

# THE INDIAN MAIL

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Former US Open champion Emma Raducanu is set to make her first appearance at the Dubai Tennis Championships...

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Unanimously elected YK Madhusudan., Devarakonda Praveen Kumar the new executive committee..

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## Submit status report on land acquisition for Young India schools in a week : CM

Hyderabad, Feb.14 (NSS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed the officials to submit a status report on the land acquisition for the Young India Residential Schools in a week.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with officials of the Education Department at the Secretariat here on Friday. On the occasion, he inquired of the officials about land acquisition and other details to

construct Young India Residential Schools in every Assembly constituency in the state. The officials have been asked to complete the work before the deadline in 100 constituencies.

The Chief Minister ordered the officials to expedite the permit process for construction works in the constituencies where land acquisition has already been completed.



## Bankers need to cooperate more for agriculture sector: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Feb.14 (NSS): Minister for Agriculture and Marketing Tummala Nageswara Rao said that bankers need to cooperate more for the development of the agricultural sector in

Telangana State. He participated in the launch of the NABARD State Focus Paper along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at a hotel here on Friday.

## Kishan Reddy campaigns for party's MLC candidate

Sangareddy, Feb 14 (NSS): Union Minister & BJP Telangana State president Kishan Reddy today participated in the ongoing MLC election campaign in the district. Kishan Reddy began his speech by paying homage to the beloved children and martyrs, who sacrificed their lives while defending the borders of the country in Pulwama. He said the BJP was contesting all the three MLC seats in

Telangana. "BJP candidates Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Medak-Adilabad Graduate MLC Candidate AnjiReddy, Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Medak-Adilabad Teachers MLC candidate Malka Komurayya and Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam.



## India will never forget their supreme sacrifice :

### LoP Rahul pays tribute to martyrs of Pulwama attack

New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) : Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Friday, paid homage to brave soldiers martyred in the Pulwama terrorist attack in 2019.

"I pay my heartfelt salute and humble tribute to our brave soldiers martyred in the Pulwama terrorist attack. India will never forget his supreme sacrifice," LoP Rahul Gandhi wrote in a post on X on the sixth anniversary of the gruesome attack in

which 40 jawans lost their lives. Saluting the courage and sacrifice of Pulwama martyrs Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge remarked, "As an indebted nation, we salute the indomitable courage.



## Andhra HC denies bail to accused in Raju's custodial torture case

Amaravati, Feb 14 (IANS) : The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday dismissed the bail petition of K. Tulasi Babu, an accused in the custodial torture case of former MP and current Assembly Deputy Speaker K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju. The High Court, which had reserved its order on the bail petition on February 11, pronounced the same on Friday.

Continued on pg 02

## Under PM Modi, Indian road network has grown bigger than that of US: Gadkari

New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) : Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the road network in India has grown bigger than that of the US, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

Addressing an event to inaugurate two projects – Munshi Pulia flyover and Khurram Nagar flyover, Union Minister Gadkari said, "I can guarantee that in two years, Uttar Pradesh's National Highway network will be better than that of the US." Announcing approval for highway projects worth crores of rupees in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Union Minister Gadkari said there was no shortage of funds in the country but what was needed was leaders with honesty and



integrity. "PM Modi has the dream of making India a 'Vishwa Guru' and the third-largest economy of the world. For this, we will need a big infrastructure push that will attract investment and create jobs," he said, adding that the government is determined to bring down the logistics cost to 9 per cent that will increase Indian exports 1.5 times. "Today India and UP are changing and the state is becoming a growth engine for the country. I wish that before the end of my five-year term as minister, I manage to execute highway projects worth Rs 5 lakh crore – so far I have managed to execute projects worth only Rs 3.5 lakh crore," he said.



## YSRCP leader Vamsi Mohan remanded to judicial custody

Vijayawada, Feb 14 (IANS) : A city court sent YSR Congress Party leader and former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan to judicial custody for 14 days in a kidnap and SC/ST Atrocity case. Vamsi Mohan, who was arrested in Hyderabad by a police team and brought here on Thursday, was produced before a judge in the night after questioning for more than eight hours.

## AI, trade, defence, energy, cooperation: All that PM Modi and Trump discussed

New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) : In a significant reaffirmation of their partnership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump highlighted the robust India-US Comprehensive Global Strat-

egic Partnership, rooted in mutual trust and shared democratic values. During their high-profile meeting in Washington, the leaders emphasised their commitment to freedom, the rule of law, human rights, and pluralism, signalling a

strong and vibrant alliance between their nations as per the press release from the Prime Minister's office. Prime Minister Modi and President Trump during their recent meeting launched a new initiative -- the "US-India COM-

PACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century" – to drive transformative change across key pillars of cooperation.

Continued on pg 02



## Andhra HC denies bail to accused in Raju's custodial torture case

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Raju, then an MP, was arrested and allegedly tortured in police

custody in 2021 when the YSR Congress Party was in power. After the TDP-led coalition came

to power, a case was registered against former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others on

a complaint by Raju. Tulasi Babu, a leader of the YSR Congress Party, was arrested on

January 7 and was questioned multiple times. He was also interrogated along with retired CID Additional SP K. Vijay Paul, another accused in the case.

In an identification parade conducted by the police in the presence of the Guntur District Judge last month, Raju identified Tulasi Babu among five

**CAN FIN HOMES LTD**  
BRANCH OFFICE: Plot No. 28 Brahmarambika Colony, Beeramguda, RC Puram, Hyderabad-502032. Ph. Nos.: 08455-280777, Mob: +91-7625079404, E-mail: ramachandrapuram@canfinhomes.com, CIN No. L85110KA1987PLC008699

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
[Rule 8 (1)] [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 02-12-2024 calling upon the borrowers **Mr. Bontha Balaswamy and Mrs. Bontha Radha** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 41,67,456/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Six Only) and Rs. 2,89,449/- (Two Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine)** with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date 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 under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 (of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) on the **12th day of February of the Year 2025**.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd for an amount of **Rs. 41,67,456/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Six Only) and Rs. 2,89,449/- (Two Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine)** and interest thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:**  
All the piece and parcel of House No.4-13/1 Part, Admeasuring 125 Sq.Yards, Ward No.9 Situated At Annaram Village and Gram Panchayath, Gummadidala Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana State and Bounded by: **Boundaries of Land: North:** Place of Golusula Raju, **South:** House of Talia Venkatesham and Talia Yadagiri, **East:** Place of A Anjalai, A Parushramulu, **West:** G.P Road.

Date: 12-02-2025, Sd/- Authorized Officer,  
Place: Hyderabad-Ramachandrapuram Can Fin Homes Ltd.

## AI, trade, defence, energy, cooperation: All that PM Modi and Trump discussed

Continued From pg 01

"Under this initiative, they committed to a results-driven agenda with initial outcomes this year to demonstrate the level of trust for a mutually beneficial partnership," said the press release.

The leaders reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to a dynamic defence partnership spanning multiple domains. To advance defence ties further, the leaders announced plans to sign this year a new ten-year Framework for the 'US-India Major Defense Partnership' in the 21st Century.

The leaders welcomed the significant integra-

tion of US-origin defence items into India's inventory to date, including C-130J Super Hercules, C-17 Globemaster III, P-8I Poseidon aircraft; CH-47F Chinooks, MH-60R Seahawks, and AH-64E Apaches; Harpoon anti-air missiles; M777 howitzers; and MQ-9Bs. The leaders determined that the US would expand defence sales and co-production with India to strengthen interoperability and defence industrial cooperation.

They also announced plans to pursue this year new procurements and co-production arrangements for "Javelin" Anti-Tank Guided Missiles and "Stryker" Infantry Combat Vehicles in India to rapidly meet India's defence requirements expecting completion of procurement for six additional P-8I Maritime Patrol aircraft to enhance India's maritime surveillance reach in the Indian Ocean Region following agreement on sale terms. Recognising that India

is a Major Defence Partner with Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) authorization and a key Quad partner, the US and India will review their respective arms transfer regulations, including International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), to streamline defence trade, technology exchange and maintenance, spare supplies and in-country repair and overhaul of US-provided defence systems.

**SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032  
Branch Office: H.No:8-4-34/C, Beside E. Seva, Kamareddy Road, Siricilla.

**RULE-8(3)] POSSESSION NOTICE**

Note: "It is informed that "SHIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 31.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 31-11-2022."

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shiram Finance Limited (SFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SFL has been handed over the physical possession of the mortgaged Properties described herein below in pursuance of the order passed by the Hon'ble The Court Of The Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge-Cum-Chief Judicial Magistrate, Peddapalli under Section 14 of the said Act and Rules, on this **14th Day of February 2025**

BORROWER NAME AND ADDRESS	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) <b>Mohammad Azharuddin</b> S/o. Mohammad Tajuddin, Age: 40 Years, Occ: Business (Siri Poultry Farm), H.No.6-116, Sulthanabad, Karimnagar, Pin Code: 505185.	Rs. 33,38,715/- (Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen Rupees only)
2) <b>Shajiya Kahakasha</b> W/o. Mohammad Azharuddin, Age: 33 Years, Occ: House Wife, H.No.6-116, Opp: Masjid, Sulthanabad, Karimnagar, Pin Code: 505185.	
3) <b>MD Atharuddin</b> S/o. Tajuddin, Age: 35 Years, Occ: Govt Employee (Tspc At Julapally, Peddapally), H.No.6-116, Indira Nagar, Sulthanabad, Dist: Peddapally, Pincode: 505185. 4) <b>Vootla Varaprasad</b> S/o. Vootla Ezekal Raju, Age: 40 Years, Occ: Business (M/S. Vootla Traders And Partnership Of M/S. Sri Puluri Farm At Sulthanabad), H.No.6-109, Pragathi Nagar, Sulthanabad, Dist: Peddapally, Pincode: 505185.	

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:** RCC house bearing H.No.6-117, admeasuring to an extent of 169.20 sq. yards or 141.46 sq. mtrs., situated at alamgir Masjid, Eidgah nagar locality of Sulthanabad Town & Mandal, Peddapalli District, bounded by: **EAST:** H.No.6-116 of Md. Mazharuddin, WEST: Neerukulla Road, **NORTH:** H.No.6-109 of Vootla Vanaja Devi, **SOUTH:** H.No.6-118 of Md. Sarwar Shareef

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Date : 14.02.2025, Sd/-Authorized Officer  
Place : Sulthanabad SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

## Election of new working committee of All India Bank of Baroda SC, ST Employees Welfare Association

**GJML Kishore** who won as the secretary of the association with a huge majority

Hyderabad, Feb 14 (TIM Bureau) : Unanimously elected YK Madhusudan., Devarakonda Praveen Kumar the new executive committee elections of All India Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association were held at Visakhapatnam. GJML Kishore from Ara won as the secretary of All India Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association with a huge majority in this new executive committee election held on the occasion of 15th All India

Bank of Baroda National Conferences. Similarly, YK Madhusudan from Vizag was unanimously elected as the Secretary of Hyderabad Zones of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and Devarakonda Praveen Kumar from Chirala as the Joint Secretary of Hyderabad Zone. "All India Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association in recognition of their services rendered by the members of the association and selected them as candidates," He was given



the opportunity to work in the new working group. All India Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association Executive Committee members are happy to see Telugu Tejalu Satta Sati and Telugu Jathi's glory in the elections held. Kishore, Madhusudan, Devarakonda Praveen Kumar thanked all the members of the Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association

for trusting in them as the secretaries of the new working group of the All India Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association. They informed that they will perform their duty with sincerity. Bank of Baroda SC ST Employees Welfare Association will support the welfare of the members...

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank** (A Government of India Undertaking) **RECOVERY SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE, HYDERABAD NORTH. Ph: 9440492936 E-mail Id: recrohyd@canarabank.com**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and other Parties that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", on **21-03-2025** for recovery due to the Canara Bank from Borrower and Guarantor and GPA Holder.

**Date & time of the e-auction is on 21-03-2025, 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale). Place of Auction: Online. Last date of deposit of EMD is on or before 20-03-2025 at 5:00 P.M.**

**1 BRANCH OFFICE: PATNY CENTRE (DP 13054), HYDERABAD: Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s): M/s ERP Agro General Innovations & Infra Projects, Krishna Sai Residency, Door No.04/0006/7, F.No.102, CPR Col, Outubullapur, Malkajgiri, Medchal District, Telangana-500054. M/s ERP Agro General Innovations & Infra Projects, H.No.35-33/2, Premnagar Colony, GK Colony, Neredmet 'X' Roads, Malkajgiri-Medchal (Dt.), Telangana-500090. Sri Ratnakar Pandu (Borrower & Mortgager), H.No.35-33-1, Prem Nagar, Col GK Col, Neredmet 'X' Roads, Sainikpuri Post, Sainikpuri, Hyderabad, Telangana-500094. Smt. Rebecca Ratnakar Pandu (Borrower & Mortgager), H.No.35-33-1, Prem Nagar Col, GK Col, Neredmet 'X' Roads, Sainikpuri Post, Sainikpuri, Hyderabad, Telangana-500094. Total liabilities as on 13-02-2025: Rs.1,66,50,072/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Six Lakhs Fifty Thousand Seventy Two Only), plus unapplied interest from 13-02-2025 and bank charges there on.**

**DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES: Property 1:** All that part & parcel on Industrial Plot No L17 admeasuring 4075.00 Sq.Mtrs at Industrial Park LED park, Shivajinagar in Survey No.114, Bounded by: North: Plot No.L16, South: Plot No.L18, East: Prop 7.31 ft (24.00 Mtrs) Wide Road, West: Plot No.L24.

**RESERVE PRICE: Rs.3,15,00,000/- EMD: Rs.31,50,000/- BID MULTIPLES: Rs.2,00,000/-**

**Property 2:** All that residential house bearing No.35-33/2(35-33/1) on Plot No.16 admeasuring 300 Sq.Yds or 250 Sq.Mtrs with built up area of 1315.87 Sq.Ft RCC in Sg.No.237 situated at Premnagar Colony, Sainikpuri Post- Neredmet Village under GHMC Malkajgiri Circle & Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri (R.D) PTI No.11709000953. Bounded by: North: Road, South: Plot No.17, East: Road, West: Plot No.12.

**RESERVE PRICE: Rs.2,70,00,000/- EMD: Rs.27,00,000/- BID MULTIPLES: Rs.2,00,000/-**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Manager, Mr. Bhalu Rao, Chief Manager Canara Bank, Hyderabad Patny Centre Branch Hyderabad, Mob.No.9353461467 during office hours on any working day.

**No Known Encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank. Mode of Auction: Online Electronic Bidding Property Can be inspected with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer on 20-03-2025 before 5: 00 PM**

**Mode of Auction:** Online Electronic Bidding. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet.com). Contact: 8291220220. E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Website: https://baanknet.in

Date: 13-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank.

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank** (A Government of India Undertaking) **RECOVERY SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE, HYDERABAD NORTH. Ph: 9440492936 E-mail Id: recrohyd@canarabank.com**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and other Parties that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", on **21-03-2025** for recovery due to the Canara Bank from Borrower and Guarantor and GPA Holder.

**Date & time of the e-auction is on 21-03-2025, 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale). Place of Auction: Online. Last date of deposit of EMD is on or before 20-03-2025 at 5:00 P.M.**

**1 BRANCH OFFICE: AMERPEET II BRANCH, HYDERABAD: Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s): 1. M/s. S9Series Media Pvt. Ltd. (Borrower), H.No.6-3-865/12, Greenland Apartments, Amerpeet, Hyderabad-500016. 2. Mr. Jeevan Kumar Municipal, S/o Jeevan Kesava (Director & Guarantor), 14-20-67/7231, Vivekananda Nagar, Near Vivekananda Statue, Allapur, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500018. 3. Ms. Nandini Simardi (Director & Guarantor), C/o S.Kumar Swami, Flat No.001, Greenland Apartments, RBL Bank Lane, Near Green Park Hotel, Amerpeet, Secunderabad, Hyderabad-500016. Total liabilities as on 11-02-2025: Rs.1,38,01,192/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Eight Lakhs One Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Two Only) plus unapplied interest and bank charges there on.**

**DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES:** RCC Residential House Bearing Old H.No.20-15/1 corresponding to New H.No.20-5-50 constructed in the Site Measuring to an extent of 266.66 Sq.Yds, RCC Building Plinth Area 1090 Sq.Ft. situated at Contractors Colony, Palvancha with in Municipal Limits, Palvancha Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State. **North:** 30'-0" Wide Municipal Road, **South:** House of Satyanarayana. **East:** House of Gurram Shankaraiyah, **West:** 30'-0" Wide Municipal Road.

**RESERVE PRICE: Rs.45,00,000/- EMD: Rs.4,50,000/- BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Mr. Rajneesh Rawat, Amerpeet II, Hyderabad Branch, Canara Bank, Ph.No.040-23416796,23416798, Mobile: 9440905029 during office hours on any working day.

**No Known Encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank. Mode of Auction: Online Electronic Bidding Property Can be inspected with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer on 20-03-2025 before 5: 00 PM**

**Mode of Auction:** Online Electronic Bidding. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet.com). Contact: 8291220220. E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Website: https://baanknet.in

Date: 13-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank.

Sridhar Babu meets Piyush Goyal, discusses key industrial initiatives

Hyderabad, Feb.14 (NSS): Minister for IT and Industries Sridhar Babu has personally extended a formal invitation to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal to attend BioAsia 2025 on February 26 in Hyderabad. The premier life sciences and healthcare event will bring together global leaders, policymakers and industry experts to drive innovation and collaboration in the sector. Sridhar Babu called on the Union Minister in New Delhi on Friday and extended the invitation. Appreciating the efforts of Minister Sridhar Babu to promote lifesciences industry and investments, Piyush Goyal confirmed that he will participate in the event and interact with the global leaders attending the event. Minister Sridhar Babu also sought the Union government's support for the establishment of Mega Leather Parks (MLPs).

**AXIS FINANCE LIMITED** **Ground and 1st Floor, Alpha Centre, #216, Double Road, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560002**

**E-PUBLIC AUCTION-CUM-SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and Mortgagor/s, that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Axis Finance Limited, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", And "WHATEVER THERE IS" And "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS", on 18th March 2025 for recovery of Rs.77,52,148/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lacs Fifty Two thousand One hundred and forty eight only) as on 10th February 2025 (amount o/s as on the date of the demand notice dated 26th March 2024 issued u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act) - **Rs.75,06,429/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakh Six thousand four hundred and twenty nine Only)** with further interest at the contractual rates, along with default/penal interest and other charges etc., till final payment / realization from the **Borrower / Mortgagor/s / Guarantors, i.e. (1) Mr. Katta Ravindra (Borrower cum Mortgagor), and (2) Mrs. Chandrakala Katta (Co-Borrower cum Mortgagor)** (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Borrowers"). The Description of Assets, Reserve Price (RP), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Details of Sale are as below:

**SCHEDULE - I Description of Immovable Secured Asset SCHEDULE 1 (Doc no 6840/2022):** An extent of 1936 sq yds (1618-74 sq mtrs) of site on Southern side of 4791-6 sq yds of site along with a Plinth area of 5300 sq ft A.C.C shed with as factory therein bearing Door no. 1-171, Asst. No. 171, R.S No 132/1B of Yeddnapudi Village do Panchayat, Movva Mandal, Movva Sub-Registry, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh and bounded on: East by : Irrigation Canal, West by : Property of Chandrakala Katta, South by : Property of Pedapudi Tataiah and Pedapudi Guru Kisoare, Pedapudi Ravi Kumar.

**SCHEDULE 2 (Doc no 6841/2022):** An extent of 2855-6 sq yds (2387-645 sq mtrs) of site on Northern side of 4791-6 sq yds of site bearing Door no. 1-171, Asst. No. 171, R.S No 132/1B of Yeddnapudi Village do Panchayat, Movva Mandal, Movva Sub-Registry, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh and bounded on: East by : Irrigation Canal, West by : Irrigation Canal , North by : Road, South by : Property of Katta Ravindra.

**SCHEDULE - II DETAILS OF E-AUCTION**  
**Description of Property /s: As per SCHEDULE - I**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION ON: 18.03.2025**  
**TIME: FROM: 11.00 AM TO: 12.00 NOON**  
**WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSIONS OF 5 MINUTES EACH**

**Date & Time for Bid Submission: On: 15.03.2025, Before: 4:00 pm**

**Reserve Price: Rs.1,27,73,400/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lacs Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Only)\* Price below which the Flat /Property/s will not be sold**

**Earnest Money Deposit (10% of RP): Rs.12,77,300/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred Only)**

**Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only).**

**Contact Person Details & Mob. Nos.:** Mr. Rizwan Pasha: Mob: 8143577153  
**Ms. Vachana Swamy: Mob: 7406368669 & Mr. Swapneel Tiwari: Mob: 9820063208**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> and [www.axisfinance.in](http://www.axisfinance.in;);

**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) /RULE 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.**

This may also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrowers, guarantor/s and mortgagor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Date: 10th February, 2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer,  
Place: Mumbai Axis Finance Limited

NGT issues notice to Odisha govt, state pollution control board over environmental violations

Bhubaneswar, Feb 14 (IANS) : The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the Odisha government, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and others seeking a reply in connection with allegations of environmental pollution against a private company engaged in manufacturing of various stainless steel products.

district and Rajib Gopal Swain of Angul district. The authorities have been asked to submit their replies within four weeks from the receipt of the order. The tribunal also constituted a fact-finding Committee including senior scientists from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB).



Congress to oppose President's rule in Manipur

Imphal, Feb 14 (IANS) : A day after the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, the opposition Congress on Friday announced that they would oppose any move to promulgate President's rule in Manipur. Manipur Congress President Keisham Meghachandra Singh in a post on the X said: "For the people of Manipur, Congress party opposes any move to impose President's Rule in Manipur now as well as the party also opposes any move to place Manipur Legislative Assembly under suspended animation now."

MP govt to give state honour to promote organ donation

Bhopal, Feb 14 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday announced that people, who will donate organs before death to give a new lease of life to others, will give state honour during their last rites. The Chief Minister said the bodies and organs of the deceased

persons will be transported through air ambulance service with the consent of the family members and a provision will be made to facilitate them with a posthumous award on national festivals. Chief Minister Yadav made this announcement after meeting with a patient, who got a new lease of

life after a successful heart transplant was performed at AIIMS Bhopal on January 26. The heart was procured from a 61-year-old brain-dead patient at NSCB Medical College in Jabalpur and transplanted into a 53-year-old patient from Itarsi. It was the first heart transplant case at AIIMS Bhopal.

CBI books chief engineer of USBRL project for bribery

Jammu, Feb 14 (IANS) : Officials said on Friday that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked a chief engineer of the Konkan Railways for alleged bribery to clear the pending bills of a company involved in the construction of the Katra-Dharam section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link project (USBRL).

Sumeet Khajuria, a 2005-batch IRSE (Indian Railway Service of Engineers) officer has been named as an accused in an FIR lodged by



the CBI along with Paras Railtech Private Limited and its directors Rajesh Kumar Jain, Pushp Raj Singh, and Sulabh Rawat, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections related to criminal conspiracy.

Bank of India (BOI) DEMAND NOTICE (Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act))

WARANGAL BRANCH, 13-4-158 & 158/1, Sainath Arcade, Near Gopala Swamy Temple, M.G.Road, Warangal. Public Notice for E-Auction for Sale of Immovable Properties

AAP MP expresses concern over drone intrusions from Pakistan into Punjab New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Sandeep Pathak on Friday highlighted the grave issue of drone intrusions from Pakistan into Punjab. Raising this under Zero Hour.

WARANGAL BRANCH, 13-4-158 & 158/1, Sainath Arcade, Near Gopala Swamy Temple, M.G.Road, Warangal. SALE OF HYPOTHECATED ASSETS BY AUCTION

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale of Immovable Properties. Sale of immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Home Finance Ltd.)

Table with multiple columns: Name of the Borrower, Description of the Secured Asset, Total Outstanding Dues, Date of Possession. Contains detailed auction listings for various properties.

OPINIONmail



Funds for Construction of Houses under PMAY-G

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) aims at providing pucca houses for all persons having kutcha houses up to 2 rooms or less and whose names are included in properly verified Permanent Waiting List (PWL) & Awaas+ list. The beneficiaries have been identified based on the housing deprivation parameters and exclusion criteria prescribed under Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC)- 2011. On application of exclusion criteria, a priority list called the Permanent Wait List (PWL) is prepared for the States/UTs. The PWL is further subjected to verification by Gram Sabhas and completion of an Appellate Process thereafter. This process of exclusion is also applied to beneficiaries registered by the States/UTs in Awaas+.

The Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of the scheme for 5 more years during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29 to provide assistance for the construction of 2 crore additional rural houses. Approval has also been provided for updating the Awaas+ List for identifying eligible rural households using modified exclusion criteria under the scheme. In line with the approval of the Union Cabinet, a survey is being conducted for the identification of additional eligible rural households under the scheme. The survey is being conducted through Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App which has already been launched on 17.09.2024 with modified exclusion criteria.

(b) & (c): Under PMAY-G, the unit assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.30 lakh in North Eastern States, Hilly States (including UTs of J&K and Ladakh) is provided. In addition to the unit assistance, the beneficiaries are facilitated with 90/95-man days of unskilled labour wages through mandatory convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Support of Rs. 12,000 for construction of toilet is also provided through Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G), MGNREGS or any other dedicated source of funding. The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of PMAY-G till March, 2029 as per the existing unit assistance for construction of 2 crore more houses.

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail



Blueprint for change: NITI Aayog's policy report sets ambitious goals for higher education

A groundbreaking policy report titled 'Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities' was released on Monday, providing a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunities in India's higher education system. The report was launched by Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, and other officials. The report offers a detailed examination of the decadal transformation in higher education across the states and state public universities (SPUs). It focusses on the goals outlined in the Na-

tional Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It also presents a set of policy recommendations aimed at improving the quality of education, funding, governance, and employability in these institutions. "We must ensure that our higher education system is not only growing in number but is also delivering quality," said Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, during the release of the report. "This report highlights critical areas where action is needed to enhance the quality, accessibility, and global competitiveness of our state public universities." The report is the first of its kind, featuring a quantitative analysis

of the performance of SPUs and capturing insights from consultations with officers from 20 states and UTs, 50 Vice Chancellors, senior academics, and heads of State Higher Education Councils. It includes over 80 policy recommendations across four key areas: Quality, Funding & Financing, Governance, and Employability, along with a detailed implementation roadmap that spans short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions. Key policy recommendations that the NITI Aayog report has come out with include the following important areas: Quality

The report stresses enhancing research capabilities and "improving pedagogy" in SPUs. Key recommendations include the introduction of a National Research Policy, creating Centres of Excellence in clusters of SPUs to tackle local challenges, and promoting Humanities Research. The report also calls for the creation of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) to bridge gaps in research and education. "To strengthen the research ecosystem in India, we need to ensure that SPUs are not only centres of education but also hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship," says an official.

IRCTC posts 14 pc rise in Q3 net profit at Rs 341 crore

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on Tuesday reported a 13.7 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 341 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 300 crore in the year-ago period. The total revenue from operations increased 10 per cent to Rs 1224.7 crore.

Rajasthan Police freeze illegal assets of drug smuggler

As part of an ongoing campaign by Barmer District Police in Rajasthan to seize illegally acquired assets of long-time drug smugglers, authorities have taken action against a notorious smuggler Birdha Ram under Section 68F(2) of the NDPS Act. The illegal assets, worth approximately Rs 2 crore, include a residential building, a Hyundai Creta car, and three sleeper buses. Barmer Superintendent of Police Narendra Singh Meena stated that Police Headquarters and IG Jodhpur Range had instructed authorities to crack down on smugglers' illegally acquired wealth. Acting on these directives, SHO Sadar ob-



tained intelligence that Birdha Ram Jat, active in drug smuggling for 12 years, had amassed illegal assets worth crores. Upon receiving this information, records were gathered from beat constables and relevant departments. Investigations revealed that Birdha Ram had constructed a luxurious house in his village and established VR Seoul Construction Company in his wife's name as a means to launder illegal wealth.



Maha Kumbh: Northern Railway prepares for record crowds expected on Maghi Purnima

With millions of devotees expected to descend on the banks of the Triveni Sangam for the fourth Amrit Snan of the Maha Kumbh Mela on Maghi Purnima, the Indian Railways has unveiled a comprehensive strategy to manage the massive crowds efficiently. Talking to IANS, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer of Northern Railway, reassured the public on Monday that the railway authorities are fully prepared to handle the surge of pilgrims, emphasising that the primary focus is on ensur-

ing smooth transportation and safety for all. "It's not about increasing the crowd, but rather devotees, and it's our responsibility to serve them to the best of our ability. We've made special arrangements, drawing on past experiences, and working in close coordination with the state government to ensure everything runs smoothly," he added. He also highlighted the constant monitoring by government officials who have been closely overseeing the Kumbh Mela's preparations. "As you've seen in the past three or four years, our minister is personally focused on the event, monitoring it several times throughout the day and night. Our team is working with the same dedication and commitment," he stated. To address the increasing influx of pilgrims, Upadhyay assured that the railways is prepared to ramp up services.

Janajati has a big contribution in preserving Sanatan tradition : Dattatreya Hosabale

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale on Monday said that "our Vanvasi society has played a big role in preserving the Sanatan Hindu tradition", while expressing hopes that the saints of tribal areas would make more efforts to promote the knowledge-culture tradition. He said this while addressing the concluding day of Janjati Samagam, as its chief guest. The Janjati Samagam, organised by Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in Mahakumbh Nagar concluded on Monday, with a Sant Samagam. The programme was attended by Kalyan Ashram's President Satyendra Singh, Gangadhar Maharaj and Dadu Dayal.



INDIA bloc still strong but internal discussion required : Kapil Sibal

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal has asserted that the INDIA bloc remains intact and has a bright future, though internal discussions are necessary. Speaking to IANS, Sibal dismissed any notion of the alliance falling apart.

"It has a very bright future. There is no such issue. This was a national alliance, as Sharad Pawar Ji said. During national elections, the alliance remains intact. However, at the state level, there is no national alliance as such," he explained.



## Israeli cabinet to discuss ceasefire's next phase

**Jerusalem, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Israel's cabinet will convene on Friday to discuss the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on Friday. The Israeli delegation for the talks in Qatar over the Gaza ceasefire returned to Israel on Monday morning, according to the statement. The delegation travelled to Doha on Sunday for indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas concerning the second phase of the fragile ceasefire, follow-

ing Netanyahu's visit to Washington last week. However, according to Netanyahu's office, the delegation focused only on technical matters, not major issues that have yet to be agreed upon, including the administration of Gaza after the war. Under the ceasefire, which took effect on January 19 after 15 months of devastating war, 21 hostages -- 16 Israelis and five Thais -- were released from Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian detainees freed from Israeli jails. More than 70 hostages are still in Gaza. Under the first phase of the agreement,

which spans six weeks, a total of 33 hostages and about 2,000 detainees are expected to be released, Xinhua news agency reported. On Sunday, reiterating US President Donald Trump's firm stance, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas, following the return of three captives. Taking to X, Rubio posted, "After 490 harrowing days in captivity, Eli, Or, and Ohad are finally home in Israel."



## Trump moves to end 'politically-motivated' prosecution of New York Mayor

**New York, Feb 14 (IANS) :** In a move to clear up some of the politically controversial prosecutions, US President Donald Trump has moved to drop a case against New York's mayor Eric Adams. Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove ordered the federal prosecutors in the city on Friday to drop the case of alleged corruption against Adams pointing out that the charges were filed after he criticised President

Joe Biden's immigration policy. Bove cited Trump's order "Ending the Weaponisation of the Federal Government" as a factor in his instruction to the prosecutor. Damian Williams, the Biden-appointed federal prosecutor who brought the charges against the mayor, has resigned with the change in administration and an acting prosecutor is running the office. Williams was also the prosecutor behind the case filed

against a former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer Vikas Yadav and another Indian, Nikhil Gupta, accusing them of plotting to have Khalistani leader Gurbatwant Pannun killed. Adams is a Democrat like Biden, but ran afoul of him with his criticism. Although Adams has not switched parties, he hasn't criticised Trump either and has met with him and got an invitation to his inauguration,

## Phuentsholing border crossing to get e-gates for seamless Bhutan entry

**Thimphu, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Bhutan-bound travellers at the Phuentsholing pedestrian terminal will soon experience a faster and more efficient immigration process with the installation of e-gates at the country's busiest border crossing with India, local

Bhutanese media reported on Friday. The Department of Immigration (DoI) in Bhutan is all set to automate border control systems to reduce wait times and improve security at the international pedestrian terminal linking Phuentsholing in Bhutan and Jaigaon in India.



## Jordan sends 4,000 tents to Gaza

**Amman, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Jordan said that a convoy carrying more than 4,000 tents has arrived in Gaza to help provide safe shelter for families who have lost their homes amid the growing humanitarian challenges due to the war. The aid was sent by the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) as part of Jordan's efforts to support the Palestinians affected by the difficult conditions they are going through, according to a statement by the organisation released on Friday. The organisation said it will continue to provide all necessary support and relief to the people of Gaza in these challenging times, Xinhua news agency reported. JHCO emphasised that this aid reflects Jordan's steadfast commitment to supporting the people of Gaza through the uninterrupted land bridge delivering essential relief and humanitarian supplies.

The organisation reaffirmed that its humanitarian convoys will continue, driven by the humanitarian and fraternal duty to provide all necessary aid and relief to the people of Gaza during the current circumstances. The Higher Committee for Reconstruction in Palestine delivered 4,500 tents to the JHCO on February 3 to be sent to the war-torn Gaza Strip. The committee, which has been formed by the Jordanian Engineers and Contractors Association, has launched a campaign to support people in Gaza. Head of the committee Ahmad Zo'ubi, said that the committee will deliver an additional 3,500 tents to JHCO next week and another 4,000 tents from China during this month, bringing the total number of tents to 12,000. He said that these efforts are part of the committee's commitment to

supporting the steadfastness of the people of Gaza and alleviating their large-scale suffering in coordination with various official and charitable organisations to ensure the quick delivery of aid. So far, Jordan has sent 24,891 tents to support displaced individuals, including 11,000 tents that were delivered since the latest humanitarian truce began. Jordan, represented by the JHCO, has been actively sending relief aid including shelter materials, clothing, and other essentials over the past months to alleviate the suffering of Gaza's population. To date, Jordan has dispatched 152 aid convoys, comprising 5,992 trucks carrying over 100,000 tons of humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, and medical supplies.

**US 'maximum pressure' campaign against Iran undermines negotiation efforts: Pezeshkian**



**Tehran, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday criticised US "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran as undermining the foundation for negotiations, according to the official news agency IRNA. Pezeshkian made the remarks in the capital Tehran during a speech marking the 46th anniversary of the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, saying, "46 years ago today, the Iranian people expelled tyrants and oppressors from Iran. Our success lies in unity, cohesion, and the active participation of the people in the country's affairs." The President dismissed US President Donald Trump's claim that he seeks talks with Iran. "They say they want to negotiate, but if you truly intended to negotiate, why did you commit these follies?"



## Iraqi PM reaffirms support for Lebanon

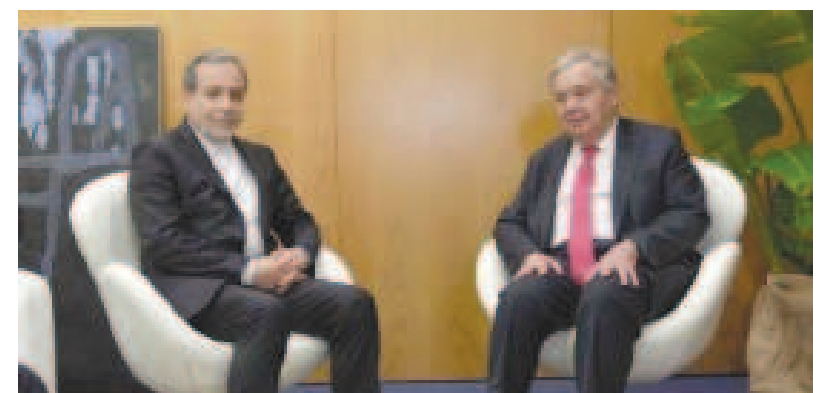
**Baghdad, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani pledged to continue support for Lebanon after the latter's recent formation of a new government, Iraqi government spokesman Basim al-Awadi said. Al-Sudani sent two congratulatory letters to Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, in which he congratulated them on the formation of the new Lebanese government, al-Awadi said on Friday in a statement. Al-Sudani emphasised Iraq's enduring solidarity with Lebanon and commitment to providing all possible assis-

tance to strengthen Lebanon's resilience in the face of challenges, facilitate its reconstruction, and drive its progress, according to the statement as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The Iraqi government Spokesman said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency INA that "Reaffirming the bonds of brotherhood and the distinguished relations between Iraq and Lebanon, Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani sent two congratulatory cables to His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic, Joseph Aoun, and the Lebanese Prime Minister, Nawaf Salam."

## Iran's FM discusses Trump's Gaza plan with UN chief, Malaysian counterpart

**Tehran, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has exchanged views with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and his Malaysian counterpart Mohamad Hasan on the US President's plan to relocate Palestinians from Gaza. In two separate phone calls, Araghchi discussed the develop-

ments in the West Asia region with the UN Chief and the Malaysian Foreign Minister, according to statements released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday. On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump suggested that the US would take over Gaza and redevelop it after Palestinians are relocated elsewhere, Xinhua news agency reported.





### BJP issues show-cause notice to Kirodi Lal Meena over phone tapping claims

**Jaipur, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Rajasthan unit BJP president Madan Rathore on Friday issued a show-cause notice to state Cabinet minister Kirodi Lal Meena, citing indiscipline over his phone tapping claims. The party has viewed Kirodi Lal Meena's statements as a breach of discipline and asked him to respond within three days. Kirodi Lal Meena has been making controversial statements that have repeatedly been troubling the party. His actions were reported to the central leadership by both the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and party officials, a party worker told IANS. However, due to the Delhi elections, no immediate action was taken, he said. Sources indicate that state president Rathore consulted BJP national president J.P. Nadda over the phone before deciding to issue the notice. Rathore, meanwhile, is in Delhi to participate in the upcoming Parliament session.

### WB school jobs case: SC reserves judgment on cancellation of over 25K appointments

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Friday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions, including the West Bengal government's appeal, filed against the Calcutta High Court's order cancelling 25,753 appointments in teaching and non-teaching posts made by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in 2016.

A bench headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar reserved its decision after hearing the oral arguments of both sides. In an earlier hearing, the top court had directed the completion of pleadings and granted "one last opportunity" to the private respondents (i.e. individuals who had instituted writ petitions before the Calcutta HC) to file their counter-affidavits.



### Illegal Bangladeshi citizen with fake Indian passport nabbed near Kolkata Mayor's office

**Kolkata, Feb 14 (IANS) :** An illegal Bangladeshi infiltrator along with forged Indian identity documents was arrested on Friday near the office of Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim within the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) premises. The arrested person has been identified as Rafiqul Islam. A number of forged Indian documents, including birth certificates, AADHAR card and a fake Indian passport, have been recovered from his

possession. Sources said that Islam was spotted by the plain-dress cops posted at KMC offices loitering around at different sections within the corporation premises including the room of the mayor. Finally, when he was challenged by the cops, Islam said that he is a resident of Chapra in Nadia district and he had come to KMC for the purpose of verification of some documents. This explanation created further doubts in the minds of the cops on the necessity of coming to

KMC for document verification despite being a resident of Chapra. Thereafter, the police detained him and started interrogating him. In the face of interrogation, Islam admitted that he is a resident of Bangladesh and he entered the Indian side after crossing the border illegally. He also admitted that he first arranged for his fake AADHAR and EPIC cards in Kolkata and on the basis of those arranged for his fake Indian passport.

### Bihar Police arrests mastermind in Danapur jewellery shop heist case

**Patna, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Bihar Police has arrested two key accused, including the mastermind, in connection with the Jiva Jewellery Shop heist on Friday. The broad daylight heist occurred 11 days ago near Saguna Mor under the Danapur police station jurisdiction and had created a sensation in the state. ASP Bhanu Pratap Singh of Danapur sub-division confirmed the arrests, stating, "The Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed on the di-

rection of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), successfully nabbed Rohit Kumar and Akash Kumar alias Suraj from Bhojpur." "During the investigation, it appeared that the mastermind of the heist was Rohit Kumar, a resident of Narayanpur village in Bhojpur.



### Advocates' delegation met Bihar Dy CM, submit budgetary demands

**Patna, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Ahead of the Bihar Budget 2025, a delegation of Patna High Court advocates, led by senior lawyer Yogesh Chandra Verma, met Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Samrat Choudhary on Friday. The advocates submitted a memorandum outlining their key demands, seeking financial support and infrastructural improvements. The delegation urged the state government to make budgetary provisions for better seating arrangements in 101 sub-divisional courts and 38 district courts to facilitate judicial work. The accommodation of lawyers inside court premises has long been a challenging issue for administrators in Bihar. Many advocates, especially

young and junior lawyers, struggle with proper seating arrangements, often managing with just a table and a chair to conduct their legal practice. While senior lawyers have access to designated chambers, the majority of practising advocates face space constraints, making it difficult to work efficiently. This lack of infrastructure has been a long-pending demand among the legal community, leading to repeated requests for government intervention. The delegation also de-



manded an annual financial allocation for the Advocate Association to support legal professionals and a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 for new lawyers for the first five years of their practice. Increase in financial assistance from the Advocate Welfare Trust—raising compensation from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 15 lakh in case of an advocate's demise.

### Manipur arms dealer held in Tripura

**Agartala, Feb 14 (IANS) :** A 25-year-old man, hailing from Manipur, was arrested by Customs in Tripura's bordering district Khowai with four sophisticated foreign-made pistols while the detainee attempted to smuggle the arms into Bangladesh, officials said on Friday. An official said that acting on a tip-off, the Customs officials arrested the arms dealer identified as Dangshua Mulji (25) from the Khowai district, along the India-Bangladesh border on Sunday night. Mulji came to Tripura by train from Guwahati.



### Mumbai emerging as 'Convention Capital' of India: Maha CM Devendra Fadnavis

**Mumbai, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that Mumbai is emerging as the 'Convention Capital' of India and expressed confidence that the modern convention centre in the new and state-of-the-art hotel of the 'Taj' group in the Bandra area will further increase business opportunities in Mumbai. He was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the new and state-of-the-art hotel of the 'Taj' group in Bandra in northwest Mumbai.

Fadnavis said that the new hotel, Taj Bandstand, which will add to the beauty of Mumbai and be important from a tourism as well as commercial point of view, will create a new identity for Mumbai in the future. The Tata Group and especially Taj Hotels have a big role to play in the development of India. "Taj is not just a hotel, it is the pride of every Indian. Like the Taj in Colaba in the 20th century, this hotel in the 21st century will be a new symbol."

### Maha to enforce new regulations for folk art centres

**Mumbai, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Minister of Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar said on Friday that the state government will soon enforce new regulations for folk art centres in a bid to safeguard the state's rich folk art and also to ensure that the essence of this rich cultural heritage thrives. "The Cultural Affairs Department will formulate regulations mandating the exclusive use of traditional instruments at the folk-art centres across the state. The revenue and police department will also be directed to take immediate action to enforce these rules and the district collectors across the state will be asked to initiate necessary steps," said Shelar.



### Rajasthan HC reprimands state govt in Dhariwal's single-lease case

**Jaipur, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Rajasthan High Court on Friday strongly reprimanded the state government over delays in the 11-year-old single-lease case. The government had sought additional time to submit documents related to the case, prompting a sharp response from Chief Justice MM Srivastava. Expressing displeasure, Chief Justice Srivastava said, "First, you went to the Supreme Court to get an order for an early settlement of the case. Then, you seek more time here in the High Court." He further noted that the Supreme Court had already directed the case to be resolved within six months. The next hearing has been scheduled for March 19. Earlier, the

state government filed a fresh petition in the High Court, challenging the closure report that had given a clean chit to former minister Shanti Dhariwal and other officials. The government argued that the report was based on an incomplete and flawed investigation. To reassess the case, the government set up a high-level committee under retired judge R.S. Rathore. The committee's preliminary report pointed out serious lapses in the investigation and the filing of the closure report. According to the findings, key documents and crucial evidence were overlooked, leading to an unfair conclusion. The Rajasthan government hence decided to correct these procedural errors and ensure a fair.



## Paytm Money pays Rs 45.5 lakh fine to SEBI over regulatory lapses

**Mumbai, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Friday passed a settlement order against Paytm Money after the company paid Rs 45.5 lakh to resolve allegations of regulatory violations. The settlement order allows the financial services firm to avoid further legal proceedings related to the issue. The case originated from a show-cause notice issued by SEBI to Paytm Money on July 24, 2024, over non-compliance with the regulator's technical glitch framework. The regulator had accused the company of failing to adhere to key operational and regulatory guidelines designed to ensure smooth and secure trading operations. One of the main concerns raised

by SEBI was Paytm Money's inability to maintain the required 70 per cent threshold for generating timely alerts for critical assets. These alerts play a crucial role in protecting investor interests, especially during periods of market volatility. The failure to meet this requirement raised doubts about the company's risk management practices. Additionally, the markets regulator found that Paytm Money had not provided necessary documentation regarding the peak load on its systems during the inspection period. This raised concerns about the company's infrastructure and its ability to handle high trading volumes during market surges or technical issues.

## India's auto sector not likely to face major impact due to US tariff hike

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Indian automotive manufacturers are not likely to face any major impact due to US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs as these companies sell their products largely in the fast-growing domestic market, according to analysts. "OEMs (original equipment

manufacturers) are largely insulated due to heavy localisation and sales, and minimal US exports," said Puneet Gupta, a director at S&P Global Mobility - India and Asean. "India is also a preferred partner of the US, and the only alternative to China for American automakers to source auto components," he added.



## Industrial production registered 3.2 per cent growth in Dec 2024 : Data

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** India's industrial growth, based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was recorded at 3.2 per cent in December 2024, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Friday. The manufacturing sector, which accounts for more than three-fourths of the index of industrial production (IIP), posted a 3 per cent growth during December 2024. The sector plays a key role in providing quality jobs to the young graduates passing out from the country's engineering institutes and universities. Within the manufacturing sector, 16 out of 23 industry groups at NIC 2 digit-level have recorded a positive growth in December 2024 over December 2023.

The top three positive contributors for the month of December 2024 are – "Manufacture of basic metals" (6.7 per cent), "Manufacture of electrical equipment" (40.1 per cent) and "Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products" (3.9 per cent), the official statement said. In the industry group "Manufacture of basic metals", item groups "MS blooms/ billets/ ingots/ pencil ingots", "Galvanized products of Steel (including colour coated tin plates, TMBP and Tin free steel)", "Pipes and tubes of Steel", have shown significant contribution in growth, according to the official statement. The electricity sector clocked a robust growth of 6.2 per cent during the month while the mining sector slowed to 2.6 per cent. The industrial growth rate in December has slowed after accelerating to a 6-month high of 5.2 per cent in November. The figures on use-based classification show that the production of capital goods, which comprise machines used in factories, went up by a robust 10.3 per cent in December.

## HAL clocks 14 pc jump in Q3 net profit at Rs 1,440 crore

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Government-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) on Friday reported a robust 14 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,440 crore for the October-December quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 1,261 crore in the same period of 2023-24. The defence PSU has declared a first interim dividend of FY25 at Rs 25 per equity share of Rs 5 face value. "The record date for the payment of the first interim dividend will be Friday, the 18th of February, 2025. The dividend will be paid to all the eligible shareholders on or before 14th March 2025," according to a regulatory filing by the company. HAL's revenue from operations registered a double-digit growth of 15 per cent to Rs 6,957 crore compared to Rs 6,061 crore in Q3FY24, on the back of a strong order book from the Defence Ministry. Meanwhile, HAL chairman and managing director D K Sunil has said that the deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas would commence soon as the technical issues that were causing the delay have now been resolved. The fourth-generation fighter jet, developed by HAL, is designed to replace the ageing fleet of MiG-21s.



## India's CPI inflation falls to 5-month low of 4.31 pc in Jan

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** India's retail inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index, fell to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January as prices of vegetables and pulses eased during the month bringing respite to household budgets, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics on Friday. The easing of inflation reflects a steadily declining trend after having touched a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October. CPI inflation had declined to 5.48 per

cent in November and 5.22 per cent in December. The food inflation at 6.02 per cent in January 2025 is the lowest after August 2024.



## FAME India Phase-II Scheme supports over 16.14 lakh EVs: Centre

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** As India doubles down on the local manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs), the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme Phase-II has supported more than 16.14 lakh EVs, the government said on Friday. FAME India Phase II scheme was implemented for a period of five

years from April 1, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs 11,500 crore. The scheme incentivised e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-4Ws, e-buses and EV public charging stations. Under the FAME India Phase-II Scheme, as on December 31, 2024, at least 16,14,737 EVs have been supported, said Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries,

Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. It includes 14,28,009 two-wheelers, 1,64,180 three-wheelers and 22,548 four-wheelers. The Ministry of Heavy Industries has implemented several schemes to strengthen the EV ecosystem and accelerate adoption of electric vehicle in the country. The production-linked incen-

tive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India (PLI-Auto) was approved on September 23, 2021 for automobile and auto component industry for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities for advanced automotive technology (AAT) products with a budgetary outlay of Rs 25,938 crore.



## India's domestic policy can handle adverse impact of US tariff hike: Morgan Stanley

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The direct impact of reciprocal tariff hikes by the US will likely be manageable but, the indirect impact through uncertainty weighing on business confidence is more worrisome. However, domestic policy will likely remain supportive of growth and incrementally more measures will be taken if downside risks emerge, according to a Morgan Stanley report released on Friday. Prime Minister Modi has reached the US on a scheduled visit to meet President Trump and the outcome likely will include increased imports of en-

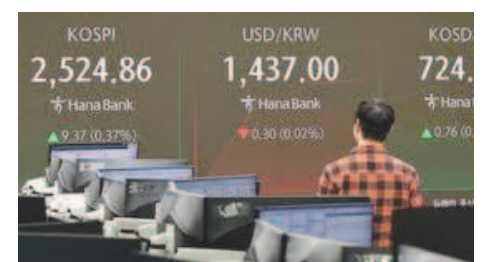
ergy and defence equipment from the US (Global Times, February-25) and attempts at a mini-trade deal, which could help to lower tariff rates on key segments for imports from the US. As such, un-

der the WTO, it will not be possible to lower tariff rates bilaterally, the report states. President Trump has indicated that he may impose reciprocal tariffs which could impact India.



## Stock manipulation: Head of investment consulting firm sent to 25 years in jail

**Seoul, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The head of an investment consulting firm was sentenced to 25 years in prison here on Friday over a massive stock manipulation scheme that rocked local financial markets. The Seoul Southern District Court said it also ordered Ra Deok-yeon, the head of the unregistered firm, to pay a fine of 146.5 billion won (\$101 million) and a forfeit of 194.4 billion won. Ra was indicted on charges of pocketing 737.7 billion won from 2019 to 2023 by selling off the stocks of eight listed companies after raising their prices through fixing, reports Yonhap news agency. Two of his accomplices, surnamed Byun and An, were sentenced to prison terms of six years and 3 1/2 years, respectively. "The stock manipulation was unprecedentedly



large in scale," the court said in delivering the ruling. "Multiple innocent investors suffered irrecoverable losses." The court also said Ra denies the charges and shows no remorse despite having planned and led the crime. In another development, the Supreme Court here on Thursday upheld an appeals court ruling that overturned the TV media watchdog's 2020 decision to impose a six-month shutdown penalty on cable channel MBN over illegal financing and accounting fraud.

## Bajwa's own party MLAs not in touch with him, claims Punjab AAP

**Chandigarh, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Days after Punjab Leader of Opposition Pratap Singh Bajwa's claim that 30 AAP MLAs of Punjab are in contact with them, the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday hit back, saying that even Bajwa's own party MLAs "are not in touch with him".

Kang questioned Bajwa, "Are all Congress MLAs in touch with you? If they are, where is Sandeep Jakhar? Why did Raj Kumar Chabbewal leave the party?" Kang said that Pratap Bajwa's own brother, Fatehjang Bajwa, left him and joined the BJP, and he could not stop him. He said that Congress leaders, AAP MP Malvinder Singh

continuously leaving the party, yet Bajwa seems worried about AAP MLAs. He added Pratap Bajwa is daydreaming. "Bajwa is known for making baseless statements, and his claims never turn out to be true," he claimed. Kang also remarked that the current state of the Congress is such that, despite winning zero seats in Delhi, their leaders were celebrating in their office.



## KIIFB on 'ventilator', says Kerala LoP Satheesan

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 14 (IANS)** : In a stinging attack on the functioning of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Friday, while participating in the Assembly proceedings, said the situation is such that it's on the ventilator.

"The question now is when should the ventilator be removed," said Satheesan in a reply to State Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal's statement that KIIFB no longer needs any prop-ups. KIIFB was established as the principal funding arm of the Kerala government in 1999 aimed to channelise funds for critical and large public infrastructure projects in the state.

The KIIFB project was touted in 2016 (when the first Pinarayi Vijayan government assumed office) by the former CPI-M Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, as his 'pet project' and it was seen by Isaac as one to raise funds outside of the budget.



## Maha Dy CM defers meeting to discuss annual plans for Raigad & Nashik districts

**Mumbai, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday did not hold the District Annual Plan meetings for the financial year 2025-26 of these two districts. After the announcement of NCP minister Aditi Tatkare as the Raigad district guardian minister and BJP minister Girish Mahajan as the Nashik district guardian minister in January, Shiv Sena took strong objection that led to the stay given by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on these appointments. As a part of the preparations for the upcoming state budget, which is expected to be presented on March 10 in the legislature, Pawar has been holding a series of meetings with departments. Pawar, who also holds the Finance Ministry portfolio, has also been meeting with district administration to discuss the annual plan for the fiscal year 2025-26. On Monday, Ajit Pawar held meetings of the Konkan and Nasik divisions. However, the meetings of Raigad and Nasik were not held as both the districts do not have a guardian minister as a result of the ongoing rift between NCP and Shiv Sena.

## Maha Congress demands action in Somnath Suryavanshi's murder & Beed Sarpanch killing cases

**Mumbai, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Maharashtra Congress on Friday demanded the dismissal of the police officer responsible for Somnath Suryavanshi's Murder in Parbhani and the filing of charges against him.

The party further demanded strict action against the killers of Massajog sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh from Beed district. Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said that in Parbhani and Beed incidents lives have been lost with the police's involvement.

He added that it has become evident that Ambedkarite follower Somnath Suryavanshi was killed due to police bru-

talinity in Parbhani. However, the government has yet to take strict action against the responsible officers. He said that following the desecration of the Constitution, a combing operation was conducted in Parbhani, where innocent people were brutally beaten.



## Youth taken into custody for electrocuting mother's friend in Kerala

**Alappuzha (Kerala), Feb 14 (IANS)** : A 25-year-old youth Kiran was taken into custody on Friday by the Kerala Police, for electrocuting his mother's friend at Punnapara, near here. The dead man was identified as 58-year-old Dineshan.

According to the locals, Dineshan was spotted lying in a paddy field since Sunday morning. "Dineshan is known to consume liquor and people saw him lying down since Sunday morning. Seeing him lying down for long, the local councillor and the police were

alerted," said the locals. "Soon the police also reached and then only it surfaced that Dineshan had passed away. Since the police took over the case, the body was sent for post-mortem," added the locals. "When the post-mortem result came on Monday, it was known that he was electrocuted and a case of murder was registered. People were questioned and then Kiran was taken into custody. He was brought to his



home where he electrocuted Dineshan," pointed out the locals who still are in a state of shock. "Those who saw the face of Dineshan when his body was taken to the hospital, have told that it was slightly disfigured," said another local. It has now surfaced that when Dineshan came to Kiran's house on

Saturday evening, he was electrocuted by Kiran. Later, Dineshan was removed from the house to the outside and another round of electrocution took place. Thereafter, the body of Dineshan was taken and put in the nearby paddy field. The police, in the meantime, zeroed down on Kiran when he was brought to his house on Monday where the crime took place. Meanwhile, the police have also started questioning Kiran's parents after they suspect that this could possibly be a murder case in which except Kiran, more people could be involved.

## BJP's notice to party's veteran minister Anil Vij in Haryana

**Chandigarh, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Haryana's senior-most minister and seven-time lawmaker Anil Vij was issued a show cause notice by the BJP on Friday for making public statements against the Chief Minister and the state president of the party. The notice, sent by Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, asked him to reply within three days. It cited concerns over damage to the party's image during election campaigns.

His recent statements caused much discomfort among the party leadership which maintained a studied silence on the issues. Seventy-one-year-old Vij had claimed that no action was taken against those who played a "role" in trying to defeat him in the 2024 Assembly elections from the Ambala Cantonment seat.



## Bihar: BJP challenges Lalu Prasad to announce non-family CM candidate ahead of polls

**Patna, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Bihar BJP state chief Dilip Jaiswal launched a sharp attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, accusing him of dynastic politics and challenging him to announce a Chief Ministerial candidate outside his family in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. Speaking to the media on Friday, Jaiswal said, "Lalu Prasad Yadav calls himself a champion of social justice. If that is true, why doesn't he announce any leader outside his family as the Chief Ministerial face? The reality is, he cannot think beyond his family."

## TN agriculture dept to boost farmer awareness for 'Agristack' portal enrolment

**Chennai, Feb 14 (IANS)** : The Tamil Nadu Agriculture Department is actively working to raise awareness among farmers about enrolling in the 'Agristack' portal.

Awareness campaigns will be conducted across districts with significant agricultural activity, including the Delta region, which is considered the rice bowl of the state. The Agristack portal, developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, is a digital platform designed to provide farmers with centralised, data-driven services. It aims to streamline access to various gov-

ernment schemes, ensuring that benefits reach farmers efficiently. Under this initiative, farmers are required to upload their details into the Farmer's Registry, which will store comprehensive information about their agricultural land and crop survey data. Once registered, farmers will no longer need to apply separately for different schemes.



## Assam CM meets Singapore President, holds discussion for partnership

**Guwahati, Feb 14 (IANS)** : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Friday and discussed the state's potential to become a major hub for global investments.

Taking to X, CM Sarma wrote, "It was a great honour to meet the President of Singapore, H.E. @Tharman\_S, today. Our discussions covered ongoing collaborative projects, with a special emphasis on Assam's role as a key pillar in the India-Singapore Comprehensive Partnership. I also shared the fond memories we hold of His Excellency's visit to Assam in 2022."





## Everyone must participate in war against drugs : Tripura CM

**Agartala, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Friday appealed to everyone, including students and youths to participate wholeheartedly in the government's 'War Against Drugs' mission and make the state a drug-free society. The Chief Minister made this appeal while addressing 'Jagriti-2025', an Inter-College Quiz Competition at Rabindra Shatabarshiki Bhavan, saying that the drug menace has been affecting society, especially the youths. "We have also undertaken a massive campaign under the 'Nesha Mukta Tripura (Drug-Free Tripura). While Tripura Police and other agencies are working to-

wards this goal, common people, students, youths, women and others must get involved in this campaign to make this crusade a successful endeavour," said Saha. He said that quiz competitions, which raise awareness about road accidents, are essential in the present time. The Chief Minister said due to road accidents, the state and the country are losing valuable human resources and awareness is also crucial for consumer protection. He emphasised that students are the future of the country, and making them aware of consumer protection and road safety would be beneficial for the government.

## BJP MLAs protest after Gov skips mentioning RG Kar case in budget session speech

**Kolkata, Feb 14 (IANS) :** BJP MLAs on Friday lodged a strong protest after West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose skipped mentioning RG Kar case in his budget session speech. As per tradition, the state government prepares the written speech of the Governor for any session of the house and the latter just reads out that written speech. As the Governor was stepping out of the house after completing his speech the woman legislators of the BJP started protesting.



## TN: Will always oppose Periyar and his ideology, says Seeman

**Chennai, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Actor-turned-politician and founder of the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), Seeman, said on Friday that he will always oppose the ideology of Periyar E. V. Ramasamy. Speaking to reporters in Trichy on Monday (February 10), Seeman alleged that voting machines were rigged in favour of the DMK candidate during the Erode East constituency elections. "NTK needed just 1,000 more

votes to retain our deposit, but despite the loss, we remain confident," he said, expressing gratitude to those who voted for the party. Seeman criticised the ruling DMK, claiming that the party could only win elections through multiple alliances. He also pointed out that while NOTA (None of the Above) received only 797 votes in the previous election, the number had risen to 6,000 in the recent polls, with independent candidates further splitting the votes. He asserted his position as a "lone

warrior" who does not require an army to succeed and reiterated that his political stance is firmly against Dravidian parties. "I come from a Dravidian background, but now that I have clarity, I oppose their ideology. They are not driven by principles but by an agenda to exploit the people," he claimed. Seeman's remarks have raised eyebrows, even within his party, as he previously identified as a Periyarist and largely refrained from openly criticising the social reformer.

## K'taka BJP demands immediate rollback of metro fare hike

**Bengaluru, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Demanding immediate rollback of the Metro fare hike, a BJP delegation met with the Metro MD M. Maheshwar Rao on Friday, condemning the steepest metro fare hike in the country. Speaking to the media persons after the meeting, Bengaluru MLA Ravi Subramanya stated, "Metro is a public service sector, not a revenue-generating department. It was implemented to reduce the

city's traffic congestion, and we strongly oppose this sudden fare hike." He criticised the state government for already burdening the public with multiple price hikes and further increasing metro fares by 46 per cent. He also insisted that essential facilities should be provided at metro stations. "The metro is meant for the public. Prioritising profits is not the right approach. The project was implemented to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion, and even the

central government has provided financial aid for this purpose. The fare increase is unfair," he stated. Subramanya demanded that the fare hike be withdrawn immediately and that proper parking facilities be provided at metro stations. He warned that if their demands are not met, protests will be held. Another Bengaluru MLA C.K. Ramamurthy stated that the BJP delegation met with the Metro MD to highlight the concerns of Bengaluru commuters. "Metro fares in other states are

lower, but Bengaluru's fares have been increased significantly. The hike was implemented based on a committee report without discussing it with local MLAs, which is unacceptable," he said. He also criticised the lack of basic infrastructure at metro stations, including toilets and parking facilities, and warned that if the fare is not reduced, protests will be launched. The BJP Bengaluru Metropolitan Unit has demanded that the fare hike be scrapped. If an increase is necessary, it should be limited to 5 per cent, they suggested. The delegation included MLAs Ravi Subramanya, C.K. Ramamurthy, BJP State Chief Spokesperson Ashwath Narayan, State General



Secretary P. Rajeev, District President Harish, former mayors Gautham and Prakash, along with other leaders. The Bengaluru Metro Railway Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) on last Saturday announced a revision of Metro ticket prices, starting from Rs 10 for travel of 2 km up to Rs 90 for travel to 30 km. The revised prices have come into effect from Sunday.

## 'Ocean of humanity': Every police officer displaying unmatched dedication, says UP DGP on Maha Kumbh

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar said on Friday that managing the 'ocean of humanity' at the Maha Kumbh 2025 is a 'Herculean task' and the state police is displaying an unmatched dedication to manage the devotees. "Managing this ocean of humanity is a Herculean task. Every police officer on duty is displaying unmatched dedication to making Maha Kumbh 2025 a safe and seamless experience for all," said the DGP. DGP Kumar said that the event is witnessing the largest congregation of humanity in history, adding that with over 40 crore pilgrims having already taken a sacred dip at the Sangam and millions arriving each day, managing the unprecedented movement of people and vehicles is a challenge that no city.



## 'Corporate lobbying': JD-U questions Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj party funding

**Patna, Feb 14 (IANS) :** JD-U Chief Spokesperson Neeraj Kumar, has intensified its attack on Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj party, raising serious questions about its financial transparency and funding sources. Kumar, along with JD-U leader Ajit Patel, accused Prashant Kishor of running a shadowy financial operation under the guise of political activism. "Prashant Kishor calls himself the patron of Jan Suraaj, yet his name is missing from the Election Commission's official documents. This raises concerns about who actually controls the party," said Neeraj Kumar. He further claimed that Jan Suraaj is not receiving direct political donations, but instead, funding is being funnelled

through an NGO - 'Joy of Giving Global Foundation'. Kumar said that this NGO received Rs 48.75 crore in the financial year 2023-24, with the largest donation of Rs 14 crore coming from Ram Setu Infrastructure Private Limited. "Why are major donations for Bihar politics coming from companies based in Telangana and Hyderabad? Many of these companies have negligible capital but are donating crores. Frequent changes in their directors indicate possible money laundering," Neeraj Kumar alleged. JD-U leaders compared Prashant Kishor's financial model to the East India Company, accusing him of attempting to bring corporate lobbying into Bihar's politics.

## Shiv Sena leader's son who went missing returns to Pune

**Pune, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Former Maharashtra Health minister and Shiv Sena deputy leader Tanaji Sawant's son Rishiraj, who went missing, has returned to Pune airport. The Pune joint commissioner Ranjan Kumar Sharma, who was accompanied by Tanaji Sawant, told reporters that Rishiraj Sawant, who was on his way to Bangkok in a private plane, returned to Pune after taking a halt in Chennai. The Pune Police had registered a case of missing after the control room had re-

ceived the call in the afternoon. Thereafter the police team reached the airport and launched the investigation. Sharma said that since the case has been registered Rishiraj Sawant will be questioned and his Pune-Chennai journey to Bangkok will be investigated. The Joint Commissioner said that the control room received a call at 4 pm on Friday that Rishiraj Sawant was taken away by an unknown person. "However, after getting the information, it was learned that he had left for Bangkok in a private plane but without keeping the family in the loop. There were three of them



on the plane, including Rishiraj," he said. He further added, "In this case, we had a case of kidnapping registered, accordingly, now after he arrived at Pune, we took detailed information about the incident from him. Since a case has been registered, they will be questioned." Tanaji Sawant said: "Rishiraj had gone without telling anyone.

## US deportation: Punjab Police register eight FIRs against travel agents

**Chandigarh, Feb 14 (IANS) :** In a major crackdown on fraudulent immigration consultants exploiting innocent individuals, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Punjab Police on Friday said it has taken action to dismantle the multinational human trafficking nexus operating in the region. This action pertains to the Indians who had been deported from the US and had landed in Amritsar.



**Tirupati woman who made allegations against Jana Sena leader arrested**

**Tirupati, Feb 14 (IANS) :** A woman, who had made allegations of extortion against Jana Sena party's Tirupati constituency in-charge Kiran Royal, has been arrested by police. Lakshmi was arrested by a police team from Rajasthan on Friday when she was returning after addressing a press conference at Tirupati Press Club. The woman was subsequently shifted to SVU Police Station. She was reportedly arrested in an online fraud case. Lakshmi had accused Kiran of fraud and extortion. She claimed that she faces a threat to her life from Kiran. She alleged that he took over Rs 1.20 crore and 25 sovereigns (200 grams) of gold from her under false promises, leaving her in severe financial distress.



**North Korea sent 200 long-range artillery pieces to Russia, additional supply likely**

**Seoul, Feb 14 (IANS) :** North Korea is estimated to have sent about 200 pieces of long-range artillery to Russia and is likely to send more troops and weapons in support of Moscow's war against Ukraine, South Korea's defence ministry said on Friday. The assessment came after South Korea's spy agency earlier estimated the North to have sent some 11,000 troops to support Russia, of which 300 are believed to have been killed, with some 2,700 others wounded. "(North Korea) has provided some 11,000 troops, missiles, 200 pieces of long-range artillery and a substantial amount of am-

munition and there is the possibility of (the North) additionally supplying troops, weapons and ammunition going forward," the ministry said in a briefing to the parliamentary defence committee. The ministry said the North is expected to double down on its weapons development this year, the final year in its five-year plan to develop sophisticated weapons, such as nuclear-powered submarines, spy satellites and solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). It raised the possibility of the North receiving Russia's technological assistance in exchange for military support, specifically mentioning technologies

for nuclear-powered submarines and atmospheric re-entry technology for ICBMs. Regarding the North's relations with the United States, the ministry said Pyongyang appears to be seeking to establish favorable circumstances for talks with Washington through a display of tough rhetoric and provocations, Yonhap news agency reported. The North has not responded to US President Donald Trump's expression of his intent to re-engage with leader Kim Jong-un. Instead, it has conducted missile tests and unveiled Kim's visit to a nuclear-material production base, the ministry noted.

**Temples play vital role in preserving Indian traditions : Rajasthan CM**

**Chittorgarh/Jaipur, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma emphasised the vital role of temples in preserving Indian traditions, culture, and values. He stated that temples are not only symbols of faith but also serve as key centres of social and cultural consciousness. Highlighting their significance, he remarked that temples form the soul of Sanatan culture, strengthening India's rich heritage. The state government, he affirmed, remains dedicated to fostering cultural and spiritual development across

Rajasthan. Sharma made these remarks while addressing the idol consecration ceremony of Pashupatinath Mahadev Temple at Matrikundiya in Chittorgarh on Friday. He praised Chittorgarh as a land of warriors, home to legendary figures like Veer Maharana Pratap and Bhakt Shiromani Mirabai, while also being a renowned centre of devotion and spirituality. Congratulating the people of the state on the auspicious occasion, he expressed confidence that the Shri Pashupatinath Mahadev Temple.



**Natural medicines solution to global health challenges : Rajasthan Speaker**

**Jaipur, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Calling natural medicines as the solution to global health challenges, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani called for the need for coordination between ancient and modern medical systems. He was speaking at the international conference organised by the Faculty of Botany and Diet & Nutrition at Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer, on new research in plant-based nutraceuticals and medicine. The event was organised under the aegis of the National Academy of Sciences and the Department of Biotechnology. Addressing the conference, Assembly Speaker Devnani emphasised the university's commitment to pioneering research and innovation. He noted that health challenges are increasing worldwide, making diet and nutrition not just a personal concern but a global priority. He stressed the need for deeper research into the medicinal properties of natural plants, urging scholars to explore traditional knowledge and ancestral remedies.

**Takht Damdama Sahib Jathedar dismissed by SGPC**

**Chandigarh, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Acting on a complaint, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Friday held Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Harpreet Singh was found guilty and terminated from the service with immediate effect. A decision in this regard was made during SGPC's executive body meeting held in Amritsar. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhama, who chaired the meeting, refrained from talking to the media about the termination of Giani Harpreet Singh, who was replaced by the head granthi of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Jagtar Singh.



**NCW seeks Ashwini Vaishnav's help to curb obscene content on OTT platforms**

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The National Commission for Women (NCW) has written to Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav seeking regulatory measures to check obscene content available on various Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms and social media streaming sites, an official said on Friday. In her letter, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said obscene content can be easily accessed by people of all age groups that has increased the possibility of negative impact on society, particularly on women and children. The NCW Chairperson's letter to Vaishnav comes close to the National Human Rights Commission's direction

to social media streaming platform YouTube to pull down "obscene and vulgar" content based on remarks of podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia on the controversial show 'India's Got Latent'. Seeking an Action Taken Report within three days, NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo wrote to the YouTube's Head, Public Policy, Mira Chatt, saying that the content in question prima facie appears to be in violation of various legal provisions under Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

**Bengal: ED attaches property worth Rs 210.07cr of Concast Steel CMD**

**Kolkata, Feb 14 (IANS):** Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Friday that it has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 210.07 crore owned by Sanjay Kumar Sureka, the chairman & managing director of Concast Group, the owner of Concast Steel & Private Limited. The entity had been under the scanner of the ED officials for quite some time in connection with a major bank loan forgery case amounting to Rs 6,000 crore. According to a statement issued by ED, the attachment of the property had been made under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. In December last year, the ED official escorted by the Central Armed Forces Personnel (CAPF) conducted a marathon raid and search operation at the residence.



**Mahakumbh 2025 : Over 7 Lakh pilgrims provided with Ayush, allopathic medicines**

**New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS):** With comprehensive healthcare facilities, more than seven lakh pilgrims have been provided with Ayush, allopathic medicines at the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025, said the Ayush Ministry on Friday. The healthcare services are being provided by specialists from Canada, Germany, Russia, along with doctors from AIIMS Delhi and IMS BHU. "More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims have been treated at 23 allopathic hospitals, and over 3.71

lakh pilgrims have undergone pathology tests," said Dr. Gaurav Dubey, the nodal medical officer of the Kumbh Mela. In addition, the mega event also saw "more than 3,800 minor surgeries and 12 major surgeries", Dubey said. Notably, over 2.18 lakh pilgrims have benefited from Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Naturopathy treatments at Mahakumbh 2025. The Ministry informed that about 20 AYUSH hospitals (10 Ayurveda and 10 Homeopathy) are operating 24/7 in the Kumbh



Mela area. These hospitals are treating patients "with traditional methods like Panchakarma, herbal-based treatments, yoga therapy, and naturopathy". The Ayush ministry is also distributing, yoga kits, calendars, medicinal plants, and health awareness materials to help pilgrims adopt a healthier lifestyle. Further, special

ayurvedic 'swarnaprashan' medicine is also being provided for children aged 1 to 12 years. "The special Ayurvedic 'Swarnaprashan' medicine is being administered, distributed during the Pushya Nakshatra.

**Trinamool to contest 2026 Bengal elections alone : Mamata Banerjee**

**Kolkata, Feb 14 (IANS) :** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Friday, informed party legislators, that Trinamool Congress will be contesting alone in the Bengal Assembly elections in 2026 without having any understanding with another party including Con-

gress. She told party legislators while having a meeting with the members of the party's legislative team in the West Bengal Assembly before the commencement of the first day of the budget session of the house on Friday afternoon.





**Trump formally announces 25 pc tariffs on all steel, aluminium imports**

**Washington, Feb 14 (IANS) :** US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose 25 per cent tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports coming into the United States "without exceptions or exemptions," raising concerns over its ramifications on South Korean and other exporters. Trump signed two proclamations regarding the sweeping tariffs, while affirming a plan to announce "reciprocal" tariffs "over the next two days" -- duties on U.S. imports designed to match tariff rates that other countries impose on U.S. exports, reports Yonhap news agency. During his first term, Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on steel imports and 10 per cent on aluminium imports on national security grounds.

**Flood-damaged railway services resume in Bosnia**

**Sarajevo, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Railway services in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have fully resumed following a four-month suspension caused by severe flooding, the national railway operator said. Flooding in early October heavily damaged railway infrastructure in the Jablanica area of central Bosnia, bringing operations to a halt. As of Friday, passenger train services between the capital Sarajevo, and the southern border city of Capljina are back in operation. Freight transport to the port of Ploce

in Croatia, a key economic hub in the Western Balkans, already resumed at the end of January. The flood-related damages resulted in an estimated revenue loss of 22.5 million Bosnia-Herzegovina Convertible Marka (KM) (nearly \$11.9 million), Xinhua news agency reported. The railway operator has applied for financial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund to support repairs on the most severely affected sections between Konjic and Grabovica in central Bosnia. (1 KM = \$0.53)



**South Korean watchdog adopts recommendation to guarantee Yoon's defence right during-impeachment-trial**

**Seoul, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The South Korea's state human rights watchdog adopted on Friday a controversial recommendation to guarantee President Yoon Suk Yeol's right to defence during his ongoing impeachment trial at the Constitutional Court. The National Human Rights Commission of Korea's (NHRCK) decision was reached during its plenary meeting amid growing demand among Yoon's supporters that the impeached

president should be guaranteed a fair trial at the Constitutional Court. The proposal was passed with six votes in favor and four against out of 11 commissioners. The opposition denounced the decision, calling it "the day the NHRCK died." "The Human Rights Commission is the last safeguard for human rights, and so it should only make recommendations related to human rights and not politically

charged issues," said Kim Yong-jik, a standing commissioner at the NHRCK. Monday's meeting came after an NHRCK standing commissioner proposed the recommendation as part of an agenda to address the national crisis triggered by Yoon's short-lived martial law declaration on December 3 last year. But the commission failed to hold discussions on January 13 and 20 amid strong protests from supporters of liberal opposition parties.

**Russia-US ties 'on verge of rupture': Russian Deputy FM**

**Moscow, Feb 14 (IANS) :** Relations between Russia and the United States are "on the verge of rupture," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Friday. Moscow has repeatedly warned that bilateral relations were on the brink of rupture, Ryabkov said, adding that US President Donald Trump's return to the White House could lead to a change in US foreign policy. At a press briefing, the diplo-

mat also said there were currently no plans for contact between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump. "However, the topic does exist, and as the situation becomes clearer, I believe there will be agreements on this matter and they will be announced ... at the appropriate time," Ryabkov said. At the same time, Ryabkov said that the new US administration has expressed interest in resuming dialogue with Moscow. "Trump's team, despite the con-

flicting statements made by him and his people, has at least shown interest in resuming dialogue with Russia, which was interrupted by the Democrats," Ryabkov said. He reiterated that Moscow remains ready for dialogue, including discussions on a potential settlement of the Ukraine crisis, however, such dialogue would only be possible based on equality and mutually acceptable terms. "A small window of opportunity" has emerged under the Trump administration for normalising bilat-

eral ties, he said, adding that Washington must decide whether to take advantage of this. The use of ultimatums, provocative remarks, or attempts to pressure Moscow into accepting unreasonable demands will not be effective for Russia-US relations or dialogue between the two countries, he added, Xinhua news agency reported. The New York Post reported late Saturday that Trump said he had discussed the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine over phone



with Putin. However, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Sunday he could "neither confirm nor deny"

that Putin and Trump had been in touch when asked by reporters if the two leaders had spoken by phone.



**UN agency accuses paramilitary forces of obstructing aid delivery in Sudan**

**Khartoum, Feb 14 (IANS) :** A United Nations agency on Friday accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of hindering delivery of humanitarian aid to the needy, particularly in the Darfur region in western Sudan. "The persistent restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles imposed by the Sudanese Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations (SARHO), an affiliate of the RSF, are preventing life-saving assistance from reaching those in desperate need," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement. Despite repeated commitments made by the SARHO, humanitarian actors continue to face obstruction, undue interference, and operational restrictions that contravene international humanitarian

law and the obligations outlined in the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, it said. The OCHA called on the SARHO to take immediate and concrete measures to engage with the humanitarian community as a whole to guarantee the delivery of urgent life-saving aid, simplify procedures for aid convoys by eliminating unnecessary approvals, and end interference in humanitarian operations, including demands for logistical support. "The humanitarian community in Sudan calls on the SARHO to do its utmost to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers, assets and operations to ensure their ability to function without threats or coercion," the statement added. On August 13, 2023, the RSF announced the establishment of the

SARHO to coordinate with the international humanitarian community in Sudan regarding the delivery of humanitarian aid to the areas under its control, namely in the Darfur region, Xinhua news agency reported. Previous UN reports indicated that more than half of Sudan's population is now facing acute hunger. According to official statistics, 28.9 million people in Sudan need humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing war in the country. Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF since mid-April 2023, which claimed at least 29,683 lives and displaced over 15 million people, either inside or outside Sudan, according to the latest estimates by international organisations.

**India, Nepal set to hold power transmission discussions**

**Kathmandu, Feb 14 (IANS) :** The energy secretaries of Nepal and India are meeting in New Delhi on Friday as both neighbouring countries focus on building at least five cross-border transmission lines in order to generate at least 16,000 megawatts of power by 2035. Leading Nepal's 12-member delegation, Energy Secretary Suresh Acharya will engage in talks with Indian officials to finalise the roadmap for constructing these vital transmission corridors. The meeting will focus on ensuring smooth energy exports to India and Bangladesh, reports Nepal's leading daily, The Kathmandu Post. Representatives from Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Ministry of Energy, the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, Nepal Electricity Authority, and the Department of Electricity Development will also take part in the deliberations. Additionally, a meeting of the power exchange committee will be held to discuss energy trade and pricing mechanisms between Nepal and India. Last month, officials from both countries, during the 12th Joint Working Group on Power Sector Cooperation, agreed on investment modalities and timelines for five cross-border transmission lines. These projects, once completed, will enable Nepal to increase its energy exports to Bangladesh through India, adding to the 40 MW already being supplied.



**India, International Solar Alliance discuss sustainable energy initiatives in Denmark**

**Copenhagen, Feb 14 (IANS) :** India discussed sustainable renewable energy initiatives with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in Denmark, to attract global funding and technology from both countries. The Indian envoy to Denmark met with the top officials of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in Copenhagen and discussed the initiatives. "Indian Ambassador to Denmark, Manish Prabhat, DG Mathur, DG-elect Khanna discussed ISA's Sustainable Renewable Energy initiatives attracting global funding and technology, including from India and Denmark," the Indian Embassy in Copenhagen posted on X on Monday. In 2021, Denmark signed a framework agreement on the International Solar Alliance with India and became the first country to ratify the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. India and Denmark also collaborated in the ISA and during India's G20 presidency.

## WPL 2025: Time ripe for India's fast bowlers to take centre stage in the tournament

New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) : During the first leg of the 2024 Women's Premier League (WPL) in Bengaluru, India head coach Amol Muzumdar had said during a guest commentary stint the national set-up was trying to build a pool of fast bowlers from the five-team tournament. The widening of the fast bowling pool in Indian women's cricket is something which former head coach Ramesh Powar stressed in July 2021. But so far from the two seasons of the WPL, the players who have gone on to play for India are mostly spinners.



## Gurbaz is really talented guy and super athlete, says Afghanistan batting coach

New Delhi, Feb 14 (IANS) Ahead of the Champions Trophy, Afghanistan batting coach Andrew Puttick heaped praise on wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz and lauded his talent and athleticism. Since his international debut, Gurbaz has been recognised as a promising talent, known for his aggressive shot-making and fearless approach against any bowler, regardless of their reputation. However, his temperament in ODIs had often been questioned.



## India crash out of Badminton Asia Mixed Team C'ships after QF loss to Japan

Qingdao (China), Feb 14 (IANS): Last edition's bronze medallists India have bowed out of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships after losing 3-0 to Japan in the quarterfinals on Friday. Up-and-coming mixed doubles combination of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto and women's singles player Malvika Bansod gave their all against much higher-ranked opponents but could not avoid India's loss against the formidable Japan - winners of the championship in 2017 - in the last eight stage. Facing the World No. 12 combination of Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito in the first match of the tie, Dhruv and Tanisha forced a decider with a spirited fightback in the second game. But the experienced Japanese combination prevailed in the 61-minute contest 21-13, 17-21, 21-13 to take the lead.



## WPL 2025: Focus on skipper Deepti as UP Warriorz get ready for opener vs Gujarat Giants

Vadodra, Feb 14 (IANS) : UP Warriorz are all set for season 3 of the Women's Premier League (WPL) and are going through the final paces before the Deepti Sharma-led side takes the field against Gujrat Giants on Sunday. In their second match of the season, UP Warriorz go against Delhi Capitals on February 19. Both the matches are scheduled at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodra.

## Champions Trophy: NZ pacer Sears ruled out with hamstring injury, Duffy named replacement

Auckland, Feb 14 (IANS) : New Zealand pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025, starting from February 19 in Pakistan, with a hamstring injury, the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Friday. "Sears felt some pain in his left hamstring at the team's first training in Karachi on Wednesday and a subsequent scan revealed a minor tear that would require at least two weeks' rehabilitation," the NZC said in a statement.



## Medvedev reaches first quarterfinal of the season in Marseille

Marseille, Feb 14 (IANS) : Daniil Medvedev overcame French qualifier Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-2, 6-4 at the Open 13 Provence to reach his first quarter-final of the season. World No. 8 won 90 per cent (26/29) of his first-serve points to improve to 3-1 in the pair's ATP Head-to-Head series, according to ATP stats. Medvedev suffered a second-round defeat to American Learner Tien at the Australian Open and then lost in the second round in Rotterdam to Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci. "I lost early in Australia. I thought sometimes when I play good in Australia, which has happened many times, your body is already used and tired. So you want to take it a bit slower. But I played two matches, even if they were tough, so I thought I might as well play many tournaments and Marseille is one I like," Medvedev said.



## Qatar Open: Swiatek tops Rybakina in quarters for 15th win in a row in Doha

Doha, Feb 14 (IANS) : Three-time defending champion and former World No. 1 Iga Swiatek returned to the semifinals with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Elena Rybakina in Thursday's quarterfinals here, recording her 15th straight win at the tournament overall. In a rematch of last year's championship match, Swiatek came from 4-2 down in the second set, and saved two break points at 4-4, before eventually wrapping up a straight-sets victory in 1 hour and 36 minutes. The win is Swiatek's 100th at WTA 1000 level in 121

matches played -- making her the second-fastest to the milestone after Serena Williams, who played 115 WTA 1000 matches to do it. After beating Rybakina at last month's United Cup, Swiatek has now levelled her all-time head-to-head against the Kazakh to 4-4.



## Formula E: Kush Maini quickest for Mahindra in Jeddah Rookie Free Practice

Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Feb 14 (IANS) : India's young driver Kush Maini impressed for Mahindra in the special FP0 session just for rookies at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit ahead of the season-opening race of the Formula E World Championship this weekend. Mahindra

Racing's Maini topped the Jeddah Rookie Free Practice, with the Indian racer looking comfortable behind the wheel. Behind him was Gabriele Mini for Nissan, with CUPRA KIRO's Mikkell Jensen was third despite not having driven a single-seater race since 2016.



## Raducanu set for Dubai Tennis Championships debut after accepting wildcard

Dubai, Feb 14 (IANS): Former US Open champion Emma Raducanu is set to make her first appearance at the Dubai Tennis Championships after the Briton was awarded a wildcard for the WTA 1000 event, scheduled from February 16 to 23. Raducanu, currently ranked No. 60 in the world, recently competed in both the Qatar Open and Abu Dhabi Open after accepting wildcard entries into the main draw but lost in the first round on both occasions. She reached the last 32 of the Australian Open

in January, where she was beaten in straight sets by five-time Grand Slam winner Iga Swiatek. "It's fantastic to see Emma participating in the WTA Tour event in Dubai for the first time. It's clear for all to see that Emma possesses an enormous amount of talent and we look forward to watching her on court at this year's Championships," said tournament director Salah Tahlak. The world's top 10 women's players will take centre stage at the Championships this year as the WTA event celebrates its 25th anniversary.