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Google 'strongly disagrees' with US DoJ's lawsuit, files remedies proposal

Criticising the US Department of Justice (DoJ) lawsuit and its "overbroad proposal", Google on Tuesday said that before it appears in court, the company...

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Chinni Lyrical Video Out from Daaku Maharaja

The lyrical video of "Chinni," the second song from the much-awaited movie Daaku Maharaja is now out. This touching melody shows the sweet and emotional bond between...

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Stop politicising Sandhya theater stampede issue : DK Aruna

BJP MP DK Aruna today said the issue of Sandhya theatre stampede tragedy should be stopped from being politicised or else it would be considered that the State government...

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6,121 farmers committed suicide during BRS rule : Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): In a sharp rebuke to the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Minister for IT and Industries Sridhar Babu has criticised the BRS leaders for shedding crocodile tears on the issue of farmers. He alleged that a total of 6,121 farmers had committed suicides during the BRS tenure and the BRS leaders had no right to speak about the issue of farmers. In a statement here on Tuesday, Sridhar Babu criticised BRS leaders for their "feigned love" for farmers while the

opposition strives to address their plight through the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme. The Minister questioned the moral stance of the BRS, pointing out how Rs.25,672 crores were allegedly funneled to non-agricultural lands, stone boulders, and real estate plots under the pretext of 'Rythu Bandhu' between 2018-19 and 2022-23. He urged the BRS to reflect on its governance, which saw the farming community grapple with severe challenges, particularly tenant farmers, who suffered immense hardships. Highlighting grim statistics, Minister Sridhar



Babu stated that 6,121 farmers ended their lives in Telangana from 2014 to 2022 due to mounting debts and the lack of government support. He cited data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), disclosed in Parlia-

ment in 2022, to substantiate his claims. "The plight of farmers under the BRS rule has been devastating. Tenant farmers, in particular, faced insurmountable difficulties. Continued on pg 02



Union Minister Amit Shah should be dismissed : Government Whip Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas

Rajanna Siricilla, December 24 (TIM Bureau): Government Whip Adi Srinivas participated in the Babasaheb Ambedkar Samman March, organized by the Congress Party to condemn Union Minister Amit Shah's remarks against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Parliament meetings and to demand Amit Shah's immediate dismissal from the ministry, at the Rajanna Siricilla district headquarters, garlanding the statue of Ambedkar and protesting by sitting on the road. Last week, we strongly condemn the statements made by Amit Shah, who is the Home Minister of the country, against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and the entire country is taking out large-scale agi-

tation programs against Amit Shah's statements against Ambedkar. Although they want Amit Shah to be removed from the cabinet immediately, there is no minimum response. The SC, ST, and BC minority groups have come forward and spoken arrogantly, and they are condemning the statements made by Amit Shah. Protests are being organized under the auspices of the Congress Party in district centers and letters are being written to the President through the District Collector. It is strange that Modi is coming behind Amit Shah, who is facing many protests across the country. He said that legal action should be taken against Amit Shah immediately. Continued on pg 02

Govt ignoring promises made to BCs : MLC Kavitha

Hyderabad, Dec 24 (IANS) : BRS party MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha today made it clear that the ruling Congress government was ignoring the promises made to BCs in the name of Kamareddy Declaration and added that they would fight for the implementation of the promises. She expressed her displeasure over the fact that even after one year of coming to power, the Congress party had not implemented a single promise for the BCs. She warned that she would not tolerate any attempt to evade the 42 per cent reservation for BCs in the local body elections. Telangana Mudiraj Mahasabha State leaders and leaders of Vishwakarma caste organisations met MLC Kavitha at her residence on Tuesday. Continued on pg 02



Allu Arjun appears before Chikkadpally police for questioning in stampede case

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): Film actor Allu Arjun appeared before the Chikkadpally police on Tuesday morning in connection with the Sandhya Theatre stampede case. The stampede incident, which occurred during the premiere show of 'Pushpa 2' film, resulted in the tragic death of a woman and left her son critically injured. The actor was served with a 'notice for appearance', asking him to appear at the police station. Allu Arjun, along with his father Allu Aravind, uncle Kancharla Chandrasekhar Reddy and legal team, arrived at the Chikkadpally

police Station at around 11 AM. The actor was questioned for almost three and a half hours about the stampede incident at Sandhya Theater and the subsequent developments. In the presence of Central Zone DCP Akanksh Yadav, Allu Arjun was questioned by ACP Ramesh and inspector Raju Naik.

CM Revanth extends Christmas greetings

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has extended heartfelt greetings to the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas. In a release here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the teachings of Jesus Christ were a guiding force for the entire humanity forever. Jesus Christ gave a new direction to all by choosing the message of all religions is humanity. The

message given by Jesus (Messenger of Peace) that great qualities like love, tolerance, peace and service towards others is ideal for all of us, Revanth Reddy said.



Congress takes out protest rally demanding ouster of Union Home Minister

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): The Congress party took out a protest rally in Hyderabad on Tuesday, demanding the ouster of Home Minister Amit Shah from the Union Cabinet for allegedly insulting the founding father of the Indian Constitution Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.



HC suspends notices issued to KCR, Harish Rao by district court on Medigadda collapse issue

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): Former chief minister and BRS party president K Chandrasekhar Rao and former minister Harish Rao got relief in the Telangana High Court. The court has suspended the notices issued by the Bhupalpally district court on a petition filed on the collapse of Medigadda barrage. The court also issued notices to the complainant. The High Court posted the matter for further hearing on January 7.

The Bhupalpally district court had issued notices to KCR and Harish Rao over the Medigadda barrage collapse issue. One Rajalingam had filed a petition in the Bhupalpally court against the collapse of Medigadda barrage, which is part of the Kaleswaram project. Bhupalpally court heard the petition. On July 10, the court issued notices to KCR, the then irrigation minister Harish Rao and irrigation department officials, who worked during the



BRS regime. The Bhupalpally court has directed KCR and Harish Rao to appear before it on September 5. However, KCR and Harish Rao approached the High Court against the orders of the Bhupalpally court. They urged the High Court to quash the notices issued by the Bhupalpally court alleging corruption in the construction of Medigadda. A petition was filed in the High Court in this regard. The High Court heard the petition filed by KCR and Harish Rao on Tuesday.

Sritej's stampede incident shouldn't be politicised by parties : Sambasiva Rao

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): CPI state secretary and MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao on Tuesday said that while Revathi died in a stampede at the benefit show of 'Pushpa 2' movie, an attempt to save her son Sritej even after her death moved all. Koonamneni, along with CPI state secretariat member E T Narasimha.



MADHAPUR BRANCH: Ground Floor, Plot No: 25, D.No.:1-98/11/3, 38, Arunodaya Colony, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telangana 500081 (TS), Phone: 040-23100511/12/13; Email: Madhapur.Telangana@bankofindia.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Whereas the notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/Guarantor as mentioned below have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facilities obtained by them from the bank and the loan has been classified as non performing asset (NPA). The notice was issued to them under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unreserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower & Mortgage: 1. Mr Murali Manohar Kondojju. Plot no 175, Road no 4C Reddy Avenue, Nizampet, Hyderabad Pincode-500090. 2. Mrs Chennakeswari Narmada Flat no 1701, Tower no 13 Prajya Megapolis Sy No 78 Hafeezpet village. Serilingampally mandal Hyderabad-500050 NPA Date: 04-12-2024
Amount Outstanding: Rs.19,17,642.87/- (contractual dues upto 05-12-2024) with further interest thereon @ 9.35% p.a. compounded with monthly rests, and all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank Demand Notice date: 05-12-2024

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES
Schedule of Land: (a) All that Pieces and parcels of land admeasuring Ac 21-05 guntas comprised in Survey no 78, situated at Hafeezpet Village, Serilingampally Mandal, Under GHMC Serilingampally circle, Ranga Reddy District, bounded by: North: Neighbours land in Sy No 78, South: Indu Projects & Mahindra Life Space, East: Neighbours Land & Indu projects, West: Road
Schedule of Property: All that the Flat Bearing No. 1701 in Tower no. 13 in Seventeenth Floor/ 17th level of the building named and styled as PRAJYA MEGAPOLIS with built up area admeasuring 1179 Sq feet together with undivided share in the land admeasuring 21.22 sq yds or 17.74 sq mts constituted on land admeasuring Ac 21-05 Gtas in Survey no 78 of Hafeezpet village, Serilingampally Mandal, under GHMC Serilingampally Circle, Ranga Reddy District, bounded by: North: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, East: Open to Sky & Corridor, West: Open to Sky

If you the above mentioned person/s fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act within 60 days from the date of this notice, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other provisions of law.
Date: 24-12-2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

BALA NAGAR BRANCH
7-4-194/5, Ground Floor, Shiv Ganesh Complex, Balanagar, Hyderabad - 500011

APPENDIX -IV [See Rule -8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice dated 10.10.2024 and Paper publication dated 20.10.2024 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Srinivasa Rao Ankisetty, H.No 13-1-108, Plot no 43-1, Mothi Nagar, Balanagar, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telangana -500018 and Guarantor Mr. Chidella Venkata Pradeep, H.No.19/4 Shanthi Nagar Thota, Moti Nagar, Erragadda, Hyderabad -500018 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22,28,985.83/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty five and Eighty three paise) 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 under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 23rd day of December of the year 2024:

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for an amount Rs.22,28,985.83/- and interest, costs and charges thereon less recovered. The borrower's 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
(a) All that the portion of Equitable mortgage of residential property bearing Flat no.F-2 in first floor, of 'OM SHAKTHI TOWERS', with built up area of 880 Sq. Feet (including common area) along with an undivided share of land measuring 26.0 Sq. Yds (Out of total land measuring 600.00 Sq. Yds.) in Plot No. 144, Sy. Nos. 19 & 20, situated at MOTHINAGAR, BOBBUGUDA Village, GHMC Kukatpally Circle, Balanagar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajigiri District, Telangana State. **Boundaries for Flat No. F-2:** North: Open to Sky, South: Flat no F-1, East: Corridor, West: Open to Sky.
DOC. No. 2335/2018 registered at SRO Balanagar.

Date : 23.12.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Hyderabad BANK OF INDIA

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited)
REGISTERED OFFICE: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032; BRANCH OFFICE: H.No.8-4-34/C, Beside E Seva , Kamaraj Road, Siricilla.

(Rule-8(3)) POSSESSION NOTICE

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 31.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 31-11-2022."

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited (SFL) 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(2) 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 Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SFL has been handed over the physical possession of the mortgaged Properties described herein below in pursuance of the order passed by the Hon'ble The Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate Cum/Assistant Sessions Judge, Siricilla, under Section 14 of the said Act and Rules, on this 23th Day of December 2024.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) Ravi Banothu S/O. Kishu, Age:34 Years, Occ: Business (M/s. Vinayaka Mess & Restaurant, Curry Point & Permit Room And M/s. Tea Kings), H.No:4-24, Golya Nayak Thanda, Veerlapalle, Karimnagar, Pincode-505305. 2) Banothu Saritha W/o. Ravi, Age:25 Years, Occ:House Wife, H.No:4-24, Golyanayak Thanda, Veerlapalli, Karimnagar, Pincode-505305. 3) Banothu Madhan Lal S/o. Kishu, Age:32 Years, Occ: Business(M/S. Vinayaka Mess & Restaurant, Curry Point & Permit Room And M/S. Tea Kings), H.No:4-24, Golyanayak Thanda, Veerlapalle, Karimnagar, Pincode-505305. 4) Bhukya Sathaiiah S/O. Dhupya, Age:30 Years, Occ:Secondary Grade Teacher (MPPS At Jillela), II mp doc:155427, H.No:6-4-70/1, Vidyanagar, Siricilla, Karimnagar, Pincode-505301, E No Add. H.No:10-96, Gollapalle, Yellareddy, Karimnagar, Pincode-505305.	Rs.35,13,373/- (Thirty Five Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Three Rupees only)

Description of Property: Open Plot No. 18, admeasuring to an extent of 351.06 Sq. Yards or 294.89 Sq. Mtrs, out of Sy.No.74, situated at Shanthinagar locality of Siricilla Town & Mandal, Rajanna-Siricilla District, Registration District: Rajanna Siricilla, Sub-District: Siricilla, bounded as under: East: Open Plot No.16 of Jangili Balalaxmi & Plot No. 17 of Mergu Kanakiah & Others, West: Open Plot No.19 of Vende Ramu, North: Open Plot No.13 of Ganne Srinivas & Others, South: 30 feet wide Road.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Physical Possession of the immovable properties 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: 23-12-2024 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Siricilla Shiram Finance Limited

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, Aarun O Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited, (Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited name Changed as Shiram 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, Aarun O 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 21st day of December, 2024.

BORROWER NAME AND ADDRESS	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) Pannala Bal Chander Reddy, S/o Laxma Reddy, Age:38 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No:-3-100/1A, Plot No :15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Near Ambedker Statue, Ghatkesar Mandal, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039, B/O: Proprietor Of "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society", At # Sri Nagar Colony, Boduppal, R.R Dist, Hyderabad. 2) Pannala Urmila, W/o: P Laxma Reddy, Age: 57 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O: H.No:- 3-100/1A, Plot No:15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Near Ambedker Statue, Ghatkesar Mandal, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039. /O/O: "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society" Working As A "Joint Secretary", At # Sri Nagar Colony Boduppal, Hyderabad. 3) Pannala Bal Reddy, S/o:Laxma Reddy, Age: 39 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O:H.No:-3-100/1A, Plot No: 15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039. O/O: "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society" Working As A "President", At # Sri Nagar Colony Boduppal, Hyderabad. 4) Kanchisamudram Govind Reddy, S/o: Late Kanchisamudram Mun Reddy, Age: 59 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O:H.No:- Plot No: 110 (Or) Plot No: 111, No. Avenue Pet, Basirahat, Near Balaji Hospital, Jeedimetla Village, Qutubulapur, Rangareddy-500055. B/O: Proprietor Of "S Carlet Technologies", At # Plot No: 10, H.No: 8-38, Heel Avenue Venture, Pet, Basheerabad, Ranga Reddy.Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs	Rs. 83,71,497/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred And Ninety Seven Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY - BSRBGT1904300004 - Property Holder Name Is Sri Pannala Balachander Reddy, Mortgage Deed Dated 01.05.2019 Registered As Document No 6710/2019 On The File Of Sub-Registrar At Uppal

All That The Piece And Parcel Of Plot No.2, In Survey No.113, Admeasuring 318 Yards Or Equivalent To 265.84 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Boduppal Village And Gram Panchayat, Ghatkesar Revenue Mandal, Medchal-Malkajigiri Dist And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: 40' Wide Road, Towards West: Neighbours Land, Towards North: Plot No.1, Towards South: Plot No.3.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful 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 : 21-12-2024 Sd/-Authorized Officer
Place: BODUPPAL SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

IRCTC Ready to Welcome Pilgrims At "Mahakumbh Gram - IRCTC Tent City At Prayagraj"

Hyderabad, Dec 24 (TIM Bureau) : The Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) - the Professional Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Arm of Indian Railways and a Schedule 'A' Miniratna PSU is all set to welcome the pilgrims at the Mahakumbh Gram - IRCTC Tent City at Prayagraj.

Nestled at a distance of just 3.5 Kms from the Triveni Sangam at Sector-25 Arail Road, Naini, the Kumbh Gram offers unparalleled access to the bathing ghats and other attractions.

Kumbh Gram is a state of art accommodation facility specially crafted for the tourists and, equipped with all modern amenities. Proximity of the Tent City to the Triveni Ghat is an added advantage for the guests desirous to have *Snaan*. The Super Deluxe Tents and Villa Tents with *en-suite* bathrooms, round the clock running hot and cold water facilities, access to hospitality team throughout the day, room blower, bed linen, towels and toiletries etc are at an attractive tariff, inclusive of all meals. The guests of the Villa Tents will additionally enjoy a separate cozy sitting area and television.

Redefining MAHAKUMBH 2025 EXPERIENCE with Gram Tent City in Prayagraj

Indian Railways has unveiled the Mahakumbh Gram Tent City to offer pilgrims a seamless blend of spirituality and modernity during the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, scheduled for January-February 2025. As the most significant festival in Indian culture and spirituality, Mahakumbh attracts millions of devotees and tourists from around the globe. Preparations are underway on a mission mode to accommodate the immense influx of visitors expected next year. This innovative initiative, launched by IRCTC, ensures a comfortable and convenient experience for devotees, making it a standout feature of Mahakumbh 2025.

Located strategically near the Bathing Ghats and key attractions, the Mahakumbh Gram Tent City offers state-of-the-art accommodations at an affordable rate of 60000 plus taxes per person per night, inclusive of breakfast. Designed with comfort, medical support and exceptional hospitality in mind, these premium tents stand out as one of the most refined accommodation options for the Mahakumbh.

The Tent City features spacious accommodations, a dedicated dining area with sit-down facilities, and top-notch catering services. A special executive lounge on the city side complements the tents on the Arail side, catering to pilgrims on both banks of the river.

The locations of Tent City has been chosen near the main bathing ghats and tourist spots of Prayagraj, so that visitors can get all the facilities nearby. During Mahakumbh 2025, the Tent City will not only provide a memorable experience for the devotees but also showcase the cultural and spiritual heritage of Prayagraj globally.

CCTV surveillance ensures the safety and security of the guests. Maha Kumbh Gram will also have First Aid Facilities and Round The Clock Emergency Assistance. IRCTC has already opened the bookings for its Kumbh Gram Tent City on its website www.irctctourism.com/mahakumbhgram. IRCTC is also promoting the Mahakumbh Gram -IRCTC Tent City through banners on its ticketing website www.irctc.co.in as well as through Push Notifications and Mailers to

its humongous customer base. The Tent City will be promoted on the websites of Ministry of Tourism and U.P. Tourism. Further bookings of Mahakumbh Gram will shortly open on the websites of IRCTC's booking partners MakeMyTrip and Golbibo. For queries and bookings, please contact IRCTC's customer support team at 8076025236 or email at mahakumbh@irctc.com.

Union Minister Amit Shah should be dismissed : Government Whip Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas

Continued From pg 01
Rajanna Sircilla said that a dharna was organized in the presence of thousands of people in the district center. Later, he handed over a petition to Additional Collector Kimya Nayak at the Collectorate. Sirisilla Constituency Congress Party In-charge KK Mahender Reddy, Sirisilla Library Chairman Nagula Satyanarayana Goud, Sirisilla Market Committee Chairman Velumula Swaroopa, Katakam Mrityunjayam Pantulu, Town President Choppa dandi Prakash, Leaders Gaddam Narasaiah, Musicians Srinivas, Balaraju, Chakradhar Reddy, Praveen Toni, Kamuni Vanitha, Tirupati Reddy, Congress leaders and activists participated in this program.

6,121 farmers committed suicide during BRS rule : Sridhar Babu

Continued From pg 01
and the families of farmers who committed suicide continue to suffer. The burden of their untimely deaths lies on your governance," Sridhar Babu remarked. He also reminded the BRS that the current government fulfilled its promise by waiving Rs.21,000 crores of farm loans,

despite inheriting a state mired in debt due to financial mismanagement. "It is ironic that you criticise us for taking corrective measures when you should be appreciating our initiatives aimed at the welfare of farm-

ers," he added. Sridhar Babu urged the BRS leaders to stop misleading the people with falsehoods. Instead, he called on them to engage with the people, understand their challenges, and work toward meaningful solu-

tions. "Step out of your media appearances and witness the ground realities. Only then can you comprehend the impact of our governance and the good it has done for the people," he said.

Stop politicising Sandhya theater stampede issue: DK Aruna

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): BJP MP DK Aruna today said the issue of Sandhya theatre stampede tragedy should be stopped from being politicised or else it would be considered that the State government was harassing the film industry. She visited Sreetej, who is undergoing treatment at KIMS Hospital, and enquired about his health condition. "It is sad that the death of

Sree Tej's mother Revathi and the condition of her son Sree Tej are critical. The film industry and the State government should stand by the victim's family," she said and wanted the issue to be put to an end without thinking from a political angle. She said whatever CM Revanth Reddy does, there was a definite reason for it.



Govt ignoring promises made to BCs : MLC Kavitha

Continued From pg 01
They appealed her to put pressure on the government for the implementation of the promises made to them.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC Kavitha said it was unfortunate that the government was not paying heed to the problems of the BCs. She criticised the Congress

government for undermining caste occupations. She expressed concern that the State government was not providing minimum support to the caste workers.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Aditi Singh Bhagat Singh, D/o Bhagat Singh Thakur, age about 34 Yrs., Occupation: Private Employee, Resident of 205, Prim Rose Nagarjuna Dreamland 2nd Floor, Nagarjuna Dreamland, Kompally, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Telangana-500100. I have changed my name from Aditi Singh Bhagat Singh Thakur to Aditi Singh Thakur at Hyderabad.

Three win Amara Raja Better Way Awards'

Hyderabad, Dec.24 (NSS): The Amara Raja Group, a \$2 billion global conglomerate, has announced the winners of 2nd Edition of 'The Amara Raja Better Way Awards'. The annual awards were instituted two years ago to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional individuals and entities that contribute to improving the quality of life in rural areas by providing better access to better opportunities. They were evaluated on their social and community impact, as well as their role in creating local employment opportunities.

The three winners are: Thanima Products and Marketing won the Award for Rural Income Generation. Thanima is a Kerala-based company founded in 2012 by Bijumon K R. The company is fostering rural economic growth, promoting sustainable business practices, and empowering local communities. Thanima has achieved significant revenue growth by directly sourcing raw materials from farmers in rural Kerala and Tamil Nadu, ensuring they receive the highest value for their produce. Siyanjali Retails Pvt Ltd won the Award for Best Agri-based Business. Founded by Yashpal and Vanita Chandel, Siyanjali is dedicated to reviving millet consumption in Himachal Pradesh, fostering sustainable agriculture, and driving community well-being. Since its inception in 2021, the company has demonstrated a clear vision for promoting healthy food habits, empowering local farmers, and supporting rural economic growth. Farm2Fam India Pvt Ltd situated in Maharashtra won the Award for Women Employment. It has emerged as a transformative leader in promoting women's empowerment and fostering rural economic development through innovative agricultural practices. With a visionary approach to cultivating locally grown fruits,

SBI State Bank of India
Khanapur Branch, Nirmal District.

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Whereas at the request of you, the below mentioned persons have been granted various credit facilities from time to time by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The particulars of property mortgaged by you by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank are mentioned here under. As you have failed to discharge the debt due to the Bank, your accounts have been classified as non performing Assets as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. As the demand notices that were sent to you by Registered Post calling Upon you to discharge the debt due to Bank were not properly acknowledged. Hence this notice is issued.

Name of the borrowers/Guarantor: Smt. Manthena Lavanya, W/o Manthena Sathanna, 2-48, Dharmajipet, Kaddam Mandal, Nirmal District, PIN: 504202.
Asset Backed Agri Loan Account : 38367988682
NPA Date: 30-11-2024
Demand Notice Date: 30-11-2024
Outstanding Amount: Rs.13,62,790.90 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety and Ninety Paise Only) as on 30-11-2024 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES: Property 1: The House Bearing No.2-41 & 2-48 (old), admeasuring in total area 3072 Sq.ft=341.33 Sq.yds=285.38 Sq.mts, situated at Dharmajipet Village, Mandal Kaddam, District Nirmal-504202. **Boundaries:** North: House of Velpula Rajanna, South: House of Pembu Reddy, East: House of Manthena Bheemanna, West: G.P.Road.
Property 2: The House Bearing No.2-40/2 & 2-40/3 (new), admeasuring in total area 1845 Sq.Ft=205 Sq.Yds=171.40 sq.mtrs, situated at Dharmajipet Village, Mandal Kaddam, District Nirmal-504202 as Bounded by: North: House of Manthena Ravi, South: House of Manthena Ramulu, East: 10 Feet Wide Road, West: House of Bheema Rajam.

If you the above mentioned person/s fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act. Within 60 days from the date of this notice. The Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other provisions of law. We invite your attention to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act which speaks about the time available to the borrower/Guarantors to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 24-12-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Nirmal State Bank of India



Gujarat CM confident that 'Rann Utsav' will help create developed Gujarat for a 'Viksit Bharat'

Kachchh (Gujarat), Dec 24 (IANS) : Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel exuded confidence that the 'Rann Utsav' of Kutch, which combines development and heritage, will serve as a guide in creating a developed Gujarat for a developed India. On the occasion of 'Rann Utsav', a special postal cover was released by the Indian Postal Department showcasing a glimpse of the culture of Kutch, the Chief Minister said. CM Patel also graced the cultural programme organised by Gujarat Tourism Corporation Limited at White Rann, Dhordo, in the Kachchh district, as the chief guest on Tuesday. He watched various performances that showcased the vibrant art and culture of Kutch. During the event, the Chief Minister, alongside other dignitaries, unveiled a

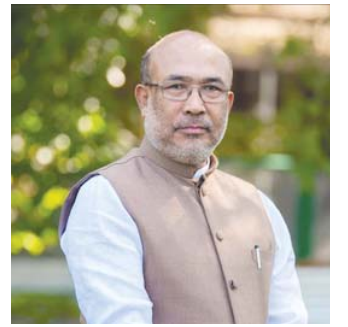
special postal cover themed 'Rann Utsav' issued by the Indian Department of Posts, according to a statement by the CM's office. "Paying homage to Sardar Patel, the architect of a united India, on his death anniversary, the CM mentioned that just as Sardar Saheb unified the country by integrating princely states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has built 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' by focusing on the language, culture, and tourism of every state," the statement said. He noted that Rann Utsav, which celebrates desert culture and tourism, is an opportunity to realise this vision. Reflecting on the development of Kutch under the leadership of Narendra Modi with him being Gujarat's CM then launched 'Rann Utsav' with just three days of planning, the statement added.

CM Patel emphasised that the Rann, once seen as barren land, has now become a gateway of global tourism through the Rann Utsav, a testament to the PM's foresight. Dhordo, the venue of the festival, has also been honoured with the 'Best Tourism Village' award by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation. "The Kutch Rann Utsav has not only provided a significant boost to Gujarat's tourism industry but has also driven economic and social development for many communities," the statement added. The CM also emphasised the state's efforts to improve tourism infrastructure, making Kutch easier to reach. "This year, direct Volvo bus services have been introduced from Ahmedabad airport to Dhordo.

Manipur: 29 weapons, ammunition, warlike stores recovered from different districts

Imphal, Dec 24 (IANS) : In a series of successful joint operations, the Indian Army and Assam Rifles, in coordination with Manipur Police and other security forces, recovered 29 weapons, ammunition and warlike stores from different districts, officials said on Tuesday. A defence spokesman said that the Army and other security forces in their operations during the past few days recovered the arms, ammunition and warlike stores from Churachandpur, Chandel, Kangpokpi and Imphal East districts. The Arms and ammunition recovered included an AK-47 rifle, one sniper rifle, a Burmese-made 0.22 pistol, five Burmese-made 9 mm pistols, a Burmese-made 7.65mm pistol, one .303 bolt action rifle, two .303 Single Bolt Sniper Rifle, one 9 mm Carbine Machine Gun (CMG), five fac-

tory-made 12mm single-barrel rifles, a .22 rifle, and a 12mm shotgun, three locally made mortars, a single-barrel gun, one 5.56 mm MA 4 Assault Rifle, one MA-1 (MK-I) assault rifle, an air gun, some grenades, large cache of ammunition and war like stores. The recovered items have been handed over to Manipur Police. The spokesman said that the successful recovery of these arms, ammunition and warlike stores highlights the seamless cooperation between the Indian Army, Assam Rifles and other law enforcement agencies, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring the security and safety of the region. Meanwhile, at least 2,000 personnel of the Army and Assam Rifles continued their intensive search operation to locate the 56-year-old Meitei man Laishram Kamalbabu Singh.



Manipur CM condemns killing of two migrant workers, announces Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia

Imphal, Dec 24 (IANS) : Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Tuesday night strongly condemned the killing of two migrant workers from Bihar on Tuesday in Kakching district and announced Rs 10 lakh as an ex-gratia for the kin of each victim. Singh, who also holds the home portfolio, said in a post on the X: "I strongly condemn the brutal killing of young brothers, Sunalal Kumar (18) and Dasharat Kumar (17), from Bihar in Kakching district, Manipur. This act of terrorism is a direct assault on our values, and my deepest condolences go out to their grieving families."

Jharkhand begins paddy procurement, Minister vows to prevent outflow to Bengal

Ranchi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Jharkhand has commenced the procurement of paddy from farmers at Rs 2,400 per quintal, including a Rs 200 bonus above the Minimum Support Price (MSP). State Food Supply Minister Irfan Ansari said that the paddy produced in the state will not be allowed to go into neighboring West Bengal or other states.

Speaking at the inauguration of a paddy procurement center in Nizampura, Jamtara district on Tuesday, Minister Ansari urged farmers to sell their harvest at government procurement centers only rather than through middlemen. "This year's paddy crop will remain within Jharkhand to support the state's food security," he stated. The government has set a procurement target of 60 lakh quintals this



year, matching last year's target. A total of 699 procurement centers have been set up across the state, with 112 centers starting operations on Tuesday. On the inaugural day, a quite a good number of farmers brought their harvest for sale. Farmers will receive 50 per cent of the total amount for their paddy at the time of sale, with the remaining 50 per cent and the bonus to be paid after the paddy is processed by rice mills or delivered to district-level warehouses.



Savarkar's great-grandson counters Rahul Gandhi on who actually 'compromised'

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Ranjit Savarkar, the great-grandson of 'Veer' Savarkar, on Tuesday, shared his views regarding the mention of freedom fighter and nationalist Veer Savarkar by Rahul Gandhi in Lok Sabha. He also opened up on "the world's greatest honey trap." Given that Rahul Gandhi has been lately repeatedly making personal comments on Savarkar, Ranjit Savarkar said that he does it to polarise Muslim votes as Savarkar was a pioneer of Hindutva. "He wants to prove that Savarkar was a Manuvadi. He thinks if he talks bad about Savarkar, Muslims will vote for him," he said, adding "I think the comments and false narratives will continue."

AIADMK's 2026 Assembly poll campaign to begin with EPS's statewide tour from January

Chennai, Dec 24 (IANS) : The principal opposition party of Tamil Nadu, AIADMK, is gearing up for the 2026 Assembly elections. Party General Secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) is set to launch a statewide campaign at the end of January. As part of the campaign, EPS will visit all 234 Assembly constituencies in the state, address rallies and highlight alleged misdeeds of the ruling DMK government. In a statement released on Tuesday, the AIADMK announced its plans to appoint full-time organisational in-charges, including women, for each booth committee. Tamil Nadu has 68,467 booths, and the in-charges will oversee grassroots-level campaign

activities. At the party's General Council meeting held in Vanagaram on Sunday, EPS emphasized the need to strengthen the party's youth wing, the Ilaigarn Pasarai (Youth Brigades), to attract young voters and revitalize the party. He instructed district secretaries to recruit more youngsters for the brigades, a concept originally introduced by former Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha in 2008. The initiative played a crucial role in the AIADMK's victory in the 2011 Assembly elections. Membership in the Youth Brigades is open to individuals aged 18 to 25. In addition, the party plans to create a separate sports wing to attract youth by organising local sports competitions.



J&K L-G felicitates Langar organisations & NGOs for contribution during Amarnath Yatra

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : J&K Lt Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha on Tuesday felicitated the members of Langar Organisations and NGOs who participated in offering community kitchen and other services to pilgrims during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024. At a felicitation ceremony held at the Resident Commissioner's Office in New Delhi today, the L-G expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders for their selfless service and for making valuable contributions to devotees' well-being during the pilgrimage. "All the individuals and organisations whom we recognise and honour today are real-life contributors to the traditions of selfless service," he said.



One nation, one election need of the hour : Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : As one nation, one election is once again in the news, BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Tuesday that simultaneous polls are the need of the hour. Speaking to IANS, he said, "During the tenure of PM Narendra Modi, many important constitutional reforms have taken place in the last 10 years. And I believe that these reforms were pending for decades. This is the result of strong thinking. And that is why one nation, one election is the need of the hour." "...And this reform will strengthen our constitutional values and dignity. On the other hand, it will be very helpful for people to understand the election

system in a simple and very smooth manner. Because on and off Assembly elections are being held somewhere, Lok Sabha elections are being held somewhere, Panchayat elections or local body polls are being held somewhere, and the country remains trapped in the elections. That's why it is important," the BJP leader added. Moreover, the 'One Nation, One Election' Bill, officially known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, will not be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday as the Revised Business List of the Lower House for the day does not mention the Bill.

BJP questions Cong-Shiv Sena (UBT) alliance over Aaditya

Thackeray's Savarkar-Nehru remark

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : One of the national Spokespersons of BJP Pradeep Bhandari, on Tuesday, responded sharply to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray's recent comments, urging BJP and Congress to stop using historical figures like Veer Savarkar and Jawaharlal Nehru for political gains.



OPINIONmail

INDIA'S FLAGSHIP ELI SCHEME FOR DECENT JOB CREATION HAS NOT TAKEN OFF YET

India's flagship Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 for decent job creation in the country did not take off even in mid-December 2024. Union Ministry of Finance is busy in making next Union Budget 2025-26, which will be tabled on February 1, 2025. India Inc is hesitant in joining the scheme, and Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is also not ready with the details of the scheme, which are likely to be notified in January 2025. EPFO is being revamped to implement the ELI Scheme. Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has held about two dozen meetings with EPFO officials and India Inc, to prepare the details of the schemes and implementation guidelines since last week of September, almost a month after the ELI Scheme was announced on July 23 in the Union Budget 2024-25. EPFO was ordered to insure that employers complete the first stage of the process of Universal Account Number (UAN) activation through Aadhaar-based OTP by November 30, 2024, starting with the latest joinee employees in the current financial year 2024-25. It was also said that in the second stage of the process, going forward, UAN activation was to be included in the state-of-the-art facility of Biometric authentication, through Face-recognition Technology. After that the employers will be required to complete the process for all employees working with them.

It should also be noted that the Centre had already issued direction earlier to all ministries and departments to ensure payments of subsidy and incentives to beneficiaries of all schemes through Aadhaar Payment Bridge. Obviously, EPFO also required to ensure it for employers focused ELI scheme purportedly to create decent jobs in the country, since more than 90 per cent of the workforce in India are employed in informal jobs, both in informal sector and formal sector. ELI scheme is for formal sector, but in the last decade large number of them are informally employed through contracts, informally, or through outsourced agencies. EPFO and the India Inc just failed to complete the first stage of UAN activation by November 30. There was then no option but to extend the date. EPFO then issued a circular on December 4, 2024 extending the last date to link the UAN for the ELI scheme to December 15. Along with the extension of the deadline to activate UAN, the government has also extended the date for the Aadhaar seeding of bank accounts.

EPFO wrote, "Dear Employers, the date of UAN activation and Aadhaar seeding of Bank Account has been extended till 15th December. Ensure to do the same for all employees who have joined in the current financial year, starting with the latest joinees, to avail the benefit of the Employment Linked Incentive scheme." It was already expected not only because India Inc was hesitant and very slow in accepting the ELI scheme and not coming forward to complete the first stage of UAN activation by November 30, but also because the Union government is also yet to announce the details of the ELI Scheme. On December 11, just 4 days before the expiry of the extended date for employers to complete the first stage of UAN activation, Union Labour secretary Ms Sumita Dawra has urged India Inc to leverage the ELI Scheme while speaking at the Global Economic Policy Forum 2024 organised by CII. Urging industry to collaborate with the government she said, "ELI is designed to incentivise the hiring of additional workers, particularly in the manufacturing sector, by offsetting the cost of employing new workers. ... The scheme aims to boost labour formalisation enhance the employability of workers and support job creation in key manufacturing industries."

Obviously to lure even foreign multinational companies to work in India, she said India's working age-population will constitute about 65% of its total population by 2030, positioning the country as a key player in addressing global labour shortages. Union Labour Secretary Ms Dawra also urged India Inc to leverage new technologies, policies and practices to make India a manufacturing powerhouse, citing the example of the country's growing role as a hub for global capability centres (GCCs) that employ millions of Indians in sectors like engineering, technology and AI to contribute to global innovation while supporting the country's domestic manufacturing capabilities. Union Labour Secretary Ms Dawra's statements clearly show how desperate the Centre is to implement the ELI schemes but not able to push it forward despite the schemes seem on the surface very attractive.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

JD(U) DEMANDS BHARAT RATNA FOR NITISH KUMAR, BJP SEES OPPORTUNITY

With the Bihar Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year in the month of October-November, JD(U) has reiterated its demand for awarding Bharat Ratna to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar saying he deserves the highest honour. Earlier in October 2024, the party had put up a poster outside the JD(U) office in Patna demanding Bharat Ratna award for CM Nitish Kumar and ruling alliance party leaders including Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) Jitan Ram Manjhi and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan had supported the demand. Now Sanjay Jha, the party's working national president, recently expressed his favour for the demand, stating that Nitish Kumar is fully deserving of the honour. While the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has taken a jibe at JD(U) leaders for the very move.



KWAME NKUMAH'S IDEOLOGICAL SUCCESSORS WIN GHANA'S NATIONAL POLLS

Voters in the West African nation of Ghana repudiated the right-wing government of President Nana Akufo-Addo with a historic, massive win for the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) in elections on December 7. The NDC's candidate, former President John Mahama, resolutely defeated Mahamudu Bawumia, Akufo-Addo's vice president, of the New Patriotic Party (NPP). The Electoral Commission of Ghana announced on Monday that Mahama won 56.6% of votes, while Bawumia secured only 41.6% of the total. Mahama's margin of victory was the largest in 24 years, and voter turnout in the mostly peaceful elections was 60.9%. On Sunday, Bawumia conceded that Mahama had won "decisively" and "the people have voted for change." The NDC also routed the NPP in parliamentary elections, likely securing a two-thirds majority, though results are still being tabulated in several constituencies.

Mahama served a previous term as Ghana's leader when he won the 2012 elections. He is the first former Ghanaian president to return to power after an unsuccessful re-election bid. Mahama's running mate, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, will be the first woman vice president in Ghana's history. A well-respected academic, Opoku-Agyemang, was a Minister of Education in Mahama's first term as well as Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, one of the nation's leading higher education institutions. Mahama and Opoku-Agyemang will be sworn into office on Jan. 7.

HALT ORDER ON PLACES OF WORSHIP ACT KINDLES HOPE FOR SURVIVAL OF SECULARISM

Halt all fresh suits, proceedings, and orders in relation to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991, ordered a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India on December 12, implications of which will be far reaching since it would transcend beyond the legal boundaries to

the social and political life of the people of the country. The order has kindled a new hope of survival of secularism in its battle with communalism being attacked socially, politically, and legally by the Hindutva forces, though the Places of Worship Act has a bar against raising such issues. Altogether 18 cases filed by the Hindutva forces claiming as many as 10 Mosques

or Dargahs were pending in various courts across the country, despite the Ayodhya Verdict of 2019 had upheld the Places of Worship Act with the ultimate objective of not allowing the incidents of the distant past in the history going back to the 16th Century AD any destruction of the present and future of the people now. An oversight of the real objective of the Places of Worship

Act by a former CJI D Y Chandrachud in 2022 paved the way for mushrooming growth of cases against the Mosques and Dargahs, because he said that there was no bar on ascertaining the nature of places of worship under the said Act, though it bars changing their character with a cut-off date of August 15, 1947, when India became independent. In the current order, CJI Sanjiv Khanna led three-member bench has corrected the error.



TRUMP 2.0: INDIA'S REAL CONCERN LIES IN DOMESTIC DISTORTIONS, NOT TARIFFS

On November 30, Mr. Donald Trump posted a threat on his social media, warning that if BRICS countries abandon the US dollar, they would face a 100% tariff. This is not a new threat; similar warnings have also been directed at other regions, including nearshore friendly countries such as Mexico and China, with tariff threats spreading across

various geographical areas. A recent study by the National Retail Federation estimated that Trump's proposed tariffs on apparel, toys, furniture, appliances, footwear, and travel goods could cost consumers an additional \$46 billion to \$78 billion annually. All of this means higher prices for the consumers, and the US sellers of Chinese goods fear a loss in business due to the price hikes induced by the tariffs. While China is expected to bear the brunt of the tariffs, other neighbouring countries, including India, are not likely to be exempted.

TURKISH DELIGHTS AND STRIKE BACK BY THE EMPIRE IN SYRIA

The dramatic events of last week in Syria have only boosted President Erdogan's role as the preeminent regional powerbroker in the heart of the Arab Levant as Turkish armed/financed Sunni militias engineered their collapse of the 54-year-old Assad dynastic tyranny in Damascus. Syria is once again a de facto Turkish protectorate, as it was in the five centuries since Sultan Selim Yavuz vanquished its Mamluk rulers and conquered Egypt, Syria and the Hijaz for the Ottoman sultanate. Selim deposed the titular Abbasid Caliph in Cairo and became Islam's first Turkish Amir Al Momineen or Commander of the Faithful. The Ottoman caliphate lasted from 1517 to 1924 when Kemal Ataturk abolished it, which was supported by Jinnah but opposed by Gandhi (go figure!).





White House says US appreciates resiliency of democracy and rule of law in South Korea

Washington, Dec 24 (IANS) : The United States appreciates the resiliency of democracy and the rule of law in South Korea and its alliance with the Asian country remains "iron-clad," a White House official said Tuesday after the National Assembly voted to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his botched martial law attempt. South Korea's legislature impeached Yoon, suspending him from his duties until the Constitutional Court decides whether to reinstate him or remove him from office. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo has taken over as the acting president. "We appreciate the resiliency of democracy and

the rule of law in the ROK. Our Alliance remains iron-clad, and the United States is committed to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula," a National Security Council spokesperson said in a statement. ROK stands for South Korea's official name, the Republic of Korea. "The American people will continue standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of the Republic of Korea," the official added, Yonhap news agency reported. Earlier in the day, South Korea's National Assembly voted to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his botched imposition of martial law, suspending him from his duties until the Constitutional Court decides whether to reinstate him or remove him from office, with citizens cheering over his impeachment. The impeachment motion against Yoon passed 204-85, with three abstentions and eight invalid ballots, after all 300 members of the Assembly cast their votes. The motion's passage came 11 days after Yoon declared martial law in an announcement that caught the nation by surprise and drew outrage, as troops encircled the National Assembly compound in an apparent attempt to stop lawmakers from repealing the decree.

South Korean prosecutors seek arrest warrant for chief of Army Special Warfare Command in martial law probe

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : South Korea's prosecutors on Tuesday sought an arrest warrant for the head of the Army Special Warfare Command over his role in President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived imposition of martial law. Lt. Gen. Kwak Jong-keun is accused of sending troops to the National Assembly when martial law was imposed on December 3, and allegedly colluding with Yoon and former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun to incite a riot to subvert the Constitution. Prosecutors sought the arrest warrant on charges of insurrection and abuse of power. The National Assembly voted on Saturday to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his botched imposition of martial law, suspending him from his duties until the Constitutional Court decides whether to reinstate him or remove him from office.



Man arrested after police vehicle rammed in Australia's Melbourne

Sydney, Dec 24 (IANS) : A man was arrested after allegedly ramming a police vehicle in a stolen vehicle in Melbourne's suburb, police of the Australian state of Victoria said. Police were called about 11:00 p.m. on a dispute between a man and a woman in a shopping centre carpark in Berwick, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria Police said on Tuesday. Investigators were told that three men attempted to intervene when it was alleged that the man threatened one of the three with a knife, Xinhua news agency reported. When police arrived, they directed the man to exit the vehicle. But the driver and sole occupant was alleged to have rammed into the police vehicle before fleeing the scene, the police said. Police tracked the stolen vehicle and successfully deployed stop

sticks to stop the driver fleeing. The 49-year-old man was arrested at the scene and no one was injured as a result of the ramming or during the arrest. Previously, on November 28, 2024, four people were taken into custody after a wild police pursuit with a police car repeatedly rammed in Victoria. Police arrested the four people after a police car was rammed in Springvale. The police vehicle then followed an alleged stolen Mazda CX-9 to a dead-end road on Maple Street when it crashed into the police car numerous times before the occupants abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot. The officers who were uninjured in the crash chased the offenders and arrested two men nearby. Patrols of the area then discovered two women who were also taken into custody.



Panel finds evidence of ex-B'desh PM Sheikh Hasina's role in ordering enforced disappearances

Dhaka, Dec 24 (IANS) : An investigative commission has claimed that it has found evidence of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's involvement in ordering incidents of enforced disappearances during the past Awami League regime. The panel also recommended the initiation of the trial process in the cases of enforced disappearances and the disbanding of the Rapid Action Battalion, or RAB, bdnews 24 reported. The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances submitted an interim report to Chief Advisor Muhammad

Yunus on Tuesday. The Chief Advisor's Office disclosed the information in a statement later. The report, titled "Unfolding the Truth," said several senior officials of the Hasina administration were also found involved in the "enforced disappearances" such as her defence advisor retired Major General Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre sacked Major General Ziaul Ahsan, and high-ranking police officers Monirul Islam, and Harunor Rashid.

North Korea remains silent about South Korea President impeachment

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : North Korea's state media on Tuesday kept mum about South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment, marking a contrast from its swift reporting of the 2016 impeach-

ment of then President Park Geun-hye. The National Assembly passed an impeachment motion against Yoon on Tuesday over his botched imposition of martial law on December 3, suspending his duties as president. As of 9 a.m.,

none of the North's state media, including the Rodong Sinmun, the North's main newspaper, and the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), had published any reports on Yoon's impeachment. When Park was impeached on December 9,



2016, North Korea's propaganda outlet Uriminzokkiri reported on it just four hours after the National Assembly passed an impeachment motion against Park.

Mud spewing volcanoes, ancient rock art: Azerbaijan's most unique wonders

Baku, Dec 24 (IANS) : Azerbaijan's biggest city as well as its capital Baku has many tourist attractions, including numerous historical-architectural monuments of the medieval period that ringed around with the Flame Towers, a trio of skyscrapers, picture-perfect beaches with lush greenery and offers a budget-tourist destination where ancient history meets modern architecture.

A short drive from the COP29 conference centre in the Walled City of Baku, with the inner city (Icherisheher) that has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls brimming with Oriental architecture and history with the narrow cobblestone streets, takes one closer to a very unique, unparalleled experience among beautiful desert-landscape -- mud spewing out from the earth, believed to have medicinal properties. They are mud volcanoes, one of the world's most unique natural phenomena in the Gobustan region that looks like a crater on the moon. Nearly 400 of them have been recorded in Azerbaijan, tucked between Eastern Eu-



rope and West Asia, and several of them are located in Gobustan. Some of the gurgling volcanoes date back over 20 million years. A mud volcano is a mixture of mud and subterranean gas instead of molten rock. Unlike traditional volcanoes, they do not spew out molten lava but instead deliver a unique spectacle of thick, bubbling mud. The mud is composed of clay, silt and other minerals which give the surface a unique experience and a rare chance for visitors to behold one of the planet's most outstanding displays and deepen their understanding of the geological marvels. "Many consider the therapeutic properties of the mud volcano and many visit the area to experience mud baths. We don't advise using them without medical consulta-

tion," says a guide at the Mud Volcanoes Tourism Complex to the visiting media team. Mud volcanoes are formed from tectonic movements that cause underground gases to reach the surface. During this process, some of the escaping gases ignite and burn perpetually. Some believe that these eternal flames contributed to the rise of Zoroastrianism in Azerbaijan over 2,000 years ago. The Mud Volcanoes Tourist Complex showcases the Gilinj mud volcano. Gilinj means sword in the local dialect. As per the information centre, Gilinj comprises a row of eight cones arranged sequentially that extend towards a valley.

Palestinian militant killed in clash with security forces in West Bank

Ramallah, Dec 24 (IANS) : One militant was killed and several others were injured after Palestinian security forces clashed with armed Palestinian factions in the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, a Palestinian medical source said. Palestinian security forces laid siege to the refugee camp on Tuesday after militants affiliated with the "Jenin Brigade" of the Islamic Jihad Movement and other Palestinian factions seized two vehicles belonging to the Palestinian Authority, according to the source, who requested anonymity. During the armed clashes between militants inside the camp and Palestinian security forces, one militant was killed by the security forces' gunfire, while several others were injured. Five members of the Palestinian security forces were also injured, the source said.



Mango clothing chain founder Isak Andic dies in cliff fall in Spain

Madrid, Dec 24 (IANS) : Isak Andic, the founder of the global fashion chain Mango, passed away after falling off a cliff in Spain, the company announced. The 71-year-old billionaire reportedly slipped and fell 150 metres while walking with his wife and son in the Salitre de Collbato caves, close to Barcelona, at around 13.00 local time (1200 GMT). "It is with deep regret that we announce the unexpected death of Isak Andic, our non-execu-

tive chairman and founder of Mango, in an accident that occurred this Tuesday," said Mango Chief Executive Toni Ruiz in a statement, Xinhua news agency reported. Ruiz praised Andic's lifelong dedication to Mango, saying that his departure 'leaves a huge void'.





Tax compliance pays dividends, says Punjab Finance Minister

Chandigarh, Dec 24 (IANS) : Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday announced the success of the Bill Liayo Inam Pao scheme, which has rewarded 3,592 winners with prizes of Rs 2,11,42,495 for uploading their purchase bills on the 'Mera Bill' app till December. Cheema said this innovative scheme, launched in September 2023, aimed to promote tax compliance and reward honest taxpayers, has successfully encouraged consumers to upload 1,27,509 bills since its inception. He said that the prizes of Rs 1,59,93,965 have already been distributed among 2,752 winners.

Maha Oppn to boycott customary CM tea meet, cites rising farmers' distress, atrocities against Dalits

Nagpur, Dec 24 (IANS) : The opposition on Tuesday decided to boycott the customary tea meeting convened by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis here on the eve of a week-long winter session of the state legislature. The opposition parties that met this morning claimed there was no point in attending the tea meeting amid rising atrocities against Dalits, deteriorating law and

order, especially how a sarpanch from Beed strict was murdered in broad daylight, and government neglect towards farmers in distress. The Maharashtra Assembly session will begin from Monday and as per the schedule will conclude. The leader of the opposition in the state council, Ambadas Danve, in his letter to CM Fadnavis, conveyed the decision and alleged that the Mahayuti government was a perpetrator of corruption and daylight murders. He told reporters af-

ter the opposition's meeting, "The government that commits murders in broad daylight is in power. The government is anti-farmer and is keeping silent over the atrocities against Dalits. The government has not ensured the due prices of soybeans and cotton and has reduced the milk procurement prices. The government is making the condition of farmers miserable.



Collaboration, innovation, PPP key to achieve 2047 goals: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Collaboration between Centre and state, innovation, and public-private partnerships are key to achieving the 2047 goals of a Viksit Bharat, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Sunday. He said this while chairing the monthly Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Secretaries of all the Science Ministries and Departments of the Government in the national capital. Singh called for aligning all the government departments as well as the Centre and State efforts

with a "whole of Government" and "whole of Science" approach to transform India into "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. He called for cooperative federalism in science and stressed the need to integrate all the stakeholders to create a sustainable and progressive ecosystem. The meeting served as a key platform for evaluating ongoing programmes and discussing future strategies to strengthen India's scientific ecosystem. Singh also emphasised the vital role of State Scientific Councils in fostering innovation, advancing regional development, and contributing to national goals.

Govt unveils 'Jalvahak' to boost inland waterways

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday unveiled a major policy for cargo promotion -- 'Jalvahak'. Jalvahak is aimed at incentivising the movement of

long-haul cargo via National Waterways 1 (river Ganga) as well as for National Waterways 2 (river Brahmaputra) and National Waterways 16 (river Barak). "The government has made a concerted effort to realise the tremendous potential of our rich

network of inland waterways. With its advantage of being an economical, ecologically sound, and efficient mode of transportation, we want to boost cargo movement via waterways, to decongest the railways and roadways," Sonowal said.



Jharkhand: Ayushman Bharat cards in demand, Sahebganj residents rush to the centre

Ranchi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PM-JAY), since its launch in 2018 has evolved into a game-changer scheme, playing an instrumental role in transforming the country's health landscape. Over the years, lakhs of people and their families have benefitted from the scheme, also called Ayushman Bharat. In Jharkhand's Sahebganj district, thousands of people have got their Ayushman Bharat cards issued under the PM-JAY scheme while thousand other applications are in the pipeline. Scores of people are making formal applications for getting Ayushman Health cards issued for them as well as their families.

Bangladesh unrest has delayed execution of some vital projects : Tripura CM



Agartala, Dec 24 (IANS) : The ongoing unrest in Bangladesh has delayed the execution of various projects involving the neighbouring country, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said here on Tuesday. Laying the founda-

tion stone of seven projects at Udaipur in southern Tripura's Gomati district, the Chief Minister said the 'Maitri Setu' built over the Feni River connecting India and Bangladesh by road was ready for operation but due to unrest in the neighbouring country cannot be utilised yet. Besides the 'Maitri Setu', there are other projects which have also been delayed in view of the unrest in Bangladesh, he said, adding that the double-lane bridge would be the gateway for all the northeastern states.

List of criminals: Delhi BJP chief on AAP panel of 38 candidates

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Tuesday described the AAP's final list of 38 candidates as a "list of criminals", with many of the nominees being out on bail or involved in controversies. "Whether it is Arvind Kejriwal, Satyendra Kumar Jain or Amanatullah Khan, this is a list of law-breakers," Sachdeva told IANS, claiming that the list showed that

Kejriwal was sheltering criminals in Delhi. Asked about the perceived delay in the announcement of BJP candidates, Sachdeva said, "The BJP doesn't need Kerjriwal's approval to release names of its candidates. We know when to do it." The Delhi BJP chief welcomed the decision by Kejriwal and Chief Minister Atishi to recontest the Assembly election from their sitting seats. "This will help hold Kejriwal accountable for the work



he has done over the past 10 years," said Sachdeva. Former West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma told IANS, "People from the New Delhi Assembly constituency are eager to teach a lesson to Arvind Kejriwal." He said in the past 11 years, Kejriwal has ignored his constituency, causing immense displeasure among the electorate.

VP Dhankhar urges corporates to invest in education

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : A leader is one who doesn't think of the moment, he thinks of the future, said Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday, urging corporates to invest in education. Speaking at the Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Dhankhar hailed Maharaja Shrimant Jiwajirao Scindia's vision for education and said, "The Late Maharaja, with extraordinary energy and unwavering commitment, embodied the spirit of service and nation-building. He lost no time in nurturing nationalism and allowing it to blossom." "His rule was defined by foresight, courage, and a focus on education, ensuring public welfare and progress," said Dhankhar in a video uploaded on his social media handle X. Dhankhar said the need of the

hour is quality education for all. "And this is happening fast in the country," he said. "Boys and girls, we are living in times of hope and possibility. Today, you can fully realise your potential and dreams, thanks to a system free from corruption and favouritism," he said. Complementing the government for digital public infrastructure and infusion of tech-

nology, Dhankhar said: "In the past, opportunities like jobs, contracts, and even basic services required extra-legal means. Today, thanks to technology, these mega transformative changes are a reality." "Those who considered themselves above the law have been reminded about equality before the law," he said.



Bima Sakhi Yojana empowering hordes of women in Maharashtra's Palghar

Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) : The 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is empowering the women in Palghar district of Maharashtra by providing them specialized training in key areas of interest and enabling them to become self-sufficient. Many women beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the government while highlighting on how the scheme is helping them achieve their dreams and become financially independent.

Talking to IANS, Purnima Pandey, a woman from Palghar, said, "I want to thank PM Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for this scheme. It is truly empowering women. Through this scheme, we are gaining knowledge and receiving stipends, which are helping us fulfill our dreams as well as those of our children. It is a step towards our empowerment." Sachin Singh, another local resident, referred to the initiative as a 'gift' for women ahead of the New Year.

US, South Korea conducting joint research to block North Korean crypto heists

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : South Korea and the United States are conducting joint research to strengthen protection against cryptocurrency heist attempts amid growing concerns of such attacks by North Korea-linked hackers, officials said on Tuesday. Based on a

recently signed technical annex between the South Korean government and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the two sides will jointly develop technologies to prevent cryptocurrency-targeted attacks and to track stolen assets, according to authorities and cybersecurity industry officials.

The science ministry plans to support such research through the Institute of Information and Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation until 2026, reports Yonhap news agency. The move comes as the price of bitcoin recently surged to \$100,000 after the U.S. presiden-

tial election last month, raising concerns of increased attempts by hackers to steal virtual assets. While the United States collaborates with other countries for cybersecurity research, it is known to have chosen South Korea for research on digital asset tracking technology as North Korea is seen as a key culprit behind cryptocurrency heists. Under the programme, South Korean and U.S. researchers, including those from Korea University and the RAND Corp.



Google 'strongly disagrees' with US DoJ's lawsuit, files remedies proposal

Washington, Dec 24 (IANS) : Criticising the US Department of Justice (DoJ) lawsuit and its "overbroad proposal", Google on Tuesday said that before it appeals in court, the company has filed its own remedies proposal, based on the actual findings in the court's decision.

Stressing that the company "strongly disagrees with and will appeal the decision in the DoJ search distribution lawsuit," Lee-Anne Mulholland, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs at Google, said filing the remedies proposal "was a decision about our search distribution contracts, so our proposed remedies are directed to that". In its remedies proposal, Google said that browser companies like Apple and Mozilla should continue to have the freedom to do deals with whatever search engine

they think is best for their users. "The Court accepted that browser companies 'occasionally assess Google's search quality relative to its rivals and find Google's to be superior.' And for companies like Mozilla, these contracts generate vital revenue," said Mulholland in a company blog post. "Our proposal allows browsers to continue to offer Google Search to their users and earn revenue from that partnership. But it also provides them with additional flexibility: It would allow for multiple default agreements across different platforms (e.g., a different default search engine for iPhones and iPads) and browsing modes, plus the ability to change their default search provider at least every 12 months (the court's decision specifically referred to a 12-month agreement as "pre-

sumed reasonable" under anti-trust law)," the company explained. On Android contracts, the proposal means device makers have additional flexibility in preloading multiple search engines and preloading any Google app independently of preloading Search or Chrome. "Again, this will give our partners additional flexibility and our rivals like Microsoft more chances to bid for placement," said the tech giant. The company further stated that its proposal includes a robust mechanism to ensure "we comply with the Court's order without giving the government extensive power over the design of your online experience". Google said it does not propose these changes lightly.

LG Energy Solution, Qualcomm to boost chip-based battery management

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : LG Energy Solution Ltd (LGES), South Korea's leading battery maker, said on Tuesday it has reached an agreement with Qualcomm Technologies to jointly accelerate the commercialisation of system-on-chip-based battery management system (SoC-based BMS) diagnostic solutions. Under the agreement, LGES' new advanced BMS software will be made available on the Snapdragon Digital Chassis from Qualcomm. The BMS software will also integrate with the Snapdragon Car-to-Cloud Connected Services Platform, reports Yonhap news agency. The partnership builds on the companies' working relationship, where they announced earlier this year plans to develop a next-generation BMS diagnostic solution for electric vehicles and formed a technical consortium to advance their research, according to LGES.

"Through the process of technology sharing and validation, we have demonstrated the excellence of our BMS technology through synergy with Qualcomm Technologies. Now, we are officially embarking on the development for commercialisation," an LGES official said. LGES holds more than 8,000 patents related to BMS. The company boasts a safety diagnostic detection rate of over 90 percent and an industry-leading degradation diagnostic error rate of around 1 percent.



Number of debt workout scheme applicants expected to hit record high in 2024

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : The number of people newly-seeking assistance through a debt workout programme here is expected to reach an all-time high this year, government data showed on Tuesday, amid the prolonged economic slowdown. Under the state-managed bailout scheme, the Credit Counseling and Recovery Service (CCRS) collaborates with financial companies to provide individuals on the brink of insolvency a second chance by restructuring their credit obligations and writing off debt when necessary. A total of 179,310 people applied for the program as of the end of November, according to data provided by the CCRS and submitted to Rep. Lee Jeong-moo of the main opposition Democratic Party. The annual figure is projected to surpass last year's record high of 184,867 applicants, reports Yonhap news agency. Notably, the number of self-employed individuals, mostly those running small businesses, seeking to join the program reached 26,267 as of end-November.



Indian market opens in green amid positive mixed global cues

Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Indian stock market jumped more than 600 points in early trade on Tuesday amid positive mixed global cues. At around 9:29 am, Sensex was trading at 78,665.83 after gaining 624.24 points or 0.80 per cent, while the Nifty was trading at 23,773.45 after gaining 185.95 points or 0.79 per cent. The market trend remained positive. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,223 stocks were trading in green, while 494 stocks were in red. According to experts, in the short run, there will be market rebounds which may be followed by renewed FII selling. "A sustained rally is possible only when we have indications of a growth revival in the economy. This is likely in early 2025.," they said.

Elon Musk's X hikes Premium+ subscription prices by huge 35 pc in India, globally

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : Tech billionaire Elon Musk has raised prices of its top-tier subscription service (Premium+) for his X social media platform by a massive 35 per cent for both new and existing users in India, including across global markets. Effective from December 24,

the Premium+ users in India will need to shell out Rs 1,750 a month — up from Rs 1,300 now, which is an approximately 35 per cent hike. Similarly, on an annual basis, the Premium+ users in the country will need to pay Rs 18,300, up from Rs 13,600 at the moment (up by almost 35 per cent). This marks the largest price increase since the social me-

dia platform's acquisition (earlier called Twitter) by the tech billionaire in 2022. In India, the basic tier subscription rate remains unchanged at Rs 243 and premium tier at Rs 650 as well. In the US, the Premium+ service will cost \$22 a month, up from \$16. Annual subscription cost has increased to \$229 from \$168.



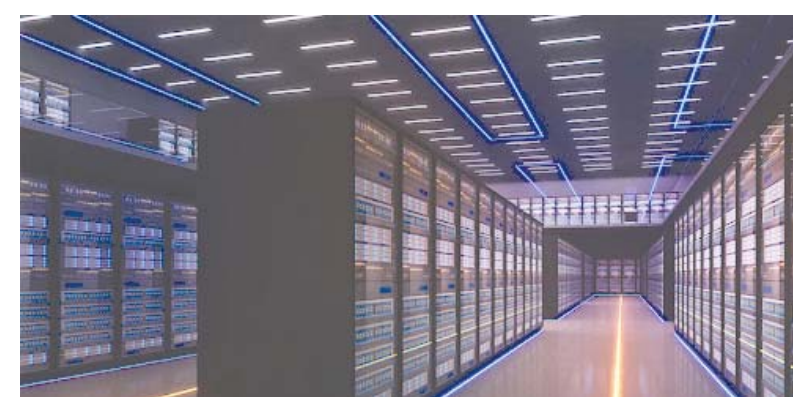
India poised to lead global race towards 6G: COAI

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : India is poised to lead the global race towards 6G, with an exciting opportunity to drive technological leadership, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) said on Tuesday.

India's data centre capacity to more than double by 2027

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Indian data centre industry's capacity is set to more than double to 2-2.3 GW by fiscal 2026-2027 due to increasing digitalisation of the economy as enterprises increase their investments in cloud storage and consumer demand for data surges, according to a CRISIL Ratings report released on Tuesday. "Further, rising penetration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) will drive the demand over the medium term," the report states. Incremental capital expenditure (capex) to support the strong demand would see a higher proportion of debt funding, resulting in a moderate increase in debt levels. However, capacity additions will lag demand growth, keeping offtake risks low. As a result, the industry can expect healthy and stable cash flows, which will keep the credit profiles of

players steady, the report observes. The CRISIL Ratings said the analysis is based on industry players, representing around 85 per cent of the market share by operational capacity. Data centres cater to the computing and storage infrastructure demand, which is driven by two primary drivers.



Pak drone with narcotics intercepted by BSF at Jammu border

Jammu, Dec 24 (IANS) : A Pakistani drone carrying narcotics has been intercepted by the BSF at the international border in the Arnia sector of Jammu, BSF on Tuesday. A smuggling attempt was foiled by the alert troops of BSF Jammu deployed in Arnia Sector of Jammu, wherein BSF troops intercepted the Pakistani drone and recovered a Pak drone along with 495 grams of narcotics substance," the statement said. BSF spokesman said on Sunday that a Pakistani drone carrying 495 grams of high-grade narcotic substance has been seized by the BSF. "The quadcopter entered India from across the border.



Illegal gun trade backed by US-based handlers busted in Punjab

Chandigarh, Dec 24 (IANS) : In an intelligence-led operation, Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell of Amritsar has busted an inter-state illegal gun trade backed by US-based handlers with the arrest of its two members and recovered 10 country-made pistols along with 20 magazines and ammunition from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav here on Tuesday. Those arrested have been identified as Satnam Singh and Manjit Singh, both residents of Batala. DGP Yadav said preliminary investigations have revealed that primarily, accused Satnam was in touch with his US-based handler, Sunny Masih alias Gulli, who is wanted in multiple cases of heroin smuggling. For his convenience, accused Satnam also involved his relative Manjit in drug peddling and transportation of illegal weapons, he said.

Haryana State Women Commission vice-chairperson, driver held for taking Rs 1 lakh bribe

Chandigarh, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) team of Jind on Tuesday evening arrested Sonia Aggarwal, vice-chairperson of the Haryana State Women Commission, while her personal assistant (PA)-cum-driver Kulbir was

caught red-handed while allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 1 lakh in lieu of making settlement in a marital dispute between a couple, an official said.



Cold wave to intensify in J&K

Srinagar, Dec 24 (IANS) : Cold wave conditions are expected to intensify further in Jammu and Kashmir as the Meteorological (MeT) office issued an advisory on Tuesday forecasting light snow in the higher reaches.

The minimum temperature was minus 3.4 degrees Celsius in Srinagar city on Sunday while it was minus 3.8 in Gulmarg and minus 4.8 in Pahalgam. Jammu city had 6.6, Katra 8.4, Batote 6, Banihal 1.8 and Bhandarwah 3.9 as the minimum temperature. The MeT office has forecast generally cold,

dry weather till December 21 and generally cloudy sky with light snow over higher reaches towards late evening/night of December 24th to 25th early morning.



Hindu leaders demand apology from Rahul Gandhi on Dronacharya-Eklavya remark

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : As Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi compared the actions of the BJP-led government to the tale of Dronacharya and Eklavya, several religious criticised him and said the Congress leader was a 'Rashtra Virodhi' (anti-national) and 'Hindu Virodhi' (anti-Hindu). Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that the Modi-led government was "chopping the thumb of the youth of the country," drawing a parallel to the story where Dronacharya allegedly cut off Eklavya's thumb.

Political parties in Bihar have contrasting views on 'One Nation, One Election'

Patna, Dec 24 (IANS) : The debate over the contentious proposal of 'One Nation, One Election' has sparked contrasting opinions across India's political spectrum. While the ruling NDA supports the initiative, opposition parties such as the RJD and Congress have voiced strong dissent. Meanwhile, Prashant Kishor, leader of the Jan Suraj Party, has taken a nuanced stance, supporting the concept but raising concerns about its implementation. Kishor described 'One Nation, One Election' as a step that could bring substantial benefits to the country. He argued that synchronising

elections would prevent the government from being in a perpetual "election mode," thus saving time and public funds. "About one-fourth of the population votes every year, which disrupts governance and development but such a transformative change cannot occur overnight. I would recommend a phased implementation process spanning four to five years to ensure a smooth transition," Kishor said. He also highlighted the importance of preserving democratic integrity, urging that the law must not be used to target or harm any particular class or community. "Consolidated elections could reduce financial and administrative burdens. Fewer elections might

allow governments to focus more on long-term governance and policymaking, however, synchronising the terms of Central and state governments requires constitutional amendments and may disrupt the democratic process," he said. Opposition parties argue that it could centralise power and undermine the federal structure of governance. The opposition leaders in Bihar, particularly from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress, are raising strong objections to it. They have expressed scepticism over the intent behind the proposal and highlighted several challenges, including its potential impact on smaller parties and India's



federal structure. RJD leaders, like spokesperson Chitranjan Gagan, questioned why similar policies are not being implemented for education, healthcare, and public facilities. "They argued that 'One Nation, One Education' or 'One Nation, One Healthcare', or other facilities should take precedence over simultaneous elections to address critical inequalities in society," Gagan said. "The proposal could be a step toward centralising power and potentially finishing

smaller regional parties. It could pave the way for constitutional changes that undermine India's federal character, where states have the autonomy to govern their affairs," he added. Congress MLC Madan Mohan Jha raised practical concerns, citing the scale of India's population (140 crore) and the logistical hurdles of conducting simultaneous elections.



Armstrong murder case: 23 accused shifted to Puzhal central prison for security reasons

Chennai, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Tamil Nadu Prison Department shifted 23 people, accused of the murder of K. Armstrong, to Puzhal Central Prison on Tuesday, due to security reasons. They were previously lodged in the Poonamallee Sub-Jail. K. Armstrong, who was also a lawyer at the Madras High Court, was brutally murdered on July 5.

Waqf scam: Cong leaders made offers, says Anwar Manipaddy on K'taka CM's bribe charge

Bengaluru, Dec 24 (IANS) : Former Minority Commission Chairman Anwar Manipaddy on Tuesday refuted the bribery charge levelled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, saying the Congress leaders have been offering him bribes to suppress the Waqf encroachment report. CM Siddaramaiah on Saturday alleged that BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra "tried to bribe" the former Minority Commission Chairperson during the previous government with Rs 150 crore to suppress a probe into the Waqf property encroachment. Speaking to the media, Anwar Manipaddy stated that if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has any genuine concern and love for Muslims, he should hand over his report

on the Waqf encroachments to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "The offer in this regard was made by the Congress. They asked me to settle in the US as I had the Green Card. Vijayendra never said that he would give Rs 150 crore. In 2012, when I was the Minority Commission Chairman, I had never heard of Vijayendra's name. He was the Vice President of the party," Anwar stated. "I remember talking to him about the implementation of the report since his father B.S. Yediyurappa was the CM. I criticized Vijayendra then for various reasons, but he has not made any offer of Rs 150 crore to me. After I followed the presentation of my report in the Assembly, then CM Yediyurappa placed it in the session," Anwar stated. "The Congress leaders had



made offers for three to four years. But I had rebuked them and sent them back. Now, they fear talking to me. The Waqf has a total land of 54,000 acres. In this, 27,000 to 28,000 acres are encroached. The Waqf board presently has 23,000 to 24,000 acres of land with it. Issuing notices to farmers claiming the ownership of 1.60 lakh acres to the Waqf board is being done by the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with an intention to create strife between Hindus and Muslims," Anwar Manipaddy slammed. "My findings given in 7,000 pages about the encroachment of Waqf properties by the powerful, includ-

ing Congress leaders, is just the tip of the iceberg. If the CBI starts a probe, the illegalities and encroachments will run up to 70,000 pages," Anwar Manipaddy stated. "The Congress tries to use money and muscle power on me to suppress the report. My personal secretary Ateeq's retirement benefits were withheld and the court had given him relief. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is being pressured from all sides over the Waqf issue. He is trying to hide every-

Bengal Minister's 'minority' remarks create controversy

Kolkata, Dec 24 (IANS) : West Bengal Minister for Municipal Affairs & Urban Development Firhad Hakim on Saturday compared the "majority" and "minority" communities in the country which created a controversy. Addressing a programme at the state-run auditorium in Kolkata, on Saturday, Hakim said that the current "minority" in West Bengal might become "majority" in the coming days. "In West Bengal, we are currently 33 per cent. Nationally we are 17 per cent. Hence we are addressed as minorities. But we do not consider ourselves as minorities. By the grace of God someday we might also become majorities. We will

achieve this with the blessing of the almighty," the minister said on Tuesday. BJP Information Technology cell chief and the party central observer for West Bengal Amit Malviya said that after revealing his true intentions by describing non-Muslims as "unfortunate" and endorsing Dawat-e-Islam's efforts to convert Hindus to Islam, Hakim has now claimed that West Bengal.



UN envoy hopes for Syria's swift recovery after Assad's ouster

Damascus, Dec 24 (IANS) : UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen said Tuesday that the UN is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation in the country and is looking forward to the next steps toward a political transition following the ouster of former President Bashar al-Assad on December 8. Speaking to reporters in Damascus, Pedersen emphasized the importance of Syrian state institutions fully resuming their functions under secure conditions. Xinhua news agency reported. "We are working with all segments of the Syrian people ... and we want to see no acts of

revenge. Instead, we must ensure that institutions return to work, backed by the necessary security measures," he said. The UN envoy expressed hope that the removal of sanctions on Syria would be expedited, paving the way for a swift start to the

nation's economic recovery. "We hope to see a quick end to sanctions so that the recovery process can begin soon," Pedersen added. While acknowledging the complexity of the political landscape.



UN seeks \$1.42bn to expand humanitarian operations in Somali in 2025

Mogadishu, Dec 24 (IANS) : The U.N. for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Tuesday that it requires 1.42 billion U.S. dollars in 2025 to ramp up humanitarian operations in Somalia, where 5.98 million people are in need of assistance. The OCHA, which launched the Somalia 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), said the plan advocates for scaled-up development and climate financing to address the structural drivers of needs, build resilience, reduce the risk of future disasters and adapt to cli-

mate change. The OCHA said HNRP focuses on assistance for people with the most severe levels of needs, and 4.6 million people will be targeted for assistance. "The 2025 HNRP outlines key risks for 2025 as drought and conflict. Drier conditions will increase competition over resources, strain coping mechanisms, and heighten risks for disease outbreaks," it said.

According to the UN agency, conflict accounted for 53 per cent of a total of 455,000 newly displaced people, while climate shocks accounted for the vast majority of

displacements in 2023 and 2022. For the first time in years, conflict-generated insecurity was the leading cause or accounted for 53 per cent of internal displacement, as inter-clan fighting escalated in the Mudug and Gedo regions of southern Somalia. However, the OCHA said the increased frequency of cyclical droughts and floods strains the coping capacities and resilience of millions of Somalis, adding that below-average Deyr rains (October-December) and essential for crop production raise alarm for drought and humanitarian needs in 2025.



Afghan children with heart disease receive free treatment

Kabul, Dec 24 (IANS) : A total of 404 Afghan children with congenital heart disease (CHD) have received free surgical treatment over the past nine months in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, Mawlawi Mudassir Hamraz, spokesperson for the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) said on Tuesday. "The Afghan Red Crescent Society has facilitated free treatment for 404 children with congenital heart defects during the past nine months, and nearly 30,500 Afghan children with CHD, registered across the country, are in urgent need of treatment," the local media quoted Hamraz as saying. The treatment of each child costs \$750 to 2,350, fully covered by the ARCS, reports Xinhua, quoting private media outlet Tolo News. Most of the children treated come from low-income families who could not afford medical care due to severe economic hardships.

Iran's atomic chief says increase in IAEA's inspections 'natural'

Tehran, Dec 24 (IANS) : Iran's atomic chief stated on Tuesday that the announced increase in inspections by the United Nations nuclear watchdog of the country's nuclear facilities is a natural development, driven by Tehran's enhanced uranium enrichment capacity. Mohammad Eslami, president of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI), made these remarks in response to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released on Thursday. The report revealed that Iran had agreed to more stringent monitoring at its Fordow facility in the central province of Qom, following

a boost in its uranium enrichment to up to 60 percent purity, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Eslami said, "When we carry out nuclear activities and deal with nuclear materials, a change in the scale will naturally change the level of monitoring. This is obvious and natural. We have increased (uranium enrichment) capacity, and it is natural that the inspections should increase." He assured that Iran is acting in full compliance with the IAEA's regulations and that no obstacles would be placed in the way of the agency's monitoring efforts, Xinhua news agency reported.



Rise of Global South to push global economy through headwinds : Malaysian official

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 24 (IANS) : The rise of the Global South countries is pushing the global economy through expected headwinds and keeping international trade vibrant, a Malaysian official said on Tuesday. These developments, in turn, will help unlock potential and facilitate cooperation in addressing a range of pressing issues, including managing climate change, enhancing supply chain resilience, ensuring food security.



UK housing policy sparks debate over development, conservation

London, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Labour government's new planning policy has mandated local councils to meet the target of building 370,000 homes a year to fulfill a government promise for 1.5 million new homes in Britain over five years. The updated National Planning Policy Framework

includes guidelines for releasing land from the Green Belt - protected areas surrounding urban regions designed to prevent urban sprawl - under strict criteria, prioritizing brownfield and "grey belt" sites first. The target of 1.5 million homes includes a focus on affordable housing.

Indonesian President to grant amnesty to select prisoners

Jakarta, Dec 24 (IANS) : Indonesian Minister of Law Supratman Andi Agtas has said that President Prabowo Subianto would grant amnesty to several categories of prisoners, including drug users and prisoners with long-term illnesses. According to Supratman, the move aims to reduce overcapacity in correc-

tional facilities while addressing humanitarian concerns, Xinhua news agency reported. Prisoners suffering from chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS and individuals with mental disorders are among those eligible. Additionally, prisoners convicted under the Electronic Information and Transactions Law for insulting the head of state will also be considered for

amnesty. Supratman noted that the proposed amnesty has received Prabowo's initial approval and will be submitted to the House of Representatives for further consideration. "We will wait for parliament's official response after submission," he added. Indonesia's former army general, Prabowo Subianto, was sworn in as the country's eighth President

in October, succeeding Joko Widodo. Prabowo has previously served as defence minister. In his inauguration speech, Prabowo pledged to serve all Indonesians. "We will prioritise the interests of the nation and state above all else," he stated in his address to the nation. However, Indonesia is likely to consider accelerating the execu-

tion of the death penalty for prisoners convicted of drug offences to create a stronger deterrent effect, as it came to light earlier in December. A majority of drug abuse victims are young people aged 15 to 24. Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Budi Gunawan noted that Indonesia is facing a drug emergency.



39 civilians killed in twin attacks in Niger

Niamey, Dec 24 (IANS) : Thirty-nine people were killed this week in two separate attacks in Niger's western Tillabery region, the Niger Armed Forces (FAN) announced on Tuesday. The incidents claimed the lives of 18 people in Kokorou and 21 in Libiri, Xinhua news agency reported. "Two ter-

rible tragedies occurred in the localities of Libiri and Kokorou: criminals, cornered by the incessant operations of the defense and security forces.



Time to boost measures to prevent drowning, save children : WHO

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday called on countries in the South-East Asia region to strengthen measures to prevent drowning, which disproportionately affects children and the vulnerable population. The region reported 83,000 drowning fatalities in 2021, which accounts to 28 per cent of the

global drowning burden and contributing substantially to the nearly 30 lives lost to drowning every hour, globally, according to WHO's first Global status report on drowning prevention. About 43 per cent drowning fatalities in the region involved children aged 14 years or younger.

Uganda to relocate 5,000 households from landslide-prone areas in eastern region

Kampala, Dec 24 (IANS) : Uganda has allocated 50 billion shillings (about 14 million U.S. dollars) for the immediate relocation of over 5,000 households in the mountainous eastern part of the country, where landslides killed more than 30 people last

month, a senior official said Tuesday. The funds will be used to relocate people from landslide-prone areas in the Mt. Elgon region to Bunambutye, a government resettlement village in the eastern district of Bulambuli, Lilian Aber, minister of state for

relief, disaster preparedness and refugees, told Xinhua news agency. Aber said that under a presidential directive, each at-risk household will receive a cash package and two acres of land in Bunambutye. "We need all the people living in



landslide-prone areas in the Mt. Elgon region to move to safer areas to prevent the frequent deaths and destruction of property caused by destructive landslides," said Aber. Last month, the government urged people living in the disaster-prone mountainous areas to evacuate immediately after a landslide, triggered by a 10-hour downpour, left 36 people dead and another 100 missing in the eastern district of Bulambuli.



Ghanaian President-elect Mahama outlines major policies to boost development

Accra, Dec 24 (IANS) : After securing an electoral victory that marks his return to the presidency, Ghana's President-elect John Dramani Mahama has outlined 26 key policies that he aims to implement within his first 120 days in office.

In a document titled "Mahama's First 120 Days: A Social Contract with the People of Ghana," the incoming president reveals his plan to nominate all cabinet ministers within 14 days of his swearing-in for approval, and to form "the leanest government" within the first three months. Mahama is set to be sworn in on January 7, Xinhua news agency reported. Tackling Ghana's economic challenges will be a central focus of Mahama's administration. To address the country's harsh economic conditions, the president-elect plans to host a national economic dialogue to assess the economy and develop a fiscal consolidation program that will guide the 2025 budget. Among his pro-

posals, Mahama has committed to implementing a 24-hour economy. This initiative, which he campaigned on, will prioritize the drafting of necessary legal amendments and preparation for its rollout. According to the 2024 manifesto of the National Democratic Congress, which Mahama leads, the 24-hour economy aims to stimulate economic growth by allowing businesses and public institutions to operate around the clock in three eight-hour shifts. This policy seeks to revive the Ghanaian economy and create sustainable, well-paying jobs. To address youth unemployment, Mahama plans to launch several priority job creation programs in his first budget, including a national apprenticeship program and the "One Million Coders" initiative. Additionally, an accelerated export development council will be established to promote exports as part of a broader strategy for economic transformation.

35 miners trapped under rubble in Afghanistan

Aybak, Dec 24 (IANS) : About 35 miners were trapped under the rubble of a coal mine in Afghanistan's Samangan province, local officials said on Tuesday. The provincial health director Sayed Usman Hamidi counted 35 miners under the debris, saying rescue teams and health personnel have been dispatched to the area to rescue the trapped miners, Xinhua news agency reported. "Preliminary reports indicate that several miners were busy in a coal mine in

Dara-i-Sufi Payin district of Samangan province yesterday, but part of the mine caved in, and resultantly several miners were trapped under rubble," a statement from the provincial police office released on Sunday said. The statement further said that police personnel, local officials, and villagers have rushed to the site to rescue trapped miners from under the debris. Rescue operations were on to rescue workers trapped under the debris, but none have been freed yet, according to local Taliban officials. The incident occurred around 6 p.m. Tuesday, ac-



ording to Bakhtar News Agency. Earlier this week, two workers died from gas exposure at a coal mine in Bamiyan province's Khwaja Ganj village. In February 2002, at least 10 miners lost their lives after being trapped underground when a coal mine collapsed in Afghanistan. In 2019, at least 30 people were killed in the collapse of a gold mine in Afghanistan, officials

said. The collapse occurred in the Kohistan district of Badakhshan province. Afghanistan houses vast resources of minerals but many of the mines are old and poorly maintained. Afghanistan's mining sector has seen frequent fatal accidents, often attributed to inadequate safety measures and a lack of proper equipment.

Philippines orders full evacuation amid possible volcanic re-eruption

Manila, Dec 24 (IANS) : The Philippines on Tuesday ordered local government units to complete the evacuation of people within the six-km danger zone around Mount Kanlaon volcano by Monday amid rising activity.



Kanlaon, which straddles the provinces of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental on the island of Negros in central Philippines, erupted on December 9, spewing a voluminous plume that rose more than 4,000 meters into the sky, Xinhua news agency reported. The order, issued by Raul Fernandez, director of the Office of Civil Defense in Western Visayas, directed local government units of both provinces to complete the evacuation by Tues-

day. The order came in light of increased volcanic activity, prompting authorities to act swiftly to protect residents from potential hazards. However, some residents refused to leave the danger zone despite the threat of another explosive eruption.



Political impasse: Hopes high for France's 4th PM this year to mend fractures

Paris, Dec 24 (IANS) : Francois Bayrou's nomination as French prime minister -- the fourth this year to serve in the post -- provides a silver lining in France's political impasse. As French President Emmanuel Macron's centralist ally navigates the fractured domestic political landscape, Bayrou could restore much-needed France-Germany cooperation with a second Donald Trump term on the horizon, Xinhua news agency reported.

BAYROU'S TIGHTROPE
Following Bayrou's nomination, the far-right wing party National Rally (RN) announced that the party would not immediately censure Bayrou. The president of the RN, Jordan Bardella, told French news channel BFMTV that Bayrou should "understand that he has no democratic legitimacy nor the majority in the National Assembly, which requires a dialogue with all the forces represented in the parliament."

South Korea's ruling party leader cancels press conference amid calls for resignation

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS): The leader of South Korea's ruling People Power Party (PPP) on Tuesday cancelled a press conference over his future role in the party, officials said, amid growing calls for his resignation after President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached. PPP leader Han Dong-hoon

abruptly cancelled the press conference that had been expected to announce his resignation. Han had earlier vowed to continue his duties in response to calls for his resignation after the National Assembly voted to impeach Yoon on Tuesday. He has since faced growing pressure to step down after all five

elected members of the PPP's Supreme Council expressed their intent to resign, Yonhap news agency reported. Han expressed support for Yoon's impeachment on Thursday despite his earlier calls for Yoon's "orderly" resignation. On Saturday, the National Assembly voted to impeach President



Yoon Suk Yeol over his botched imposition of martial law, suspending him from his duties until the Constitutional Court decides whether to reinstate him or remove him from office, with citizens cheering over his impeachment.



India sends 60 tonnes of medical aid to disaster-hit Jamaica

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) : A fresh consignment of around 60 tonnes of emergency medical equipment, generators, and other utilities have been sent by India to Jamaica to support the country's healthcare needs and enhance their disaster preparedness. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, shared the details of the humanitarian assistance on Tuesday.

Temple modelled after Ram Mandir to be constructed in US

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 24 (IANS) : A temple modelled after Ayodhya's Ram Mandir will be constructed in the U.S. by the Swami Satyananda Saraswati Foundation in Pearland, Houston, for the global Hindu community. As part of the Kerala Hindus of North America conference, the foundation aims to perform a Balalaya Pratishta ceremony at a powerful, divine location on November 23, 2025. The process of submitting the key components of the temple to local authorities has already begun. The first phase of construction is expected to be completed by November 24, 2026. This phase will include a large ashram, Hanuman Pratishta modelled after the Ayodhya Temple, and other deity installations along with family temple concepts. By November 24, 2027, the formation of a global financial institution will take place to

promote Sanatan Dharma and strengthen Hindus worldwide. Additionally, the establishment of the Sanatan Hindu University will be completed, aimed at integrating Vedic knowledge with modern sciences. The coordinator of the project Ranjith Pillai said that this initiative aims to officially link the new temple with their family temples. The new temple will be located facing the famous Sri Meenakshi Temple. Spanning five acres, the temple aims to symbolise world peace. A unique opportunity has been created to bring a handful of soil from family temples or other local deities' temples in Kerala and

integrate it into the new temple land. The official announcement of the temple construction was made during a ceremony with prayers led by the Atukul Thantri Vasudev Bhattathiri. Prominent figures such as former Union Ministers Rajeev Chandrasekhar and V. Muraleedharan, former Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan, SNDP Yogam Vice President Tushar Vellapally, Ayyappa Sevasangham President M. Sangeeth Kumar, Swami Krishnanandagiri from Mumbai's Ramagiri Ashram, and Kerala Hindus of North America President Nisha Pillai attended the event. The organisers in a state-



ment said that devotees from Kerala's family temples and local deity temples have a rare opportunity to bring a handful of soil and integrate it with the new temple land. The coordinator of the project Ranjith Pillai said that this initiative aims to officially link the new temple with their family temples.

Yoon's impeachment expected to ease market uncertainty amid power vacuum concern

Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) : The National Assembly's decision to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol is expected to help remove some of the uncertainties that have hit the financial and foreign exchange markets since Yoon's shocking martial law declaration, experts said. But concerns linger over South Korea's urgent response to economic challenges amid the lack of political leadership, such as policy changes under the new Donald Trump administration and weak growth momentum. The parliament passed the motion to remove Yoon from office in a 204-85 vote Tuesday following his short-lived martial law declaration on December 3, reports Yonhap news agency.



"Now that the impeachment motion is passed, the market is expected to be somewhat stable as uncertainties from the political side have very much been eased," Lee Kyung-min, an expert from Daishin Securities, said. Following the martial law declaration, the stock market tumbled to a yearly low and the Korean won fell sharply to well below

1,400 won against the U.S. dollar. But the stock market has nearly recovered after financial authorities vowed to inject unlimited liquidity and implement additional measures in a bold and swift manner, if needed. "Last week's failure to impeach Yoon had stoked fears among investors about how things may unfold. Market concerns are often eased when the political process enters a phase widely anticipated by the market," Kwak Byung-yeol, a researcher at Leading Investment Securities, said. Last Saturday, the first motion to impeach Yoon failed due to a lack of quorum as all but three ruling People Power Party lawmakers boycotted the vote. Officials have said the economic impact seen during two previous presidential impeachments had been limited, and that the country continues to maintain a stable economic system and strong fundamentals. Currently, South Korea has an Aa2 rating at Moody's, AA at S&P and AA- at Fitch. The outlook of the three credit appraisers for the country remains "Stable."

As calls mount for action against mysterious drones, Pentagon says it is 'frustrated'

New York, Dec 24 (IANS) : Amid mounting fears over mysterious drones, the Pentagon has said that it is "frustrated" by their flights over military facilities, and state officials and legislators have called on President Joe Biden's administration to act. A spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff confirmed on Tuesday night reports that drones have been sighted over two military installations in New Jersey, but said, "We don't know what the activity is. We don't know ... if it is criminal. But I will tell you that it is irresponsible. Here on the military side, we are just as frustrated with the irresponsible nature of this activity." The drones which have been plaguing parts of the northeast for over a month have shown the vulnerabilities of the US – and other countries – to the UAS, which can not only spy but can be used by terrorists. A government with extensive spying capabilities that claims to know about communications by officials and business people in distant places apparently cannot crack the mystery of the drones in an area 325 kilometres from its capital. President-Elect Donald Trump posted on Truth Social, "Mystery Drone sightings all over the Country. Can this really be happening without our government's knowledge. I don't think so! Let the public know, and now. Otherwise, shoot them down!!!" Phil Murphy, the Democrat New Jersey Governor, wrote to Biden that his state's "residents deserve more con-



crete information about these UAS sightings and what is causing them." Echoing earlier statements by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and other officials, the Joint Chiefs spokesperson asserted that they had "no intelligence or observations" that would tie them to a "foreign actor" or show that "they had malicious intent." "But," the spokesperson like other officials candidly admitted, "we don't know. We have not been able to locate or identify the operators or the points of origin." "This has gone too far", New York's Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul, frustrated by the federal inaction said. Under current laws, only the federal government can take action against drones.



Israel intensifies airstrikes against Syrian military facilities : War monitor

Damascus, Dec 24 (IANS) : Israel intensified its airstrikes against Syrian military facilities, conducting 24 air raids in the countryside of Damascus, according to a war monitor. The strikes reportedly hit tunnel-equipped installations carved into a mountainside in the targeted area, as reported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Tuesday. The latest raids bring the total number of Israeli airstrikes on Syrian territory to 426 since the collapse of the Syrian government on December 8. These operations have spanned 13 Syrian provinces, according to the observatory. Israeli airstrikes have been targeting Syrian military assets across the country, according to Israeli officials, who claimed the at-

tacks aimed to prevent the weapons "from falling into the hands of terrorist elements". Israel's military actions in Syria have sparked condemnation from regional countries and prompted calls from the international community for respect for Syria's sovereignty, Xinhua news agency reported. The Observatory said several rounds of bombardment targeted "military sites of the former regime forces, as part of destroying what is left of the future Syrian army's capabilities". Israel air strikes on Tuesday targeted "a missile base at the top of Damascus's Mount Qasyun", the group said, as well as an airport in southern Sweida province and "defence and research labs in Masyaf", in Hama province. Since Assad's fall, Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Syrian military sites, targeting everything from chemical weapons stores to air defences. In a move that has drawn international condemnation, Israel also seized a United Nations-patrolled buffer zone on the Syrian Golan Heights just hours after the rebels.



Hezbollah leader acknowledges loss of weapons supply route through Syria

Beirut, Dec 24 (IANS) : Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem has confirmed that the Lebanese armed group has temporarily lost its weapons supply route through Syria following the recent fall of Bashar al-Assad's government. In his first televised address on Tuesday since the collapse of Assad's government, Qassem acknowledged the disruption, describing it as a "detail" in the broader scope of Hezbollah's operations. He added that the supply route could be restored once a new regime is in place, or Hezbollah may seek alternative pathways. "Yes, Hezbollah has lost the military supply route through Syria at this stage, but this loss is a detail in the resistance's work," Qassem said.



Peace summit on eastern DRC conflicts 'called off': DRC Presidency

Kinshasa, Dec 24 (IANS) : A peace summit scheduled for Tuesday to address conflicts in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was "called off," the DRC presidential office said. Angolan President Joao Lourenco was set to host DRC President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame in a bid to ease tensions gripping the eastern DRC, Xinhua news agency reported. According to Kinshasa, the Rwandan delegation refused to participate in the meeting, leading to its cancellation. Tshisekedi arrived in Luanda early Sunday for the summit and met with his Angolan counterpart.

Seven tourists critical in hospital in Fiji after consuming cocktail

Suva, Dec 24 (IANS) : Seven tourists are in critical condition in a hospital in Fiji after a suspected case of alcohol poisoning. The guests at the Warwick Resort on Fiji's Coral Coast became sick after consuming a spiked cocktail at the resort's bar, Xinhua news agency reported. They were taken to the nearby Sigatoka Hospital with "nausea, vomiting and neurological symptoms," reported Fiji Broadcasting Corporation news website on Tuesday.



Russia evacuates some diplomats out of Syria

Moscow, Dec 24 (IANS): Russia has evacuated some of its diplomats out of the Syrian capital Damascus while its embassy continues to function,

the Russian Foreign Ministry said. The diplomats were transported by a Russian Aerospace Forces flight from the Khmeimim Air Base in Syria to Moscow.



Netanyahu discusses release of hostages with Trump as Israeli officials say deal could be clinched in days

Tel Aviv, Dec 24 (IANS): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that he discussed with US President-elect Donald Trump ongoing efforts to bring back the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Israel to close embassy in Ireland due to 'extreme anti-Israeli policies': Foreign Minister

Jerusalem, Dec 24 (IANS) : Israel announced Tuesday that it will close its embassy in Ireland, attributing the decision to the Irish government's "extreme anti-Israeli policies". In a press release, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar accused Ireland of actions and rhetoric against Israel, which he stated are rooted in "the delegitimisation and demonisation of the Jewish state, along with double standards", Xinhua news agency reported. "Ireland has crossed every red line in its



relationship with Israel," he said. He added that "Israel will invest its resources in advancing bilateral relations with countries worldwide according to priorities that also take into account the attitudes and actions of these states toward Israel."



UK officially joins Asia-Pacific trade bloc CPTPP

London, Dec 24 (IANS): The U.K. officially joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on Tuesday, becoming the first European nation to join the Asia-Pacific trade bloc. The 12-country landmark trade agreement is expected to boost the British economy by 2 billion pounds (about

2.52 billion U.S. dollars) annually in the long term, according to the Department for Business and Trade, Xinhua news agency. The department noted on its website that the UK's accession to CPTPP is a cornerstone of the government's Plan for Change, which aims to deliver economic growth and increase household incomes.

Venkatesh and leading ladies to give special Sankranti treat

Victory Venkatesh and blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi have set great expectations among everyone with their earlier films F2 and F3. They have come together for the third time aiming at a huge hat-trick blockbuster with Sankrantiki Vasthunnam. The movie has created great anticipation among everyone

with their creative and effective promotional strategies. The music composed by composer Bheems Ceciroleo is turning out to be a huge highlight for the movie promotions. The team released two tracks - Godari Gattu and Meenu, both of them have become chartbusters. Godari Gattu has entered Global Top 20 videos and Meenu is also performing

extremely well. Even the movie has crossed 100k interests in BMS app. Now, the team is filming an energetic and vibrant Sankranti special song on the leads. They have constructed a special colorful set in RFC and they have released a special poster from the song, too. In traditional looks, Venkatesh,



Chinni Lyrical Video Out from Daaku Maharaja

The lyrical video of "Chinni," the second song from the much-awaited movie Daaku Maharaja is now out. This touching melody shows the sweet and emotional bond between Nandamuri Balakrishna and a little girl. The song has themes of innocence, care, and protection. Chandini Chowdary and Urvashi Rautela also add freshness and charm to the video. Lyricist Ananth Sriram has combined a nostalgic school rhyme

with emotional depth. Sung by Vishal Mishra, the track becomes even more heartfelt. Music composer Thaman S once again delivers an impressive melody that touches the heart. Shot in the scenic locations of Ooty, the visuals are enhanced by beautiful choreography from Vishwa Raghu. "Chinni" is likely to strike a chord with family audiences especially children with its soothing music and emotional theme. The movie Daaku Maharaja features an ensemble cast, including Bobby

Deol in a significant role, along with Pragya Jaiswal, Shraddha Srinath, Chandini Chowdary, and Urvashi Rautela, adding depth to the story. Directed by Bobby Kolli, the film has cinematographer by Vijay Kartik Kannan and sharp editing by Niranjan Devaramane. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the movie is set for a global release on January 12, 2025, during Sankranti.

Trisha's Bold Statement: Silence, Patience, Belief!

Stunning south beauty Trisha Krishnan is raising temperatures with her stunning look, as she gears up for her much-awaited movie Vishwambhara, where she will be sharing the screen with the megastar Chiranjeevi. The actress is absolutely sizzling in a cream-colored blouse, skirt, and dupatta,

accessorized with a striking green necklace and a golden mini pouch. Her radiant elegance is undeniably hard to miss, but it's her cryptic caption that has got everyone talking. Her post, which simply reads, "Silence... patience... belief..." has sparked a whirlwind of speculation. Is it a subtle response to the ongoing rumors

about her alleged relationship with Vijay Thalapaty? Or is it just an introspective reflection? We may not know the answer just yet, but one thing is for sure—her caption has certainly caught the attention of her fans. As the buzz continues to swirl, let's take a moment to appreciate Trisha's breathtaking style and leave the rumors for another day. For now, all eyes are on her stunning look and the exciting projects ahead!



TG Vishwa Prasad's Garividi Lakshmi Launched

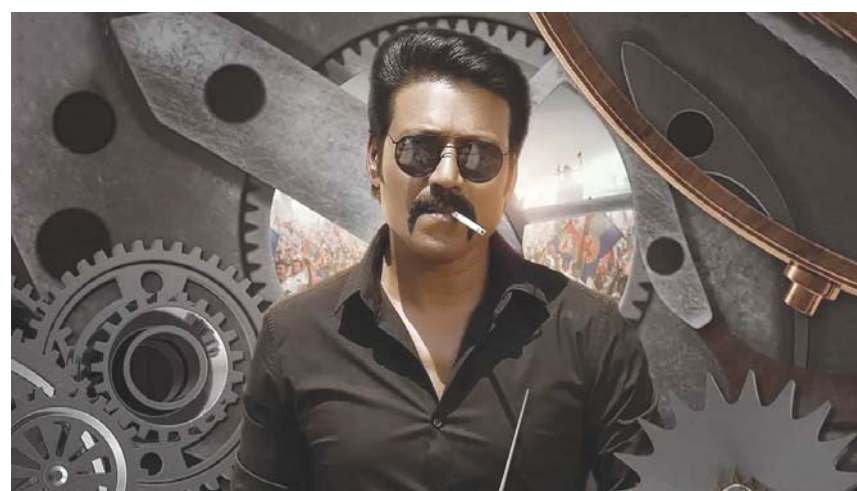
Actress Anandhi is set to take on a remarkable role in her upcoming film, Garividi Lakshmi, a biographical drama produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and his daughter TG Krithi Prasad under the esteemed People Media Factory banner. Garividi Lakshmi is inspired by the life of the iconic Burra Katha artist- Garividi Lakshmi, who made significant contributions to the cultural heritage of North Andhra. The narrative delves into her inspiring life while highlighting a critical issue: women's identity theft. The film will explore this sensitive topic while staying true to the emotional and societal struggles that women face. Directed by Gowri Naidu Jammu, the project has already generated a lot of buzz, with its title and grand launching ceremony took place in Adoni. Senior actor Naresh, MLA Pardhasaradhi, and others attended the event.

National Crush Rashmika Mandanna's Rule in 2024

Star heroine Rashmika Mandanna had a fantastic year in 2024. By the end of the year, she had established herself as the number one heroine of her generation with her incredible performances. Last year, she made a similar impact with Animal. Rashmika's remarkable performance in Pushpa 2: The Rule garnered widespread applause and appreciation. The film's historic success once again cemented her position as the top heroine across all languages. She also represented India on a global platform twice. With her charming speeches, brilliant performances, and incredible star status, she has proven that she's much more than just a pretty face. With such a diverse range of accomplishments, Rashmika's star is set to rise



even higher. As Rashmika navigates this exciting phase of her career, with major movies in different industries, fans and audiences are eagerly awaiting her continued rise. The actress is all set to enter 2025 with even higher ambitions. She is currently the biggest Pan-India actress. Rashmika has been celebrated for roles in blockbusters like "Pushpa," "Dear Comrade".



Ram Charan's Name Saved As RC - The King

Mega Hero Ram Charan is actively promoting his upcoming film Game Changer in the USA. He is clearly going the extra mail for this film, as he is actively, promoting the same to the best of his capabilities. The fact that he made time to attend the pre-release event of the film in Dallas yesterday showcases his commitment. Incidentally, the cast and crew associated with the film

were also in attendance for the event in the United States. One of the principal members of the cast SJ Surya was also in attendance and he delivered his trademark speech at the event. The versatile and veteran actor commented that Ram Charan has a larger than life, aura that is hard to miss. He claimed that Charan has inbred royalty and charm in him, which makes him one of the most lovable person around. He was all praise on Charan while speaking at the event. Adding further, SJ Surya commented that he gave Ramcharan a special name on his contact list. "I saved Charan sir's contact name as RC The King because of his aura."

Aadi SaiKumar Caught In Chaos

The Tollywood audience have developed a habit of encouraging and nurturing good films that come with the right kind of content. This is pushing every hero to come up with interesting and content backed stuff. In this regard, Hero Aadi Sai Kumar

has come up with something interesting. On the occasion of Aadi Saikumar's birthday today, the makers of his highly upcoming film Shambala have released an exciting new poster. The poster features Aadi riding a bicycle through a blazing field, his gaze

intense and fixed on the horizon. The poster shows the protagonist in a chaotic situation while he writes his bicycle in what appears to be a firing ecosystem. The hidden message behind the same could be that the protagonist finds himself in extremely challenging situations, more often than not.



I Will Do It Only For Sandeep Vanga, Hero Says

There is no debating the fact that Sandeep Reddy Vanga is the most sought-after filmmaker in Indian cinema at the moment. The kind of madness that he created with Arjun Reddy and Animal is beyond comprehension. Today, every star Hero is ready to work with Vanga if he approaches them with a good script. In accordance with this Kannada superstar, Rishabh Shetty has also announced that he is eager and ready to work with Sandeep Vanga whenever the opportunity presents itself. Rishabh Shetty stated that Sandeep Vanga quickly became one of his most favourite directors.