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Meta goes to NCLAT against CCI's Rs 213 crore penalty on WhatsApp

Social media platform Meta on Tuesday moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), challenging a recent Competition Commission of India (CCI)....

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Cummins, Bumrah, Paterson nominated for Men's Player of December

Australia captain Pat Cummins, Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, and South Africa's star seamer Dane Paterson...

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Reinforced measures to control road accidents : District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha

District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha has instructed the concerned officials to take strong reinforced measures to control road accidents in Rajanna Siricilla..

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KTR suffers setback in High Court

Hyderabad, Jan 7 : Former minister and BRS party working president KTR suffered a setback in the Telangana High Court today. The court dismissed KTR's petition seeking quashing of the ACB case.



Congress, BJP workers clash at State BJP office, one hospitalised

Hyderabad, Jan.7 (NSS): Tension prevailed in front of the BJP State office here today. A clash broke out between the Congress and BJP workers. The BJP launched a counter-attack on the Youth Congress leaders.



Officials should work government's priorities in mind : Tummala

Hyderabad, Jan.7 (NSS): Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao said the officials should work with the government's priorities in mind and they should achieve results for the benefit of farmers. The Minister held a review meeting with officials on the progress of budget proposals.



Implementing measures to strengthen Nagarjuna Sagar dam: Uttam

Hyderabad, Jan.7 (NSS): Irrigation and & Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that the Telangana Government was implementing measures to strengthen the Nagarjuna Sagar dam while expanding its ayacut. He made the announcement during a review meeting on the Nagarjuna Sagar project held at Jala Soudha on Tuesday. He

instructed officials to prioritise the repair works of the NSP and its canal network. He also urged the Nalgonda District Collector to expedite land acquisition for various irrigation projects in the district.



Allu Arjun visits injured boy at Hyderabad hospital

Hyderabad, Jan 7 (IANS) : Tollywood actor Allu Arjun on Tuesday visited KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad to meet the eight-year-old boy who was injured in the stamped during the premier show of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' at Sandhya Theatre last month. Amid tight security by the police, the actor reached the hospital in the morning and spent about half an hour.

He was accompanied by Telangana State Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju. The actor enquired from doctors about the condition of SriTej, met his father and assured him of all support.

Not afraid of CM's blackmailing politics : Harish Rao

Hyderabad, Jan.7 (NSS) : BRS party MLA Harish Rao has said they were not afraid of CM Revanth Reddy's blackmailing politics and illegal cases and added that with blackmail politics, illegal cases and arrests, the CM did not cover up the mistakes of

his government. "Revanth Reddy thinks that he is weakening us mentally. But we will not stop questioning his irregularities and implementation of the six guarantees," he said.

Harish Rao, along with party leaders, spoke to mediapersons at KTR's residence in

Nandinagar in the wake of the Telangana High Court's verdict quashing the petition filed by KTR. Speaking on the occasion, he said the people knew that the Revanth Reddy government had registered an illegal case against KTR as part of its diversion politics and claimed

that in the case of Rythu Bandhu, Revanth's government was facing severe opposition from the people as it decided to give only Rs 12,000 per acre per annum instead of Rs 15,000 per acre per annum for the ongoing Rabi season. "After one year rule, all the survey reports showed that the government had failed and Revanth's failure as the CM has also come to fore.



Provide wide publicity to government schemes: Ponguleti

Hyderabad, Jan 7 (NSS): Minister for Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has instructed officials to provide wide publicity to the people on various development and welfare programmes being implemented by the State government.

At a programme held at the Secretariat here on Tuesday, the Minister presented photo cameras equipped with new technology to the field level employees of the Information department. I & PR Commissioner Dr. Harish said that by providing new cameras to district and field level staff in the State, it would be easier to provide photo news of the event to the media from time to time. He said the photo cameras are being provided to all district offices and division level staff and these photo cameras equipped with new technology will be beneficial for the staff.

Our focus is to develop all areas : GHMC Mayor

Hyderabad, Jan 7 : GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi today said their focus was on the development of all areas of the city and steps were being taken to address the local issues by touring all the wards under the GHMC limits and added that the officials should work in that direction.



SC relief : Asaram Babu gets interim bail on medical grounds, but will remain in jail

New Delhi/Jaipur, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to 83-year-old self-styled godman Asaram Babu till March 31 in connection with the rape case of a female follower at his ashram in Surat.



Poetic CEC Rajiv Kumar drills holes in Opposition's allegations

New Delhi, Jan 7 : A month before his retirement, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar was at his poetic best while announcing the election schedule for Delhi Assembly on Tuesday. In his own inimitable style, the CEC took jibes at those who doubted the integrity of the poll panel, responding to allegations of bias and also indicating that his tenure is coming to an end soon.

Chandrababu Naidu launches portal to address public grievances in Kuppam

Amaravati, Jan 7 (IANS) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday launched the 'Jana Nayakudu' (people's leader) portal in his Assembly constituency Kuppam in Chittoor district to address people's grievances.

He said the portal will soon be extended to all Assembly segments in the state. Stating that he has been bringing all the systems back on track that have been totally destroyed in the past five years, the Chief Minister said it was his bounden duty

to do justice for all the people of the State. Observing that Swarna Kuppam Vision-2029 has been formulated with the sole objective of taking Kuppam on a progressive path in all ways, Chandrababu said that now 'Jana Nayakudu' is launched only with a view to doing justice for all the people of Kuppam by resolving their problems on a war footing basis.

The officials of the Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA) and his personal assistant will always be available here.



2 children test positive for HMPV in Nagpur, no surge in respiratory illness: Centre New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Two children in Maharashtra's Nagpur have tested positive for Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).

Reinforced measures to control road accidents : District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha

Rajanna Siricilla, Jan 7 (TIM Bureau) : District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha has instructed the concerned officials to take strong reinforced measures to control road accidents in Rajanna Siricilla district. The District Road Safety Committee meeting was held on Tuesday along with District SP Akhil Mahajan at the Collectorate Mini Conference Hall. Speaking in this review, the District Collector directed the officers to completely remove the encroachments on R&B roads, Panchayat roads and within the municipality limits in the district and to take appropriate measures to prevent vehicles from parking on the roads. A large number of accidents are taking place due to the lack of speed breakers at major in-



tersections and approach roads. The Collector directed that proposals for setting up parking lots and foot over bridges at such places should be prepared and submitted to the concerned authorities. The Collector suggested that awareness should be created on road safety standards in every educational institution in the district.

Stressed Asset Management Branch, Hyderabad 3rd Floor, Anand Bank Building, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad-500095. NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) (8) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002. To Borrower 1.Ms Ramakrishna Electronics (Kurnool Divn.) H.No.51/971-A, SBI Colony, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518001...

LB NAGAR BRANCH Hyderabad APPENDIX IV [See rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF INDIA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 04.11.2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Mohan Kumar Kumari to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.14,23,066.43 + Interest from 30.09.2024 (contractual dues up to the date of notice) with interest thereon @ 9.05% p.a. compounded with monthly rests and all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the bank till repayment by you within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice...

SHRIRAM Finance Head Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, (Bandra East), Mumbai-400051; Tel: 022-42414000, 022-40603100; Branch Office Address: H.No.2-10-1460, Home Line Towers, Jagtial Road, Jyothinagar, Karimnagar. Website: http://www.shriramfinance.in/auction. NOTICE TO THE BORROWER INFORMING ABOUT SALE (30 DAYS NOTICE) (8) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

RECOVERY DEPARTMENT 10-1-1199/2, PTI Building, 2nd Floor, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004, Ph: 8004265659 E-mail: assetrecovery.telangana@bankofindia.co.in E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 & RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER The undersigned being Authorized Officer of Bank of India is having full powers to issue this notice of sale and exercise all the powers of sale under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Rules framed there under. Notice is hereby given to you/borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor Bank of India, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "As is, where is", "As is, what is" and "Whatever there is" basis through e-auction on 27.01.2025, for Recovery of dues as detailed below due to the secured creditor Bank of India from Borrowers and Guarantors detailed below.

RECOVERY DEPARTMENT 10-1-1199/2, PTI Building, 2nd Floor, A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004, Ph: 8004265659 E-mail: assetrecovery.telangana@bankofindia.co.in E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 & RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER. 1) The general public and interested buyers are advised to contact the above mentioned Branch for any enquiries participating in the bid and for all other matters in this regard (except submitting their online bid as stated in the terms & conditions) or for any other enquiry with regard to purchase of any property. 2) General Public/ Interested buyers are cautioned that bank shall not be liable/responsible/ answerable for any of the act/dealing of the general public / Interested buyers with any third party in this regard or for any remittances to third parties, which may be done at their risk and responsibility. 3) It is also informed that the total amount payable by the successful bidder of the property to the bank is only their final bid amount quoted in the bidding process (as per the terms and conditions) plus applicable taxes (TDS, Stamp Duty, Charges/ Fees towards registration of sale certificate to be separately which are to be borne by the bidder). 4) Buyers shall satisfy themselves about registrability of property since bank is not aware of any prohibition of registration of property at any SRO. 5) The intending bidders shall ascertain and satisfy themselves about any statutory/ Government/Municipality claims on the property like property tax, electricity, water, Welfare Association Maintenance dues or any other dues etc. prior to submitting bid. 6) Intending bidders to note that in case of any litigations arise in future in respect of the subject e-auction properties, the auction will be subject to outcome of such litigation. 7) Intending bidders should conduct proper/ independent due diligence prior to submitting bid. Date and Time of Sale: 27-01-2025 at Time 11:00 AM to 5.00 PM. (With multiple extensions till sale is concluded)

7 BRANCH: HABSIGUDA:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- Khalad Mohammed, R/o. H.No.9-8-110/C/17, Bhankota, Chota Bazar, Golconda, Hyderabad-500008. Also at R/o. H.No.9-10-66, Bada Bazar Road, Neem Bowli, Banjara Darwaza, Golconda Fort, Hyderabad-500008. Guarantor: Mr. Tahseen Mohammed, R/o. H.No.9-8-110/C/17, Bhankota, Ahmed Servicing Center, Golconda Fort, Golconda, Hyderabad-500008. Amount Due: Rs.50,91,751.76 + Uncharged Interest @ Applicable ROI at monthly rests from 30-04-2023 together with costs, expenses etc. Demand Notice Dated: 03-05-2023, Possession Notice taken on: 10-08-2023. Description of the Immovable Property: All that the House bearing Municipal No.9-10-66 admeasuring 108 Sq.yds., or 90.28 Sq. Mtrs., situated at Neem Bowli, Banjara Darwaza, Golconda Fort, Hyderabad in the name of Mr. Mohammed Khalad and bounded by North: House No.9-10-67 of Aziz Miyan, South: House No.9-10-65, East: Road, West: House No.9-10-67 of Aziz Miyan. Sale Deed Doc. No: 3678/2019 dated: 12.06.2019, SRO: Golconda. MOD No.290/2020 dated 19.11.2019, SRO: Golconda. Property ID: BKID00057170003 | Google Pin: 17.390750 78.400583. Possession Type: Symbolic; Reserve Price: Rs.41,65,000/-, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.4,16,500/-, Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/-

Backed by go Years of Expertise, Saavi Gold & Diamonds Redefines Luxury in Vijayawada. Vijayawada, Jan 7 (TIM Bureau) : Backed by 90 years of unparalleled expertise in crafting fine jewellery, Saavi Gold & Diamonds is all set to redefine luxury and elegance in Vijayawada. Located on M.G. Road, Saavi offers not just exquisite jewellery but an extraordinary shopping experience that blends heritage, craftsmanship, and modern sophistication. "Spanning an impressive space, Saavi Gold & Diamonds stands as one of the largest jewellery stores" in the city, offering an extensive collection of designs in gold, diamonds, and polki.

POCO launches M7 Pro 5G with the segment's brightest AMOLED display and C75 5G - India's most affordable 5G smartphone. Hyderabad, Jan 7 (TIM Bureau) : India, December 18th, 2024: Wrapping up an eventful year with a bang, POCO, one of India's most dynamic consumer tech brands, proudly announces the launch of two ground breaking smartphones - POCO M7 Pro 5G and POCO C75 5G. Designed to push boundaries in their respective segments, these devices redefine what's possible in display brilliance, performance, and affordability.



Pappu Yadav, 7 others booked for disrupting railway operations in Patna

Patna Jan 7 (IANS) : The Government Railway Police (GRP) at the Patna Junction has registered an FIR against Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and seven others for their role in blocking railway operations at Sachiwalay Halt on Tuesday. The protest, led by Pappu Yadav, aimed to express solidarity with the agitating BPSC candidates demanding the cancellation of the 70th Preliminary examination across Bihar, blocking the railway services at Sachiwalay Halt. Pappu Yadav and his supporters are facing charges of hindering the smooth functioning of train services and vehicular movement which resulted in inconvenience to the public through the protest. They have organised demonstrations without the proper permis-

sion of the authorities. Apart from Pappu Yadav, Raju Danveer, Rajiv Mishra, Abhijeet Singh, Faizan Ahmed, Premchand Singh, Suraj Gupta and Purushottam Kumar Singh were booked under the relevant charges at Patna Junction's GRP police station. On Friday, Pappu Yadav and his supporters reached the Sachiwalay Halt Railway Station and sat on the railway track for a brief period to stop the train. The move of Pappu Yadav was a part of his pre-scheduled plan to disrupt the railway operation in support of candidates who have been on a hunger strike for 17 days, demanding the cancellation of the 70th BPSC Combined Preliminary Examination.

ED attaches assets worth Rs 47 lakh in disproportionate assets case

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Gurugram Zonal Office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached four immovable properties worth Rs 47 lakh situated at Faridabad district of Haryana and Ludhiana district of Punjab, belonging to Harjeet Singh Puri and his wife Arvinderjeet Kaur in connection with a disproportionate assets case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, an ED official said. The ED has started an investiga-

tion in connection with the case based on an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under section 13(2) read with section 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.



Ayushman Bharat, telemedicine providing last-mile delivery in healthcare : Vice Prez Dhankhar

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Schemes like Ayushman Bharat and telemedicine are providing last-mile delivery of healthcare to people in the country, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Tuesday. The Vice President said this while flagging off the mobile clinics in the national capital. "Quality healthcare, accessible healthcare, affordable healthcare have been a mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and over the last decade, he has brought about a big change in this direction," said the Vice President. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has committed himself and then successfully delivered last-mile delivery when it comes to healthcare," he

said, citing Ayushman Bharat and telemedicine initiatives. He noted that the Ayushman Bharat scheme, one of the world's largest health programmes, has provided "fiscal relief to millions of people". The scheme provides up to Rs 5 lakh for healthcare, and an additional Rs 5 lakh for senior citizens above 70 years of age, irrespective of their economic status. The telemedicine initiative has also "been remarkably successful", the Vice President said. "Diagnostic tests, medical tests are all available through internet usage," he added, lauding digital penetration in the country. Highlighting the importance of mobile clinics, the Vice-President said: "To be as-

Puducherry govt to deposit Rs 750 in ration cardholders' bank accounts as Pongal gift

Puducherry, Jan 7 (IANS) : Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangasamy said on Tuesday that the Union Territory will deposit Rs 750 into the bank accounts of all ration cardholders as a gift on the occasion of Pongal. Pongal, one of the most important fes-

tivals of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, is celebrated on January 15 every year. The Puducherry government will be providing gift hampers and money as well during Pongal to ration cardholders every year during Pongal. The Chief Minister has now announced that instead of distributing the gift money

through ration shops, the government will transfer the money directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries. The announcement was made during a ceremony held at Kamarajar Mani Mandapam on East Coast Road to issue appointment orders to 168 newly recruited junior engineers.



DMK-led TN govt is dictatorial, not democratic: Khushbu Sundar



Chennai, Jan 7 (IANS) : BJP leader and actor-turned-politician Khushbu Sundar has criticised the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government, calling it as "dictatorial rather than democratic". Speaking to reporters at the Chennai airport on Tuesday, she alleged that the Tamil Nadu government had displayed bias in granting permissions for political events. Khushbu accused the DMK government of granting permission for a rally organised by MDMK leader Vaiko but denied it for a BJP protest march. She said, "I will raise my voice whenever women are affected. I won't wait for a miracle like Ghajini to happen before I take action. Having been a part of the DMK, I know how they function. I will not remain silent;

I will speak out." The actor-turned-politician emphasised the importance of women's safety over monetary benefits, stating, "Money is not the most important thing for women -- safety is. The ruling party, DMK, is responsible for protecting women's dignity, modesty, and safety. Women cannot be silenced with money." Calling on the government to prioritise women's safety, Khushbu urged women not to remain silent and criticised the DMK's governance, claiming that its schemes were ineffective. She questioned the government's tendency to compare Tamil Nadu with other states, asserting that the southern state is an integral and significant part of India. Khushbu also criticised the politicisation of sexual assault cases, pointing out the lack of response from DMK leaders to similar incidents in other states.

Canara Bank SHAMSHABAD BRANCH (13094): Plot # 38/B, Near Bus Stand, Rallaguda Road, Shamshabad, Rangareddy District, Telangana State - 509218.

POSSESSION NOTICE [Section 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 15.07.2021, calling upon the (1) M/s. Jupiter Industries, Prop. Sri Rama Kishan Prasad APISC, Kotnur Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana State-509228, (2) Sri Rama Kishan Prasad S/o. Rama Upendram, Sy.No. 126/2/EE2, Teegapur Village, Kotnur Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana State-509228, (3) Sri Rama Kishan Prasad S/o. Rama Upendram, Flat no.803,Block-2, My Home Vihanga , financial District, Wipro Junction, Q City Road, Hyderabad, Telanganastate-500032, (4) Sri Rama Kishan Prasad S/o. Rama Upendram, 302, A-Block, 4th Floor, Mana Elite, Panchavati Layout, Manikonda, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500082, (5) Smt Rama Durga Bhavani, W/o. Sri Rama Kishan Prasad, Flat no.803, Block-2, My Home Vihanga, financial District, Wipro Junction, Q City Road, Hyderabad, Telanganastate-500032, (6) Smt Rama Durga Bhavani W/o.Sri Rama Kishan Prasad 302, A-Block, 4th Floor, Mana Elite, Panchavati Layout, Manikonda, Telangana State-500082 (7) Smt Rama Durga Bhavani W/o. Sri Rama Kishan Prasad, Hno.11-24-24, Bank Colony-II, Desaipet, Warangal, Telangana State-506006., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.5,59,24,939.66 (Rupees Five Crore Fifty Nine Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine and Paise Sixty Six Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Owner/Guarantor/Legal heir having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Owner/Guarantor/Legal heir and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 3rd day of January of the year 2025. The Borrower/Owner/Guarantor/Legal heir in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs.5,59,24,939.66(Rupees Five Crore Fifty Nine Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Nine and Paise Sixty Six Only) and interest thereon. The borrower's/owner's/guarantor's/legal heir's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: (1) All that part and parcel of residential house plot measuring 345 sq yds/288.45 sq mts, bearing D.No.15-11-203(New)/15/1001(old) situated at Beet Bazar,Ramannapet,Warangal Town under Warangal municipal corporation,Telangana State, in the name of Smt.Rama Durga Bhavani and bounded by: North: Land of Yellaiah, South: Land of Rama Kishan Prasad, East: House of Vengaiiah & Others, West: Land of R Krishna Kumar. SRO Warangal (Document 2449/1997) (CERSAI: Security Interest ID-40001272739) (2) All that part and parcel of residential house plot measuring 140 Sq Yds/117.05 Sq mtrs bearing D.No.15-11-203(new)/15/10019(old) situated at Beet Bazar,Ramannapet,Warangal Town under Warangal municipal corporation,Telangana State, in the name Mr.Rama Kishan Prasad and bounded by: North: Land of Rama Durga Bhavani, South: House of Sreesailam and Road, East: Land of Rama Kishan Prasad & House of Vengaiiah & Others, West: Land of R Krishna Kumar. SRO Warangal (Document 2450/1997) (CERSAI: Security Interest ID-40001271892). (3) All that part and parcel of open plot pertaining to the dilapidated municipal corporation No.15-11-203(H.no.15/1001) measuring 100.11 Sq.yds/or equivalent to 83.70 Sq.mtrs) situated at Ramannapet ,Warangal City & District,within the limits of Warangal Municipal Corporation,Telangana State,in the name of Rama Kishan Prasad and bounded by: North: Plot of R Durga Bhavani, South: Road, East: Open Land of Owners, West: House of Ch Mallikarjun and Plot of Rama Kishan Prasad SRO Warangal (Document 9940/2013). (CERSAI: Security Interest ID-400012722480) (4) All that part and parcel of Factory Land & Building/Premises measuring 1.20 Gts, situated at Sy.No.126/2/EE2, APISC, Teegapur Village, Kotnur Mandal, Rangareddy District(previously Mahboobnagar District) Telangana State, in the name of Mr. Rama Kishan Prasad and Bounded by: North: Land belongs to Amarakunta Jayamma, South: Spoorthy Venture, East: Gutta belongs to Government, West: 3' Road. SRO Shadnagar (Document 4055/2015). (CERSAI: Security Interest ID-40001272131). (5) All that part and parcel of open residential plot No.651, measuring 266 Sq.Yds in Sy.No.559, 563, 564, 565 and 566 situated at Ghatkesar Village and Grampanchayat, Revenue Mandal Ghatkesar, Medchal Malkajgiri District(previously Rangareddy District) Telangana State, in the name of Mr. Rama Kishan Prasad and bounded by: North: Plot No.656, South: Plot No.645, East: Plot No.650, West: 25' wide Road. SRO Ghatkesar (Document 4087/2012), (CERSAI: Security Interest ID-400012723473).

Date: 03-01-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE - (For immovable property) Rule 8(4)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd. (IFL HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. 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 IFL HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the borrower clears the dues of the "IFL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IFL HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IFL HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Table with columns: Name of the Borrower(s), Description of secured asset (immovable property), Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession. Includes entries for Mr. Veeraraju Battu, Mr. Indugamelli Ravi Kumar, Mr. Mani Nabburu, etc.

Accept demands of farmers, says ex-Haryana CM Hooda

Chandigarh, Jan 7 (IANS) : Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said on Tuesday that the health of fast-growing farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal "is critical and the BJP government should try to end the fast by accepting demands and giving up its stubborn attitude". Hooda told the media that Dallewal's life "is precious for everyone because he's not fasting for personal interest but for the legitimate demands of the farmers". Farmers have been protesting at the Punjab-Haryana border in Khanauri, demanding a legal guarantee for a minimum support price for crops. Dallewal's indefinite hunger strike entered its 39th day. A high-level team of Punjab government officials have met Dallewal several times, urging him to accept medical treatment despite his ongoing fast.



OPINIONmail



India concerned with Chinese mega project on trans-border river, new counties in illegally and forcibly occupied territory

More than a week after the Chinese government approved the construction of a hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo river, India on Friday vowed to "take necessary measures" while urging Beijing to ensure that the interests of downstream states are not harmed by the decision. The river, also known as Yarlung Zangbo, flows through Tibet into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and is known as the Brahmaputra in India. The hydropower project is located in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. "We have seen the information released by Xinhua on 25th December 2024 regarding a hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. As a lower riparian state with established user rights to the waters of the river, we have consistently expressed, through expert-level as well as diplomatic channels, our views and concerns to the Chinese side over mega projects on rivers in their territory," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday. "These concerns have been reiterated, along with the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries, following the latest report. The Chinese side has been urged to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas. We will continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect our interests," he added.

As a lower riparian state, with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, the Indian government carefully monitors all developments relating to the Brahmaputra river, including plans by China to develop hydropower projects. In its 12th Five Year Plan for the period 2011-2015, China had planned to develop three more hydropower projects on the main stream of Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region. Of the three, the first unit of the hydropower project at Jiacha was operationalised in August 2020.

In March 2021, China adopted its 14th Five Year Plan which mentioned plans for hydropower development on the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra river.

"The Chinese side has conveyed to us on several occasions that they are only undertaking run-of-the-river hydropower projects, which do not involve diversion of the waters of the Brahmaputra. Various issues relating to trans-border rivers are discussed with China under the ambit of the institutionalized expert-level mechanism as well as through diplomatic channels. We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests," V Muraleedharan, the then Minister of State for External Affairs, had said while replying to a question in Lok Sabha in July 2021.

Meanwhile, New Delhi has also reacted strongly to Beijing's announcement of establishment of two new counties in Hotan Prefecture of China, parts of jurisdiction of which fall in India's Union Territory of Ladakh.

"We have never accepted the illegal Chinese occupation of Indian territory in this area. Creation of new counties will neither have a bearing on India's longstanding and consistent position regarding our sovereignty over the area nor lend legitimacy to China's illegal and forcible occupation of the same. We have lodged a solemn protest with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels," stated the MEA spokesperson.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



Small milk fat globules promote good bacteria growth: study

An Israeli study has revealed that small milk fat globules promote the growth of beneficial bacteria, according to a press release issued by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) on Thursday. The study, published in Food Chemistry, explored how the structure and size of milk fat globules influence their interactions with both beneficial and harmful bacteria. The researchers tested milk fat globules from mammary gland cells and raw milk, focusing on their impact on bacterial growth and biofilm formation.

The study found that the structure of the globules, rather than their chemical composition, was key in shaping these interactions, Xinhua news agency reported. Consequently, small milk fat globules promoted the growth of Bacillus subtilis, a beneficial bacterium, while larger globules triggered biofilm formation, which is linked to bacterial resilience.

Furthermore, a synthetic lipid mixture mimicking the chemical composition of small milk fat globules failed to stimulate bacterial growth, underscoring the critical role of structural properties over mere chemical makeup.

NO END TO DALLEWAL'S HUNGER STRIKE, NO MOVE TO IMPLEMENT MSP

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's clarion call to the youth of Punjab to "rush to the Khanauri border in large numbers and save the ongoing satyagraha against the Centre's highhandedness" has exposed the farcicality of the BJP leadership. The 70-year-old Dallewal has been on hunger strike for 35 days. Farmers are particularly angry with Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankar who had claimed that "I am a farmer's son. I will not show weakness. I will sacrifice my life for my country. Why is a farmer's son sitting here?"

It is another matter that this son of a farmer has no moral conviction and strength to look Prime Minister Narendra Modi straight in the face and tell him to accept the farmers' demands. Dhankar's December 13 statement was primarily aimed at agitating farmers and making them trust the intentions of Modi. But a single line appeal from Dallewal to the youth has exposed the ambivalence of Modi. It is disgusting that Modi and his ministers have been spreading confusion about

the farmers' movement. Modi's ministers have been saying it was a Punjab-centric agitation and only Sikh farmers were spearheading it. This narrative raised the question: Does Modi feel that Sikhs are against him? If he nurses this impression then he also must be aware of the reason. Why doesn't the Prime Minister place the facts in the public domain? Instead, he is presenting a skewed picture, concealing the fact.

It is not that the farmers from the distant states are not participating, of course their partition is less. Since Punjab and Haryana are next door to Delhi, it is easier for farmers of these two states to rush to Delhi.



WILL AJAY BHALLA IN RAJ BHAVAN AUGUR WELL FOR MANIPUR IN 2025?

After a pause, the last week of 2024 witnessed a spate of incidents of localised violence in a number of locations in Manipur. This was apart from the serious charges and counter-charges that the two warring sides levelled

against each other. Civil society outfits and associations of journalists have condemned the incidents and have appealed to the authorities for all-out efforts to bring peace to the strife-torn state.

International rights body expresses concern over persecution of Hindus in B'desh

The Global Bengali Hindu Coalition (GBHC), a Toronto-based rights body, on Friday raised serious concerns over rising persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh and urged the world communities to take steps to stop the atrocities on minorities in the neighbouring country.

On behalf of the GBHC, Puspita Gupta and Susanta Das Gupta said that religious minorities in Bangladesh have faced persecution and insecurity since Independence of the country. They highlighted the demographic decline of Hindus in Bangladesh, from 22 per cent in 1951 to 7.95 per cent in 2022, predicting further reductions by 2046. Puspita Gupta, quoting a Dhaka University professor, said that no Hindu would be left in Bangladesh 30 years from now if the current rate of "exodus" continues. GBHC members, while talking to the media in Agartala.



Want to see Telugus on top by 2047: Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said that he wants to see Telugus at the top position in the world by 2047. Addressing the Telugu Samakhya Mahasabhalu here, he called upon Telugus across the globe to become partners in the development of Andhra Pradesh. Chandrababu Naidu expressed the hope of achieving a poverty-free society with the inspiration of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder N.T. Rama Rao (NTR).

He claimed that NTR was the only leader who brought recognition to Telugus across the globe. Formally inaugurating the conference by lighting the lamp, the Chief Minister said he was happy to see Telugus from across the world on a common platform.

Recalling the services of personalities like D.V.S. Raju and Indira Dutt, Chandrababu Naidu said that all the Telugus are united whether they are living anywhere between Anantapur and Adilabad or between Srikakulam and Palamur. Not only in Andhra

Pradesh and Telangana, Telugus are now living across various countries, including America. "As Telugus, we should all respect our mother tongue like how we give the highest regard to our mother," he said.

The TDP president was of the opinion that those living on foreign land are giving more respect to Telugu than those who are living on the motherland.

Stating that when he became the chief minister of the combined state in 1996, a major part of Hyderabad was filled with rocks.

Republican Johnson
re-elected Speaker of US House

Washington, Jan 7 (IANS) : Mike Johnson, a lawmaker from Louisiana, was re-elected speaker of the House of Representatives. The Republican party closed ranks to avert a repeat of the days-long leadership crisis that had led to his elevation to the chair in 2023. Johnson won 218-215, with two of the nine holdouts finally dropping their opposition. "After four years of high inflation, we have a big agenda. We have a lot to do," Johnson said in a victory speech. "And we can do it in a bipartisan fashion. We can fight high inflation, and we must. We'll give relief to Americans and will extend the Trump tax cuts. We're going to protect our industries from one-sided trade deals, and we're going to bring overseas investments back to America's shores."



Syria's interim FM says
maiden visit to Saudi Arabia 'historic'

Damascus, Jan 7 (IANS) : Syria's interim Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani on Tuesday described his just-concluded visit to Saudi Arabia, his first official trip abroad in his current capacity, as "historic". In a series of posts on social media platform X, al-Shaibani said that during the visit, he presented to the Saudi side Syria's "national vision" of forming an inclusive government that

embraces all segments of the Syrian population based on "partnership and competence," and voiced the Syrian administration's intent to launch an economic development initiative to attract foreign investment, forge strategic partnerships, and improve living conditions. He said he also highlighted Syria's potential to "play a positive role" in the region, cooperating with Arab neighbors on joint policies to bolster security and economic prosperity. Mean-

while, the Saudi Foreign Ministry wrote on X that during a meeting between Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and al-Shaibani, they discussed "the latest developments in Syria and efforts to address them," as well as "ways to support everything that contributes to achieving a prosperous future of security, stability, and prosperity for Syria and its people." "The discussions also focused on preserving Syrian state institutions, enhancing their capabilities, and restoring Syria to its rightful place in the Arab and Islamic worlds," it said, Xinhua news agency reported.

Blinken to visit South Korea to
reaffirm 'ironclad' alliance: State Department

Washington, Jan 7 (IANS) : US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to South Korea on a mission to reaffirm America's "ironclad" alliance with the Asian country, the State Department said. This will be the first trip to Seoul by a top US official since President Yoon Suk Yeol's botched martial law attempt last month, according to the US State Department on Tuesday. Blinken plans to visit Seoul as part of his overseas trip that will also take him to Japan and France, Matthew Miller, the department's spokesperson, said. The three-nation trip runs from Friday to Thursday, reports Yonhap news agency. Seoul's foreign ministry has said Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and Blinken will hold talks in Seoul on Tuesday. "In the ROK, Secretary Blinken will meet with senior ROK government officials to reaffirm the ironclad US-ROK Alliance and discuss ways our two nations can build on our critical cooperation on challenges around the world based on our shared values," Miller said in a statement.



Israel had ordered more evacuations for
civilians in Gaza because of impending attacks : UN

United Nations, Jan 7 (IANS) : UN humanitarian workers said that Israelis have ordered more relocations in besieged North Gaza because of impending attacks in retaliation for rocket fire into Israel. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the latest directive was for civilians in the Al-Bureij area of Deir al Balah governorate to move west, Xinhua news agency reported. OCHA said the newest evacuation order came as Israeli authorities continued to deny United Nations' attempts to coordinate the safe movement

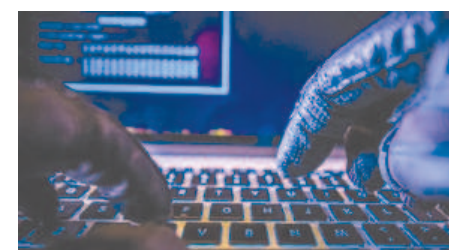
of humanitarian workers. "On Tuesday, 6 out of 10 coordination attempts were outright rejected," the office said. "Of the remaining four, only two went ahead fully, while the other two encountered serious impediments. Among the rejected attempts today was our plan to deliver supplies to the besieged areas of North Gaza governorate," the office said. Most people across the Gaza Strip, already displaced multiple times, are often forced to flee amid intense bombardment with almost none of their belongings into unsafe areas that lack the basics for human survival. "Amid this situation, humanitarian organisations are doing every-



thing they possibly can to support people wherever they are," the office said. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that 55 patients and 72 companions were evacuated from Gaza on Tuesday for medical treatment in the United Arab Emirates. Since October 2023, more than 5,300 patients have been evacuated abroad, while over 12,000 patients are awaiting evacuation. "It would take 5-10 years to evacuate all these critically-ill patients, including thousands of children," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on social media platform X. "In the meantime, their conditions get worse and some die."

Italy reports record
cyber-fraud cases in 2024

Rome, Jan 7 (IANS) : Italy's Postal Police said that they investigated 18,714 cyber-fraud cases in 2024, resulting in over 181 million euros (\$186 million) in stolen funds, both record highs. In their annual report, the Postal Police said that 26 per cent of the cyber-fraud cases investigated involved fraudulent online trading of securities. Despite being a smaller portion of total cases, these crimes accounted for 80 per cent of the overall value of cyber-fraud. Fraud linked to electronic commerce made up the largest share at 46 per cent of all cases but represented just 5 per cent of the total stolen funds, Xinhua news agency reported.



Ukrainian Prime
Minister sets out 10
govt priorities for 2025

Kyiv, Jan 7 (IANS) : Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal has outlined ten priorities of his government's agenda this year, the cabinet's press service reported. The development of the defence and security sector will remain Ukraine's key task, Shmyhal said, noting that special attention will be given to the long-range component and the missile program.

South Korea: Presidential security officials
snub police request for questioning

Washington, Jan 7 (IANS) : The top two officials of South Korea's Presidential Security Service (PSS) snubbed a police request to appear for questioning Tuesday, a day after foiling the state anti-corruption agency's attempt to arrest impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol. In a message to the media, the PSS said neither its Chief Park Chong-jun nor Deputy Kim Seong-hoon could leave their

positions "even for a moment," citing the gravity of the situation in providing security for Yoon. The PSS added they were in talks with police to reschedule the questioning session, reports Yonhap news agency. On Friday, the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) sought to execute its warrant to arrest Yoon over his failed martial law bid in December. However, the CIO halted its attempt after a stand-off with PSS officials and soldiers for some six hours, saying some 200 people had formed a human wall that blocked entry to the presidential residence.



Judge says no prison
term for Trump
in 'hush money' case

New York, Jan 7 (IANS) : The judge in the "hush money" case has said that President-elect Donald Trump will escape a prison sentence while upholding his conviction. Judge Juan Marchan said on Tuesday that he would give Trump an "unconditional discharge" when he comes up for sentencing on January 10, just 11 days before taking over as the US President. Upholding the conviction, he dismissed Trump's lawyers' contention that a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity applied to this case because his actions were not official.



Austrian coalition
talks collapse as NEOS quits

Vienna, Jan 7 (IANS) : Talks on forming a three-party coalition government in Austria collapsed after the smallest party NEOS withdrew from negotiations. However, the remaining two parties have confirmed their intention to continue discussions. At a press conference, NEOS party leader Beate Meinl-Reisinger cited the People's Party and the Social Democratic Party, the other two parties in the coalition talks, for their lack of reform willingness as the reason for her party's withdrawal. Meinl-Reisinger said that in view of Austria's recession and the unstable global situation, her party entered the negotiations seeking profound changes, but there has been "no significant progress, but rather setbacks" in the talks.



As long as caste & class systems exist, inequality will prevail, says Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Jan 7 (IANS) : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday observed that inequality will prevail as long as caste and class systems exist. Addressing Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officers at the release of the calendar and diary published by the Karnataka Administrative Service Officers' Association in the Vidhana Soudha confer-

ence hall, the Chief Minister urged the officers to demonstrate their commitment to the marginalised, who struggle even for two meals a day. Highlighting the contributions of leaders like Buddha, Basava, and Mahatma Gandhi, he noted: "All these great leaders worked for social equality and the eradication of discrimination. Yet, inequality persists because equal opportunities have not been extended to everyone. This is why

the privileged sections of society continue to dominate." The Chief Minister criticized the tendency to treat people unequally, stating, "It is a reflection of our mental servitude when we prioritise those who come in suits and boots while neglecting the poor in tattered clothes. Break free from this mindset and ensure that everyone in society gets equal opportunities."



PM Modi's secret escape : How he disguised himself as a Sikh during Emergency

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Addressing a rally in Delhi on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared details about his secret stay in Delhi's Ashok Vihar during the Emergency. He recalled: "When the Emergency was declared, the nation was fighting against the autocratic rule of Indira Gandhi, and the struggle against the Emergency was ongoing. During this time, my friends were part of the Bhumigat Andolan (underground movement), and Ashok Vihar was the place where I stayed." Before becoming one of the most prominent faces in Indian politics, Narendra Modi spent years working as a pracharak (campaigner).



Karnataka taking steps to ensure adequate power supply during peak summer : Energy Minister George

Bengaluru, Jan 7 (IANS) : Karnataka Energy Minister K.J. George on Tuesday directed the Department officials to take adequate steps and chalk out all remedial measures to ensure that there are no electricity supply disruptions during the upcoming summer months. The Energy Minister held a three-hour meeting with officials from the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL), the Karnataka Power Transmission Corpo-

ration Ltd (KPTCL), and the Power Company of Karnataka Ltd (PCKL), with the discussions focusing on electricity generation, procurement, and transmission. "Along with ensuring proper electricity supply, measures should be taken to generate more power when needed to ensure there is no gap between demand and supply," he said. The Minister also discussed the KPCL's thermal power plants with officials, highlighting that last summer, these plants achieved a record average generation of

3,600 megawatts. He urged that this summer, efforts should be made to surpass this record, stating: "We must generate more electricity and set a new benchmark. All production units need to be fully prepared." Upon learning that some production units at the Raichur, Yermarus, and Bellary thermal power plants were shut down, the Minister directed the officials to establish a deadline to address the annual maintenance.

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

New Delhi, Jan 7 (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 Tuesday. 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".

The Union Minister envisioned that all petrol pumps, CNG stations and similar facilities should be equipped with battery swapping and charging infrastructure. "This would not only address the issue of vandalism currently affecting the sector but also ensure widespread availability of facilities without undue concentration in specific areas," Goyal stressed. The interaction was also attended by Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, DPIIT and senior officials from various ministries. The meeting was also attended by the leading industry representatives from automobile, battery, battery charging and battery swap-



ping companies, like Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies, SUN Mobility, TVS Motor Company, Gorogo, Ather Energy, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto, among others. Industry stakeholders highlighted that the battery swapping sector is projected to grow to \$20 billion by 2030. They also emphasised the need for a level-playing field with fixed-battery EV manufacturers when it comes to subsidies and

incentives. It was noted that the industry has made technological advancements, such as using robotics to replace batteries in as little as 135 seconds. While safety remains a concern, stakeholders emphasised the need for accountability and the establishment of well-defined standards by relevant authorities, such as the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).



CM Biren Singh accusing Cong govt to hide failure to deal with situation : Ibobi Singh

Imphal, Jan 7 (IANS) : Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh on Tuesday rebuked Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh over his repeated claims that the ethnic strife facing the state today is due to failures of the previous Congress government. "The Chief Minister is blaming the previous Congress government to avoid his responsibility, and suppress the failure to deal with the ethnic crisis," Ibobi Singh told the media here. Rejecting Biren Singh's claim

about the India-Myanmar border fencing project, Ibobi Singh said it was initiated during his tenure (2002-2017) under the Congress government. Ibobi Singh recalled that during his tenure, concerns over the potential loss of Indian territory due to the fencing project prompted his government to initiate a joint survey with the Survey of India and its Myanmar counterpart for proper demarcation. Referring to the issue of illegal immigrants, Ibobi Singh brought up a statement made by Chief Minister Biren Singh during a conclave,

organised by a media organisation on October 7, 2018, where he claimed there were no illegal infiltrators in Manipur and questioned how the BJP government could now blame the Congress for the presence of illegal immigrants when Biren Singh himself denied their existence. Referring to the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement signed with the militant outfits in 2008 during his tenure, Ibobi Singh defended the move, stating its primary objective was to restore peace and normalcy in the state.

Prashant Kishor's health check-up conducted; confirm no 'serious' risk

Patna, Jan 7 (IANS) : A team of doctors conducted the health check-up of prominent political strategist and Jan Suraj Party Chief Prashant Kishor, on Tuesday, which confirmed that his organs were functioning normally and no serious health risks were detected. Kishor has been on a hunger strike at the Gandhi Maidan in Patna for the past 24 hours. His protest is aimed at demanding the cancellation of the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission

(BSPC) preliminary examination following allegations of irregularities and a paper leak. A team of doctors, led by Rajiv Ranjan, was dispatched by the district administration to assess Kishor's health. The checkup was conducted around 8:30 p.m. on Friday, more than 24 hours since the Jan Suraj Party Chief began his hunger strike on Thursday evening. After a health checkup, Rajiv Ranjan confirmed that Kishor has symptoms of mild bronchitis, which necessitates extra precautions.



NIA attaches property of terrorist associate, presents chargesheet against another accused

Srinagar, Jan 7 (IANS) : The national investigation agency (NIA) on Tuesday attached a land belonging to a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist associate in Anantnag district and presented charge sheet in the designate court against one more accused in the J&K narco terror case. The NIA in a statement said: "On 3rd January 2025, NIA attached the property of a key accused in a J&K case related to an encounter involving LeT terrorist. The chargesheeted accused, Mohammad Akbar Dar, was an associate of LeT terrorist Uzair Khan and had provided logistical support, shelter, food and intelligence to Khan. "As part of its action against terror networks in Kashmir, NIA has attached Dar's immovable property, measuring 19 marlas in

Halpora village of Kokernag tehsil of Anantnag in J&K." The NIA said that the attachment was carried out under Sub-section (1) of Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Uzair Khan was killed in the encounter, which had taken place in Guri Nad forest area of Kokernag area in 2023. "Four security personnel were martyred in the encounter. Mohammad Akbar Dar was arrested on 20th September 2023, after 40 live rounds of AK-47 ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from his residence.





FII remain net buyers through primary market in India

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : As foreign institutional investors' (FII) selling in India continues to dominate headlines, the clear message is that FII selling is due to high valuations in the secondary market and in the primary market where the valuations are fair, they have been sustained investors, market watchers said on Tuesday. Amid persistent FII outflows, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have also maintained their optimistic stance. According to experts, the general perception that the market has turned weak due to sustained FII selling during the last three months is largely true. "However, what is not generally appreciated is that even while selling in the cash market through exchanges, FIIs have been buyers through the primary market. They have been big investors through

the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) route," said Dr V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. For the month of December, FIIs sold equity for Rs 2,590 crore through the exchanges, but they bought equity for Rs 18,036 crore through the 'primary market and others' category. In 2024, FIIs sold equity heavily for Rs 121,210 crore but they bought equity for Rs 121,637 crore through the primary market. Therefore, FIIs have net bought for Rs 427 crores in 2024. "FIIs are likely to continue to sell going forward, so long as the dollar continues to rally and the US bonds yield attractive returns. The dollar index at around 109 and the 10-year bond yield above 4.5 per cent are strong headwinds for FII flows," explained Kumar.

Infosys may delay annual salary hike over global uncertainties

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : IT major Infosys has reportedly deferred the annual salary hike in the fourth quarter of FY 2024-25. The company last implemented a salary hike in November 2023. The delay in the salary hike, which is usually implemented at the beginning of the year, indicates that the domestic IT sector is still facing uncertainties.

The reason cited for slowdown is that clients are not increasing their IT spending due to macro-economic situations, including potential tariffs under the new Donald Trump administration that will begin working from January 20. Not only Infosys but some other large IT companies like HCL Tech, LTI Mindtree and L&T Tech Services also did not increase salaries in the second quarter this year to manage costs and



profits. Regarding Infosys, Motilal Oswal Financial Services had said in its pre-earnings note that Infosys' margins may decline in the December quarter. This is owing to employees going on leave and fewer working days.

CES 2025: Samsung highlights AI-connected home appliances, 8K QLED TV

Las Vegas, Jan 7 (IANS) : Samsung Electronics will propose Home AI, a hyper-personalised solution combining cutting-edge artificial intelligence and enhanced connectivity, at CES 2025 in the US. The South Korean tech giant will run a 3,368-square-meter showroom at the Las Vegas Convention Center, the largest among corporate participants at the annual tech show that will run from Tuesday to Friday. The exhibit, themed "AI for All," will focus on showcasing the

company's latest AI technologies and SmartThings connectivity for homes, providing solutions for a more personalised AI experience that reflects diversified lifestyles, reports Yonhap news agency. The exhibit will demonstrate how Home AI customises living spaces for families by analysing data collected through the SmartThings platform integrated into a wide range of Samsung products, from washing machines and TVs to laptops and smartphones. Samsung Electronics also envisions extending this connected experience beyond homes to vehicles, ships and commercial

spaces. Its SmartThings Pro provides tailored business solutions for apartments, stores, offices, hotels and other commercial spaces, redefining connectivity in diverse environments. Additionally, the company will spotlight its commitment to accessibility and social responsibility through innovative AI features.



Meta goes to NCLAT against CCI's Rs 213 crore penalty on WhatsApp

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Social media platform Meta on Tuesday moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), challenging a recent Competition Commission of India (CCI) order imposing a Rs 213 crore penalty on the firm related to WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy update. In November last year, the competition watchdog directed WhatsApp to not share user data collected on its platform with other Meta products or companies for advertising purposes for a period of five years, along with imposing a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore on Meta for allegedly abusing its dominant position. Meta has now informed the NCLAT that the CCI order has wide ramifications for the industry as a whole and therefore.

YouTube most used mobile platform in South Korea in Dec

Seoul, Jan 7 (IANS) : The video streaming service YouTube was the most used mobile app in South Korea in December, industry data showed on Tuesday, while China's shopping platform Temu ranked as the top newly installed app. The Google-owned streaming platform recorded 46.82 million monthly active users last month, followed by KakaoTalk, South Korea's top mobile messenger, with 45.5 million, according to

data from industry tracker IGAWorks. Naver, the country's top search engine, had 43.77 million active users, followed by Google with 37.59 million, reports Yonhap news agency.



Sensex projected to rise 18 pc by end of 2025 : Morgan Stanley

Mumbai, Jan 7 (IANS) : Morgan Stanley expects India to be one of the best performing emerging markets in 2025, with a base case projection for Sensex to rise by 18 per cent by December end. In its latest note, the US-headquartered investment bank sees 18 per cent base case upside for the BSE Sensex by the December end. "India's macro stability is strong due to improving terms

of trade and flexible inflation target," said the global brokerage, forecasting earnings of 18-20 per cent over the next four to five years. Private capital expenditure cycle, re-leveraging of corporate balance sheets and unfolding of a structural rise in discretionary consumption are among reasons for this. A reliable source of domestic risk capital also contributes to the capital expenditure Infrastructure spending, restruc-

turing GST rates, direct tax reforms, more free trade agreements, and focus on energy transition are other areas that will contribute to India's macro stability, said Morgan Stanley in its note. As far as interest rates are concerned, Morgan Stanley expects a shallow cycle of 50 basis points with the rate cuts starting from February. It expects two consecutive rate cuts of 25 bps each. The Reserve Bank of In-

dia (RBI) is now committed to durable liquidity. Regulatory tightening may loosen in the weeks ahead, according to the brokerage. Initial issuance in the Indian markets is running at about 1.3 per cent of GDP versus the previous peak of over 3.5 per cent and set to rise further, Morgan Stanley said in the note. The base case estimate also entails robust domestic growth, no recession in the US and benign oil prices. "We use a modest re-



duction in interest rates and positive liquidity environment as the base case for monetary policy. We do not anticipate a bunching of issuances, and the retail bid keeps its nose ahead of the supply," Morgan Stanley said.

ArcelorMittal shutting down loss-making long steel business in South Africa, 3,500 jobs likely to go

Johannesburg, Jan 7 (IANS) : Steel producer ArcelorMittal South Africa Ltd announced on Tuesday that it is shutting down its loss-making long steel business in the country, a move that is likely to hit about 3,500 direct and indirect jobs. The closure of the operations has been on the anvil since November amid prolonged weak economic conditions, logistics and energy challenges and a

flood of cheap imports from China. The firm's shares fell as much as 15 per cent in early trading, after the announcement.



Sales of imported cars in South Korea decline for 2nd year in 2024

Seoul, Jan 7 (IANS) : Sales of imported cars in South Korea fell for the second straight year in 2024, while hybrid vehicles emerged as the top-selling fuel type for the first time, industry data showed on Tuesday. The number of newly registered imported passenger cars in 2024 totalled 263,288 units, down 2.9 per cent from the previous year, according to the data from the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association. It marked a second consecutive annual decline, following a 4.4 per cent on-year drop in 2023, reports Yonhap news agency. Hybrid was the most popular fuel type, with 134,426 units sold.





Odisha Cabinet approves several key proposals; pension for elderly, disabled hiked

Bhubaneswar, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Odisha Cabinet on Tuesday approved nine key proposals including the hike in pension amount for the Persons with Disabilities and elderly persons of 80 years of age or above. The decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi here on Tuesday. "State Cabinet have approved the proposal to enhance the pension amount of the eligible pensioners aged 80 years and above or PwDs having disability percentage of 80 per cent and above under both Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme to Rs 3,500 per month with effect from January 2025," a press note issued by the state government read. In another significant decision, the state Cabinet on Friday gave its nod to the proposal allowing the state government to stand as guarantee for the new loans to be availed by the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) Ltd. It is pertinent here to mention that OSCSC, the Implementing Agency (IA) of Paddy Procurement operations and Public Distribution System (PDS) on behalf of the Odisha government, makes the payment of MSP to the farmers within 24 to 48 hours of the purchase of paddy. The OSCSC Ltd also makes the payment to millers to get the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) out of the procured paddy. The OSCSC Ltd. incurs all these expenditures by borrowing loans from banks and repays after release of subsidy from the Government of India.

Top Ajit Pawar camp leader puts to rest possibility of reunion between two NCP factions

Mumbai, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of a reunion with the Sharad Pawar faction, saying that it will remain with its stand of allying with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre, and MahaYuti in Maharashtra. "The party is an ally of the NDA at the Centre and in MahaYuti in the state. The NCP has recorded a thumping win in Maharashtra under the leadership of Ajit Pawar. Our agenda and stand taken in July 2023 is quite clear. We will continue with NDA and MahaYuti. There is no rethinking in our stand," Maharashtra unit NCP chief Sunil Tatkare told reporters. To a question about whether a reunion is possible if NCP-SP changes its present political stand (of not aligning with BJP-led MahaYuti), Tatkare remarked: "There are no ifs and buts in politics and I cannot answer such a question." He added that "family and politics are two different things".



Complete all development works on time: Rajasthan CM tells officials

Jaipur, Jan 7 (IANS) : Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said that the state government is working with the 'Antyodaya' resolution through various development works to provide roads, water, electricity, health and basic facilities to the common people. He instructed the officials to set a timeline for completing these development works and complete them on time. Sharma said this while addressing the review meeting of development works of Sangarer Assembly constituency held at the Chief Minister's residence on Tuesday. The progress of various development works related to the Energy Department, PWD, Medical and Health, Revenue, PHED, Autonomous Governance, Water Resources and Urban Develop-

ment Department was reviewed on the occasion. He instructed all the departments to complete the work by coordinating with each other. The Chief Minister said that all the departments should regularly monitor their projects so that the common people do not have to face problems. He also gave necessary guidelines to officials regarding the construction of 132 KV GSS in Pratap Nagar and laying power lines beneath the ground. He said that PWD and NHAI should coordinate with each other and complete the Bhankrota flyover soon so that the traffic system can be smooth. He directed the PWD to ensure quality construction of the flyover, underpass and Bilwa flyover to be built at a 200-foot intersection. He said that the road widening work from

RICO culvert to Malpura Railway Gate should be completed soon so that traffic flow is smoothened. Sharma said that pending applications for water connection should be disposed of in a timely manner by running a campaign under Prithviraj Nagar Project. He also reviewed the strengthening and improvement works of the drinking water distribution system in Jaipur Municipal Corporation area under Amrit 2.0. The Chief Minister said that the concerned department should prepare an action plan indicating all the development works of Sangarer Assembly constituency. He said that encroachments should be removed around the gates of archaeological importance in Sangarer and their beautification work should be done in accordance with the gates of the rampart.

Two held in Gurugram for cheating of Rs 26 lakh

Gurugram, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Gurugram police have arrested two people for allegedly duping a Dundahera resident of Rs 26 lakh on the pretext of a job for his sister at Delhi University (DU), police said. Complainant Ankur Rao told the police that two persons fraudulently extorted Rs 26 lakh in the name of getting his sister's job as an Assistant Pro-

fessor at Delhi University during the year 2023/24. Upon receiving the complaint, a case was registered under the relevant sections at the Udyog Vihar police station in Gurugram. The complainant alleged that Omkar Yadav (30), a resident of Kherki Baghanki village, came to his house and claimed that he had acquaintances with higher officials in DU. The accused claimed that he would get his sister cleared in the interview and get her employed.



IPS Randhir Verma honoured on martyrdom anniversary for heroic sacrifice

Dhanbad, Jan 7 (IANS) : The date January 3, 1991, remains etched in the collective memory of Dhanbad as the day when an extraordinary act of bravery and sacrifice unfolded right at the centre of the city. On this day, IPS officer Randhir Verma, then serving as SP of Dhanbad district, laid down his life to thwart the plans of Khalistani terrorists, ensuring the safety of several lives. On Tuesday, a tribute ceremony was held here at the memorial dedicated to this courageous officer. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar, along with several dignitaries, including late Randhir Verma's wife and former MP Rita Verma, joined a large gathering to pay homage. Floral tributes were offered

as the crowd remembered his unparalleled dedication to duty. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Gangwar said, "Randhir Verma set the highest standards of duty and patriotism by foiling the bank robbery. His sacrifice inspires generations and reminds us of the paramount importance of duty and love for the nation." In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Khalistani terrorists sought to expand their influence beyond

Punjab by targeting financially significant regions. Dhanbad, then a vital hub in Bihar due to its coal wealth, became a target. On January 3, 1991, a report reached SP Randhir Verma about armed dacoits raiding the Bank of India in Hirapur Binod Market. These were no ordinary robbers but Khalistani terrorists planning a heist to fund their operations.

'Newborn girls will be welcomed': LS Speaker Om Birla in Kota

Jaipur, Jan 7 (IANS) : Kota-Bundi region in Rajasthan will now set an example in the field of economic self-reliance and social security of girlchild and daughters, said Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday, while launching the third phase of Suposhit Maa Abhiyan at the Chhappan Bhog premises. He added that the proper arrangements will be made from primary to higher education for daughters so that they be-



come capable. "If the daughters stand on their own feet, the entire family becomes financially strong. We will not only provide them economic and social support but will also discharge the responsibility from their education to marriage," said Birla.



BJP J&K Yuva Morcha district president shot at in Jammu city

Jammu, Jan 7 (IANS) : Kanav Sharma, Jammu district president of the BJP Yuva Morcha, and a practising advocate, was shot at on Tuesday.

Mayor's wife listed twice in electoral roll with different names: BJP

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Delhi BJP on Tuesday wrote to Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, seeking a probe into an alleged discrepancy related to the name of Mayor Mahesh Kumar Khichi's wife in the voters' list of Karol Bagh constituency. Alleging wrongdoing, BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed that two women, with separate EPIC cards, are listed as the 'wife' of Mayor Khichi, a prominent Dalit leader of the AAP. In the letter, Kapoor stated that Mayor Khichi lives at F-12, Nehru Nagar, Karol Bagh, and is in the voter list of Karol Bagh Assembly Constituency's Part 40. The Mayor is listed as Voter Number 280 in the voter list's Part 40.



His wife, Nidhi, is listed at Serial Number 281 with EPIC Number RJNI365741. Shockingly, the same voters list also registers another woman, Mamta, at Voter Number 285 with EPIC Number 15915026, as the Mayor's wife. Kapoor said that while he has no personal knowledge about the name of the Mayor's wife.

Maldives 'concrete expression' of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy: EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi/Male, Jan 7 (IANS) : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said that Maldives remains a "concrete expression" of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and New Delhi has always stood by the Indian Ocean archipelago, especially when it comes to giving financial support during challenging times. "We have increased our engagements in various sectors, and I want to emphasise that India has always stood by the Maldives. You are a concrete expression of our 'Neighbourhood First' policy," said EAM Jaishankar during his meeting with Abdulla Khaleel, the vis-

iting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives at New Delhi's Hyderabad House on Friday. Both sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects under Phase-III in Maldives through grant assistance by the Government of India and also took stock of progress made on the understandings reached during the State Visit of Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu in October 2024, following-up on issues that need further focus. "I believe we have some important and positive developments to report, and certainly, there is much

more that we need to do. I see that the framework to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions has been signed. We have increased our engagements in various sectors," said Jaishankar in his opening remarks at the start of bilateral discussions. Khaleel, on his part, appreciated the timely emergency financial assistance extended by India to Maldives in times of need, reflecting India's role as the "First Responder" of Maldives. He reaffirmed Muizzu government's firm commitment to work closely with the Government of India in realising the Joint Vision for India-Maldives Comprehensive



Economic and Maritime Security Partnership. Highlighting that the three-day India visit is his first bilateral engagement of the year, he mentioned that 2025 is an important year for Maldives-India relations as both countries cel-

brate 60 years of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. "Our partnership dates back to centuries. Our partnership is built on mutual understanding, respect and a shared commitment. Rooted in decades of trust and

friendship, it will continue to thrive... As a beneficiary of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the government of Maldives deeply values the significant importance India placed in its relationship with the Maldives.



Maharashtra govt to launch drone-based vigilance to curb illegal fishing

Mumbai, Jan 7 (IANS) : The MahaYuti government in Maharashtra will soon put in place a drone-based monitoring and digital data maintenance mechanism for fishing vessels from January 9 in a serious bid to prevent illegal fishing and implement the state's Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2021. Newly appointed Minister of Fisheries Nitesh Rane said on Tuesday that nine drones have been made available on lease for the state's maritime district, including two units each in Raigad and Ratnagiri and one each in Palghar, Thane, Mumbai, and Mumbai Suburban. A control room will be established in the office of the Commissioner of Fisheries. The minister said that the department's vessels conduct patrolling, but it is not possible for the patrol boats to inspect every boat. "Unauthorised boats often escape, and they are difficult to catch. The drone monitoring system will be effective to

curb illegal fishing," he added. Shiv Sena legislator and former MP Nilesh Rane during the winter session, had raised the issue in the state assembly of illegal fishing and the menace of unauthorised boats in Ratnagiri and other coastal districts of the state. He urged the state government to take stern action. According to the fisheries department office, the Fisheries Act aims to protect the interests of the state's traditional fishing community and curb illegal fishing by migrant fishermen. Earlier, the Maharashtra Maritime Board had thought of launching drone-based monitoring to keep an eye on illegal fishing activities after traditional fishing communities from Uttan, Vasai and other coastal areas in the state had alleged that the big players were not following the annual monsoon fishing ban imposed along the coastline.

Alert along Tripura-Mizoram-B'desh border after reports of cross-border movement of militants

Agartala/Aizawl, Jan 7 (IANS) : Security forces including the Border Security Force (BSF) are on a high alert after reports of movement of militants from Bangladesh along the Tripura and Mizoram bor-

ders, officials said on Tuesday. Tripura has a 856 km and Mizoram a 318 km-long border with Bangladesh. Of Tripura's 856 km International Border, about 26.64 kms are yet to be fenced while the entire Mizoram frontiers are unfenced.



Odisha govt declares unseasonal rain as natural calamity

Bhubaneswar, Jan 7 (IANS) : In the wake of massive crop losses due to the recent untimely rainfall in coastal districts in Odisha, the state government has declared the unseasonal rains as natural calamity. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced while participating in the three-day Krushi Odisha-2025 programme which began here on Tuesday. Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the event here on Tuesday, CM Majhi said, "The unseasonal rain that took place in Odisha last month caused massive damages in 16 coastal districts of the state. So, I have sent the Ministers to the affected districts for an on-ground assessment of the damages. Assessment was also carried out at the department level."

K'taka Cong won't succeed in finishing off JD(S): HD Kumaraswamy

Bengaluru, Jan 7 (IANS) : Union Minister for Heavy industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy said on Tuesday that the Congress won't succeed in 'Operation Hast' "designed to finish off" the JD (S) in Karnataka. Addressing media in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy, the Karnataka JD(S) Chief said: "The Congress is plotting to finish off our party by trying to lure 12 or 13 MLAs. I am aware of all these conspiracies. We know what the Congress is up to. Their sins are piling up, and divine justice will eventually punish them." Expressing confidence over his MLAs' loyalty, he said: "They are informing me of Congress' activities. We know how to safeguard our party. The JD(S) cannot be shaken or weakened by anyone." Slamming the Congress government for its "unfulfilled" guarantee schemes, the leader said: "There's a race to announce unrealistic schemes. Look at what has happened in Himachal Pradesh after similar guarantees. Congress MLAs and ministers must question their conscience, observe what is happening in the state, and think about the direction in which you are taking Karnataka." The Union Minister said that instead of unveiling new development initiatives, the government has announced price hikes. Comparing the governance in the state with



the previous dispensation, he said, "Earlier, price hikes were made only when necessary. Adjustments were also made to reduce prices when possible. But this government's mismanagement has placed the entire burden on the people. It has taken every problem onto itself and is making the public pay the price." Expressing displeasure over the bus fare hike, he said: "The government has increased bus fares by 15 per cent placing a heavy burden on the people.

River-interlinking initiative needs comprehensive review: Punjab Speaker

Chandigarh, Jan 7 (IANS) : The river-interlinking initiative proposed by the Union government warrants comprehensive review and needs to be thoroughly examined, said Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Tuesday, while characterising this initiative as an unprecedented intervention in natural systems. He cautioned that such projects could adversely impact agricultural productivity and disrupt monsoon patterns. In an official statement here, Sandhwan said Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project in Madhya Pradesh. "Although the Union government said the objective of redistributing water resources to drought-prone regions," the Speaker said, adding that scientific research indicates such interventions could significantly alter natural hydrological systems. The Speaker expressed concerns that large-scale hydrological modifications could disrupt established monsoon patterns, potentially endangering agricultural sustainability and affecting mul-

tiiple sectors nationwide. He advocated for prioritising water conservation and recycling initiatives, asserting the critical need for implementing advanced water treatment and purification programs. The Ken-Betwa Link Project is the inaugural project of 30 planned initiatives under the National Perspective Plan, orchestrated by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for water resource development and river connectivity. This project is supposed to channelise surplus water from Madhya Pradesh's Ken river to Uttar Pradesh's Betwa river, intended to enhance irrigation capa-



bilities in the drought-susceptible Bundelkhand region. The Ken-Betwa River linking project is expected to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of at least 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh and various districts of Uttar Pradesh. The project is aimed at generating more than 100 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar energy.

6-yr-old girl raped and murdered in Madhya Pradesh; accused held

Bhopal, Jan 7 (IANS) : In a shocking incident, a six-year-old tribal girl was allegedly raped and then brutally murdered in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district, the police said on Tuesday, adding the accused has been apprehended. Police recovered the minor girl's body from near a canal in Nayapura village surrounded by a dense forest area in Seoni around 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The girl had been missing from home since morning. She was abducted from her house while she was sleeping. The police, after tracing and recovering the minor girl's body, went to a community health centre where the post-mortem was conducted. The post-mortem confirmed that the toddler was first raped and then smothered to death.

NIA makes third arrest in Bengal BJP leader murder case

Kolkata, Jan 7 (IANS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested another key accused in the murder of BJP leader Bijoy Krishna Bhunia in East Midnapore district of West Bengal in May 2023. The NIA in a statement said Mohan Mondal had been arrested in Pune in Maharashtra. He has been absconding since the murder of Bhunia in May last year, "Mohan Mondal was nabbed by the NIA on Thursday in connection with the May 2023 case, in which Bijoy Krishna Bhunia was kidnapped and killed in Goramahal village in Moyna in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal. Mohan Mandal had non-bailable warrants issued against him after

he had absconded," the NIA statement read. As per the NIA statement, Mondal is the third accused to be nabbed in the case, the other two being Naba Kumar Mondal and Suwendu Bhowmick, who were arrested earlier. Naba Kumar Mondal was arrested in November last year. NIA registered the case after taking over the investigation from the Moyna police on the directions of the Calcutta High Court through an order in April 2024. "NIA is continuing with its investigation as part of its efforts to unveil the whole conspiracy behind the abduction and murder of Bhunia and to arrest the remaining absconders," the statement read. Bhunia was murdered at Moyna in May last year. Initially,



Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Rajasekhar Mantha ordered a sub-divisional police officer (SDPO)-level probe in the matter. However, later there were allegations against the state police of a flawed investigation into the matter. The first complaint was that the event of recovery of bombs from the place of the murder was not mentioned in the charge sheet. The accusations against the state police were also that their investigating officials had not included the names of a number of accused in the chargesheet.

Country's first pediatric gait trainer launched in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 7 (IANS) : Genrobotics, a leading robotics company, on Tuesday launched India's first robotic-assisted pediatric gait trainer here for physical rehabilitation of children facing mobility issues with conditions like cerebral palsy. Statistics show that around 18 million children face mobility issues due to cerebral palsy alone. The G-Gaiter Pediatric seeks to bridge this gap by equipping hospitals, neurorehabilitation centres, early intervention and rehabilitation centres with robotic technology-driven products for providing a better quality of life to every child facing gait disabilities. Kerala Health, Woman and Child Development Minister Veena George launched the G-Gaiter Pediatric at a function

here by handing over the first such machine. Speaking on the occasion, Minister George said the launch of G-Gaiter Pediatric marked a significant step forward in the physical rehabilitation of children facing gait disabilities resulting from conditions like cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. "I am sure G-Gaiter Pediatric will bring smiles to the faces of children facing mobility issues and to their parents and make this world a more beautiful place," George added. "Kerala's health sector has never been a technology-driven one, rather it was built on strong and timely community interventions and public healthcare activities.



RG Kar tragedy: Victim's parents to approach SC highlighting 'grey areas' in CBI probe

Kolkata, Jan 7 (IANS) : The parents of the junior woman doctor of R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata, who became a victim of a ghastly rape and murder within the hospital premises in August last year, have now decided to move the Supreme Court of India to highlight the "grey areas" in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in the matter. The decision on the part of the parents to approach the apex court had been taken since last month, the Calcutta High Court had held that their petition demanding fresh enquiry in the matter would not be entertained unless certain things in the matter are clarified. A single-judge bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh had observed that his bench would act on the matter only if it was clear whether the CBI probe in the matter was court-monitored or not.



Delhi: No power bill hike for 70,000 consumers, assures NDMC

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : In a big relief for over 70,000 power consumers in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area, Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal announced that the civic agency would not hike power tariffs for any consumer. If needed, the NDMC will absorb the hike resulting from the electricity regulator's higher tariff order, he said. The electricity tariff rate for both domestic and commercial consumers will not be hiked despite the new power purchase adjustment charge (PPAC) order by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission on December 31, 2024. The current PPAC order, which proposes an increase in the cost of power for consumers, will not be implemented by NDMC, said Chahal,

ruling out any increase in electricity charges for consumers in the near future. Addressing the media, Chairperson Keshav Chandra said NDMC would take all steps to retain the current electricity charges for its consumers. There are nearly 70,000 power connections in NDMC areas, of which over 60 per cent are domestic households. Council Members Anil Valmiki, Sarita Tomar and Dinesh Pratap Singh were also at the press conference. Chahal said DERC had not issued a tariff order since 2021-22. It is pertinent to mention that DERC issued a tariff order for FY 2021-22 in September 2021, in which the average PPAC for NDMC was Rs 7.26 per unit. In the absence of a tariff order, PPAC petitions were submitted by discom quarterly, indicating the

difference in the actual cost of purchasing power and the cost of power mandated by the DERC through its order, Chahal said. PPAC orders are ad-hoc in nature, and they are reconciled during the truing up of accounts of a discom, he said. At the press conference, he said that the PPAC is a surcharge provided by the electricity regulatory commission to compensate for variations in the power purchase costs incurred by distribution companies. But NDMC has decided not to increase the electricity tariff rate for its consumers despite PPAC orders by DERC. Chahal said that Secretary (Power), GOI, in a meeting held on July 15, mentioned that the Central government desires NDMC to be a smart city using 100 per cent renewable energy.



Alka Lamba of Congress to take on CM Atishi in Kalkaji seat

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Delhi Congress has fielded ex-legislator from Chandni Chowk Alka Lamba from the Kalkaji seat against AAP nominee and Chief Minister Atishi, a decision that promises a thrilling contest in the South Delhi constituency

dominated by low-income people and middle class Punjabi families. Lamba, who is also the president of All India Mahila Congress, had joined the AAP when it was launched in 2012 after an anti-corruption campaign.



'We are trying to mainstream mental health', says J.P. Nadda

Bengaluru, Jan 7 (IANS) : Union Health and Family Welfare Minister and BJP President, J.P. Nadda, said on Tuesday that efforts are being made to mainstream mental health in the country. He was delivering a speech during the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru held in the institution's auditorium. Union Minister Nadda said, "I am happy that NIMHANS is providing mental healthcare to lakhs of people.



Govt amends Foreign Trade Policy to give stakeholders a say in decisions

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified the amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 to make it necessary to hold consultations with stakeholders to seek views, suggestions, comments or feedback from relevant stakeholders, including exporters and industry experts concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy. The latest amendment in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 was made to include Para 1.07A and 1.07B to bring legal backing to holding stakeholder consultations.

Calcutta HC seeks report from Bengal government over 'violence' in cooperative bank election

Kolkata, Jan 7 (IANS) : The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday sought a report from the West Bengal government on alleged violence during the election for a cooperative body in the East Midnapore district last month. The single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta gave the direction to the state government on a petition filed by a local woman BJP leader demanding a National Investigation Agency (NIA) investigation into the matter.



Amritsar Police bust cross-border drug, weapon smuggling cartel; 12 held

Chandigarh, Jan 7 (IANS) : Amritsar Commissionerate Police have busted a cross-border drug and weapon smuggling cartel with the arrest of 12 people, including kingpin Manjeet Singh, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, here on Tuesday. The other 11 arrested accused have been identified as Aniket Verma, Jobanpreet Singh, Babli,

Harpreet Singh, Amritpal Singh, Reshma, Harshpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Lovepreet Singh and Akashdeep Singh. Police teams have recovered 2.19 kg heroin, three sophisticated pistols, including two automatic ones, and Rs 2.60 lakh drug money from their possession. DGP Yadav said that accused Manjeet, who is a key player, was

in direct contact with Pakistan-based smugglers and handlers and was receiving consignments of drugs and weapons from across the border. The probe revealed that consignments were being dropped at Ramdas and Ajnala border sectors with the help of drones, he added. The DGP said further investigations are on to establish forward and backward linkages in this case.

International migration organisation ramps up cholera response in South Sudan

Juba, Jan 7 (IANS) : The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a UN migration agency, said Tuesday that it had scaled up its response to the ongoing cholera outbreak in South Sudan with crucial aid supplies. Muhammad Assar, IOM's head of Operations, said the essential water purification tablets, commonly known as Aqua

Tags, are part of a coordinated effort of the Core humanitarian pipeline to curb the spread of cholera, which has been exacerbated by flooding, limited access to clean water, and constrained health services. "With support from the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, we are working tirelessly to provide critical health and sanitation services to the most vulnerable populations"



Snake bites up 35 per cent in Australia's most populous state

Sydney, Jan 7 (IANS) : The number of reported snake bites in Australia's most populous state of New South Wales (NSW) has spiked. According to data released on Tuesday by the NSW Poisons Information Center, there were 320 reported snake bites in the state between September 1 and December 20, 2024. It marked an increase of 35 per cent from the same period in 2023, with experts attributing the rise to weather and habitat destruction. Of those bitten in the 2024 period, 61 were children younger than 15. None of the bites in NSW were fatal, Xinhua news agency reported. Genevieve Adamo, a pharmacist and senior specialist in poisons information at the centre, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that people need to be more cautious of snakes, especially during the summer months when both snakes and people are more active.



German, French FMs visit Syria, pledge support for 'peaceful transition'

Damascus, Jan 7 (IANS) : German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and her French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot arrived in Damascus on Tuesday for high-level talks with Syria's interim administration, led by Ahmed al-Sharaa. This marks one of the most significant Western diplomatic visits since the downfall of the previous government.

In remarks reported by local media outlets such as al-Watan Online and Syria TV, Baerbock said the EU sees potential for "a new political relationship with Syria," emphasising that Syrians now have "an opportunity to reclaim their country's destiny after the painful Assad era." She added that Germany wanted to back the new administration in achieving "a comprehensive and peaceful transition of power" and aid with reconstruction. Barrot, for his part, underscored a commitment to bolstering Syria's path to stability, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We aim to enhance a peaceful transition that benefits both the Syrian people and regional security," said the French minister.

The two officials are set to meet with al-Sharaa, the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

Since December 8, several Arab and Western diplomatic delegations, including Americans, have visited Syria and met with the new authorities. On Wednesday, Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi had emphasised the importance of mutual co-operation and efforts for development and stability in Syria and the region.

During a phone conversation with Syria's interim Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan Al-Shaibani, Albusaidi reiterated Oman's unwavering support for the Syrian people.

Cambodia records 74 per cent drop in malaria cases in 2024: Official

Phnom Penh, Jan 7 (IANS) : Cambodia has reported a 74 per cent decrease in malaria cases in 2024, marking significant progress in the fight against the disease, a health official said on Tuesday.

Huy Rekol, Director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, said malaria cases in the Southeast Asian country plummeted by 74 per cent from 1,384 cases in 2023 to only 355 cases in 2024.

"It's wonderful to hear about the remarkable progress Cambodia has made in reducing malaria cases in 2024. It is truly impressive," he told.

"Moreover, Cambodia has reported zero



fatalities since 2018 and no local Plasmodium Falciparum cases since January 2024," he added. Rekol said this achievement could be attributed to improvement in surveillance response, increased awareness among citizens, and availability of adequate equipment, such as malaria testing devices, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and anti-malarial drugs. He added that the efforts of healthcare professionals and the government, along with effective malaria diagnostic tests and treatments like Artesunate-Mefloquine (ASMQ), have been instrumental in this success.

Analysts see bright prospects for Malaysia's renewable energy

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 7 (IANS) : Malaysia's renewable energy sector is poised for robust growth, driven by government initiatives and forthcoming investments, analysts said.

In its recent report, Philip Capital reaffirmed its positive outlook on Malaysia's renewable energy sector, citing continued government initiatives and potential new investments.



Heavy snow forecast for northern, eastern Japan

Tokyo, Jan 7 (IANS) : Heavy snow is expected to hit northern and eastern Japan through Tuesday, mainly in mountainous areas along the Sea of Japan coast, due to a winter pressure pattern and a cold air mass, the country's weather agency said Tuesday. As of 5 am local time Friday, 412 centimetres of snow had accumulated in Sukayu in the Hakkoda mountain range in Aomori Prefecture.

WFP seeks 404 million USD to provide food aid in South Sudan

Juba, Jan 7 (IANS) : The World Food Programme (WFP) said it requires \$404 million to support the urgent humanitarian needs of millions of crisis-affected people in South Sudan over the next six months. In its latest report, the WFP said that South Sudan is facing crises that continue to push millions of families into new levels of vulnerability.

The country continues to grapple with a long-standing humanitarian crisis marked by chronic food and nutrition insecurity, the report said, adding that the ongoing conflict in Sudan has worsened the situation, driving 892,000 people into South Sudan by November 30, 2024.



South Korea: Engine from Jeju Air crash retrieved; black box to be sent to US next week for analysis

Muan, Jan 7 (IANS) : South Korea's government investigators on Tuesday recovered the aircraft engine from the Jeju Air crash as they are focusing on determining the cause of the accident that claimed 179 lives this week. Investigators of the Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board have retrieved the engine of the crashed B737-800 from the accident site at Muan International Airport and transported it to a secure location for analysis, according to officials. The government is also working to recover the tail section of the aircraft. Authorities briefly halted the process after blood traces were discovered

inside the fuselage. Officials plan to determine whether the blood belongs to a passenger or an animal, such as a bird, through detailed forensic analysis. Additionally, work on converting the audio from the cockpit voice recorder into text is nearing completion, officials said. The aircraft's Flight Data Recorder (FDR) was found to be partially damaged, making data extraction impossible on-site. Officials plan to send the FDR to the US National Transportation Safety Board in Washington for analysis on Monday. Separately, authorities have begun the process of returning victims' personal vehicles to their families, with applications being accepted



from relatives, Yonhap news agency reported. Digital forensic analysis is also being conducted on 107 mobile phones recovered from the crash site under the consent of the families. Investigators are hoping the analysis might yield critical information that might shed light on the in-cabin situation just before the crash. Meanwhile, Jeju Air Co. on

Thursday said it planned to reduce flight operations as early as the following week in response to growing concerns over the safety of flights operated by the leading low-cost carrier after this week's fatal crash.

Security forces seize arms, ammunition in Afghanistan

Kabul, Jan 7 (IANS) : Afghan security forces have discovered a vast quantity of arms and ammunition in Kunar and Nuristan provinces, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. The weaponry, which includes 49 Kalashnikovs, 29 rocket launchers, 29 rocket-propelled grenades, 66 hand grenades, a large number of cartridges

and bullets, and other illegally preserved military equipment, have been seized during a series of operations in different districts of the said provinces, the statement added.

The statement offered no further information regarding the timing of the seizure of the confiscated weapons.





India to field biggest-ever contingent in India Open; Olympic champs Axelsen, Se Young among other stars

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Host India will field its biggest-ever contingent of 21 entries in the third edition of the India Open, the BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament, scheduled for January 14 to 19 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, Indira Gandhi Stadium. In the last two Super 750 editions, India had a total of 14 en-

tries each with Asian Games men's doubles gold medallists Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy reaching the men's doubles final and Asian Games bronze medallist HS Prannoy making it to the men's singles last four stages in 2024. This edition of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event will see host India getting 21 entries –

three in men's singles, four in women's singles, two in men's doubles, eight in women's doubles and four in mixed doubles. Top stars like Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen.



Not slept for many nights: Aubameyang opens up on traumatic Barcelona robbery

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS): Pierre Emerick Aubameyang has opened up on the traumatic experience he and his family went through when a few men broke into his house in August 2022. At the time, the Gabonese striker was playing for FC Barcelona and his house in the town of Castelldefels was broken into while his entire family was at home. The robbers held his kids at gunpoint and stole jewellery, watches and a car. "My eldest son came running and said to me, 'Dad, some guys are in the house. I said, 'Just hide'. They came in from outside, where my wife was smoking with my cousin and her boyfriend. They took him (the cousin's boyfriend) and came into the house. My wife was screaming. They had a gun. "At the same time, my sister-in-law was there with our little one I said to her, too, 'Just go. Try to hide somewhere'. This is when I saw the guys. There were four or five, I think.

ISL 2024-25: Ambitious FC Goa face struggling Hyderabad FC

Margao (Goa), Jan 7 : FC Goa will host Hyderabad FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao on Wednesday. A win with a clean sheet in this game will mark the first time FC Goa record four consecutive shut-outs against an opponent in ISL history.



Cummins, Bumrah, Paterson nominated for Men's Player of December

Dubai, Jan 7 (IANS) : Australia captain Pat Cummins, Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, and South Africa's star seamer Dane Paterson have been shortlisted for the ICC Men's Player of December 2024. Australian skipper Cummins was at his brilliant best during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, delivering standout performances with both bat and ball. Cummins led his team to a 3-1 series victory against India, securing Australia's spot in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 Final. The pacer claimed 17 wickets in three Tests at an impressive average of 17.64. His best figures came in Adelaide, where he bowled a magnificent 5/57 to help Australia secure

a 10-wicket victory. Cummins was not just effective with the ball; he contributed vital runs with the bat, including knocks of 49 and 41 in Melbourne, which proved decisive in Australia's win. Cummins' leadership and all-round contributions were instrumental.



Winning U19 Women's WC as captain is one of the best moments of my cricketing career : Shafali Verma

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Opener Shafali Verma said captaining India to the title in the inaugural U19 Women's World Cup is one of the best moments of her cricketing career. The superstar batter guided India to victory in the inaugural tournament in South Africa in January 2023. Verma

led from the front, scoring 172 runs across the competition and guiding her team to a seven-wicket win over England in the final. "Representing India in itself is a great honour. Being chosen to captain the Indian cricket team was icing on the cake, honestly. I was fortunate to have some of the finest talent in the age-group cricket

from back home at my disposal," the ICC quoted Verma as saying. "While it was simply brilliant to lead that talented lot, it was more about playing together as a unit, sharing a solid camaraderie and making sure everyone is in great spirits as we looked to enjoy ourselves in the middle. "Obviously, winning the tourna-

ment – the first of its kind in women's age-group cricket – as a captain will remain one of the best moments of my cricketing career; something that I will remember forever. It is safe to say that I was pretty emotional as we were about to lift that trophy and started to celebrate a special triumph," she added.



Kyrgios returns to Australia's Davis Cup team for first time since 2019

Melbourne, Jan 7 (IANS) : Nick Kyrgios is set to make a return to Australia's Davis Cup team for the first time in more than five years, as the

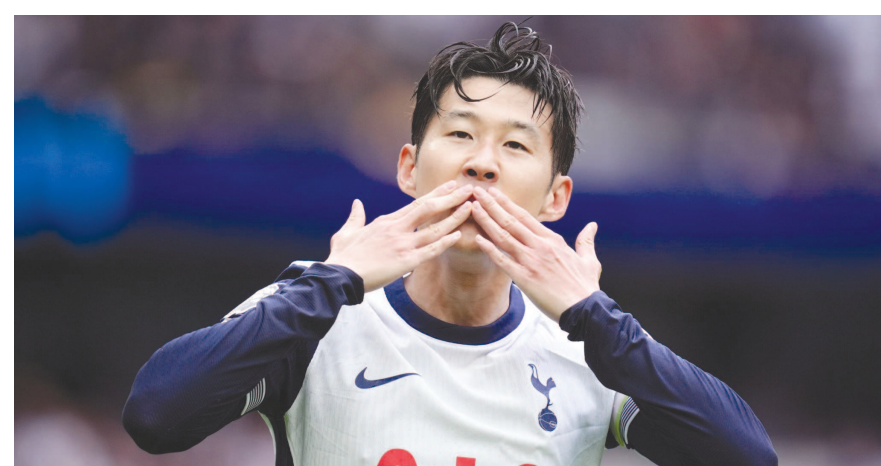
29-year-old has been named in the team for the qualifying tie in Stockholm, Sweden, scheduled on January 31 and February 1. It will be Kyrgios' first appearance in the world team competition since November 2019.



Tottenham Hotspur extend captain Heung-Min Son's contract till 2026

London, Jan 7 (IANS) : Tottenham Hotspur have exercised the option to extend captain Heung-Min Son's contract, for a year, which will now run until the summer of 2026. Since joining from Bayer Leverkusen almost a decade ago, the number seven has gone from strength to strength in Lilywhite, making 431 appearances – seeing him to 11th in Spurs' all-time appearances list- and scoring 169 goals – the fourth most in the Club's his-

tory. Named Club captain in August, 2023, the South Korea international has certainly cemented himself in Tottenham history.



Hazlewood likely to miss Sri Lanka Test tour due to calf injury : Report

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS) : Australia have faced a major setback ahead of their two-Test series against Sri Lanka, starting January 29, as senior pacer Josh Hazlewood is likely to miss the tour due to a recurring calf injury and side strain. Hazlewood injured his calf during the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India and subsequently missed the next two Test of the series.



Formula 1: Magnussen reflects on missed Ferrari and Red Bull chances

New Delhi, Jan 7 (IANS): As Kevin Magnussen steps away from Formula 1 following the conclusion of the 2024 season, the Danish driver reflects on pivotal moments in his career—choices and circumstances that could have led him down an entirely different path. From debuting with McLaren to near-misses with top teams like Ferrari and Red Bull, Magnussen's journey has been one of unfulfilled potential and immense pride. Magnussen burst onto the F1 scene in 2014, making his debut with McLaren at the Australian Grand Prix, where he claimed a stunning podium finish in third place. However, that result would prove to be the peak of his rookie season. As McLaren's performance began to decline, Magnussen

struggled to deliver consistent results, ultimately losing his seat to Fernando Alonso in 2015. Reflecting on his time at McLaren, Magnussen acknowledged the challenges of joining the team during their downturn. "It took McLaren 10 years to get back to the form they had in 2012," Magnussen told Autosport. "I hit it right at the beginning of that downward trend. If I had come two or three years earlier, it would have been a different story." Magnussen admitted that his lack of consistency on race days also played a role in his early struggles.