

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

TUESDAY, 07 January 2025

VOLUME : 15 ISSUE : 131 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



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PM inaugurates Charlapalli Railway Terminal in Hyderabad for regional development



Hyderabad, Jan 6 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Monday virtually inaugurated the Charlapalli Railway Terminal in Hyderabad and said this would accelerate regional development. It is the fourth terminal station in Telangana after Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda.

The new terminal in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district on the eastern side of Hyderabad has been developed as a new coaching terminal along with the provision of second entry with a cost of around

Rs 413 crore. The Prime Minister highlighted its potential to accelerate regional development by connecting to the Outer Ring Road. "This station, connected to the Outer Ring Road, will significantly boost development in the region," he stated.

PM Modi also highlighted the station's modern amenities including its platforms, lifts, escalators, solar-powered operations, saying, "This is a step forward in creating sustainable infrastructure."

He stated that this new terminal will ease the pressure on existing stations in Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Kacheguda, making travel more convenient for the people. This environment-friendly terminal, having good passenger amenities, will ease congestion on the existing coaching terminals in the city like Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda.

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Union Minister for Coal and Mines and Telangana BJP



president G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, Union Minister of State for Coal Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Telangana's IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, South

Central Railways (SCR) General Manager Arun Kumar Jain and others participated in the inauguration ceremony held at the new terminal station. **Continued on pg 02**



CM Revanth urges Centre to support Metro Rail Phase-2 project

Hyderabad, Jan 6 (NSS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called upon the Union government to provide its full support for the advancement of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2 project.

The Cherlapalli Railway Terminal was inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also participating in the event online. During his re-

marks, Revanth Reddy expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Telangana for the completion of the railway terminal.

Continued on pg 02

Formula E-car Race case : High drama at ACB office, KTR returns

Hyderabad, Jan.6 (NSS): A high drama took place at the ACB office on Monday morning when BRS party working president KTR came to the ACB office to appear for an interrogation in the sensational Formula E-car Race case. The ACB officials have issued notices to KTR to appear before it for questioning in the case on Monday. KTR, along with his lawyer came to the



ACB headquarters to appear before the ACB officials. KTR's cars were stopped by the police at the gate of the ACB office.

Continued on pg 02



Kavitha pays tribute at Indravelli Martyrs' Memorial, slams Revanth govt

Hyderabad, Jan 6 : BRS leader MLC K. Kavitha today said "the Revanth Reddy Govt is filing illegal cases.

Gutha lauds Revanth Reddy's government

Hyderabad, Jan.6 (NSS): Telangana State Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy has praised the performance of CM Revanth Reddy's government in the State. He said it takes courage to increase investment assistance under Rythu Bharosa scheme despite financial difficulties of the government. He said it was a good decision for the farmers to assure them that only cultivable land would be given the benefit under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

He said the State's financial situation was understood by him only after the Congress government came into power. He said the State government should try to increase revenue.



50 electric buses launched in Warangal

Warangal, Jan 6 (NSS): The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) launched 50 electric buses in Warangal on Monday.

Minister for Transport Ponnababbar, along with Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Konda Surekha, MP Kadiyam Kavya, MLAs Nayini Rajender Reddy, Revuri

Prakash Reddy and Nagaraju, Finance Commission Chairman Rajaiiah, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani and other leaders, flagged off the buses at Hayagriva Grounds in Hanumakonda.

Speaking on the occasion, Transport Minister Ponnababbar stated that a total of 112 electric buses have been allocated to the district, of which 50 are being launched today, and

another 25 buses will be on the road by Sankranti festival. Within 48 hours of coming to power, the Congress government started free bus travel for women in RTC. So far, 125 crore women availed the free travel facility in RTC buses and they saved money worth Rs 4,350 crore, Ponnababbar said.

Hyderabad is ideal for chip manufacturing industry: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Jan 6 (NSS): Hyderabad offers a conducive ecosystem for the semiconductor (chip manufacturing) and allied industries, said Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu. On Monday, during a meeting with representatives of the PTW Group's Asia division, the Minister highlighted the city's strategic advantages for establishing semiconductor-related operations. The PTW Group, which specialises in tools, components, refurbishment, automation, and equipment supply for the semiconductor industry, currently has its regional headquarters in Singapore.



PM inaugurates Charlapalli Railway Terminal in Hyderabad for regional development

Continued From pg 01
Prime Minister A. Revanth Reddy participated virtually and made requests to the Prime Minister to sanction the Regional Ring Rail for Hyderabad. The Charlapalli

terminal can handle an additional 15 pairs of trains with four extra high-level platforms. The existing five platforms were also extended to accommodate full-length trains. Another 10 lines are available, tak-

ing the total capacity to 19 lines. The new facility features spacious concourse areas, illuminated facade, two spacious foot-over-bridges and lifts and escalators. A 12-metre-

wide foot-over-bridge connects all the platforms directly from the concourse while a six-metre-wide foot-over-bridge is for inter-platform movement.

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, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. Branch office at: #11-25-79 & 80, 1st, Pochammaidhan, Warangal-506002

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aarum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at WARANGAL (hereinafter referred to as 'We' the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. 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.

S.	Name of the Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower (s)/Guarantor (s)	NPA Date:07.01.2023
No.1)	Ajay Kumar Guthikonda S/o. Chitti Babu, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Poultry Form, R/O, H.No.6-38, Ajay Kumar Poultry Form, Reddy Palem, Deshaipet, Warangal Dist-506006. And Also At: Ajay Kumar Guthikonda, S/o. Chitti Babu, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Business, # Open Plot 400.00 Sq.Yards or 334.44 Sq.Mtrs in Sy.No.144-B-Ennumamula Village, Warangal Mandal and City, Warangal Urban District. 2) Guthikonda Nagadeepthi S/o. Mallaiiah, Age: 40 Years, R/O. H.No.6-38, Ajay Kumar Poultry Form, Reddy Palem, Deshaipet, Warangal Dist-506006. 3) Guthikonda Amarchand S/o. Chitti Babu, Age: 47 Years, Occ: Ajr (Bricks), R/O.H.No.14-173, Plot No.303, Siddi Vinayaka Towers, Kashi Bugga, Warangal Dist-506002.	Date of Demand Notice: 28.11.2024

Property Address of Secured Assets: WAR2TF2103200005- Description of the Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Guthikonda Ajay Kumar Mortgage deed dated 20.03.2021 Registered as Document No.10301/2021 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal (R.O): Open Plot to an extent of 400.00 Sq.Yards or 334.44 Sq.Mtrs in Sy.No.144-B Situated At Ennumamula Village, Warangal Mandal And City, Warangal Urban District, within the limits of GWMC, Warangal and Sub Registrar, Warangal Urban is bounded by: **East:** Open plot of others, **West:** 36 ft wide Road, **North:** Open plot of Donor gifted to G. Amarchand, **South:** Open plot of Donor gifted to G. Ajay Kumar.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above Borrowers, Co-Borrowers and/ or their Guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 04-01-2025, Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram 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, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710. Branch office at: #11-25-79 & 80, 1st, Pochammaidhan, Warangal-506002

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aarum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at WARANGAL (hereinafter referred to as 'We' the Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. 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.

S.	Name of the Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower (s)/Guarantor (s)	NPA Date: 12.09.2023
No.1)	Ashok Kumar Gajji S/o. Venkateshwarlu, Age: 49 Years, Occ: Laxmi Sai Ganapathi Educational Society, R/O. H.No.11-14-186, O' City, Old Ajm's Ground, Lakshmi Puram, Warangal Dist-506002. And Also At: Ashok Kumar Gajji, S/o. Venkateshwarlu, Age: 49 Years, Occ: Business, House Door No.16-10-444/A, 580.00 Sq.Yards, 484.93 Sq.Mtrs, Sy.No.2048, Fort Warangal Revenue Village, Shiva Nagar, Warangal City District. 2) Gajji Krishnaveni W/o. Ashok Kumar Gajji, Age: 43 Years, R/O.H.No.11-14-186, O' City, Old Ajm's Ground, Lakshmi Puram, Warangal Dist-506002. 3) Gajji Jithender S/o. Venkateshwarlu, Age: 46 Years, R/O. H.No.11-9-16, Azam, Jahi Mills Colony, Warangal Dist-506 002.	Date of Demand Notice: 13.12.2024

Property Address of Secured Assets: WAR2TF2303310011- Description of the Immovable Property: (Property holder Name is Gajji Ashok Kumar Mortgage deed dated 31.03.2023 Registered as Document No.2451/2023 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal Fort): House bearing Door No.16-10-444/A along with its vacant site to an extent of 580.00 Sq.yards or 484.93 Sq.Mtrs in Sy.No.2048 situated at Fort Warangal revenue village, Shiva nagar, Warangal city and District, within the limits of GWMC, Warangal and SRO Warangal Fort is bounded by: **East:** Chintal Flyover Bridge Road, **West:** H.No.16-10-448 of Acha Lakshmi & House others, **North:** H.No.16-10-444/1 of O.Rajitha and House others, **South:** H.No.16-10-447/1 of P.Raju and House others

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above Borrowers, Co-Borrowers and/ or their Guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 04-01-2025, Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered office at Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Branch Office Address: H.No.-8-1-66, Ground Floor, Janani Complex, Hyderabad Road, Siddipet.

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

To	Particulars of Borrowers / Guarantors	Borrower
S.No.		
1	Srinivas Nalagama S/o. Mothaiiah, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Business (Thirumala Thirupathi Filling Station), H.No: 13-10/1, Ngo's Colony, Espanally Road, Siddipet, Pin Code: 502103. And Also At: Srinivas Nalagama W/o. Mothaiiah, R/O. Velikatta, Kondapak Mandal of Siddipet	Borrower
2	Triveni Devi Kadhugaya W/o. Srinivas, Age: 48 Years, Occ: School Asst, H.No:13-10/1, Ngo's Colony, Espanally Road, Siddipet, Pin Code-502103.	Co-Borrower / Guarantor
3	Uppendar Goud Gadagoni S/o. Mallaiiah, Age: 52 Years, Occ: SGT Teacher, H.No: 12-195, Ngo's Colony, Siddipet, Pin Code: 502103.	Guarantor

Sub: Sale of property belonging to SRINIVAS NALAGAMA (Borrower/Guarantor) in the account of SIDP2TF1903260025 for realization of amount due to Shriram Finance Limited under The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Shriram Finance Limited, SIDDIPET-Branch, the secured creditor caused a demand notice dated 29.06.2022 under section 13(2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, calling upon to pay Rs.1,56,15,262/- (One Crore Fifty Six Lakhs Fifteen Thousand and Two Hundred Sixty Two Rupees only) within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the stipulated period, the Authorized Officer, has taken symbolic procession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 17.11.2022. And After the Authorized Officer of Shriram Finance Limited received Physical possession of the property on 28.06.2024. Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to Shriram Finance Limited. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately.

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

Schedule of Property: (Mortgaged under the Name of SRINIVAS NALAGAMA Mortgage deed dated 29.03.2019 Registered as Document No.3193/2019 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at (CHERIAL): Open Plot No.73 to an extent of 97.25 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.74 to an extent of 131.10 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.75 to an extent of 135.92 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.76 to an extent of 174.15 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.77 to an extent of 151.47 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.78 to an extent of 157.24 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.79 to an extent of 163.01 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.80 to an extent of 168.78 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.81 to an extent of 169.93 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.82 to an extent of 172.98 Sq.Yards, Open Plot No.83 to an extent of 192.97 Sq.Yards, totalling to an extent of 1714.8 Sq.Yards Out of SY.No.416, Situated at Velikatta Village, Kondapak Mandal of Siddipet District, Registration District: Siddipet, Sub-District: Siddipet, bounded as under: **Boundaries for Plot Nos.73, 74 & 75:** Towards East: Road, Towards West: Plot Nos.64, 65 & 66, Towards North: Plot Nos.72, Towards South: 24 Feet wide Road. **Boundaries for Plot Nos.73, 77, 78, 79 & 80L:** Towards East: Road, Towards West: Plot Nos.67, 68, 69, 70, & 71, Towards North: 24 Feet wide Road, Towards South: 24 Feet wide Road. **Boundaries for Plot Nos.81, 82 & 83:** Towards East: Road, Towards West: Plot No.1, Towards North: 24 Feet wide Road, Towards South: 100 Feet wide X Road (Duddeda to Cherial)

Note: It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022."

Date: 06-01-2025, Place: Siddipet Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

T.G.O. Association Executive Committee Members Expansion

- Appointment of Siricilla TGO Office Barriers
- District Public Relations Officer Wangari Sridhar as Publicity Secretary
- Proceedings handed over by Additional Collector Khimya Nayak.



Rajanna Siricilla, Jan 6 (TIM Bureau) : The Telangana Gazetted Officers Association Executive Committee members in Rajanna Siricilla district were appointed. As per the provisions of the Telangana Gazetted Officers Association Constitution, the Office Barriers were unanimously selected for a period of 3 years from 2024-25 to 2026-27 in a meeting held in Siricilla dis-

trict on December 11, 2024. "Telangana Gazetted Officers Association Rajanna Siricilla District Vice President G.H.M. L Motilal, G. Anil Kumar, working as DMO in the EE Roads and Buildings Department office, as Joint Secretary, Wangari Sridhar, District Public Relations Officer, as Publicity Secretary, and AEE Kandi Vinay, of Vemulawada Mis-

sion Bhagiratha Grid, were unanimously elected as members of the Executive Committee. The proceedings related to the appointment documents of office bearers related to the Telangana Gazetted Officers Association Siricilla district were submitted to the concerned officers by Additional Collector Khimya Nayak. "President Samara Sena, Secretary Jabi, Co-

Presidents Jogam Raju, Treasurer Ahmed Rasool, Vice Presidents Anji Reddy, Abdul Wajeed, Joint Secretaries Srikanth, Chandrakala, Anil Kumar, Organizing Secretary Sagar, Publicity Secretary Wangari Sridhar, Sports Secretary Laxman, Executive Committee members Kavitha, Vinay and others participated.

CM Revanth urges Centre to support Metro Rail Phase-2 project

Continued From pg 01
He reminded the Prime Minister that the State government has previously submitted proposals to the Centre for the development of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2 project and requested his assistance in facilitating its completion. Additionally, he noted that the State government has already formulated plans for a 370 km Regional Ring Road (RRR) in Telangana and urged the Union government to fully cooperate in the construction of both the RRR and the Regional Ring Rail. The Chief Minister also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide assistance for the construction of new railway lines connecting Vikarabad to Krishna, Kalwakurthi to Macherla, and an additional two lines from Dornakal. Revanth Reddy expressed that the state government is committed to transforming Telangana into a one trillion dollar GDP economy, which would, in turn, contribute to the larger objective of achieving a five trillion dollar economy for India. He emphasised that the Union government should collaborate on the development.

Formula E-car Race case : High drama at ACB office, KTR returns

Continued From pg 01
The police informed that only KTR can enter and they would not allow his lawyer inside the ACB office. This led to an argument between the police and KTR. KTR spoke to senior police officials on the issue. KTR, who waited there for some time as the lawyer was not allowed inside the ACB office, returned from the ACB office without appearing for interrogation. The ACB officials responded to KTR's return from the ACB office without appearing before them. They alleged that KTR had created high drama by bringing his lawyers and added that the lawyers were brought to their office to evade the ACB probe and violated the High Court's orders. "KTR did not pay heed to the High Court's advice to cooperate with the investigation and added that they would take up the matter to the notice of the High Court. However, the ACB officials are ready to issue another notice to KTR either on Monday evening or Tuesday morning. In the meantime, it is learnt that KTR will approach the High Court seeking directions to conduct the hearing in the presence of a lawyer. It is already known that the High Court has reserved the verdict on KTR's petition. The ED has issued notices asking him to appear for questioning on Tuesday.

CM Revanth inaugurates Zoo park - Aramghar flyover

Hyderabad, Jan.6 (NSS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy officially inaugurated the Zoo Park - Aramghar flyover in Hyderabad on Monday. During his address, he highlighted that the largest flyover on the PVNR Express Highway was constructed by former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy during the Congress administration. He noted that the current Congress government has successfully completed the construction of the city's second-largest flyover, thereby competing with the achievements of the previous Congress regime. The Chief Minister emphasised that since assuming office, the Congress government has been diligently working to address various challenges facing the community.

Aero India 2025 show in Bengaluru from Feb. 10 to 14

Hyderabad, Jan 6 (NSS): The 15th edition of Asia's biggest aero show - Aero India 2025 - will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 10 to 14, 2025. With the broad theme 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', the event will provide a platform for forging partnerships between foreign & Indian firms and the discovery of newer avenues in the global value chain to accelerate the indigenisation process. The first three days of the event (February 10th, 11th and 12th) will be business days, while 13th & 14th have been set as public days to allow people to witness the show. The event includes both air displays and static exhibitions of a large array of military platforms from the aerospace sector. The event comprises a curtain raiser event, inaugural event, Defence Ministers' Conclave, CEOs' Round-Table, Manthan start-up event, breath-taking air shows, a large exhibition area comprising India Pavilion and a trade fair of aerospace companies.

BRS unveils 2025 calendar highlighting minority welfare

Hyderabad, Jan 6 (NSS): BRS working president K Tarakarama Rao and former minister T Harish Rao unveiled a 2025 calendar themed on minority welfare, prepared by senior leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail, at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. The calendar highlights welfare schemes implemented by the BRS government over the past decade and includes quotes from BRS Chief K. Chandrashekar Rao. Each page of the calendar covers two months, featuring images and details of key initiatives such as Shadi Mubarak, minority residential schools and colleges, and the appointment of Muslim leaders to prominent positions, including Deputy Chief Minister and Home

Minister. The calendar also showcased significant developments such as the construction of mosques in the new Secretariat, renovation of the Jamia Nizamia auditorium, restoration of Aneesul Ghurba, and the distribution of Ramzan gifts. Speaking at the event, BRS leaders emphasised the party's commitment to inclusive governance and social justice, describing empowering minorities as a responsibility. They also stressed the importance of accessible education for all. They said the development must be inclusive and uplift every community without leaving anyone behind. The event was attended by former Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali and other senior leaders. Speaking to media persons later, Abdullah Sohail praised the previous BRS government's decade-long efforts, stating that minori-

ties experienced unprecedented development under its rule. He highlighted that the appointment of a Muslim Deputy Chief Minister in the first term and a Home Minister in the second term symbolised empowerment. He added that several Muslims were nominated as MLCs, heads of various corporations, reflecting the party's commitment to inclusive governance. However, Sohail criticised the current Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing it of suppressing minorities and dismantling welfare initiatives implemented by the BRS. He said that in its one year of governance, Congress had failed minorities and destroyed the welfare programs that transformed lives over the last decade.



SP delegation meets families of Sambhal violence victims, gives Rs 5 lakh to kin

Sambhal, Jan 6 (IANS) : An eleven-member delegation from the Samajwadi Party (SP) visited Sambhal on Monday to meet with the families of those killed in the recent violence. The delegation expressed their condolences and provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the grieving families in the form of cheques. While addressing the media, Mata Prasad Pandey, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, launched a scathing attack on the Uttar Pradesh government, accusing it of insensitivity toward the Muslim community. "This government has no sympathy for Muslims. Their agenda is to divide people along communal lines, fostering enmity between Hindus and Muslims for political gain," he alleged.

J&K NCC ready to make region proud on Republic Day Parade

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh are set to shine at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, as NCC cadets from the region prepare to march on Kartavya Path. Over the past month, the cadets have undergone rigorous training, demonstrating exceptional dedication and enthusiasm to showcase the culture, progress, and aspirations of the region. Major General Anupinder Bevl, ADG NCC Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, shared his pride in the cadets' efforts, stating, "I am immensely proud of their hard work and believe that, just like last year, this year too, the cadets from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh will return after making our region proud through their efforts." A key highlight of this year's participation is the inclusion of the Air Squadron in the parade preparations. Cadets have also been educated about cyber security, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a developed and tech-savvy India. As part of this vision, the NCC is set to expand significantly, with plans to induct 3 lakh new cadets. Major General Bevl emphasised the importance of discipline and responsibility among the youth, urging them to use social media wisely. "If



it leads you astray, first turn to your family and then to us for guidance and rectification," he appealed. During their practice sessions, cadets depicted the region's developmental strides through symbolic presentations. One cadet proudly stated, "Voice of the youth of J&K and Ladakh, the crown of India. With the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the youth here are witnessing a new era of progress. The Tiranga fluttering at Lal

Chowk signifies economic growth and literacy improvements, with the rate rising from 55 per cent in 2001 to 77 per cent in 2021. Institutions like IIT, IIM, and AIIMS now stand tall, fostering education and innovation." Technology has also reached new heights, with over 90 per cent of households in J&K and Ladakh now accessing 4G networks.



Constructive talks, says delegation of BPSC candidates after meeting Bihar chief secretary

Patna, Jan 6 (IANS) : A day after the lathi-charge on candidates, a delegation of 10 BPSC aspirants met Bihar Chief Secretary Amrit Lal Meena on Monday to discuss their concerns. After the meeting, the candidates described the discussion as having taken place in a constructive and positive atmosphere. They reported that the Chief Secretary listened attentively to their grievances and assured them that the government has been actively considering their demands and will take a decision soon.



NHRC tells 'X' to take down Kejriwal video showing use of kids in campaign

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : NHRC member Priyanka Kanoongo on Monday directed social media platform 'X' to immediately remove an objectionable video showing the alleged involvement of children in political campaigning by AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. The NHRC member also drew the attention of CEC Rajiv Kumar to the issue and requested him to consider issuing guidelines to political parties to refrain from using children in political activities.



Delhi in 2024: An year with election flavour, political tumult

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : As a year of acerbic political rivalry and tumult in Delhi's power corridors draws to an end, the city's netas and residents would continue to remain in election mode which started with the parliamentary elections and will continue in 2025 with Assembly polls in February. Besides ushering in

Modi 3.0, the year 2024 served as a perfect arena for the ruling AAP and the BJP to woo voters in the run-up to what could be Arvind Kejriwal 4.0 or BJP 2.0 after the Assembly elections. Though a fourth stint for the Congress in Delhi government is feasible on paper, it seems highly unlikely due to the party's organisational challenges. Narendra Modi's re-election as Prime Minister for a third successive term this year, with the BJP winning all seven parliamentary seats in Delhi, has given a leg up to the saffron party which is des-

Canara Bank PATHERGATTY BRANCH
H.No.22-7-110, 2nd Floor, SVJ Shopping Mall, Patheeratty, Hyderabad

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

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 18-04-2022 calling upon the legal heir borrower Late Mr. Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati- 1. Smt. Ameena Tahseen W/o Late Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati, 2. Mr. Maaz S/o Late Mr. Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati, 3. Mr. Umair S/o Late Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati, 4. Miss Shaesta D/o Late Mr. Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati, 5. Miss. Shaqfata D/o Late Abdul Qader Bin Osman Masqati and Guarantor Faisal Bin Osman Masqati S/o Late Osman Bin Abdul Masqati to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.25,35,170.64 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand one hundred seventy and sixty four paise only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **03rd of January of the year 2025**. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount as on date of **Rs.36,91,059.97 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Ninety One thousand fifty nine and ninety seven paise only)** and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

All that the part and parcel of old house bearing municipal D No.22-4-540 & 541 situated at Elebar Chowk, Hyderabad admeasuring 150.00 sq yds or 125.41 sq mts. **Boundaries:** North : House No 22-4-542 & 22-4-539, South : Lane, East : H No.22-4-539, West : Road

Date : 03.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer
PLACE: HYDERABAD CANARA BANK

Canara Bank SHAHALIBANDA BRANCH
Yaseen Building, 20-4-199-1 Shahalibanda, Hyderabad - 500003

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

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **CANARA BANK** under SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **30.10.2024** calling upon the borrowers **1. Smt. Kola Vijay Lakshmi W/o Kola Prasad, Flat No. 402, GRR Grandeur Apartment, Venkateswara Colony, Hastinapuram, Hyderabad-500070. 2. Sri Kola Devi Revanth S/o Kola Prasad, Flat No.402, GRR Grandeur Apartment, Venkateswara Colony, Hastinapuram, Hyderabad-500070** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.37,43,566.86 (Rupees. Thirty seven lakhs forty three thousand five hundred sixty six and eighty six paise only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **01st January 2025**. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount as on date of **Rs.38,01,601.86 (Rupees. Thirty eight lakhs one thousand six hundred one and eighty six paise only)** and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Finished Flat No.402 in Fourth Floor, with a Plinth Area of 1240 Sq. Feet (Including Common Areas and Car Parking 100Sq. Feet in Stilt Floor/Cellar Floor as per the Draw System) along with an undivided share of land admeasuring 50 Sq. Yards or equivalent to 41.80 Sq. Mtrs., (Out of 1016.66 Sq. Yards), Residential Building known as "GRR GRANDEUR", on Plot Nos.87, 88, 94 and 95, in Survey Nos.60/L, 60/M, 60/R and 60/Q, in Ward No.8, Block No.3, Situated at KARMANGHAT VILLAGE, Saroornagar Revenue Mandal, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Under L.B. Nagar Circle, Ranga Reddy District, Registration Sub-Registrar at L.B. NAGAR, and bounded by- **Boundaries for flat No.402:**North: Open to sky, South: Open to sky, East: Staircase & corridor, West: Open to Sky. **Boundaries of Entire Land:**North: 30' Wide Road, South: 40' Wide Road, East: plot No's 89 and 93, West: Plot No.86 and 96

Date : 01.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer
PLACE: HYDERABAD CANARA BANK

Fearing backlash, CPI-M dumps naming Health Minister Veena George as first woman district party Secretary

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Jan 6 (IANS) : With Kerala CPI-M's organisational polls currently underway, the prospect of the first party woman district Secretary failed to materialise on Wednesday amid speculations that state Health Minister Veena George might be named for

Pathanamthitta district, but fearing a backlash, senior party leaders decided to appoint veteran former legislator Raju Abraham to the post instead. In the last six decades, the CPI-M in Kerala has had no woman Chief Minister, or a state chief, and not a single woman leader has even served as party district Secretary in any of the present-day 14 district committees.



Spreading same lies won't make it truth: Hardeep Puri tears into Kejriwal over Rohingya claims

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday shot back at AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal over the latter's claims on Rohingyas settlement in the capital and asserted that spreading the 'same lies again and again won't turn it into a truth'. In a sharp rebuttal of Kejriwal's charges over the settlement of Rohingyas with the alleged blessings of the Centre.



Shivakumar denies link between Minister Priyank Kharge and contractor's death

Bengaluru, Jan 6 (IANS) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency and defended Minister Priyank Kharge against allegations linking him to a contractor's suicide. Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, Shivakumar clarified, "Priyank Kharge has no involvement in this case. His name is not directly mentioned in the contractor's suicide note.

Kerala : Cong MLA Uma Thomas put on ventilator support after falling from stage

Kochi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Congress legislator Uma Thomas, who fell down from the stage of the first floor while attending a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Monday evening, has been put on ventilator support at a private hospital. She had reached the venue where a record-breaking dance performance was being held. After greeting the State Culture Minister Saji Cherian as she was moving towards her seat in the VIP pavilion, she tripped a barricade and fell down about 15 feet.

Union Bank Stressed Asset Management Branch, Hyderabad 3rd Floor, Andhra Bank Building, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad-500095
Email: ubin0812048@unionbankofindia.bank, Tel No: 7045811220

NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) RULE 6 (2)& (6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

To, Borrower(s) 1. IVRCL Limited Represented by liquidator Mr. Sutanu Sinha, Address: M-22 /3RT, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad Telangana - 500057., Mortgagee(s) / Guarantor(s): 2. Mr. Eragam Sudhir Reddy, S/o. Mr. E Yella Reddy, Address: M-22/3 RT, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad. (Guarantor and Director), 3. Mr. Uttam Jagannath Gaiwad Address: Flat No 3, Trimurthy Heights, Gajurath Colony, Kothrud, Pune-411038, 4. Mr. Rajesh Laxmikant Mamidwar Address: Flat No F 603-604, Shivanand Gardens CHS, Behind Tayya Tope Soc., Wanawadi, Pune-411040., 5. Mr. Jayant Ratan Suryavanshi Address: Building No A-3, Flat No 37, Shanti Rakshak HSG, Yerawada, Pune-411006., 6. Mr. Shankar Ragho Kedhekar Address: Chochinde Gawadwadi, Tal Mahad Dist. Raigad-412405

Sir/Madam, Sub - Sale of property belonging to M/s IVRCL Infrastructure & Projects Ltd. for realization of amount due to Bank under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Union Bank of India, IFB Hyderabad Branch (account now transferred to Stressed Asset Management Branch, 3rd Floor, Andhra Bank building, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad) the secured creditor, caused a demand notice dated 02.05.2016 under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, calling upon you to pay the dues within the time stipulated therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the period stipulated, the Authorised Officer, has taken possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 6 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 08.12.2017. Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to bank. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt of this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately. Therefore, if you pay the amount due to the bank along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by bank before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec. 13 (8) of the Act.

Schedule of Property: Residential Flat Property situated at Flat no. A-11, first floor and one room on ground floor (270 Sq. yd. super build up area on first floor as per possession agreement. 200sq. yd. Carpet area and 214 sq. yd. BUA. BUA area includes Flat on First Floor and one room on G.F.), Sahajanand Apartments (Vikas COHSL), Near Maharaja Agrasen Colony, Near Janta Ice Cream, Near Sterling Hospital, Sterling Hospital road, Memnagar, Ahmedabad 380052 belonging to M/s IVRCL Infrastructure & Projects Ltd. **Bounded by:** North: Common passage, Stair, Lift and flat no. A-12, South: Margin land and Sterling Hospital road, East: Society road and Block B, West: Margin land and Maharaja Agrasen School

Latitude: 23.0479047 Longitude: 72.5312887

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 03-01-2025 Union Bank of India

OPINIONmail

FARMERS' AGITATION
MAY TURN
UNPRECEDENTEDLY
AGGRESSIVE IN 2025

The second leg of farmers' movement that had begun in the beginning of 2024, with a call for a March on Delhi from Punjab on February 13, is set to spillover into 2025, since the PM Narendra Modi led Centre was not even ready to talk to the agitating farmers until December 31. The farmers have displayed commendable patience so far but there are signs that the movement may turn startlingly aggressive in 2025. On December 31, the vacation bench of the Supreme Court was informed by Gurminder Singh, the Advocate General of Punjab, "As per the negotiators, there is a proposal given by the farmers to the Central Government that if they get an invite for a talk, then Mr. Dalalwal is ready to take medical aid as desired." Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, however, submitted that he has no instructions on the submissions made by the AG of Punjab. Farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dalalwal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border since November 26, demanding that the Union Government accept the farmers' demands including a statutory guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their agricultural produce.

His fast entered 36th day on December 31, and his health is in precarious condition, since he is 70 years old and suffering from prostate cancer. At the beginning of the farmers' movement this year, on January 27, he had already lost his wife. On December 18, the Supreme Court bench had recorded the statement of the AG of Punjab that Dalalwal needed immediate hospitalisation. Thereafter, on perusal of the medical reports, the bench had ordered on December 20 that the Punjab State authorities either shift Dalalwal to a makeshift hospital (temporary hospital, which is said to have been set up at a distance of 700 meters from the site) or to any other well-equipped hospital. On December 31, AG of Punjab reported to the Supreme Court that the farmers are in "siege" of the area and there are constant calls to the youth to join the protest site. The vacation bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia of the Supreme Court said that the court is concerned with the compliance of the earlier order, while expressing strong remarks against the farmers who resisting any move to shift Dalalwal to a hospital. Affidavits filed by both Punjab and Haryana plead that there could be a possibility of "collateral damage" of lives and property if there are attempts to move Dalalwal from his current location. The AG of Punjab also informed the bench that interveners and negotiators had gone to the protest site. Efforts for compliance were made by mobilizing about 7000 personnel at the protest site. However, due to the Punjab Bandh held on December 30 by farmers' organisations, there were traffic blockades and hindrances. On December 28, the Court had orally had that it was "absolutely unsatisfied" with the compliance report filed by the Chief Secretary of the Punjab Government and the Director General of Police (DGP) of Punjab on the hospitalisation of Dalalwal. Nevertheless, the bench has given two-days to comply with its orders and the contempt case has been posted for January 2, 2025. A call for a shutdown on December 30 was given last week by Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha over the Centre not accepting the demands of protesting farmers, which crippled the movement of people and their economic activities in the state, which is another indication of the time to come which may witness very aggressive farmers movement in the country. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KKM) had given a call for Delhi March on February 13, 2024 from Punjab. However, the farmers of Punjab were stopped by Haryana government on Shambhu and Khanauri border points. Farmers then tried to cross the police barricade which resulted in police using force, even firing.

The farmers have been on a sit-in protest until now. The protests triggered farmers' protests in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. A total of 5 deaths and injury of as many as 10 protestors have been reported.

(By Dr. Gyan Pathak)

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

SECTION 6A
JUDGMENT: AN
INCLUSIVE INTERPRETATION
OF FRATERNITY

The Supreme Court's Constitution Bench judgment pronounced on October 17, 2024 in the challenge to Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, saw a fierce battle of ideas with the proponents and opponents of the provision both relying on varying, and often opposing, interpretations to the constitutional provisions in support of their respective arguments. While the arguments sought interpretation of various constitutional provisions from the right to preservation of culture as enshrined in Article 29 to the right to equality under Article 14, one of the key contentions raised by both parties.

DISGRACEFUL SEND-OFF : DR. MANMOHAN
SINGH DISRESPECTED BY MODI-SHAH

Disgraceful indeed! Even in death, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh was not spared. Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not hesitate in playing politics and avenging Singh's remark "it will be disastrous for the country to have Narendra Modi as Prime Minister" by denying Dr. Singh's mortal remains two yards of land at Raj Ghat for the last rites. Shockingly, Modi made a departure from past practice. Modi, who graduated in Politics from the RSS School, which claims to

uphold Hindu and Sanatan traditions, took sadistic pleasure in demeaning and humiliating the late prime minister. In Hindu tradition it is taboo to denigrate the dead. Even ruffians and leeches are treated better after they have departed the world. Modi ought to know that the conscience of the people of India, barring the safe-front, are severely hurt. They did not imagine that a Prime Minister would stoop so low. But then, it is known to everybody that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a perverse dislike for both Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Manmohan Singh. He always felt dwarfed before the towering stature of Nehru, and in the case of Dr Singh, the threat to his political credibility was real. Being the successor, Modi had to prove that

he was Dr. Singh's equal in political acumen and administrative skill. Modi's speeches in Parliament devoted time and energy in debasing Nehru and Manmohan. Once, he mocked economists: "Hard work is more powerful than Harvard. The latest GDP data shows demonetisation did not affect growth rate, rather the figures improved. On the one hand are those (critics of the note ban) who talked of what people at Harvard say and on the other hand is a poor man's son who through his hard work is trying to improve the economy." Then, the second time, he said: "Despite so many incidents of corruption no taint had stuck to him.

DONALD TRUMP-ELON MUSK DUO EMERGING
AS LEADERS OF GLOBAL FAR RIGHT IN 2025

Year 2025 is going to witness a new era of global advance of far right led by the incoming U.S. President Donald Trump and his acolyte, the richest man of the world Elon Musk. It will be a unique combination fusing the brand of Trump with the big money and tech skills of the Tesla CEO. Never before in the his-

tory of America, such powerful combination emerged challenging the centrist, liberal and left regimes and the ideas. Already Donald Trump has his role models in a number of countries in Europe and Latin America. Now the Trump model is being imposed on the countries of Europe through the big financial support to the far right pro-Trump forces routed through funds of Elon

Musk. The target in 2025 is the elections in Germany on February 23 and in France in July 2025. Canada will go for elections on October 20 this year. Both Trump and Musk have a big stake in ousting Trudeau government and bring in a government friendly to the Trump regime.

LATE JIMMY CARTER
WAS RIGHT ABOUT
ISRAEL'S APARTHEID

Former US president Jimmy Carter, who passed away on Sunday at his home in Plains, Georgia, was a true friend of Palestine. Despite a decidedly checkered presidency on issues ranging from human rights abroad to austerity at home, he will be remembered as one of the first and most distinguished international observers to foresee Israel's apartheid system in Palestine. In 2006, Carter published Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, in which he equated Israel's occupation in the West Bank to the apartheid system of South Africa. Carter defined apartheid as the "forced separation of two peoples in the same territory with one of the groups dominating or controlling the other." What follows, he concluded, is that Israel was creating a "system of apartheid" where a minority of Israeli settlers were ruling over a Palestinian majority who are deprived of basic human and civil rights.

WAYANAD LANDSLIDES : CENTRE SCOFFS
AT KERALA'S SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PLEA

The Union Government continues to rub salt into Kerala's wounds by ignoring the State's request for a special assistance package for the rehabilitation of survivors of the Wayanad landslide. The Union Government plumed a new low when the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) said it considered the landslides to be "of a severe nature for all practical purposes" but would not release any special assistance to the State. This amounts to denying Kerala's request to declare the Wayanad landslides as a "national calamity". Incidentally, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, in his reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on November 27, conceded that the Wayanad tragedy was "of a severe nature", but was silent on granting special assistance! This was nothing but an open display of political hostility to Kerala, which has been successfully resisting the ruling BJP's bid to expand its footprint in Kerala. Rai would have us believe that there was no provision

in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), and in the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines, to declare any natural calamity as a "national calamity". The letter, which does not mention any financial assistance, says that in the event of a disaster of a severe nature, financial assistance towards notified disasters is met from the SDRF "already placed at their disposal, which is further supplemented from the NDRF in accordance with established procedure". The Union Government has so far ignored the criticism of even the Kerala High Court on the Centre's callous response to the State's plea for special aid. Even the latest suggestion by the HC to exclude around Rs 120 crore of the Rs 132 crore that it had sought as the expense for rescue operations that were carried out in Kerala by the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 2006. The court's suggestion was that this amount could be utilized to rehabilitate victims of the July 30 Wayanad disaster. The Court further asked whether the norms that are binding on NDRF and SDRF can be relaxed so that the amount



could be used for their rehabilitation. In a direct criticism of the Union government's hostile attitude, the court termed as a 'psychological move' the Union Government sending the Rs 132 crore airlift expense bill soon after the State sought financial assistance for rehabilitation in Wayanad. "It is for a noble cause, so the Central Government should not have a problem," the court while listing the matter on January 10, 2025, to await the Union Government's response on the issue. What is shocking is that a major portion – more than Rs 100 crore – of the outstanding bills is for the rescue operations undertaken during the 2018 floods which devastated the State. The bill also includes over Rs 13 crore for the IAF operations following the landslides that wiped away three villages in Wayanad district

on July 30 last year. The court's directions came while it was hearing a plea initiated by it for the prevention and management of natural disasters in the State in the wake of the Wayanad disaster of July 30, which claimed over 400 lives. Meanwhile, a special Cabinet meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has decided to focus on expediting the rehabilitation of families displaced by the killer landslides. A draft rehabilitation plan presented by Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan includes proposals from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for the construction of 1,000 square-foot single-storey houses for the survivors from Mundakkai and Chooralmala, which bore the brunt of the landslides in July. (IPA Service)



UN chief condemns US New Orleans attack

United Nations, Jan 6 (IANS) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the truck attack in New Orleans, the US state of Louisiana, his spokesperson said.

In a statement, the UN chief extended his condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims, and the government and people of Louisiana and the US. He also wished a swift recovery to those persons injured.

A man drove a pickup truck into New Year revelers in New Orleans early Monday morning. Officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said Thursday that 14 people were confirmed dead. Dozens more were injured. A man, later identified as 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar, intentionally drove a pick-up truck into a crowd of revellers on Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter on New Year's Day in a deliberate act of carnage.

Jabbar, a US citizen from Texas, reportedly flew a black ISIS flag from the rear bumper of the truck.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell condemned the attack, while President Joe Biden expressed his condolences for the victims and their families, offering federal support. "My heart goes out to the victims and their families who were simply trying to celebrate the holiday," Biden said. "There is no justification for violence of any kind, and we will not tolerate any attack on any of our nation's communities." The investigation into the attack is now led by the FBI, with assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Justice Department's National Security Division, and local authorities. President-elect Donald Trump also addressed the tragedy, offering his sympathies to the victims and first responders. "Our hearts are with all of the innocent victims and their loved ones, including the brave officers of the New Orleans Police Department," Trump said in a post on TruthSocial.



Croatian tourism revenues expected to hit record 16 billion Euros in 2024

Zagreb, Jan 6 (IANS) : Croatia's tourism revenues are expected to reach a new record of 16 billion euros (16.51 billion US dollars) for the past year, according to the latest data from the Croatian National Bank (CNB) on Monday. In the first nine months alone, revenues from foreign tourists reached 13.19 billion euros, the CNB

said, crediting a strong pre-season and record-breaking post-season. Sports groups, outdoor activities, history, culture and gastronomy were the main drivers for pre-season travel. Similarly, the post-season exceeded the year 2023's numbers by double-digit percentages in terms of visitor numbers, the CNB noted.

Cambodia launches campaign to seek 'roads without plastic waste'

Phnom Penh, Jan 6 (IANS) : Cambodia's Ministry of Environment has launched a 'National Roads Without Plastic Waste' campaign to ensure that national roads are free of garbage and plastic waste, said a ministry's press release on Monday. Environment

Minister Eang Sophalleth said the campaign, which started on Wednesday, would contribute to enhancing the cleanliness and appeal of the country's roadways. "The campaign will improve the aesthetic value of cities and towns along national roads.



South Korea: Natl Assembly speaker presses acting President Choi to fill seat at Constitutional Court

Seoul, Jan 6 (IANS) : South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik on Monday pressed acting President Choi Sang-mok to fill the one remaining vacancy at the Constitutional Court as Choi appointed two justices, partially meeting the opposition's demand to fill three vacancies before a ruling on President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment.

Earlier this week, Choi held off on the opposition-recommended justice Ma Eun-hyuk until the ri-

val parties reach an agreement. In a Facebook post, Woo said the three judges were recommended via agreements between the ruling People Power Party (PPP) and the opposition Democratic Party (DP).

Presenting documents and remarks by the chiefs of two parties, Woo said, "It is confirmed that the ruling and the opposition parties have reached an agreement (on the recommendation of three judges), acting President Choi should swiftly appoint Ma as a Constitu-

tional Court judge." The DP had demanded former acting President Han Duck-soo appoint the three justices without delay once motions for their appointments passed the opposition-controlled National Assembly.

After Han refused last week, the DP railroaded the motions and impeached Han, suspending him from duty and putting Choi in his place as interim leader, Yonhap news agency reported.

By law, at least six votes are required to uphold an impeachment



motion, which means the appointment of three additional justices could improve the chances of Yoon's impeachment being upheld. The PPP voiced strong regret over Choi's appointments, accusing Choi of succumbing to the opposition's pressure and threats that it will also impeach Choi if he refuses to go ahead with the appointments.



Israel confirms September raid on Syrian 'underground missile factory'

Jerusalem, Jan 6 (IANS) : Israel's military revealed that around 100 of its troops conducted a raid in Syria in September last year to dismantle an underground missile factory allegedly funded by Iran.

In a rare admission of its activities in Syria, the military confirmed in a statement that the September 8 operation targeted and "destroyed an underground compound for manufacturing precision missiles" in the Masyaf area, near Syria's Mediterranean coast, Xinhua news agency reported. The Israeli military claimed that the facility housed "advanced assembly lines designed to manufacture precision-guided missiles and long-range rockets." These weapons, it said, would have significantly bolstered supplies to Hezbollah and other Iranian-backed groups in the region.

China adds 10 US companies to unreliable entities list

Beijing, Jan 6 (IANS) : China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced on Monday that 10 US companies have been added to the unreliable entities list for selling arms to the Taiwan region.

The companies include Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics and Lockheed Martin Missile System Integration Lab, according to the MOC announcement.



87 per cent of Cambodia's population have access to basic drinking water : official

Phnom Penh, Jan 6 (IANS) : Eighty-seven per cent of a 17-million population in Cambodia now have access to basic drinking water, while 21 per cent have access to safely managed drinking water, an official said on Monday. Chreay Pom, Director Gen-

eral of technical affairs at the Ministry of Rural Development, disclosed the figures during a meeting on clean water and sanitation in rural areas. "For sanitation, by 2024, approximately 92 per cent of the population have access to basic sanitation.

South Korea's Defence Minister meets US ambassador, reaffirms alliance

Seoul, Jan 6 (IANS) : South Korea's acting Defence Minister Kim Seon-ho held talks with US Ambassador to South Korea Philip Goldberg on Monday and reaffirmed their steadfast bilateral alliance, Seoul's defence ministry said. In the meeting held at the defence ministry in Seoul, both sides noted how the South Korea-US alliance remains strong despite changes in the security and political situation, the ministry said in a release.



First illegal migrants arrive in Canary Islands in 2025 with two deaths confirmed

Madrid, Jan 6 (IANS) : Spanish Maritime Rescue services confirmed on Monday that a total of 366 illegal migrants arrived in Spain on the first day of 2025, with 268 of those reaching the Spanish-controlled Canary Islands in

the Atlantic Ocean. A further 98 landed in the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, and Formentera). The start of the year also brought the first tragedy with two dead bodies discovered inside one of the dinghies

which reached the south coast of Tenerife (Canary Islands). 2025's first arrivals of migrant boats, which are usually flimsy wooden vessels that are completely unsuitable for the dangerous waters of the Atlantic Ocean, follows a chaotic end to 2024.

The last week of the year saw 1,933 migrants (according to rescue services) complete the dangerous crossing from the northwest coast of Africa to the Canary Islands, which is over 100 kilometres long at its shortest point, Xinhua news agency reported.

The arrival of these 1,933 people in a total of 34 boats, has stretched the resources of the Canary Islands, with the regional government calling on the Spanish central government and the country's 16 remaining Autonomous Communities to help relocate the migrants.

A total of 60,216 migrants have arrived in Spain irregularly from January 1 to December 15, 2024, 14.5 per cent more than in the same period in 2023 when 52,591 arrived. Of the total, 43,737 arrived in the Canary Islands, according to the latest figures from the Spanish Ministry of the Interior.



High-level probe ordered by Bengal CM for TMC councillor's murder in Malda : Minister

Kolkata, Jan 6 (IANS) : Firhad Hakim, the West Bengal Minister in charge of the Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Department and Kolkata Mayor, said on Monday that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has ordered the highest level of enquiry in the brutal murder of Trinamool Congress councillor from the English Bazar municipality in Malda district, Dulal Sarkar alias Babla, in broad daylight. "He was a very popular leader in the locality. We demand that the police immediately take the accused in custody, put them in jail and ensure strict punishment. Our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already said there will be a highest level of probe in the matter. Whoever is behind this conspiracy will also be exposed and punished. We hope that the police will trace the culprits at the earliest," Hakim said.

Earlier on Monday, while addressing an administrative review meeting at the State Secretariat Nabanna, the Chief Minister criticised Malda District Police Superintendent Pradeep Kumar Yadav and held him accountable for the tragedy.

"Our councillor in Malda has been killed today due to the lackadaisical approach of the District Police Superintendent. He used to have security cover, which was later withdrawn. This is a clear lapse on the part of the police. Babla was with me since the beginning," Banerjee said. Sarkar, who suffered a bullet wound to the head, was in critical condition from the outset. Eyewitnesses reported that he was attacked while standing at a busy crossing in the area. Three helmet-clad assailants arrived on a motorcycle, and one of them opened fire. The first two bullets missed, but the third struck Sarkar in the head.

Punjab govt dismisses DSP Gursheer Sandhu for role in Lawrence Bishnoi's interview in custody

Chandigarh, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Punjab government has dismissed Gursheer Singh Sandhu, the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), for "denting the image of the police department" by facilitating a video-interview of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi during his custody at the Central Investigation Agency (CIA), Kharar, in March 2023.

The Department of Home Affairs issued the dismissal orders following approval by the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), which is the appointing authority for the Punjab Police Service cadre officials.

The dismissal orders were issued on Monday by Gurkirat Kirpal Singh, Secretary, the Department of Home Affairs.

The orders cited Article 311 of the Constitution of India, which empowers the competent authority to dismiss, remove, or demote an officer without a formal inquiry if deemed not reasonably practicable.



High Court appointed official inspects cleanliness arrangements in Gurugram

Gurugram, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Local Commissioner appointed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court arrived in Gurugram on Monday to inspect the cleanliness system here. A meeting was also held with the officials in the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) office in which matters, including cleanliness system, Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste, garbage disposal and the role of Bulk Waste Generators were discussed in detail.

In the meeting, the MCG Commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg told the delegation that the MCG area has been divided into four zones, which have 36 wards. Sixty-eight villages are also included in the corporation area,

and the MCG has a population of 24,14,975, and there are 6,759 officers and employees. MCG has a 4,596-km road network, a 3,738-km drinking water supply network, 42 micro STPs, 1,276 parks, 75 water bodies, 404 water harvesting systems, and 89,716 streetlights. The MCG Chief said that about 1,200 tonnes of garbage is generated daily in the corporation area, for which an agreement was made with Ecogreen Energy Private Limited in August 2017 to collect it from door to door, transport it to the Bandhwari plant and dispose of the garbage in the plant. When the work of the agency was not found satisfactory, a termination notice was issued to the company in June 2024.

Apart from mechanised sweeping machines, the civic body has also employed sanitation workers for cleaning the roads and the services of a firm are being taken to collect garbage from door to door. Along with this, garbage is collected from secondary garbage collection points and sent to the Bandhwari garbage disposal plant. So far, 34.22 lakh metric legacy waste has been disposed of in the plant and the tender process is going on for the disposal of 14 lakh metric tonnes of garbage. Giving information about the debris generated from construction and demolition activities, it was told that 1,000 to 1,200 metric tons of debris is generated daily in the corporation area and about 11 lakh metric legacy debris is lying at various places.



Kerala LoP Satheesan alleges corrupt deal between KFC and liquidated RCFL

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 6 (IANS) : Kerala Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Monday alleged a corrupt deal between the state-owned Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) and the now-liquidated Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd (RCFL) in 2018. He claimed the deal, orchestrated by vested interests in the state government and certain KFC officials, resulted in a loss of Rs 101 crore to the state.

Fake passport racket in Bengal: Arrested accused also linked to job racket

Kolkata, Jan 6 (IANS) : Dhiren Ghosh, the eighth and the last to be arrested by the Kolkata Police in connection with the fake Indian passport racket operating in West Bengal, was also involved with international job rackets besides making fake Indian identity documents, including passports for the illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators to the state.

Kolkata Police insiders said that investigation had revealed that Ghosh had two sources of income, the first of which was arranging fake Indian identity documents, including passports, for illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators once they stepped into the Indian territory. The second source of his income was arranging jobs abroad, which included even some European nations for illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators willing to pay hefty

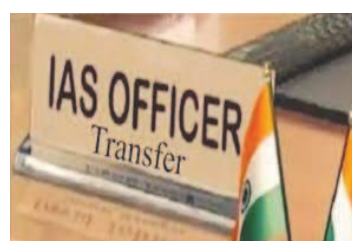


amounts for those jobs. City police insiders said that before getting involved in the fake passport racket operating from Behala in the southern outskirts of Kolkata after returning to India, Ghosh had worked for 10 years in Italy as a cook and he had developed links with the key characters of a major international job racket.



Cong-led K'taka govt announces hike in bus fare; BJP slams decision

Bengaluru, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Karnataka government has increased the Road Transport Corporation (RTC) bus fare by 15 per cent and the new fare will come into effect from January 6.



UP govt announces transfers of 46 IAS officers; Sanjay Prasad returns as Principal Secy in Home Dept

Lucknow, Jan 6 (IANS) : On the second day of the new year, the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government announced the transfer of 46 IAS officers, including several high-ranking officials across key departments. The reshuffle announced on Monday marks a strategic move to enhance governance and streamline administrative functions in the state. A key highlight of the reshuffle is the return of 1995-batch IAS officer Sanjay Prasad to the position of Principal Secretary (PS) Home, taking over charge of several crucial departments, including Home, Visa, Passport, and Vigilance.

LS Speaker Om Birla conducts inspection of hospital in Kota

Jaipur, Jan 6 (IANS) : Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday conducted a thorough inspection of MBS Hospital, examining the new block, old building, and external arrangements near JK Lone Hospital in Kota. Accompanied by hospital administration, Kota Development Authority (KDA), and municipal officials, the inspection lasted for nearly two hours. Stressing the need to enhance emergency services, Birla suggested adding neurology and cardiology departments to the emergency wing, which currently offers only medicine, surgery, and orthopaedic services. He expressed strong dissatisfaction with the absence of an oxygen line in the medicine ICU of the new block and the lack of air conditioning in the waiting area. He directed the hospital administration to address these deficiencies immediately. The Speaker urged the municipal corporation to improve cleanliness in the hospital premises and ensure regular monitoring.



Odisha CM announces enhancement in Freedom Fighters' pension amount

Bhubaneswar, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Odisha Government has enhanced the pension given to the Freedom Fighters in the state. Participating in the All-India Freedom Fighters Day here as the chief guest, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday announced that the pension amount of Freedom Fighters of the state who were imprisoned during the Freedom struggle has been increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 per month. CM Majhi also declared that the Freedom Fighters, not imprisoned during the struggle, will now get Rs 15,000 per month in place of Rs 9,000 received earlier.

The additional allowance of Rs 8,000 per month given to beneficiaries under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman pension scheme of the Central government has now been enhanced to Rs 10,000.

Similarly, those revolutionaries who were imprisoned under the draconian Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) for protesting against the Emergency during 1975 to 1977 are now eligible to receive Rs 20,000 per month.

Tripura govt gives special priority to education for backward classes, girls: CM Saha

Agartala, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Tripura government has been given special priority to the development of the educational infrastructure in the state and is working to provide quality education to children from all sections of society, especially, backward classes and girls.



India's smartphone market to cross \$50 billion in value this year : Report

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : India's smartphone market is projected to cross \$50 billion in value by 2025, driven by the ongoing trend of premiumisation and thrust on local manufacturing, a report showed on Monday. The retail average selling price

(ASP) of India's smartphone market is expected to cross the \$300 mark for the first time this year, according to latest research from Counterpoint's 'India Smartphone Outlook'. Apple and Samsung are leading this shift by offering competitive

options in the premium and ultra-premium segments. Apple is expected to see strong demand for its Pro models, driven by local manufacturing and recent price reductions across its iPhone lineup. Meanwhile, Samsung's value-

focused strategy is gaining traction, particularly with its flagship S series. OnePlus, with the launch of its flagship OnePlus 13, is aiming to increase its share in the ultra-premium segment (above Rs 45,000), the report mentioned.



Adani Ports' cargo volume grows 8 pc in December

Ahmedabad, Jan 6 (IANS) : The total cargo volume of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) grew 8 per cent (year-on-year) to 38.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) in December 2024. The company's container volume grew 22 per cent and liquids and gas volume grew 7 per cent on YoY basis in the last month. APSEZ is the country's largest private port operator.

Adani Ports had handled a total of 36 million metric tonnes of cargo in November, driven by higher container volumes. On a month-on-month basis, the total cargo volume saw 6.6 per cent growth. Last week, Adani Ports placed an order for eight state-of-the-art harbour tugs to Cochin

Shipyards, with a total estimated contract value of Rs 450 crore. This order of the Adani Group company is the largest order so far under the 'Make in India' scheme.

According to the company, these tugs are expected to be delivered in December 2026 and continue until May 2028, significantly improving the efficiency and safety of vessel operations in Indian ports.

Ashwani Gupta, Chief Executive Officer and Whole-time Director, Adani Ports, had said we want to contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative by leveraging world-class local manufacturing.

"We have also ensured that the safety and efficiency of our operations are in line with international standards," he mentioned.

Earlier, Adani Ports had ordered two 62-tonne tugs from Cochin Shipyards. Both were delivered ahead of schedule. They have been deployed at Paradip Port and New Mangalore Port. In late December, Vizhinjam Port, operated by the Adani Group, welcomed the 100th commercial ship 'MSC Michela'.



Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India sees 32 pc sales growth, reaches 6 crore milestone

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) on Monday said its total sales for 2024 stood

at 58,01,498 units, registering a 32 per cent growth (year-on-year) over 2023. This included domestic sales of 52,92,976 units and 5,08,522 units exports last year.

ONDC can create additional GMV opportunity worth Rs 3.75 lakh crore in 5 years

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which has the potential to create a market opportunity to the tune of Rs 3.75 lakh crore in additional gross merchandise value (GMV) in the next five years, is addressing the challenges of monopolistic practices and empowering smaller players, the government said on Monday.

ONDC has the potential to transform the e-commerce landscape. The initiative is not just a technological framework but a vision for a more equitable digital future. Launched in April 2022, ONDC is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. It is based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. With an authorised capital of Rs 500 crore, several public and private banks and financial institutions have contributed equity to ONDC till now, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



Japan's Nippon Steel to sue US government over decision to block acquisition

Tokyo, Jan 6 (IANS) : Japan's Nippon Steel Corp. is set to file a lawsuit in response to United States President Joe Biden's decision to block its takeover of US Steel Corp., local media reported Monday. Nippon Steel and US Steel are expected to claim in court that Biden did not present sufficient evidence to prove the proposed acquisition poses a threat to US national security, and that his decision violates due process under the US Constitution and the law governing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, Kyodo News reported, citing sources close to the matter. Biden said Monday that he has decided to block the 14.1 billion US dollars sale of US Steel to the Japanese steel giant, citing risks to national security, while urging the two steelmakers

to "fully and permanently" abandon their plan. In a joint statement on Friday, the two firms said the US authorities' review of the international buyout project was "manipulated to advance President Biden's political agenda" and that they will "take all appropriate action to protect our legal rights." Meanwhile, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Yoji Muto said, "It is incomprehensible and regrettable that this kind of decision has been made on the grounds of concerns over national security," Xinhua news agency reported.

The Japanese government regarded Nippon Steel's plan to acquire US Steel as a deal "that would benefit both countries".

Employment in Indian manufacturing sector up for 10th month in a row

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Not only did employment in the Indian manufacturing sector increase for the 10th month in a row during December, but also the rate of job creation quickened to the fastest in four months, according to a new report.

Around one-in-10 companies recruited extra staff, while fewer than 2 per cent of firms shed jobs in 2024, according to the 'HSBC India Manufacturing PMI' report.

"Ongoing improvements in new work intakes prompted manufacturing companies in India to purchase additional inputs for use in production processes. The rate of growth remained above its trend," the report noted.

India's manufacturing activity ended a strong 2024 with a soft note amid more signs of a slowing trend, albeit moderate, in the industrial sector. There was some uplift in the growth of new export orders, which rose at the fastest pace since July, said Ines Lam, economist at HSBC. The rise in input prices eased slightly, wrapping up the year when Indian manufacturers felt the strain of sharp cost pressures, Lam added.

"Although new export sales rose at a slower rate than total new business, the pace of growth for the former strengthened as firms were able to secure international orders from across the globe," according to the report.

Capacity pressures among Indian manufacturers remained mild, as seen by another marginal increase in work either pending completion or not-yet-started. Looking to 2025, Indian manufacturers were confident of a rise in output.

Optimism reflected advertising, investment and expectation of favourable demand. Sentiment was nevertheless curbed by concerns around inflation and competitive pressures.



EV battery swapping, charging infra should be at every petrol pump, CNG station

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : There is a need for battery swapping facilities to coexist with charging infrastructure to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, said on Monday. Speaking at the consultation meeting on the 'Development of Battery Charging and Swapping Infrastructure,' co-organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the minister said that the adoption of EVs, led by creation of charging infrastructure, should be "a people's movement".



NSE clocks highest capital raised at Rs 1.67 lakh cr globally via 268 IPOs in 2024

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Indian stock market witnessed an initial public offering (IPO) boom in 2024 as compared to any other global stock exchange, with the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) Rs 1.67 lakh crore (\$19.5 billion) capital raised through them becoming the highest in the world, according to a report by the exchange on Monday. The 268 successful IPOs across mainboard (90) and SME (178) raised Rs 1.67 lakh crore, and were also the highest number of IPOs within Asia.

TN govt announces special Pongal bonus for employees, teachers

Chennai, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Tamil Nadu government has announced a special Pongal bonus for its employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners, celebrating Pongal, the state's most significant festival. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's administration has allocated Rs 163.81 crore for this initiative as a token of appreciation for the tireless work of government employees and teachers in implementing welfare schemes. According to the government's statement, employees and teachers in the C and D groups will receive a maximum bonus of Rs 3,000.

Employees on consolidated pay, special temporary allowances, and those who have worked full-time or part-time for at least 240 days in the 2023-24 fiscal year will get

a special bonus of Rs 1,000. Pensioners in the C and D groups, family pensioners, former village administrative officers, and other individual pensioners will receive Rs 500 as a Pongal gift. Pongal, scheduled for January 15 this year, is a time of celebration and tradition in Tamil Nadu.

As part of the festivities, the state government provides gift hampers to family cardholders, including free dhotis, sarees, and cash. This year's Pongal gift includes Rs 1,000 in cash and a package of 21 essential items, such as rice, sugar, tamarind, and sugarcane.

This initiative is designed to ease the financial burden on families, enabling them to celebrate without additional expenses.



Haryana CM felicitates mothers of state's sportspersons

Gurugram, Jan 6 (IANS) : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday participated in the Veer Mata Jija Bai State-Level Felicitation Ceremony organised by the state unit of Kreedha Bharati in Gurugram in the honour of mothers of medal winners and participating players in the Paralympics and Olympic Games.

During the programme, the Chief Minister felicitated the mothers of the players who participated in the Paris Olympics and Paralympics in 2024.

In the Paris Olympics 2024, five out of six medals were won by

Haryana's players. In the Paralympics as well, out of 29 medals won by the country, eight were won by Haryana's players. Earlier, 30 players from the state participated in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 in which India won seven medals, of which four were won by the state's players.

Similarly, Haryana's players also made their mark in the Commonwealth Games.

During Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, 43 players from Haryana participated, of which they won 20 medals, the CM said. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Saini said the

ceremony, organised in Gurugram, the city of Guru Drona, is a celebration of the role of mothers in the field of sports. He added that felicitating the mothers of players who raised the Indian flag in the country and the world is a matter of pride.

The ceremony is an opportunity to express gratitude not only to our sportspersons but also to their mothers, he said.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the Haryana state unit of Kreedha Bharati for this unique initiative. He also announced a grant of Rs 21 lakh to the organisation.

No scrutiny of applications under Ladki Bahin Yojana: Maha Minister Aditi Tatkare

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : Maharashtra Women and Child Welfare Minister Aditi Tatkare on Monday clarified that the government will not scrutinise the applications together in large numbers received under the flagship Ladki Bahin Yojana based on which the government has provided monthly financial aid of Rs 1,500 per month from July onwards to eligible women beneficiaries. "No application will be scrutinised in general. We will not scrutinise any application without a complaint. If there has been an increase in income or if the income has gone above Rs 2.5 lakh, then those women will not be eligible for the scheme."



Youth must contribute to realising 'Developed India' vision: Rajasthan Governor

Jaipur, Jan 6 (IANS) : Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde on Monday urged the youth to actively participate in achieving the vision of a 'Developed India' by embracing self-reliance and self-employment, as outlined in the National Edu-

cation Policy (NEP). Speaking at the inauguration of the 59th Devgiri State Conference of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in Latur, Maharashtra, on Thursday, Bagde highlighted that youth contribute approximately 34 per cent of the nation's GDP.



Don't see it through religious lens: Indian politicians on Switzerland's 'burqa ban'

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Indian politicians on Monday shared their reactions on the "burqa ban" in Switzerland, which came into effect on January 1 and stated that the decision was country's own and should not necessarily be viewed through a religious lens.

The prohibition, which bars facial coverings in public spaces, has sparked debates internationally.

As per the new Swiss law, those who unlawfully cover their faces in public, they will be imposed a fine of up to 1,000 Swiss francs (\$1,144). This includes covering nose, mouth, and eyes, with certain exceptions in private or sacred spaces and on planes or diplomatic premises.

BJP national spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that Switzerland might have its reasons for implementing the ban. "Every country has its own rules and laws. They have their

own security arrangements, and as per those, they form rules. I do not think there is a need to view this matter from a religious perspective," Naqvi told IANS. Similarly, NCP-SP leader Majeed Memon remarked that the law might not garner support from Muslim-majority nations but would likely have no bearing on India.

"Switzerland is a small nation, and its population is nothing compared to India. The Muslim population there is very small. Their government must have taken these steps considering the conditions in their country," Memon said.

Drawing a comparison, Memon stated, "India's Muslim population is probably higher than the total population of Switzerland, with over 200 million Muslims residing here. Whatever happens, it will not have any effect on India. It is their matter, and I do not think it is necessary for anyone to intervene." "Many Muslim-dominated countries might criticize this idea. However, in India, where people of all faiths live together harmoniously, I do not think it will have any effect," he further added.

The ban, which does not explicitly target Islam, was proposed by the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP) under the banner "Stop Extremism."



Delhi: PM Modi to inaugurate 1,675 flats for EWS families; beneficiaries excited and joyous

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to inaugurate 1,675 newly constructed flats for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) at the Swabhiman Apartments in Ashok Vihar area on Monday. Ahead of the inauguration, a wave of excitement and happiness has gripped the beneficiaries who will receive the house keys and enter their new 'pucca house', equipped with all modern amenities.

PM Modi will visit Ashok Vihar area at around 12.10 p.m. on January 3 and inaugurate the newly constructed flats for the dwellers of Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) clusters under the in-situ slum Rehabilitation Project by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). With PM Modi set to hand over keys to eligible beneficiaries on Friday, a couple of them shared their joy with IANS and said that their dream is being realized because of the focus.



Worked assiduously to secure release of Indian fishermen from Bangladesh: MEA

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said that the Indian government has worked assiduously to secure the release of its fishermen from Bangladesh custody who were arrested by the authorities from the neighbouring country over the past several months for inadvertently crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.

Earlier on Monday, 95 Indian fishermen were handed over by Bangladesh authorities to the Bangladesh Coast Guard for handing over to the Indian Coast Guard on January 6. On the

same day, 90 Bangladesh fishermen will also be released in a mutual release and repatriation operation that will be concluded at sea between the respective Coast Guard authorities.

"In recent months, several Indian fishermen have been arrested by Bangladesh authorities when they happened to inadvertently cross the International Maritime Boundary Line and entered Bangladesh waters."

All demands of farmers relating to Centre, nothing to do with state, says Punjab CM

Chandigarh, Jan 6 (IANS) : Underlining that all the demands of farmers are related to the Union government, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday said the state would oppose any move to once again pass "draconian anti-farmers laws" through the back door. The Chief Minister, in his first me-



Give post-natal mothers guarantee to live; conduct judicial inquiry over maternal deaths, claims K'taka BJP

Bengaluru, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Karnataka BJP on Monday demanded that the Congress-led government in the state provide a guarantee of life to post-natal mothers instead of offering Rs 2,000 to women under the Gruha Laxmi guarantee scheme.

Farjiwada: Delhi BJP chief accuses AAP's Sanjay Singh of bogus vote registrations

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh of allegedly deceiving the public and violating electoral laws through bogus voter registrations. Sachdeva claimed that Singh was registered as a voter in multiple constituencies like Sultanpur Municipal Council in Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi Assembly, and Tilak Nagar Assembly constituencies. He alleged that Singh's actions were an example of creating fraudulent votes. "We

haven't just made allegations; we have presented facts from official government and municipal council voter lists. Sanjay Singh is listed in three places. It's Sanjay Singh who needs to respond. He has cheated the Election Commission and violated the law," Sachdeva told IANS. He pointed out discrepancies in the statements by the leader, stating, "On January 4, 2024, he announces that his vote in Sultanpur Assembly has been cut, and on January 8, 2024, his wife submits an affidavit stating she has a vote in Sultanpur."

He further reminded that creating bogus votes could result in a one-year punishment under the law. Sachdeva questioned Singh's integrity, asking, "As a leader of the AAP, is this what you want to teach your party workers? To create bogus votes and register in two or three places?" At a press conference, Sachdeva presented voter lists and affidavits to substantiate his claims. He noted that in 2018 when Singh became a Rajya Sabha MP, his vote was registered in the Hari Nagar Assembly constituency. However, during the

same period, his name appeared in the voter list of Sultanpur Municipal Council. "A person who is giving his affidavit for Rajya Sabha MP, claiming to be a resident of the Hari Nagar Assembly seat in Delhi, also has his vote registered in Sultanpur. This is deceit," Sachdeva alleged. Sachdeva added that Singh's wife, Anita Singh, is listed in voter lists of both Sultanpur Municipal Council and Hari Nagar Assembly. Moreover, he accused Singh of registering votes in the New Delhi Assembly and Tilak Nagar



Assembly constituencies as well. "He wasn't satisfied with Hari Nagar and Sultanpur. He also registered in the New Delhi Assembly and Tilak Nagar Assembly. This is their farjiwada (fraud). These are deceitful practices," Sachdeva claimed. Sachdeva urged the Election Commission and Delhi Police to take cognizance of the matter and initiate action against such violations.



We will fulfil promises made to people during our 5-year term in office: Omar Abdullah

Srinagar, Jan 6 (IANS) : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed optimism that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will be restored soon and said that his government will fulfil all promises made to the people during the five-year term. Addressing a press conference at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here, CM Omar said he is hopeful that statehood would be restored to J&K soon so that his government can fulfil promises made to the people. Before the beginning of the press conference, CM Omar said on social media platform X that he would not make any big statement during the press conference as it is basically an interaction with the media. National Conference leader Omar said that after taking over as the chief minister, he and his colleagues thought the new government was difficult

to run because it was a totally different scenario as compared to 2009-2015 as J&K is a Union Territory now, but things have started to fall in place. "It took some time to understand the new rules of UT, however, not many difficulties are faced now," he said. Speaking about the promises made to people, he said, "We will implement those promises step by step during our five-year term of office." On the reservation issue, he said that a panel of ministers has been formed and expressed optimism that some solution will definitely come out within six months. Regarding the electricity situation in J&K, he said that it has improved a lot and expressed hope that it will improve more with the completion of ongoing power projects. About his promise to provide 200 units of free electric power to consumers, he said, "We will be able to provide 200 units of electricity for free only if meters are installed. When we roll out this scheme in March/April, only those will benefit who have meters installed."



Narela may get new international cricket stadium: BJP MP

Yogender Chandolia

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : An international-level cricket stadium spread over 50 acres in Narela is one of the proposals the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is considering for development of rural belts of the city, Yogender Chandolia, BJP MP from North West Delhi, said on Monday. "In keeping with the spirit of 'Khelo India, Jito India', the ministry plans to get approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the project," he said, thanking Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar for taking up all the BJP MPs' proposals enthusiastically. Addressing the media, Chandolia said another 50-acre land in the Narela sub-city is about to be allocated for developing an educational hub for the new campuses of Delhi Technological University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and IIIT.

No move to privatise 500 government schools, says TN Minister Poyyamozhi

Chennai, Jan 6 (IANS) : Tamil Nadu's School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on Monday clarified that the state government has no plans to privatise 500 government schools. The statement came amidst criticism from opposition parties and allies, including the

CPI-M, over reports suggesting a move to privatise these schools. Addressing reporters here, the minister emphasised that the DMK government is committed to maintaining the integrity of government schools. "Government schools are like our own children; nobody will be allowed to adopt them," he stated. Poyyamozhi said that certain private schools had offered to assist in the development of government schools under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, but this should not



be misconstrued as an attempt to privatise these institutions. The Tamil Nadu Private Schools Association also clarified that there is no plan to take over government schools but only to support their improvement through CSR initiatives.

Ajmer Dargah Chief's successor welcomes PM Modi's 'Chadar', emphasises message of 'Sabka Samman'

Ajmer, Jan 6 (IANS) : In a gesture symbolising unity and respect for all communities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has continued the tradition of sending a ceremonial 'chadar' to the revered Ajmer Sharif Dargah during the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Syed Naseruddin Chishti, the successor to the Ajmer Dargah chief and the Chairman of All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council.



AAP and BJP working as 'B-teams' of each other, being ignorant of farmers' issues: Cong MP
New Delhi, Jan 6 : Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Congress MP from Punjab on Monday hit out at BJP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), labelling them as "anti-farmer" and "B-teams" working against the interests of the farming community. Randhawa also dismissed the letter written by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi as an "election stunt".

A rare glimpse of religious tradition after 40 years amidst sea of devotion in Shimla

Shimla, Jan 6 (IANS) : Upper Shimla in Himachal Pradesh is currently witnessing a rare and age-old religious tradition as the revered deity Devta Bakralu hosts the "Bhunda Mahayajna." This grand ceremony believed to take place once in four decades, brings together deities from the Spail Valley, showcasing the region's vibrant cultural heritage. The event, marked by processions of deities carried in intricately adorned palanquins to the sound of trumpets and drums, is a plea for peace, prosperity, and protection from natural calamities. Devta Bakralu resides in a temple at Dalgaon village in Rohru tehsil, 135 km from Shimla,

built in traditional hill architecture using wood and slate. The highlight of the ceremony is the roped-sliding ritual, inaugurated last year by cutting "munji," a grass grown in inaccessible mountain terrains. A "jedi" (a man of the Beda caste) creates a sacred rope of "munji," adhering to strict rituals of celibacy and silence. During the yajna, the divine oil-soaked rope spans 1 km between two hills, crossing a ditch. The jedi, seated on a wooden raft, slides down the rope in a spectacular display. Surat Ram, a veteran performer, will undertake this ritual for the ninth time on January 4. Nearly five lakh people, including Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, are expected to witness the event. In the last "Bhunda Mahayajna" in

1985, Surat Ram faced difficulty while crossing the "valley of death" on a raft while sliding the rope vertically. Surat Ram told IANS that it took two and a half months to prepare the sacred rope this time. Four people assisted him in this task. While preparing the rope, one has to follow celibacy. After eating at four in the morning, he would eat again the next day. During this time, maximum silence is observed. Panchayat head Visheshwar Banshtu noted that this ceremony was last performed in Dalgaon in 1985. Steps have been taken this year to prevent fatalities during the ritual, ensuring safety for all participants. The Bhunda Mahayajna is a testament to Himachal Pradesh's rich



spiritual traditions, often referred to as "Devbhoomi" or the land of gods. Devta Bakralu, the chief deity of Rohru and Rampur, has invited other deities, including Maheshwar, Bondra, and Moharrish, along with three Parshurams from Gumma, Andareyothi, and Khashkandi, believed to be incarnations of Lord Parshuram. These deities, carried in processions, travel only on foot, avoiding modern routes like tunnels. The devotees meticulously follow strict rituals and schedules set by the deities themselves, highlighting a deep connection between the mortals and the divine. "In earlier times, the Bhunda Yajna was performed every 15-20 years, but its frequency has reduced to once in 40-50 years," octogenarian R.P. Manta told IANS. Preparations for this event, estimated to cost Rs 100 crore, have been underway for months.

Tamil Nadu: Samba paddy farmers in Thanjavur seek more water from Mettur dam

Chennai, Jan 6 (IANS) : Samba paddy farmers in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, regarded as the rice bowl of the state, have demanded an increase in water release from the Mettur Dam which recorded full reservoir level (FRL) of 120 feet on Monday. A senior official from the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (TNWRD) said that the farmers' demands are under consideration and a decision regarding the water release will be made soon.





SC declines to entertain PIL to expunge trial court's remarks on 'love jihad'

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking expunging of certain observations made by a trial court, which had said that the issue of "love jihad" conversion cannot be taken lightly and "illegal conversion is a big threat to the unity.



Sajad Lone files PIL for fair police verification and rights of citizens

Srinagar, Jan 6 (IANS) : J&K Peoples Conference (PC) President and MLA from Handwara, Sajad Lone, has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in Srinagar, challenging the misuse of the police verification process, a statement said here on Monday. "The PIL, submitted through Advocate Syed Sajad Geelani, seeks to address the growing misuse of police verifications.

Maha govt to return 4,849 acre of fallow lands to farmers

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Maharashtra Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Monday, approved the amendments to section 220 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, paving the way for returning about 4,849 acres of fallow lands to farmers. These lands were auctioned due to pending government arrears and deposited with the government. "As per Section 220 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, due to non-payment of tax or similar arrears, such lands are auctioned and deposited with the government as arrears. There is a provision in the law to return such lands to the original account holders if the due amount and interest on it are paid within 12 years. However, there was no provision to return such lands to the original owners after the completion of the 12 years," said the statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). With the Cabinet's approval for the amendment to section 220 of the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, such lands can be returned to the original account holders or their heirs by recovering 25 per cent of the prevailing market value. The Bill will be introduced in the upcoming Budget session of the State Legislature. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister on Thurs-



day directed the administration to use artificial intelligence to ensure that citizens, government officers and staff coming to the Mantralaya get easy access without any hassle and thereby security remains strong. Chief Minister Fadnavis gave these directives at the meeting which reviewed the present security at the Mantralaya where citizens from every corner of the state through to Mantralaya to take up their various works with the ministers and the government officials. Due to this, the number of visitors is increasing day by day putting pressure on the prevailing security staff.

Grenade found near home of Manipur civilian worker at military station untraced for 40 days

Imphal, Jan 6 (IANS) : A live hand grenade was found on Monday outside the rented house of Laishram Kamalbabu Singh, a supervisor for a contractor at a military station in Manipur, who remains missing for around 40 days, officials said. A police official said that the

hand grenade was found in front of the gate of Singh's house at Loitang Khunou in Imphal West district and immediately, a police team went to the spot to retrieve it and experts defused it. Police also recovered a note along with the grenade. "The note demanded to disband the Joint Action Committee and

form a new JAC," the official said. The JAC, along with many other organisations, including Meira Paibis (women vigilantes in Manipur), have been organising agitations to rescue Kamalbabu Singh, who went missing on November 25. The Manipur government last week handed over the "missing" case to the CBI.



Defence sources said that around 2,000 soldiers of the Army and Assam Rifles continued their hectic search operation to locate Kamalbabu Singh.



Tripura govt to move bill giving retirement benefits to MLAs who served even for a day

Agartala, Jan 6 (IANS) : A bill would be moved in the Winter session of the Tripura Assembly amending the existing law to provide retirement benefits to MLAs who have served even for just a day, officials said on Monday. The three-day Winter session of the Tripura Assembly is scheduled to begin on January 10. A senior Assembly official said that if a member of the Assembly just took the oath and served a day as an MLA, he or she would get the retirement benefits, including pension, and housing loan. According to the official, as per the latest amendment in 2022 to the Salaries, Allowances, Pensions.



MP: BJP panel begins meeting with candidates for 'zila adhyaksh' post

Bhopal, Jan 6 (IANS) : A panel of senior BJP leaders comprising the party's joint national general secretary Shiv Prakash and in-charge for Madhya Pradesh, Mahendra Singh, on Monday held a meeting with the probable candidate selected for the post of district president of the party. The BJP panel also including state BJP President V. D. Sharma and state general secretary (organisation) Hiranand Sharma, conducted one-to-one

interaction with the nominees at the party headquarters in Bhopal. The BJP's meeting process is likely to continue on Friday as the candidates selected for the post of district head of its organisation from several districts were yet to attend the meeting. Once the meeting process is concluded, the BJP panel is likely to make a consensus on one final name from each district. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and some other senior ministers are also likely to attend the meeting

to make a consensus. Subsequently, the list will be put before the BJP's central leadership for its final approval. New district presidents are likely to be appointed by the end of the first two weeks of the New Year. The state unit of BJP, led by Khajuraho MP V. D. Sharma, following several rounds of meetings over the last four weeks, has prepared a list of three to four names for the 'zila adhyaksh' (district head) post. A total of 60 zila adhyaksh will be appointed in Madhya Pradesh. Notably, after winning the Assembly election in November 2023 and all 29 Lok Sabha seats in 2024 in Madhya Pradesh.



Mohan Yadav urges 'no politics' over dumping of Bhopal gas tragedy site waste amid protests

Bhopal, Jan 6 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday stressed that there should be no politics over the matter of shifting hazardous chemical waste from the spot of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy to the Pithampur dumping site, saying that all official and environmental norms are being followed to shift and dispose the toxic waste. The Chief Minister's appeal came amid reservations and objections submitted by a group of activists along with local residents of Pithampur and school children who organised a protest against the shifting of toxic waste. It has been learned that local politicians from across party lines, have also extended their support for agitation, and they have called 'Pithampur shutdown' on Monday.



Govt constitutes Working Group to revise base of WPI

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : The government on Monday announced the constitution of a Working Group headed by NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand for revising the base of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The Working Group has been asked to submit its final report to the Office of the Economic Adviser within 18 months. The members of the group include representatives from the RBI, the Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Statistics, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. SBI Chief Economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh has also been appointed a member. The non-official members include Economist Surjit Bhalla; Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to PM; Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist.

Beed sarpanch murder: Dhananjay Munde rejects resignation demands

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Minister Dhananjay Munde has dismissed opposition calls for his resignation over the murder of Massajog sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh in Beed district. Munde, who holds the portfolio for food, civil supply, and consumer protection, asserted that he has no connection to the crime and emphasized that the investigation is being conducted impar-

tially by the CID. "Why should I resign? I am neither an accused nor linked to this incident," Munde said after a state cabinet meeting and a subsequent interaction with Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule. "There must be some basis for such a demand. I have nothing to do with the case, so the opposition's demand lacks substance," he added. Munde's remarks came a day after his close associate Walmik

Karad, wanted in an extortion case connected to Deshmukh's murder, surrendered to the CID in Pune. Karad has since been remanded to 14 days of police custody by the Kej court in Beed district. Munde reiterated that the police and CID are diligently handling the investigation. "The murder of Santosh Deshmukh is a grave crime, and those responsible should face a fast-track trial. I was the first to demand this case be expedited and for the culprits to

face the harshest punishment, including the death penalty," he said. Responding to Congress legislator Vijay Wadettiwar's cryptic remark about a "small boss" potentially being targeted to protect a "big boss."





Israel to send delegation to Qatar for Gaza ceasefire talks : Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Jan 6 (IANS) : Israel announced that it will send a delegation of senior security officials to Qatar next week to discuss a Gaza ceasefire deal. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed in a statement that "a delegation of professional officials from the Mossad, Shin Bet, and the IDF (Israel Defense Forces)" will travel to Doha to continue the negotiations, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier this week, the Israeli state-owned Kan TV

reported that Hamas had proposed a one-week ceasefire, during which it would locate the whereabouts of hostages still held in Gaza and provide a list of those who could be released. Israel has not officially commented on the proposal. The talks, mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States, have been ongoing for more than a year. Earlier on Monday Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz issued a stern warning stating that Israel would intensify its military operations in Gaza if Hamas does not agree to a deal for the release of hostages "soon." In a public statement, Gallant said that should Hamas fail to permit the release of Israeli hostages, the group would face "blows of an intensity not seen in Gaza for a long time."

Sangam Vihar: Woman uses forged power bill for voter registration, faces police complaint

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : In a fresh case of an attempt to register as a voter using forged documents, an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has filed a police complaint against a woman who used a fake electricity bill to enrol as a voter in Sangam Vihar Assembly constituency. Tanuj Bhanot, ERO for Sangam Vihar Assembly constituency, filed a complaint for the registration of FIR against accused Jaya Shah who allegedly tried to use a forged electricity bill.



Lalu Yadav signals willingness to reunite with Nitish Kumar; Tejashwi differs

Patna, Jan 6 (IANS) : The political atmosphere in Bihar has intensified following RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav expressing willingness to reconcile with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who was a part of the mahagathbandhan at one time. When asked if his door was open for the Bihar Chief Minister, Lalu responded on Monday night, "My door is always open. Nitish Kumar should also keep his door open."

Second round of PTI-Pakistan gov't talks to take place today in Islamabad

Islamabad, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the government are set to engage in their second round of negotiations on Monday, at the Parliament House in Islamabad. This meeting follows a series of consultations within PTI to finalise their key demands. The session, chaired by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, will take place in the Constitution Committee Room. The talks, aimed at resolving ongoing political tensions, come as PTI seeks to address critical issues, including the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9 and November 26 and the release of political prisoners. These demands have been prioritised by PTI in light of the prevailing political and social unrest in the country. A spokesperson for the National Assembly confirmed that the meeting time had been adjusted at the request of members, underscoring efforts to accommodate both sides and ensure productive discussions. The negotiations are being facilitated and spearheaded by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, who has emphasised the importance of dialogue in finding a resolution to the impasse.



Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has reiterated his party's commitment to pursuing peaceful negotiations, though he signaled PTI's readiness to mobilise a protest movement should the talks fail to yield results. Speaking to a private news channel, Gandapur highlighted that PTI founder Imran Khan had authorised party leaders to engage in talks with the government solely in national interest. He added that while PTI was willing to explore solutions through dialogue, the party would not hesitate to launch a movement if their demands were not met. "Our demands are clear: the formation of an independent judicial commission and the release of our leaders and political workers."



After Himachal, K'taka gov't may face situation of withdrawing guarantees: BJP

Bengaluru, Jan 6 (IANS) : Following Himachal Pradesh CM SS Sukhu's appeal to well-off consumers to forgo power subsidy, the BJP claimed on Monday that the Karnataka government may soon face a similar situation with its five welfare guarantee schemes for the people. Karnataka BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra stated on Monday that it would not be surprising if the Karnataka government soon finds itself in the same situation as the Himachal Pradesh government. "If the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is committed to fulfilling the promises made to the people and ensuring the implementation of the guarantee schemes, it must immediately focus on increasing the state's financial resources to generate revenue and introduce development projects to sustain the guarantee schemes," Vijayendra noted.



Mahakumbh 2025 : Gov't bolsters telecom network to ensure seamless communication for millions

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : As the country gears up for 'Maha Kumbh 2025', the government on Monday said it has made significant preparations to ensure seamless communication for millions of devotees and visitors, with upgrades to telecom infrastructure across the city, 'Mela' area and key public spaces in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. To ensure a smooth experience for all visitors from January 13 till February 26 which is the 'Mela' period, 126 km of optical fibre has been laid throughout the Prayagraj city area, enhancing the backbone of the telecom infrastructure, said the Ministry of Communications. In addition, 328 new towers/

masts have been installed, further strengthening coverage across the urban landscape, informed DoT. About 575 new base transceiver stations (BTS) across all mobile technologies have been deployed, in addition to an upgrade of 1,462 existing BTS units, ensuring robust and uninterrupted connectivity in the city during the Mela," informed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Telecom service providers have been instructed to deploy advanced technology and optimise networks to support the massive influx of people expected to attend the world's largest religious gathering. To cater to the massive demand, 78 CoWs (Transportable Towers).

'Not consulted': Mamata Banerjee shoots down proposal for introducing semester system at primary education level

Kolkata, Jan 6 (IANS) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday rejected the proposal of the West Bengal Board of Primary

Education (WBBPE) to introduce the semester system at the primary education level of the state. While chairing the administrative review meeting at the state

Secretariat Nabanna, she even reprimanded state Education Minister Bratya Basu for taking the decision without consulting her or Chief Secretary Manoj

Pant. On December 27, WBBPE President Goutam Paul announced the decision to introduce the semester system at a press conference.



Madras HC quashes criminal complaint against VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan

Chennai, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Madras High Court has quashed a criminal case against Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) founder and Member of Parliament Thol Thirumavalavan.

SC asks UP gov't to give copy of Mukhtar Ansari's death enquiry reports to family

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to furnish enquiry reports pertaining to the death of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, including medical reports, to his son Umar Ansari. A bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy told Additional Solicitor General K.M. Natraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh

government, to provide a copy of reports within a period of two weeks. Seeking inquiry into the death of his father, Umar Ansari claimed that it was not a death simpliciter but the result of slow poisoning in jail and has filed an application calling for an inquiry into it. Umar Ansari alleged that food given to his father in jail was poisoned and he was denied the requisite medical treatment. In an earlier hearing, the top court had asked the Uttar Pradesh gov-

ernment to file a response within four weeks to the application seeking modification of the prayers. In a writ petition filed before the apex court in December 2023, Umar Ansari apprehended that there was a plan to assassinate his father in Banda jail prior to the 2024 polls and sought the transfer of Mukhtar Ansari to any jail outside UP. The Uttar Pradesh government had assured the Supreme Court that if needed, it would enhance the security of Ansari to ensure

no harm is caused to him within jail precincts. On January 16 last year, after going through a confidential note detailing the security arrangements made by the state authorities, the SC had expressed satisfaction with the steps taken and observed that the security measures appeared "formidable enough". It ordered the matter to be taken up for further hearing in the third week of July 2024. In the meantime, Mukhtar Ansari



died of cardiac arrest at the Rani Durgawati Medical College in Banda district on March 28 last year while serving jail time. His viscera test report confirmed that no poison had been found and the cause of death was found to be heart attack. The post-mortem was conducted by a panel of five doctors in the rank of Chief Medical Superintendent.



Srinu Bugatha, Thakor Nirmaben to defend Indian Elite crowns in Mumbai Marathon

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : Marathon in 2:14.40, pipping second-placed Army-mate Bugatha by one second. Meanwhile, Maharashtra's Hirve, who finished third in the 2023 edition, underlined his current form by winning the recent Vasai-Virar Mayor's Marathon. The World Athletics Gold Label race will also see Kartik Kumar, the 2023 Asian Games 10,000m silver medallist, making his debut over the classic distance in Mumbai. Kartik's best marathon time is 2:22:50, which he recorded at the Bengaluru Marathon in October last year. Also in the mix is young Harshad Mahtre, who finished fifth in the last edition. Challenging Nirmaben, runner-up at the 2024 New Delhi Marathon and placed fourth at the World 25K Kolkata 2024.

Reigning Asian marathon champion Man Singh, Olympian Gopi T, a two-time winner and three-time runner-up, and the experienced Kalidas Hirve, who finished fourth in the 2024 edition, are among the leading contenders in the men's race. Gopi won the 2024 New Delhi



Smriti to lead India as Harmanpreet rested from women's ODIs against Ireland

Mumbai, Jan 6 (IANS) : India have rested captain Harmanpreet Kaur and fast bowler Renuka Singh Thakur for the upcoming three-match women's ODI series against Ireland, set to begin on January 10 at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot. In Harmanpreet's absence, left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana will be India's captain, while senior all-rounder Deepti Sharma will serve as the vice-captain. Smriti had a productive 2024 with the bat – making 736 runs

in 21 T20I innings and amassing 747 runs in 13 ODIs. The three-match series, starting on January 10, followed by matches on January 12 and 15, is India's first international assignment of this year. For the first time since 2006, India will be playing Ireland in a bilateral women's ODI series.

Maybe Lyon could be left out of Australia XI for the Ashes : Ryan Harris

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Former Australia fast-bowler Ryan Harris believes veteran off-spinner Nathan Lyon could be left out of the side's playing eleven for the next year's Ashes at home, as the hosts' weigh up their best bowling line-up for the all-important series against England. With fast bowlers calling the shots on spicy pitches in the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.



Cummins-led Australia right up there as one of the best teams: Hussey

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Former Australia batter Mike Hussey believes the Pat Cummins-led Test team is right up there as amongst the best sporting teams in the country. Beating India 3-1 to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a decade has meant Australia are in possession of every bilateral series win, including the 2023 World Test Championship mace.

Abi Norgrove to captain England at Women's U19 World Cup

London, Jan 6 (IANS) : Abi Norgrove will captain England at the upcoming ICC Women's U19 World Cup 2025 in Malaysia, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Monday. The 18-year-old batter, who was awarded her first professional contract with Hampshire last

month, will lead the team at the tournament which begins on January 18. Sixteen teams from around the world will take part in the 41-match event across 15 days of competition until February 2. Drawn in Group B, England will take on Ireland in their opening match on January 18 followed by

matches against Pakistan and USA in Johar on January 20 and 22, respectively. On her appointment as captain, Norgrove said, "I am absolutely thrilled to be given the opportunity to lead the squad in the World Cup and honoured to represent my country in such an amazing competition. We can't wait to get go-

ing as a team. "We are delighted to have Abi leading the side into the World Cup. She has shown great leadership qualities in both the Sri Lanka tour and preparation phase for the World Cup. Abi has gained significant experience of senior domestic cricket this season which I'm sure she will draw upon in Malaysia," head coach

Chris Guest added. England squad: Abi Norgrove (c), Phoebe Brett, Olivia Brinsden, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Trudy Johnson, Katie Jones, Charlotte Lambert, Eve O'Neill, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, Charlotte Stubbs, Amuruthaa Surenkumar, Prisha Thanawala, Erin Thomas, Grace Thompson.



The way women's Ashes is set up, it could come down to MCG Test to retain trophy : Alyssa Healy

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Australia skipper Alyssa Healy believes the side's quest to retain the Women's Ashes trophy could come down to the one-off pink-ball Test, to be played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from January 30 to February 2. The match will also mark Australia playing a women's Test at the MCG for the first time since 1949. Add to it, it will also be the first time Australia will play at the iconic venue since their 2020 T20 World Cup final win over India, which came in front of 86,174 fans. "The way that our Ashes series is set up, there's white ball games beforehand, and it could come down to the Test match to try and retain the trophy, or for England to (take) the Ashes trophy off us. That

adds a little extra excitement to it, a little extra spice." "Last time we were in England playing the Ashes series over there (in 2023), the crowds are quite hostile. We were playing alongside the men's at that stage as well, and it got even spicier towards the back end." "So for us, it's a cool opportunity (for) Aussie sporting fans to come out and support our teams and reassure them that they've got our back as well... Melbourne fans turn out; they turn up," said Alyssa on Fox Sports' Follow on podcast episode on Monday. She also feels young batter Georgia Voll, who impressed with scores of 46 not out, 101 and 26 in the 3-0 ODI series win over India last month.



'I'm not changing my tune; we've got to move on with times', says Vaughan on 4-day Tests

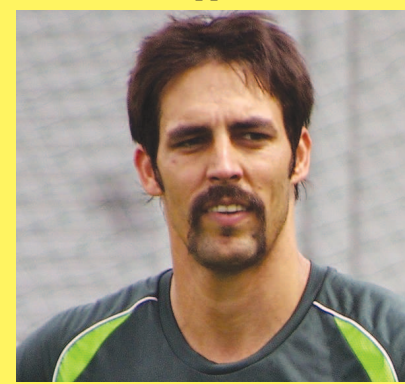
New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Former England captain Michael Vaughan said he won't change his stance about Test matches to be played over four days, saying it's the right way to grow the longer format game in the future and that one has to move on with time. "I won't change my tune. We've

got to move with the times. Five-day Test match cricket, love it. Loved the MCG (Test). It would just happen a little bit quicker and the dramatic fifth day would become the dramatic fourth day. "The great game, which is Test match cricket to survive.

India's mindset to 'intimidate' Australia's rookie players didn't pay off : Johnson

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Former Australia fast-bowler Mitchell Johnson believes that India "two vs 11" mindset to intimidate the Australian rookie players like Sam Konstas and Beau Webster during the recent Sydney Test didn't pay off. In the match, India suffered a six-wicket defeat at Sydney, as Australia won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 after a decade. "The Indian side appeared to embrace the mindset that

it was "two against 11" out in the middle, aiming to make the Aussie batters feel isolated and under pressure. The focus was on not just testing the technical skills of their opponents but also



challenging their mental toughness. "In Test cricket, it's crucial to create that environment, one where the batters are distracted from their primary objective. This psychological edge can often prove to be just as important as any physical skill in the game. Trying to intimidate the Aussie rookies didn't really pay off with both Konstas and Beau Webster proving their worth," wrote Johnson in his column for The Nightly on Monday.



'It was pretty difficult to restart life in a wheelchair', says para shooter Avani Lekhara

New Delhi, Jan 6 (IANS) : Indian para shooter Avani Lekhara expressed gratitude for the challenging journey of becoming a para-athlete while reflecting on the importance of mental health in becoming a champion.