

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

FRIDAY, 21 February 2025

VOLUME : 15 ISSUE : 176 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Will work to strengthen the BJP party : BJP District President Reddaboyina Gopi

The party's district president Reddaboyina Gopi said that he will do his best to further strengthen the BJP party... 02



Raymond Lifestyle hit by cyber attack, core system 'safe'

Raymond Lifestyle Limited on Thursday said it faced a cybersecurity incident that affected some of its IT assets. However, the company said that its core systems... 07



FIH Pro League: India women hope to change fortune against Germany

The Indian women's hockey team will be looking to turn their campaign around as they prepare to take on Germany in the FIH Pro League 2024-25. 12



Rekha Gupta sworn in as Delhi CM; PM Modi, BJP CMs attend oath ceremony

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Rekha Gupta took oath as the Delhi Chief Minister at the grand swearing-in ceremony at the city's Ramlila Maidan on Thursday. The ceremony which marked the return of BJP to power after a gap of 27 years, saw the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with many Chief Ministers

from BJP-ruled states. As the national Capital got its fourth woman Chief Minister, this also marked a show of strength for the NDA alliance as they all reached Delhi for participating in the ceremony. Rekha Gupta is the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi after Sheila Dikshit, Sushma Swaraj and Atishi. She is also the fourth BJP chief minister in the

capital, after Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma and Sushma Swaraj. Rekha Gupta's Cabinet is likely to have six ministers. Along with Rekha Gupta, other BJP MLAs who took oath included Parvesh Singh Verma, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Kapil Mishra and Pankaj Kumar Singh.

Uttam blames BRS for betraying Telangana's interest in water shares

Hyderabad, Feb.20 (NSS): Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy has accused BRS leaders of spreading falsehoods to defame the Congress government, calling his allegations a desperate attempt to mislead the public. He also blamed the previous

BRS government for failing to protect Telangana's water rights and causing massive financial and structural damage to the irrigation sector. Addressing a press conference at Jala Soudha on Thursday, along with Ministers Komatireddy Venkatreddy and Ponnamp Prabhakar, Uttam Kumar Reddy ridiculed BRS leaders' criticism of the Congress government.

He said, "BRS leaders are repeatedly lying to cover up the failures of the BRS regime. The irrigation sector under BRS was riddled with scams and irregularities. The BRS government borrowed over Rs 1 lakh crore for the Kaleshwaram project, which was plagued by faulty design.

Continued on pg 02



CM Naidu seeks Centre's support to complete Polavaram project on war footing

Amaravati, Feb 20 (IANS) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday sought the Centre's support to complete the Polavaram project on a war footing. The Chief Minister along with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Patil in New Delhi. CM Naidu posted on 'X' that they requested reimbursement for the expenditure on constructing Polavaram Left and Right canals and all support needed to complete the project on a war footing. "We also solicited Sri Paatil Garu's support for the

Polavaram Banakacherla Link project, which aims to transfer 200 TMC of floodwater from the Godavari river at Polavaram to Banakacherla through a link canal," said the Chief Minister. He wrote that Banakacherla Link Project will make the state drought-proof, providing drinking water to 80 lakh people, irrigating 3 lakh hectares of new land, supplementing 9.14 lakh hectares, and allocating 20 TMC of water to industries. CM Naidu and Pawan Kalyan were in the national capital to attend the swearing-in of the new Chief Minister of Delhi Rekha Gupta. CM Naidu is also likely to call Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Continued on pg 02



BRS leader denies involvement in murder of complainant in Kaleshwaram case

Hyderabad, Feb 20 (IANS) : Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader and former MLA Gandra Venkat Ramana Reddy on Thursday denied his involvement in the murder of Nagavelli Rajalingamurthy, the man who had filed a complaint alleging corruption in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) following the sinking of piers of Medigadda barrage. He said during a news conference that he was no way connected to the murder of Rajalingamurthy.

Continued on pg 02

YSRCP complains to Governor about lapses in Jagan Mohan Reddy's security

Vijayawada, Feb 20 : The YSR Congress Party on Thursday complained to AP Governor S. Abdul Nazeer about the lapses in security of its President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. A delegation of



YSRCP leaders, led by the Leader of the Opposition. Continued on pg 02



Rahul Gandhi meets electorate in Rae Bareilly during two-day visit

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Starting his two-day trip with a visit to a local temple, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday interacted with Congress workers and also heard problems of the electorate in his Raebareilly parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. The MP's schedule for the two-day visit includes the dedication of some projects to people, meeting party workers, women and youth, interacting with Dalit students, and visiting the local railway coach factory, said a party leader. A video on social media showed Gandhi, while sitting in his vehicle, listening to the grievances of a local resident and going through his application. He even obliged young voters who requested him to pose for a selfie with them. A party leader said Gandhi's busy schedule during the constituency visit will also include the unveiling of a statue.

Education is not monopoly of Central govt : Bhatti

Tiruvananthapuram, Feb.20 (NSS): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka compared the University Grants Commission's new guidelines to a scenario where "you are required to pay the bill but cannot choose your meal." During the National Convention on Higher Education held in Tiruvananthapuram on Thursday, he addressed the implications of the UGC draft guidelines, the autonomy of states.



CM Revanth appears before court

Hyderabad, Feb.20 (NSS): Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday appeared before the Public Representatives Special Court in Nampally regarding allegations of violating Election Commission regulations

during the Assembly elections. The Chief Minister personally attended the court for three cases related to these allegations. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) filed complaints against Revanth Reddy due to his remarks made against K Chandrashekar Rao during the Assembly election period, which led the police to initiate a case at that time.



CAN FIN HOMES LTD
 Regd. Office: 29/1, 1st Floor, Sir M.N.Krishna Rao Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004. Website: www.canfinhomes.com, CIN: L85110KA1987LC008699.
 Branch Address: # 1-7-96/2, 1st Floor, Mahesh Nagar, ECIL Post, A.S.Rao Nagar, Hyderabad-500062, T.S. Tel No: 7625079248. E-mail: asraonagar@canfinhomes.com

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable properties
 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 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) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., A.S.RAO NAGAR Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 27-03-2025, for recovery of Rs.44,37,022/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Thirty seven thousand and Twenty Two Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from Mr. Catakam Santosh Naidu S/o Mr. Catakam Prakash Naidu and Mrs. Lekha Sundaram Vijaya, W/o Mr. Catakam Santosh Naidu as on 20-02-2025 together with further interest and other charges thereon. The reserve price will be Rs.38,30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight lakhs Thirty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs.3,83,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Only)

Description of the immovable property
 All that the Flat No. 222, 2nd Floor, Sri Turumala Harmony, Sy.No.371, Built up area 909 Sq.ft., including common areas and one car parking along with undivided share of 1-27 Sq.Yards equivalent to 22.57 Sq.Mts (Out of Total land admeasuring Ac 01.31 guntas or 8591 Sq.Yards) situated at Opp: Saket, Kapra, Kapra circle, Keasara (M), Medchal-Malkajgiri (D), Telangana State. **Boundaries of Flat:** North: Corridor, South: Open to Sky, East: Flat No.223, West: Staircase and Open to Sky. **Encumbrance:** Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx). Link for participating in e-auction: https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Date: 20-02-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer
 Place: A.S.Rao Nagar, Hyderabad Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Uttam blames BRS for betraying Telangana's interest in water shares

Continued From pg 01
 poor construction, and zero maintenance. The Medigadda Barrage, which BRS described as the 'heart of Kaleshwaram,' collapsed during their own rule, and instead of admitting failure, KCR, Harish Rao and other BRS leaders shamelessly claim that only one pillar collapsed." Uttam Kumar Reddy revealed that the BRS government spent Rs 1.81 lakh crore on irrigation projects but failed to achieve significant ayacut expansion. The funds were acquired through high-interest, short-term loans, placing a huge financial burden on Telangana. Despite spending Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project and Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, not a single acre of land received irrigation water. Long-pending projects like Devadula, Kalwakurthy, Nettampadu, Bhima, Koyal Sagar, SLBC, and

Dindi remained incomplete. The Kaleshwaram Project alone, which consumed nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, delivered minimal ayacut and suffered structural failures, he pointed out. The Minister alleged that the BRS government did not construct irrigation projects for farmers; they built them to fill their pockets. He stated that the Congress government is working to rectify these issues by prioritising the completion of pending projects and securing Telangana's water rights. Reading from minutes of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) meetings, Uttam Kumar Reddy exposed how the BRS gov-

CM Naidu seeks Centre's support to complete Polavaram project on war footing

Continued From pg 01
 The Chief Minister is expected to discuss issues relating to various projects and other matters about the state with Union Minister Shah. He is expected to discuss the chilli farmers' issues with Union Minister Chouhan. CM Naidu, who has written several letters to the Centre mentioning the chilli farmers' issues, will directly bring it to the notice of the Union Minister and request Central assistance. Naidu, whose TDP is a key partner in the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

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

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

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of February, 2025.

BORROWER NAME AND ADDRESS	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) Prem Kathera S/o. Pochalaiah, Age:33 Years, Occ:Business/Cyberhub Inter Net), H.No:4-6-30 Ambedkar Nagar, Siricilla, Karimnagar, Pincode:505301. And Also At Prem Kathera S/o. Pochalaiah, Age:33 Years, The Tiled Roof House Bearing Mpl.No:4-6-30 Along With Open Place, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 155.25 Sq.Yards Or 129.80 Sq.Mtrs., Situated At Ambedkara Nagar Locality Of Siricilla Town, Dist: Rajanna Siricilla. 2) Kathera Ellavva W/o Pochalaiah, Age:56 Years, Occ:House Wife, H.No:4-6-30, Ambedkarnagar, Siricilla, Karimnagar, Pincode:505301. 3) Cheekoti Balakishan S/o Parsharamulu, Age:48 Years, Occ:S.A (Maths At Zphs), Emp Code:1537035, H.No:2-49/1, Chinnalingapoor, Neralla, Siricilla, Pincode:505405, 2nd Add:H.No:12-7-86, Shivanagar, Siricilla, Pincode:505301.	Rs. 31,37,491/- (Thirty One Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety One Rupees Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY - SIRCITF2306160009- (Property holder Name is PREM KATHERA, Mortgage deed dated 17.06.2023 Registered as Document No 5037/2023 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Siricilla. The Tiled roof house bearing Mpl.No:4-6-30 along with open place, admeasuring to an extent of 155.25 Sq.Yards or 129.80 Sq.Mtrs., situated at Ambedkar nagar locality of Siricilla Town, Rajanna Siricilla District, Registration District: Rajanna Siricilla, Sub-District: Siricilla, bounded as under: Plinth: 257.38 Sq.ft. EAST: 21 feet Wide Road, WEST: House of Kathera Yellaiah, NORTH: House of Edla Yellaiah, SOUTH: House of Battu Gouraiah

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: 19.02.2025 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 Place: SIRICILLA SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED



Will work to strengthen the BJP party : BJP District President Reddaboyina Gopi

Rajanna Siricilla, February 20 (TIM Bureau) : The party's district president Reddaboyina Gopi said that he will do his best to further strengthen the BJP party in Rajanna Siricilla district. He spoke at a media conference organized at a function hall in Siricilla town on Thursday. He thanked Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay, Kishan Reddy and former district president Prathapa Ramakrishna for their cooperation in his appointment as BJP district president.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE: RANGAREDDY DISTRICT AT: KUKATPALLY [IA No.203 of 2023 IN O.S.No.1200 of 2002]
Between: Nori Sai Krishna Prasad S/o Late NR Satyanarayana, Aged: 62 Yrs, Occupation : Reld Employee R/o Q.No.D-16, Income Tax Colony, Road No.10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500034. Cell:9963787659
...Petitioner/Plaintiff

And
M/s Navya Consultancy, Represented by its Proprietor C.Lalitha Reddy W/o Konda Reddy Aged About 58 Years Occupation Business, R/o H.No.1-36/1/11/55, Suraksh Enclave, Chandanagar Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, Cell No.9908360451
....Respondent/Defendant
To: M/s Navya Consultancy Represented by its Proprietor C.Lalitha Reddy W/o Konda Reddy Aged About 58 Years Occupation Business, R/o H.No.1-36/1/11/55, Suraksh Enclave, Chandanagar Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.
 Please take notice that in the above Plaintiff had filed the above SUIIT against you defendant for recovery of money and restoration petition vide IA No.203 of 2023, in OS 1200 of 2002 is pending before Hon'ble I Additional Junior Civil Judge, cum IX Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Ranga Reddy District at Kukatpally and this Hon'ble court has posted the case to 18.03.2025 at 10.30 am for your appearance. You are hereby required to attend the court on the said date either in person or through advocate failing which the matter will be heard accordingly.
Sd/- Mr.Raj Goutam, Advocate

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

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

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of February, 2025.

BORROWER NAME AND ADDRESS	Amount Due as per Demand Notice
1) Anil Sangula S/o Shankaraiah, Age:44 Years, Occ: Business (M/S. Maha Laxmi Glass Emporium & Hardware, Flywood Etc), H.No:8-5-44, Sainagar, Vemulawada, Rajannasiricilla, Pincode:505302. And Also At: Anil Sangula S/o. Shankaraiah, Age:44 Years, Tiled & Tin Shed Roof House With Open Place Bearing House Door No.2-91, Admeasuring To An Extent Of 596.50 Sq.Yards Or 501.06 Sq.Mtrs., Situated At Sanugula Village Of Chandurthi Mandal, Rajanna Siricilla District, Registratio District: Karimnagar, Sub District: Vemulawada. 2) Sanugula Shankaraiah S/o. Elahai, Age:63 Years, Occ: Carpenterwork, H.No: 2-81, Sangula, Karimnagar, Pincode:505307. 3) Shanaganoda Anil Kumar S/o Narsimha Chary, Age:36 Years, Occ: Busi Nessi(Sri Mahalaxmi Almyinum Works Shop), H.No:10-2-671, Vidyanagar, Karimnagar, Pincode:505001.	Rs. 27,86,035/- (Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand and Thirty Five Rupees Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY - SIRCITF2211010004- (Property holder Name is ANIL SANGULA, Mortgage deed dated 05.11.2022 Registered as Document No 8187/2022 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Vemulawada. Tiled & Tin Shed roof house with open place bearing House Door No. 2-91, admeasuring to an extent of 596.50 Sq.Yards or 501.06 Sq.Mtrs., situated at Sanugula Village of Chandurthi Mandal, Rajanna Siricilla District, Registration District: Karimnagar, Sub-District: Vemulawada, bounded as under: EAST: House with Open place of Javvai Devaiah, WEST: House with Open place of Vadla Lachiah NORTH: House with Open place of Palli Raju, SOUTH: Road

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: 19.02.2025 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 Place: Vemulawada SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

YSRCP complains to Governor about lapses in Jagan Mohan Reddy's security

Continued From pg 01
 in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana met the Governor at Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum. Talking to the media later, Satyanarayana expressed serious concerns over the state government's alleged negligence in providing security to Jagan Mohan Reddy during his visit to Guntur Mirchi Yard. He accused the state government of acting with political vendetta and deliberately creating a security risk. He also revealed that the Governor was surprised by the police inaction and assured them of an inquiry. Satyanarayana questioned how the police could use the election code as an excuse for withdrawing secu-

urity while providing full protection for the "Sangeeta Vibhavi" a few days ago in the city. He said this showed the government's biased approach. He warned that if anything happens to Jagan Mohan Reddy, the government and senior police officials, including the IG and SP, will be held responsible. He also criticized the government for failing to support farmers, stating that chilli farmers are suffering huge losses due to falling prices. He added that while the previous YSRCP government provided regular financial assistance to farmers, the current coalition government has abandoned them. The YSRCP delegation included former ministers Ambati Rambabu, Merugu Nagarjuna, Velampalli Srinivas, Karumuru Nageswara Rao, and MLCs Lella Appireddy and M. Arun Kumar. They demanded immediate action to restore Jagan Mohan Reddy's security and ensure the law was upheld without political bias.

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD
 Regd. Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahamedabad-380009
 Branch: Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor H.No:1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

APPENDIX -IV (See Rule -8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s.HDB Financial Services Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) (3) & R/W Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002, calling upon the Applicant/Co-Applicants/Guarantor in Loan A/c Nos -28738847, 28411316. 1) PATEL S CONSTRUCTIONS, H.No. 7-1-504, Flat No.301 SRR Signature Apartment, Mankamma Thota, Karimnagar-505001, Telangana. 2) Thulsegari Thirupathi Patil, Flat No.301 H.No.7-1-504, SRR Signature Apartment, Mankamma Thota, Karimnagar-505001, Telangana. 3) Thulsegari Swarna, Flat No.301, H.No. 7-1-504, SRR Signature Apartment, Mankamma Thota, Karimnagar-505001, Telangana, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,23,92,597.87-(RUPEES ONE CRORE TWENTY THREE LAKHS NINETY TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN AND Paise EIGHT ONLY) as on 22.11.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Applicant /Co-Applicants/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Applicant /Co-Applicants/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act R/W Rule 8 and 9, on this 20th day of February of the year 2025.

The Applicant /Co-Applicants/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the M/s HDB Financial Services Ltd., for an amount of Rs.1,23,92,597.87-(Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven And Paise Eight Only and interest and charges thereon.

The Applicant /Co-applicants/Guarantor attention is invited to provisions of Sub- Sec.8 of the Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES -I
 Open Plot Nos-400, 401, 402, 417, & 418 In Sy Nos 228/A, 229, 229/A/1, 229/A/2, 232/A/C, 232/A/B/3, 233/A/B, 234, 246, 247/A, 247/B, Corresponding To Old Synos. 229/P, 229/P/2/2/P, 233, 234, 246, & 247. Total Admeasuring An Extent Of 1,008.3 Sq Yards Or 843.03 Sq Mtrs. (Each Plot Consist 201.66 Sq Yards) Situated At Sharjeet Village , Alair Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District And With In The Jurisdiction Of The Sub - Registrar Yadagirigutta.

Within The Following Boundaries For Plot Nos-400,401 & 402 Admeasuring An Extent Of 604.98 Sq. Yards.: North: Plot No- 403, South:Plot No -399, East: Plot No 417,418,419, West:60.00 Feet Road.
 Within The Following Boundaries For Plot Nos-417 & 418 Admeasuring An Extent Of 403.32 Sq. Yards.: North: Plot No-416, South: Plot No -419, East: 33 Feet Road, West: Plot No - 401 & 402

Date :20.02.2025 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 Place:Hyderabad HDB Financial Services Ltd

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative Office: # 11-25-79 & 80, 1st , Pochammaidhan, Warangal - 506002.

RULE-8(3)] POSSESSION NOTICE
 Note: "It is informed that "Shriram City Union Finance Limited" has been amalgamated with "Shriram Transport Finance Limited" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "Shriram Transport Finance Limited" was changed as "shriram finance limited" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022." Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram 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(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The 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 Chief Judicial Magistrate, at Hanamankonda, in Cr.M.P. NO.21/2024, under Section 14 of the said Act and Rules, on this 19th Day of February 2025.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
1) Gangula Savitha W/o Rajender Reddy, Age: 46 Yrs, Occ : Yamine Restaurant And Bar, # 4-25, Ward - 4, Kadipkonda, Hanamankonda Dist - 506 003 , 2) Gangula Rajender Reddy, S/o. Uppal Reddy, Age : 56 Yrs, # 4-25, Ward - 4, Shiva Nagar, Kadipkonda, Hanamankonda Dist - 506 003, And Also At Gangula Rajender Reddy, S/o.Uppal Reddy, # House And Open Place H.No.58-4-26, Gp.No:4-25, Shiva Nagar, Kadipkonda Vill. Hanamankonda Dist. 3) Koyalkar Narsingh Lal, S/o Band Lal, Age : 61 Yrs, Occ : Bhavani Mess, # 6-7-138, Near Tp Temple, Rayyapura, Mazdi, Hanamankonda - 506 001.	Rs. 46,57,838/- (Forty Six Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred And Thirty Eight Rupees Only)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- (Property Holder Name is Gangula Rajender Reddy, Mortgage Deed Dated 26.06.2021 Registered As Document No.16577/2021 On The File of the Office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal (R.O) House and Open Place Bearing Municipal No.58-4-26, Gp.No:4-25 and Extent of 351 Sq.Yards or 293.47 Sq.Mtrs in Sy.No.585/B Situated At Shiva Nagar, Kadipkonda Village and Gramapanchayat, Hanamankonda Mandal of Warangal Urban District, Within the Limits of O/W/MC, Warangal is Bounded By: East: House of G.Ram Chander Reddy, West: House of K.Rajender, North: House of G.Vasudeva Reddy and House of G.Narayana Reddy, South: 13 Ft Wide Road.

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

Place: Warangal, Date: 19-02-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

BRS leader denies involvement in murder of complainant in Kaleshwaram case

Continued From pg 01
 The BRS leader said the allegations made against him were baseless, and accused the Congress party of attempting to falsely implicate BRS in the case. Venkat Ramana Reddy was reacting to allegations by the family of the victim and leaders of the ruling party. The episode has triggered a huge political row with his family members and leaders of the ruling Congress party blaming Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders for the killing. Nagavelli Rajalingamurthy was brutally murdered in Bhupalpally town on Wednesday night. His wife Sarla, former councillor Bhupalpally Municipality, alleged that BRS leaders were behind the murder as he had exposed corruption in the Kaleshwaram project.

वैंक ऑफ बरुदा Bank of Baroda
 DUBALI BRANCH: Dupalli (V), Bodhan (M), Nizamabad District, Telangana-503245. Contact: 836778859. Email: vjdupa@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE OF SALE CUM PUBLIC AUCTION (GOLD ORNAMENTS/ JEWELLERY)
 The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered to the Bank. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 10-03-2025, failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at 11 A.M. on 13-03-2025 or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Sr. No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name and address of the Borrower
1	14-09-2021	80920600002195	Mamatha Sangam, W/o. Srinivas Sangam, H.No.5-59, Renjal Mandal, Nizamabad Dist., Telangana, India-503245.
2	09-11-2022	80920600003880	Gogu Sailu, S/o. Gogu Lasmaiah, H.No.6-44, Dupally, Renjal Mandal, Nizamabad Dist., Telangana, India-503245.
3	30-08-2023	809206000005240	Nangi Srikanth, S/o. Arra Sailu, H.No.3-8/4, Dupal, Mdl. Renjal, Dist. Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
4	30-08-2023	809206000005241	Nangi Srikanth, S/o. Arra Sailu, H.No.3-8/4, Dupal, Mdl. Renjal, Dist. Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
5	20-05-2024	809206000006296	Sangam Sailoo, S/o. Saidanna, Dupally, Renjal Mdl., Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
6	20-05-2024	809206000006298	Sangam Sailoo, S/o. Saidanna, Dupally, Renjal Mdl., Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
7	04-10-2023	809206000005342	Chinna Sailu Paske, S/o. Gangaram, H.No.2-80, Dupally, Renjal (Mandal), Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
8	04-10-2023	809206000005347	Chinna Sailu Paske, S/o. Gangaram, H.No.2-80, Dupally, Renjal (Mandal), Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.
9	30-08-2021	809206000002161	S Vasantha, 4-28, Dupally Village, Nizamabad, Telangana, India-503245.

Date: 20.02.2025 Sd/- Branch Manager

Chance to Learn from Bank Specialists

Hyderabad, Feb.20 (NSS):Union Bank of India, one of the India's largest public sector Banks, invited applications from Indian citizens for engagement as apprentices. Number of apprentices 2691. Training period one year. Stipend: Rs.15,000 per month.

Table with 4 columns: Name of the Borrower(s), Description of secured asset, Total Outstanding, Date of Possession. Includes details for Mr. Pradeep Kumar Reddy and Mr. Gorla Sanjay Rao.

This team beautifully mixes vigour and experience, will surely ensure good governance for Delhi: PM Modi

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her team of six Ministers after they took the oath, saying this team beautifully mixes vigour and experience, and will surely ensure good governance for Delhi. PM Modi attended the grand oath-taking ceremony of Rekha Gupta and her six Ministers in Ramliha Maidan. The event was also attended by other top leadership of the party and Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled states.

Taking to social media after the event concluded, PM Modi wrote on X, "Congratulations to Smt. Rekha Gupta Ji on taking oath as Delhi's Chief Minister. She has risen from the grassroots, being active in campus politics, state organisation, municipal administration and now MLA as well as Chief Minister." He said he was confident that she would work for Delhi's development. "I am confident she will work for Delhi's development with full vigour. My best wishes to her for a fruitful tenure," the PM wrote



further. The Prime Minister also extended greetings to the six Ministers who took the oath of office along with CM Gupta. "Congratulations to Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Ji, Shri Ashishood Ji, Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa Ji, Shri Ravinder Indraj Singh Ji, Shri Kapil Mishra Ji and Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh Ji on taking oath as Ministers in the Delhi Government.

VIVEKANANDA NAGAR BRANCH: H.No.4-32-110-19 Ground Floor, Kamala Prasanna Nagar Colony, Vivekananda Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072.

ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name & Address of the Borrower & Guarantor, Amount Due, Description of the Vehicle, Reserve Price, EMD. Includes details for Mr. Md. Azhar Uddin Khan.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE: 1) Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of the offer(s) or Bid (s) so received without assigning any reason therefor. 2) Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/reject/Postpone/Cancel the E-auction without assigning any reason therefor.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. 39 - Dy.CE/GS/GNT Dt. 19.02.2025

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below at S.No 1,2 up to 15:30 hrs on 14.03.2025 and for S.No 3 up to 15:30 hrs on 19.03.2025. 1. Tender ID :- 76 Section : Dy.CE/GS/GNT Description of the work : New Guntur (Reddipalem) - Construction of S&T building & ASM Room - Reddipalem (G+1) as a part of Provision of Reception and Despatch facilities for Road 4 & 5 at Reddipalem yard. Approx Value in : (₹) 17537953.32 EMD : (₹) 237700/-

E-TENDER NOTICE No: GNT/E/23/TD/2024-25

E-Tenders from the Contractors for the following works are invited by the undersigned up to 15:30 hrs on 17-03-2025. 1.Tender Ref No: GNT/E.23/TD/2024-25. Dt: 19-02-2025 Tender Title: GNT Division - (1) Direct reception from Guntur to Reddipalem (New Guntur) and converting existing provision neck as R&D line. (2). Provision of Reception and Dispatch facilities for Road - 4 & 5 at Reddipalem Modifications to OHE Approx. value in : (₹) 1,05,88,446/- (Incl. GST) Earnest money deposit in : (₹) 2,03,000/- Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in : (₹) NIL

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

CPI State secretary pays tributes to Indrajit Gupta

Hyderabad, Feb.20 (NSS): CPI State secretary and the party MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao today paid floral tributes to the portrait of former CPI national general secretary Indrajit Gupta on the occasion of his 24th death anniversary at the State party office today. Speaking on the occasion, Sambasiva Rao said Indrajit Gupta served the party in various capacities such as national general secretary.

DCA sleuths raids quack's clinic in Warangal

Hyderabad, Feb.20 (NSS): Drugs Control Administration, Telangana raided a quack's clinic in Warangal and seized drugs stocked for sale. Since January 2024, the DCA has registered cases against 147 quacks for the illegal stocking and sale of drugs. On a tip-off, DCA officials, on February 19, raided the premises of a quack/unqualified practitioner Gaddam Srinivas.

FORM NO. 14 (See Regulation 33(2)) OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 2) 1st Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad-500001.

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. RC/591/2024 Punjab National Bank Versus M/s Ms Handloom Traders And Others

Public Notice For E-auction For Sale of Immovable Properties

Table with 5 columns: Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount, Description of the Immovable Property/Secured Asset, Date of Physical Possession, Reserve Price. Includes details for Mr. Rajana Sanjeevi and Mrs. Rajana Lakshmi.

RECOVERY DEPARTMENT 10-1-1199/2, PTI Building, 2nd Floor, A.C.Guards, Hyderabad-500004. Ph: 8004265659, E-mail: assetrecovery.telangana@bankofindia.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 & RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER

The undersigned being Authorized Officer of Bank of India is having full powers to issue this notice of Sale and exercise all the powers of sale under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Rules framed there under. Notice is hereby given to you/borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor Bank of India, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "As is, where is", "As is, what is" and "Whatever there is" basis through e-auction on 10-03-2025, for Recovery of dues as detailed below due to the secured creditor Bank of India from Borrowers and Guarantors detailed below

Date and Time of Sale: 10-03-2025 at Time 11:00 AM to 5.00 PM. (With multiple extensions till sale is concluded)

- 1 BRANCH: BANJARA HILLS:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- 1. Mr. Mohammad Afsar, House No.2-28/B, Komati Kondapur Village, Near Gram Panchayat Office, Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, Karim Nagar District, Telangana-505450. Also at: Flat No.101, First Floor, Sanjana Inter Laken, Block-5, Survey No.8, 8/A & 8/A, Doolapally Village, Dundigal-Gandimaisamma Mandal, Medchal-Malkajigiri District, Telangana-500014. Amount Due: Rs.16,85,002.82 + applicable interest at monthly rests from 30.04.2023 together with costs, expenses etc. Demand Notice Dated: 01-06-2023, Possession Notice taken on: 17-10-2023
- 2 BRANCH: DILSUKHNAGAR:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- Mr. Dindigala Purushotham, 1-7-659/A/71/B, Rammagar, Musheerabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500060. Mr. Dindigala Purushotham, S/o D.Narsaiah, D.No.5-30/3, On Plot No.20, Survey No.430, Gandam Varigudem Village, Nalgonda Town, Nalgonda District, Telangana-508004. Mr. Saritha Gourisetty (Guarantor), W/o G.Mahesh, Flat No.104, MIG-281, Mahavir Towers, Rd. No.4, KPMB Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072. Amount Due: Rs.1,02,18,837/- + Uncharged Interest from 28-10-2023 @ 9.55 % p.a. with monthly rests together with costs, expenses etc. Demand Notice Dated: 30-10-2023, Possession Notice taken on: 05-01-2024
- 3 BRANCH: HABSIGUDA:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- Khalad Mohammed, R/o. H.No.9-8-110/C/17, Bhankota, Chota Bazar, Golconda, Hyderabad-500008. And also at: R/o. H.No.9-10-66, Bada Bazar Road, Neem Bowli, Banjara Darwaza, Golconda Fort, Hyderabad-500008. Mr. Tahseen Mohammed, R/o. H.No.9-8-110/C/17, Bhankota, Ahmed Servicing Center, Golconda Fort, Golconda, Hyderabad-500008. Amount Due: Rs.50,91,751.76 + Uncharged Interest @ Applicable ROI at monthly rests from 30-04-2023 together with costs, expenses etc.. Demand Notice Dated: 03-05-2023, Possession Notice taken on: 10-08-2023
- 4 BRANCH: AMEERPET:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- Mrs. Potturi Radhika (Borrower), Mr. Rajasekhara Charipally (Co-Borrower), Flat No.306, M.No.4-7-10/IV/306 in Second Floor, Shanti Gardens (Block IV), Nacharam Village, Viswakarma Nagar, Uppal Mandal, Kapra Municipality, Ranga Reddy District. Amount Due: Rs.7,21,342.31 + Interest @ 8.95% p.a and penal interest@2% p.a at monthly rests from 28-06-2024 together with costs, expenses etc.. Demand Notice Dated: 29-06-2024, Possession Notice taken on: 30-08-2024.
- 5 BRANCH: SAINIKPURI:- Borrowers and Guarantors:- Mr. Pannala Chandra Sekhar, S/o Sri Rama Krishna P, Plot No.281, Shiva Nagar, Behind Bharat Petroleum, Kapra, Secunderabad-500103. Mrs. Joita Sekhar Pannala, W/o Mr. P.Chandra Sekhar, Plot No.281, Shiva Nagar, Behind Bharat Petroleum, Kapra, Secunderabad-500103. M/s. Style Mantra Bridal studio (Proprietor: Mrs. Joita Sekhar Pannala), Plot No.281, Shiva Nagar, Behind Bharat Petroleum, Kapra, Secunderabad-500103. Mrs. Joita Sekhar Pannala, W/o Mr. P.Chandra Sekhar, Plot No.281, Shiva Nagar, Behind Bharat Petroleum, Kapra, Secunderabad-500103. Guarantor for the account M/s. Style Mantra Bridal Studio, Mr. Pannala Chandra Sekhar, S/o Sri Rama Krishna P, Plot No.281, Shiva Nagar, Behind Bharat Petroleum, Kapra, Secunderabad-500103. Amount Due: Rs.60,04,017.55 + Interest @ 10.00% at monthly rests from 08.10.2023 together with costs, expenses etc. Demand Notice Dated: 15-11-2023, Possession Notice taken on: 30-04-2024

OPINIONmail



India aims to triple its textile exports to Rs 9 lakh crore by 2030

India's textile exports have reached Rs 3 lakh crore and the goal is to triple this to Rs 9 lakh crore by 2030 by strengthening domestic manufacturing and expanding global reach, the government has said. India is the sixth-largest exporter of textiles globally, contributing 8.21 per cent to the country's total exports in 2023-24. The sector holds a 4.5 per cent share in global trade, with the United States and European Union accounting for 47 per cent of India's textile and apparel exports, according to the Ministry of Textiles. The recently concluded 'Bharat Tex 2025' in the national capital served as a platform to accelerate the government's "Farm to Fibre, Fabric, Fashion, and Foreign Markets" vision. The event demonstrated India's leadership in the textile sector and its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global collaboration.

Organised from February 14 -17, the event spanned 2.2 million square feet and featured over 5,000 exhibitors, providing a comprehensive showcase of India's textile ecosystem.

More than 1,20,000 trade visitors, from 120+ countries including global CEOs, policymakers, and industry leaders, attended the event, according to the ministry. "From an employment perspective, the textile industry provides direct employment to over 45 million people and supports the livelihoods of over 100 million individuals indirectly, including a large proportion of women and rural workers," said the government. The government's focus on increasing textile manufacturing, modernising infrastructure, fostering innovation, and upgrading technology has strengthened India's position as a global textile hub. India is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of fabrics, catering to both domestic and international markets. The sector is characterised by a mix of large-scale industrial manufacturing and small-scale artisanal production, reflecting a vibrant tapestry of innovation and tradition.

Major fabric hubs in the country include Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and West Bengal, each known for its unique textile specialties. The apparel and fashion industry is a major economic driver, contributing significantly to GDP and employment.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak, his family meet PM Modi

Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his family met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Both dignitaries had a wonderful conversation on many subjects. PM Modi said that Sunak is a great friend of India and is passionate about even stronger India-UK ties. Taking to X, the Prime Minister wrote, "It was a delight to meet former UK PM, Mr. Rishi Sunak and his family! We had a wonderful conversation on many subjects. Mr. Sunak is a great friend of India and is passionate about even stronger India-UK ties." Earlier in the day, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman met former Rishi Sunak here and the two discussed potential new avenues

to strengthen market-based financial ties and drive economic growth. The Finance Minister stressed the importance of leveraging the Commonwealth to bring issues of mutual interest to the G7 agenda for the benefit of the Global South. Rishi Sunak also visited Parliament House with his wife Akshata Murty and daughters Krishna and Anoushka, on Tuesday. They were accompanied by Sudha Murthy, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Utpal Kumar Singh welcomed Sunak and his family. Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, P C Mody was also present on the occasion. During their visit, the Sunak family explored the Parliament House Complex, admiring its architectural grandeur. They visited notable sites like the Galleries, Chambers, Constitution Hall, and Samvidhan Sadan. Rishi Sunak,



who is currently visiting India, called on External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Monday. "Nice to meet former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in Delhi today. Appreciate his constant support for strengthening India-UK relations," EAM Jaishankar posted on X. Born to Indian parents in Southampton with roots in Punjab, Sunak is the first Indian-origin person to have

served as the UK Prime Minister from 2022 to 2024. The British Indian leader described India as an "indispensable partner" of the UK across all spheres of bilateral cooperation. This visit is part of Sunak's recent engagements in India. Just a few days ago, he visited the Taj Mahal with his family on February 15, 2025.



Experts highlight success of IBC in resolving distressed real estate projects

The Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs organised a conclave on Wednesday at Manesar on the outskirts of the national capital, highlighting the success of the new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in shaping the successful resolution of distressed assets in the real estate sector. The conclave featured discussions centred around the theme "Resolving Insolven-

cies in Real Estate Projects" with keynote addresses from prominent industry professionals, including Anuj Jain and Pallav Mohapatra. The keynote address mainly focused on the development of real estate insolvency and the role of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in shaping the successful resolution of distressed assets in the real estate sector. Mohapatra also highlighted the challenges faced by the Insolvency Professionals.

Alka Lamba reflects on

'1995 DUSU oath' with Rekha Gupta, sends her congrats

With the BJP officially announcing Rekha Gupta as the new Chief Minister of Delhi, Congress leader Alka Lamba, who contested against AAP's Atishi from the Kalkaji Assembly seat in this month's elections, extended her congratulations with a nostalgic message.

Lamba took to social media platform X and shared a post in Hindi, which was translated into English as follows: "This memorable picture from 1995 - when Rekha Gupta and I took the oath together. I won the position of President of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) from @nsui, and Rekha won the position of General Secretary from #ABVP. Congratulations and best wishes to Rekha Gupta. Congratulations to Delhi on getting its fourth woman Chief Minister. We, the people of Delhi, expect that #MotherYamuna will be clean and #Daughters will be safe."

The announcement of Gupta's name as Delhi's new Chief Minister marked the end of an 11-day suspense. Gupta, who won



the Shalimar Bagh seat in the February 5 Assembly elections, will be sworn in as Delhi's fourth woman Chief Minister at a grand ceremony on Thursday at Ramlila Maidan.

Alka Lamba, who had won the DUSU elections in 1995 and became its president from NSUI, and Rekha Gupta, elected as general secretary from ABVP in the same year, were both prominent youth leaders making their mark in Delhi's youth politics at that time. The picture Lamba shared captures the moment when both young leaders took their oaths as office bearers of DUSU. Now, years later, Rekha Gupta has risen to the top position of Chief Min-

Flu surpasses Covid as US' deadliest respiratory illness

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic began, influenza has surpassed Covid as the deadliest respiratory illness in California in the US, prompting hospitals to struggle with overwhelming patient numbers amid a surge in flu cases.

This spike in flu cases comes amidst historically low vaccination rates, with only 44 per cent of adults and 46 per cent of children receiving flu shots this season, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Xinhua news agency reported.

"Our hospital is full to the brim," Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious disease expert at the University of California, San Francisco, told local news outlet San Francisco Chronicle.

"Influenza seems to be everywhere," he added. At local clinics in the Bay Area, more than 70 per cent of respiratory virus tests are now positive for influenza, surpassing cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), Covid-19, and the common cold. As of February 1, flu test positivity rates hit 27.8 per cent, while RSV cases dropped to 5 per cent and Covid remained at 2.4 per cent, according to the California Department of Public Health. Since July 1, California has re-



ported at least 561 flu-related deaths, the majority of which are among individuals aged over 65. In addition, there have been 10 paediatric flu deaths this season, compared to just three paediatric deaths linked to Covid in the same period.

Nationwide, the CDC estimates that there were at least 29 million flu cases, 370,000 hospitalisations, and 16,000 deaths during the 2024-25 flu season as of February 8. Medical professionals are particularly concerned about the simultaneous circulation of two influenza A strains -- H1N1 and H3N2 -- in roughly equal amounts, an unusual pattern that increases the risk of sequential infections. The surge in severe flu cases has led to complications that are rarely seen in such numbers, including acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE), a severe brain condition, particularly among children.

Centre releases Rs 1,086 crore for Rural Local Bodies in Bihar, Haryana, Sikkim

The Centre on Wednesday released grants to the tune of Rs 1,086.06 crore under the Fifteenth Finance Commission to the Rural Local Bodies of Bihar, Haryana and Sikkim for financial year 2024-25. Bihar has been given the 2nd instalment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 821.80 crore and withheld portion of 1st instalment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs.47.9339 crore. These funds are for all 38 District Panchayats, 530 eligible Block Panchayats and 8,052 eligible Gram Panchayats which fulfilled the mandatory conditions for the release of funds. Bihar will get the 2nd instalment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs.202.47 crore and the withheld por-

tion of the 1st instalment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs.7.5993 crore. These funds are for the 18 eligible District Panchayats, 142 eligible Block Panchayats and 6,195 eligible Gram Panchayats.

Sikkim has received the 2nd instalment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 6.26 crore during Financial Year 2024-25. These funds are for the 4 eligible District Panchayats and 186 eligible Gram Panchayats which fulfilled the mandatory conditions for release.

The Untied Grants will be utilised by Panchayati Raj Institutions/Rural Local Bodies for location-specific felt needs, under the 29 subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs. The Tied Grants can be used for the basic services of sanitation and maintenance of Open Def-



ecation-Free status, and this should include management and treatment of household waste, and human excreta and faecal sludge management in particular and supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling. Earlier in January this year, the Union Government released tax devolution of Rs 1,73,030 crore to state governments, up from the devolution of Rs 89,086 crore in December 2024.

WHO report: New, unidentified illness in Congo

Kinshasa, Feb 20 (IANS) : A new, unidentified illness has been reported in the northwestern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is buffeted by multiple public health and humanitarian crises, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday. Two clusters of cases and deaths related to the unidentified disease were reported in two health zones of the DRC's Equateur Province, the WHO said in a report. By February 15, the WHO said, 431 cases and 45 deaths had been reported. The first cluster of cases and deaths were reported in January in Boloko Village, in Bolomba Health Zone. Preliminary investigations traced the outbreak's origin to three community deaths among children under five years old, who died after developing a fever, headache, diarrhea, and fatigue, which later progressed to hemorrhage. There were reports that the

children had consumed a bat carcass prior to the onset of signs and symptoms. The second cluster was reported in February in Bomate Village, in Basankusu Health Zone. "The outbreak, which has seen cases rise rapidly within days, poses a significant public health threat," the report said, noting that the disease progresses rapidly, with nearly half of the deaths occurring within 48 hours of symptom onset in the Basankusu Health Zone, and an exceptionally high case fatality rate in the Bolomba Health Zone.

Though no epidemiological links have been established between the cases in the two affected health zones. Possibilities of malaria, viral hemorrhagic fevers, food or waterborne poisoning, typhoid fever, and meningitis are being considered, but Ebola and Marburg viruses have been ruled out, according to testing, the WHO said, Xinhua news agency reported. In late 2024, the DRC's southwestern province of Kwango was also hit by a "mysterious disease."



Iran unveils new domestically produced weapons during military drill

Tehran, Feb 20 (IANS) : Iran unveiled new domestically-developed missiles, drones, artillery and air defence systems on Thursday, the official news agency IRNA reported. The equipment was displayed during the second phase of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force's "Great Prophet 19" exercise in southwestern Iran, attended by the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Mohammad Baqeri, IRNA said. Among the unveiled systems were the BM-450 ballistic missile (200 km range), the Fat'h-360 short-range satellite-guided tactical ballistic missile, the Fajr-

5 long-range missile, smart precision-guided 122 mm rockets, and the short-range Majid air defence system, IRNA reported. New drones included the Mohajer-10 and Mohajer-6 strategic drones with enhanced engines, and various kamikaze UAVs, including Golaleh, Dalahoo and Shahoo destroyer drones. Separately, IRNA reported that the IRGC had dismantled several "infiltration" networks linked to the United States and Israel in the northern province of Mazandaran. The dismantling of the networks helped "eliminate security threats and prevent the occurrence of certain potential crises," IRNA quoted Siavash Moslemi, commander of the

IRGC in Mazandaran province, as saying. He did not specify the number of networks or individuals involved, nor the dates of the operations, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier this month, Iran had unveiled three new domestically developed satellites in the Iranian capital Tehran to mark its National Space Technology Day. Iranian Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh had said the country plans to conduct two space launches in the coming weeks, before the end of the current Iranian calendar year on March 20. On September 27, 2024, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force successfully launched the homegrown imaging satellite Nour-3 into orbit.

Hamas proposes 'all for all' prisoner-for-hostage swap with Israel: official

Gaza, Feb 20 (IANS) : Hamas said on Thursday that it had submitted a proposal to Israel, through mediators, for a comprehensive prisoner-for-hostage swap based on the principle of "all for all" as part of ongoing negotiations. A senior Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposal calls for "the immediate release of all Israeli prisoners held by Hamas in exchange for Israel releasing all Palestinian prisoners in its custody." The official did not specify whether the proposal is part of the first phase of the agreement or linked to the upcoming second phase of negotiations. In a press statement on Tuesday, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem affirmed the movement's readiness for "a one-time prisoner swap in the second phase." However, he stressed that such a deal must be "part of an agreement leading to a permanent ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip", Xinhua news agency reported. Israel has not yet issued an official response to the proposal, while international efforts continue to push negotiations forward. On Saturday, Hamas and Israel completed the sixth prisoner-for-hostage exchange following days of tense negotiations that threatened to undo the precarious ceasefire. In the exchange, Hamas released three more Israeli hostages held in Gaza, while Israeli authorities freed 369 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Under the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, effective since January 19 and spanning six weeks.



Indian HC meets New Zealand PM, discusses ways to enhance ties across key sectors

Wellington, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand Neeta Bhushan met New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Thursday, discussing ways to enhance cooperation between both countries in several areas while reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to further strengthen and take the partnership to a higher level. "It was a great honour for the High Commissioner to meet with Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, this morning.

Discussed enhancing cooperation across key sectors: trade, investment, education, culture, research and innovation," Indian High Commission in New Zealand posted on X. "Reaffirmed the commitment of both our countries to further strengthen and take our partnership to greater heights." the post further added.



Maldives to deport expatriates failing to submit biometric data

Colombo, Feb 20 (IANS) : Expatriates residing in the Maldives who fail to give biometric data to Operation Kurangi, a nationwide campaign launched last year to collect biometric data, will face deportation, the official PSM News reported on Thursday. Operation Kurangi was launched in May 2024 and aims to provide a permanent solution to the issue of undocumented migrants in the Maldives, said the report. As part of the operation, fingerprints of migrant workers are recorded and checks are conducted to ensure that they are employed in the Maldives in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.

The data collected from across the Maldives through island and atoll councils will be compiled into a unified registry, Xinhua news agency cited PSM as saying. The Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology, which leads the operation, said the deadline for completion of biometrics for all foreigners working in the country is April 20, 2025, warning that expatriate workers who do not share the information within this

period will be deported. As part of the initiative, biometric data of 52,495 foreigners has been collected so far, PSM News said. Last month, Maldives' Minister of State for Homeland Security and Technology Ahmed Siddeeq said that after biometrics data collection is completed, undocumented expatriates will be repatriated from the country.

Bangladeshi political parties slam Yunus, question interim gov't sincerity in holding elections

Dhaka, Feb 20 (IANS) : Several political parties in Dhaka, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have lashed out at the interim government in the country, questioning its Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus's sincerity in holding elections in the country. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Thursday expressed concerns and doubts regarding the interim government's sincerity in holding the national election without unnecessary delays. "The people of the country want a return to a democratic environment. However, even after seven months, we have not been able to achieve that because the interim government is trying to complete some tasks before holding the elections. But, in the meantime, some doubts have arisen among the people whether they (the government) are sincere about the election."



US Secretary of State in Riyadh for talks on Trump's controversial Gaza plan, Ukraine

Riyadh, Feb 20 (IANS) : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Riyadh for talks with Saudi officials, focusing on a

controversial US proposal for Gaza, as part of his first Middle East tour as the top US diplomat. Rubio's trip to Saudi Arabia

followed US President Donald Trump's proposal to "take over" Gaza and relocate millions of Palestinians from the besieged enclave.





MHA approves Rs 460 crore for Nagaland, Tripura to tackle flood-induced crises

Agartala/Kohima, Feb 20 (IANS) : A High-Level Committee (HLC) headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday approved around Rs 460 crore for the northeastern states of Nagaland and Tripura to effectively handle crises triggered by last year's flood in the two states, an official said. An official release mentioned that the HLC under the chairmanship of the Home Minister approved Rs 1,554.99 crore of additional Central assistance to five states -- Andhra Pradesh (Rs 608.08 crore), Telangana (Rs 231.75 crore), Odisha (Rs 255.24 crore), Nagaland (Rs 170.99 crore) and Tripura (Rs 288.93 crore). This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states. The Central Government has deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these states, immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of a formal memorandum. During August-September last year, catastrophic floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have devastated several northeastern states killing many people.

Mamata Banerjee faces all-round criticisms over her comments on Maha Kumbh

Kolkata, Feb 20 (IANS) : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Thursday, faced all-round criticisms for her comments describing "Maha Kumbh" at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh as "Mrityu Kumbh". According to the chief whip of BJP's legislative party in the West Bengal Assembly, Shankar Ghosh, the Chief Minister's comments are grave insults to the religious rituals of Hindu religion. "From the nature of politics that is being pursued by Trinamool Congress, it is evident that the current West Bengal government is pursuing an anti-Hindu policy. It is easy to attack the Hindus since they do not generally react. But now since the Hindus have started reacting, the Chief Minister is scared," Ghosh said. BJP's Rajya Sabha member Samik Bhattacharya said that the Chief Minister's comment on Maha Kumbh is an insult to the entire Indian culture. "No one in the country can tolerate this. She should apologise publicly for her comments," he added.



CRPF DG holds meeting with Manipur Guv, discusses operational activities of forces

Imphal, Feb 20 (IANS) : CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh on Thursday met Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at Raj Bhavan and gave a comprehensive briefing on the deployment and operational activities of the para-military force in the region, officials said. A Raj Bhavan official said that Singh, who was Director General of Assam Police and joined as the DG CRPF on January 30, also informed the Governor that the force is well prepared to control any situation at any point in time. Another official said that the discussion between CRPF DG and Bhalla, former Union Home Secretary, centred on CRPF's role in

bolstering security and its coordination with Manipur police to ensure lasting peace in the state. The CRPF chief also presided over a strategic review meeting in Imphal West district with senior officers. "The discussions focused on assessing the ground situation and refining the force's approach to maintaining peace in the region," he said. After the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, thousands of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), including CRPF, Army, Assam Rifles, and Border Security Force (BSF) have been deployed in the trouble-torn state. Meanwhile, a delegation of the

National People's Party (NPP) led by Y. Joykumar Singh, Manipur state President, also called on the Governor on Wednesday evening and discussed the prevailing situation in the state. The Raj Bhavan official said that S. Radhakrishnan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India (SBI), Guwahati Circle along with other officials called on the Governor and briefed him on the various initiatives undertaken by the bank to reach even the far-flung areas of the state. The High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLCE) 2025, conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM), began on Thursday.



DMK practising 'modern untouchability' by opposing trilingual education policy: MoS L. Murugan

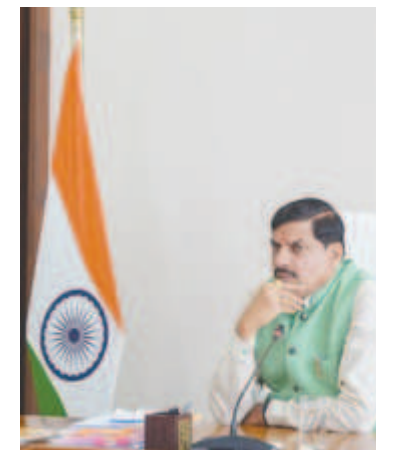
Chennai, Feb 20 (IANS) : Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, L. Murugan, has accused the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu of practising "modern untouchability" by opposing the central government's trilingual education policy. Addressing reporters in

Chennai on Thursday, Murugan criticised the state government for allegedly denying students of government-run schools the opportunity to study a third language -- a choice available to students in CBSE schools. The minister questioned how the DMK government could refuse to implement the trilingual policy while CBSE schools in the state allow students to learn a third language alongside Tamil and English.

MP govt to sign MoU with NDDDB on Feb 25

Bhopal, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Madhya Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Bhopal on February 25. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the state government has taken a significant step toward doubling the income of milk producers and promoting milk production. "The MoU will be

signed between State Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited, associated milk unions, and the National Dairy Development Board," he added. Notably, the Union Home Minister will visit Madhya Pradesh to participate in the closing ceremony of the upcoming Global Investment Summit on February 25.



Gurugram civic polls: Local issues prime focus of Congress' campaign plans

Gurugram, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Congress, trying to draw motivation from an improved performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections despite the recent Delhi (Assembly polls) drubbing, has been preparing to take on the ruling BJP in the upcoming civic body elections here over a host of issues concerning the local population. The party leaders will take up the issues of waterlogging, dirt and dust, the construction of the Sheetla Mata temple, and road construction in Gurugram. Since the announcement of civic elections in early February, the party has been engaged in its preparations on a war footing. Following the announcement of the dates of the Municipal Elections, the Congress formed various committees by holding meetings at various levels, and all the committees were given their responsibilities. Senior leaders of the party were included in the campaign and manifesto committee. Information about the issues related to the civic elections was also taken from all the senior leaders of the district.

Theft accused dies in police custody in J&K's Ramban, magisterial probe ordered

Jammu, Feb 20 (IANS) : Authorities on Thursday ordered a magisterial probe into the death of a theft accused in police custody in J&K's Ramban district. An order issued by the district magistrate (DM) Ramban said, "Sh. Rizwan Asgar, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Banihal is hereby appointed as an inquiry Officer to conduct the discrete inquiry into the matter leading to the death of one Sh. Mohd Abid, Son of Mohd Aslam, Resident of Thopal Tehsil Batote District, Ramban on 18.02.2025 at CHC Batote. " The inquiry officer shall look into the cause and circumstances that led to the death of the above-named individual and shall fix the re-

sponsibility for the same. He shall submit his report within a week's time positively from the date of issue of this order". Wednesday's custodial death has come in the wake of two controversial deaths in J&K in which the attitude and response of police and the army had come into question. On February 4, a civilian truck driver, Waseem Ahmad was killed in firing by the Army at Sangrama in the Sopore area. Army said the truck driver had been signalled to stop at a check post set up by the army following intelligence inputs about the movement of terrorists in the area. Waseem's family refuted the army's statement alleging that he had been killed in cold blood.



Mizoram CM inaugurates state's first Peak Resort Skywalk

Aizawl, Feb 20 (IANS) : Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Thursday inaugurated the Aizawl Peak Resort Skywalk, the first skywalk in the mountainous northeastern state. Addressing the Skywalk inaugural function, the Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the dedication and hard work of H. Ginzalal and his family.



Parvesh Verma: A decade of political triumphs leading to Deputy Chief Minister role

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Prominent BJP leader, Parvesh Verma, undoubtedly, played a pivotal role in BJP's recent electoral success in Delhi. He defeated AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal from the New Delhi seat.

5 carmakers to recall over 76,000 vehicles for faulty parts

Seoul, Feb 20 (IANS) : Kia, BMW Korea and three other carmakers will voluntarily recall more than 76,000 vehicles to fix faulty components, the transport ministry here said on Thursday.

The five companies, including Renault Korea Motors Co., Tesla Korea and Jaguar Land Rover Korea, are recalling a combined 76,382 units of 37 different models, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said in a press release. The problems that prompted the recall include a faulty air bag system in Kia's Niro electric vehicle (EV), problems in the cooling pump wire connector of BMW's 528i sedan and transformer software problems in Renault Korea's Arkana sport utility vehicle (SUV), according to the ministry, reports Yonhap news agency.

Tesla will recall a faulty electric power assisted steering

(EPAS) system in the Model Y SUV, it said. Vehicle owners can check the government's homepage at www.car.go.kr or call 080-357-2500 to see if their vehicles are subject to the recall, the ministry said. Last month, Hyundai Motor, Kia and two other carmakers announced to voluntarily recall over 340,000 vehicles due to faulty components.

The four companies, including Mercedes-Benz Korea and Tesla Korea, recalled a combined 343,250 units of 11 different models, the ministry said. Hyundai Motor recalled 141,125

units of two models, including the Porter II Electric, due to a design error in the battery sensor. Additionally, 19,830 units of the Nexa were recalled for a defect in the emergency light switch. Kia's Sorento Hybrid and one other model, involving 89,598 units, underwent corrective measures due to a software error.

The number of vehicles voluntarily recalled by automakers in South Korea reached an all-time high last year.



Investors lose about Rs 40,000 crore as Ola Electric shares hit all-time low

Mumbai, Feb 20 (IANS) : As shares of Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric continue to slide, investors have been impacted heavily as approximately Rs 40,000 crore has been wiped out since the company stock's peak valuation.

Once valued at Rs 66,000 crore after its initial surge post-listing, the company's market capitalisation has now shrunk to Rs 26,187.81 crore.

The stock, which made its debut at Rs 76 per share in August last year, has been under constant selling pressure and on Thursday,

it fell over 3 per cent to touch an all-time low of Rs 58.84 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Concerns over mounting losses, declining revenue, ongoing service-related issues and the broader correction in the Indian stock market have contributed to the stock's downturn.

Last week, the electric two-wheeler (e2W) electric firm reported a 50 per cent spike in its consolidated net loss, which widened to Rs 564 crore in Q3 FY25 from Rs 376 crore in Q3 FY24. Its operating revenue also declined 19 per cent, falling from Rs 1,296

crore to Rs 1,045 crore during the same period. In its stock exchange filing, the company attributed the increased losses to "highly competitive intensity and service challenges" during the quarter.

However, the electric mobility aggregator claimed that the service issues have been fixed and it continues to focus on growing its presence in the electric two-wheeler market.

The company's market share in the electric two-wheeler sector dropped below 20 per cent in December last year, as compared to 49 per cent in June 2024.



Raymond Lifestyle hit by cyber attack, core system 'safe'

Mumbai, Feb 20 (IANS) : Raymond Lifestyle Limited on Thursday said it faced a cybersecurity incident that affected some of its IT assets.

However, the company said that its core systems and overall operations were not impacted.

In its regulatory filing with the

stock exchanges, the company stated that its technical team, along with cybersecurity experts, took swift action to minimise the impact and safeguard its systems. It also confirmed that customer and store operations continued to function as usual without any disruption.

Apple launches affordable iPhone 16e with A18 chip, better battery life

Cupertino (California), Feb 20 (IANS) : Apple on Thursday announced iPhone 16e, a new addition to the iPhone 16 lineup that offers powerful capabilities at a more affordable price.

iPhone 16e delivers fast, smooth performance and breakthrough battery life, thanks to the industry-leading efficiency of the A18 chip and the new Apple C1, the first cellular modem designed by Apple.

iPhone 16e is also built for Apple Intelligence, the intuitive personal intelligence system that delivers helpful and relevant intelligence while taking an extraordinary step forward for privacy in AI.

The device will be available in white and black in 128GB, 256GB, and 512GB storage capacities, starting at Rs 59,900, said the company.

According to Apple, the 48MP Fusion camera takes gorgeous photos and videos, and with an integrated 2x Telephoto, it is like having two cameras in one, so users can zoom in with optical quality.

iPhone 16e will be available in two elegant matte finishes — black and white — with colourful cases available to accessorise. Pre-orders will begin from Friday, with availability beginning February 28.

"iPhone 16e packs in the features our users love about the iPhone 16 lineup, including breakthrough

battery life, fast performance powered by the latest-generation A18 chip, an innovative 2-in-1 camera system, and Apple Intelligence," said Kaiann Drance, Apple's vice president of Worldwide iPhone Product Marketing.

iPhone 16e is built to last, featuring splash, water, and dust resistance with a rating of IP68; the Ceramic Shield front cover with an advanced formulation that is tougher than any smartphone glass; and the toughest back glass in a smartphone.

The 6.1-inch Super Retina XDR display with OLED technology has an edge-to-edge design that is perfect for watching HDR videos, playing games, and reading crisp text.

iPhone 16e is powered by Apple's

latest-generation A18 chip, which enables fast, smooth performance, incredible power efficiency, and Apple Intelligence. The 6-core CPU is up to 80 percent faster than the A13 Bionic chip on iPhone 11, handling both everyday and intensive tasks with ease — from simple workloads, to more demanding actions with Apple Intelligence.

iPhone 16e is built to last, featuring splash, water, and dust resistance with a rating of IP68; the Ceramic Shield front cover with an advanced formulation that is tougher than any smartphone glass; and the toughest back glass in a smartphone.

The 6.1-inch Super Retina XDR display with OLED technology has an edge-to-edge design that is perfect for watching HDR videos, playing games, and reading crisp text.

iPhone 16e is powered by Apple's



India's CNG vehicle count surged 3-fold to 7.5 million units in last 8 years amid green push : Crisil

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Domestic annual sales of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles are forecast to reach 1.1 million units by the end of the current financial year, driven by the government's ongoing push for cleaner fuels, according to a Crisil report released on Thursday.

This will take the CNG vehicle count in India to 7.5 million, a 3 times increase from 2.6 million in fiscal 2016, and translate into a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of around 12 per cent, the report states.

The rapid uptake has been undergirded by the expansion of the CNG infrastructure.



Tesla likely to enter India with fully-built, pricier Model Y, scouting for showrooms

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : With Tesla finally gearing up to enter India later this year, the Elon Musk-run electric vehicle (EV) major is set to take a "top-down approach" - launch expensive models in the country first and then follow it up with the cheaper vehicles. The electric car maker is reportedly set to import its fully-built Model Y from its Berlin Gigafactory, as the electric SUV is manufactured in right-hand drive configuration in the European facility. The Tesla Model Y would cost Rs 60-70 lakh, considering the revised import duty structure recently announced by the government. The country has reduced basic customs duty on high-end cars priced above \$40,000 from 110 per cent to 70 per cent. The right-hand-drive Model 3 is also made in Shanghai but that's unlikely to arrive first owing to constraints on Chinese car imports.



New Google India campus, one of its largest globally, set to build for the world

Bengaluru, Feb 20 (IANS) : To further bolster India's digital transformation, tech major Google on Thursday inaugurated 'Ananta' campus here which is one of the company's largest offices globally.

Wingify's expenses rise 33 pc in FY24, legal costs skyrocket nearly 500 pc

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Bootstrapped software-as-a-service (SaaS) company Wingify saw a significant rise in its overall expenses in the financial year ending March 2024, as its total expenses during the period surged by 33.5 per cent to Rs 221.33 crore as compared to Rs 165.81 crore in the previous fiscal year (FY23). A major portion of the expenses came from employee benefits, which accounted for 61.8 per cent of the total costs. Wingify's spending on salaries and other benefits increased by 16.4 per cent to Rs 136.83 crore. However, the most striking rise was in legal expenses, which shot



up by a staggering 497 per cent to Rs 38.10 crore. This sharp increase suggests that the company is either dealing with expensive legal battles or making long-term investments in legal infrastructure.

Chhattisgarh: Farmers in Balrampur benefiting from 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi', praise Modi government

Balrampur, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Narendra Modi government at the Centre has launched several welfare schemes aimed at benefiting the public and various sections of society. One such scheme is the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi", and this scheme is quite beneficial for the farmers in Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh. Farmers in Balrampur who are

availing the benefits of this scheme are all happy with the support they receive. Under this scheme, farmers receive three instalments of Rs 2,000 each annually. They use this money for agricultural purposes. Farmers in rural areas have shared that this scheme has been quite beneficial, providing them with timely funds to carry out farming activities. The money is used to purchase fertilisers and seeds for farming.



Bengal minister defends Mamata Banerjee over her 'Mrityu Kumbh' comments

Kolkata, Feb 20 (IANS) : At a time when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is facing nationwide criticisms for her comments describing Maha Kumbh at Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj as "Mrityu Kumbh", a senior member of the state cabinet has finally come forward in defence of the Chief Minister over the matter.

The senior member of the West Bengal cabinet, Manas Ranjan Bhunia, said the Chief Minister's statement is being picked up selectively and out of the context. "No one in the state government had made any attempts to malign the Maha Kumbh. The Chief Minister too had not criticised the event. She has spoken about the loss of life because of the administrative mismanagement there."



Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot slam Rajasthan govt over budget

Jaipur, Feb 20 (IANS) : Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot strongly criticised the Rajasthan government's budget, accusing it of disregarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pre-election promises. He claimed that the budget failed to fulfil the commitments made to the people of Rajasthan, proving that PM Modi's guarantees were nothing more than election rhetoric. Gehlot pointed out that on November 18, 2023, PM Modi had assured farmers in Rajasthan that they would receive Rs 12,000 annually under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. However, the state budget has only allocated Rs 9,000 per

farmer. Similarly, on November 19, 2023, PM Modi had promised that petrol and diesel prices in Rajasthan would be brought in line with those in Haryana. However, petrol in Haryana remains Rs 10 cheaper per litre than in Rajasthan. He also criticised the BJP's failure to uphold its Minimum Support Price (MSP) commitments. While the party had promised MSP procurement for millets and wheat at Rs 2,700 per quintal, the budget fails to mention millet procurement and only provides a Rs 150 bonus on wheat, which was already in place before 2014. Gehlot highlighted that under the Rajasthan Minimum Guarantee Act, his government had ensured a 15 per cent annual increase in social security pensions. Meanwhile, Congress National General Secretary and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot also criticised the state budget, calling it unrealistic and against the interests of the poor and common people. He accused the state government of making fresh announcements without addressing the status of promises made in the previous budget. Pilot said that, along with new proposals, the government should have also provided clarity on their implementation on the ground.



Our focus is on making people self-reliant: Rajasthan Dy CM

Jaipur, Feb 20 (IANS) : Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Diya Kumari presented her second budget on Thursday, emphasising job creation for youth, sustainability, and green initiatives. In an exclusive interview with IANS, she explained the rationale behind introducing a Green Budget and refraining from announcing freebies. Kumari emphasised that the government's goal is to foster self-reliance and entrepreneurship among citizens.

Interview excerpts:

IANS: Why there are no freebies in this budget?

Diya Kumari: We want the people of Rajasthan to become self-dependent. Our aim is to empower the youth to build a self-reliant community. Freebies might seem beneficial in the short term, but we want to encourage people to think beyond them. Instead of tra-

ditional freebies, the government has introduced a new model—those who install solar panels will receive 150 units of free electricity. We want citizens to feel inspired by this approach and move towards sustainable solutions. If the government leads by example, people will start thinking in this direction.

IANS: IIFA is coming to Jaipur. What does it mean for Rajasthan?

Diya Kumari: IIFA is a globally recognised event that attracts massive international attention. Hosting it in Jaipur will help showcase Rajasthan's rich culture and heritage on a global platform, boosting tourism and positioning the state as a key cultural hub.



'Budget a burden on people', says Rajasthan LoP

Jaipur, Feb 20 (IANS) : Rajasthan Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Tika Ram Jolly on Thursday criticised the state government over the budget, terming it a 'burden on people', adding that the government's financial management has failed which is evident in the budget.

"This budget will only increase Rajasthan's debt burden. In the previous budget, revenue receipts were projected at Rs 2.65 lakh crore, but the actual revenue collected was only Rs 2.62 lakh crore, despite increased Central government assistance," he said.

SC adjourns hearing on pleas against law dropping CJJ from EC appointment panel

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned hearing on a clutch of petitions challenging the law passed by the Parliament, which excludes the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from the process of appointment of top officials of the Election Commission.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh acceded to the request made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the second highest law officer of the Centre, to defer the proceedings as he was on his legs before the Constitution Bench dealing with the question if courts can modify arbitral awards.



Madhya Pradesh Dy CMs hold talks on govt's new health investment policy

Bhopal, Feb 20 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda on Thursday held discussion on the new health investment promotion policy approved by the state Cabinet ahead of the upcoming Global Investment Summit (GIS).

According to officials, the preparations for the first ever Global Investors Summit in the state capital, Bhopal, are underway in full swing. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who has kept the Industry

Policy and Investment Promotion portfolio with him, is supervising the preparations. The two-day GIS will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24. Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the closing ceremony on the second day of the summit on February 25.

Meanwhile, during the meeting on Wednesday, discussions focussed on strengthening the health infrastructure through investments from both government and private sectors to provide better services to the citizens of Madhya Pradesh. Both the senior BJP leaders also reviewed preparation of 'pay-protection' policy to be introduced in medical institutions to ensure the safety of doctors and other medical staff in both government-run and private hospitals.

'Only CBI probe can reveal the truth': K'taka BJP on clean chit to Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

Bengaluru, Feb 20 (IANS) : Reacting to the clean chit given by the Karnataka Lokayukta to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said on Thursday that only an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can reveal the truth. Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka said: "This is a conspiracy to cover up the case. Police officers seeking transfers and promotions have given the clean chit in return."



Khan Sir's allegations about question papers are baseless: Bihar official

Patna, Feb 20 (IANS) : Gaya District Magistrate (DM) Tyagarajan SM in Bihar on Thursday dismissed prominent educationist Faisal Khan alias Khan Sir alleged irregularities in the BPSC examination, terming his re-

marks as 'false' and 'baseless'. The Gaya DM stated that the allegations of question papers being lost or sold in a junk shop are completely unfounded.

Hamas says ready to implement next phases of Gaza truce deal

Gaza, Feb 20 (IANS) : Hamas reaffirmed its willingness to implement the second and third phases of the Gaza ceasefire agreement. Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said in a statement that the group had agreed, at the request of a mediator, to double the number of Israeli hostages to be released, demonstrating its commitment to the deal. Qassem rejected Israeli demands for Hamas to leave Gaza, calling them part of a "psychological war." He stressed that Hamas would not accept Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demand that the group disarm and its leaders be expelled from Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported. Separately, Israel's public

broadcaster reported that Netanyahu had officially decided to begin negotiations for the second phase of the ceasefire deal and informed the Security Cabinet of his decision. Earlier on Saturday, Hamas and Israel completed the sixth prisoner-for-hostage exchange following days of tense negotiations that threatened to undo

the precarious ceasefire. In the exchange, Hamas released three more Israeli hostages held in Gaza, while Israeli authorities freed 369 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Under the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, effective since January 19 and spanning six weeks.



South Korea: 17 generals, 13 field grade officers under investigation over alleged roles in martial law

Seoul, Feb 20 (IANS) : A total of 30 military service members, including 17 generals, have been under investigation over their alleged involvement in South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed bid to impose martial law on December 3, a lawmaker said Thursday, citing a defence ministry report. Authorities have so far notified 17 generals and 13 field grade officers that they are under investigation over Yoon's short-lived declaration of martial law, according to the ministry report submitted to Rep. Ahn Gyu-back of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), Yonhap news agency reported. Chief of Staff

of the Army Gen. Park An-su, who was appointed as martial law commander, is the highest-ranking service member and the only four-star general to be under investigation. The list also includes five three-star generals -- Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. Gen. Jeong Jin-pal, who served as deputy martial law commander; Lt. Gen. Won Cheon-hee, head of the Defence Intelligence Agency; Lt. Gen. Yeo In-hyung, former head of the Defence Counterintelligence Command; Lt. Gen. Kwak Jong-keun, former chief of the Army Special Warfare Command; and Lt. Gen. Lee Jin-woo, former head of the Capital Defence Com-

mand. Others on the list include three two-star generals, five one-star generals, three designated for promotion to one-star generals, 11 colonels, one lieutenant colonel and one major. No junior officers, noncommissioned officers or conscripts are currently under investigation. In terms of affiliated unit, eight members of the Defence Counterintelligence Command were under investigation -- the highest among the units accused of involvement in martial law operations. The command is accused of mobilising troops to apprehend politicians and planning to confiscate the servers of the National Election Commission during martial law.



US chides China for 'dangerous maneuvers' towards Philippines aircraft

Manila, Feb 20 (IANS) : The United States on Thursday severely criticised the "dangerous maneuvers" by a Chinese Navy helicopter towards a Philippines aircraft on Thursday. "We condemn the dangerous maneuvers by a PLA Navy helicopter that endangered pilots and passengers on a Philippine air mission," US Ambassador to the Philippines, MaryKay Carlson posted on X, while condemning the act. The Philippines Coast Guard said that the Chinese Navy helicopter flew within three metres (10 feet) of a surveillance flight carrying a group of journalists over the contested Scarborough Shoal. "Around 0839 hours, a People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA-Navy) helicopter performed dangerous flight maneuvers towards the BFAR aircraft. This reckless action posed a serious risk to the safety of the pilots and passengers during the MDA flight," read a statement issued by the Philippines Coast Guard. Last week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference 2025 and reaffirmed the US commitment to its alliance with the Philippines. The discussions between both leaders included the ongoing bilateral coordination on addressing China's "destabilising actions" in the South China Sea.

Two dead, four hospitalised in Sydney house fire

Sydney, Feb 20 (IANS) : Two people have died and four more have been hospitalised after a house fire in western Sydney in Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW). Emergency services were called to the fire in the suburb of Heckenberg, about 30 kilometres west of central Sydney, at about 12:40 a.m. local time on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported.

MSW Police said that the blaze was extinguished and officers and fire crews entered the property where they found a 46-year-old woman and a six-year-old girl deceased. Eight other occupants of the house escaped the fire and were treated at the scene by ambulance paramedics. Four were taken to nearby hospitals, including a girl and a man being in a critical condition. The fire caused extensive damage to the house. Addressing reporters at the scene later on Wednesday morning, NSW Fire and Rescue Superintendent Adam Dewberry described the fire as "horrific and confronting" with flames coming out of every window.

He said that police and firefighters have commenced an investigation into the cause of the fire. Earlier in February, an investigation was launched into the death of a man in a suspicious house fire in Melbourne's inner southeast. Police in Australia's state of Victoria issued a statement saying that emergency services were called to reports of a house fire in the beachside suburb of St Kilda, six km southeast of central Melbourne. Fire crews attended the scene and found the ground floor of the building aflame. An unidentified man was found inside with critical injuries. He was treated but died at the scene. Firefighters deemed the fire suspicious and handed the case to police.



Australian researchers call for action to reduce burning of plastic in developing nations

Sydney, Feb 20 (IANS) : Australian researchers have called for action to reduce the burning of plastic for heating and cooking in developing nations, warning of health risks. In a new study, researchers from Curtin University in Western Australia found that millions of households in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have turned to burning plastics due to a lack of traditional energy sources, Xinhua news agency reported. The team found that many people in developing countries were unable to afford clean fuels such as gas and that the urban sprawl had made traditional fuels such as

wood and charcoal difficult to find while plastic waste was in abundance. Bishal Bharadwaj, lead researcher on the project from the Curtin Institute for Energy Transition (CIET), said that there are many health risks involved with burning plastic. "Burning plastic releases harmful chemicals such as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals into the air, which can have a range of health and welfare impacts such as lung diseases," he said. "These risks are particularly pronounced among women and children, as they spend more time at home."



Mexico relaunches 'Made in Mexico' brand as US tariffs loom

Mexico City, Feb 20 (IANS) : Mexico has "relaunched" a "Made in Mexico" brand campaign to bolster national production and cushion the impact of the 25-per cent tariffs on Mexican imports announced by US President Donald Trump. "The purpose of this effort is for Mexico to move forward, to overcome anything that comes our way, and for us to be united and cohesive," Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said Thursday. The launch event was held at the headquarters of the Economy Ministry, a day after the "Made in Mexico" brand and its usage guidelines were published in the Government Gazette, Xinhua news agency reported. Ebrard said the campaign is part of Plan Mexico, introduced in mid-January, which aims to promote a competitive and united country amid global trade uncertainty.



Maha: MMRDA secures loan of Rs 7,326 cr for underground Orange Gate to Marine Drive tunnel road

Mumbai, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has secured a Rs 7326 crore loan for the underground Orange Gate to Marine Drive tunnel road sanctioned by Union Bank of India. MMRDA in a release said that the loan was obtained at a competitive return on investment optimising financial efficiency and it marks a new era in Mumbai's infrastructure growth. This reflects the strong financial credibility of MMRDA and its commitment to delivering world-class infrastructure without delays.

CM Saha discusses introduction of Vande Bharat train in Tripura with Railway Minister

New Delhi/Agartala, Feb 20 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Thursday met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi and discussed various railway projects including the introduction of the Vande Bharat train in the state, officials said in Agartala. After the meeting with the Railway Minister, the Chief Minister said in a post: "Met Hon'ble Union Minister of Rail Ashwini Vaishnaw Ji at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. In the meeting, we discussed various topics of development like the running of the Vande Bharat Train, Inter-City Train b/w Agartala-Guwahati,

Local Train b/w Dharmanagar-Sabroom, laying new track b/w Jirania- Bodhjungle (Industrial Estate) and Dharmanagar-Kailashahar and Kissan Rail b/w Agartala-Guwahati, Railway infrastructural development in the state & IT related issues." The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has been continuing its hectic efforts to start running the long-expected electric trains in southern Assam and Tripura at the earliest. An NFR official said that a trial run of the first goods train



with an electric locomotive was successfully conducted on February 6 between southern Assam's Badarpur station and Tripura's Jirania station, 15 km north of Agartala railway station. "Necessary infrastructural works including electrification were completed

recently in southern Assam and Tripura. After the successful operation of some more goods trains with electric locomotives, the running of passenger trains with electric locomotives would start on the route.



2103 elephants present in Odisha jungles: Minister

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20 (IANS) : As many as 2103 elephants are present in Odisha jungles as per the findings of the latest elephant census conducted in the state during November 2024. The Minister for Forest, Environment and Climate Change Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia presented this information while replying to a question raised in the Assembly on Thursday. The elephant census found the presence of 295 jumbos in Mayurbhanj district while Dhenkanal district has 291 elephants. As many as 254 elephants are estimated to be

present in Angul district of the state. As per the information shared by the Forest Minister Singh Khuntia, on average, 81 elephants have died every year in the state during the last three years. The primary causes of death of the elephants are poaching, electrocution, train accidents, road accidents, various diseases, human revenge and other natural causes including quarrels, falls from hills, drowning, old age etc. The state government is taking various steps to check the human-elephant conflicts in the state resulting in human fatalities and the loss of properties. Plantation of fodder trees for elephants in the forest, development of grazing land, creation of artificial reservoirs, protection from forest fires, anti-poaching camps, forest patrols, monitoring of wildlife and poachers' movements, awareness etc. have been made through

Misleading claims on Mahakumbh an affront to 56 crore devotees : CM Yogi in UP Assembly

Lucknow, Feb 20 (IANS) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday hit out at the opposition Samajwadi Party (SP) over its alleged attempts to defame the ongoing Mahakumbh in Prayagraj with baseless and misleading claims. Addressing the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on the second day, Yogi Adityanath delivered a sharp rebuttal to the Opposition's allegations surrounding Mahakumbh and said that it was not a government or party event but rather a celebration of society. The Chief Minister emphasised that while the House was engaged in discussion, more than 56.25 crore devotees had taken a dip at the sacred Triveni Sangam.



No mention of Rs 5,000 crore loss due to illegal mining in CAG report: Haryana govt

Chandigarh, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Haryana government on Thursday clarified the allegations by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda about the loss of Rs 5,000 crore in illegal mining, saying that there is no mention of loss due in the CAG report. Quoting the recent CAG report, Congress leader Hooda claimed that the total loss due to illegal mining was Rs 50,000 crore during the 10-year stint of the BJP government.

J&K HC quashes order of detention of journalist under PSA

Srinagar, Feb 20 (IANS) : The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday quashed the detention order of journalist Majid Hyderi under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Justice V.K. Chatterjee quashed the detention of Hyderi under PSA, the petitioner's advocate told reporters here. Majid Hyderi was arrested and booked under the PSA on charges of extortion and defamation in September 2023.



'Not allowed to speak': RJD MLA walks out of review meeting with Nitish Kumar



Patna, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Pragati Yatra of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took an unexpected turn in Sasaram on Thursday after RJD MLA Rajesh Gupta walked out of the review meeting, alleging that he was 'not allowed to speak'. The meeting was held to review development schemes in Rohtas district's headquarters Sasaram. RJD MLA Rajesh Gupta was present but left the meeting claiming that he was not given a chance to raise important issues in the district. He accused officials of ignoring local development concerns, saying, "They were more focused on discussing Bihar's condition before and after 2005 rather than addressing real issues like education, health, employment and farmers' issues." He alleged that the officials side-lined concerns about Rohtas district's development. "The meeting was dominated by political narratives rather than concrete development dis-

cussions," Gupta claimed. The Pragati Yatra is aimed at reviewing government schemes and assessing their implementation across districts. Meanwhile, Nitish Kumar inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 1,220 projects worth Rs 1,378.45 crore. He laid the foundation stones for 971 projects worth Rs 1,110.23 crore and inaugurated 249 projects worth Rs 268.22 crore. Nitish Kumar also inspected various development projects, including Eco-Tourism and Adventure Hub in Durgawati, a hot air balloon program, leaf plate manufacturing units, Mahua-based sweets production by the Adivasi Janjati Vikas Samiti, community animal sheds, drip irrigation systems and various departmental stalls. He also reviewed the proposed widening of the Kudra-Chenari Malhipur road and inspected the construction site of the proposed bridge over the Bajitpur Kav River and many other projects.



Suwendu Adhikari challenges Mamata's claims on proposed Jagannath Temple in Bengal's Digha

Kolkata, Feb 20 (IANS) : Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, challenged on Thursday the claims made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday that the proposed Jagannath Temple at Digha in the state's East Midnapore district has been modeled after the iconic Shree Jagannath Temple at Puri in Odisha. "On Tuesday, the Chief Minister questioned my courage in questioning her claims about the proposed temple at Digha which she claims to have been modeled after the iconic temple at Puri. Now, I challenge her to answer my questions regarding her claims on this count," Adhikari said in a statement on Wednesday.

Jamia students protest at Jantar Mantar over suspension of 17 students

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Jamia Millia Islamia students staged a protest at the Jantar Mantar here on Thursday against the suspension of 17 students for participating in demonstrations on the campus. Left-affiliated student organisations -- All India Students' Association (AISA), Students Federation of India (SFI), All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) and others -- took part in the protest. The students demanded revocation of the suspension of 17 students and also no disciplinary action for taking part in demonstrations. The issue escalated after the university administration suspended two PhD scholars for allegedly leading an unauthorised protest in December last year. Student activists, however, argue that the administration is attempting to suppress dissent.



Some of the students alleged that police contacted their parents, warning them of possible FIRs against their wards if they continued to participate in protests. The protesters demanded that no disciplinary action be taken against students for engaging in demonstrations.

BJP extending invites but yet to announce Delhi Chief Minister: Gopal Rai

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : AAP leader and former Delhi minister Gopal Rai on Thursday mocked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying that the party was extending invites to the Chief Minister's swearing-in ceremony but was yet to name the holder of the post. Talking to IANS, Rai said: "BJP is making fun of all traditions. They are inviting people but who will be sworn in as the Delhi Chief Minister is yet to be announced." On invites extended to AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and MLA Atishi for the event, he said that let the BJP announce the Chief Minister's candidate. "It's not the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP. It will be of the Chief Minister. Let the BJP



make an announcement. We will decide later whether the AAP leaders will attend it or not," Rai said. The BJP is slated to announce the Chief Minister pick after its Legislature party meeting at the party's state unit office at Pant Marg around 7 p.m. The AAP leader also said during the meeting with party functionaries and representatives, they presented an oral report about the Assembly constituencies.

Nepali students row: Probe team visits KIIT University, holds discussions with stakeholders

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20 (IANS) : The three-member high-level committee, constituted by the Odisha Government to inquire into the alleged mistreatment meted out to Nepali students by KIIT University in Bhubaneswar, began their probe into the unfortunate incident on Thursday. The committee comprises the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development and Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Higher Education Department. The committee paid a visit to the university and held discussions with various stakeholders on the



matter. Speaking to media persons at the university, Home Department Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said, "As per the instructions of the state government, we have come here and held discussions with various

stakeholders. We are here to visit the places where the incidents have taken place. We will also hold discussions with the affected students. We will submit the report to the government in time."



Student unrest escalates in Bangladesh, over 100 injured

Dhaka, Feb 20 (IANS) : The violent clashes at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) in Bangladesh since Tuesday has left more than 100 students injured, local media reported on Thursday. The student outfits backing different political ideologies and affiliations had clashed over the issue of banning student politics on the university campus. Leaders of Jatiyotabadi Chatro Dol (JCD), the student wing of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), addressed media on Wednesday evening, accusing the Student Against Discrimination (SAD) and Bangladesh Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Islam-

ist party Jamaat-e-Islami, of initiating the recent attack at the KUET campus. The unrest in the campus aggravated with protesters halting the functioning of the institute and all academic activities. The students are also demanding the resignation of Vice Chancellor Mohammad Mashud. During the protest, students locked up Mashud and other senior officials in KUET campus on Tuesday night. The protesting students also engaged in a physical altercation with the VC and reportedly hurled shoes at him, local media reported. Cadres of JCD and SAD have been involved in several clashes at KUET. SAD is the student out-

fit that was behind the nationwide protest and violence in Bangladesh in July and August 2024 that led to the coup against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. It is alleged that JCD activists distributed leaflets at the campus on Monday supporting resumption of student politics on campus. SAD, on the other hand, responded with a parade in the university with various slogans for keeping the ban on student politics. They chanted slogans like "No place for student politics at KUET" and "We want a politics-free campus". This led to a clash between both the groups which left several injured.

Von der Leyen welcomes EU agreement on 16th package of Russia sanctions

Brussels, Feb 20 (IANS) : European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday welcomed the decision taken by the European Union (EU) ambassadors to impose 16th package of sanctions on Russia ahead of the approaching third anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. "I welcome the agreement on our 16th package of sanctions. The EU is clamping down even harder on circumvention by targeting more vessels in Putin's shadow fleet and imposing new import and export bans. We are committed to keep up the pressure on the Kremlin," Von der Leyen posted on X. The EU had adopted its 15th package of economic.



India extends further support to Bhutan's Economic Stimulus Programme

Thimphu, Feb 20 (IANS) : In yet another significant gesture highlighting the strong bonds of friendship and close people-to-people contacts, India on Thursday handed over a cheque of 2.5 billion Bhutanese Ngultrum (Rs 250 crore) as the third tranche of Government of India's support of 15 billion Ngultrum (Rs 1500 crore) towards the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) launched by the Royal Government of Bhutan, last year. While handing over the cheque to Bhutanese Finance Minister Lyonpo Lekey Dorji in Thimphu, Ambassador of India to Bhutan Sudhakar Dalela reiterated India's commitment to partner with Bhutan in the implementation of the 13th Five-Year Plan of Bhutan. "India-Bhutan development partnership! Reiterated Government of India's unwavering commitment to partnering with the Royal Government of Bhutan in

implementation of the 13th Five Year Plan in accordance with national development priorities of Bhutan," the Embassy of India in Thimphu stated. Dorji expressed deep gratitude to the Government of India for its steadfast support and acknowledged that India's development support has been instrumental in Bhutan's economic recovery efforts. He emphasised that the ESP support has played a crucial role in stimulating economic activity and creating jobs. The ESP was launched by the Bhutanese government last year with the objective to reinvigorate the domestic economy. Earlier in two tranches, India had released Nu 5 billion (Rs 500 crore) to the government of Bhutan. India's developmental partnership with Bhutan is an important pillar of bilateral relations. In July 2024, during Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Thimphu.

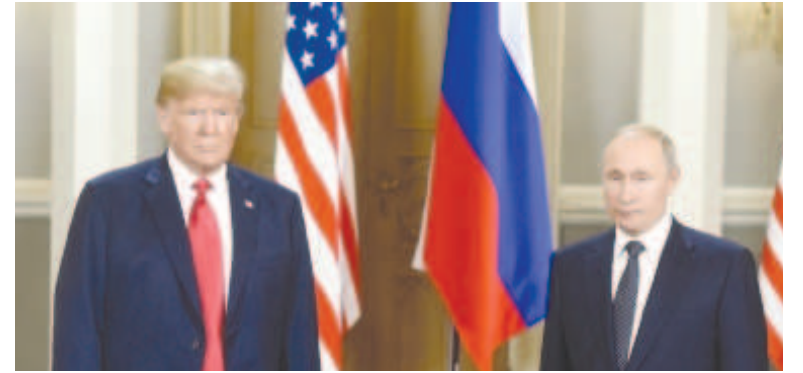
Putin, Trump may meet before end of February: Kremlin

Moscow, Feb 20 (IANS) : Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump could meet as early as this month, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday. "The Western media write a lot, our media

write a lot ... Maybe, or maybe not," said Peskov when asked whether Putin and Trump could meet before the end of February. The meeting would require some preparation from the Russian foreign ministry, he said. Russian and US officials held talks on Tuesday

in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz and US special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff. On the Russian side, senior political, intelligence, and

economic officials participated, including Yuri Ushakov, the Kremlin's foreign affairs advisor. Putin's foreign affairs advisor Yuri Ushakov said after the meeting that the specific date of the meeting between the leaders of Russia and the US has not yet been finalised.



EAM Jaishankar to attend G20

Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jo'burg

New Delhi/Johannesburg, Feb 20 (IANS) : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar will be visiting Johannesburg, South Africa on February 20-21 to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) at the invitation of the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa Ronald Lamola, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Thursday. "EAM's participation in the G20 FMM will strengthen India's engagement with G20 countries and bolster the voice of the Global South in this important forum. EAM is expected to hold few bilateral meetings in the margins of the FMM," read a statement issued by the MEA ahead of the visit. The meeting would be the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held during South Africa's Presidency of the G20 under the theme 'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability'. South Africa's G20 Presidency began from December 1, 2024 and will continue till November 30.

South Korean gov't to actively support ailing construction industry, provincial economy : Acting president

Seoul, Feb 20 (IANS) : South Korean acting President Choi Sang-mok said Thursday that the government will expand local development projects and buy unsold new homes in provincial regions in an effort to support the construction industry struggling with weak domestic demand. Choi rolled out the plan during a meeting meant to check people's livelihoods and the economy

with relevant ministers, noting that South Korea is facing growing downside risks amid heightened uncertainties at home and abroad, Yonhap news agency reported. "The Korea Land & Housing Corp. (LH) will buy around 3,000 unsold new apartments in provincial areas, and will review additional purchases in accordance with market situations," Choi said. The number of unsold homes has risen markedly in non-metropolitan areas amid the cool-



ing property market and feeble growth momentum. The government will give incentives to financial institutions that provide more mortgages for home buyers in provincial regions, and will announce details about potential preferential loan rates for such borrowers, Choi added.

Gunmen kill seven passengers in Balochistan after identification of origin

Quetta (Pakistan), Feb 20 (IANS) : At least seven passengers, hailing from different areas of Pakistan's Punjab province were offloaded from a passenger bus and gunned down by attackers post identity card checks in Barakhan, Balochistan on Thursday.



Australian authorities to euthanize 90 stranded false killer whales

Sydney, Feb 20 (IANS) : About 90 surviving false killer whales will be euthanized after a pod of 157 became stranded on a beach in the Australian island state of Tasmania. Authorities on Thursday arrived at the beach on Tasmania's remote northwest coast and confirmed that 90 of the false killer whales were still alive after they

were discovered by a member of the public on Thursday evening. Wildlife veterinarians and staff from Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Marine Conservation Programme made several attempts to refloat two of the false killer whales on Wednesday but were unsuccessful. PWS Incident Controller Shelley Graham told reporters on Wednesday afternoon that the animals were continually re-stranding and that conditions were forecast to be very similar for two days. "Following expert wildlife veterinary assessments, we have made the decision to euthanize the animals," she said.

Another policeman guarding polio vaccine team shot dead in Pakistan

Peshawar, Feb 20 (IANS) : In yet another incident of health workers being attacked in Pakistan, unknown gunmen killed a police officer while he was providing security to the polio vaccination team in Damadola, Mamund, Bajaur district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. As per Bajaur police officials, gunmen on motorbikes attacked the polio vaccination team which was engaged in a door-to-door vaccination campaign to give polio drops to children. The police official deployed to guard the polio team was shot dead by the attackers who later fled the scene. Police officials confirmed that the policeman died on the spot. Bajaur district, a restive region bordering Afghanistan, has been one of the strongholds of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and a battlefield between the militant groups and the Pakistani security forces. The area has been known for being sensitive, critical and unwelcoming towards polio eradication campaigns with polio workers, security forces and their supporters being regularly targeted and killed by militants.





Champions League: Mbappe's hat-trick powers holders Real Madrid into last-16

Madrid, Feb 20 (IANS) : Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick as Real Madrid eased into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League on Thursday (IST) after a 3-1 win over Manchester City in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, securing a 6-3 aggregate win after last week's 3-2 victory in Manchester. City striker Erling Haaland was carrying a knee injury, and the Norwegian, who had scored twice a week ago, started the game on the subs' bench as his side struggled from start to finish, looking fragile in defense again, while failing to produce anything in attack until the game was all but over, reports Xinhua. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti was able to bring Antonio Rudiger back after injury, which allowed him to play Raul Asencio at right-back and move Federico Valverde into midfield.

Dhamne, Ramkumar, Prajwal get wild card entry to Bengaluru Open

Bengaluru, Feb 20 (IANS) : India's 17-year-old prodigy Manas Dhamne and seasoned campaigners Ramkumar Ramanathan along with SD Prajwal Dev have been awarded wild card entries into the singles main draw of the 2025 Bengaluru Open, as the ATP Challenger 125 event returns for ninth edition at the KSLTA Courts in Cubbon Park from February 24 to March 2. Meanwhile, Kriish Tyagi and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha will compete in the qualifying rounds as wild cards, looking to secure a spot in the main draw. Dhamne, one of India's most promising young talents, has been active on the circuit for two years.

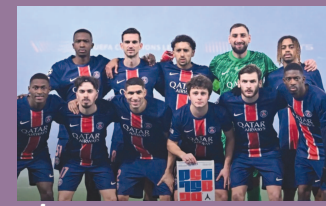


Champions Trophy: Afghanistan v South Africa; when and where to watch

Karachi, Feb 20 (IANS): Afghanistan will make their Champion Trophy debut against South Africa at the renovated National Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday. Led by Hashmatullah Shahidi, Afghanistan has developed a reputation for being the surprise package in global tournaments, having impressed in the 2023 ODI World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup. Meanwhile, South Africa,

captained by Temba Bavuma, boasts a powerful and dynamic batting lineup, making them strong contenders for the title despite recent inconsistencies in form. Afghanistan and South Africa have faced each other five times in ODIs, with the Proteas leading the head-to-head 3-2. However, Afghanistan made history last year by securing their maiden ODI series win over South Africa, clinching a 2-1 victory in Sharjah.

The upcoming match marks Afghanistan's debut in the Champions Trophy, while South Africa will be looking to overcome their history of near-misses in ICC events. Their most recent heartbreak came in the 2024 T20 World Cup final, where they narrowly lost to India. Notably, Afghanistan reached the semifinals in that tournament before falling to the Proteas. In the 2017 Champions Trophy, South Africa were eliminated in the group stage after rain denied them a semifinal spot. South Africa's batting is bolstered by skipper Temba Bavuma, who averages 43.32 in ODIs, along with Heinrich Klaasen and Rassie van der Dussen, both of whom boast averages above 44.



Champions League: PSG seal last-16 sport with historic aggregate win over Brest, PSV beat Juventus

Paris, Feb 20 (IANS) Paris Saint-Germain recorded a historic 7-0 victory over Stade Brestois 29 in the second leg of their play-off to sail into the last-16 of the Champions League. The win was the second-biggest aggregate triumph in UEFA Champions League history. PSG also became the first team to have seven different scorers in a single match. Bradley Barcola was the first of those, with Khvicha Kvaratskhelia then adding his maiden European goal for the hosts before the break.

Champions Trophy: ICC approves Imam-ul-Haq as Fakhar Zaman's replacement in Pakistan squad

Dubai, Feb 20 (IANS) : The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved Imam-ul-Haq as a replacement for injured Fakhar Zaman in Pakistan's squad for the ongoing Champions Trophy. Fakhar was forced off the field after suffering an injury while fielding in the early part of the tournament opener against New Zealand in Karachi. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said at that time that Fakhar was being assessed and examined for a muscular sprain, with further updates to be provided in due course. Later, Fakhar couldn't open the batting and came out to bat in the tenth over, where his struggles were apparent while making 24 off 41 balls. Now, the ICC said in its official statement on Thursday that Fakhar has been ruled out of the rest of the competition due to an oblique injury.



FIH Pro League: India women hope to change fortune against Germany

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20 (IANS) The Indian women's hockey team will be looking to turn their campaign around as they prepare to take on Germany in the FIH Pro League 2024-25.

After a challenging start, India are determined to bounce back and collect crucial points to improve their position in the standings. India began their campaign with a thrilling 3-2 win over England but fell

short in the second match against the same opponents, losing 2-1 in a shootout after a 2-2 draw in regular time.



WPL 2025: Lapses in UPW's fielding helped DC chase down the target, says Mithali Raj

New Delhi, Feb 20 (IANS) : Former India captain Mithali Raj pointed out that the UP Warriorz sloppy work in fielding was one of the big reasons why Delhi Capitals managed to chase down 167 and win by seven wickets in match six of WPL 2025. After restricting UPW to 166/7, captain Meg Lanning set the foundation for DC's chase with 69. But after she fell, DC needed 32 runs off the last three overs.

FIH Pro League: India captain Harmanpreet says team looks to maintain consistency in matches against Ireland

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20 (IANS) : The Indian men's hockey team will be aiming for consistency as it prepares to take on Ireland in their next set of matches in the FIH Pro League 2024-25, captain Harmanpreet stressed that every match is vital, and the team will look to carry on the momentum from the previous win.

After a mixed start to their campaign, India are looking to build momentum and climb the points table with solid performances in the upcoming games. The hosts opened the tournament with a 3-1 loss against Spain but quickly bounced back with a commanding 2-0 victory against the same opponents in the second game.

