in Lok Sabha, Opposition protests

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill for 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE Bill) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The tabling of the ONOE Bill set the stage for yet another showdown in Parliament as Opposition parties stood in protest, demanding its withdrawal over its 'anti-constitutional and anti-democratic' nature. Congress leaders, in a scathing critique of the government, demanded that the Bill be withdrawn immediately. Home Minister Amit Shah rebutted the charge and said that it has become a habit of the Congress party to oppose progressive legislations. The TDP, a key BJP



ally expressed unwavering support to the ONOE Bill and said that this will not only ease India's fiscal burden but will also cut down the electoral expenses by more than 40 per cent. Among the parties who vociferously opposed the ONOE Bill were the Trinamool

Congress, Samajwadi Party, the Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM and more. All of them called the Bill an assault on the Constitution and a brazen attempt to 'kill democracy and bring authoritarianism and dictatorship.' **Continued on pg 02**

Foxconn is not going anywhere from Telangana: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Dec.17 (NSS): Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has emphasized that Foxconn, the Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturing firm, is firmly established in Telangana and requested that opposition parties refrain from disseminating misleading information about the company.

In response to an inquiry raised by an Assembly member on Tuesday, Minister Sridhar Babu stated, "Please do not spread misinformation regarding Foxconn."



Quality healthcare services to poor on par with corporate standards : Komatireddy

Hyderabad, Dec.17 (NSS): Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has announced that the Telangana government is committed to delivering healthcare services on par with corporate standards to underprivileged individuals. During a site visit to the TIMS Hospital construction in Sanath Nagar on Tuesday, he noted that progress is being made swiftly, with plans

to inaugurate the facility on the upcoming Telangana Formation Day, officiated by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He emphasised that the TIMS Hospital will be designed to ensure that those in need can access medical treatment that exceeds the quality found in corporate establishments, regardless of their financial situation. **Continued on pg 02**

BRS MLAs reach Telangana Assembly wearing handcuffs as mark of protest

Hyderabad, Dec 17 (IANS): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators on Tuesday came to the Telangana Assembly, wearing black shirts and handcuffs to show solidarity with the farmers arrested in connection with the Lagacherla incident. For a second consecutive day, the BRS legislators protested.



President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Telangana for five-day visit

Hyderabad, Dec.17 (NSS): President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Telangana on Tuesday for a five-day visit. The President, who arrived for her winter stay, was given a grand welcome at the Hakimpet Air Force Station in Hyderabad by Governor Jishnu Dev Verma, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Minister Seethakka, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal and other officials. The President will be staying in Hyderabad from December 17 to 21. During her stay, she will be launching several development works at the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bolarum, Secunderabad and will also meet many dignitaries. The President will visit the



Defence Management College in Secunderabad on December 20 and will present the President's Scholars Award to the Defence Management College. On the same day evening, she will host an "At Home" reception at Rashtrapati Nilayam for state dignitaries, leading citizens, and academics and others.

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Workshop on Regulating Open Burning Under National Clean Air Program

Hyderabad, Dec 17 (TIM Bureau): Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) conducted workshop on regulating open burning under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) focusing on environmental and public health concerns arising from open burning practices. Open burning, particularly of waste such as agricultural residue, plastic, and other materials which contribute significantly to air pollution, especially in urban and rural areas. Every one of us feels suffocated of air pollution and harmful effects of environment because of open burning. He stressed the need to identify

sources which cause air pollution and sensitize officers, staff and Associations involve on ill effects of open burning. Hyderabad is one of non attainment city as designated by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. In Telangana Sangareddy and Nalgonda fall under non attainment cities and funding activities from environment and Forest should also be brought under attainment cities under said Ravi Member Secretary "Speaking on

the occasion Prof .Anurag Garg IIT Bombay various sources of pollution like dust, industrial processes ,crop burning, vehicular and solid waste will have impact on environment and should be stopped by air pollution control devices. Dr.Mood Narayan Pulmonologist spoke on different types of air pollution causes and impact on adults and infants.



TDP supports ONOE Bill, AIMIM calls it threat to regional parties

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Tuesday expressed its "unwavering support" for the NDA's 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE Bill) in the Lok Sabha, while the AIMIM opposed the proposed legislation by calling it as a threat to regional parties. Minister of State for Commu-

nications, Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, on behalf of the TDP, hailed the Bill and cited reduced expenditure and logistical efficiency as its biggest advantage.



SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Shriram Finance Limited, (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt. 13-11-2022)** a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **16th day of December, 2024.**

BORROWER NAME AND ADDRESS	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) Subedari Vamshi Krishna S/o Subedari Manohar, Age:43 Years, Occ: Trading (M/S.Ayushman Grantes), H.No.5-6-145/5/A/1, Maruthi Nagar Near Rishi High School, Housing Board Colony, Karimnagar, Pincode:505001. 2) Vemula Ravali W/o Subedari Vamshi Krishna, Age:36 Years, Occ:House Wife, H.No.5-6-145/5/A/1, Maruthi Nagar Near Rishi High School, Housing Board Colony, Karimnagar, Pincode:505001. And Also At Vemula Ravali W/o Subedari Vamshi Krishna, Age:36 Years, Open Plot No.13, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 269.50 Sq. Yards Or 225.30 Sq. Mtrs. Out Of Sy.No.238, Situated At Maruthinagar (Near Housing Board Colony) Locality Of Karimnagar Town & District, Registration District: Karimnagar. 3) Kalva Srinivas S/o Kalva Komuraji, Age: 41 Years, Occ:Business, H.No:13-4-149, Thilaknagar, Godavari khani, Ramagundam, Karimnagar, Pincode:505209.	Rs.38,55,828/- (Thirty Eight Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight Rupees Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY -GDVRKFT2210280008- (Property holder Name is **VEMULA RAVALI**, Mortgage deed dated 01.11.2022 Registered as Document No 11750/2022 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Karimnagar (R.O).
SCHEDULE OF PRESENT IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Recently constructed a house in the Open land pertaining to and its H.No: 5-6-145/5/A/1. AN EXTENT OF 269.50 SQ. YARDS OR 225.30 Sq. Mtrs. Out Of Sy.No.238, Situated At Maruthinagar (Near Housing Board Colony) Locality Of Karimnagar Town & District, Registration District: Karimnagar, Sub-District: Karimnagar, Bounded by EAST: H.No. 5-6-146/2 of Md.Shamshuddin, WEST: 30 feet wide Road, SOUTH: (H.No. 5-6-145/5), NORTH: Plot No.12 of Kamarapu Katayyani

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of **SFL** is in the lawful and symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of **SFL**.
Date : 16-12-2024
Place: KARIMNAGAR
Sd/-Authorized Officer,
SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Priyanka Gandhi brings 'Bangladesh' bag, a day after row over 'Palestine' tag

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra walked into Parliament on Tuesday, making yet another statement with imprints on her bag, this time sending a message to Hindu and Christian minorities of Bangladesh. The move comes a day after Priyanka's display of support for Palestine via her bag. On Monday, her bag featured the 'Palestine' tag and also some emblems of the war-torn nation. "Bangladesh ke Hindus and Christians ke saath khade ho" (stand up with the Hindus and Christians of Bangladesh) was inscribed on the bag that the Congress General Secretary carried on Tuesday. Wayanad MP along with fellow Congress lawmakers also protested



outside Parliament against the atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh. They were seen carrying cream-coloured handbags to Parliament. Many opposition members carried placards and bags, expressing solidarity with the minorities. Priyanka, speaking in Parliament on Monday, had raised the issue of the safety and security of both minorities including Hindus and Christians in Bangladesh.

'One Nation, One Election' Bill tabled in Lok Sabha, Opposition protests

Continued From pg 01
The AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, voicing opposition to the Bill, said that this legislation was being brought to finish off all regional parties. "This is aimed at maximising political gains to a certain party and will pave the way for a presidential form of government," he said, slamming the BJP-led Centre. The ONOE Bill proposes to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha as well as State Assemblies, by synchronising the tenures of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections. The ONOP has been a long-standing poll promise of the BJP-led NDA.

Ready to face legally: KTR on Formula E race case

Continued From pg 01
Rama Rao took to social media platform 'X' to react to the Cabinet's decision, which came after Governor Jishnu Dev Varma gave his permission to try the BRS leader under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Calling Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy "Chitti Naidu", the BRS leader remarked that it seems his "bargaining with BJP in Delhi is yielding results". KTR, as Rama Rao is popularly known, said the Chief Minister could not bring even three paise to the state with his visit to Delhi 30 times but is trying to draw sadistic pleasure by booking three cases against him. "Good luck Chitti Naidu & Co. Will face you legally. Bring it on," wrote KTR. In another post, the former minister reacted to an earlier tweet of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about the showcase of F4 cars in Bengaluru. "Wow Nice! So is this also a scam? I wonder!" posted KTR. "Great showcase of the F4 cars on the roads of Bengaluru.

Quality healthcare services to poor on par with corporate standards : Komatireddy

Continued From pg 01
Komatireddy also revealed that initiatives are underway to provide high-quality free education and healthcare in Telangana, similar to the services available internationally. Furthermore, he mentioned that a nodal officer will be assigned to oversee the collaboration between the Roads and Buildings and Medical departments for the construction of the TIMS Hospital in Erragadda, Sanath Nagar. The Minister explained that a coordination meeting will be held with the officials of the two departments in the next two to three days and a route map will be prepared for the activities to be under-

taken in the future. The officials have also been to construct the electricity system, oxygen piping system, and water and drainage systems without any defects. The Minister also advised officials to make the emergency pickup and drop points, which are crucial for saving the lives of patients in the hospital, more spacious. Apart from this, the Minister said that if there are problems of space to Alwal TMS, the NOC will be given. He explained that the construction of LB Nagar TMS will be speeded up. Similarly, in the next two or three months, the construction of new Osmania hospital will be done at the Goshamahal Stadium.

Canara Bank Hyderabad Lingampally Branch (DP-13014), Jahnavi Complex, Beside Kumar Talkies, Kachiguda, Hyderabad-500027, Telangana State. Ph: 040-24657260, Cell: +919440905005, E-mail: cb13007@canarabank.com

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The under mentioned are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned and undelivered to the bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 26.12.2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 3.00 P.M. on 27.12.2024 or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Date of Loan	A/c Number	Branch Name	Contact No.
06-03-2023	164003189400	Canara Bank, Lingampally, Jahnavi Complex, Beside Kumar Talkies, Kachiguda, Hyderabad-500027	040-24657260, 7816096505

Name of the Borrower: B.Nagamani, H.No.2-4-1026, Nimboliadda, Kachiguda, Hyderabad-500027.

Date of Auction: 27.12.2024, Timing: 03:00 PM
Date: 16-12-2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Bank of Maharashtra Corporate Finance Branch, Hyderabad Zone. Z.O, H.No.4-3-448 to 460 & 465 to 468, 1st Floor, Vinootha Pittie's Majesty, Gopal Bagh Near Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Rule 8(1)) (For immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 02-09-2024 calling upon the borrower M/S. Bluenine Technologies Private Limited, represented by its Directors Mr. Alokam Prabhakar, S/o Kotiah and Mrs. Alokam Anitha, W/o Prabhakar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.5,98,84,242.04 (Rupees Five Crores Ninety Eight Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two and Paise Four only) plus unapplied interest of Rs.22,64,479/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Nine only), up to 31-08-2024 and interest at additional rate (contractual rate +2% penal interest) from the date of default along with other cost and expenses. The borrowers having failed to repay the total amount due, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 11-12-2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:
Property Details: Property No.1:- Location: H.No.1-10-27/34/A/15, Near Hanuman Temple, Prakashnagar, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Telangana. All that the house property bearing Municipal No.1-10-27/34/A/15 on Plot no.15 consisting of G+2 Floors with a plinth area of 4297 Sq.Feet (GF: 1437+FF: 1430+SF: 1430 = Total 4297 Sq.Feet) and total land measuring 200 Sq.Yards or 167.38 sq mtrs situated at Prakashnagar, near Hanuman temple Begumpet, Secunderabad, Telangana with in MCH secunderabad Division. The property is owned by Sri. Alokam Prabhakar Rao and bounded by: East: H.No.1-10-27/15, South: 30 Feet Wide Road, West: H.No.1-10-27/34/A, North: H.No.1-10-27/34/A/B. CERSAI ID: 200059342554

Place: Hyderabad
Date: 11-12-2024
Sd/- Authorized officer
Bank of Maharashtra, Corporate Finance Branch

By Regd. A/D, Dasti falling which by Publication. (See Regulation 33(2))
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -J/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2)
1st Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad 500001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/330/2020 09-12-2024

Union Bank of India (e-ANDHRA BANK)
Versus
Ms Brilliant Power Constructions Pvt Ltd and Others

To
(CD 1) Ms Brilliant Power Constructions Pvt Ltd
Rep. By Its Managing Director, Regd. Off: 24/249, II Floor, Srinivasa Colony, (West), Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar (S.R.Nagar), Hyderabad, Telangana.
(CD 2) P Srinivas Rao, S/o Venkat Subbaiah, Managing Director, M/S Brilliant Power Constructions (P) Ltd, Regd. Off: 24/29, II Floor, Srinivasa Colony, (West), S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad Hyderabad, Telangana 9
(CD 3) Smt P Soujanya, W/o P Srinivas Rao, Director M/S Brilliant Power Constructions (P) Ltd, Regd. Off: 24/29, II Floor, Srinivasa Colony, (West), S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana

*This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2) in OA/165812019 an amount of Rs 4936624.46 (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four and Paise Forty Six Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 11.50 % Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 07/08/2019 till realization and costs of Rs 114000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally) Fully/Limited.

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

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

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 20/12/2025 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: 09/12/2024.

RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYDERABAD (DRT-2)

Canara Bank JUBILEE HILLS-II (13056) BRANCH, 66A, Journalist Colony, Road No.70, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033. Ph: 040-23551009, 23541624, 3440905043

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The under mentioned are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned and undelivered to the bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 26.12.2024 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 3.00 P.M. on 27.12.2024 or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Date of Loan	A/c Number	Branch Name	Contact No.
06-03-2023	180241691390, 180241691272, 180241691114	Canara Bank, Jubilee Hills II	040-23541624, 235511009

Name of the Borrower: Kalavathy M, H.No.3-5-784/2/8 A, Sri Sai Sri Heights, Opp. Paradha Gate, King Koti, Hyderabad, Telangana

Date of Auction: 27.12.2024, Timing: 03:00 PM
Date: 16-12-2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Branch Office Address: # 12-02-18 To 20, 1st, S V N Road, Battala Bazar, Warangal. Authorized Officer address: Shriram Finance Ltd, Zonal office, # 12-02-18 To 20, 1st, S V N Road, Battala Bazar, Warangal, -506002.

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS' NOTICE) 8 (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Sl	Particulars of Borrowers /Guarantors
1	Srinivas Rao Devandla S/O Venkataiah, Age: 49 Years, Occ: Srinivasa Fashions, Hanamkonda, # 5-7-81, Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Warangal(Dist). And Also At: Devandla Srinivas O Srinivas Rao, S/O Venkataiah, Age: 49 Years, Occ: Business, R/O. Flat No.301, Vyshnavi Residency, Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Warangal City & Dist. And Also At: Srinivas Rao Devandla, S/O Venkataiah, Age: 49 Years, R/O.H.No.1-3-76/B, 1st Floor, Jyothi Convent Line, Jammibanda, Khammam City.(Borrower)
2	Kalyani Devandla D/o Venkateshwarlu, Age: 48 Years, Occ: Kalyani Dresses, # 5-7-81, Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Warangal (Dist) And Also At: Kalyani Devandla D/o Venkateshwarlu, Age: 48 Years, Occ: Kalyani Dresses, Occ: Business, R/O. Flat No.301, Vyshnavi Residency, Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Warangal City & Dist. And Also At: Kalyani Devandla D/o Venkateshwarlu, Age: 48 Years, R/O.H.No.1-3-76/B, 1st Floor, Jyothi Convent Line, Jammibanda, Khammam City.(Co Borrower /Guarantor)

Sub: Sale of property belonging to **Srinivas Rao Devandla** (Borrower/Guarantor) in the account of **WARNTIF1203310021** for realization of amount due to Shriram Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. **Shriram Finance Limited, WARANGAL-II Branch**, the secured creditor caused a demand notice dated 21.11.2023 under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, calling upon you to pay Rs.1,51,20,576/- (One Crore Fifty One Lakhs Twenty Thousand And Five Hundred And Seventy Six Rupees only) within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the stipulated period, the Authorized Officer, has taken symbolic possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 14.02.2024. And After the Authorized Officer of **Shriram Finance Limited** received physical possession of the property on 07.09.2024. Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to **Shriram Finance Limited**. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

Therefore, if you pay the amount due to **Shriram Finance Limited** along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by **Shriram Finance Limited** before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec.13(8) of the Act.

Schedule of Property: (Property holder Name is **DEVANDLA SRINIVAS O SRINIVAS RAO** Mortgage deed dated 29.03.2012 Registered as Document No.2714/2012 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal (R.O) R.C.C.Building bearing Municipal House No.5-7-81 (Semi Commercial & Residential) having plinth area 165.00 Sq. Feet of Semi Commercial and 711.00 Sq. Feet Residential, in the land to an extent of 124 Sq. Yards or 108-67 Sq. Mts., situated at Lashkar Bazar, Hanamkonda Warangal City and district, which is within the limits of Municipal Corporation, Warangal and Sub Registration, Warangal (U) fort which is within the following boundaries: East: 25 feet Road, West: Municipal Lane & House of Bisamber Dayal, North: H.No.5-7-80 of Bisamber Dayal, South: H.No.5-7-82 of Nataraj & H.No.5-7-83 of Rani.

Note "It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30.11.2022."

Date : 17-12-2024
Place: WARANGAL.
Sd/-Authorized Officer,
SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Bihar: RJD & Jan Suraaj members join JD-U ahead of Assembly polls

Patna, Dec 17 (IANS) : Several leaders from the Jan Suraaj and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) joined the JD-U on Tuesday. JDU state president Umesh Kushwaha welcomed prominent leaders from Jan Suraj, including Dinesh Ojha (Bhojpur district), Sunil

Kumar (Jamui), and Santosh Jaiswal (Bettiah), along with their supporters. Additionally, Rohtas district councillor Supriya Kumari, known for her advocacy of women's empowerment, joined JD-U with her followers. She praised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's policies, stating that she



had long aspired to work under his leadership to further strengthen his initiatives. Two separate ceremonies were organised by JD-U, emphasising the party's strategic push to consolidate support ahead

of the 2025 Bihar Assembly election. Senior leaders, including ministers Lesi Singh, Jama Khan, Ratnesha Sada, and Sheela Mandal, were present to welcome the new members. Speaking at the event, Umesh Kushwaha expressed confidence that the new additions would enhance the party's strength as it prepares for the 2025 Assembly elections. He assured the new members of respect and active roles within the party structure, stating, "Their arrival will

strengthen the party's foundation. Everyone joining us will be given due recognition in the party." "JD-U, under Nitish Kumar's leadership, has been emphasising its developmental agenda, with particular focus on women's empowerment, governance, and social justice. His upcoming Mahila Samvad Yatra is another example of the commitment that he has made to the people of Bihar.



Calcutta HC extends stay on demolition of hotels at Mandarmani

Kolkata, Dec 17 (IANS) : The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday extended the stay, till January 24, on a notification by the District Magistrate of West Bengal's East Midnapore district for the demolition of 140 hotels, resorts, and lodges at the seaside of the popular coastal tourist hub of Mandarmani. Extending the stay on the demolition notice, the single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta fixed January 17 as the next day of hearing in the matter. In 2022, the National Green Tribunal directed the demolition of these 140 hotels, resorts, and lodges on the grounds that they were constructed violating the provisions of the Coastal Regulated Zone Management Authority and accordingly, November 20, 2024, was the deadline for the demolition. Accordingly, the East Midnapore District Magistrate also issued a notification for the demolition. However, on November 19, that is a day before the demolition deadline.



Nitin Gadkari announces roads & highways projects worth Rs 30,000 cr for Rajasthan

Jaipur, Dec 17 (IANS) : A thematic session on the theme of infrastructure and supply chain was organised on the second day of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024. The discussions took place on crucial areas such as enhancing logistical efficiency, sustainable expressways, and developing industrial zones near transport networks to boost operations and sustainability. "The passage of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor through the tribal districts of the state of Rajasthan will facilitate the development of these districts at a fast pace and help unlock the industrial potential of these areas. An efficient transport system is one of the four pillars in the infrastructure sector whose availability facilitates the flow of investment, asset creation and generation of new jobs," said Nitin Gadkari, Union

Minister of Road, Transport and Highways. Gadkari also announced nine roads and highways projects, having a total length of 800 km, for Rajasthan, including the Northern Jaipur Ring Road and Jaipur-Kishangarh-Jodhpur to Amritsar Highway project while addressing the gathering. The projects are estimated to cost INR 30,000 crore. Jogaram Patel, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Government of Rajasthan said that an excellent road network and logistics sector are key for an indispensable role in the development of the state. Praveen Gupta, Principal Secretary, PWD, Government of Rajasthan said that Rajasthan has



taken big strides in the logistics sector which has led to significant improvement in its ranking in the logistics sector. The session titled 'Infrastructure: An Important Link in Supply Chain' saw experts deliberating on strategies to integrate various modes of transport to enhance logistical efficiency and develop specialised networks for efficient freight movement.

Non-resident Rajasthanis too have a right on the state: Guv

Jaipur, Dec 17 (IANS) : Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde said on Tuesday that the non-resident Rajasthanis too have a right on the state and can play a significant role in its development and have played in enhancing economies wherever they have settled. "Rajasthanis have prospered wherever they have gone, and now it's time to repay the debt to their motherland by investing and participating in its development. Marwaris reach even at places where bullock carts cannot reach," the Governor said.

'Bus marshal' a misnomer, absurd to ask me frame policy: Delhi L-G

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : Calling the term 'bus marshal' a misnomer, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has pulled up the AAP government led by Chief Minister Atishi to ask him - constitutional head of government - to formulate a scheme for engaging civil defence volunteers (CDVs) as bus marshals, sources aware of official communications said on Tuesday. Describing the Arvind Kejriwal government's

scheme to engage CDVs as bus marshals and providing security to women bus travellers as ill-conceived and unconstitutional, the L-G noted that the AAP government deployed CDVs as bus marshals against non-existent posts, without even the approval of Council of Ministers. Saxena's tough talk over the issue comes at a time when the Delhi government, in the run-up to Assembly polls, allegedly blamed him for delaying 10,000 bus marshals' redeploy-



ment. Expressing shock over the confusion in the Delhi government, the L-G's note in an official file said, "It is an unacceptable proposition to suggest that a scheme for engaging bus marshals should be formulated by the constitutional head of government.

By that absurd logic, I should also start exercising the powers of the Council of Ministers on a whole range of transferred subjects." The L-G indicated that women travelling in DTC buses can best be guarded and served by Home Guards and Delhi Po-

Will temporarily protect you, but file a civil suit: Kerala HC tells land owners in Munambam Waqf row

Kochi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Kerala High Court on Tuesday said it will pass an interim order staying the dispossession notices issued to those claiming to

be land owners amid the Munambam land dispute with the Waqf Board, but noted that since the matter is essentially a land dispute, hence, they should move a civil suit.



New criminal laws will strengthen human rights of citizens: Tripura CM

Agartala, Dec 17 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said the three new criminal laws implemented in the country recently will strengthen the human rights of the citizens. Addressing a function to commemorate the International Human Rights Day in Agartala, the Chief Minister said that the three new criminal laws, which came into force on July 1 this year, guarantee safeguarding the rights of women and children in particular. He said with regard to provisions in the law, the victim can register a case against the culprits from any part of the country.

MP: One killed, two injured in Gwalior gunfire exchange

Bhopal, Dec 17 (IANS) : One person was killed while two others were injured after two groups from the same family indulged in clashes over a land dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district,

police said on Tuesday. The incident was reported in the Maharajpura village when two groups came face-to-face and claimed ownership of the disputed land and began heated arguments and hurled abuses at each other.



K'taka govt trying to sideline Panchamasali protest, claims seer

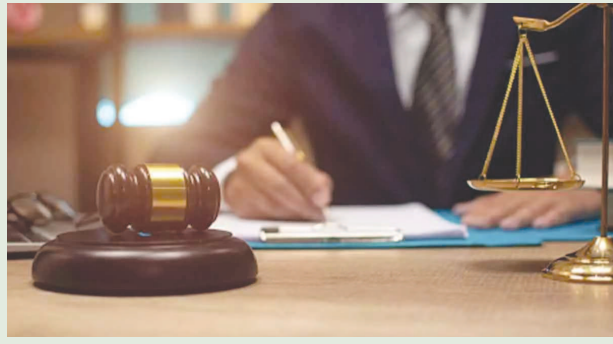
Belagavi, Dec 17 : Kudalasangama Panchamasali Peeth seer Basavarajaya Mruthyunjaya Swami said on Tuesday that the Karnataka government is trying to sideline the Panchamasali protests. He also demanded reservation under 2A category. "The state government is trying to sideline the protest.



Canara Bank POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (for immovable property) WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 02.09.2024, calling upon the (1) Smt Munkala Kumari W/o Balla Veera Naga Lingeswara Rao, 3-17-49/5, Flat No 102 JK Towers, Military Road, Godarigunta, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh- 533001 and Flat No 302 Sri Constructions Anjali Gardens Puppulaguda Manikonda-500089 & Sri Balla Sivakumar(Guarantor) S/o Balla Veera Naga Lingeswara Rao 3-17-49/5 Flat No 102 JK Towers, Military Road, Godarigunta, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh-533001 & 3-49/4/2, Ramalayamveedhi, Ramanyayapeta, Kakinada Rural, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh - 533001 & Flat No 103 Sri Harsha Pride, Patrika Nagar R.No. 3 Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana-500084 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs.63,80,893.97 (Rupees Sixty-Three Lakhs Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three and Paise Ninety Seven only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/owner/guarantor/legal heir having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/owner/guarantor/legal heir and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 12th day of December of the year 2024. The borrower/owner/guarantor/legal heir in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs.63,80,893.97 (Rupees Sixty-Three Lakhs Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three and Paise Ninety Seven only) and interest thereon. The borrower/owner/guarantor's/legal heir's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY All that Flat No 302 bearing Municipal No. 3-50/68/69/302 (PTINO. 1261324676) in third floor of "SIRI CONSTRUCTIONS" on plot bearing No. 688 69 in Sy No. 456,457,458,459,460/1, 460/2 (part) Situated At Anjali Gardens Puppulaguda Manikonda Ranganreddy Dist Telangana State. Boundaries Of The Building: North: Plot No 66 & 70, South: 30' Wide Road, East: Plot No 67, West: 20' Wide Road Boundaries Of The Flat: North: Open To Sky, South: Open To Sky, East: Open To Sky, West: Lift, 7' Wide Corridor & Stair Case. Registration SRO Gandipet (Document No. 12686/2022) Date: 12.12.2024 Place: MANIKONDA Sd/- Authorised Officer CANARA BANK

Table with 5 columns: Name of the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s), Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property), Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession. It lists various secured assets and borrowers, including details of plots, areas, and outstanding amounts.

OPINIONmail



MAKING JUDICIARY ABOVE SUSPICION IS THE NEW TASK FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

The current week is crucial for the Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna. He has a new task in hand—making judiciary above suspicion. The task has come on his way through two sets of petitions – the first was relating to the Places of Worship Act, and the second is relating to a sitting judge of Allahabad High Court making Hindutva speeches. Earlier, several judges came under suspicion for aligning with Hindutva forces, during their tenure as judge after retiring or resigning, though by and large, judiciary as a whole still enjoys the credibility of being neutral. A three-judge special bench headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna will begin hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, which Ayodhya Verdict of 2019 by a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India had already upheld that bars altering status of any place of worship and maintain the status quo as on August 15, 1947, when India became independent. Though the Places of Worship Act bars entertaining of any case aiming at changing the nature of the places of worship, dozens of cases have been filed in various courts in the country against Mosques and Dargahs (Muslim places of worship), because of a judge on the Ayodhya bench Dr DY Chandrachud had observed in 2022 that the Places of Worship Act does not bar ascertaining of the nature of the place of worship. Since the CJI who led the Ayodhya bench joined the Hindutva political party BJP after a few months following his retirement and was nominated by the party as Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, it gave rise to the suspicion, in the backdrop that the bench directed construction of Ram Temple at the place where Babri Mosque was demolished. The suspicion became stronger with Justice Chandrachud's oversight of the purpose of the Places of Worship Act allowing cases against Mosques and Dargahs. Since the Places of Worship Act 1991 held abiding by secularism, a basic feature of the Constitution of India, and the outcome in the case would impact the present and future of the country, the case poses a great challenge before the three-judge special bench. Survival of secularism is at stake which is constitutionally guaranteed. Communal tensions need to be defused at any cost that has propped up on account of cases being filed against Mosques and Dargahs by Hindutva forces claiming historical injustice to Hindus, while the Places of Worship Act prohibits entertaining new cases. Oversight of the fundamental purpose of the Places of Worship Act committed by a judge paving the way for the flood of cases against Mosques and Dargahs, will have to be dealt carefully by the three-judge bench now. There is another petition before the CJI Justice Khanna made by the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms (CJAR) on December 10, 2024 against a sitting judge of Allahabad High Court over his recent Hindutva speech at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event. CJAR has urged for an 'in-house enquiry' for initiating appropriate action against Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav whose controversial speech has "raised doubts in the minds of average citizens about the independence and neutrality of the judiciary, given the wide coverage it has received, a strong institutional response is needed." CJAR said, "Both his participation in this right wing event as well his statements, are in gross violation of Articles 14, 21, 25 & 26 read with the Preamble of our Constitution. They are discriminatory and violate the basic principles of secularism and equality before the law that is ingrained in our Constitution." "Such communally charged statements at a public event, by a sitting judge of the High Court, not only hurt religious sentiments but completely erode faith of the general public in the integrity and impartiality of the judicial institution. Such a speech is also a brazen violation of his oath as a judge where he had promised to uphold the constitution and its values impartially," the letter emphasized.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



CAN GERMANY'S LEFT PARTY DIE LINKE REVIVE ITSELF BEFORE 2025 POLLS?

Germany's Die Linke was once the shining light of the European left. Created in 2007 as a merger between the post-communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) and a pro-labour breakaway from the Social Democratic Party (SPD), in its first decade Die Linke became a major force in national politics. In the East, it represented left-behind young people and pensioners and drew attention to the inequalities bequeathed by reunification. In the cities, it was the obvious political home for left-wing students, radical trade unionists, and activists of all kinds. At its height, it routinely scored around 10 percent nationally and nearly 30 percent in many

former eastern states, even entering government there. Yet today the picture is far from rosy. With the center-left Social Democrats and Greens in national government since 2021, presiding over a fall in living standards, economic stagnation, and seemingly unlimited support for war abroad, it might appear that the opposition party Die Linke is well-placed to take advantage. Yet it is today in the doldrums, after years mired in an identity crisis. It scored under 3 percent in this year's European Union (EU) elections, dropped out of one eastern state parliament, and now risks losing its cohort in the federal Bundestag. So what went wrong? For many both in and outside Die Linke, it all boils down to one name: Sahra Wagenknecht. Doubtless, Die Linke's decline has been evident since Wagenknecht, in the 2010s its most prominent representative, began publicly flouting the party line. This began with dubious anti-immigration talking points around 2018 and her abortive attempt to launch a "Gilets Jaunes"-style movement under her (not Die Linke's) auspices in 2019.

ROMANIA'S ANNULLED ELECTION SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR EUROPE

The annulment of the first round of Romania's election marks a new phase in European authoritarianism. Given the growing alienation of populations across the West from "mainstream" politics — Britain is no exception to this — the precedent Romania sets is dangerous. This is the first case in which social media influence has been officially used to annul an election. Rejecting the results of elections which Western governments don't like is common enough: this happened before 2019's military coup in Bolivia, follows every election in Venezuela, and has been applied within Europe too, to Belarus. Recently, the defeat of the pro-EU opposition in Georgia has been contested by the country's president, with the resulting standoff ongoing. But the claims have always been that the election itself was interfered with: that fake votes were included, or real votes excluded, or the process disrupted by intimidation or foul play. The justification by Romania's Constitutional Court for annulling the first round of its presidential election is different: that an "influence operation" was run on social media to promote the candidate who took first place.



THEOCRATIC PUNISHMENTS PLAGUE INDIA, THE MOTHER OF ALL DEMOCRACIES

He almost took a bullet, but survived the assassination attempt. For Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal to undergo religious punishment, it wasn't God punishing him, his mistakes and decisions, during the time he was Punjab's Deputy Chief Minister, notwithstanding. And it shouldn't bother any non-Sikh rubberneckers about what's happening! Top Sikh religious heads declared Sukhbir Singh Badal 'Tankhiya (guilty of religious misconduct)' and asked him to do 'sewa', which translates to 'voluntary service', which is why the former Deputy Chief Minister has been scrubbing toilets and washing dishes for the last 10 ten days. Welcome to India, where the-

ocracy hides in the folds of democracy. The 'punishment' will continue. On November 9, Sukhbir wore a blue robe and armed with a spear stood guard at the gates of the Takht Damdama Sahib in Talwandi Sabo of Bathinda district. Badal's punishment tour has so far taken him to several Sikh shrines including Darbar Sahib in Amritsar. And because it is punishment, it cannot be penance. But, of course, the 'Gianis' know best. So, Badal is taking the medicine and hoping that the bitter pill will cleanse him of the charge of religious misconduct. That said, a democracy doesn't have space for religious punishments. Sukhbir Singh Badal will have to go through the electoral process to be forgiven of governance missteps and wrongdoings. 'Tankhiya', however, is religious in nature and the penalty

to be paid is in the form of 'sewa' at Sikh religious shrines. Govt decisions and govt mistakes overshadowed by religious diktats, however, show how closely governance and religion are linked in the Sikh environment. The non-Sikh can only look on with consternation and be forgiven. Why should scrubbing toilets, cleaning bathrooms and washing dishes be considered punishment? Are menial jobs punishment postings? Can humiliating a man lead to reforming him? There are people who consider such sorts of punishment of little consequence and value. If scrubbing toilets and washing dishes are regarded as "punishment", what about the millions of people who undergo such punishment day in and day out, month after month and year after year, the equivalent of an entire lifetime, to eke out a living, feed

the children and keep the home ministry in good humour! No job, menial or otherwise, can be punishment, or retribution. But if somebody is condemned to scrub toilets and wash dishes, launder other people's underwear, and not be paid for doing them, then it is punishment. Sukhbir Singh Badal is not getting paid for scrubbing toilets, which means he was not hired to do this "job", but that it's a "punishment." Then again, how can one man's job be a punishment for another man? Would the 'Gianis, the high priests of Sikhs' condemn Sukhbir Singh Badal to another stint as Deputy Chief Minister and call it "punishment"? Nope, none of the white-collar jobs, nor any of the blue-collar jobs are punishment postings.

Omar Abdullah stresses cultural revival & heritage preservation in J&K

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a review meeting of the Department of Culture focusing on revitalising Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and infrastructure. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasised the original vision behind the conceptualisation of Tehzeeb Mahal in Srinagar, underscoring its role in promoting local artists. "Tehzeeb Mahal must serve as a space where artists can showcase their talent while preserving its core theme. Wherever possible, the available space should be expanded to align with this vision," he said. Omar Abdullah also directed the department to revive the restoration of Naagar Nagar at the foothills of Hari Parbat, a project halted a decade ago, to save its deteriorating walls.

JEREMY SEABROOK WAS A CHRONICLER OF THE STRUGGLES OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

Jeremy Seabrook, who dedicated his life to writings which speak for the underprivileged and oppressed people everywhere, is no more. He breathed his last in a care home in London on November 30. He was 86. His absence will be deeply felt by friends, admirers and countless readers in many parts of the world. Although his initial writings were based more on reporting from the UK, he subsequently travelled to many countries of the global south to write about important issues and struggles there. These were initially published in leading newspapers and journals, but subsequently more in the alternative media, following a pattern which writings of many authors known for their commitment to the underprivileged sections have experienced. There have been very few writers



who have displayed such consistency and continuity in their writings on justice as Jeremy Seabrook. His writings on justice and other issues of high social relevance are marked by deep sympathy for those who deserve and need this the most. Readers often tend to read some of his pages again and again due to the sheer brilliance of his deep insights.



Iran not to 'pay ransom' to West over nuclear program says first Vice President Reza Aref

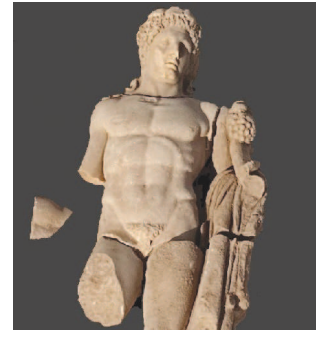
Tehran, Dec 17 (IANS) : Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref affirmed the country's commitment to negotiations over its nuclear program but firmly rejected any form of "paying a ransom," according to Iran's official news agency IRNA. During a visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Aref criticised Western threats to activate the snapback mechanism, which would reinstate international sanctions against Tehran. He emphasised Iran's focus on "constructive interaction" to lift "cruel sanctions" while continuing "peaceful nuclear

activities." Aref reaffirmed Iran's readiness to rejoin the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) if other parties also return to compliance. He highlighted Iran's transparency in its nuclear activities and adherence to the safeguards agreement, which ensures the peaceful use of nuclear materials and technology, Xinhua news agency reported. Rejecting recent Western statements on the snapback mechanism, Aref warned that such actions would effectively end the JCPOA, adding, "Our strategy is action for action."

Greece: Roman-era statue unearthed in Athens

Athens, Dec 17 (IANS) : Greek archaeologists have unearthed a Roman-era statue in Athens, the country's culture ministry said.

The headless statue, made of white marble, depicts a nude male figure resembling a god in Greek mythology. The statue, which is in good condition, was found a few hundred meters from the ancient Odeon of Herodes Atticus, at the foot of the Acropolis hill, reports Xinhua news agency.



Arab states reaffirm commitment to women's empowerment at Muscat meeting

Beirut, Dec 17 (IANS) : Oman hosted a high-level regional meeting on Tuesday to review progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, nearly 30 years after its adoption, the Lebanon-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) announced. The meeting, attended by ministers, officials, civil society representatives, and UN agencies, concluded with the Muscat Declaration, reaffirming Arab coun-

tries' commitment to advancing women's rights under the Beijing framework. Xinhua news agency reported. Omani Minister of Social Development Laila Al Najjar emphasised the progress witnessed in Oman in terms of laws and regulations that guarantee the protection of women's rights. ESCWA Executive Secretary Rola Dashti highlighted over 100 legislative amendments issued across Arab states in the past two years to improve women's rights but acknowledged ongoing chal-

lenges, including the impact of armed conflicts on 15 million women in the region. Discussions focused on combating violence against women, boosting women's economic participation, advancing their decision-making roles, and protecting women in conflicts. UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous stressed that sustainable development and peace require women's full empowerment and called for transforming commitments into impactful actions.



Nigerian gov commits over 450 mln USD to natural gas initiative

Abuja, Dec 17 (IANS) : The Nigerian government has committed more than \$450 million to the country's compressed natural gas (CNG) value chain since the launch of an ambitious initiative partly to address rising petrol or gasoline costs and promote cleaner energy. This whopping sum of money was invested into creating CNG mother stations, daughter stations, refueling stations, and conversion centers that are springing up across the most populous African country, Tosin Coker, head of commercial for the Presidential CNG Initiative, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the reporters at the 2024 Nigeria Energy Forum in the southwestern state of Lagos. Coker said the initiative has successfully converted more than 10,000 vehicles from petrol to CNG. It aims to push the conversion rate to "more than 1 million vehicles using petrol to CNG" by 2027. In May 2023, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu halted the decades-long subsidy on gasoline.



Somalia facilitates return of 230 nationals in 5-day repatriation effort

Mogadishu, Dec 17 (IANS) : The Somali government has ramped up its efforts to repatriate nationals from foreign African countries, successfully facilitating the return of 230 citizens who were stranded or detained over the past five days. This repatriation process, supported by the United Nations migration agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), took place in Libya, Madagascar, and Sudan, Xinhua news agency reported. On December 5, 161 Somali nationals returned from Libya, while 47 survivors of a boat disaster were brought

back from Madagascar on Saturday. On Tuesday, 22 Somali nationals who had been detained in Sudan for attempting irregular migration were repatriated to Somalia. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ahmed Moallim Fiqi called the successful repatriations a significant milestone in addressing the challenges of irregular migration and ensuring the safety of Somali nationals abroad. "This operation highlights Somalia's unwavering commitment to its citizens and to addressing migration challenges through cooperation with our international partners," the minister said in a statement released on Thursday when the citizens returned from

Libya. The repatriation efforts, funded by the European Union and implemented by the IOM, saw most of the returnees from Libya on the December 5 charter flight as young men and women under the age of 30 who had been stranded in the country for several months. The survivors of the Madagascar boat tragedy, aged between 17 and 50, expressed immense relief at returning to safety.



US indicts former Syrian officials for war crimes against Americans, civilians

Washington, Dec 17 (IANS) : A US federal indictment has charged two former senior Syrian intelligence officials from the regime of former President Bashar al-Assad with "war crimes against Americans and other civilians," the Department of Justice announced. The indictment accuses Jamil Hassan, 72, and Abdul Salam Mahmoud, 65, of conspiring to commit war crimes by subjecting detainees, including US citizens, to cruel and inhuman treatment at detention facilities such as the Mezzeh Military Airport prison near Damascus, according to the justice department. Warrants for their arrest have been issued, though both remain at large, the statement read on Tuesday. "The perpetrators of the Assad regime's atrocities against American citizens and other civilians during the Syrian civil war must answer for their heinous crimes."

African Union official calls for collective efforts to curb hate speech

Kigali, Dec 17 (IANS) : African Union Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities Adama Dieng called for urgent actions to combat racism, negative ethnicity, xenophobia, and all forms of intolerance in the region. Speaking at the International Conference on Genocide Prevention in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, Dieng said on Tuesday that the Rwandan genocide against Tutsi in 1994, in which about a million people were killed, did not start with machetes but dehumanisation of the Tutsi ethnic group. He noted that the conflict in South Sudan started as a political crisis, where hate speech across ethnic lines was encouraged and instigated, Xinhua news agency reported.



UN says 16 million people need aid in Syria



United Nations, Dec 17 (IANS) : UN humanitarian workers described the situation in Syria as chaotic and fluid, with more than 16 million people in the country requiring assistance. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Tuesday said 1 million people were displaced from their homes in the west and northwest alone from November 28 to December 17. "There is an urgent need for more shelter, food, and sanitation facilities." The office said the recently displaced were primarily women and children from Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates. The situation is very fluid, with reports of more people returning in the last couple of days. Transportation routes were disrupted, limiting the movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid, reports Xinhua news agency. Some looting of civilian properties and factories, as well as warehouses holding humanitarian supplies, has been reported, according to OCHA. "Despite

the challenges and the volatile situation, we and our partners continue to provide emergency aid," the office said. The office said that in northwest Syria, all humanitarian organisations in Idlib and northern Aleppo resumed regular operations and the three border crossings from Turkey used to deliver aid into Syria remained open.

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned with undelivered. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 26-12-2024 before 03:00 PM failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 26-12-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank. GST OF 3% IS APPLICABLE ON THE SALE PRICE.

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1	05.06.2023	138916630001356	Mr. D.Narasimha Rao, H.No.14-3-4/1, Ward 26, Lakarajuvani, Veedhi, Bapatla, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522101.

Date: 18-12-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Regional Office, Koti, Hyderabad.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned with undelivered. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 30-12-2024 before 03:00 PM failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 04:00 P.M on 30-12-2024 without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank. GST OF 3% IS APPLICABLE ON THE SALE PRICE.

S.No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name & Address of the Borrower
1	12.06.2024	124516530002619	Mr. Kommoju Ramesh, S/o Mr. Sri K.Sarwa Chary, D.No.5-5/A/P, Plot No.45, Northern Part, Sy.No.415, Torru Village, Abdullapumet Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy. Mr. Kommoju Ramesh, S/o Mr. Sri K.Sarwa Chary, H.No.4-7-292, Padmavathi Colony, Hayathnagar, Ranga Reddy District-501505, Telangana.

Date: 18-12-2024 Sd/- OFFICER/MANAGER

TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK
(Sponsored by State Bank of India)
REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE: HYDERABAD-II
H.No.2-1-520, 2nd Floor, Vijay Sri Sai Celestia, Street No.9, Nallakunta, Shankar Mutt Road, Hyderabad, Telangana-500044.

POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE 8(i)] (for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the Telangana Gramameena Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 09-08-2024 calling upon the Borrowers Pagidipala Vijay Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.7,42,749/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on this 13th December 2024.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Telangana Gramameena Bank for an amount of Rs.7,34,211/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Eleven Only) and interest thereon.

The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the Residential House No.3-55/52A on Plot No.2 Part, in Survey No.5, admeasuring 150 Sq.Yards or 125.4 Sq.Mtrs., with a Plinth Area of 200 Sft., A.C.C. situated at Keesara Village and Grampanchayat, Keesara Mandal, Ranga Reddy District and bounded by: **Boundaries of the Property:** North: Plot No.2 Part, South: 20' Wide Road, East: 20' Wide Road, West: 100' Wide Road (Keesara to keesara Gutta)

Date: 13-12-2024 Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Telangana Gramameena Bank (Formerly known as Deccan Gramameena Bank)



Delhi Civil Society marches for minority rights, reminds Bangladesh of shared history

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, members of the civil society gathered near the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi on Tuesday to protest against the atrocities on Hindus and other religious minorities in the neighbouring country. Prominent personalities such as Sadhvi Rithambara, ISKCON's Keshav Murari, India Central Asia Foundation Director Ramakant Dwivedi, former Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri, Buddhist religious guru Rahul Bhante, Members of Parliament, ex-judges, and senior advocates participated in the protest. A memorandum was submitted to the Bangladesh High Commission

which talked about the historical camaraderie between India and Bangladesh. It recalled the sacrifices of Indian soldiers during the 1971 Liberation War, who fought alongside the Bangladeshi people against the oppression and genocide under Pakistan's rule. Civil society underlined that this shared history calls for mutual respect and protection of all communities. The protest highlighted growing concerns about the persecution of Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and other minorities in Bangladesh, allegedly perpetrated by Islamic fundamentalists. According to the memorandum, these actions violate fundamental human rights and threaten the secular fabric of the region.

Seelampur MLA Rehman quits AAP, accuses Kejriwal of ignoring minority rights & public concerns

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): In a major setback for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, Seelampur MLA Abdul Rehman resigned from the party on Tuesday. In his resignation letter, Rehman accused AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal of prioritising political gains over public issues, stating: "The party has become ensnared in power politics and has ignored the rights of Muslims and other

deprived sections of the society. Arvind Kejriwal has continuously avoided addressing public issues for his own political benefit. I will continue to fight for justice and rights." Rehman's resignation follows his denial of a ticket for the upcoming elections, with AAP replacing him with Zubair Ahmed as the Seelampur candidate in the party's second list. Rehman sent his resignation just 24 hours after the announcement, accusing the party of neglecting the rights of minorities. In the letter addressed to the national

convenor of the AAP, Rehman stated that the party keeps mum whenever it comes to defending the rights of any community. He further stated: "Your government's approach during the Delhi riots was disappointing as you did not do anything to ensure that the riots affected people get justice. Nor did you express any sympathy for them." He added that it has been observed that the AAP has been involved in vote bank politics only. Reports indicate that Rehman's dissatisfaction with AAP had been building for over a month, particularly



after the induction of Zubair Ahmed into the party. There was already speculation that the AAP MLA would make this move, saying goodbye to the party. He is expected to defect to Congress in days to come.

Delhi HC temporarily suspends sentence of expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ordered a temporary suspension of the sentence of expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in connection with the death case of the Unnao rape victim's father. A bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri took note of the submission that Sengar is suffering from severe lower back aches with Radiculopathy, lower gastrointestinal tract infection, Periodontitis, anxiety and sleeping disorders. Sengar's application said that he would suffer irreparable loss and injury in case his sentence is not suspended temporarily and he is not released. Earlier on December 5, a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma granted interim bail for two weeks to Sengar, who is sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a minor girl in Unnao in 2017, in view of his precarious health condition. It had ordered AIIMS Delhi to undertake Sengar's initial assessment to determine if his ailments could be treated in the national Capital or would require any referral beyond Delhi.



MUDRA scheme a boon for small entrepreneurs, Bhopal businessmen thank PM Modi

Bhopal, Dec 17 (IANS): The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), launched by the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote micro and small enterprises in non-agricultural sectors, has emerged as a source of hope for those seeking employment. The scheme aims to promote entrepreneurship and economically empower small business owners by providing easy access to loans. Through this initiative, the government offers financial assistance to small entrepreneurs, helping them expand their businesses and contribute to economic activities. Many small business owners have expanded and streamlined their businesses through the Mudra scheme. One such entrepreneur, Zees Ali, who runs a grocery store, told IANS: "Under this scheme, I received a loan of 2 lakh rupees. This has helped

me grow my business. I never thought that a bank would give me a loan without any guarantee. This scheme has created new hope and opportunities for small business owners like me. I thank PM Modi. This scheme has been very beneficial for us. PM Modi thought about us, and that's why we have been able to avail of this benefit." Yasmeen, another beneficiary of the scheme, said, "I received a loan of 2 lakh rupees under this scheme, which has been of great help. My business has grown, and everything is going smoothly. I face no difficulties. The government gave me a loan without any guarantee, and I thank them for it. My business is doing very well. I never imagined that PM Modi would come up with such a scheme that would benefit us poor people so much. We thank PM Modi for this."



Congress to launch mass crusade for ballot-paper voting: Nana Patole

Solapur, Dec 17 (IANS): Hailing the spirit of the Markadwadi voters, Maharashtra Congress President Nana F. Patole said that his party would launch a nationwide mass movement demanding a return to the ballot paper voting systems from the village on Tuesday. "We salute the people of Markadwadi for setting a precedent, speaking out against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and seeking ballot paper polling. We are fully behind you in this fight to save Democracy and the Constitution," said Patole. Demanding withdrawal of the cases lodged against the Markadwadi villagers for attempting to conduct a 'mock ballot paper poll' on December 3 – which was thwarted by the police and local administration – Patole added that mass movement would be on the lines of Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, who is now elected the Congress Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.



Vijayan should respond to CM Siddaramaiah's Wayanad offer: KC Venugopal

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 17 (IANS): Congress General Secretary and Alappuzha Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday slammed Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's cold response to the offer of his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah's offer of building 100 homes to people who lost homes in the July Wayanad landslide disaster. The Kerala government not re-

sponding to Siddaramaiah's letter which is dated December 9 surfaced in the local media on Tuesday. "It is concerning that no communication has been received from the government of Kerala regarding the necessary guidelines or directions to implement this project preventing us from moving forward with commitment," reads Siddaramaiah's letter.



Gujarat family reaps benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Gandhinagar, Dec 17 (IANS): In an example of the Union government's commitment to empowering citizens through sustainable energy solutions, a family from Vavol village in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is witnessing significant changes to their daily life, thanks to the ambitious PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. This initiative by the Narendra Modi government, aimed at providing solar-powered electricity to households, is helping reduce electricity costs while promoting clean energy.

Delhi's public wants freedom from corrupt AAP: Vijender Gupta

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced the second list of 31 candidates for the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections. Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has been shifted from his seat in Patparganj and will contest from the Jangpura Assembly seat. Sisodia is the MLA from the Patparganj Assembly seat. He also began his election campaign in Jangpura on Tuesday. After the announcement of 31 candidates by AAP, the Delhi BJP has taken a dig at the selection of nominees on various counts. Talking to IANS, Delhi Assembly Leader of Opposition (LoP), Vijender Gupta, said

that AAP declared 31 candidates, but a party with 62 out of 70 MLAs did not give a ticket to any current legislator. "Those who received tickets have shifted to new constituencies. Former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's seat has been changed. What does this signify?" he said. He also alleged that Manish Sisodia is involved in the liquor scam, and the people of Patparganj no longer want him as their representative. AAP is a party marred by corruption, and now the people of Delhi want to free themselves from this "corrupt government". This is why Manish Sisodia is fleeing from his current seat to contest from Jangpura. Earlier in the day, the BJP leader Vijender Gupta also shared a post on the social media platform X.



In the post, he wrote: "Delhi residents, look at Kejriwal's royal palace. While the people of Delhi struggle with basic issues like electricity, water, education, and healthcare, Arvind Kejriwal has built a palace worth crores with the people's hard-earned money. Kejriwal, who came to power talking about simplicity and honesty, is now living a life of luxury, like a king. Look at this palace and the lavishness within it, even though Kejriwal once claimed he would not take cars, bungalows, or security."

Over 3.41 lakh houses to be built in rural areas of Rajasthan: Union Minister

Jaipur, Dec 17 (IANS): Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan announced that the Central Rural Development Department will build over 3.41 lakh houses for the poor and farmers in Rajasthan under the PM Awas Yojana (Rural), with an estimated investment of Rs 4,099 crore. He also praised Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for his efforts in driving the development of a "New Rajasthan" and highlighted how the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit will attract significant investments, particularly in the agriculture sector, with a focus on food processing. Chauhan made these remarks while addressing the sectoral session on 'Agri-

Business Innovations Moving Up the Value Chain' at the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit held at JECC on Tuesday. He emphasised that serving farmers is akin to worship, stating that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, efforts are underway to position India as the global food basket.



Narayana Murthy defends 70-hour workweek concept again, calls on youth to work hard

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy has reiterated the call to work 70-hour a week, urging young people in India to work hard for the country's growth. Murthy first suggested the idea of a 70-hour work week in 2023 to boost the country's growth. While he invited widespread criticism from people and doctors, the concept was hailed by many including Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal. Murthy, during his recent visit to Kolkata, said that the younger generation needs to

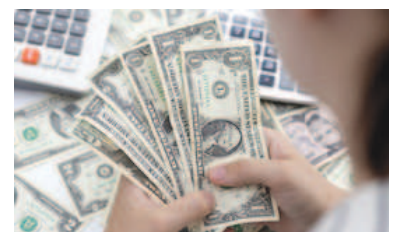
realise that they have to "work hard and work towards making India number one." He emphasised the need for Indians to strive for excellence. "At Infosys, I said we will go to the best and compare ourselves with the best global companies. Once we compare ourselves with the best global companies, I can tell you we Indians have a lot to do" Murthy said, speaking at the Indian Chamber of Commerce's centenary launch alongside RPSG Group Chairman Sanjiv Goenka. "We have to set our aspirations high because 800 million Indians get free ration. That means 800 million Indians are in poverty. If

we are not in a position to work hard, then who will work hard?" he added. Murthy said that he "realised the only way a country can fight poverty is by creating jobs that lead to disposable incomes. The government has absolutely no role in entrepreneurship". He stressed that entrepreneurs play a crucial role in building nations by creating wealth and generating employment. "Entrepreneurs build a nation as they create jobs, they create wealth for their investors and they pay taxes. Therefore, if a country embraces capitalism, it will create good roads, good trains, and good infrastructure," he said.



His comments come amid concerns of workplace stress faced by young Indians, resulting in the loss of lives of many. Health experts have also warned of severe consequences of working long hours

that may not only be detrimental to the physical and mental health of the employees but may also have serious effects on their personal and social relationships.



Bangladesh's forex reserves dip to \$18.61 bn

Dhaka, Dec 17 (IANS) : Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves fell by 1.23 billion U.S. dollars to 18.61 billion dollars by the end of November 2024, the latest central bank data showed. The Bangladesh Bank data showed the country's foreign exchange reserves stood at 18,611.40 million dollars on Nov. 28, the last working day of the month, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calculation method, Xinhua news agency reported. The central bank, however, said gross reserves were 24.35 billion dollars by the end of November. The reserves calculated under the IMF's balance of payments and investment position manual method were immediately usable, while gross reserves were also usable subject to the realization of investment.



India's trend GDP growth to move closer to 6.5-7 pc in FY25: Crisil

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : The main macro drivers remain healthy and India's GDP growth is likely to move closer to the trend growth of 6.5-7 per cent this fiscal, a Crisil Insight report said on Tuesday. Trend GDP growth is the average sustainable rate of economic growth over time. Private consumption growth in the country has fared better than last year in the first half of the current fiscal (FY25). "While investment growth has moderated relative to last year, its share of GDP remains higher than the pre-pandemic decade," the report mentioned. Technical factors contributed to an above-trend GDP growth last year. They are expected to have a moderating effect on GDP growth this current fiscal as they normalise. "GDP growth had averaged 6.6 per cent in the pre-pandemic decade. This fiscal is likely to see GDP growth move closer to trend growth of 6.5-7 per cent," according to the report. It is worth noting that the main macro drivers of growth remain healthy. Private consumption grew 6.7 per cent on average in the first half of this fiscal, compared with 4.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year.

India's banking sector poised for continued resilience : S&P Global

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : India's financial sector is poised for continued resilience, bolstered by structural improvements and robust economic growth prospects, according to the S&P Global Ratings 2025 banking outlook. "We anticipate asset quality will stabilize, with weak loans in the banking sector projected to decline to approximately 3.0 per cent of gross loans by March 31, 2025. This positive trend is supported by healthy corporate balance sheets and enhanced risk management practices," said Deepali Seth-Chhabria, Analyst, S&P Global Ratings. While underwriting standards for retail loans remain strong and delinquencies manageable, the rapid growth of unsecured personal loans could introduce some risks. S&P Global foresees loan growth slightly outpacing nominal GDP, particularly in the retail segment. However, deposit growth may lag, potentially impacting credit-to-deposit ratios. According to the rating agency, credit costs are expected to normalize from a decade-low of 0.8 per cent in fiscal 2024 to a range of 0.8 per cent - 0.9 per cent. Despite this, profitability should remain strong, with returns on average assets projected around 1.2 per cent in fiscal 2025, she further pointed out.



2025 to see new growth opportunities in tier 2, 3 cities for Indian real estate sector

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : After witnessing a bumper growth in 2024 across residential, office and industrial domains, 2025 is likely to be a year of consolidation and continued innovation for the Indian real estate sector, a report showed on Tuesday. While residential and office markets can potentially stabilise after consecutive peaks, industrial and warehousing demand can witness heightened traction, fuelled by rising manufacturing output and a thriving logistics industry, according to a Colliers India report. In 2025, rapid urbanisation, key infrastructure project completion and industrial corridor development will create new growth opportunities, particularly in tier 2 and 3 cities. In 2024, annual gross leasing across the top six cities reached 47 million square feet by the third quarter of the ongoing year, reflecting a 23 per cent year-on-year increase. On the residential front, supported by stable interest rates, launches and sales across major cities of the country are likely to end on a strong note this year. Average housing prices across the top eight cities have already surged 11 per cent

annually in 2024. The first nine months of 2024 saw a 17 per cent annual growth in industrial and warehousing demand, registering 20.2 million square feet of leasing across the top five cities. Almost half of the leasing activity is expected to come from Delhi-NCR and Chennai. Institutional inflows in Indian real estate continue to remain healthy in 2024, indicating sustained investor confidence. Of the \$4.7 billion real estate investments during the first nine months of 2024, office and industrial and warehousing segment together accounted for over 70 per cent share. Buoyed by domestic growth prospects and long-term returns, institutional investments are likely to be around \$5-6 billion by the end of 2024.



Chinese automaker Chery launches new model in Israel

Jerusalem, Dec 17 (IANS) : Chinese carmaker Chery began selling a new model in Israel on Tuesday, as announced by its official Israeli dealership, Freesbe. The new model, Arrizo 8, is a plug-in hybrid mid-size sedan equipped with a 1.5-liter turbine engine. It can accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in 7.8 seconds and reach a top speed of 185 km/h, with a pure electric range exceeding 100 km, Xinhua news agency reported. Chery entered the Israeli market in November 2022 and has since offered the gasoline-powered crossover models Tiggo 7 Pro, Tiggo 8 Pro, and FX, also known as the Omada 5. In January this year, the company launched its first full-electric model in Israel.

India glucose monitoring market to grow at 2pc CAGR by 2033: Report

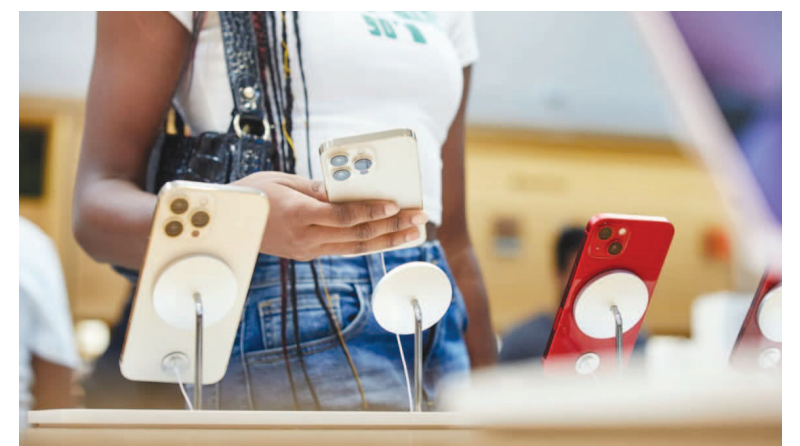
New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : Amid the growing prevalence of diabetes in India, the glucose monitoring market in the country is forecast to grow at a 2 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) during 2024-33, according to a report on Tuesday. The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, said that the growing prevalence of diabetes in India, combined with limited access to reliable monitoring tools, presents a significant public health challenge. Effective glucose monitoring is crucial for disease management, yet affordability and accuracy remain key barriers. In 2024, India's glucose monitoring



market accounted for about 10 per cent of the Asia-Pacific (APAC) market. The report said this reflects the growing focus on affordable and innovative solutions tailored to local needs. "Despite the growing availability of glucose monitoring solutions in India, there remain significant gaps in affordability, user education, and accessibility, particularly in rural areas. Locally manufactured devices can help bridge these gaps, but broader efforts in education and support systems are vital for effective diabetes management," said Kanchan Chauhan, Medical Devices Analyst at GlobalData.

India sees over 90 pc rise in smartphone exports in Nov, Apple leads

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : India has seen a record smartphone exports in November this year, surpassing the Rs 20,000 crore mark for the first time in a month, which was led by Apple. According to industry data, smartphone exports crossed Rs 20,300 crore, a more than 90 per cent rise from the same period last year. Apple led the exports last month, followed by Samsung. In November last year, the smartphone exports from the country was over Rs 10,600 crore, as per the industry data. The smartphone market in the country is expected to exit 2024 with a single-digit annual growth. Meanwhile, riding on the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Apple's iPhone production in the country reached \$10 billion in the seven months of this fiscal (FY25), with \$7 billion in exports alone which is a record. The tech giant manufactured/assembled \$14 billion of iPhones in India last fiscal (FY24), with exporting more than \$10 billion worth of iPhones. According to Union Electronics and



IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, this is yet another milestone for the smartphone PLI scheme in 7 months. "\$10 billion iPhone production by Apple with \$7 billion exports. Total smartphone exports from Bharat crossed \$10.6 billion in 7 months," the minister had posted on X last month. India's smartphone market is estimated to

grow 7-8 per cent this year, driven by strong demand for premium, 5G and AI smartphones. The mobile handset market in India is expected to maintain steady growth. According to industry experts, to achieve the goal of \$500 billion local electronics manufacturing by FY30.



GSI gets Cabinet nod for signing pact with Italy's CNR-IRPI on landslide forecast & early warning

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Ministry of Mines said on Tuesday that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with The Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection of the National Research Council (CNR-IRPI), Italy, for collaboration in landslide forecast and early warning.

GSI and CNR-IRPI. This partnership aims to enrich the knowledge and acquire skills in landslide forecasting and early warning through collaborative research. It is crucial to enhance and scale up India's Landslide Early Warning Systems (LEWS) to international standards, enabling better prediction and mitigation of landslide-related damages, and to overcome the situation like Wayanad landslide in Kerala," the Ministry added.

AAP Punjab confident of winning urban local bodies polls

Chandigarh, Dec 17 (IANS): Believing overwhelming public trust through record candidate applications, AAP Punjab President Aman Arora on Tuesday said he was confident of the party's historic win in urban local bodies elections on December 21. The party on Tuesday held a preparatory and review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP state President Aman Arora that saw the participation of senior leaders.



123 regular Ayush, 221 e-Ayush visas issued to foreigners in one year: Centre

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): About 123 regular Ayush visas and 221 e-Ayush visas have been issued to foreigners seeking treatment in India, between July 2023 and December 2024, said the Union government on Tuesday. During the same period, 17 e-Ayush attendant visas have also been issued, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. On July 27, 2023, the Government introduced a separate category of Ayush Visa for foreigners visiting India for availing treatment under the Ayush system of medicine.

Ayush Visa is available under four sub-categories namely: Ayush visa; Ayush attendant visa; e-Ayush visa and e-Ayush attendant visa. An Ayush Visa is granted to a foreigner whose sole purpose is to seek treatment through Ayush systems. "A total of 123 regular Ayush Visa, 221 e-Ayush Visa and 17 e-Ayush Attendant Visa have been issued till December 4," MoS Jadhav said. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also has launched an official portal for Medical Value Travel (MVT), which is the Advantage Healthcare India portal. The "one-stop" portal aims to facilitate information for those who want to avail medical treatment in India from abroad. The Govern-



ment aimed to sensitise the stakeholders like Ayush facility providers and others involved in MVT. As part of it, the government organised the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024 in September in Mumbai to boost India's position in Medical Value Travel (MVT) by integrating traditional Indian systems of medicine with modern healthcare systems. The theme was 'Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel'.

JD(U) leader KC Tyagi calls for probe into Rahul Gandhi's alleged links with George Soros

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): JD(U) leader KC Tyagi has condemned the controversial statement made by RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. He has also underlined the need for setting up a probe committee to reveal the facts about Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's alleged links with Hungarian-American businessman and investor George Soros. In fact, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on

Tuesday triggered a controversy with vulgar remarks on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's proposed Mahila Samvad Yatra starting from December 15. While responding to a question from journalists about Kumar's yatra, Prasad said, "Nain sekne ja rahe hain (He is going to ogle at women). Tyagi in an interaction with the IANS flayed Lalu's statement. He also said that the INDIA bloc has crumbled now. In response to this, KC Tyagi said, "Lalu Prasad Yadav's statement should be condemned and criticised as much as possible. He

has shown his cultural orientation and his attitude towards women. I urge Sonia Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, and Supriya Sule to condemn his statement, or else it will be seen as their tacit approval." Tyagi also commented on AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal's "Sheesh Mahal" by saying, "In political life, we aspire for simplicity. Luxury is not part of our political ethos." On Kejriwal's promises, Tyagi said, "In the current political scenario, no party or individual can make such claims or promises, nor can they fulfil them." Regarding



Rahul Gandhi's alleged ties with George Soros, Tyagi stated, "This issue is continuously being raised in Parliament. A probe committee needs to be formed to uncover the facts." When asked if Rahul Gandhi acts under external influences, Tyagi responded, "We cannot make such assumptions unless a probe agency clears the matter." On the leadership of Mamata Banerjee in the 'INDIA' bloc, Tyagi said, "The 'INDIA' alliance has fallen apart, with all its partner parties opposing the Congress. The Congress is now trying to reclaim the mass support that it had lost to them."



NIA arrests absconder in Laos human trafficking, cyber slavery case

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): A man who arranged flight tickets and documents for victims in Laos human trafficking and cyber slavery case was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in coordination with the Delhi Police's Special Cell, an official said on Tuesday. Kamran Haider's arrest on Monday marked a significant step by the agency towards dismantling the international human trafficking syndicate, said the official. Along with co-accused, Kamran Haider was directly involved in arranging flight tickets and documents for the victims, and in facilitating their illegal border crossings, with the help of contacts in the Golden Triangle Region, he said. NIA had charge-sheeted Kamran and four others in October 2024 in relation with a network of traffickers and touts involved in various illegal activities. The four co-accused were identified as Manjoor Alam alias Guddu, Sahil, Ashish alias Akhil and Pawan Yadav alias Afzal alias @Afroz. All the accused were involved in sending vulnerable Indian youths to the Golden Triangle Region in Lao PDR, where they were forced to commit cyber scams targeting European and American citizens.

Digital arrest: 1700 Skype IDs; 59000 WhatsApp accounts blocked

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) identified and blocked more than 1,700 Skype IDs and 59,000 WhatsApp accounts used for Digital Arrest, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha that till November 15, more than 6.69 lakh SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs as reported by police authorities have also been blocked by the Central government. Replying to a question on cyber frauds and crimes from K. Eswarasamy of DMK, MoS Rai said, "The Ministry has set up the I4C as an attached office to deal with all types of cyber crimes in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner." The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is also operating an automated cyber threat exchange platform for collecting, analysing.



Google exploring collaborations on AI-driven initiatives in Himachal

Shimla, Dec 17 (IANS): Google India is exploring collaborations on AI-driven initiatives aimed at transforming public services in Himachal Pradesh. To integrate technology in digital agriculture, health, education and public grievance, Google head Ashish Watal called on Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu at his official residence Oak Over. Sukhu said the state government was committed to leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and modern technology for public benefit. He acknowledged Google's expertise in these areas and asked the company to consider investing in the information technology (IT) sector in the state and highlighted the investor-friendly environment in the state. He said that the state govern-

ment plans to develop a "people empowerment platform" in collaboration with Google through the Labour and Employment Department. This platform would connect citizens with skilled service providers such as plumbers, electricians and carpenters that would ensure convenience while generating employment opportunities for the youth of the state in the unorganised sector, he said. The Chief Minister said that to enhance grievance redressal, the government intended to upgrade the Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline -- 1100 with generative AI. He said that the aim of this initiative is to provide faster and more effective solutions while ensuring consumer satisfaction. In the education sector, AI-based teaching modules would be piloted in two government senior secondary schools in the state to improve learning outcomes and modernise teaching methods. He said that advanced technology has the potential to revolutionise agriculture and disaster preparedness.



Mullaiperiyar Dam issue to be discussed during CM Stalin's Kerala visit: TN Minister

Chennai, Dec 17 (IANS): Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister and senior DMK leader S. Duraimurugan announced that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will raise the Mullaiperiyar Dam issue with the Kerala government during his visit to Kerala. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is scheduled to attend the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary celebrations. Duraimurugan's statement came in response to a calling attention motion moved by Tamil Nadu's Leader of Opposition, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), in the state legislative assembly on Tuesday. During the Zero Hour, EPS highlighted incidents where Kerala officials allegedly obstructed maintenance works on the Mullaiperiyar Dam.

Workforce requires formal education & career opportunities: UGC

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS): University Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday released a 'Draft Guidelines for Implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Higher Education' which will provide access to higher education and enable individuals who have acquired competencies through non-formal and informal learning methods to access higher education programs. The UGC said that the guidelines create diverse and flexible pathways for individuals with various educational backgrounds.





South Africa kicks off first G20 engagement with focus on solidarity, equality, sustainability

Johannesburg, Dec 17 (IANS) : South Africa commenced Tuesday its inaugural Group of 20 (G20) engagement under its presidency, which began on December 1, setting the tone for its leadership tenure. At the opening of the first G20 Sherpas Meeting in Johannesburg, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Raymond Lamola outlined South Africa's agenda to advance

shared global goals through key priorities. In his address, Lamola highlighted the theme of South Africa's presidency, "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," and emphasised key objectives such as bolstering disaster resilience, addressing debt challenges faced by low-income countries, and mobilizing resources for a just energy transition. "We will address these challenges through our high-level

deliverables and priorities, which lie at the core of the original G20 mandate of promoting strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth and by building partnerships across all sectors of society to find collective solutions," he said, Xinhua news agency reported. Lamola noted the pivotal role of Sherpas in translating G20 leaders' commitments into actionable cooperation.

Tunisia busts drug trafficking network near capital

Tunis, Dec 17 (IANS) : Tunisian security units have dismantled a drug trafficking network active in the Grand Tunis area, the largest metropolitan area in Tunisia, seizing 3 kg of cocaine, the National Guard said Tuesday on its Facebook page. In two separate operations, the security units arrested five individuals and seized the cocaine, varying quantities of narcotic pills, money, jewelry, and three vehicles, said the National Guard. It provided no information on the timing of the operations or the nationalities of the suspects. The Tunisian government has taken a strong stance against drug trafficking, with hundreds of individuals involved in the crime arrested during recent nationwide operations, Xinhua news agency reported.



Ghana's president-elect vows governance reforms to spur national development

Accra, Dec 17 (IANS) : Ghana's President-elect John Dramani Mahama vowed to "initiate important governance reforms and sometimes severe measures" over the next four years to reset the nation and bring it back on track as "the Black Star of Africa." Mahama made the remarks in a speech to thousands of party supporters at his campaign office in the capital of Accra late Monday, shortly after being declared by Ghana's Electoral Commission the winner of the 2024 presidential election held on December 7, reports Xinhua news agency. "This mandate represents a call to action... This mandate marks a new beginning and sets the tone for a new direction for our beloved country. Ghana is not for one man or one family. It is for all of us, and we must not only be born and die here, but we must all live here with satisfaction," he said in the speech.



South Korea vows unhindered preparations for US policy shifts amid political turmoil

Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) : South Korea's trade ministry said Tuesday it will work closely with related government agencies and local businesses to avoid any disruptions in preparing for the launch of the new US administration amid ongoing domestic political turmoil. Trade Minister Cheong In-kyo discussed such strategies with trade and international relations experts in Seoul, a week after President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, which was lifted just six hours later following a National Assembly vote to end it, Yonhap news agency reported. During the meeting, participants reviewed Seoul's progress in preparing for the incoming Donald Trump administration, which has hinted at shifts in Washington's trade policies, including the imposition of sweeping tariffs of at least 10 per cent on all imported goods.

Jordan reaffirms support for Syria's efforts to restore stability

Amman, Dec 17 (IANS) : Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Tuesday reaffirmed his country's commitment to Syria's efforts to restore security and stability. According to a statement by the foreign ministry, Safadi said in a speech at the Parliament that Jordan supports Syria in launching an inclusive political process where the Syrian people choose their own destiny and future. He urged coordinated Arab efforts in this regard, and stressed Jordan's readiness to provide necessary humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, the statement showed. Safadi also said that Israel's seizing of the

buffer zone with Syria violates international law and attacks on Syria's sovereignty, Xinhua news agency reported. Preserving Syria's state institutions is vital to preventing the country from sliding into chaos, he added. The Israeli army has seized control of areas near the Israel-Syria border and struck strategic weapons in Syria as of Monday, according to Syrian and Israeli sources. In a video statement released by



his office on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to take control of the positions temporarily to ensure they would not fall into the hands of the mili-

tant groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, whose sweeping offensive across Syria since Nov. 27 resulted in the rapid fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government on Tuesday.



New Australian venture to target deadly disease-spreading mosquitoes

Canberra, Dec 17 (IANS) : Australia's national science agency has announced a new venture aimed at fighting disease-spreading mosquitoes. Launched on Tuesday, Oxitec Australia, a collaboration between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and UK biotechnology company Oxitec, will release genetically engineered male mosquitoes carrying a gene capable of reducing pest female numbers, reports Xinhua news agency. The joint venture will target two of the deadliest species of virus-carrying mosquitoes in the Pacific, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, to prevent the spread of dengue fever, Zika virus and yellow fever. Brett Sutton, director of Health and Biosecurity at the CSIRO, described the new venture as an opportunity to combat the growing threat of invasive and exotic pests.

South Korean PM pleads for collective efforts to stabilise state affairs, unite nation

Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) : South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo made a plea to political leaders and civil society to make efforts to stabilise state affairs and unite the nation to address political turmoil triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's botched martial law declaration. Han made the remark during the first Cabinet meeting held after Yoon declared martial law last Tuesday and lifted it hours later, which shocked the nation and made his political fate uncertain, Yonhap news agency reported. "The government will dedicate all its efforts to ensuring the early stabilisation of state



affairs, solely in accordance with the will of the people," Han said. Han said the Cabinet would make efforts to ensure the stable function of the government, urging public officials to conduct their duties with an "extraordinary sense of re-

solve." Yoon faces growing calls to resign and has been placed under a travel ban Monday as authorities have launched investigations into treason and other charges related to his imposition of martial law.

Maldives seizes drugs worth \$84 million so far in 2024

Colombo, Dec 17 (IANS) : The Maldivian government has stepped up efforts to combat drug trafficking and six times more drugs were seized so far in 2024 compared to 2023, President Mohamed Muizzu said. Addressing a meeting, the President said the drugs seized so far this year are estimated to have a street value of around \$84 million. He added that over 150 expatriates linked to drug trafficking have been deported so far this year, which is



twice that of 2023, Xinhua news agency reported quoting state-owned Public Service Media. The President said police have raided over 13,435 establishments this year amid the nationwide crackdown on trafficking, adding that around 8,500 raids were conducted last year.



UN human rights chief calls for inclusive dialogue among Syrian parties

Geneva, Dec 17 (IANS) : United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk on Tuesday urged Syrian parties to engage in an inclusive dialogue to advance the country's transition process.



South Korean ex-defence chief issued order to prevent lawmakers from gathering at National Assembly

Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) : Former Defence Minister of South Korea, Kim Yong-hyun issued an order to prevent 150 lawmakers from gathering at the National Assembly on the night of last week's martial law declaration, a military commander said on Tuesday. Lt. Gen. Kwak Jong-keun, chief of the Army Special Warfare Command, claimed at a parliamentary session that he did not follow Kim's order and explained it to troops dispatched to the scene last Tuesday, Yonhap news agency reported. Kwak is among military commanders involved in martial law operations who have been under investigation by the prosecution over their role in the decree enforcement.



South Korea : Ruling party to elect new floor leader this week amid martial law turmoil

Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) : South Korea's ruling People Power Party (PPP) said on Tuesday that it will elect a new floor leader this week to replace Choo Kyung-ho, who stepped down after a parliamentary motion to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol was scrapped. Choo resigned as the PPP's floor leader shortly after the National Assembly on Saturday failed to pass a motion to impeach Yoon to hold him accountable for the declaration of martial law last week. The motion was scrapped due to

a lack of quorum, as only three lawmakers of the 108-member ruling party cast their ballots in the vote, which required a two-thirds majority, Yonhap news agency reported. Choo has said he was resigning to 'take responsibility' for the situation where the Assembly pushed to impeach the president for the third time under the constitutional rule. The PPP plans to elect a new floor leader on Thursday, its chief spokesperson Kwak Kyu-taek told reporters.

Death toll in Indonesia's West Java landslide, floods rises to 10

Jakarta, Dec 17 (IANS) : Hydrometeorological disasters that have hit Sukabumi in Indonesia's West Java province since last week have claimed at least 10 lives, with two others still missing, the local disaster mitigation agency said on Tuesday.

According to the Sukabumi Disaster Mitigation Agency acting chief Deden Sumpena, floods, strong winds, and landslides have occurred across approximately 40 sub-districts, forcing around 900 families to seek temporary shelter, reports Xinhua news agency.



Foreign Secretary Misri calls on B'desh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka

Dhaka, Dec 17 (IANS) : Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri wrapped up his one-day visit to Dhaka on Tuesday after calling on Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, during which he conveyed India's concerns, especially those related to the safety and welfare of minorities in the neighbouring country. Earlier in the day, the top Indian diplomat met with Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain and also held Foreign Office Consultations with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Jashim Uddin. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) stated that, during these meetings, Foreign Secretary Misri highlighted India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh while reiterating New Delhi's willingness to build a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh.



Two security officers killed in clash with IS militants in Iraq

Baghdad, Dec 17 (IANS) : Two Iraqi security officers were killed on Tuesday in an operation against Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq's province of Anbar, the Iraqi National Security Service (INSS) said in a statement. Acting on intelligence reports and monitoring, members of an INSS force clashed with the IS militants after raiding a house in the province, the statement said. The clash resulted in the killing of two officers from the INSS force as well as two IS militants.

Intellectuals in Rajasthan urge UN intervention on human rights violations in B'desh

Jaipur, Dec 17 (IANS) : Concerned over atrocities against Hindus and other religious minorities in Bangladesh, intellectuals from Rajasthan have submitted a memorandum to Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, calling on the United Nations to intervene. The memorandum urges an end to the violence, protection of human rights, and the deployment of a peacekeeping force. It highlights the sharp increase in attacks on Hindus, including assaults on ISKCON temples and desecration of religious idols, since the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government

in Bangladesh. The document criticises the Bangladeshi government's inaction, claiming that it not only remains silent but also protects religious fundamentalists who are pressuring Hindus to convert under the influence. The memorandum demands a UN investigation, humanitarian aid for victims, and long-term constitutional protection for religious minorities. The delegation, which included retired High Court judge NK Jain, military officers, and educationists, emphasised the urgent need for the United Nations Human Rights Council to act and for a peacekeeping force to be deployed. It also called for compensation and rehabilitation for the affected

communities. The memorandum said that after the coup of the Sheikh Hasina government and the coronation of Mohammad Yunus in Bangladesh, atrocities on religious minorities (Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians, etc.) are at a peak. The houses of Hindus and religious places are being attacked by fundamentalist organisations. Attacks on ISKCON temples and incidents of insulting the idols of Gods are vivid examples of this context, the memorandum added. Human rights are being openly violated in Bangladesh due to atrocities on Hindus by religious fundamentalists and the government there is not only remaining a silent spectator but is also protecting the fundamentalists.



Religious fundamentalists are pressuring Hindus to convert. People associated with many religious organisations like Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari are being put in jails under false cases. The memorandum demanded a ban on human rights violations in Bangladesh, sending a UN delegation to investigate the situation, and rehabilitation and compensation for the Hindu community. An appeal was made to the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to Bangladesh. Retired High Court judge NK

Jain, who was present in the delegation, said that the Rajasthan Citizens' Group has met the Governor to highlight atrocities on Hindus and other related incidents in Bangladesh. A memorandum has been given to Governor Bagde in the name of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. "We demand that the inhumane atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh should be stopped with immediate effect. Human rights should be protected.



Israeli PM Netanyahu to testify in corruption trial

Jerusalem, Dec 17 (IANS) : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to testify on Tuesday for the first time in his trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust charges. His testimony will begin in an underground room in the Tel Aviv District Court after being moved from Jerusalem for security considerations. He will then testify three times a week for the following two weeks at least, local media reported. The trial marks the first time a sitting Israeli prime minister has been charged with a crime, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting local media. The court partially accepted Netanyahu's legal team's request on November 24 for a 15-day postponement for the start of his testimony but rejected the latest call for postponement by 12 ministers in Netanyahu's cabinet. Netanyahu's domestic trial is further complicated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants issued in November against him and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for "crimes against humanity and war crimes" between at least October 8, 2023, and May 20, 2024.

Over 7.7 lakh km rural roads constructed under PMGSY: Govt

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : As many as 1.82 lakh roads measuring a total length of over 7.7 lakh km and 9,199 bridges have been completed till 6th December 2024 at an expenditure of Rs 3.32 lakh crore, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) since the scheme was launched, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. He also said that the Government of India had approved phase IV of PMGSY in September 2024 to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas) and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011. The PMGSY-IV covers unconnected habitations which have become eligible in view of their population increase as per the census 2011. The minister said the Government of India, as a part of the poverty reduction strategy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-I) on 25th December 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories and some special areas as per 2001 census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population. In the critical Left Wing Extremism affected blocks, habitations with a population of 100 persons and above as per the 2001 census are also covered. Various independent evaluation studies, conducted



by NITI Aayog, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), World Bank India and International Labour Organization (ILO), on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), have concluded that it has improved access to education and health care facilities, facilitated employment generation in both farm and non-farm sectors and helped farmers in getting better farm prices, the minister said. The evaluation of PMGSY, at the national level, by NITI Aayog, in 2020, has specifically mentioned that the scheme is well aligned with India's International Goals and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over 2 crore SC, ST farmers have got funds under PM-KISAN scheme : Centre

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) : Over 2.04 crore farmers from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) have benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The 18th instalment of the scheme was released in October to 9.58 crore farmers comprising 1.16 crore SC farmers, 88.34 lakh ST farmers, and 7.54 crore farmers in the 'others' category, the figures furnished by the minister show. The minister also said the government has implemented several measures to ensure seamless registration, particularly for SC, ST and OBC communities facing land ownership documenta-

tion challenges. In answer to another question, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur said more than Rs 3.46 lakh crore has been disbursed in 18 instalments to farmers since the inception of the scheme. To ensure the timely and transparent transfer of funds to farmers through DBT, several technological interventions have been made under PM-KISAN, which includes integration with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), UIDAI and the Income Tax Department, he explained. Further, land seeding was made mandatory along with Aadhar-based payment and e-KYC. As and when the farmers complete their mandatory requirements, they receive the benefits of the scheme along with their due instalments, if any, he added.





Roundtable calls for harsh measures to prevent road deaths in Bulgaria

Sofia, Dec 17 (IANS): A roundtable discussion called for tougher measures to combat serious road accidents and reduce casualties in Bulgaria. The event was organised on Tuesday by two Bulgarian non-governmental organisations, the "European Center for Transport Policies" and "Angels on the Road," Xinhua news agency reported. European Commission data shows that Bulgaria had the highest road accident fatality rate in the European Union last year, with 82 deaths per million population. A man, introduced simply as "Philip's father," shared his personal tragedy, recounting how his child was killed by a car last September. He identified recurring factors for high road accident fatalities such as

significant speeding, alcohol or drug use, gross disregard for traffic laws, inexperienced young drivers with powerful cars, and poor road infrastructure. Officials at the discussion noted that since August 2023, Bulgaria has implemented measures allowing the state to confiscate vehicles from drunk or drugged drivers. This policy has shown a positive preventive effect. Peter Petrov, a member of parliament (MP), cited data from the Interior Ministry, revealing that from August 2023 to August 2024, cases of drivers caught with over 1.2 per mille of alcohol dropped by 545, while cases involving drug use decreased by 901 compared to the previous year.

Netherlands starts extra border controls for six months

The Hague, Dec 17 (IANS): The Netherlands tightened border controls on Tuesday as part of the government's efforts to address irregular migration and human trafficking. "This measure aims to curb the flow of illegal immigrants into the Netherlands," Minister of Asylum and Migration Marjolein Faber told Dutch RTL News. "It is not merely symbolic. It will undoubtedly have an impact. Moreover, it may act as a deterrent."



Brunei Sultan chairs key energy companies' board meetings

Bandar Seri Begawan, Dec 17 (IANS): Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah chaired board meetings of key energy companies in Brunei, encouraging a mindset of collaboration and urgency among stakeholders and management, local media reported. According to the local daily Borneo Bulletin, the 224th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG and the 110th Board Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers (BGC) took place at the Prime Minister's Office building on Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported. The Sultan reflected on the challenges,

achievements, and invaluable lessons learned across the Brunei Shell Joint Venture Companies throughout 2024. The Sultan stressed the importance of all companies upholding the highest standards of ethics and compliance, as well as fostering a culture of integrity across all levels of the organisations. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including representatives of the Brunei government, Shell PLC, and Mitsubishi Corporation, as well as members of the respective management teams from Brunei LNG and BGC.

Pakistani security forces kill two terrorists in intelligence-based operation

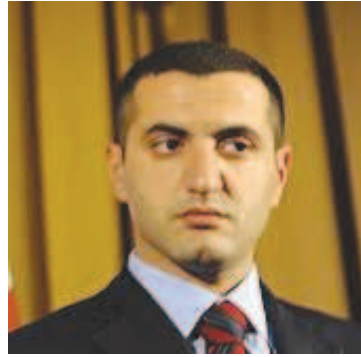
Islamabad, Dec 17 (IANS): Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said. The security forces on Tuesday conducted the operation in Dera Ismail Khan district of the province on reported presence of ter-

rorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Xinhua news agency reported quoting the media wing of the Pakistan Army. "During the conduct of the operation, the terrorists' location was effectively engaged by own troops," the ISPR said, adding that two terrorists were killed while one was apprehended in injured

condition during the operation. According to the ISPR, a huge cache of weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as target killing of civilians in the area. Clearance operation is being carried out to eliminate the pres-



ence of other terrorists from the area, it added. The military said the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.



Russia busts international fraud scheme linked to former Georgian defence chief

Moscow, Dec 17 (IANS): Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said that it has dismantled an international fraud network allegedly operating in the interests of former Georgian Minister of Defence Davit Kezerashvili. The network of "call centres," which was part of a larger international organised crime group, was involved in mass fraud targeting citizens from the European Union, Canada, Brazil, India, and other countries, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the FSB. The suspects deceived victims under the guise of making investment transactions, amassing approximately \$1 million in daily profits, the statement read, adding that around 100,000 individuals in over 50 countries were defrauded in the scheme.



Zelensky says discussed with Trump prospects for freezing conflict

Kyiv, Dec 17 (IANS): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday that he discussed the prospects for freezing the Russia-Ukraine conflict with US President-elect Donald Trump, the UNIAN news agency reported. "I told him that we want the war to end more than anyone else in the world. A diplomatic resolution would certainly save more lives, and we want that," Zelensky told reporters. At the same time, he said that Ukraine requires additional weapons, including long-range systems, as well as an invitation to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) to ensure its security. Later in the day, Zelensky wrote on Telegram that if there is a "pause" while Ukraine is not in NATO, Kiev might consider French President Emmanuel Macron's proposal to deploy foreign troops on Ukrainian soil to guarantee security. Zelensky also revealed plans to call US President Joe Biden to discuss prospects for inviting Ukraine to NATO, Xinhua news agency reported. Zelensky, Trump and Macron met in Paris on Saturday on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the restored Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral.

Egyptian President's historic visit to Norway sparks key Middle East talks

Oslo, Dec 17 (IANS): Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store welcomed Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to Oslo, marking the first-ever visit by an Egyptian head of state to Norway. Their discussions centered on pressing regional and bilateral issues, with a strong focus on the Middle East's ongoing challenges, Xinhua news agency reported. "The situation in the Middle East was central to the talks, not least the dramatic developments in Syria over the last couple of days," Store said, noting that both Norway and Egypt "are concerned about the need for a peaceful transition for the Syrian people and to safeguard stability in the region." The leaders highlighted their collaboration on resolving the Palestinian situation.



Suspect arrested in shooting of CEO of largest US health insurer

New York, Dec 17 (IANS): After a six-day manhunt for the killer of the CEO of the largest US health insurer, authorities have had a breakthrough with the arrest of a suspect in the shooting. Mayor Eric Adams said at a news conference that a man matching the suspect's description was arrested Tuesday morning in Altoona, 450 km from New York, and police were on their way there to question him. The man was identified as 26-year-old Luigi Mangione. The killing of Brian Thompson, the CEO of UnitedHealthcare (UHC), on Wednesday outside a New York hotel when he was going there for an investor's conference sent shockwaves at the higher echelons of corporate America. Acting on a tip from a McDonald's fast-food restaurant employee, local police arrested him. "He matches the description of the identification we've been looking for, and he's also in possession of several items that we believe will connect

him to this incident," Adams said. New York Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Altoona police found on Mangione a "ghost gun" — made with a 3D printer — capable of firing .9 mm bullets that killed Thompson, a silencer, fake IDs like the one used by the suspect, and a three-page handwritten document. The document, he said, listed grievances against the health insurance sector and corporate America. He is reported to have graduated from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania, where he studied computer science and lived in Hawaii. The shooter displayed sophistication in carrying out the attack, waiting for Thompson outside the hotel around the time he would be there, getting away after the shooting on an electric bicycle, ditching a backpack in Central Park, taking a taxi to a bus station, and heading out of the city on a bus. He wrote on the bullets, "deny," "depose," and "defend", which are terms used by insurance companies when they refuse to pay for treatments claiming they are not covered by the policies. They had some similarities to the



title of a book criticising the insurance industry, "Delay Deny Defend: Why Insurance Companies Don't Pay Claims and What You Can Do About It", by Jay Feinman. Now police say that the document found on him had messages against the insurance industry. He also left behind a backpack with play money from a game. Thompson, 50, became the CEO of the Minnesota-based UHC in 2021 after working his way up during his 20-year career with the company. His annual salary was nearly \$10 million heading the company with 140,000 employees and annual revenues of \$281 billion. A Senate panel's report criticised UHC for a high rate of denial of claims.

Many people shockingly expressed sympathy on social media with him because of their own grievances against health insurance companies and ideological opposition to big corporations. Despite his careful planning and hiding his identity, Mangione dropped his mask when checking into a cheap hostel, and his full face was captured. He was being held in Altoona on charges of using fake ID and illegally carrying a gun. Under US laws, a person arrested in a state cannot automatically be sent to another state and police have to go through an extradition process in a local court to move a suspect.

Australia face selection dilemma as Healy joins squad for NZ ODI series

Wellington, Dec 17 (IANS) : Australia's women's team faces a delicate balancing act as they prepare for the three-match ODI series against New Zealand, starting on Thursday at Wellington's Basin Reserve. Captain Alyssa Healy, recovering from a knee issue, has joined the squad but her participation in the series remains uncertain. With the tight schedule of three games in five days and the Ashes starting on January 12.



Akash-Bumrah's fightback can propel belief into India's top order : Vettori

Brisbane, Dec 17 (IANS) : In an unexpected turn of events, Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep put on an unbeaten 39-run partnership to foil Australia's hopes of enforcing a follow-on on Day 4 of the Third Test at The Gabba. With India's top order once again failing to hit the mark, barring KL Rahul who continued his fine showing in Australian conditions with a valiant 84-run innings.



TN govt to felicitate World Chess Champion Gukesh, hand over Rs 5 crore cheque today

Chennai, Dec 17 (IANS) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin will felicitate World Chess Champion D. Gukesh on Tuesday and hand over a Rs 5 crore cheque. The felicitation ceremony will also be attended by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and chess legend Viswanathan Anand. Gukesh reached Chennai along with his parents on Monday after winning the World Championship in Singapore. The World Chess

Champion was received at the Chennai International Airport by the Additional Chief Secretary (Youth Affairs and Sports Development) Atulya Misra and Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) Member-Secretary Meghanath Reddy. Gukesh and his parents were then escorted to a specially decorated vehicle adorned with pictures of the young champion's achievements. Gukesh, categorised as an "elite

sportsperson" by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), continues to receive financial support under the high-incentive category. The state government went the extra mile in 2023 by organising the Chennai Grand Masters event to help Gukesh gain FIDE circuit points. Notably, Gukesh qualified for the Candidates Tournament 2024 only because of his victory in the Chennai event.



Gurbaz ruled out of Zimbabwe ODIs with quadriceps and hip flexor injuries

Harare, Dec 17 (IANS) : Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has been ruled out of the three-match ODIs series against Zimbabwe due to a Grade 2B quadriceps along with a hip flexor injury, said the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). Mohammad Ishaq has been named Gurbaz's replacement for the series, scheduled to commence on Tuesday. The 19-year-old Ishaq, who played five T20Is scoring 76 runs, is yet to make his ODI debut. ACB said confirmed spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman was rested as the team management has "decided not to rush him back" after injury. "Additionally, after careful evaluation of Mujeeb Ur Rahman's recovery process, the team management has decided not to rush him back. He will be given a rest from the #ZIMvAFG ODI series, which begins today in Harare," ACB posted on X.

Gurbaz in the three T20Is against Zimbabwe scored only 26 runs as Afghanistan, after losing the first T20I, bounced back to win the next two and seal the series 2-1. Mujeeb was sidelined since June due to right phalanx (hand) sprain and only returned to competitive cricket for the first time in five months at the Abu Dhabi T10 on November 21. Later, the off-spinner was added to the national side for the white-ball squad for the Zimbabwe tour.



BGT: Change in batting position affected Rohit's rhythm, feels Pujara

Brisbane, Dec 17 (IANS): India cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara highlighted Rohit Sharma's struggles in the ongoing series against Australia and said that the Indian captain's move to the number 6 batting position has disrupted his rhythm and contributed to his lack of form. India's batting woes continued on Day 4 of the third Test at Gabba as captain Rohit Sharma once again failed to make an impact, dismissed for just 10 runs off 27 balls by Australia skipper Pat Cummins. Rohit's form in the ongoing series has raised con-

cerns, as Pujara emphasised that adjusting from opening the innings to batting in the middle order can create uncertainty, affecting a player's momentum and decision-making under pressure. Rohit's dismissal came in familiar fashion, as Cummins found his edge for the sixth time in 12 innings. Cummins set him up with a sharp bouncer before delivering a good-length ball that tempted the Indian captain into a drive. Rohit, attempting a punch through the off side, failed to account for the bounce and seam movement, nicking it to the slip cordon.

BGT: Hazlewood likely to be out for series as scans confirm calf strain

Brisbane, Dec 17 (IANS) : Australia suffered a major injury blow as the experienced seamer Josh Hazlewood is likely to be ruled out of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India after the scans confirmed he had strained his right calf. Hazlewood hurt his right calf during Australia's warm-ups on Tuesday morning. He bowled one over in the first session before leaving the field with calf soreness in the first session on Day 4. The 33-year-old pacer then underwent scans to assess the severity of the injury. Medical scans later in the day confirmed he had strained his right calf and is likely to miss the rest of the series. "Josh Hazlewood has sustained a right-sided calf strain, which will prevent him from playing any further part in the Test match against India in Brisbane. He is likely to miss the remainder of the Test series," Cricket Australia said in a statement as quoted by ICC.



Mandhana climbs to second in ODI and third in T20I batting rankings

Dubai, Dec 17 (IANS) : India's star opener Smriti Mandhana climbed three spots to second in the ICC women's ODI batting rankings and one place to third in the ICC women's T20I player rankings. This rise comes on the back of stellar performances against Australia and the West Indies in recent matches. Mandhana, known for her graceful left-handed stroke play, made headlines with a brilliant 105 in the final ODI of the ICC Women's Championship series against Australia in Perth. She followed it up with a crucial 54 in the opening T20I against the West Indies in Navi Mumbai. The latest ICC women's player rankings update also brought good news for other Indian players. Harmanpreet Kaur, India's captain, entered the top 10 in the T20I batting rankings. Jemimah Rodrigues moved up six slots to 15th after a stunning 73 in the T20I series opener. Deepti Sharma climbed two places to sec-

ond in the T20I bowling rankings and retained her position as a key all-rounder for India. Arundhati Reddy made a significant leap in the ODI bowling rankings, moving up 48 places to 51st after an impressive four-wicket haul (4-26). Renuka Thakur, India's pace spearhead, rose to a joint-26th position in the ODI bowling rankings. Tammy Beaumont of England rose two places to 11th in the ODI batting rankings following an unbeaten 65 that secured a series victory against South Africa.

'I ain't holding back': Stokes disappointed with fresh hamstring injury

Hamilton, Dec 17 (IANS): England captain Ben Stokes is disappointed with his fresh hamstring injury but said he is not going to hold back despite the recent setback. Stokes left the field limping on the third day of England's 423-run defeat to New Zealand in the third Test in Hamilton. He is scheduled to undergo a scan on Wednesday. The 23 overs he bowled on the first day marked his highest workload in a single day. His 36.2 overs in the match were the most he has bowled in over two years, while the

66.1 overs he delivered during the series represent his highest tally as captain. "I'm obviously very disappointed, but every setback I come back stronger. There's no doubt I'll be going away from here, working (hard).

