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SBI economists expect the RBI to announce a 0.25 per cent rate cut in the monetary policy committee meeting on February 7. As the fiscal stimulus...

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**The Union Budget has done a great injustice to the state and Adilabad**

Telangana Kisan Congress State General Secretary Boranchu Srikanth Reddy expressed his anger, saying that the financial budget presented by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman...

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## Telangana committed to implementing SC categorisation : CM Revanth

**Hyderabad, Feb.4 (NSS):** Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has affirmed the State government's dedication to executing the Supreme Court's ruling regarding the classifica-

tion of Scheduled Castes. During his address to the Assembly on Tuesday, Revanth Reddy informed members that the State government has established a commission comprising a single

member to facilitate the implementation of the court's decision. This commission conducted a thorough study and presented a report, independent of any government involvement.

The single-member commission recommended a classification system. It visited various districts and produced a detailed report after engaging directly with the populace to gather their grievances. Additionally, some individuals submitted their concerns online to the commission.

The commission completed its report in just 82 days. It recommended allocating a 15 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes among three distinct groups. Furthermore, it proposed that a total of 58 sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes be categorized into

Groups 1, 2, and 3, as disclosed by Revanth Reddy.

The Commission in its report stated that 1 percent reservation should be provided to 15 sub-castes in Group-1 (population 3.288 percent), 9 percent reservation should be provided to 18 SC sub-castes in Group-2 (population 62.74 percent), and 5 percent res-

ervation should be provided to 26 sub-castes in Group-3 (population 33.963 percent).

The Commission also recommended the implementation of roster points and creamy layer provision for the SC caste group, the Chief Minister said.

"Many political parties have seen the issue of SC categorisation as

a vote bank and have not tried to provide a permanent solution to the problem. That is why, the Congress government has resolved to provide a permanent solution to this problem and bring justice to those who have been neglected and exploited for generations in society," he added.



## KCR, KTR, Harish Rao didn't participate in caste census survey: CM Revanth

**Hyderabad, Feb.4 (NSS):** Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has stated that leaders from the BRS, including former Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, along with former ministers KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao, and Padma Rao, as well as BJP MP DK Aruna, did not take part in the caste census survey conducted by the State government. During his address in the Assembly, the Chief Minister noted that

KCR's family did not engage in the survey, which would necessitate disclosing information regarding their land holdings. Revanth Reddy questioned, "If the comprehensive family survey carried out by the previous BRS administration is considered an official document, why has it not been presented to the cabinet? Why has it not been shared in the Assembly? Why did a single family retain the report for themselves?" He reaffirmed that the Congress party is committed to allocating 42 percent of seats to BCs in the upcoming local body elections and challenged both the BJP and BRS parties to accept this proposition.

## Notices issued to BRS MLAs who defected to Congress

**Hyderabad, Feb 4 (IANS)** Telangana Assembly Secretary on Tuesday issued notices to 10 MLAs of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) who defected to the ruling Congress party last year. The notices have been issued on the petitions of the BRS, seeking disqualification of the defectors. The MLAs have sought time to respond to the notices sent by the Assembly Secretary.

The development comes two days after the Supreme Court asked the Telangana Assembly to define a "reasonable period" for a decision on disqualification pleas.



## Crores of money saved in various schemes, being used for people's welfare: PM Modi in LS

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday listed out achievements and accomplishments in the past 10 years and boasted about bringing about 25 crore people out of poverty, with a determined and focused governance. Replying to the Motion of Thanks on President's address in Lok Sabha, PM Modi shed light on crores of pucca houses and toilets built for the common man, thereby ending years of pain

for them. "4 crore people have got the pucca houses. Over 12 crore toilets have been built so that poor women can face no difficulties. Even after 75 years of Independence, about 70-75 per cent (16 crores) of the country had no water tap connection. Our govt in five years has given water connection to 12 crore families," he said. **Continued on pg 02**



## Maha Kumbh: Bhutan King takes holy dip at Sangam with CM Yogi

**Prayagraj, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck participated in the Maha Kumbh festivities in Prayagraj and took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath in taking the 'dip of faith'. Both leaders also offered prayers at the sacred Sangam Nose. The Bhutanese monarch arrived in Lucknow on Monday, where he was extended a grand welcome by UP Chief Minister, amid traditional music

and dance performances. Taking to social media platform X, CM Yogi extended his greetings, saying, "Hearty welcome and greetings to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan in Uttar Pradesh.



## Akbar demands tabling of caste census report in Assembly

**Hyderabad, Feb 4 (NSS):** AIMIM MLA and its floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi today demanded that the State government table the caste census report in the assembly. Owaisi questioned the government as to why the commission's report was not being put up for discussion in the assembly?

## KTR slams Congress for betrayal on BC Reservations

**Hyderabad, Feb 4 (NSS):** BRS party working president K.T. Rama Rao has accused the Congress government for deceiving Backward Classes (BC) by failing to introduce a bill for 42% reservations, as promised in the Kamareddy BC Declaration meeting. He alleged that the government merely made an announcement and avoided taking real legislative action. KTR stated, "A mere statement cannot be called historic."









Rajasthan : Cyber fraud syndicate worth over 2000 crore busted

Jaipur/Sri Ganganagar, Feb 4 (IANS) : Under 'Operation Cyber Seal', initiated by Rajasthan Police, a major cyber fraud worth over 2000 crore was busted in a joint operation on Tuesday.



'Vahali Dikari Yojana' helped 2.78 lakh daughters, total assistance exceeds Rs 3,000 crore : Gujarat govt

Gandhinagar, Feb 4 (IANS) : The 'Vahali Dikari Yojana', which roughly translates to Dear Daughter Scheme, has benefitted over 2.78 lakh girls with financial assistance exceeding Rs 3,000 crore since its launch in 2019.



In her new book Mamata Banerjee blames Congress for BJP's success in 2024 LS polls. Kolkata, Feb 4 (IANS) : In her new book, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has squarely blamed Congress for the BJP's return to power at the Centre for the third consecutive term in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Table with 11 columns: PUBLIC NOTICE, RELEVANT PARTICULARS, Name of Personal Guarantor, Name & CIN of Corporate Debtor(s), Address of Personal Guarantor, Details of the order admitting the application, Resolution Commencement Date, Estimated date of closure of Insolvency Resolution Process, Last date for submission of Claims, Name and Registration Number of the Insolvency Professional acting as Resolution Professional, Address and E-mail of the Resolution Professional, Address and E-mail to be used for correspondence with the Resolution Professional, Relevant Forms.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYDERABAD (DRT - I) 3rd Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001.

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961

M/s. CITY UNION BANK LIMITED - Vs - M/s. LAXMI VENKATESWARA COTTON INDUSTRIES,

(C1) M/s. LAXMI VENKATESWARA COTTON INDUSTRIES, Mr. Pathri Kishore Kumar, Rep. by Proprietor Mr. Pathri Kishore Kumar, Gorrekunta Village, Geessugunda Mandal, Warangal, Warangal District. (Urban), Telangana.

(C2) Mr. PATHRI KISHORE KUMAR, Major, H.No.3-15/2, Balaji Nagar, Ennumamula Road, Warangal - 506002, Warangal District.

(C3) M/s. S.S. COTTON INDUSTRIES, Rep. by Its Proprietor Sri Pathri Kishore Kumar, H.No.46-03-15/2, Balaji Nagar, Ennumamula, Warangal, Warangal District.

(C4) Mrs. PATHRI RAMEDEVI, W/o. Pathri Kishore Kumar, Major, H.No.46-03-4, Balaji Nagar, Ennumamula, New Grain Market Road, Warangal, Warangal District.

(C5) Mr. P. CHINNA KOMMULU, S/o. Narasaiah, Major, H.No.46-03-15/2, Balaji Nagar, Warangal, Warangal District.

(C6) Mrs. P. LAXMI, W/o. P. Chinna Kommulu, Major, H.No.46-03-15/2, Balaji Nagar, Warangal, Warangal District.

(C7) M/s. SHIVA SHAKTHI COTTON GINNING INDUSTRIES, Rep. by Its Partners, Mrs. P. Laxmi And Mr. P. Chinna Kommulu, H.No.46-03-15/2, Balaji Nagar, Warangal, Warangal District.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Hyderabad (DRT - I) in OA/26/2022 an amount of Rs 8,91,63,038.99 (Rupees Eight Crore Ninety One Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Eighty Eight And Paise Ninety Nine Only), along with pendente lite and future interest @ 15.5% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 03-01-2022 till realization and Costs of Rs 3,79,000 (Rupees Three Lakh Seven Nine Thousand Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally / Fully / Limited).

Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, Hyderabad (DRT - I)



Haryana's Rs 3.14 lakh crore credit plan for 2025-26 unveiled

Chandigarh, Feb 4 (IANS) : The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has assessed a credit potential of Rs 3.14 lakh crore, reflecting an increase of 37.64 per cent over the previous year under priority sector lending in Haryana for 2025-26.

NABARD's State Focus Paper (SFP) was released by Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi here on Tuesday during the State Credit Seminar 2025-26 in the presence of Nivedita Tiwary, Chief General Manager, NABARD, senior executives of banks, senior officers of the state government and academic institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of NABARD to assess the credit potential under agriculture, MSME, export, education, renewable energy, etc., of the state that align with the government's vision for farmers' welfare and rural development with emphasis on crop diversification, climate-resilient

agriculture, shrimp farming and promoting vegetable clusters. He urged banks, government departments, NABARD, academic institutions and all other stakeholders to synergise co-ordinated efforts for creating increased employment opportunities in rural areas.

RECOVERY SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE- RANGAREDDY SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties 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 constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of due to Canara Bank from Borrower/Guarantor.

Date & Time of Auction: 07-03-2025 from 12.30 p.m. to 01.30 p.m. (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the Sale). Place of Auction: Online.

The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 07-03-2025, 11.00 A.M.

1. NARSINGI BRANCH (13021): Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s): Aleef Pinjari, S/o P.Ale Shaheb, H.No.6-11, Narsingi, Rajendranagar Mandal, Rangareddy Dist., Telangana-500089. Keesara Venkat Reddy, S/o Buchi Reddy, H.No.1 95, Manchirevula, Rajendranagar Mandal, Hyderabad-500075. Aleef Pinjari, S/o P.Ale Saheb, Quarter No.1, Block 20, Vyas Nagar, Manchirevula Village, Rajendranagar Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana. Total liabilities as on Date: Rs.15,37,654.32 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Four Paise Thirty Two Only) plus unapplied interest from 01-02-2025 and bank charges there on.

Inspection Date of the Properties with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer, 05-02-2025 - 06-03-2025 between 11.00 AM and 3.00 PM

\* No Known Encumbrances to the Knowledge of the Bank. Mode of Auction: Online Electronic Bidding

Details of Auction Service Provider: The intending bidders should register their names at portal support.baanknet@psballiance.com/ and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), Contact: 8291220220, Email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Website: https://baanknet.com/

RECOVERY SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE- RANGAREDDY SALE NOTICE

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Date & Time of Auction: 21-02-2025 from 12.30 p.m. to 01.30 p.m. (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the Sale). Place of Auction: Online.

The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 21-02-2025, 11.00 A.M.

1. BANDLAGUDA BRANCH (13309): Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s): Sri Nampally Bhaskara Chary, S/o Late Nampally Narasimha Chary, H.No.12-11-2042, Brahmanna Basthi, Warangula, Secunderabad, Telangana State-500061. Sri Nampally Bhaskara Chary, S/o. Late Nampally Narasimha Chary, D.No.8-7-951/P-III/TR/501, Flat No.501, 5th Floor, Sy.No.59 Part, Ward No.8, Block No.7, Teachers Colony, Phase III of Karmanghat Village, Saroomangar Revenue Mandal, Rangareddy District-500079. Total liabilities as on Date: Rs.51,00,138.96 (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs One Hundred Thirty Eight and Paise Ninety Six Only) plus unapplied interest from 11-01-2025 and bank charges there on.

Inspection Date of the Properties with Prior Appointment with Authorized Officer, 05-02-2025 - 20-02-2025 between 11.00 AM and 3.00 PM

\* No Known Encumbrances to the Knowledge of the Bank. Mode of Auction: Online Electronic Bidding

Details of Auction Service Provider: The intending bidders should register their names at portal support.baanknet@psballiance.com/ and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), Contact: 8291220220, Email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com, Website: https://baanknet.com/

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infinitive Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.88, Udyog Vihar, Phase-5, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at: 40-5-5/1A, 1/B, Chandramouli Puram, Tikle Road, Near Sweet Magic Hotel, MG Road, Vijayawada - 520010 / Door No 4-114 1/A, 1st Floor, Opposite Sivayalam, Anjaneyappet, Amaravathi Road, Guntur - 522007/ 12-158, piduguralla, janapadu road satya Sia temple, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522413/ D No 2-1-41, First Floor, Ajanta Complex, Opp Taluka Office, KV Road, Tadepalligudem West Godavari, AP/ 1st Floor, Ring Road Junction, Opposite Bellam Market, Anakapalle, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 531001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IFL-HFL has taken the possession of the properties pursuant to the notices issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IFL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through an e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iflhome.com

Table with 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, Total Outstanding as on Date, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Bid Increase Amount, Date of Inspection of property, EMD Last Date, Date/Time of E-Auction.

Mode of Payment: EMD payments are to be made via online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iflhome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.

- 1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www.iflhome.com well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
- 2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will be automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
- 3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
- 4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
- 5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the borrower/ seller of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IFL HFL.
- 6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iflhome.com and https://www.ifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form and submitting their Bids for taking part in the auction sale proceedings.
- 7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E Mail ID: care@iflhome.com, Support Helpline Numbers: @1800 2672 499
- 8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email: care@iflhome.com
- 9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
- 10. Further the notice is hereby given to the borrower/ seller that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
- 11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
- 12. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason therefor. In case of any dispute in tender/auction, the decision of AO of IFL-HFL will be final.

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with (upto dated) interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Andhra Pradesh Date: 05-Feb-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IFL Home Finance Limited



OPINIONmail



Families try to come to terms with loss; survivor recalls moments leading up to Maha Kumbh stampede

After Prayagraj witnessed a stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela early on Wednesday morning, leaving at least 30 people dead and around 60 others injured, people were still coming to terms with their loss on Thursday. Some recalled moments leading up to the stampede that left them separated from their groups. Among the deceased, four victims were from Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district. While two of the deceased hailed from Nasirabad, the other two victims were from the Nagra police station area. The stampede occurred at the mela ground when an overwhelming crowd surged towards Triveni Sangam for the holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, according to Uttar Pradesh DIG Vaibhav Krishna. Dilip Patel, a grieving relative, recalled the loss of his sister-in-law and niece in the tragedy. "Our sister-in-law and niece are no longer with us. They had gone to Prayagraj for the holy dip. My niece was just 12 years old, and my sister-in-law was 35," he told IANS. Durgesh Singh, a resident of the Nagra police station area, also mourned his loss. "My sister-in-law, Rinki Singh, went with 12 to 13 people and lost her life in the stampede," he told IANS. The tragedy extended beyond Ballia, claiming the life of Nankan Kori, a resident of Gonda. His nephew recounted how Nankan had travelled to the Maha Kumbh with 12 family members and hundreds of others from the Gonda Gram Sabha. "When the stampede broke out, my uncle got separated from his companions. After the situation was brought under control, his companions started searching for him. Hours later, they found him in a hospital in an injured state, but the doctors declared him dead," said Betu Lal, Nankan's nephew. The administration arranged an ambulance to transport Nankan's body back to Gonda, where his family is inconsolable. "He was brought to the hospital by the police, but it was too late. The administration helped us take his body home," Betu Lal added. Amidst the tragedy, a survivor of the stampede shared her harrowing experience with IANS. "When we proceeded towards the Sangam, a stampede occurred. Out of our group of 12 people, only I am here. The rest are missing — we all got separated," she said. She described the chaotic moments leading up to the disaster. "People were all passing through the same place, leading to collisions. I came from Ballia and spent the night on the road. I don't know how I will return or what happened to the others in my group," she added. Authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to the deadly stampede, as families struggle to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones.

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail



'Turned capital into a dump': Swati Maliwal calls out Kejriwal over Delhi's garbage crisis

Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal on Tuesday criticised former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of transforming the capital into a "garbage dump." The comments followed her dramatic protest outside Kejriwal's residence.

Gurugram: 12 acres of green belts made encroachment-free by GMDA

The Enforcement Wing of the Gurugram Development Metropolitan Authority (GMDA) removed the illegal encroachment on 12 acres of land on Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) on Thursday. During the drive, a total length of 8.5 km from Vatika Chowk to Ghata on both sides across sectors 49, 50, 57, 56, 58, 62 and 65 were covered. Almost 12 acres of

Golf Course Extension Road were made encroachment-free. About 40 hutments, 55 nurseries, 12 building material shops, nine scrap shops, one washing station, eight dhabas and six shops that were operating illegally were demolished. Additionally, eight crane machines that were illegally parked were also removed. Furthermore, GMDA also conducted a drive along with MCG on sector 62 in front of Time Residency wherein 80 juggis, 12



scrap shops and nine shops spread across an expanse of 1.5 acres were cleared. The drive was held by the Enforcement team led by Nodal Officer (Gurugram) DTP RS Bath, ATPs GMDA Mange Ram and Satinder, along with the Enforcement team of GMDA were present.

Fresh tripartite talks on opposition to creation of 7 Manipur districts held

A crucial tripartite meeting between the Centre, Manipur government, and the United Naga Council (UNC), over the Naga body's demand for rollback of the "arbitrary creation" of seven new districts in the state, discussed the issue in detail on Thursday, officials said. A senior Manipur Home Department official said that after the threadbare discussion in the meeting, it was mutually agreed that a proposal would be presented by the representatives of the state government in the next round of tripartite meetings which would be held in April. In Thursday's meeting, held in Naga-dominated Senapati district, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) advisor, North East Affairs, A. K. Mishra, Manipur Chief Secretary

Prashant Kumar Singh and Home Commissioner N. Ashok Kumar, four Naga community leaders including UNC's President N.G.Lorho and General Secretary Vareiyo Shatsang were present. The previous round of tripartite talks, held on November 29 last year, did not yield any result. Those controversial seven districts were created on December 8, 2016, by the then Congress government led by three-term Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh (2002-2017) amid opposition from the UNC, the apex body of Naga tribes in Manipur. The UNC has been strongly opposing the creation of the seven new districts, claiming that those districts encroached upon the ancestral territories of the Nagas. The Congress government had then asserted that the seven new districts were created aimed at administrative convenience and to better serve the people.



The representatives of the Manipur government in the previous meetings expressed an inability to present a concrete proposal in view of certain difficulties. The UNC in October last year temporarily suspended its 48-hour shutdown after the MHA called for a tripartite meeting to discuss the issue. The UNC organised a series of agitations demanding the rollback of the "arbitrary creation" of seven new districts in December 2016 and the reinstatement of the status quo. It had, on September 11 last year, issued an ultimatum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for redressal of the pending issue of "arbitrary creation" of

seven new districts in Manipur in 2016 and warned of intense agitation if the matter was not resolved within 15 days. The Naga body claimed that the seven new districts were created "dishonouring" the four memoranda between the government of Manipur and the Naga people besides the assurance from the Centre in 2011. Naga people mostly inhabit six Manipur districts -- Tamenglong, Chandel, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Noney, and Senapati, which are along the Nagaland and Myanmar borders.

Three cyclones potentially developing across Australia: Bureau of Meteorology

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has warned that as many as three cyclones could form off the country's north coast within days. According to the BoM's tropical cyclone seven-day forecast, five tropical low storms could develop across northern Australia in the coming days, reports Xinhua news agency. Of those, it said that three have at least a moderate 25-per cent chance of reaching cyclone strength between Sunday and Wednesday. Tropical lows are declared cyclones by the BoM when average wind speeds exceed 63 km per hour. It said that a tropical low off the northwest coast of Western Australia in the Indian Ocean has the highest chance of reaching cyclone strength and could increase thunderstorm activity in the area. The other two could develop in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the body of water between the Northern Territory and the northern parts of Queensland, and in the Coral Sea off Queensland's northeast coast.



Gujarat Governance Model offers best practices that can be replicated: Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that the "Gujarat Governance Model" offers several best practices which can be successfully replicated elsewhere, too. Speaking at the National Conference on Good Governance here, the minister recalled that many of the governance innovations successfully implemented at the Central level were first introduced in Gujarat under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as Chief Minister. Addressing a pan-India audience of policymakers, senior bureaucrats, and governance experts, Jitendra Singh praised the transformation in governance over the last decade. "This transformation did not happen overnight. Many of the reforms introduced at the national level were first tested and perfected in Gujarat, and today they are being replicated across the country," he remarked. Jitendra Singh underscored the

fundamental shift in governance culture under Prime Minister Modi, which has taken policymaking beyond the traditional administrative strongholds of Delhi and into various regions of the country. He cited the Prime Minister's directive to decentralise governance by ensuring that major policy discussions, conferences and outreach programmes are held in different parts of the country and not necessarily in Delhi. He also referred to the evolution of India's administrative framework, recalling how Sardar Patel envisioned a robust bureaucracy as the 'steel frame' of India, a vision that has been further refined through PM Modi-led government's approach of 'Maximum Governance, Minimum Government.'

He pointed to landmark reforms, such as the scrapping of nearly 2,000 obsolete laws, the elimination of the requirement for attested documents and the removal of interviews for junior-level government jobs as measures that have streamlined bureaucracy and enhanced transparency. One of the standout examples of governance innovation, Jitendra Singh noted, was Gujarat's early implementation of the 24-hour rural electrification scheme in the early 2000s. "At a time when electricity supply was erratic across the country, Gujarat pioneered uninterrupted rural electrification, a model that was later scaled up at the national level," he said. Recounting the scale of transformation, Jitendra Singh spoke about how electricity shortages used to be commonplace in many parts of India. "There was a time when people clapped when the lights came back on after an outage. Today, power cuts are rare, and uninterrupted electricity is an expectation, not a luxury."

Anger erupts in Jharkhand's Giridih after missing toddler found dead in field

A wave of shock and anger swept through Pihra village in Gawan block of Jharkhand's Giridih district after the body of a four-year-old girl was discovered in a nearby field on Tuesday. The deceased child, identified as Saira Parveen, was the daughter of area resident Mohammad Sajid. Saira had been playing near her house on Wednesday afternoon when she suddenly went missing. As evening fell and she did not return, her worried family members, along with other villagers, launched an extensive search throughout the night in and around the village. However, there was no sign of



the child. On Thursday afternoon, some villagers found Saira's lifeless body in an agricultural field, a short distance from her home. As soon as the discovery was made, hundreds of villagers gathered at the site, grief-stricken and enraged over the suspected murder. Upon receiving information, local police from Gawan police station arrived at the scene.



## South Africa calls for more efforts to end Congo conflict after 13 soldiers killed

**Cape Town, Feb 4 (IANS) :** South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday called for intensified diplomatic efforts to resolve the ongoing conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the deaths of 13 South African peacekeepers. The South African troops, part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC), have been killed in escalating fighting involving the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group and the Armed Forces of the DRC since last week. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Ramaphosa extended his condolences to the families of the fallen peacekeepers, calling on the country to rally behind its soldiers "who have dedicated their lives to bringing peace on our continent." The President reaffirmed

South Africa's commitment to peace, urging all parties to respect the DRC's territorial integrity and engage in diplomatic processes to end the ongoing conflict. "We call on all parties to this conflict to fully embrace the current diplomatic efforts that are aimed at finding a peaceful resolution," he said. "We must silence the guns on our continent for the attainment

of inclusive development and prosperity." Ramaphosa welcomed the United Nations Security Council's recent position on the situation in the DRC, which calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the reversal of territorial expansion by the M23, the withdrawal of external forces from the DRC.



## Community-led conservation key for survival of migratory species : UN reports

**Bonn, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Community-led conservation strategies can be instrumental for the successful conservation of migratory species, two major reports released by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a global wildlife treaty of the United Nations, said on Tuesday. The report, 'Community Participation and Livelihoods', focuses on 10 key guiding principles for community-led conservation strategies, while the study 'Potential for Community-Based

Wildlife Management in Central Asia' presents real-world insights into how community-led initiatives can achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Indigenous peoples and local communities are custodians of over a third of the world's most important places for biodiversity and play a vital role in the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. Integrating their traditional knowledge and practices with modern wildlife management approaches can lead to successful

management, conservation, and sustainable use of wildlife and their habitats. "For many migratory species of wild animals, having the engagement and expertise of local communities and traditional knowledge is vital for effective conservation. We are very pleased to issue these two reports on the critical role that local communities can play in ensuring that migratory species will continue to thrive for generations to come," said Amy Fraenkel, CMS Executive Secretary.

## Hamas frees eight hostages in Gaza; Israel delays prisoner release

**Jerusalem, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Palestinian militants in Gaza, led by Hamas, released eight hostages, three Israelis and five Thais, on Tuesday. But Israel delayed the release of 110 Palestinian prisoners in a swap agreed under the ongoing temporary ceasefire, citing chaotic scenes during the handover. The hostages were released in two groups. Agam Berger, a 20-year-old Israeli soldier, was freed first. Video showed her, wearing a khaki uniform, emerging from damaged buildings in Jabalia, northern Gaza, escorted by Hamas militants, before walking to a Red Cross vehicle. She was then taken to a compound outside



Gaza to reunite with her parents. Later, in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, two Israelis, Arbel Yahoud, 29, and Gadi Mozes, 80, along with the five Thai nationals, were handed over to the Red Cross. Footage showed chaotic scenes as hundreds of Gazans gathered, and militants struggled to control the crowd and clear a path for the hostages.

## South African weather service website down after cyberattack

**Johannesburg, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The South African Weather Service (SAWS) website remains down following a cyberattack, but its weather forecasts have not been interrupted, the SAWS said on Tuesday.

lowing a cyberattack, but its weather forecasts have not been interrupted, the SAWS said on Tuesday.

## Facing global embarrassment, Pakistan decides to criminalise begging

**Islamabad, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The government of Pakistan has finally decided to criminalise begging following multiple complaints from foreign countries after thousands of Pakistanis abroad have been caught in illegal activities and begging resulting in a major glo-

bal embarrassment and visa bans for travellers from the country. As part of the move, Pakistan's Interior Ministry on Tuesday decided to propose addition of the term "organised begging".

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I, Konduparty Reeta Laxmi / Konduparty Reetalakshmi W/o. Konduparty Krishna Murty, Resident of H.No. 5-9-1/31 Kalyanpuri Colony Sainikpuri post Secunderabad PIN 500094 Changed my name from Konduparty Reetalakshmi to KONDUPARTY REETA LAXMI W/o. Konduparty Krishna Murty for all purposes.

## East African leaders appeal for urgent ceasefire in Congo as fighting escalates

**Nairobi, Feb 4 :** East African leaders have called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) amid fighting that has hampered humanitarian operations in the city of Goma. Leaders from the East African Community (EAC), who held an emergency summit by video link.



## South Korea: Black boxes retrieved from fire-damaged Air Busan plane; French team to join probe

**Seoul, Feb 4 (IANS) :** South Korean authorities on Tuesday retrieved black boxes from an Air Busan passenger plane that caught fire at a South Korean airport earlier this week, as they sought safety measures in the run-up to launching a probe, the land ministry said. On Tuesday, the Airbus plane operated by budget carrier Air Busan and bound for Hong Kong caught fire at Gimhae International Airport in the country's southern city of Busan before takeoff. All 176

people on board were safely evacuated using an escape slide, though seven suffered minor injuries, Yonhap news agency reported. The cause of the blaze was not yet known, though some raised the possibility of the fire having been caused by a portable battery or other items stored in an overhead bin. The aviation and railway accident investigation board under the ministry held a meeting with local police, firefighting agencies and the National Forensic Service on Thursday to discuss how to ensure safety in conducting a joint probe, as 35,000 pounds of fuel was stored at the wings of the plane. They are expected to decide on detailed plans for investigation after visiting the scene to check relevant circumstances and safety measures later in the day.

**BANK OF BARODA, MALKAJGIRI BRANCH: G4 & G5, Srinivasa Classic, H.No. 5-24/1, Geeta Nagar Colony, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad-500047**

**ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE**

In view of the default committed by the Borrowers Mentioned below, Bank has repossessed/Seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle Mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation Agreement entered by the parties and same is being Auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

**Name & Address of the Borrower/Loan Account No.:** Sri Venkateshwara Traders, Prop. Kunchala Rajeshwari, H.No. 5-179, Vasanthpuri Colony, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, A/c. No. 3112060003799, Total Amount Due Rs.13,93,019.94 as on 29-01-2025 with Further interest thereon at contractual rate due + Legal and other expenses (Less Recovery if any)

Sr. No.	Description of the Vehicle	Reserve Price	EMD
1	Vehicle: EICHER PRO 2059XP F CAB HSD BSIV, Reg.No.TS08UK0515, CH.No.MC2EGFRCONK517396, E.No.E446CDNK047569, Vehicle Class: Goods Carriage Colour: New Golden Brown, MFG Month/Year: 10-10-2022	Rs.13,40,000/-	Rs.1,34,000/-
		Minimum Bid Increase Amount: Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)	

**A/c Name: NEW INTERMEDIARY ACCOUNT; A/c No.31120015181219; IFSC Code: BARBOMALKAJ (Fifth letter- ZERO); Name of Bank & Branch: BANK OF BARODA, Malkajgiri Branch**

Vehicle Auction through Online mode: [https://bob.auctiontiger.net/](https://bob.auctiontiger.net/Date/Day/Time of E-Auction: 20-02-2025, Thursday 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM Last date of submission of BID: 19-02-2025, Wednesday, before 4.00 P.M. The intending purchasers/ bidders may inspect the Vehicle on or before 19-02-2025 during the time 10.30 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. (At parking Yard: Sri Sairam parking, Hastinapuram, Nagarjuna Sagar Road, Hyderabad Contact No. 7989276446)</b></p>
<p><b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE:-</b> 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 thereof. 2. Bank of Baroda reserves the right to accept/reject/Postpone/Cancel the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof. 3. To the best of knowledge and inform on of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the vehicle. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of vehicle & to inspect & satisfy themselves. (FOR DETAILED TERM AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO <a href=))

Date: 04-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8(1)**

(Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infinitive Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL/HFL), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the undersigned on the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IIFL/HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. If the borrower clears the dues of the "IIFL/HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IIFL/HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IIFL/HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.)

Name of the Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Manubina Tirupattamma, Mr. Manubina Kotreddy, Tirupattamma Daily Wage (Prospect No. IL10728097)	All that piece and parcel of Plot No. 1358, Sy.No. 613/1 - 622/3, Singayarakonda Village & Mandal, Prakasham District, A.P. 523101, Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Carpet Area, Built Up Area Property Area: 653,00, 280,00, 350,00, Bounded By: North: Plot No 1357, South: Plot No 1359, East: Road, West: Plot No 1339.	Rs.1,49,449/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Nine Only)	23/10/2024	03/02/2025
Mrs. Mani Venkateswaramma, Mr. Syam Kumar Mani, Venkateswaramma Daily Wage (Prospect No. IL10638558)	All that piece and parcel of Plot No. 733, Survey No. 617, Somarajupalli Village, Singayarakonda Mandal, Prakasham District, A.P. 523101, Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Carpet Area, Built Up Area Property Area: 654,00, 280,00, 350,00, Bounded By: North: Plot No. 734, South: Plot No. 732, East: Plot No. 788, West: Road.	Rs.1,54,482/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Two Only)	25/10/2024	03/02/2025
Mr. Sreenivasarao Vangipurap, Mrs. Glory Gampurap, Glory Kirana Shop (Prospect No. IL10268888)	All that piece and parcel of Door No. 10-37, Asst. No. 2009, Sy.No. 86/A, Phirangipuram Village, Phirangipuram SRO, Narasaraopeta, Guntur, A.P. 522529, Area Admeasuring (In Sq.Ft.) Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area Property Area: 2015.00, 400.00 Bounded By: North: Kurra Marthamma, House-76.5 Ft, Vangipurapu Raju House - 76.5 Ft, South: Vangipurapu Satish House - 76.5 Ft, Vangipurapu Satish House - 76.5 Ft, East: Deenapur College Compound Wall - 17Ft, Deenapur College Compound Wall10.4Ft, West: Panchayati Road-15Ft, Panchayati Road-10.4 Ft.	Rs.8,93,999/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Only)	12/11/2024	03/02/2025

For further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office: D.No.37-1-175/8/2, 1st Floor, Opp. Konjeti Petrol Bunk, Kurmool Road, Chigla-523011/ Door No. 9-9-11, 1st Floor, Bank Street, Arundalpet, Narsaraopet or Corporate Office: Plot No.58, Phase-IV, Lidjog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Andhra Pradesh, Date: 05-02-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

**TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK**  
(Sponsored by State Bank of India)  
**PEERZADIGUDA BRANCH, Medchal-Malkajgiri District.**

**POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE 8(i)] (for Immovable Property)**

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Telangana Gramameena Bank for an amount and interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account/ Borrower & address	Name of Proprietor/ Partners/ Guarantors/ Owner of property etc.	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding as on 28-01-2025 plus interest
Gouni Vijaya Laxmi, W/o Srikanth	-	12-11-2024	30-01-2025	Rs.12,48,703/- as on 28-01-2025 plus interest

**Description of the property mortgaged/ charged:** All that the H.No.11-14 NP on Plot No.14 Northern Portion in Survey No.21/A, admeasuring 100 Sq.Yds., situated at Managdeep Colony, Kachivanisingaram Village, Chaitikar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District (Previously known as Ranga Reddy Dist.), within the Jurisdiction of S.R.O., Narapally, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. Bounded By: North: Plot No.13, South: Plot No.14 Southern Part, East: Neighbour's Land, West: 30' Wide Road.

Date: 30-01-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Telangana Gramameena Bank  
Place: Hyderabad (Formerly known as Deccan Gramameena Bank)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

[Under the provisions of Section 102 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and as per the Directions of the Hon'ble NCLT Hyderabad Bench, Court-I] FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF REVATHI CHITTIMALLA (Personal Guarantor to M/s Venkateshwara Spintex Private Limited)

**RELEVANT PARTICULARS**

1 Name of Personal Guarantor to Corporate debtor	Revathi Chittimalla
2 Name & CIN of Corporate Debtor(s)	Venkateshwara Spintex Private Limited CIN: U18209TG2016PTC110222
3 Address of Personal Guarantor	H. No. 5-9-114, Flat No. D-2, Kishanpura, Green square Residency, Hanamkonda, Warrangal, Telangana-506001
4 Details of the order admitting the application	Order dated December 10, 2024 passed by Hon'ble NCLT, Hyderabad, Court-I, in CP (IB) No. 71/HYD/2024. However, the Hon'ble NCLT appointed the undersigned Resolution Professional vide its order dated January 29, 2025.
5 Resolution Commencement Date	December 10, 2024
6 Estimated date of closure of Insolvency Resolution Process	July 28, 2025 (i.e., 180 days from the date of order of Hon'ble NCLT appointing the undersigned Resolution Professional)
7 Last date for submission of Claims	February 26, 2025 (i.e., 21 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice)
8 Name and Registration Number of the Insolvency Professional acting as Resolution Professional	Mr. Suhasini Ashok B Reg.No:IBBI/PA-002/IPN01134/2022-2023/14080
9 Address and E-mail of the Resolution Professional, as registered with the Board	Address: 403, Devijayana Apartments, near RRB, Mettuguda, Lallaguda(Po), Secunderabad, Telangana-500017. Email Id: suhasinashok2821@gmail.com
10 Address and E-mail to be used for correspondence with the Resolution Professional	Address: 470/12, II Floor, HIG-1, Block -5, Baghingampally, Hyderabad - 500044 Email Id: pg.spintex@gmail.com
11 Relevant Forms	Relevant Forms for the submission of the claims can be downloaded from <a href="https://www.ibbi.gov.in/">https://www.ibbi.gov.in/</a>

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad, Court I, in the matter of insolvency resolution process under section 95 of the Code has ordered the commencement of the insolvency resolution process against Revathi Chittimalla on December 10, 2024. The creditors of Revathi Chittimalla, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before February 26, 2025, (the Resolution Professional was appointed vide order dated January 29, 2025) to the Resolution Professional through electronic means, or by hand or registered post or speed post or courier. Note: Submission of false or misleading claims with proof shall attract penalties or imprisonment in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and any other applicable laws. Sd/- (SUHASINI ASHOK B) Date: 05-02-2025 Place: Hyderabad IBBI/PA-002/IPN01134/2022-2023/14080



## Congress, BJP had an unethical alliance in Chandigarh mayoral poll : Punjab AAP

**Chandigarh, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Punjab Finance Minister and senior AAP leader, Harpal Singh Cheema, claimed on Tuesday that Congress and the BJP had an unethical alliance during the elections Chandigarh mayoral poll. "We fulfilled our duty, which is why Congress' Deputy Mayor and Senior Deputy Mayor were elected with the votes of our councillors. The

Congress has betrayed us. Congress councillors indulged in cross-voting, leading to BJP's Mayor being elected," claimed Cheema. Cheema further claimed that both the Congress and the BJP are "secretly colluding". "They want to stop us. Both parties are scared of the growing influence of AAP. They are even contesting the Delhi Assembly elections together, but this time too, we will form the government

in Delhi with a massive majority," he said. In a historic victory, the BJP defeated the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-Congress alliance in the Chandigarh mayoral elections. BJP candidate Harpreet Kaur Babla secured 19 votes, while the AAP-Congress alliance's candidate, Prem Lata, received 17 votes. Harpreet Kaur defeated AAP's Prem Lata by two votes. The latter got 17 votes. In the 36-member House, the

AAP-Congress alliance has 19 councillors -- 13 votes of AAP and six of the Congress, while the BJP has 16 votes. One vote was of Congress MP Manish Tewari, an ex-officio member of the corporation, taking its total votes to 20. However, Congress candidates from the INDIA Bloc, Jasbir Singh Bunty and Taruna Mehta, were elected as Senior Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Mayor of Chandigarh,

respectively, by securing 19 votes each. Meanwhile, BJP's Punjab spokesperson, Pritpal Singh Baliawal, said by winning the mayoral position the BJP has exposed the Congress-AAP alliance, proving that both parties are internally united while misleading the public. Baliawal emphasised that although the people of Punjab helped Congress win seven seats in the Lok Sabha elections, the



Congress-AAP alliance now stands "exposed" before the public.



## K'taka govt to implement stronger law against microfinance menace

**Bengaluru, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Karnataka government on Tuesday conveyed the second high-level meeting on issues faced by the public due to the highhandedness of microfinance institutions. The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah where it was decided to review the provisions of the proposed Ordinance and implement a stronger law. "A decision has been made to review the provisions of the ordinance formulated to prevent harassment by microfinance institutions and to implement a stronger law as soon as possible. A team of senior officials from the Law and Finance Departments will be formed for this purpose," said

Siddaramaiah. He added that it was also decided that the law must be completely constitutional and free from any loopholes, adding that a strong law is being drafted to prevent the harassment faced by borrowers and to regulate forced recoveries by lenders. "The law will grant greater authority to the police. Ombudsmen will be appointed, and strict punishments, including non-bailable offences and heavy penalties, will be imposed on those who engage in inhumane and forceful loan recoveries," the Chief Minister said. He further assured that a stringent law is being enforced to prevent harassment by unregistered moneylenders. "The existing legal framework al-

ready has provisions to control harassment by microfinance institutions. The question arises as to why they are not being effectively implemented. The police must take suo motu action and register cases without waiting for complaints," he said. A series of incidents of suicide and harassment were reported across the state due to the alleged harassment by microfinance companies. A female teacher committed suicide by jumping into a river, allegedly due to harassment by microfinance staffers in Karnataka's Davanagere district, said officials, adding that her body was found on Tuesday.

## Obesity significant concern among Indians, PM Modi rightfully advocated on fitness: Expert

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Obesity is of significant concern among Indians of all age groups, noted ophthalmologist Dr. T. P. Lahane, a Padma Shri awardee, said on Tuesday. Speaking to IANS, Lahane, the former Director of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) of Maharashtra, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for advocating for fitness. "The Prime Minister has said something very important regarding obesity. Today 33 per cent of people are victims of obesity," the expert said. While the young and children are the most affected by obesity, the doctor noted that it is a "cause of concern" among all age groups in India -- 6 to 18 years and 20 to 55 years. He lamented that obesity "is not limited to urban people living in cities, but also among those living in rural areas". He attributed the increase in obesity to "junk food, sitting jobs, lack of exercise, sedentary behaviour spending longer hours on mobile phones".



## Bihar: Congress MP attacked in Kaimur, sustains injuries

**Patna, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Congress MP Manoj Kumar Ram from Sasaram in Bihar sustained injuries after unidentified men attacked him in Kaimur district on Tuesday. The incident took place at St. John International School in Nathopur, where the MP arrived to address a land dispute involving his brother and local villagers. The situation escalated when MP Ram tried to negotiate with the villagers and they refused to listen to him. The attack was so intense that the MP and his supporters including his guard, driver and two bus drivers of the school ran away in a bid to save themselves. However, they suffered injuries after being caught briefly. The injured individuals were initially treated at a Primary Health Centre in Mohania before being referred to Sadar Hospital for further medical attention. Dr. Manoj Prabhakar, in charge of Mohania PHC, confirmed that the injured received preliminary treatment before being transferred to Sadar Hospital for better medical care. "MP Manoj Kumar Ram has sustained injuries in his head. We stitched his injuries and referred him along with others to Sadar Hospital for better treatment," Prabhakar said.



## SC modifies earlier directions on appointment of ad hoc judges in HCs

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday modified an earlier apex court order regulating the timeline and conditions of appointment of ad hoc judges in High Courts under Article 224A of the Constitution. A Special Bench, headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, stressed the filing of vacancies to tackle the rising backlog of pending cases. Article 224A empowers the President to make temporary appointments of judges in case the number of judges in a particular High Court is insufficient. The bench kept in abeyance the earlier observations which required that appointment of ad hoc judges should not be made unless 80 per cent of the sanctioned strength is already working or recommended. It directed that the strength of ad hoc judges, who will primarily act as puisne judges on criminal benches, should not exceed 10 per cent of the sanctioned strength.

## 'Happy to return back to my family', says Trinamool's Kerala coordinator after joining UDF's rally

**Malappuram, Feb 4 (IANS) :** In a surprising move, Trinamool Congress Kerala Coordinator P.V. Anvar on Tuesday joined the UDF's Malayora Samara Yatra led by Leader of the Opposition (LOP) V.D. Satheesan, protesting against Union and state governments for failing to curb the increasing man-animal conflict in the state. "I am extremely happy to return back to my family. I promise all of you that I have not come empty-handed. I have come with a gift too. As and when the UDF

returns to power, we will see that there are no more man-animal conflicts in the state," said Anvar, who had made a passionate appeal this week to allow him to participate in Satheesan-led rally when it crosses his home district. Once on stage, Anvar was greeted with a massive roar by a huge crowd who had gathered at the

venue. He was seen hugging and shaking hands with the UDF amid warm applause. Kerala LOP Satheesan is leading the Malayora Samara Yatra on behalf of UDF against the "callous attitude" of the Union and the Pinarayi Vijayan government towards the increasing man-animal conflict that has been taking place



in areas bordering the forest areas across the state. Anvar was the most bitter critic of Satheesan and the Congress party in the state and attacked them on various issues, calling them a corrupt political front.

## West Bengal Gov awards Police Medals to 33 BSF personnel

**Kolkata, Feb 4 (IANS) :** West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose conferred 33 personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) with Police Medals for Meritorious Service at an investiture ceremony organised in Kolkata on Tuesday. Among the recipients, 20 are serving personnel, while the remaining are retired. A senior BSF official of the Eastern Command said that these medals are in recognition of the dedicated service that BSF personnel perform as the first line of defence along the country's borders. "The BSF troops perform their duties 24x7 for 365 days a year, along difficult terrain and in all weather conditions. Given the present situation in Bangladesh, they are on an all-time alert along the Indo-Bangladesh Border that has riverine and unfenced stretches. Such recognition inspires them to keep on performing their duties with renewed vigour," said the BSF official. Addressing the gathering, the Governor lauded the strategic expertise, advancements in infrastructure, weap-



onry, and training initiatives of the Force. He also acknowledged the significant role of BSF personnel in securing the nation's borders, thwarting anti-national threats, and their remarkable achievements in safeguarding the country. He further commended the awardees for their unwavering commitment.



## Revoke ST bus fare hike immediately: Maha Congress

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Maharashtra government to immediately revoke it. "The BJP alliance government, which showered promises of benefits on the public during the Assembly elections. The Congress party has strongly opposed the 15 per cent fares of the state transport (ST) buses from last week and has asked the





## MobiKwik clocks huge 1,000 pc loss in net profit at Rs 55 cr in Q3, revenue slips 7 pc

**Mumbai, Feb 4** : One MobiKwik Systems Limited on Tuesday reported a huge 1,000 per cent consolidated net loss at Rs 55 crore in the December quarter (Q3 FY25), as compared to the net profit of Rs 5 crore from the same period last year (Q3 FY24). The revenue from operations also declined by 7 per cent quarter-on-quarter from Rs 291 crore in the July-September period, according to its exchange filing. The company's total income in Q3 FY25 stood at Rs 274 crore with a 6.48 per cent decline from Rs 293 crore in Q2 FY25. Meanwhile, total expenses surged by 10.84 per cent in Q3 FY25 at Rs 317 crore compared to Rs 286 crore.



## Tata Chemicals shares fall nearly 4 pc after posting Q3 net loss

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS)** : Shares of Tata Chemicals on Tuesday dropped nearly 4 per cent or Rs 35.5 to trade at Rs 911.1 after the company reported a net loss of Rs 21 crore for the third quarter (Q3) ending December 2024.

Tata Chemicals' revenue from operations declined by 3.8 per cent to Rs 3,590 crore in Q3 compared to Rs 3,730 crore in the same quarter last year (Q3 FY24).

The company also saw a sharp decline in its operating performance, with EBITDA falling by 19.9 per cent to Rs 434 crore from Rs 542 crore a year ago.

The EBITDA margin for the quarter stood at 12.1 per cent, down from 14.5 per cent in the previous year's corresponding quarter. EBITDA refers to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation. The company's financials also reflected a rising debt burden, according to its stock exchange filing.

Tata Chemicals' gross debt increased by Rs 810 crore on-year at Rs 6,722 crore as of December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, net debt rose by Rs 952 crore to Rs 5,329 crore, largely due to lower EBITDA and higher working capital requirements across its operations in the US, Kenya, and India.



## Digi Yatra platform reaches 1 crore users

**Bengaluru, Feb 4 (IANS)** : Digi Yatra has achieved a milestone of 1 crore users with a daily average of 30,000 app downloads, setting benchmarks in digital travel solutions, the platform announced on Tuesday.

The Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI)-based ecosystem works by utilising facial biometric technology for contactless and seamless passenger processing at airports. The milestone of 1 crore users underscores the platform's growing popularity and its pivotal role in delivering privacy-protecting, and efficient travel experiences. "10 million user milestone reflects the trust and confidence that our users have placed in us. Our efforts, including the 'd-KYC' campaign initiative, helped us drive growth in 2024. We aim to maintain the momentum of innovation, privacy, and evolution of the passenger experience to achieve even greater breakthroughs in the future," said Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation.

"Our partnership with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for the IATA One-ID X Digi Yatra for enablement of Digi Yatra for International flow will drive further growth in 2025," he added. The d-KYC (Don't Know Your Customer) campaign, was launched in October.



## SBI Research expects RBI to announce 0.25 per cent rate cut on Feb 7

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS)**: SBI economists expect the RBI to announce a 0.25 per cent rate cut in the monetary policy committee meeting on February 7. As the fiscal stimulus of Budget 2025-26 plays out, the RBI at least in the short run has room for rate cuts, according to an SBI Research report released on Tuesday. The report also states that going ahead a cumulative rate cut over the cycle could be at least 0.75 per cent, with two successive rate cuts over February and April 2025. With an intervening gap in June 2025, the second round of rate cuts could start from October 2025, it added. The current pause by the US Federal Reserve gives some time for RBI to ascertain inflationary expectations have been fully anchored, the report said.

## Jefferies gives Adani Power buy rating with target price of Rs 660, an upside of 30 pc

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS)** : Global brokerage firm Jefferies on Tuesday initiated coverage on Adani Power Limited (APL), with a buy rating and target price of Rs 660, indicating an upside of 30 per cent from current levels. Adani Power is India's second-largest thermal power generation company after NTPC, on its journey to raise capacity by 1.7 times from 17.6 GW to 30.7 GW by 2030. "Land requirements and financing plans are in place. Close co-ordination with BHEL for equipment delivery and inhouse EPC are ensuring Capex is on schedule. Thermal capacity in an overall peak deficit scenario with merchant exposure is a positive. Initiate coverage at Buy, with 30 per cent potential upside," said Jefferies in its note. The Adani Group company operates 12 power plants across eight states with 87 per cent capacity tied up with Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). About 98 per cent of the open



capacity is closer to coal mines, enabling economical sourcing of coal. Coastal plants (43 per cent capacity) are dependent on imported coal but have a fuel cost pass-through/indexlinked price escalation in place.



## India's premium smartphone market grows 36 pc, affordable 5G share at 80 pc

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS)** : India's premium smartphone segment continued its strong double-digit growth momentum last year, with Apple, for the first time, securing a spot among the top five smartphone brands in India in Q4 2024, according to a new report on Tuesday. Apple recorded a 72 per cent YoY growth, capturing an 11 per cent market share in Q4. Similarly, the super-premium smartphone segment and uber-premium segment (above Rs 1,00,000) posted impressive gains, up 10 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, according to the CyberMedia Research (CMR) report. Apple's market share in the super-premium segment (Rs 50,000-Rs 1,00,000) segment skyrocketed by 82 per cent YoY, while the uber-

premium segment (Rs 1,00,000) surged by 32 per cent YoY. Aggressive marketing, deep festive discounts, and strong demand for both latest and previous-generation iPhones enabled this market growth, according to the report. According to Menka Kumari, senior analyst, Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR, in 2024, India's smartphone market presents a complex picture of a heterogeneous consumer base. On one end, the premium segment continues to expand, reflecting a shift toward high-performance lifestyle statements.

## India's fiscal roadmap: Strong growth and stability despite tax cuts, says S&P Global

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS)** : India's Union Budget aligns with the expectations of steady fiscal consolidation, reinforcing a positive outlook on the country's sovereign credit ratings, according to a report on Tuesday. The central government revised its fiscal deficit estimate to 4.8 per cent of GDP for the year ending March 31, 2025, slightly lower than the earlier projection of 4.9 per cent in the Union Budget presented on February 1. For fiscal 2026, the government has set an even lower deficit target of 4.4 per cent aligning with a commitment to financial discipline and sustainable growth. Despite adjustments in income tax thresholds and a gradual normalisation of economic growth, India is expected to achieve these fiscal targets, the S&P Global Ratings report said. The government's financial position is supported by strong dividends from the Reserve Bank of India and efficient capital expenditure management. Additionally,

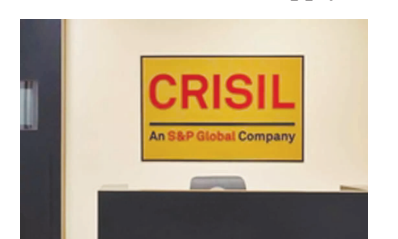


India's fiscal discipline is expected to improve as state government deficits gradually decline over the coming years, the report added. According to S&P Global, the fiscal 2026 budget is designed to stimulate growth, primarily by boosting domestic demand. Tax reductions for households will provide more spending power, while the government continues to emphasise investment-led expansion and agricultural reforms.

## Operating profits of offshore rig operators to surge by 30-35 per cent in 2025-26: Crisil

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS)** : Indian offshore rig operators will see their operating profits surge 30-35 per cent in the next financial year, after a 25-30 per cent growth in the current fiscal year, according to a Crisil Ratings report released on Tuesday. "This increase will be on the back of continued renewal of rig contracts at more than double their existing day rates for expiring contracts bagged 3-4 years back on sustained demand amid a muted rise in global rig supply," the report said. The average day rates are expected to improve to around \$56,000 this fiscal and to \$67,000 next fiscal, 1.5-1.7 times higher than the average day rates witnessed over fiscal 2021-2024 and thus drive sharp improvement in operating profits, it observes.

This will help strengthen the debt metrics and credit profiles of rig operators in the absence of any significant investment towards new rig purchases, the report further stated. The Crisil Ratings study is based on domestic jack-up rig operators accounting for around 50 per cent of the domestic supply.





## Hiding failures, blaming others is Kejriwal's mantra: BJP's Hitesh Jain

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Hitesh Jain, Vice President of the Mumbai BJP, has launched a scathing attack on former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of consistently misleading the public and failing to deliver on his promises over the past decade. He said hiding failures and blaming others is his working style. Jain criticised Kejriwal for making baseless allegations against the Haryana government regarding the contamination of Yamuna water and for shirking his own responsibilities as the leader of the national capital. Jain asserted that Kejriwal's tenure as Chief Minister has been defined by false claims and a blame game. Speaking to IANS, Jain said, "In



the last ten years, Kejriwal has only lied and lied. He has not accomplished any significant work. In 2020, he pledged to clean the Yamuna, yet he has failed to deliver on that promise. He has been unsuccessful in curbing pollution in Delhi. Now, as the public begins to question him, he has resorted to making baseless allegations, claiming that the BJP-led Haryana government has deliberately poisoned the Yamuna."

## Calcutta HC trashes PIL against Bengal's own health insurance scheme

**Kolkata, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation filed against Swasthya Sathi, West Bengal's own health insurance scheme. In the petition, it was alleged that the said scheme was floated just with a political motive and in reality, the majority of the common people do not benefit from it. The petitioner also alleged that while often private hospitals refuse to accept the Swasthya Sathi cards, treatment of certain diseases is

not covered under the said scheme. The matter came up for hearing on Tuesday before the division bench of Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hirnamay Bhattacharya and it rejected the petition on the grounds that the court cannot interfere with a scheme floated by the state government for public interest. It also observed that since the scheme was floated on the basis of certain policies of the state, it is more the reason that the court cannot interfere in the matter. The division bench also questioned what the petitioner would have done had not the scheme ex-



isted at all. It also advised the petitioners to speak to elected public representatives like MPs and MLAs on the complaints about the scheme, if necessary. Swasthya Sathi scheme was introduced in 2016 after the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress regime in West Bengal was elected for the second term. Under the scheme, each family in the state

is entitled to health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5,00,000 a year. However, the opposition BJP has frequently complained that a similar Central scheme, named Ayushman Bharat, is deliberately not being allowed by the state government to be operational in West Bengal.



## Man claims to have killed two-year-old niece in Kerala, probe on

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 4 (IANS) :** A man has claimed that he killed his two-year-old niece by throwing her into a well in the state capital city suburbs on Tuesday. "The local police station was alerted by the family that the girl was missing since morning. A team rushed to the spot to investigate. Noticing the lid over the well partly open, the team grew suspicious and sought help from the Fire Force. They arrived and fished out the body of the infant from the well," police said.

## After facing defeat in Chandigarh mayoral poll, AAP blames Congress for cross-voting

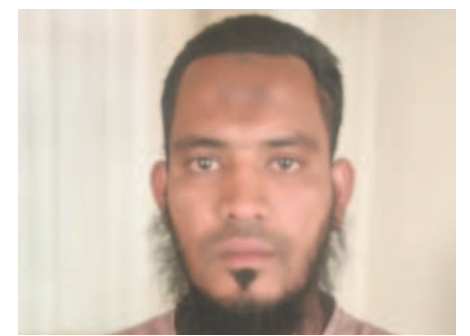
**Chandigarh, Feb 4 (IANS) :** After the INDIA bloc's partners the Congress and AAP on Tuesday faced a humiliating defeat for the Chandigarh mayor's post despite a majority to the main opposition BJP, the latter accused its partner of indulging in cross-voting. Senior AAP leader and spokesperson Neel Garg said Congress councillors indulged in cross-voting, leading to the election of BJP's Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla, replacing AAP's Kuldeep Kumar. Harpreet Kaur defeated AAP's Prem Lata by two votes. The latter got 17 votes. In the 36-member House, the AAP-Congress alliance has 19 councillors -- 13 votes of AAP and

six of the Congress, while the BJP has 16 votes. One vote was of Congress MP Manish Tewari, an ex-officio member of the corporation, taking its total votes to 20. However, Congress candidates from the INDIA bloc, Jasbir Singh Bunt and Taruna Mehta, were elected as Senior Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Mayor of Chandigarh, respectively, by securing 19 votes each. AAP's Neel Garg said the Congress councillors have betrayed them. "The Congress and the BJP are secretly in collusion. This incident has made it completely clear. Both are two sides of the same coin," he told the media. He said the public should not trust Congress either because if people vote for it, their councillors would later support the BJP. He claimed the Congress would do



the same in Delhi as well. "There too, they will end up supporting the BJP. Hence, voting for the Congress is equivalent to wasting one's vote," he said. Garg said the councillors from the Aam Aadmi Party supported the Congress. Their Deputy Mayor and Senior Deputy Mayor were elected with our votes. "But they have betrayed us," he added. In the run-up to the election, Congress councillor

Gurbax Rawat switched sides and joined the BJP. However, BJP's Punjab spokesperson, Pritpal Singh Baliawal, said by winning the mayoral position the BJP has exposed the Congress-AAP alliance, proving that both parties are internally united while misleading the public.



## 'Murderous love': Spurned man slits woman student's throat near college, surrenders

**Raichur, Feb 4 (IANS) :** In a shocking incident, a spurned lover brutally killed a college student in broad daylight by slitting her throat after she refused to marry him in Raichur district, Karnataka. The accused has surrendered to the police after committing the crime. The deceased student has been identified as Shifa (24), while the accused is Mubin, a worker at a tile shop. The incident took place within the jurisdiction of the Sindhanoor Town police station.



## Vice Prez Dhankhar calls for deep democratic roots to fight horrors like Emergency

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday recalled the horrors of the Emergency when lakhs of people were sent to jail and reminded the youth that a repeat of such a challenge to the Constitution can be avoided only when democratic roots go deep. Addressing students from the Northeast participating in the Rashtriya Ekatmata Yatra 2025 and Winners of Mann Ki Baat Quiz Competition (Season 4), Jagdeep Dhankhar said: "Our Constitution was challenged during Emergency. People had no Fundamental Rights. Lakhs of people were sent to jail. "For you, it is history, but you must know the perils we have

suffered. We have to ensure that democratic roots go deep, and they go deep only when people interact, communicate, and have occasion to have meaningful dialogue," he said, suggesting that youth must observe Samvidhan Hatya Divas on June 25 – the day when the Emergency was imposed in 1975. The Vice-President also highlighted the gains from the Prime Minister's radio address to the nation under the "Mann Ki Baat" series. "The ground impact of Mann Ki Baat is amazing, it's a great learning for young boys and girls, for politicians, for bureaucrats, for entrepreneurs.

## New criminal laws: HM Shah wants two forensic vans in each Gujarat district

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Suggesting at least two forensic evidence mobile vans in every district, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the implementation of the three new criminal laws in Gujarat at a meeting with Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in New Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting reviewed the implementation and present status of various new provisions relating to police, jail, courts, prosecution and forensics in Gujarat. HM Shah said that the

Gujarat government should ensure the implementation of the new criminal laws in all commissionerates by April 30 and across the entire state at the earliest. He said it should be reviewed monthly by the Chief Minister, fortnightly by the State Home Minister and weekly at the level of Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) and Director General of Police. The Home Minister stated that Gujarat has commendably achieved timely filing of charge sheets in over 92 per cent of cases involving sentences of more than



10 years. He emphasised that for the remaining cases, a review should be conducted to ensure the utilisation of the provision in the Act that allows seeking permission from the court. HM Shah said that Gujarat has done a commendable job in con-

verting Zero FIRs into 100 per cent regular FIRs. He emphasised the need to establish a system where FIRs can be transferred between two states through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).



## 'Talibani practice', says Husain Dalwai on Siddhivinayak Temple's new dress code

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Congress leader Hussain Dalwai on Tuesday made a distasteful remark on the new dress code in the famed Shree Siddhivinayak Ganpati temple and equated it with the 'Talibani practice'. The remarks, bound to incite strong feelings and reactions, comes days after his controversial remarks on the Maha Kumbh re-

ceived backlash from the devotees. Husain Dalwai, speaking to IANS said that the new dress code at Shree Siddhivinayak Temple was uncalled for and this looks more like a 'step towards Talibani rule.' The Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple Trust on Tuesday issued a notice asking the devotees to wear decent clothing.



## MP Cong chief Jitu Patwari's car hit by truck in Sehore, escapes unhurt

**Bhopal, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari's vehicle was hit by a truck from behind near a toll plaza in Sehore on Tuesday. Patwari, who was in the car at the time of the accident, escaped unhurt. None of the occupants in the car were hurt, the Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) told IANS. The incident occurred when Patwari was going to Bhopal from Indore in his Fortuner

car. When he reached the Fanda toll plaza located between Sehore and Bhopal, his car was hit by a truck from behind damaging the rear of the vehicle. However, Patwari, who was sitting in the front seat, suffered no injuries. His driver was also safe. "Today, while I was going from Indore to Bhopal, a truck hit my car from behind near Sehore, causing an accident. By the grace of God, we all are safe, and there was no loss of life. Thank you all for your good wishes and prayers! May you all



continue to receive love and blessings," Patwari posted a message on his social media account. After the incident, the state Congress unit raised apprehension over the safety of Jitu Patwari and urged the state government to provide him with adequate security. The incident took place in the Khajuri police station area, police reached the spot and inves-

tigated the accident. Later, upon reaching Congress headquarters in Bhopal, Patwari briefed the media about the OBC reservation issue. He said the Kamal Nath-led Congress government had made provision for a 27 per cent reservation for OBC, which was deliberately opposed by the BJP during the hearing in the court.



## Derogatory remark case: Karnataka HC adjourns BJP MLC Ravi's quash petition till Feb 13

**Bengaluru, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Karnataka High Court on Tuesday adjourned till February 13 the hearing of BJP MLC C.T. Ravi's quash petition in connection with the derogatory remark case involving Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar. The bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order after the submissions. Senior counsel Prabhuling Navadgi, representing Ravi, said that as the incident occurred on the floor of the Legislative Council, his client will have exemptions. He argued, "The legislature has taken note of the incident and given a verdict. Despite this, can an institution like the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigate the matter?" The bench questioned what if the subject on which comments were passed had no con-

nection with the legislature. Counsel Prabhuling Navadgi referred to the Supreme Court verdict in Sita Soren vs Central government case and stated as per Article 194 (2), that when members are present in the House, they are under the jurisdiction of the laws of the state legislature. It will not differ as per the situation. Article 194 (2) allows a legislator to speak without fear. The legislators will have full powers within the House in this regard. The bench questioned at this juncture whether it allows complete liberty to speak anything. Can the alleged statements be made? The counsel replied that even after the remarks were considered to be denunciations under the law, the legislature has the jurisdictional power to take a decision in this regard and no other outer agency has this right.

## CRPF jawan kills wife, shoots himself dead in Bhopal

**Bhopal, Feb 4 (IANS) :** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan allegedly shot his wife dead before killing himself in his rented flat in Bhopal's Misrod area, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred on Wednesday-Thursday intervening night at Green Park colony. The CRPF jawan was identified as Ravikant Verma. The officials said that he dialled the police control room and informed them that he had shot his wife, Renu Verma around 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday. Upon receiving information, a team from Misrod police station rushed to the spot and found the CRPF jawan and his wife lying in a pool of blood in their house. The couple were living with their two children -- a six-year-old son and a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. Upon arrival, officers found the two children weeping in one room, while the blood-stained bodies of 35-year-old Ravikant Verma and 32-year-old Renu Verma lay in another.



## Siddhivinayak temple treasurer reveals reason behind dress code directive

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** As the iconic Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai introduces a new dress code starting Tuesday, Acharya Pawan Tripathi has opened up about the reasons behind the decision. The temple management has made it clear that visitors wearing skirts, jeans or revealing outfits will be denied entry. In an effort to maintain decorum and respect at one of Mumbai's most revered religious sites, the temple will offer clothing to visitors who do not meet the dress code, allowing them to cover up before they can proceed for 'darshan (the viewing of the deity)'. Acharya Pawan Tripathi explained the motive behind the rule saying, "Siddhivinayak Temple is a significant centre of faith for Sanatanis and Ganesh devotees from all over the world. Every day, lakhs of devotees come seeking blessings,

and their wishes are fulfilled. "However, some devotees suggested that certain visitors arrive dressed inappropriately, with clothing that is indecent. To address these concerns, the trust Board and temple administration decided to implement this rule to ensure everyone comes dressed in a respectful and dignified manner." Tripathi emphasised the importance of proper attire when visiting a holy place like Siddhivinayak, noting that while there are no restrictions on specific types of clothing, visitors are expected to wear full attire.

## Kejriwal's lies on Yamuna 'poison' exposed, he must apologise: BJP

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The BJP on Tuesday sought an apology from the AAP's National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal for creating panic in the national Capital with his baseless and careless Yamuna 'poison' remark, questioning if he was working for forces inimical to the interests of India. Addressing a press conference, BJP National Spokesman Sudhanshu Trivedi described Kejriwal a "habitual



liar" and said the Election Commission of India's (ECI) rejection of his Yamuna 'poison' claim had exposed him. "Kejriwal's low level of politics has been exposed politically and constitutionally," said Trivedi, adding that

## BJP celebrates victory in Chandigarh Mayoral election, eyes Delhi Assembly win

**Chandigarh, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The atmosphere outside the Municipal Corporation office in Sector 17, Chandigarh, was electric as BJP workers celebrated their party's triumph in the mayoral election, with Harpreet Kaur Babla emerging victorious with 19 votes. The win was met with joy and optimism, with BJP leaders confident that it signals a broader electoral victory for the party. Chandigarh BJP President Jatinder Pal Malhotra expressed his elation, stating, "This victory is for every BJP worker and every citizen of Chandigarh. It's a decisive win over the unholy alliance that was trying to portray themselves as the city's leaders. "This is a victory for the people. When corruption within the AAP-led administration was exposed, councilors realised the need for a change. They chose a BJP mayor to ensure the city's progress and address issues



like unpaid salaries and unallocated development funds. This victory paves the way for a brighter future — and a BJP win in Delhi Assembly elections as well." Sanjay Tandon, Member of the BJP National Council, echoed a sentiment, adding, "We are extremely happy with this win. This victory in the mayoral race confirms that we will also win in the Delhi Assembly polls." Meanwhile, Congress leaders expressed their disappointment over the loss, with Chandigarh Congress President Harmohinder Singh Lucky questioning the in-

tegrity of the process. "Someone tried to play a game. It's becoming clearer now," Lucky said. "While we are pleased with Jasbir Singh Bunty's win as Senior Deputy Mayor, we are deeply saddened by the loss of the mayoral seat. We will assess the situation and find the 'black sheep.' Whoever played this game, we will expose them," Lucky said. In a closely contested election, the BJP won with 19 votes, defeating the AAP-Congress alliance, which garnered 17 votes.

## If India is to lead the world, it must tackle obesity first : Fitness coach backs PM Modi

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent call to address the growing obesity crisis in India has been strongly supported by renowned fitness coach Mickey Mehta. Speaking in support of the PM's vision for a healthier nation, Mehta emphasised that obesity is not just a lifestyle issue but a serious health hazard which could ultimately lead to death, if not addressed. Talking to IANS, Mickey Mehta agreed with PM Modi's remarks, warning that obesity is a root cause of numerous deadly diseases, including high blood pressure, diabetes, and insulin resistance. "What the Prime Minister said is absolutely correct. Obesity can lead to multiple health issues, including compromised circulation, breathing difficulties, weak digestion, and loss of energy. It also affects our mental focus,



creativity, and overall well-being," he said. Mehta further highlighted the detrimental effects of obesity on both physical and mental health, pointing out that it disrupts sleep patterns and drains energy, making individuals feel "completely useless." He underscored the urgency of tackling obesity if India hopes to emerge as a Vishwa Guru. "If India is to lead the world, we must first tackle the obesity epidemic. Our children are growing obese even in school, primarily due to unhealthy, processed foods," he added.

## Maha govt to conduct Geo-mapping of Waqf properties to find number, status of encroachments

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Maharashtra Minister for Minorities Development & Aukaf, Dattatray Bharane has decided to soon launch Geo-mapping of the properties and lands under the jurisdiction of the state Waqf Board. This comes amid the parliamentary panel's move to clear the report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill despite the opposition's dissent. The Maharashtra government's decision will hit those illegally occupying the scattered and unmeasured lands across the state. The Minister has asked the department to soon start the Geo-mapping survey of such properties across the state to know the present status.







**Will make proposals based on NE's socio-economic & geographical situations: Arvind Panagariya**

**Agartala, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The 16th Finance Commission while making its recommendations would keep in mind the socio-economic and geographical situations of the north-eastern states, the panel chairman Arvind Panagariya said here on Tuesday. Panagariya added that like other states, the northeastern states also demanded to increase the tax devolution from the Centre from the present 41 per cent while the Tripura government has demanded an increase by 50 per cent. Briefing the media on the second day of his visit, Panagariya said that Tripura is the 17th state in the country and the Commission has already visited and heard the demands and views of the state governments. "Out of eight northeastern states, the Commission is yet to visit Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh," he said. Appreciating the satisfactory forest cover of the northeastern states, the Finance Commission Chairman said that due to the hilly nature of the region like other mountainous states, higher costs are required in the region for building infrastructure or ferrying goods. He said for the core Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the funding pattern for the northeastern states in the ratio of 90:10, where 90 per cent of the total expenditure was borne by the Union government and 10 per cent contributed by the state concerned while for the other states the ratio is 60:40 ratio. The Commission would make its recommendations based on the population ratio by October this year, the chairman said, adding that as per the 15th Finance Commission the tax devolution ratio was 59 per cent for the Union government and 41 per cent for the 28 states of the country. The panel chairman asserted that Tripura's economy is well managed and the state's finances are in a sound position. The finance panel also held a meeting with the Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha. Chief Secretary J K Sinha, Finance Secretary Apurba Roy and top officials of all departments were also present in the meeting.

**MoS Defence presents awards to best Marching contingents, tableaux**

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The results for the best Marching Contingents and Tableaux of the Republic Day Parade 2025 have been announced. Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Sanjay Seth presented these awards to the best Marching Contingents and Tableaux at the Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in the capital on Tuesday. He also conferred special prizes to CPWD Tableau and artists of cultural performance. Uttar Pradesh tableaux showcasing the Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas won the first prize in the states' category while in a separate online poll, Gujarat walked away with the first prize under 'popular choice category'. Below is the list of winners of Marching contingents and Tableaux: Best Marching Contingent among Services - Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Contingent Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/other auxiliary forces - Delhi Police Marching Contingent Top three tableaux (States/UTs) 1st - Uttar Pradesh (Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas) 2nd - Tripura (Eternal Reverence: The worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja)



**K'taka govt to implement stronger law against microfinance menace**

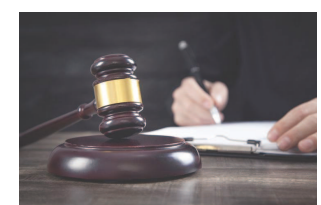
**Bengaluru, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Karnataka government on Tuesday conveyed the second high-level meeting on issues faced by the public due to the highhandedness of microfinance institutions. The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah where it was decided to review the provisions of the proposed Ordinance and implement a stronger law. "A decision has been made to review the provisions of the ordinance formulated to prevent harassment by microfinance in-

stitutions and to implement a stronger law as soon as possible. A team of senior officials from the Law and Finance Departments will be formed for this purpose," said Siddaramaiah. He added that it was also decided that the law must be completely constitutional and free from any loopholes, adding that a strong law is being drafted to prevent the harassment faced by borrowers and to regulate forced recoveries by lenders. "The law will grant greater authority to the police. Ombudsmen will be appointed, and strict punishments, including

non-bailable offences and heavy penalties, will be imposed on those who engage in inhumane and forceful loan recoveries," the Chief Minister said. He further assured that a stringent law is being enforced to prevent harassment by unregistered moneylenders. "The existing legal framework already has provisions to control harassment by microfinance institutions. The question arises as to why they are not being effectively implemented. The police must take suo motu action and register cases without waiting for complaints," he said.

**RG Kar financial irregularities case: Trial court slaps show-cause notice on CBI**

**Kolkata, Feb 4 (IANS) :** A trial court has slapped a show-cause notice on Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for procedural lapses in passing on information to the court about the West Bengal government's nod for framing charges and trial process against former R.G. Kar principal Sandip Ghosh in the case related to financial irregularities in the institution. The CBI informed Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Tirthankar Ghosh about the clearance from the state government to start the charge-framing and trial process. Now, the trial court has taken objection as to why the CBI has not informed.



**Cong MP Rakesh Rathore arrested during press briefing, accused of raping woman**

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Rakesh Rathore, a Congress Member of Parliament (MP) from Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur was arrested by police on Tuesday, on charges of raping a woman. He was taken into custody in the middle of a press briefing at his home and was whisked away by the police personnel. The Sitapur MP has been accused of sexually assaulting a woman. A day ago, his anticipatory bail petition was rejected by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. The court had directed the lawmaker to surrender within two weeks. Prior to this, a non-bailable warrant was issued against him by the CJM court.

The Congress MP has been accused of sexually assaulting the woman on pretext of marriage and also threatening her with consequences, if she approached the police. A police complaint was filed against him at the local police station. According to SP Chakresh Mishra, the Sitapur MP was absconding after being booked for rape. Reports suggest that the victim has also call recordings of threats and intimidation by Rakesh Rathore and is understood to have submitted it to the cops. The woman claimed that she met the lawmaker for the first time in 2018, following which he allegedly took her to his home and raped her.



**Qatari Emir reaffirms support for Syria's unity, sovereignty**

**Doha, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who arrived in Damascus for a visit, reaffirmed his country's unwavering sup-

port for Syria's unity, sovereignty and independence. According to a statement from the Emiri Diwan, the administrative office of the emir, Al Thani on Tuesday met with Syria's interim

President Ahmed al-Sharaa on the latest developments in Syria, ways to strengthen bilateral relations, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

**Massive protest erupts in Rajasthan's Neem Ka Thana over reinstatement of district status**

**Jaipur, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Massive protest erupted in Rajasthan's Neem Ka Thana on Tuesday, over reinstatement of its district status. Demonstrators blocked the Kuchaman Didwana-Kotputli highway, forcing the closure of schools and markets across the city. Protesters burnt tyres and raised slogans against the state government. In response to the escalating situation, over 300 reserve police personnel have been deployed. Meanwhile, authorities have re-routed Jaipur and Delhi-bound buses, diverting traffic from affected areas to prevent congestion.



The protesters launched an indefinite agitation demanding the reinstatement of Neem Ka Thana as a district. At 8 a.m., the protesters blocked key state highways, including State Highway 13 at Bhudoli Bypass (towards Jaipur) and 37B at Mawanda (towards Jhunjhunu).

**'Justice will prevail': Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan on case against him & others**

**Bengaluru, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Infosys co-founder and IISc Council Chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan said on Tuesday that he has full faith in the judiciary and trust that justice will prevail after a case was filed against him and 17 others by the former Indian Institute of Science (IISc) professor under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. In response to the ongoing legal proceedings and court hearing, Kris Gopalakrishnan said, the Karnataka High

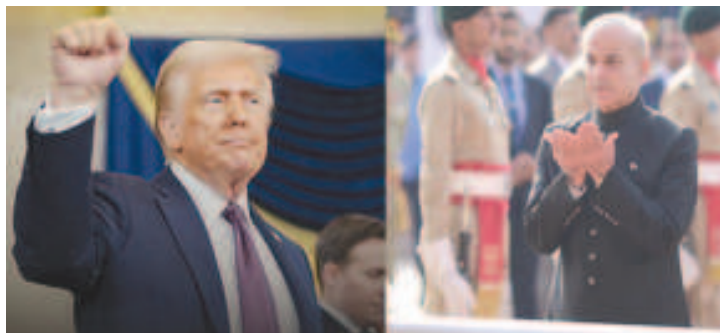
Court stayed all further investigation and proceedings under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against him and others. "As the matter is before the court, I will not comment further. I have full faith in the judiciary and trust that justice will prevail," said Gopalakrishnan. He added that he is also deeply pained as the law meant to protect the marginalised communities has been misused to make false allegations against him. "I have always believed in fairness, justice, and treating everyone with respect, regardless of

their background. I am deeply saddened that a law meant to protect marginalised communities has been misused to make false allegations against me," he said. He added that he has been associated with IISc as Chairman of the Council since 2022, while the alleged incidents date back to 2014. He added that IISc has clear policies for fair and transparent investigations, which are within the purview of the executive management. Infosys co-founder and IISc Council Chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan, along with 17



faculty members, was booked under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act following allegations by a former professor regarding incidents from 2010 to 2020.





### Islamabad contemplates major repercussions as Trump suspends aid to Pakistan

**Islamabad, Feb 4 (IANS) :** US President Donald Trump has announced cancellation of aid to Pakistan temporarily, ceasing several development projects funded by the United States and forcing the government of Pakistan to contemplate the repercussions of a halt in the American fundings. As per details, the US Department of State directed all of its consular and diplomatic missions to immediately suspend foreign aid programmes, initially for a period of at least 90 days. The suspension includes major US fundings to countries including Ukraine, Taiwan, Jordan, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

### Heavy snow intensifies in eastern Japan

**Tokyo, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Heavy snowfall is expected to continue through the early morning of Tuesday in eastern Japan as a strong winter pressure pattern and cold air bring intensified snowfall, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). Due to the prevailing winter pressure pattern, snowfall has intensified across northern and eastern Japan. As of 11 am local time, the snowfall in the past six hours reached 23 cm in Nishiaizu, Fukushima Prefecture, 22 cm in Oguni, Yamagata Prefecture, 17 cm in Ashibetsu, Hokkaido, and 16 cm in Nagahama, Shiga Prefecture. Snow clouds are expected to move further south, bringing intermittent heavy snowfall to

Niigata Prefecture and the Hokuriku region through early Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported. Authorities have warned of potential disruptions to transportation and urged caution against avalanches and other snow-related hazards. Earlier this month, heavy snow hit Sea of Japan coastal areas in northern, central and western Japan, disrupting bullet train operations and forcing the closure of some sections of expressways and national roads. On January 10, snow forced the temporary suspension of Yamagata Shinkansen bullet train services between Fukushima Station in the northeastern prefecture of Fukushima and Shinjo Station in another northeastern prefecture



of Yamagata, affecting 12 inbound and outbound trains and some 1,600 people. Trains on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line also ran at reduced speeds between Nagoya and Shin-Osaka stations and delays were experienced also on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line, the train operators stated. The JMA had also revealed that the country's average temperature in 2024 was the high-

est on record, driven by global warming and westerly winds. The average temperature from January through December 2024 was 1.48 degrees Celsius higher than the mean temperature for the 30-year period through 2020, marking the biggest difference since comparable data became available in 1898 and surpassing the previous year's record of 1.29 degrees Celsius.



### Quran burner Salwan Momika shot dead in Sweden, five arrested

**Stockholm, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Salwan Momika, the 38-year-old man who held several demonstrations in Sweden and was accused of burning the Quran, has been shot dead in the city of Sodertalje in Stockholm County in east central Sweden, Swedish media reported on Tuesday. Momika was allegedly shot dead while he was conducting a live broadcast on social media from his apartment in Hovsjo late on Wednesday, a day before a verdict was scheduled to be announced by the Stockholm District Court in an incitement case against him. "I can confirm that five people have been arrested, suspected of murder," prosecutor Rasmus Ohman was quoted as saying by Sweden's leading

daily Dagens Nyheter. According to the spokesperson for the Stockholm Police Region, the police received a report of the shooting in Hovsjo at 11:11 pm, local time. The newspaper detailed that the crime scene was investigated overnight and the apartment building remains cordoned off on Thursday with several police officers on site. It was reported that drones have also been sent up over the area. "The police have been questioning me and they confirmed that he has died," Salwan Najem, a friend of Salwan Momika, told Swedish state broadcaster SVT. Najem, who said that he has been told "you're next", had also spoken during the night with

Momika's girlfriend. "She started crying and said they killed him," Najem told SVT. The desecration of the Quran had sparked an angry reaction from several countries, including Saudi Arabia, which strongly condemned the burning of a copy of the Islamic holy book in the Swedish city of Malmo by Momika, an individual of Iraqi origin, in October 2023. The Saudi Foreign Ministry had "reiterated the Kingdom's rejection of such flagrant acts," and said such a move had inflamed the feelings of millions of Muslims worldwide. Momika had allegedly torn pages of the holy book and also burnt it in full public view during demonstrations.

### New Zealand sets second international climate target

**Wellington, Feb 4 (IANS) :** New Zealand on Tuesday announced its second international climate target under the Paris Agreement of reducing emissions by 51 to 55 per cent by 2035, compared to 2005 levels. The target must be achieved by the end of 2035 and builds on the initial target of a 50 per cent reduction by 2030, a requirement under the Paris Agreement, the global climate treaty seeking to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, to set Nationally Determined Contributions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, said Climate Change Minister Simon Watts. The minister said the target was "both ambitious and achievable", reinforcing New Zealand's commitment to the Paris Agreement and global climate action. "Meeting this target will mean we are doing our fair share towards reducing the impact of climate change, while enabling New Zealand to be stronger and thrive in the face of a changing climate," he said.



New Zealand can focus its efforts on the actions that will make the biggest difference towards reaching the net zero 2050 target, with Thursday's new target bringing the country's international and domestic climate change commitments into line, Watts added.

### Australian PM labels caravan filled with explosives in Sydney as 'act of terrorism'

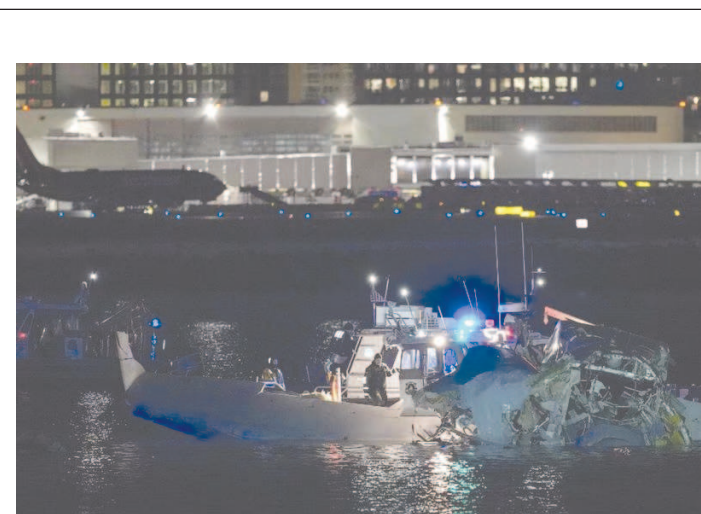
**Canberra, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has agreed with police assertion that a caravan full of explosives in Sydney was an act of terrorism. Authorities in the state of New South Wales (NSW) announced on Tuesday night that the caravan filled with explosives was found in the suburb of Dural -- about 25 km northwest of central Sydney --

on January 19, reports Xinhua news agency. Speaking at a press conference, NSW Police Deputy Commissioner David Hudson said that a major investigation had been launched into whether the explosives were intended to be used in an antisemitic attack. NSW Premier Chris Minns labelled the caravan filled with explosives as an act of terrorism.



### Chad announces full pullout of French troops

**N'djamena, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Chad on Tuesday announced a full withdrawal of French troops from the Central African country. "The three bases of French elements in Chad have all been handed over to the Chadian national army," Chadian Army spokesman Chanane Issakha Acheikh said in a statement. "The very last one has just been handed over today."



### No survivors yet of mid-air Washington DC collision

**Washington, Feb 4 (IANS) :** No survivors have yet been found of American Eagle Flight 5342 that collided with a US Army Black Hawk helicopter near the Reagan National Airport in Washington DC Tuesday night. Both aircraft fell into the Potomac river. The plane was carrying 60 passengers and four members of the crew while the helicopter had three service members. Rescuers had pulled out several bodies from the icy cold water of the river till early Thursday morning, but no survivors. The temperature of the water in the river was dangerously low around 0 degree celsius. NBC's Washington affiliate has reported rescuers have recovered 30 bodies from the river. The plane was carrying passengers from Wichita in

the state of Kansas to the National Airport. DC authorities have said the plane had broken into pieces and the helicopter was found upside down in the river. Rescue helicopters hovered over the river with flood lights as boats and rescuers combed the river for survivors and bodies. The collision reportedly took place around 8:47 pm, local time. The Army helicopter was a UH-60 Black Hawk on a training flight, US military officials have said. It was assigned to Bravo Company of the 12th Aviation Battalion, which operates out of Davison Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir, in nearby Virginia. Two renowned former Russian figure skaters were on board the passenger plane, the Kremlin has said according to reports.



### American woman refuses to leave Pakistan, sits outside lover's house in Karachi

**Karachi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** In a bizarre love story that has gone wrong, Onijah Andrew Robinson, an American national, has refused to leave Pakistan as her 19-year-old lover in Karachi failed to get his family's approval for marriage. Robinson refused to take a flight back home on Tuesday and created a major scene at the Karachi International Airport, first refusing to undergo immigration procedures and then later refusing to board the Qatar Airways' flight to New York. The entire drama eventually led to the flight being delayed by nearly one hour. The 33-year-old had travelled from the United States to Pakistan in October to get married to her online lover Nidal Ahmed Memon. Robinson states that while the boy agreed to marry her, his family refused and relocated to a new place from their Garden area residence in Karachi city. Abandoned by her lover, the American woman had been sitting outside his house since then, refusing to go back to America and demanding a compensation of at least \$3,000 per week along with a Pakistani citizenship.



## If Rohit, Kohli perform well, it will benefit India in Champions Trophy: Raina

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** With just a couple of weeks left for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, former India batter Suresh Raina shared his thoughts on how crucial star batter Virat Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma's form will be for the upcoming mega event and said that if the duo perform well, then India's campaign will benefit immensely.

Rohit and Kohli are two of the three surviving members from India's successful Champions Trophy side that won the final against England at Edgbaston in 2013.

But the current form of the two stalwarts of India's batting unit are a bit shaky.

The veteran duo endured a tough time during the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which India lost 3-1. Rohit managed only 31 runs in five innings, while Kohli contributed just 190 runs in nine innings. In response to their struggles, both players have returned to domestic cricket to regain form ahead of the major tournament. But unfortunately, they could not get back among the runs. Rohit scored 3 and 28 in Mumbai's

match against J&K, while Kohli was bowled for 6 in Delhi's game against Railways.

"Rohit Sharma's strike rate has improved significantly after the ODI World Cup in 2023. Since then, he has scored runs at a strike rate of 119-120, making him one of India's best ODI batsmen. For Rohit and Virat, I would say that when you have a strong record of past performances, it gives you a lot of confidence.

"They complement each other well, and both have the skill to score big runs. If they perform

well, India's ICC Men's Champions Trophy campaign will benefit immensely," Raina said on Star Sports.

The Indian team is gearing up for the three-match ODI series against England, starting from Thursday, which will serve as a crucial test for India's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign.

Speaking on his expectations from Rohit in the series, Raina said, "I think Rohit should play aggressively. You saw how he batted in the ODI World Cup—he was attacking even in the final. So, I be-



lieve his approach will remain the same. The key question is who will open alongside him—will it be Shubman? I remember, whenever they play together, they maintain an aggressive intent."

"Rohit Sharma is an attacking captain. The way he utilises his bowlers is commendable—bringing in Mohammad Shami at crucial moments and relying on spinners strategically. When Rohit scores runs, it also reflects in his captaincy.



## Formula 1: Mercedes' Russell aims to improve race pace for 2025 season

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** As the 2025 Formula 1 season approaches, Mercedes driver George Russell has laid out his key goals for the year, with a focus on improving his race pace after an impressive 2024 season in terms of qualifying performance.

Despite Mercedes' mixed fortunes in 2024, Russell outperformed his seven-time World Champion teammate Lewis Hamilton in qualifying, win-

ning the head-to-head battle 18-6. However, his race-day performances did not always match his one-lap speed, prompting the 26-year-old Briton to focus on turning his strong qualifying results into consistent race performances. Speaking to the official Mercedes website, Russell explained that his approach to goal-setting remains detail-oriented rather than focusing on specific race wins or championship positions. "My goals are very much the same and the approach has not changed," Russell said.



## Sri Lanka opener Dimuth Karunaratne to retire after his 100th Test in Galle

**Galle, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Sri Lanka opener and former skipper Dimuth Karunaratne is set to retire from international cricket after the second Test against Australia in Galle, starting Thursday, which will be his 100th long format game for his country. The 36-year-old, who has led Sri Lanka in 30 Tests, has made the decision to retire following a poor batting form at the top of the order. Over the last 14 months, he has faced significant struggles, with an average of just 27.05 since the beginning of 2024. In his last seven Tests, Karunaratne has accumulated only 182 runs, with his only notable contribution being a single half-century against New Zealand in September 2024. "It is difficult for a Test player to keep himself motivated to play four Tests for a year and maintain his form. In the last 2-3 years after the WTC (World Test Championship) was introduced, we have been having very little bilateral series.

## Sutherland calls for more women's games at big stadiums

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Fresh off winning the Belinda Clark Award, Annabel Sutherland has advocated for more women's matches at major stadiums, citing the record-breaking attendance at the recent Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) as proof that the all-conquering Australian team deserves to play on the biggest stages. The 23-year-old all-rounder, who smashed the first women's century in an Ashes Test last weekend, capped off a remarkable year by receiving Australian women's cricket's top individual honour. Her stunning performances over the past 12 months included a historic Test double century.



## Fiorentina sign Juventus midfielder Nicolo Fagioli on loan

**Florence (Italy), Feb 4 :** Serie A club ACF Fiorentina have announced the signing of midfielder Nicolo Fagioli from Juventus FC on an initial loan deal with an obligation to make the move permanent.

Fagioli has made almost 70 appearances for Juventus in Serie A, Coppa Italia, Italian Super Cup, Champions League and Europa League, winning a league title.

## Tennis: Mumbai Open is a great platform for Indian players to play against the best, says Ankita Raina

**Mumbai, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Ankita Raina is delighted to be back at the Mumbai Open WTA 125 Series that is taking place at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai. The former India number one secured a commanding 6-2, 6-2 win over fellow Indian Vaishnavi Adkari to book her place in the Round of 16.

She will be up against the second seed, Rebecca Marino of Canada in the next round. The 32-year-old, who has a wealth of experience on the circuit, spoke on her experience at the tournament and said, "I'm happy to be back here in Mumbai to play at the Mumbai Open. I think it's my fourth or fifth year at the event.



## Joel Paris returns to Perth Scorchers for BBL 15 after stellar season with Stars

**Perth, Feb 4 (IANS) :** The Perth Scorchers have signed West Australian left-arm seamer Joel Paris on a one-year deal for Big Bash League (BBL) Season 15. Paris, who was a free agent during the Big Bash League's Player Movement Window, returns to his original club after spending the past two seasons with the Melbourne Stars. The move comes as Scorchers' veteran bowler Jason Behrendorff departs after a decade with the franchise, having signed a three-year deal with the Melbourne Renegades. While Paris may not have enjoyed the same level of success as Behrendorff, the 32-year-old pacer brings a similar skillset, known for his ability to swing the new ball

and vary his pace effectively. Paris comes off his most productive Big Bash season in BBL 14, where he played a key role in Melbourne Stars' late-season resurgence. Across six appearances, he took nine wickets at an impressive average of 16.11, with a remarkable economy rate of 6.59. His standout performance came in the Melbourne derby against the Renegades, where he recorded career-best T20 figures of 3-13.



## Ashwin backs Chakravarthy for CT spot as spinner trains with India's ODI Squad

**New Delhi, Feb 4 (IANS) :** Indian mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy could be on the verge of his maiden ODI call-up, with veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin strongly advocating for his inclusion in India's final squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy to be played in Pakistan and Dubai. Ashwin, speaking on his YouTube channel, praised Chakravarthy's exceptional recent form and hinted at a possible late entry into India's squad for the ICC event in Dubai. "We are all talking about whether he should have been there (in the Champions Trophy squad). I think there is a chance he might be there.