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## Maha Kumbh: PM Modi takes holy dip at Sangam

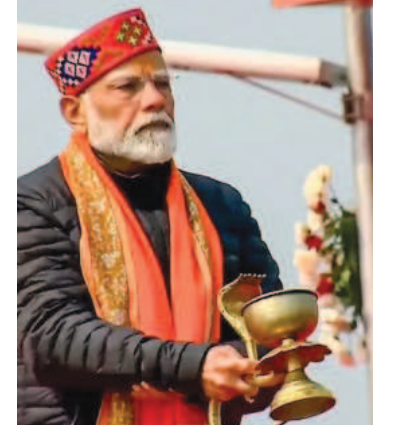
**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a holy dip at Sangam on Wednesday after he arrived in Prayagraj as part of his visit to the Maha Kumbh.

After arriving at Prayagraj, PM Modi, who was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, made his way to Arail VIP Ghat, where they took a boat ride to reach the Sangam, the confluence of the holy Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers.

Before boarding the boat, the Prime Minister and UP CM Yogi Uttara Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, made his way to Arail VIP Ghat, acknowledging the enthusiastic supporters who gathered to witness the occasion. The boat ride, which began at 10:50 a.m., was part of the Prime Minister's brief but significant visit to the Maha Kumbh, a spiritual gathering of millions of devotees.



## Our Caste-based socio-economic survey is most scientific, transparent & accurate : Uttam

**Hyderabad, Feb.5 (NSS):** Irrigation & Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy declared that the caste-based socio-economic survey conducted by the Congress government in Telangana was the most scientific, transparent, and accurate population study since Independence. He stated that this was the first-ever field-based caste survey undertaken after the 2011 Census, making all figures cited by opposition parties false and fictitious.

## Don't be deceived by political maneuvering on caste census : Sridhar Babu

**Hyderabad, Feb 5 (NSS):** Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Shridhar Babu has called upon the people to reject the distortion of facts surrounding the State's caste census, warning against attempts to mislead the people for political gain.

In a release here on Wednesday, the Minister emphasised that the survey was conducted with impeccable transparency and scientific integrity, and urged opposition parties to stop

politicising an issue that directly affects the welfare of the state's marginalized communities.

"The caste census was carried out with meticulous precision and transparency, with data collected from every household in the state," Sridhar Babu declared.



## Entire country looking at

## Telangana after completion of caste census: Bhatti

**Hyderabad, Feb 5 (NSS) :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has stated that entire nation is looking at Telangana after its successful completion of caste census in the State and tabling the survey report in the Legislative Assembly. He said the People's government is com-

mitted to implementing social justice. The information contained in the caste census report will be used definitely in government's policy decisions and also in decisions that impact and benefit the society. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat here on Wednesday, Bhatti Vikramarka

## Exit polls predict BJP's comeback in Delhi, AAP seen sliding to second spot

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is likely to take a decisive lead over the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and mark a strong comeback in the national capital, ending 27 years of its drought, predicted Exit polls on Wednesday.

A couple of pollsters showed the voters gravitating towards the BJP in the high-octane battle for Delhi and also projected it to emerge as the single largest party. The majority mark in the 70-member



Delhi Assembly is 36. The AAP is expected to come a close second while the Congress is seen to remain on the margins, despite speculations of its strong show in Delhi polls.

## Rahul Gandhi should change his name to 'Election Gandhi' : KTR

**Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao suggested on Wednesday that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi change his name to "Election Gandhi".

Slamming the Congress for not implementing the promises made to the Backward Classes (BCs) during the 2023 Assembly elections,

Rama Rao termed the BC declaration a 100 per cent lie. Reacting to Tuesday's Assembly session.



## Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka cast their votes for Delhi Assembly elections

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday cast their votes at Nirman Bhawan for the Delhi Assembly elections. They were accompanied by Congress candidate from the New Delhi Assembly constituency, Sandeep Dikshit. Voting, which began early in the morning, will continue until 6 p.m. With nearly 3,000 polling booths marked as sensitive, authorities have heightened security with the deployment of 220 paramilitary force companies.

## Long cherished dream of BCs and SCs turns into reality: TPCC chief

**Hyderabad, Feb 5 (NSS):** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has expressed that the long-standing aspirations of the Backward Classes (BC) and Scheduled Castes (SC) have been fulfilled

through the recent caste census and SC classification in Telangana. He credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and various Ministers for this achievement, highlighting that Telangana is the sole state to have conducted a BC caste census since independence. During a media

briefing at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Goud, alongside BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Government Whips Aadi Srinivas and Beerla Ilaiah, and other Congress leaders, noted that while states like Bihar have yet to implement a caste census.



Stressed Asset Management Branch, Hyderabad 3rd Floor, Andhra Bank Building, Sultan Bazar, Koth, Hyderabad-500095

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

LOT-1: i) Factory Land and building belonging to M/s. Haritha Fertilisers Limited (owner of the property) situated at Damarcherla Village, Nalgonda District-508355.

Indian Overseas Bank Vijay Nagar Colony Branch, # 10-3-761/7/2, Vijay Nagar Colony, Hyderabad-500057.

DEMAND NOTICE Demand Notice to Borrowers / Mortgagees/Guarantors Under Sub-section (2) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002

To, Borrower: 1. Mrs. Dasireddy Baby Geethika, W/o Sri Dasireddy Veera Venkata Sai Kumar, Permanent Address: H.No.10-3-326, Behind Post Office, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad, Pin-500057.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Nature of Facility, Limit (in Rs.), Rates of interest (including over due interest & rests interest & rests, Last Interest Debit Date (Mandatory), Total Dues\* as on 31-01-2025 (In Rs.)

\* With further interest from last interest debit date at contractual rates/rests will become payable from the date mentioned above till date of payment.

The above named borrowers/guarantors referred under SI.No's 1&2 have executed documents and thereby guaranteed payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to Indian Overseas Bank by the borrowers for the aggregate credit limits of Rs.15,00,000.00 (Fifteen Lakhs Only) together with agreed interest, charges etc.

The Borrowers/guarantors mentioned under SI. Nos 1&2 of you have given personal guarantee for the credit facilities as given above.

You have acknowledged from time to time the liabilities mentioned herein above through various documents executed by you.

2. The details of securities in favor of the Bank for the aforesaid credit facilities are:

Nature of Security: All that the Residential Flat No.302, on second floor of "My mansion Apartments" bearing municipal No.6-3-347/13/A/12/2/302, admeasuring 1009 Sq.ft.(including common area) along with car parking lot No.08 in silt floor area of 120.00Sq.ft. together with undivided share of 36.00 Sq.yards equivalent to 31.79 Sq.mtrs. in the premises bearing Municipal nos 6-3-347/13/A/12/2 and 6-3-354/13, situated at Hindi Nagar Colony, Panjagutta, Hyderabad-500082 and bounded by as under: Land Boundaries: North: Neighbour's Property, South: Neighbour's Property No. 6-3-347/13/A/12/1 & Proposed Blocked B of my Mansion, East: Lane, West: Road, Flat Boundaries: North: Open to Sky, South: Flat No.301, 303 and Corridor, East: Open to Sky, West: Open to Sky.

Date: 31-01-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

National Deworming Program Should Be Implemented Strictly : District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha

Rajanna Siricilla, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha said that the National Deworming Program should be implemented strictly in Rajanna Siricilla district. A meeting was held with the officials on the implementation of the National Deworm-

ing Program at the Collectorate Mini Conference Hall on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector ordered that all children between the ages of 1 and 19 in the district.



Maoists should merge into the mainstream of public life

Adilabad, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Srinivas IG has urged Maoist Pushpa's mother Mallamma and brother Awula Gangaram to ensure that the Maoist couple Jadi Pushpa and Jadi Venkati left the forest and come back to the people, and that if they surrender, the government will make all arrangements. Jadi Pushpa and Jadi Venkati, a Maoist couple, went into hiding in 1999..Ramagundam Po-

lice Commissioner M Srinivas IG along with, DCP Mancheril and DCP A Bhaskar visited Mallamma, the mother of the Maoist couple Jadi Bhagya @ Pushpa and Jadi Venkati, and her family members in Chandravelli village of Bellampalli mandal. On this occasion, the CP inquired about the current condition of Pushpa's mother Mallamma and the family members, as well as their health condition.

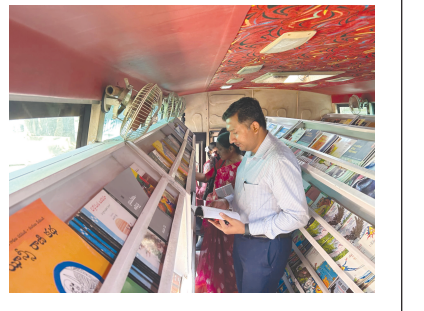
Students should make a habit of reading books

Adilabad, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : District Collector Shri Rajarshi Shah said that students should make the habit of reading books from childhood and shape their future. On Wednesday, he inaugurated a mobile book exhibition vehicle being run by the National Book Trust as part of the "Putsaka Parikrama" program at the Girls' High School in Adilabad district headquarters. District Education Officer T Praneetha, Mandal Education Officer Somaiya, Principal K. Ramesh Reddy, National Book Trust Coordinators Ashok and Dev Rao, Sectoral Officer Sujath Khan.



26th general meeting of SBI Staff Union Hyderabad Circle

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : The 26th general meeting of State Bank of India Staff Union Hyderabad Circle was held under the chairmanship of General Secretary Shri Rajagopalan Shriram and President Chakravarthula Shridhar on January 25 and 26 at The Address Convention (Narsinghi), Hyderabad. About 6000 SBI staff participated in this program. "As the Chief Secretary Shri Sriram is retiring from the post, a new executive committee has been elected." Chakravartula Sridhar was elected as the new president and K Srinivasa Sandilya as the general secretary. "A new committee has been elected for various modules." The new Executive Committee formally assumed its duties on February 3, amid cheers from the members.



Budget that Gives Strength to Boost Speed Of Railways

Hyderabad, Feb 5 (TIM Bureau) : The signs of significant transformation were already visible at the outset of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third tenure. The Nation is on the fast track towards building a developed India by the year 2047, it is necessary to create an inclusive environment where people leave conservative ideas and adopt forward thinking and promote innovations. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister has laid the foundation of a new and developed India through the budget for the financial year 2025-26. In a developed India, it is inevitable that all means of transport should be developed. Indian Railways - is the lifeline of the

country, the most powerful means of transport. The middle class is going to play the most important role in the new developed India. Railways is the preferred mode of transport for the middle class. This is the reason why crores of people keep looking forward to the renewal of the railway system. The rail connectivity from Jammu to Kashmir and the construction of a new Pamban bridge with latest technology in Tamil Nadu have given the common people an opportunity to be proud of Indian Railways. Under the impressive leadership of Ashwini Vaishnav, Indian Railways has succeeded in connecting Kashmir Valley to the main network of India by overcoming all kinds of challenges. The bridge built on the Pamban Channel is also a historic achievement in itself, through which Rameswaram has once again been connected to the Indian rail network.

BANJARA HILLS BRANCH: #8-2-403/4, Ground Floor, Road No. 4, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034, Tele: 040-2335494/233508006, E-Mail: BHillsCP.Telangana@bankofindia.co.in

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 29.10.2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Saipradeep Ketharaju, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Housing Loan Account No. 86397511000262 an amount of Rs. 71,83,420.60 (Rupees Seventy-one Lakhs Eighty-three Thousand and Four Hundred Twenty and Sixty Paise only) + Uncharged Interest from 28.10.2024 @ 10.25% p.a + 2.00% as penal interest per month in Housing Loan at monthly rests with costs, expenses etc + Charges, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic/ Constructive possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of said rules on this 05th Day of February 2025.

The borrowers/guarantors 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 Bank of India for Housing Loan Account No. 86397511000262 an amount of Rs.71,83,420.60 (Rupees Seventy-one Lakhs Eighty-three Thousand and Four Hundred Twenty and Sixty Paise only) + Uncharged Interest from 28.10.2024 @ 10.25% p.a + 2.00% as penal interest.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY:

All that Residential House No-7-351/1 on Plot No.26 in Survey Nos. 373, 377 and 378, admeasuring 200Sq.yds or 167.20 Sq.Ms along with a built up area of 1300Sft, R.C.C., in Ground Floor, situated at "SRI LAKSHMI NAGAR PHASE-I" of NAGARAM Village and Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, and bounded by: North: Plot No.27, South: 30' wide Road, East: 25' wide Road, West: Plot No.31.

Date: 05-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/-Authorised Officer, Bank of India

WARANGAL BRANCH: 13-4-158 & 158/1, Sainath Arcade, Near Gopala Swamy Temple, M.G.Road, Warangal.

SALE OF HYPOTHECATED ASSETS BY AUCTION

Date of Sale: 18.02.2025, Time of Sale: 11:00 AM to 01:30 PM

Whereas the Bank of India, being the Secured Creditor has issued the mandatory demand notice and mandatory notice of sale under Indian Contract Act, 1882 to the Hypothecator/ Loanee for recovery of bank dues and upon his/her failing to repay the dues, the Secured Creditor has taken possession of the hypothecated vehicle, in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the Deed of Hypothecation dated 19.02.2016 (Vehicle No.1), 30.03.2016 (Vehicle No.2), 22.07.2013 (Vehicle No.3).

- 1 Name of the Borrower: Narendar Travels, Prop. Ajeemera Naxari Details of the Movable Asset: Hypothecation of Vehicle - MAHINDRA RENAULT LODGY DCI RXL-JSRGW4 BSIV 2016 bearing Registration Number TS10NTR4056; Engine Number: E021602; Chassis Number: MEEJSRQW4F6004140; RESERVE PRICE: Rs.0.68 Lakh EMD AMOUNT: Rs.6,800/- Total Dues: Rs.12,10,385.38 + interest @13.05 % p.a at Monthly rests + penal interest + costs for bringing the hypothecated asset to sale.
2 Name of the Borrower: Revanth Sai Earth Movers, Prop. Parvathi Banothu Details of the Movable Asset: Hypothecation of Vehicle - MAHINDRA EARTH MASTER BSIII CEV bearing Registration Number TS260240; Engine Number: NAGSBS5WA1012; Chassis Number: MDZAA2AEDG6B49627; RESERVE PRICE: Rs.1.27 Lakh EMD AMOUNT: Rs.6,800/- Total Dues: Rs.17,37,694.96 + interest @ 13.50 p.a at Monthly rests+ penal interest + costs for bringing the hypothecated asset to sale.
3 Name of the Borrower: Papavathi Veera Bhadru Details of the Movable Asset: Hypothecation of Vehicle - ETIOS LIVA GD-TOY-OTA bearing Registration Number AP36TV2316; Engine Number: 33039; Chassis Number: 47728 (Last Five Digits); RESERVE PRICE: Rs.0.68 Lakh EMD AMOUNT: Rs.6,800/- Total Dues: Rs.2,91,095.45 (LCI 02.02.2025 ) + Rs.4,46,714.2 + Rs.7,37,809.65 (NPACHG -Amount Rs.2,875/-) interest @ 12.50 p.a at Monthly rests+ penal interest + costs for bringing the hypothecated asset to sale.

Place of Sale: Bank of India, Warangal Branch Mode of Sale: By Public Auction Date & Time of Inspection: 17.02.2025 at 11:00 AM to 01:30 PM Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: 18.02.2025

Terms and Conditions of Auction: The tenders will be opened by the undersigned at Bank of India, Warangal Branch, on 18.02.2025 at 01:30 PM in the presence of available/ attending bidders.

1. The Earnest Money Deposit shall be remitted to: IFSC Code: BKID0008680, Account No.8680920000033 in favour of Bank of India Warangal Branch.

2. For Terms and conditions of payment of amount, registration of vehicle and other details, Contact the undersigned at 0870-2425084 (Branch Phone Numbers).

Date: 05.02.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer Bank of India, Warangal Branch

Date: 31-01-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorized Officer & Chief Manager (DSN Reddy) Union Bank of India



### Bengal Governor hints at taking up RG Kar case with Amit Shah

**Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) :** West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose might take up the complaints of the parents of the victim in the R.G. Kar rape and murder case regarding the entire line of investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with the office of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. A statement issued from the office of the Governor on Wednesday hinted at this. The statement comes a day after the victim's parents, on Wednesday evening, went to Raj Bhavan in Kolkata and had a long meeting with the Governor. "The parents expressed their plight and requested justice. They requested the Hon'ble Governor to present their petition to the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Union Home Minister, to whom they have already submitted their petition. The Hon'ble Governor assured to take necessary action," read the statement issued from the Governor's office in the morning. As per the statement, the Governor also assured the victim's parents that they were not alone in this grief and that justice in the matter would be done. The indication from the office of the Governor comes just a day after the state president of BJP in West Bengal and the Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar, on Thursday, gave a somewhat similar assurance on the matter.

### SC issues notice to Centre, BCI on plea for bar council in J&K

**Jammu, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre, Bar Council of India (BCI) and others on a plea seeking the establishment of a bar council in Jammu and Kashmir. A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta took note of the submissions made by Advocate Javid Shah, who appeared for the Kashmir Advocates Association, and issued a notice to the

Centre, the BCI and the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. A state bar council is a statutory body that regulates the enrolment of law graduates as lawyers and the practice of law in a state.



### Delhi Congress slams Kejriwal for deserting Yamuna cleaning project midway

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Delhi Congress on Wednesday accused former Delhi chief minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal of stopping midway the work on building master drains along the Yamuna to divert untreated sewage of the city towards treatment plants in Vrindavan. Reiterating the Congress' guarantee of providing clean air and non-polluted Yamuna, former Union Water Resources Minister Harish Rawat called it "criminal negligence" on the part of the Kejriwal government.

### India making tremendous strides in tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases: Health Ministry

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** India is making tremendous strides in tackling Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Wednesday on the occasion of World NTD Day. World NTD Day is observed every year on January 30. The theme this year is 'Unite. Act. Eliminate'. "We join the global community in observing World NTD Day. Neglected Tropical Diseases have not been neglected in India.



### Some people politicising Manipur's ethnic violence, confusing people : CM Biren Singh

**Imphal, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Wednesday said that some people are "politicising" the state's ethnic violence and "confusing the people". In his address at an official programme at Khangabok in Thoubal district, the Chief Minister said that most people still do not understand the prevailing ethnic conflicts in Manipur. He, however, did not mention the name of any political party or any individual. Biren Singh said that his government's opposition to the immigrants in the state is because they are engaged in drug-related activities and poppy cultivation and these migrants are also creating serious socio-economic problems for

the indigenous people. "We have to understand and realise which people want development, peace and unity of Manipur and who launch attacks on the innocent people. We have to defend ourselves and expose the nefarious activities of the inimical elements." "Those who want to break Manipur have used agents to provoke us. Such agents are in Imphal Valley and are siding with those who want to break Manipur.

### Politics over Yamuna is disgraceful, EC must seek answer from UP govt too : Priyanka Chaturvedi

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The political debate surrounding AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's claim about the Yamuna river being poisoned, continues to stir controversy in the run up to the Delhi Assembly elections. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi has weighed in, stressing that cleaning the sacred Yamuna River should not be reduced to a political game.



### ED files prosecution complaint in illegal mining in Himachal, UP

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday said it has filed the prosecution complaint in an illegal mining case pertaining to the Beas River in Himachal Pradesh and the Yamuna River in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Gian Chand and seven others have been arraigned as accused in the prosecution complaint filed before the Special Court (PMLA) in Ghaziabad. The court has also taken cognizance of the prosecution Complaint on January 17. The case was initiated on the basis of formal complaints and intelligence inputs alleging illegal sand and mineral mining operations on the river bed of the Beas River by several mining mafias, including Gian Chand. and proceeds of crime to the tune of hundreds of crore have been generated through these illegal mining operations. The ED initiated an investigation on the basis of six first information reports (FIRs) registered by different police stations in the districts of Kangra and Una in Himachal Pradesh relating to illegal mining. As per the FIRs, it has been alleged that illegal mining activities are taking place on government

land and tippers, poclains, JCBs and tractors are actively engaged in illegal mining in Himachal Pradesh. These vehicles were involved in illegally extracting minerals and consequently unlawfully transporting these minerals to stone crushers by overloaded vehicles. Another FIR dated November 1, 2024, has also been registered by Behat police station in Saharanpur against Gian Chand and others. In order to conduct the comprehensive investigation, another FIR of the UP Police has also been taken into the ambit of investigation in this case, the ED said in a statement. Earlier, the ED had arrested Gian Chand and his accomplice Sanjay Kumar on November 18, 2024. Further investigation by the ED has also resulted in the attachment of property to the tune of approximately Rs 4.9 crore. During the course of the investigation, 12 searches have been conducted on the premises of several mining mafias, including Gian Chand and his associates, in Himachal Pradesh and Saharanpur and statements of several persons have been recorded.

### Don't end lives; file complaints as govt is with you : K'taka CM assures people of action against microfinance firms

**Mysuru (Karnataka), Feb 5 (IANS) :** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday assured people of action against microfinance companies and urged them to file complaints against the firms if their representatives harass them. CM Siddaramaiah assured the people saying, "File a complaint with the police, the government is with you." Speaking to the media in Mysuru, CM Siddaramaiah added, "No one should resort to suicide due to the illegal collection practices of microfinance institutions. The government is with you. If you face harassment, file a complaint. We will take legal action." CM Siddaramaiah promised that the Karnataka government would take legal action against microfinance institutions that violate the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations, charge excessive interest rates, or operate illegally. He assured that a directive would soon be issued to regulate microfinance firms. Further responding to concerns about the difficulties faced by people due to microfinance institutions and the BJP's allegations of a "goonda raj" (lawlessness) in the state, CM Siddaramaiah said that people take loans from available sources, however, private financial institutions and moneylenders impose high-interest rates and use goons to intimidate people. "Microfinance institutions are charging an annual interest rate of 28-30 per cent.



**BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 1st floor, Usman plaza, No 21/143/70/B, Opp Royal function hall, SKD Colony, Adoni, Andhra Pradesh- 518301.

**Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.**

Undersigned being the Authorized officer of M/s. Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s)/ Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited and as a consequence the loan(s) have become Non Performing Assets. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/ undelivered, as such the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : Adoni, LAN: H4J4RLP0374729 & H4J4RLP1013420, 1.G. Mahendra Reddy (Borrower), 2. Ch. Swarna Rekha (Co-Borrower) Both The Above At H.No 3-50, 3rd Ward, Kammarachedu Post, Alur Mandal, Near East : Road, West : House of G. Padmavathamma, Main Road, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518302, North : Site, South : House of P. Venkat Reddy.	All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: All that piece and parcel of Land and Building Situated at Alur, Kurnool District. Measuring an Extent of 306.94 Yards, With Door No.3/56 of Alur Kurnool District With SRD of Alur And Rd of Kurnool East : Road, West : House of G. Padmavathamma, Main Road, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518302, North : Site, South : House of P. Venkat Reddy.	27th Jan 2025 Rs.12,76,995/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five Only)

This step is being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/ or Co-Borrowers Guarantors are advised to make the payments of outstanding along with future interest within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with Bajaj Housing Finance Limited) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/ mortgaged property will be initiated as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which Bajaj Housing Finance Limited has the charge.

Date: 06-02-2025, Place: Kurnool Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

**Bank of India** BANJARA HILLS BRANCH: 8-2-403/4, Ground Floor, Road No.4, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034

**DEMAND NOTICE**

All of you the under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against each of you under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the notice under Section 13 (2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by Registered Post ACK. Due has been returned. Hence you are here by called upon to take notice to pay the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against the below mentioned property to realise its dues with interest and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of NPA/ Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Description of the Property
1	1) Mr. Harsh Raj Goud Annaganti, House No. 1-1-16/3, Jawaharnagar, Chikkadpally, RTC X Roads, Hyderabad, Telangana-500020. 2) Mr. A.G. Keshav Goud, House No.1-1-16/3, Jawaharnagar, Chikkadpally, RTC X Roads, Hyderabad, Telangana-500020. 3) Mrs. A.G. Kousalya Devi, House No. 1-1-16/3, Jawaharnagar, Chikkadpally, RTC X Roads, Hyderabad, Telangana-500020. A/c. No.: 863962610000039	NPA Date: 28.01.2025 Demand Notice 29.01.2025	Rs.9,24,847.51 Unchanged interest from 28.01.2025 @ 11.50% p.a. + 2.00% as penal interest at monthly rests with costs, expenses etc	All that residential House No. 1-1-16/3 & 1-1-16/3/1 with undivided share of land of 250.00 Sq.yds, with built up area of 2050 sft situated at Plot No.3, in Jawahar Nagar, Bakaram, Hyderabad, Telangana and Bounded by: North: Plot No.2, South: Open Land, East: Road, West: 25' feet wide Road.

Date: 29.01.2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

**BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 2nd Floor Flat No.203, Office No.3A & 3B, Aditya Trade Center, Above passport office, Ameerpet, Hyderabad Telangana India-500038.

**Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.**

Undersigned being the Authorized officer of M/s. Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s)/ Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited and as a consequence the loan(s) have become Non Performing Assets. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/ undelivered, as such the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount
Branch : Hyderabad, LAN: 400DH110005358 & 400DHT0100094023 & H400HLT0350195 & H400HLD0423805 1.Mallikarjuna Rao Nagubandi (Borrower), 2. Alapati Bhagya Bhargavi Priya (Co-Borrower) Both the above at H.No 8-3-949/1B/118, Flat No 118, Sanali Heavens Apartments, Kamma Sangham Road, Near Chandana Brothers Ameerpet, Nagarjuna Nagar Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana-500073.	All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: Property-1:- All that the property bearing flat no. 118 (flat bearing municipal no. 8-3-949/11b/118), on first floor, of "Sanali Heavens" having plinth area of 1090 sq.feet, together with proportionate undivided share of land 0.68% i.e. Admeasuring 36.79 sq.yards, out of land area of 5400 sq.yards, in premises bearing Municipal Nos. 8-3-948 (P), 8-3-949(P), 8-3-949/11/A, 8-3-949/11/B, 8-3-949/11/C, situated at Ameerpet, Hyderabad, T.S., and flat bounded by East : corridor, West : open to sky, North : lift , South : flat no. 117. Property-2:- All that piece and parcel of the residential house bearing Municipal no.9-106, (ptin: 1176004577), constructed on land bearing plot no.106, admeasuring 190 sq. Yards, or 158.84 sq.mtrs., consisting of ground and first floors, having a plinth area of ground floor: 700 sq.ft. and first floor: 650 sq.ft., totalling to 1350 sq.ft.s., with R.C.C. Roof. in survey nos. 108 part to 119 part, situated at "Prayaj Gulmohar" in kuntloor village, Under Pedda Ameerpet Municipality, Abdullapurmet Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Within the Jurisdiction of Registration Sub-District: Hayathnagar and bounded by: East : Road, West : Plot no. 92, North : Plot no.105 b, South : road.	29th Jan 2025 Rs.1,25,48,595/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred And Ninety Five Only)

This step is being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/ or Co-Borrowers Guarantors are advised to make the payments of outstanding along with future interest within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with Bajaj Housing Finance Limited) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/ mortgaged property will be initiated as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which Bajaj Housing Finance Limited has the charge.

Date: 06-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



Image of Indian tea hit by re-export of cheap tea : TAI

An apex body of tea planters and traders on Thursday said that the image of Indian tea has been hit by the re-export of cheap tea imported from African and Asian nations. The Tea Association of India (TAI) said that most of the duty-free tea that has been imported is being re-exported as 'Indian Tea' in violation of national law. "Most teas being imported are cheap quality teas from origins including Iran, Vietnam and Africa. Re-export of these teas as 'Indian tea' is giving a bad reputation to Indian tea, undermining the price of Indian tea to the detriment of genuine exporters and image of Indian tea," TAI President Sandeep Singhania said. He said it decreases the price of Indian tea, negatively impacting the financial sustainability and wage-paying ability of the industry. The TAI head said that unless steps are taken for the abolition of the re-export of imported teas as the 'Indian Tea', it would have disastrous consequences on prices and the tea economy which would break the financial backbone of the already struggling industry. He said that the viability of the tea producer has been under acute stress in the absence of fair price discovery of Indian teas.

In keeping with the Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Indian tea industry has sustained production and employment levels in spite of acute economic stress over the last decade due to stagnant prices, Singhania stated.

TAI demanded the Tea Board of India, which is empowered with greater financial and legislative power, to take steps to root out the fraud and take all necessary steps as per law to bring violators to task. The tea planters and traders' body also demanded to adopt a testing model as adopted by Sri Lanka for all teas imported for re-export and consider a ban on duty-free imports for re-export in bulk.

Activate and empower the North Indian Tea Council to assist the Tea Board in monitoring the quality of imports and exports of tea and initiate necessary penal action against all who have broken the law and passed off cheap low quality imported tea as Indian tea in violation of Indian law, TAI urged the government.

Assam, which produces roughly 55 per cent of India's tea, has more than 10 lakh tea workers in the organised sector, working in about 850 big estates. Besides, there are lakhs of small tea gardens owned by individuals. The tea belts of the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys are home to more than 60 lakh people. After Assam, Tripura is the second largest producer of tea in the northeastern region, producing around 10 million kg of tea annually.

EDITORIAL  
the indian mail

Romania faces surge in respiratory infections

Romania recorded 133,635 cases of acute respiratory infections and eight flu-related deaths in the week from January 20 to 26, the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) announced. According to the INSP, this marks a 6.5 per cent increase from the previous week, bringing the total number of flu-related deaths this season to 22. Clinical influenza cases also saw a sharp rise to 10,950, up from 6,994 the week before. Despite the rising infections, the vaccination rate remains low. As of January 26, over 1.13 million people have been vaccinated against influenza. In response to the growing health crisis, Romania's Ministry of

Health has declared an epidemiological alert, urging preventive measures in schools and reinforcing vaccination efforts, Xinhua news agency reported. A respiratory infection is an infection that affects the respiratory system, which includes the nose, throat, sinuses, bronchi, and lungs. These infections can be caused by a variety of pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Common viral respiratory infections include the common cold, influenza (flu), and COVID-19, while bacterial infections can lead to conditions such as pneumonia or bronchitis. Respiratory infections can range from mild to severe, depending on the type of pathogen and the individual's overall health.



Symptoms often include coughing, sneezing, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, and fatigue. In more serious cases, respiratory infections can lead to complications like pneumonia, which may require hospitalisation and medical intervention. The spread of respiratory infections typically occurs through airborne droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. They can also spread by touching contaminated sur-

faces and then touching the face, particularly the eyes, nose, or mouth. Prevention strategies include good hygiene practices like frequent handwashing, using tissues to cover coughs and sneezes, wearing masks in crowded areas, and avoiding close contact with infected individuals. Vaccination is also available for certain viral respiratory infections, such as influenza and COVID-19, to reduce the risk and severity of infection.



Unfortunate, unacceptable: Rashtrapati Bhavan reacts to Sonia Gandhi's 'poor thing' remark

Rashtrapati Bhavan has strongly responded to Congress MP Sonia Gandhi's remark referring to President Droupadi Murmu as a "poor thing". In a statement, Rashtrapati Bhavan clarified that the President was not fatigued at any point during her address to the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Friday. "Nothing could be farther from the truth. The President was not tired at any point. Indeed, she believes that speaking up for marginalized communities, women, and farmers, as she was doing in her address, can never be tiring," the statement read. The President's office also

suggested that some political leaders might have misunderstood the nuances of Indian languages like Hindi, leading to an incorrect impression. "In any case, such comments are in poor taste, unfortunate, and entirely avoidable," the statement added. Furthermore, Rashtrapati Bhavan condemned statements from prominent Congress leaders that allegedly demeaned the dignity of the President's office. These leaders had claimed that President Murmu appeared exhausted by the end of her speech and could hardly speak. The controversy erupted when Sonia Gandhi, a veteran Congress leader and former party president, made the remark while speaking to reporters outside Parliament. Asked for her reaction to the

President's address, she responded, "The President was getting very tired by the end. She could hardly speak, poor thing."

She was accompanied by Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Rahul Gandhi dismissed the President's speech as "boring," adding, "No comments. Repeating the same thing again and again."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a sharp attack on the Gandhis, calling their remarks an insult to the dignity of the President and reflective of Congress' "feudal mindset".

BJP President and Union Minister J.P. Nadda condemned Sonia Gandhi's comment, stating, "I and every BJP Karyakarta STRONGLY CONDEMN the usage of the phrase 'poor thing' by Smt. Sonia Gandhi for the Honourable President of India, Droupadi Murmu Ji. The deliberate usage of such words exposes the elitist, anti-poor, and anti-tribal mindset of the Congress Party." Nadda also demanded an unconditional apology from the Congress party, asserting, "I demand that the Congress Party unreservedly apologise to the Honourable President and the tribal communities of India."



Odisha Vigilance unearths assets worth crores during house searches

Odisha Vigilance unearthed properties worth crores during simultaneous searches at different locations related to a senior official of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) in Sundargarh district. The senior official, Biswadarsi Sahoo, OWS, works as the Project Administrator, ITDA at Bonai in Sundargarh. The vigilance sleuths carried out house searches in seven places in Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Jajpur and Bonai over the allegations of possession of assets disproportionate to Sahoo's known sources of income. The places where searches were conducted include his official quarter, office at Bonai, a relative's house at Jajpur Town and other places. As many as seven teams of Odisha Vigilance comprising one Additional Superintendent of Police, three Deputy SPs, ten Inspectors, and other supporting staff on Thursday conducted the search on the strength of Search Warrants issued by the Court of Special Judge.

SC grants 3 more weeks to ECI to explain rationale behind increasing number of electors per polling station

The Supreme Court on Friday granted additional time to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to file its affidavit in a petition challenging the poll body's decision to increase the number of electors per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500. A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar granted three more weeks to the ECI to file its affidavit after additional time was sought by the counsel appearing on the poll body's behalf. The bench also ordered the ECI to preserve the video footage of polling stations in upcoming elections as maintained earlier. On December 2, the top court

had called for an affidavit from the ECI on its move to increase the number of electors per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500. Asking the poll body to explain the rationale behind taking such a step, the SC had remarked that no voter coming to a polling station for the exercise of the franchise should be troubled. "File a short affidavit explaining the position, we are concerned that no voter should be troubled," it had said. The public interest litigation (PIL) filed before the apex court challenged the "irrational, unreasonable, and manifestly arbitrary" decision of the ECI which would result in exclusion in voting, particularly of the underprivileged



daily wagers who have to report to work. "The writ petition seeks to safeguard the essential interests of the 'Principle of Democracy', the principles that elections must not only be free and fair but also be seen to be free and fair and on the principles of equal participation of electors in the election process," it said. The plea added that the impact of the impugned decision is likely to be more pronounced in rural areas where transportation facilities are often inadequate and increased

travel time to reach the polling station, coupled with the likelihood of longer queues, could discourage many rural voters from participating in the electoral process. It said that the practice of increasing the upper limit per polling station is nothing but "voter disenfranchisement", or the systematic exclusion of certain groups of people from the electoral process, thereby undermining the principles of fair and free elections.

Economic Survey: Health expenditure grew to Rs 6.1 lakh crore in FY25

The Economic Survey tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Friday noted that health expenditure in the country grew to Rs 6.1 lakh crore in FY25. The growth was at a CAGR of 18 per cent and Rs 3.2 lakh crore in FY21, it said. "Health is a crucial component of human capital and a valuable asset for a prosperous and stable economy. It boosts productivity, reduces healthcare needs, enhances life expectancy, and supports social development," said the Economic Survey. It noted that the emphasis on health is important as "India is emerging as an economic powerhouse driven by its youthful population". "Government initiatives, including preventive measures, univer-



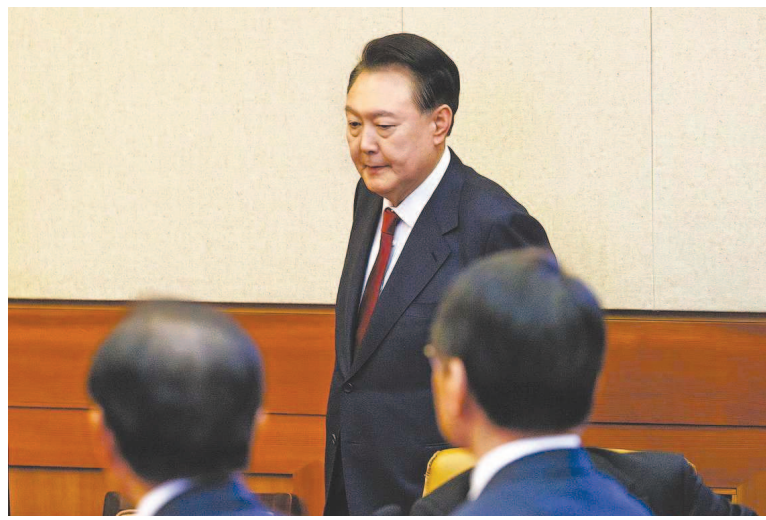
sal access to high-quality healthcare, strengthened public health infrastructure, and advancements in medical education, have collectively contributed to making healthcare in India more accessible and affordable for all," the Survey noted. Citing the latest National Health Accounts, the Survey showed that the Total Health Expenditure (THE) has shown an increasing trend since FY19. In FY22, it was estimated to be Rs 9,04,461 crore (3.8 per cent of the GDP and Rs 6,602 per capita at current prices).

## South Korea : Spy chief, top security adviser called to testify at Yoon's impeachment trial

**Seoul, Feb 5 (IANS) :** South Korean Constitutional Court has approved the spy agency chief and top security adviser as witnesses to testify at the impeachment trial of President Yoon Suk Yeol, a court official said on Wednesday. National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director Cho Tae-yong and National Security Adviser Shin Won-sik will be required to appear at the trial on February 13 and 11, respectively, court spokesperson Cheon Jae-hyun said in a media briefing. Cho and Shin are the two top officials who have been added to the witnesses' list for the high-stakes trial that will ultimately determine whether to remove Yoon from office or reinstate him over his botched attempt at imposing martial law on December 3. The court also approved former Third Deputy NIS Di-

rector Baek Jong-wook and Kim Yong-bin, secretary-general of the National Election Commission, as witnesses, Cheon said. Baek and Kim are suspected of involvement in the alleged "election fraud" Yoon has cited as a reason for his martial law decree, Yonhap news agency reported. Former Interior Minister Lee Sang-min is also among the witnesses approved by the court for the trial.

Since the impeachment trial began on December 27, the court has held six hearings, including the two preparatory hearings. Yoon has attended the last two main trial sessions. The next hearing is scheduled for next Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Yoon met his senior aides at the Seoul Detention Centre and urged them to carry on their work without being discouraged.



## Australia's goldfields nominated for World Heritage List

**Canberra, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Australian government has nominated the goldfields in the country's southeast for World Heritage status. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water, on Wednesday announced that the goldfields in the state of Victoria have been added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. It is the first formal step towards having the area recognised on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. Plibersek said in a joint statement with the government of Victoria that the goldfields, which encompass a large central area of the state, also known as the Golden Triangle, tell the story of Indigenous communities and early migration to Australia. The goldfields are strongly associated with the gold rush of

the 1850s and 1860s that drove a migration boom. According to the National Museum of Australia, over 30,000 Chinese migrants immigrated to Australia during the gold rush. By 1861, 3.3 per cent of the Australian population had been born in China -- a figure that was not equaled until the 1980s. Plibersek said that international recognition for the region would better protect its heritage and attract visitors from all over the world, Xinhua news agency reported. "It is the most extensive, coherent and best-surviving gold rush landscape in the world. It deserves to be celebrated and protected," she said. Jacinta Allan, premier of Victoria, said that the goldfields stand as a "living testament to those who came to Victoria, seeking a better life and how they transformed the state."

## Gabbard says she is not a puppet of anyone, just hates Al Qaeda

**Washington, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Tulsi Gabbard told US Senators at a hearing to confirm her as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) that she has "no love for Assad or Gaddafi or any dictator" as her critics have said, "I just hate Al Qaeda." Gabbard has faced some tough questioning from Senators, both Republicans, who control the US Senate, and Democrats, on several issues on which she has spoken before, taking positions contrary to that of the administration. She denied Assad had used chemical weapons on his own people and said it was a mistake to help in the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. She also faced questions about her past defence of Edward Snowden, the NSA intelligence contractor, who leaked a large number of classified documents and currently lives in Russia. And her positions on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



## Republicans close ranks around Kash Patel at Senate panel hearing amid harsh Democrat criticism

**New York, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Republicans closed ranks behind Kashyap "Kash" Patel, the nominee to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in a polarised Senate Judiciary Committee where he was grilled by Democrats on past statements. Under interrogation by Democrats on Wednesday, he tried to explain away some of his radical statements like shutting down the FBI headquarter-

ters on Day 1 and turning it into a museum of the "Deep State", or the support for Trump's supporters who participated in the January 6, 2021, riot (J6) at the Capitol. The committee Chair Chuck Grassley started the session with a resounding endorsement of his confirmation by the Senate and praised his record in government, from a public defender of the indigent accused to the chief of staff to the acting defence secretary. "Mr. Patel's career has been a

study in fighting for unpopular but righteous causes, exposing corruption, and putting America First," the Republican said. Noting that only 41 per cent of Americans have a good opinion of the FBI, he told Patel, "It'll be your job to restore the public's trust and return the FBI to its core mission of fighting crime. Your extensive background gives you a unique position to make this happen." As Patel started his testimony, he introduced his parents



## Niger becomes first African country to eliminate onchocerciasis

**Niamey, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Niger's Minister of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs Garba Hakimi officially declared that the country is free of onchocerciasis. With this landmark achievement, Niger becomes the first country in Africa to eradicate this disease, which had particularly impacted populations living near certain waterways. On the same day, the World Health Organisation (WHO) congratulated Niger on achieving the standard required to eliminate onchocerciasis. Niger is recognised as the fifth country in the world, and the first in Africa, to have successfully halted the transmission of the parasite *Onchocerca volvulus*. The other four countries that have reached this milestone are all located in the Americas: Colombia (2013), Ecuador (2014), Guatemala (2016), and Mexico (2015). Hakimi expressed gratitude for the efforts made over the past 15 years, which provided the scientific evidence necessary for the disease's elimination in the country, Xinhua news agency reported. Casimir Manengu, the resident representative of the WHO, commended Niger's commitment and leadership that enabled this remarkable achievement.



## UN concerned about rebels advancing south in Congo

**United Nations, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The United Nations is "deeply concerned" by the M23 rebel group advancing towards South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a UN spokesman said. "We are deeply concerned by the situation in South Kivu particularly, which remains very volatile, with credible reports that the M23 is moving rapidly towards the city of Bukavu," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at a daily briefing. Bukavu is the capital of South Kivu province. "Our colleagues in the peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) say there are reports of Rwanda defence force cross-border movements in that direction," he said.



seated behind him, and greeted them with, "Jai Shri Krishna". He said that they had travelled from India with his sister Nisha to be with him. He recalled his father fleeing Uganda during Idi Amin's genocidal rule when "300,000 men, women and children were killed based on their ethnicity, just because they happen to look like me". His childhood in New York was "the Indian way" in a "household of my father's seven siblings.

**Bank of India BOI SAROORNAGAR BRANCH**  
H.No.10-A, HUDA Colony, Saroornagar, Hyderabad-500035

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA, 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01-11-2024 calling upon the Borrower Mrs. Sudini Shirisha & Mr. Sudini Ram Reddy, Residence of H.No.3-189/3, S.No.26, Plot No.607 Northern Part & 608 Southern Part, Block No.5, Nandi Hills, Phase-II, Road No.8, Meerpet Village, Balapur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.13,25,933.06 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three and Six Paise Only) contractual dues up to 30-01-2025 plus interest from 30.09.2024 @ 10.35 % p.a compounded with monthly rests in respect of Housing Loan facility together with costs, expenses, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 30th January 2025.

The borrowers 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 BANK OF INDIA, Saroornagar Branch for an amount of Rs.13,25,933.06 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three and Six Paise Only) + Interest @ 10.35 % p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

After taking into consideration the repayment/recovery in the account there after the amount outstanding as on the date of this notice is Rs.13,25,933.06 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three and Six Paise Only) + Interest @ 10.35 % p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

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.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**  
The Residential Property Located at H.No.3-189/3, S.No.26, Plot No.607 Northern Part & 608 Southern Part, Block No.5, Nandi Hills, Phase-II, Road No.8, Meerpet Village, Balapur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana. As Bounded by: North: House belongs to Bellam Konda Kiran Kumar on Plot No.608 Middle Part, South: Neighbor's House on Plot No.607 South Part, East: 30' wide Road, West: Plot No. 604 & 615.

Date: 30.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place: Hyderabad Bank of India

**Bank of India BOI SAROORNAGAR BRANCH**  
H.No.10-A, HUDA Colony, Saroornagar, Hyderabad-500035

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA, 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01-11-2024 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Guduru Ashok Reddy & Mrs. Guduru Kalpana, Residence of H.No.8-14-60/HN/124SP, Plot No.124 South Part, S.No.60/E (Old S.No.60), Hanuman Nagar, Karmanghat Village, Saroornagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,55,099.74 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine and Seventy Four Paise Only) contractual dues up to 30-01-2025 plus interest from 30.09.2024 @ 10.70 % p.a. compounded with monthly rests in respect of Housing Loan facility together with costs, expenses, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 30th January 2025.

The borrowers 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 BANK OF INDIA, Saroornagar Branch for an amount of Rs.21,55,099.74 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine and Seventy Four Paise Only) + Interest from 30.09.2024 @ 10.70 % p.a. at monthly rests.

After taking into consideration the repayment/recovery in the account there after the amount outstanding as on the date of this notice is Rs.21,55,099.74 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine and Seventy Four Paise Only) + Interest @ 10.70 % p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

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.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** The Residential Property Located at H.No. 8-14-60/HN/124SP (PTI No. 1040803370) consisting of stilt + 2 Upper Floors constructed on Plot No. 124 South Part, admeasuring 167 Sq. Yards or 139.63 Sq. Mts. In S. M. 60/E (Old S.No. 60), Hanuman Nagar, Karmanghat Village, Saroornagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana. As Bounded by: North: Plot No.124 North Part, South: Plot No.123, East: Plot No.140, West: 30' Wide Road.

Date: 30-01-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

**Bank of India BOI SAROORNAGAR BRANCH**  
H.No.10-A, HUDA Colony, Saroornagar, Hyderabad-500035

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA, 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01-11-2024 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Sri Durga Prasad Rudrarapu, Residence of H.No.7-37/1, Plot No.71 East part, Plot No.72 West Part, Thattianaram Village, Abdullapurmet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.46,65,178.46 (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight and Forty Six Paise Only) contractual dues up to 29-01-2025 plus interest from 30.09.2024 @ 10.80% p.a. compounded with monthly rests in respect of Housing Loan facility together with costs, expenses, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 01st February 2025.

The borrowers 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 BANK OF INDIA, Saroornagar Branch for an amount of Rs.46,65,178.46 (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight and Forty Six Paise Only) + Interest @ 10.80% p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

After taking into consideration the repayment/recovery in the account there after the amount outstanding as on the date of this notice is Rs.46,65,178.46 (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Sixty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight and Forty Six Paise Only) + Interest @ 10.80% p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

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.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** The Residential Property Located at H.No. 7-37/1 on plot No.71 East part and Plot No.72 west part total admeasuring 122.00 Sq Yards or 102 Sq Mtrs in Sy.Nos. 10 part, 13 part, 14 part and 16, 15 part, 17 part and 26 part situated at Thattianaram Village, Abdullapurmet Mandal under Pedda Amberpet Municipality, Ranga Reddy Dist, Telangana State-500068. As Bounded by: North: 25' Wide Road, South: Neighbor's House on Plot 65 & 66, East: Neighbor's House on Plot 72 East Part, West: Plot No.71 West part.

Date: 01-02-2025, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

**Bank of India BOI SAROORNAGAR BRANCH**  
H.No.10-A, HUDA Colony, Saroornagar, Hyderabad-500035

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA, 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 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 01-11-2024 calling upon the Borrower Mrs. Vanga Krishnaveni & Mr. Krishnadev Goud Vanga, Residence of Flat No.202 in Second Floor of "Vijaya Vinayaka Homes", Ward No.10, Block No.1, Bhagyanagar Colony, Lingojjuda Village, Saroornagar Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.13,45,050.49 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty Five Thousand Fifty and Nine Paise Only) contractual dues up to 30-01-2025 plus interest from 30.09.2024 @ 9.45 % p.a. compounded with monthly rests in respect of Housing Loan facility together with costs, expenses, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 30th January 2025.

The borrowers 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 BANK OF INDIA, Saroornagar Branch for an amount of Rs.13,45,050.49 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty Five Thousand Fifty and Forty Nine Paise Only) + Interest from 30.09.2024 @ 9.45 % p.a. at monthly rests.

After taking into consideration the repayment/recovery in the account there after the amount outstanding as on the date of this notice is Rs.13,45,050.49 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty Five Thousand Fifty and Forty Nine Paise Only) + Interest @ 9.45 % p.a. at monthly rests from 30-10-2024.

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.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**  
The Residential Property Located at Flat No.202 in Second Floor of "Vijaya Vinayaka Homes" having plinth area of 999 Sq.feet (including common areas), Car Parking admeasuring 100 Sq.feet in the stilt floor, together with an Undivided share of land admeasuring 41 Sq.yards out of 647 Sq.yards on Plot No.26 (Western Part) and Plot No.19 in Survey No.65, 66 and 67, situated in Ward No.10, Block No.1, Bhagyanagar Colony, Lingojjuda Village, Saroornagar Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana. Boundaries of the Entire Land: North: Plot No.18, South: 30' wide Road, East: Plot No.26 (Eastern Part), West: Plot No.17, Boundaries of the Flat: North: Open to Sky, South: Flat No.201, East: Corridor, West: Open to Sky.

Date: 30.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Place: Hyderabad Bank of India



## Explain why BRS leader Kavitha came to Kerala, LOP Satheesan asks state Excise Minister

**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 5 (IANS)** : With the opposition Congress-led UDF taking on Kerala Excise Minister M.B. Rajesh for giving a brewery license to a controversial company involved in the Delhi excise case, Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday wanted the Minister to explain the role of BRS leader K. Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Addressing the media, Satheesan said he wished to ask why Kavitha came to Kerala and whom she met. "I want to ask Rajesh to tell the reason for Kavitha's visit to Kerala and whom all she met. It should be noted that Kavitha was in jail in the controversial Delhi excise policy case," he said and asked the media to find out where she stayed when she was in Kerala.

The firm in question, Oasis Commercial Private Ltd, whose top official was previously jailed in the Delhi excise policy case, received approval to establish multiple facilities in the water-scarce district of Palakkad. These include an ethanol plant, a multi-feed distillation unit, an Indian-Made Foreign Liquor bottling unit, a brewery, a malt spirit plant, and a brandy/winery plant at Kanjikode on a 26-acre plot purchased two years ago. Satheesan said that "strange things happened" when this company purchased land in Palakkad. "After the purchase was registered, the Pinarayi Vijayan government altered their Excise Policy and while no other companies engaged in this line knew it, Oasis was given the license to set up their plant in the land they purchased," he said.



## Gujarat govt holds workshop on labour rights for outsourcing agencies, nearly 300 agencies participate

**Gandhinagar, Feb 5 (IANS)** : Gujarat Labor Commissioner organised a workshop to guide outsourcing agencies that supply labour to various state government departments. The

event was held at Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhavan, Gandhinagar, under the chairmanship of Gujarat's Labour Commissioner, K.D. Lakhani.

## Honour killing case : Karnataka court sentences woman's brothers, uncles to death

**Gadag (Karnataka), Feb 5 (IANS)** : The Gadag District and Sessions Court in Karnataka sentenced four men to the death penalty on Wednesday after finding them guilty in an honour killing case. The men had brutally attacked and hacked to death a couple, Ramesh Madara and Gangamma Rathod, following their inter-caste marriage. The convicted individuals are Shivappa Rathod, Ravikumar Rathod, Ramesh Rathod, and Parashurama Rathod -- all relatives of the victim, Gangamma Rathod. Ravikumar Rathod and Ramesh Rathod are Gangamma's brothers, while

Shivappa and Parashurama Rathod are her paternal uncles. Parashurama Rathod was employed as a driver with the RTC. The shocking incident took place in Lakkalakati village, near Gajendragarh in Gadag district, when the couple returned to their native village to celebrate Diwali. Gangamma's brothers had barged into the couple's residence, dragged them outside, and brutally hacked them to death in front of their children. The accused attacked them with knives, sharp-edged weapons, stones, and sticks in full public view. The brutal killing sent shockwaves across the state and raised serious concerns. The police later arrested the accused.

The crime occurred on November 6, 2019. Ramesh Madara's family filed a complaint at the Gajendragarh police station. The police registered a case under IPC Sections 427 (mischief causing damage), 449 (house trespass with intent to commit a serious crime), 302 (murder), and 506(2) (criminal intimidation involving severe threats). After completing the investigation, they submitted a charge sheet against the accused in court. The victims, 24-year-old Gangamma Rathod and 29-year-old Ramesh Madar fell in love and got married on April 2, 2017, at the sub registrar's office. Gangamma hailed from the Banjara community and Ramesh



Madar hailed from the Scheduled Caste community. Despite opposition from their parents, the couple had moved to Shivamogga and settled there. The couple had two children, a three-year-old boy and a two-month-old baby girl. Karnataka State Human Rights Commission had recently flayed the state government for not submitting the Action Taken Report (ATR) in connection with this case.



## Karnataka: Man cons CISF cop of Rs 18 lakh in matrimony fraud

**Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS)** : A man duped a woman constable, attached to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), of Rs 18 lakh on the pretext of marriage in Bengaluru. According to police, the woman came in contact with accused Ashok Masti through a Kannada matrimony site while she was searching for a life partner. Masti told the victim he was preparing for a government job and would get it soon. The accused gained her trust and started visiting her residence. Masti demanded Rs 20 lakh as a dowry for marrying her, and the victim transferred money. However, after receiving the money, he started delaying the marriage citing one or the other reason. When Masti was asked about his changed behaviour, he refused to marry her and stopped answering her calls.



## EAM Jaishankar appreciates Odisha CM for successful PBD 2025

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 5 (IANS)** : External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for the successful organisation of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at Bhubaneswar in Odisha from

January 8-10. In a letter to CM Majhi, EAM Jaishankar expressed his appreciation for the Odisha government for successfully hosting the grand event. "I write to you to convey my sincere appreciation to the State Government of Odisha for the successful organisation of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Bhubaneswar in Odisha from January 8-10, 2025," said Jaishankar. The EAM also praised the efforts of the state government for the meticulous planning and execution ensuring the successful

organisation of the grand event. "The meticulous planning as well as the impeccable execution of all details pertaining to organisation of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas by the State Government of Odisha was indeed commendable and praiseworthy," added the EAM. He also informed in his letter that the India diaspora members who attended the PBD 2025 at Bhubaneswar admired the state government for the hospitality offered during the three-day programme.



## Bihar man seeks Rs 50 lakh compensation from Indian Railways for 'negligence'

**Patna, Feb 5 (IANS)** : A man from Bihar's Muzaffarpur district has sent a notice to the Indian Railways, seeking Rs 50 lakh compensation after he and his in-laws could not board a train to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh due to alleged negligence of its officials. The complainant, Janak Kishore Jha alias Rajan, alleged that despite having AC-3 tickets for Swatantrata Senani Express on January 26, he and his family could not board the train as the coach's door was locked from inside. Jha, a resident of the Gayghat police station area, claimed that despite repeated attempts and seeking help from the railways' staff, no assistance was provided, and the train departed without them. Following this, Jha has formally requested the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Railway Board to refund his ticket amount with interest within 15 days.

## 'Seats sold' : Prashant Kishor alleges Rs 1,000 crore scam in BPSC recruitment

**Patna, Feb 5 (IANS)** : Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor on Wednesday made a sensational claim that a scam worth over 1,000 crore has taken place in the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) recruitment process, alleging that exam seats were sold for amounts ranging between Rs 30 lakhs to Rs 1.5 crore. Speaking at a Kisan Mahapanchayat in Arwal, Kishor commented on the ongoing protests by BPSC candidates in Patna, who are demanding the cancellation of the 70th BPSC preliminary exam. "Since my hunger strike, I have been saying that most of the BPSC seats have already been sold. This is a

scam of more than Rs 1,000 crore. Seats have been sold for Rs 30 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore," Kishor alleged. He further stated that even if the exam is cancelled, the affected candidates will not get justice, as the seats have already been sold. Kishor's claims come at a time of heightened unrest, with hundreds of BPSC aspirants blocking Bailey Road in Patna, leading to severe traffic congestion.



## As Abdullahs advocate patience, other NC leaders raise pitch on J&K statehood

**Jammu, Feb 5 (IANS)** : As the ruling National Conference (NC) and other political parties are pressing for statehood, the BJP has urged Delhi to exercise caution while deciding on the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The NC's top leadership appears to have changed its strategy on the issue of statehood issue. The party's top leadership -- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC Chief Farooq Abdullah -- have started showing a conciliatory attitude on the issue. They seem to have accepted the fact that the grant of statehood is an issue to be decided by the Cen-

tre and picking up the gauntlet on this issue with the Union government might vitiate the apparent thaw in the party's relations with Delhi. An indication to this effect was given by NC president and former Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah when he said recently that statehood is a matter on which the Centre will have to take the final call. However, his party's other leaders have been vehemently raising the issue on various platforms. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who presided over the Republic Day function in Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium.

## Gold hits all-time high at Rs 8,432 per gram amid geo-political uncertainties

**Mumbai, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Gold prices in India on Wednesday surged to an all-time high at Rs 8,432 per gram with an increase of Rs 1,322 as compared to Rs 8,310 on February 4, supported by safe-haven buying amid global uncertainties. According to experts, gold prices touched an all-time high as it is underpinned by safe-haven demand after China responded to US tariffs, which were initially imposed by President Donald Trump

on the world's largest consumer of gold. Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited said the market views the US tariffs as inflationary, potentially boosting safe-haven demand for bullion, which is traditionally seen as a hedge against both rising prices and geopolitical turmoil. Meanwhile, 22-carat gold was priced at Rs 8,230 per gram. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), April gold futures

touched a new peak of Rs 84,200 per 10 grams. In Delhi, 24-carat gold was priced at Rs 85,383 per 10 grams, while in Chennai, it was Rs 85,231 per 10 grams. In Mumbai and Kolkata, gold was trading at Rs 85,237 and Rs 85,235 per 10 grams, respectively. Meanwhile, silver prices remained relatively stable. March silver futures on MCX were trading at Rs 95,674 per kilogram. However, silver has gained Rs 1,400 per kilogram so far this week.



## OpenAI to collaborate with India,

### Sam Altman hails PM Modi's AI vision: Ashwini Vaishnaw

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** As the artificial intelligence (AI) race heats up globally, India has devised an exhaustive strategy to create a full AI stack and OpenAI is willing to collaborate with the country on this mission, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. After meeting OpenAI Co-founder and CEO Sam Altman in the national capital, the Union Minister posted on X that Altman praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision around AI and overall aim

to democratise technology. "Had super cool discussion with @sama on our strategy of creating the entire AI stack - GPUs, model, and apps. Willing to collaborate with India on all three," Minister Vaishnaw posted. The Minister further stated that PM Modi "guides us to democratise technology" and Altman "appreciated PM's vision". Earlier, Altman who is the owner of popular ChatGPT models, said India is a very important market for AI and the company's second biggest market globally.



According to him, India should be a leader in the AI race. "AI models are still not cheap, but they are doable. India should be a leader there, of course," he told the gathering. Altman expressed amazement at how the country has embraced the technology and built an entire eco-

system around it. In the recently presented Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the creation of three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in AI for education. The initiative, with a budget allocation of Rs 500 crore, aims to strengthen AI research and its use in the education system in the country. The new AI Centres of Excellence will work on advanced research, the development of AI learning tools, and foster collaboration between educational institutions and industries. The goal is to equip students with the skills they need to thrive in the future. "AI is transforming industries worldwide, and India needs to lead in both AI research and its practical applications," FM Sitharaman said. The country is also likely to launch its own safe and secure indigenous AI model within six months at an affordable cost.



## Sensex surges 1,397 points, Nifty ends higher as investors track US tariff developments

**Mumbai, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Indian stock market on Wednesday ended on a strong note with both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty closed with gains of more than 1 per cent as investors closely monitored tariff-related developments in the United States.



## Hyundai Motor Group poised for potential gains from US tariffs on Mexico

**Seoul, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Hyundai Motor Group is expected to be among the least affected global automakers from the United States' plan to levy a 25 per cent tariff on goods from Mexico, according to market watchers on Wednesday. Major automakers with production bases in Mexico include General Motors (GM), Ford, Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen, Honda and Stellantis, all of which have significant exports to the U.S., according to industry data. Last year, GM led Mexican exports to the U.S. with 712,000 vehicles, followed by Ford and Nissan, with 358,000 units and 315,000 units, respectively, reports Yonhap news agency. Volkswagen came fourth with 287,000 units shipped to the U.S. from Mexico, trailed by Toyota

and Honda with 228,000 and 211,000 units, respectively. Hyundai Motor Group's exposure to Mexican production remains relatively minimal, with the manufacturing plant for Kia in Nuevo Leon having shipped 151,000 vehicles to the U.S. in 2024. Market analysts said the U.S. tariffs on Mexico could increase competitors' prices, offering Hyundai Motor Group an opportunity to gain market share in the U.S. "Out of the 17 million vehicles sold annually in the U.S., 2.8 million come from Mexico, accounting for 16.5 per cent of imports," Yoo Ji-wong, an analyst at Daol Investment & Securities, said. Yoo said Hyundai Motor Group has the lowest production dependence on Mexico among global automakers.

## India's services sector records sharp expansion in January, surge in hiring: HSBC

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** There was a sharp expansion in India's services business activity during January this year, although the growth rate was slower than December, according to the HSBC India PMI survey released on Wednesday. Several services companies linked output growth to favourable demand conditions, new business wins and investment in technology. However, a few firms suggested that activity levels at their units were constrained by a fall in customer numbers, the survey states.



## LG Chem shifts to Q4 loss as demand falls

**Seoul, Feb 5 (IANS) :** LG Chem Ltd., South Korea's leading chemical firm, said on Wednesday that it shifted to a net loss in the fourth quarter from a year earlier due to lower demand for petrochemical and battery materials products. LG Chem swung to a net loss of 899.2 billion won (\$613.3 million) in the three months ended in December from a net profit of 128.5 billion won a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing. "A down cycle in the mainstay petrochemical industry and a lower demand for bat-

tery materials amid the electric vehicle (EV) chasm cut into the quarterly bottom line," a company spokesperson said over the phone. LG Chem has an 81.84 per cent stake in LG Energy Solution Ltd., the country's leading battery maker, reports Yonhap news agency. The company also shifted to an operating loss of 252 billion won in the December quarter from an operating profit of 247.4 billion won a year ago. Sales fell 6.1 per cent to 12.33 trillion won from 13.13 trillion won over the cited period. For all of 2024, net income plunged 74.9 per cent to 515 billion won from 2.05 trillion won a year ago. Operating profit plum-

meted 63.8 per cent on-year to 916.79 billion won from 2.52 trillion won. Sales fell 11.5 per cent to 48.9 trillion won from 55.2 trillion won, said the report. To ride out a market downturn, LG Chem plans to spend 2 to 3 trillion won in capital expenditure this year, far lower than the 4 trillion-won level announced earlier. Last September, LG Chem said it plans to supply cathode materials to Prime Planet Energy and Solutions (PPES), a Japanese battery joint venture established between Toyota Motor and Panasonic.



## Tata Power posts 10 pc jump in Q3 net profit at Rs 1,188 crore

**Mumbai, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Tata Power on Wednesday reported a robust 10 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 1,188 crore for the Oct-Dec quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 1,076 crore in the same period of 2023-24. The Tata Group company said the strong performance was due to better realisation in the core business segments comprising power generation, transmission, distribution and renewables.

## Adani Ports handles highest-ever monthly cargo of 39.9 MMT in Jan, up 13 pc

**Ahmedabad, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Wednesday said it handled its highest-ever monthly cargo volume of 39.9 million metric tonnes (MMT) in January, which was up 13 per cent year-on-year. This included containers (+32 per cent YoY) and liquids and gas (+18 per cent). APSEZ has crossed new milestones of handling 372.2 MMT (+20 per cent YoY) of



total cargo (+7 per cent YoY) and liquids and gases (+9 per cent YoY) year-to-date in January, informed India's largest integrated transport utility and part of the diversified Adani

## Pujari Mahasangh suggests ban on VIPs during Ujjain Simhastha 2028

**Ujjain, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Akhil Bharatiya Pujari Mahasangh has urged Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav not to allow VIPs in Ujjain's Simhastha mela to be held in 2028 and take lessons from the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh.

In a letter to the CM, Pujari Mahasangh chief Mahesh Pujari has suggested that a lesson should be learned from the tragic incident that occurred during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

He has suggested that the area of the Shipra River where the pilgrims will take a holy dip during the Simhastha, should be divided into several parts. Separate pathways and ghats should be made for the priests of all 13 Aksharas.

"The Shankaracharya should be given the priority for a holy dip at Ram Ghat on the bank of Kshipra River. VIPs and VVIPs should not be allowed in Simhastha and separate pathways and ghats should be made for Aksharas," Pujari has suggested.

Notably, the state government has begun preparation for the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, several projects have been approved in the past few months, including a metro line from Indore to Ujjain. The Madhya Pradesh government has sent two separate teams of senior officials, including IAS and IPS, to study the various arrangements to manage vast crowds, including sanitation, health services, water supply, and law and order during the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led Madhya Pradesh cabinet has recently approved a proposal to build a 29-km-long pathway on

the banks of river Shipra and 'ghats' in view of the Simhastha Kumbh-2028 in Ujjain. All 13 Aksharas of saints and seers

will take a dip one after another for which elaborate arrangements will be along the banks of the Shipra River.



## Nitish Kumar inaugurates 69 development projects worth Rs 299.56 crore

**Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Amid the ongoing Pragati Yatra, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar reached Madhepura on Wednesday, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 69 development projects worth Rs 299.56 crore. The event took place at Government Polytechnic College, Udakishunganj, located in Rasalpur Dhuria Panchayat of Chausa block.

During his visit, the Chief Minister reviewed various development projects in Rasalpur Dhuria Panchayat. He also inspected stalls set up by different government departments at ITI, Udakishunganj, and interacted with beneficiaries. Nitish Kumar also distributed cheques to self-help groups

(SHGs) and Jeevika Didis: A tune of Rs 33.98 crore was given to 5,251 SHGs and Rs 82.55 crore to another 7,685 SHGs. Besides, Rs 6.55 crore was given to 1,232 Jeevika Didis in the district.

The Chief Minister visited the Jeevika stalls, observed various products, and interacted with the women. He recalled that in 2005,

when his government took charge, SHGs were rare in Bihar.

"We took a loan from the World Bank and started forming SHGs under the name 'Jeevika'. The Union government later adopted this model and implemented it nationwide as 'Ajeevika'," Kumar said.

## Advantage Assam to establish state as preferred investment destination : CM Sarma

**Guwahati, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been vigorously promoting the upcoming investment summit in the state 'Advantage Assam' that is scheduled

to take place in February in Guwahati. Chief Minister Sarma has asserted that Assam has a huge potential for investment and this upcoming summit will prove as a game changer for the entire north-eastern region.



## Rs 2 crore collected in fines for unauthorised parking across Gujarat

**Gandhinagar, Feb 5 (IANS) :** As part of the National Road Safety Month 2025, authorities in Gujarat have taken strict action against unauthorised parking, collecting over Rs 2 crore in fines from more than 44,000 violators.

This initiative is part of a larger effort to improve road safety and reduce accidents across the state, officials shared. To enhance public awareness of traffic regulations and prevent road accidents, the National Road Safety Authority conducted a month-long campaign from January 1 to January 31, 2025. The campaign focused on educating citizens, enforcing traffic rules, and addressing key causes of accidents.



## Stopping suicides our priority: Karnataka Home Minister on microfinance menace

**Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Karnataka Home Minister G. Parmeshwara said on Wednesday that the state government's priority is to stop suicides due to alleged harassment by the microfinance companies in the state.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru at his residence, Parmeshwara said the draft of the ordinance to contain microfinance companies indulging in harassment has been prepared and will be finalised within two to three days.

However, the state Home Minister said he cannot say about the

date of the ordinance finalisation. People carrying out microfinancing through unregistered companies should be monitored to contain the menace, he said. Sharing an incident of his constituency, Parmeshwara said that a man took a Rs 2.50 lakh loan from a microfinance company and paid back Rs 4.50 lakh, still the firm forced him to pay Rs 80,000 more.

Disappointed, the man deserted the village, however, the microfinance companies locked his house and wrote that he was a defaulter, the Home Minister added. Parmeshwara said that he

ensured action against the persons of the firm concerned, resulting in the disappointed man returning to his house. "The house was repainted and repaired and handed over to the man. I am visiting this house today. There are many such instances," he underlined.

"We are thinking of a one-time settlement. About Rs 59,000 crore loans are given to people through various channels. We are considering bringing stricter laws. The microfinance companies will approach the court and we have to make a law which does not give them any scope to approach the court," he said.



## Activists of Engineer Rashid's party detained in J&K's Srinagar

**Srinagar, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Activists of Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) were detained by police on Wednesday for trying to sit for a hunger strike demanding bail for the party's founder and Lok Sabha member Engineer Rashid.

Many AIP activists gathered at the Sangarmal Shopping complex in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar, where they had de-

cidated to hold a hunger strike after the district authorities rejected the party's application for a sit-in near Pratap Park in the Lal Chowk area of the city. Police were waiting at the new venue and as soon as the AIP activists, including Rashid's son, Abrar came, they were put in vehicles and detained at Kothibagh Police Station.

## Nine killed, 11 injured in road accident in Punjab

**Chandigarh, Feb 5 (IANS) :** At least nine people were killed and 11 injured in a collision between a pick-up van and canter truck while transporting workers of a catering service provider in Punjab's Ferozepur district on Wednesday, police said.

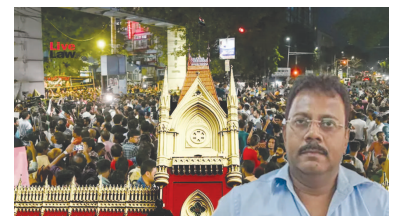
The police said the pickup van was ferrying workers from Guru Har Sahai, a subdivision in Ferozepur district, to Jalalabad in neighbouring Fazilka district when the accident occurred.

Prima facie the cause of the accident was a tyre burst of the canter. According to the police, about 25 to 30 people, mainly waiters, were in the pickup truck. They were travelling from Guru Har Sahai to Jalalabad to attend a programme when the accident occurred near Golu Ka Mod within the Guru Har Sahai Assembly constituency area. Deputy Superintendent of Police Satnam Singh said as the accident was reported, teams from the Sadak Suraksha Force (SSF) reached the spot and started the rescue operation.



The injured were sent to the nearest hospitals in Guruaharsahai, Jalalabad and a few of the critically injured were referred to the Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot.

"Nine people have died. The Canter driver is among the injured," said Senior Superintendent of Police Saumya Mishra, who rushed to the accident spot.



## RG Kar financial case: Calcutta HC nixes Sandip Ghosh's plea for more time before framing of charges

**Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday rejected the plea of the former principal of R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, seeking additional time before the process of framing of charges against him starts in connection with the financial irregularities in the institute.



## Automated, intelligent machine-aided construction is key for National Highways: Nitin Gadkari

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** National Highways are our national assets, and we have put a lot of emphasis on enhancing their quality and safety, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has said. Addressing the stakeholder consultation workshop in New

Delhi, organised by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Gadkari said that technology is a great enabler and adoption of automated and intelligent machine-aided construction (AIMC) is a step in the right direction. "We have achieved success in the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway pilot project and soon,

we will implement this technology to other projects also," said the Union Minister. "India has made remarkable strides in developing world-class roads and highways that has significantly enhanced our infrastructure. Every stakeholder plays a vital role in this transformation. As we move forward, leveraging advanced tech-

nology such as sensors, satellites, and real-time monitoring will be key to accelerating progress," he noted. With continuous technological advancements, we are committed to align India's road infrastructure with Vision 2047 and take our National Highway network to the world class level, said Gadkari.



### Two terrorists killed as Army foils infiltration bid in J&K's Poonch

**Jammu, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Army foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and killed two terrorists. Nagrota-headquartered White Knight Corps said that it detected a terrorist movement on the LoC on Wednesday night and alert troops engaged the terrorists trying to infiltrate.

Two terrorists were killed in the gunfight. The Army later conducted a search operation in the area and found weapons and warlike stores. The Army said that the operation was continuing.



### Complaints against West Bengal Medical Council on illegal honorarium payment

**Kolkata, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The West Bengal Medical Council is facing criticism from representatives of the medical fraternity on various issues. The council was recently accused of targeting a couple of junior doctors who had been at the forefront of the protests against the R.G. Kar rape and murder case.

The fresh criticism against the council is regarding payment of a monthly honorarium of Rs 50,000 to its three members despite the fact that the Bengal Medical Act, 1994 does not have any provision for such honorarium for any council member.

The second issue, which has already been recognised as justified by the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday, is the continuation of Manas Chakraborty as the registrar of the council five years after the end of his tenure in that chair way back in November 2019.

On Thursday, the Calcutta High Court's Division Bench of Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam

and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya directed Chakraborty to step down by 5 p.m. on Friday, failing which, he would be removed by the court.

The third complaint against the council is how its top brass could honourably reinstate one particular doctor as a member of the council, who was suspended from it



following accusation of fostering a "threat-culture" in the post R.G. Kar rape and murder scenario. Council insiders pointed out that these were not just verbal complaints against a section of the top brass in the body, but also have been raised in subsequent communiques by other members of the council to the state health department since October last year when the entire state was boiling over the rape and murder tragedy. However, the council president and Trinamool Congress legislator Sudipta Roy have so far maintained a total silence on such allegations.

### One Nation One Election' proposal is in interest of the country's growth, says ex-MP HC judge Rohit Arya



**Bhopal, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Former Madhya Pradesh High Court Justice Rohit Arya said on Wednesday that 'One Nation One Election' "is in the interest of the country's growth" and it is under the "purview of the Constitution". Justice (retired) Arya made this statement after a panel of convenors of 'One Nation One Election' for Madhya Pradesh held its first meeting at the BJP headquarters here.

The central leadership of the BJP recently formed the state's 'One Nation One Election' committee, and Justice (retired) Arya has been appointed as a coordinator along with Madhya Pradesh BJP Chief V.D. Sharma. While Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava has been made as a co-convenor. During an interaction with media persons after the meeting, Arya said, "The people's participation would be required for the implementation of 'One Nation One Election', and for that, we need to make the people fully aware of the concept."



### Pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil suspends indefinite hunger strike

**Jalna, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Pro-Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Wednesday suspended his indefinite hunger strike while giving a warning to the state government to stage a fresh protest in Mumbai if the demands made by him are not

met. He further declared that the state government would not be able to stop the Maratha community from holding protests in Mumbai to press its demands. Jarange-Patil announced the suspension of his indefinite hunger strike at Antarwali Sarati in Jalna dis-

trict after BJP legislator Suresh Dhas gave him juice. Jarange-Patil has been on indefinite hunger strike since last Saturday to press for the inclusion of the Maratha community under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

### Three killed as two bikes collide in Bihar's Aurangabad

**Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Three persons were killed and one other was seriously injured in a collision between two bikes in Bihar's Aurangabad district on Wednesday.

The fatal accident occurred near the Pratappur intersection in the Bandeya police station area of Goh block.

According to police, three youths were travelling on one bike towards a nearby market

when another speeding motorcycle collided with them head-on.

The deceased have been identified as Aditya Kumar (18), a resident of Buxar village, Bandeya police station area, Beche Jagan (30), a resident of Simrahi village, Fesar police station area and Sanjay Kumar, a resident of Paanti village in Fesar police station area.



### Pity their mental faculties: VHP slams people finding fault with Maha Kumbh arrangements

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Wednesday pitied 'anti-Hindu forces' for finding fault with the arrangements for the Maha Kumbh Mela after the stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj claimed 30 lives and left 60 injured in the wee hours of Wednesday.

After some people on social media compared arrangements for the Maha Kumbh with that of Hajj and made some caustic comments, the VHP said, "The Maha Kumbh caters to over 40 lakh people while Hajj draws only a few lakhs.



### Spiritual leader backs PM Modi's pitch for a healthy lifestyle

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a healthy nation and the need for a 'campaign against rising obesity' has drawn positive reactions from all quarters. Spiritual leader and Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chief Ravindra Puri on Wednesday also supported the PM's pitch for a healthy lifestyle. Speaking with IANS, Puri said, "It is a very good thing... every person should be fit, those who

are fit will do good work in their fields and you must have seen that saints have started a campaign. Thousands of Yoga gurus are working here... there are Yoga gurus in our Akhara too, Baba Ramdev is our Yoga guru, by the way all of them have started a campaign that we have to make the people fit and only when we are fit and healthy, we can work with enthusiasm." "If our student is fit and healthy, only then he can study and whatever job you do, wherever you work, you must be



fit... only then you can do a good job and provide best service, so it is very important for us to focus on fitness," Puri added. "Modi ji has said that everyone should remain fit, whether he is a religious

leader or anyone else, a teacher or anyone else, it is important for everyone to remain fit when the whole of India will be fit, then a different message will go across the world," he told IANS. Earlier in the day, while sharing PM Modi's video on X, Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar said, "Health is the biggest wealth." The actor also advocated for everyone to follow PM Modi's advice of regular exercise and nutritious food for a healthy life. On January 28, while inaugurating the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand's Dehradun, PM Modi made a strong pitch about the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle and also raised concerns over obesity emerging as a 'health hazard' in the country. "Figures show that our country is witnessing a spurt in obesity and related problems.



## Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel arrive in Ramallah

**Ramallah/Jerusalem, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Two buses carrying Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived in Ramallah, the West Bank, according to Palestinian sources. According to eyewitnesses on Wednesday, large crowds gathered to welcome them, chanting slogans and waving flags in celebration. The families of the released detainees waited anxiously outside the reception area, with many breaking into tears when finally reuniting with their loved ones. "This is a moment of both joy and pain," said Samah Abed, a relative of a prisoner, expressing relief at the release but frustration over the continued conflict between Israel and Hamas. An Israeli security official, speak-

ing with Xinhua on condition of anonymity, said Israel completed the release of 110 Palestinian detainees earlier on Wednesday as part of a Gaza ceasefire and prisoner-hostage exchange agreement with Hamas that took effect. Buses transported about 66 Palestinian detainees from Ofer Prison in the occupied West Bank to Ramallah and 15 others to a detention centre in East Jerusalem, from where they were released. A total of 29 prisoners convicted of involvement in attacks against Israelis are to be deported to Egypt and other countries, said the official. A photo circulating on social media showed Zakaria Zubeidi, a high-profile prisoner and former commander of Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in Jenin, West Bank, making a V-sign on a bus. Israel's state-owned Kan TV News reported that before his release, Israel's Shin Bet domestic security agency warned him that he would be "eliminated" if he resumed militant activities. The release was delayed by about three hours on the instruction of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was angered by "chaotic" scenes during Hamas' earlier release of several of eight Israeli hostages in Gaza.

## Disproportionate assets: K'taka Lokayukta raids properties of govt officers in four districts

**Bengaluru, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Karnataka Lokayukta sleuths are conducting raids at seven locations in four districts of the state since Wednesday morning. The raids are being held on the residences and properties of government officers over suspicions of amassing disproportionate assets. The officers being raided include an in-charge Sub Registrar. The simultaneous raids began in the morning in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Raichur and Bagalkot districts. According to sources, the Lokayukta sleuths are conducting raids and searches at the residence of an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) attached to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Engineering Division. The Lokayukta is also conducting raids on the residences of two officers in Belagavi city. The teams are searching the residence of in-charge Sub Registrar in Anagola locality.



## Israel receives list of three hostages to be freed from Gaza

**Jerusalem, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Israeli Prime Minister's Office said Wednesday that Israel has received the list of three Israeli civilian hostages Hamas will release on Wednesday. The list includes Israeli-French citizen Ofer Calderon, 54, Israeli-American citizen Keith Siegel, 65, and Israeli civilian Yarden Bibas, 35. Bibas' wife, Shiri, and two sons, five-year-old Ariel and two-year-old Kfir, were also taken to Gaza on October 7, 2023. The Israeli military has not officially confirmed their deaths but earlier expressed "grave concern" for their fate. Under a Gaza ceasefire-for-hostages deal between Israel and Hamas, which went into effect on January 19, three Israeli hos-

tages are scheduled to be released on Saturday. Since the beginning of the first six-week phase of the ceasefire agreement, five Israeli civilians, five female Israeli soldiers, and five Thai nationals have been released. The first phase includes the release of 33 Israeli hostages in Gaza and nearly 2,000 Palestinians from Israeli prisons. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Israel Security Agency (ISA) said in a joint statement on Friday that they have killed two Palestinian militants in Jenin, northern West Bank. According to the statement, in a joint activity with ISA on Thursday, the IDF and additional forces encircled a structure and killed the two militants inside.



## Sponsored conspiracy to tarnish Hindutva's image : Bageshwar Baba on Maha Kumbh stampede

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Bageshwar Dham head priest Dharendra Shastri said on Wednesday that the Maha Kumbh tragedy was a "planned and sponsored" conspiracy to dent Hindutva's image. Talking to IANS in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, he said that the incident was tragic, heart-wrenching and unimaginable. While saying that overcrowding was one of the reasons for the stampede in which 30 people were killed and over 60 were injured, he claimed that there was a larger conspiracy aimed at distorting Hindutva's image. Soon after the stampede the Opposition slammed the Uttar Pradesh government for the mismanagement of the crowd and the VIP culture.

## Kejriwal seeks FIR against Haryana CM for bid to create water crisis in Delhi

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Continuing his attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI) for alleged bias, the AAP's National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday sought registration of an FIR against Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for attempting to create an artificial water crisis ahead of the Assembly election by sending 'poisonous' Yamuna water to Delhi.

"Rather than acting against Saini, the Election Commission of India has got after me. They are issuing notices to me, whereas my efforts are ensuring that treatment plants work properly and people in Delhi continue to get regular water supply," said Kejriwal ahead of his visit to the poll panel with other AAP leaders to lodge a protest. Former Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, who has been openly accusing the poll panel of favouring the BJP and ignoring distribution of bedsheets and shawls to voters.



## 27 Bangladeshi nationals found illegally working in Kochi taken into custody by Kerala Police

**Kochi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** In a pre-dawn raid on Wednesday, the Kerala Police, in coordination with the Anti-Terror Squad, detained 50 individuals, including women, from a labour camp near Kochi as part of an ongoing crackdown on illegal immigration and unauthorized employment. Following thorough verification, authorities confirmed that 27 of those detained were Bangladeshi nationals residing

and working in the area illegally. The remaining individuals were migrant workers from various states across India, who were subsequently released after their identity was verified. The raid was conducted under 'Clean Rural,' an initiative by the Kerala Police aimed at addressing unauthorized settlements and potential security concerns linked to undocumented workers. Officials said that several of the detained Bangladeshi nationals had been engaged in casual labour for nearly a year without valid documentation. Authorities have stated that all 27 Bangladeshi nationals will be produced before a local court for further legal proceedings. Law enforcement agencies continue to monitor illegal immigration trends, particularly in Kochi and its surrounding areas, which have seen a substantial rise in the migrant workforce over recent years.



## Unique contributions of women vital to India's maritime strength : Union Minister

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The unique contributions of women are vital to India's maritime strength, and women seafarers embody resilience and excellence on the global stage, said Union Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur.

## JD-U's Neeraj Kumar slams Tejashwi for 'sidelining' Lalu

**Patna, Feb 5 (IANS) :** JD(U) MLC Neeraj Kumar slammed Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav for sidelining his father and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad, particularly while speaking about the distribution of tickets for the Assembly elections. The JD(U) leader shared a video of 'Karyakarta Darshan Sah Samvad Yatra', in which Tejashwi, can be heard saying that ticket distribution will be based on candidates' merits rather than recommen-

dations from any leaders. Mounting the attack on Tejashwi, Neeraj said that the RJD leader denied the role to Lalu in ticket distribution and has assigned him the responsibility of counting labourers, bricks and cement bags being used in the construction of the "corruption house" in the Mahuabagh locality. In response to such allegations, Tejashwi has previously defended his leadership approach, emphasising merit-based decisions within the party. Tejashwi is conducting the 'Karyakarta Darshan Sah Samvad Yatra' across the state, engaging

with party workers from the panchayat to district levels to strategise for the 2025 Assembly elections. He visited Siwan on Wednesday and plans to tour Saran, Vaishali, Nalanda, Nawada, and Patna in the coming days.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has given Tejashwi the authority to make decisions regarding the party's strategy for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled later this year.





## 105 Colombian deportees land in Bogota from US

**Bogota, Feb 5 (IANS) :** A Colombian Air Force plane landed in Bogota with 105 Colombian nationals deported from the United States, marking the third flight of its kind this week, the Colombian Foreign Ministry said. "Deportees arrived in the morning from San Diego, California," the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that the government remains committed to ensuring the rights and dignity of citizens abroad. Two previous flights landed on Tuesday, bringing back 201 Colombian nationals in total, reports Xinhua news agency. After Colombian President Gustavo Petro refused entry

of US military planes carrying handcuffed deportees on January 26, a high-level bilateral meeting was held in Washington to reach an agreement on their safe and dignified return, said the ministry. Astrid Caceres, the director of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, told reporters that an initial investigation shows the US treatment of Colombian deportees has been "degrading." Authorities plan to look into complaints made by children who said they were handcuffed and forced by US authorities to get up at three in the morning to bathe with cold water, she said.



## De-dollarisation: President Trump threatens BRICS with 100 pc tariffs

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Expressing his stance against de-dollarisation vehemently on Wednesday, Donald Trump warned BRICS nations and threatened them with 100 per cent tariffs on their exports if they try to replace the US dollar as the main currency in global trade. President Trump has

repeatedly said that BRICS nations must maintain the US dollar's role in global trade or face economic consequences, said an NDTV report. Wednesday's warning is a repeat of the one that he made on November 30, weeks after winning the 2024 election, the report stated.



## Warning issued over potentially life-threatening flooding in northeast Australia

**Sydney, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Australian authorities have issued a major flood warning for the country's northeast. The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on Wednesday issued a severe weather warning for heavy rainfall for communities along a 400-kilometre stretch of coast in far north Queensland state. Residents in the area were told to prepare for up to half a metre of rainfall and for the possibility of flooding. "Intensely heavy rainfall and significant, potentially life-threatening flash flooding are expected to develop."

## WHO deploys emergency team to help Uganda fight new Ebola outbreak

**Kampala, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that it has deployed an emergency medical team to help Uganda fight a deadly Ebola outbreak that killed a health worker in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. The personnel will provide technical and logistical support to Uganda's Ministry of Health, said the WHO in a statement issued here. The ministry on Wednesday declared an Ebola outbreak after a 32-year-old male nurse working at Mulago National Referral

Hospital in Kampala succumbed to Sudan Ebola virus Wednesday, marking the eighth outbreak of the deadly disease in the East African country. The WHO said it is "working closely with Ugandan health authorities to revitalise a robust surveillance and case management system, community mobilisation, and risk communication in response to the outbreak." The confirmed case, designated as the index case who initially developed fever-like symptoms, sought treatment at multiple health facilities, including Mulago, as well as from a tradi-

tional healer, according to health authorities. A total of 45 contacts have been listed and isolated, including 30 health workers and patients from Mulago Hospital, 11 family members of the deceased, and four health workers of Saidina Abubakar Islamic Hospital in Matugga, according to Diana Atwine, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health. "The vaccination of all contacts of the deceased against Ebola virus disease is set to commence immediately. The available doses of the Ebola vaccine are prioritised for contacts and health workers,"



Atwine told the press on Thursday in Kampala, Xinhua news agency reported. The Ebola virus is highly contagious and causes various symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalised pain or malaise, and, in many cases, internal and external bleeding. According to the WHO, the fatality rate for those who contract Ebola ranges from 50 per cent to 89 per cent, depending on the viral subtype.



## South Korea: Authorities to begin joint probe of fire-destroyed Air Busan plane early next week

**Busan, Feb 5 (IANS) :** South Korean authorities decided to begin a joint investigation of a fire-destroyed Air Busan plane early next week, officials said on Wednesday, after completing safety checks on the large amount of fuel that still remains in the wings of the plane. The joint probe into the Air Busan Airbus plane, which is on the tarmac at Gimhae International Airport, will be conducted next Monday, according to officials at the transportation ministry. The Air Busan plane bound for Hong Kong caught fire at the airport in the southern city of Busan before takeoff. All 176 people on board were safely evacuated using an escape slide, though seven suf-

fered minor injuries. "It was determined that the probe could be safely carried out without removing the fuel after conducting safety checks on the fuel tank and system," said an official at the ministry's investigation board. 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, Yonhap news agency reported. Earlier on January 30, South Korean authorities retrieved black boxes from an Air Busan passenger plane that caught fire at a South Korean airport, as they sought safety measures in the run-up to launching a probe. 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 fuel was stored in the wings of the plane. They were expected to decide on detailed plans for investigation after visiting the scene to check relevant circumstances and safety measures later in the day. The incident took place less than a month after a Jeju Air passenger plane crashed at Muan International Airport, killing all but two of the 181 people on board. It was the worst aviation disaster on South Korean soil.

## South Korea: Govt demands parliamentary reconsideration of bill on special counsel probe into Yoon

**Seoul, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The South Korean Cabinet on Wednesday demanded the National Assembly reconsider an Opposition-proposed bill that calls for a special counsel probe into President Yoon Suk Yeol on his failed martial law attempt last month. The motion demanding reconsideration was approved during a Cabinet meeting, chaired by acting President Choi Sang-mok, who emphasised that there is no probable cause for appointing a special counsel, as Yoon has already been arrested and indicted on insurrection charges. "At this point, as judicial proceedings are still ongoing, many have pointed out that it is difficult to justify the need for a separate special counsel," Choi said. Choi also pointed out that the bill contains elements that may be unconstitutional and raise concerns over the potential disclosure of state secrets.



## Hamas confirms death of military chief Mohammed Deif

**Gaza, Feb 5 (IANS) :** The Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, has announced that its military chief, Mohammed Deif, was killed by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip. In a statement on Wednesday, Abu Obeida, spokesperson for the brigades, also confirmed that Marwan Issa, Al-Qassam's deputy chief of staff, had been killed, Xinhua news agency reported. "The enemy has assassinated two of our great leaders, but their legacy and resistance will continue," Obeida said. He added that the assassination of Hamas military leaders will not stop the Palestinian resistance

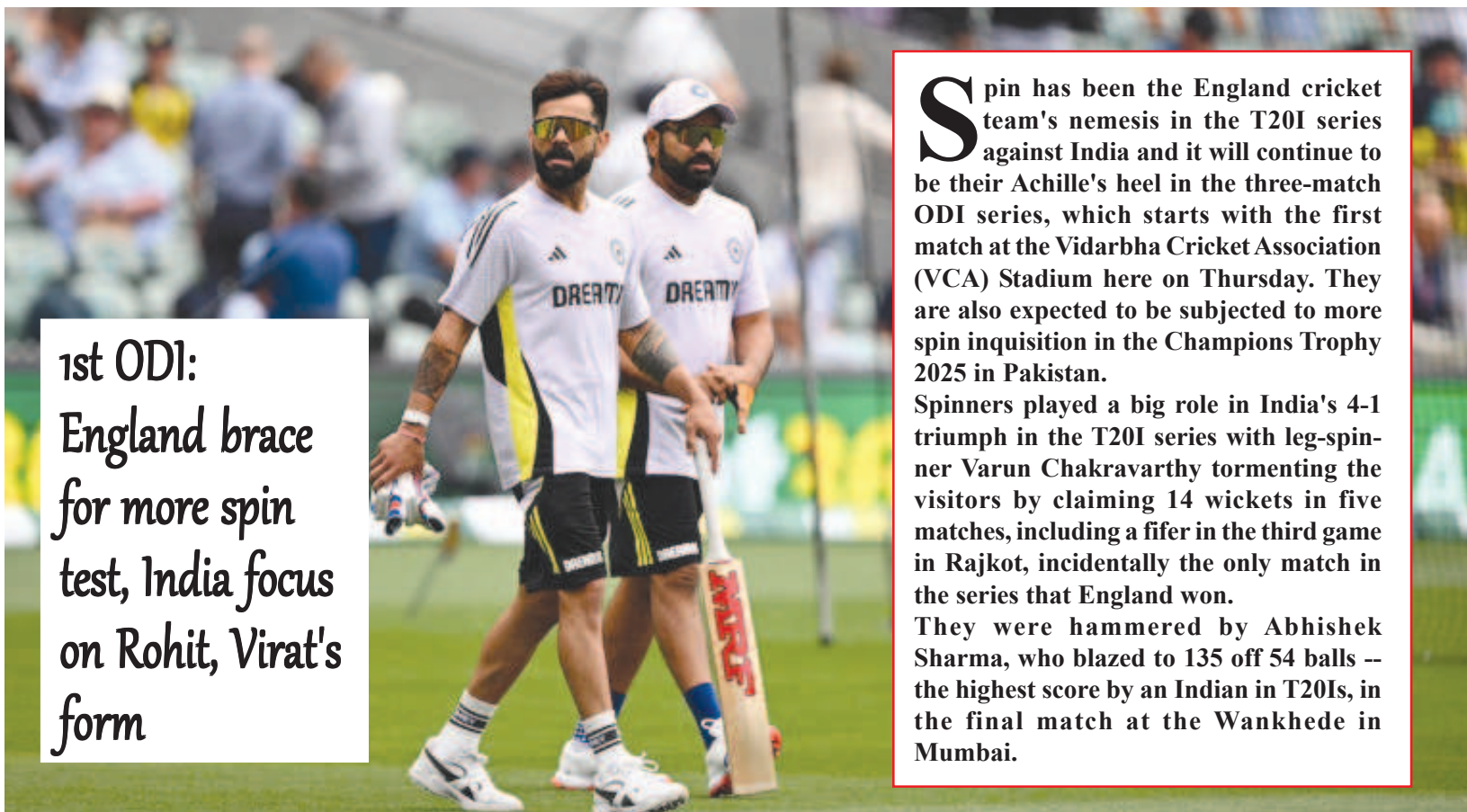
against Israel. No additional details were provided. On August 1, 2024, Israel's military claimed that it had killed Deif in an airstrike in southern Gaza's Khan Younis. Israel has accused Deif of being one of the masterminds of the Hamas attack on southern Israeli towns on October 7, 2023. Israel's military said it had killed Deif in July last year, but Hamas had not confirmed this until now. Israel has said that Deif was one of the figures responsible for planning the October 7 attacks in southern Israel in which 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken hostage. Deif was widely seen as the second-ranking Hamas official in Gaza, behind Yahya Sinwar, the group's leader in the territory, who was also killed by Israeli

forces last year. In May 2024, the International Criminal Court said it was seeking arrest warrants for Deif and other senior Hamas figures, saying they had "reasonable grounds" to believe they bore responsibility for the October 7 attacks, which saw around 1,200 Israelis killed. Deif was known to have helped engineer the construction of tunnels that have allowed Hamas fighters to enter Israel from Gaza. He was also credited with designing Hamas's signature weapon, the Qassam rocket. The US announced Al-Qassam's deputy chief of staff, Marwan Issa's death in March last year. Issa was the deputy commander of Hamas's military wing and was considered one of Israel's most-wanted men.



The European Union, which placed the Hamas leader on its terrorist blacklist, linked him directly to the October 7 attack. The latest war was triggered when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. Israel's 15-month military offensive killed more than 47,460 Palestinians in the territory, according to Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry. A ceasefire between Hamas and Israel came into effect on Janu-

ary 19. A total of 15 Israeli hostages have been freed since then. So far, 400 Palestinian prisoners -- ranging from those serving long sentences for bombings and other attacks to teenagers held without charge -- have been released. Most have returned to the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, while about 70 of the most serious offenders have been deported.



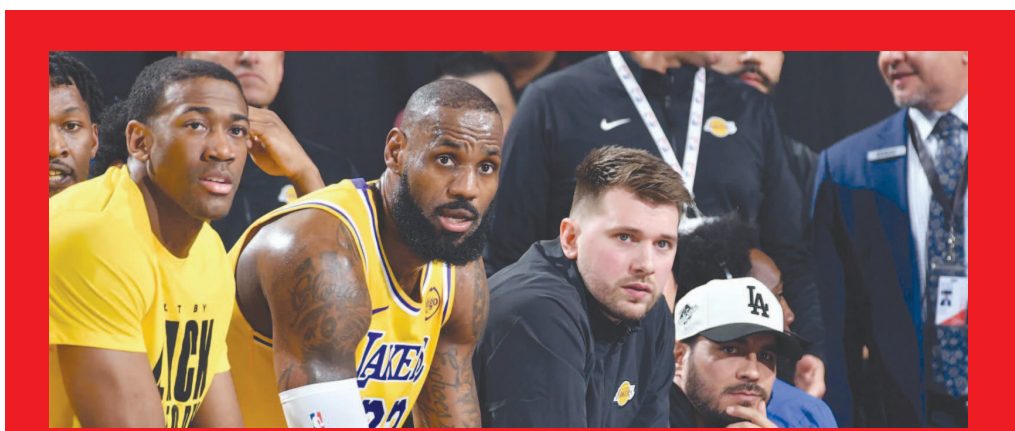
**1st ODI:**  
England brace  
for more spin  
test, India focus  
on Rohit, Virat's  
form

**S**pin has been the England cricket team's nemesis in the T20I series against India and it will continue to be their Achilles' heel in the three-match ODI series, which starts with the first match at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium here on Thursday. They are also expected to be subjected to more spin inquisition in the Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan. Spinners played a big role in India's 4-1 triumph in the T20I series with leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy tormenting the visitors by claiming 14 wickets in five matches, including a fifer in the third game in Rajkot, incidentally the only match in the series that England won. They were hammered by Abhishek Sharma, who blazed to 135 off 54 balls -- the highest score by an Indian in T20Is, in the final match at the Wankhede in Mumbai.



**Telangana CM announces Rs 1 crore reward for Trisha, 10 lakhs each to Dhruthi, head coach Nooshin**

**Hyderabad, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Women's T20 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. India women successfully defended their U19 Women's T20 World Cup after a dominant nine-wicket win over first-time finalist South Africa. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced a cash incentive of Rs 1 crore to Gongadi Trisha for her impressive show at the recently concluded U19



**'It's going to be special': LeBron on partnering with Doncic at Lakers**

**Los Angeles, Feb 5 :** Following Los Angeles Lakers' 122-97 win over the Clippers, LeBron James reflected on the addition of Luka Doncic to his team at the Intuit Dome on Wednesday (IST). The 40-year-old James, who was named Western Conference Player of the Week on Monday,



**Both Sutherland and Perry seem to be cut from the same cloth in preparation, says Sthalekar**

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Former Australia women's cricketer Lisa Sthalekar believes Annabel Sutherland is fast catching up with the legendary Ellyse Perry to be the next best all-rounder in the current team, noting that the duo are cut from the same cloth in terms of preparing for matches. Recently, Annabel claimed her first Belinda Clark Award awarded to the best Australia women's cricketer across all formats for 2024, amassing 798 runs at an average of 46.94 and picking 34 wickets while averaging 20.82. Named in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year, Annabel was also outstanding in the two Test matches Australia played - making 210 against South Africa in Perth in the previous season, and recently becoming the first woman to hit a Test century at the MCG in a Player of the Match performance against England.

**'My body can no longer endure...': Former world no. 1 Simona Halep announces retirement**

**Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Feb 5 (IANS) :** Former World No.1 Romanian Simona Halep announced her retirement after her homecoming was stopped at the first hurdle at the Transylvania Open in Cluj-Napoca on Wednesday by Italy's Lucia Bronzetti. Halep belatedly got her season under way in her home event, the Transylvania Open in Romania on Tuesday, after being handed a wildcard. But, the two-time Grand Slam singles champion, suffered a 6-1, 6-1 loss at the hands of Bronzetti. "It's a bit hard for me to speak," said Simona Halep into the microphone on the purple court at the Transylvania Open, standing before packed stands. "I feel both sadness and joy—both emotions are running through me right now. But I take this decision with peace of mind. My body can no longer endure what it takes to reach the level I once was at. "It's too difficult to get back there and I know what kind of effort that requires. That's why I came here to Cluj, to play in front of you and to say goodbye. Even though today's performance wasn't my best, I am so happy you came," she continued. "I reached World No. 1, I won Grand Slam titles, I achieved everything I ever wanted. Life goes on after tennis



and I hope we will see each other as often as possible. I will still play tennis, but to be competitive at the highest level takes so much more and at this moment, it's no longer possible for me," Halep said. Halep, who was given a four-year doping ban that was reduced to nine months due to a contaminated supplement.

**I have Boland ahead of Hazlewood for his performance against India, says Ian Healy**

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy believes Scott Boland has leapfrogged Josh Hazlewood in the Test fast-bowling pecking order, ranking just behind Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc. While Hazlewood has long been considered part of Australia's elite pace trio, Boland's outstanding performances against India in the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy have, in Healy's eyes, earned him the No. 3 seamer spot in the Test team.



**ISL in Shillong will boost Meghalaya's football culture : Mumbai City captain Chhangte**

**Shillong, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Mumbai City FC skipper Lallianzuala Chhangte is all set and geared up to feature in the Indian Super League's (ISL) debut in Meghalaya with NorthEast United FC hosting the Islanders at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Friday. Chhangte is cheering the move to play the top-tier in the north-eastern state since he believes strongly in the tremendous impact it is slated to have in the footballing culture there. The 27-year-old is thrilled with the prospect of the Highlanders playing their final three home league games of the season in Shillong, as Bengaluru FC and East Bengal FC are set to visit them in the coming weeks. Expressing his encouraging thoughts behind this endeavor, Chhangte said, "Shillong is a beautiful place and to play an ISL game there will be lovely. I hope that the fans turn up in big numbers, not just the NorthEast United FC fans, but also the supporters of Mumbai City FC. "I am positive about the impact that the matches taking place there will have on the footballing culture of Meghalaya. It gives the people there a never-seen opportunity to experience an ISL game live. I hope we put up a good match for them and come back victorious, of course!" Mumbai City FC head coach Petr Kratky echoed similar feelings as Chhangte, expressing his excitement towards playing in different conditions. "To be honest, I am looking forward to going there. Everyone told me it's a very nice place with very nice people. So I am looking forward to being there and seeing a part of India I have not seen yet. I am looking forward to playing away in different, much cooler conditions, and also playing good football and trying to win," Kratky said. With the playoffs nearing, Mumbai City FC are presently placed at the sixth spot having 28 points from 18 matches. With Odisha FC (25), Kerala Blasters FC (24), and Punjab FC (23) following them closely in the standings, the race to finish in the top-six looks likely to go right down the wire. Chhangte reflected on their assertive 3-2 comeback victory in the semi-final against FC Goa last season to signify his team's winning mentality, something that he believes will keep them in the pursuit for the top honours consistently. "The first leg of the semi-final last season against FC Goa was one of the most memorable games I have played in the ISL.



**Coetzee included as South Africa pick six uncapped players for tri-series opener in Pakistan**

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee has recovered from a left hamstring strain and is now included in South Africa's 12-man squad for the tri-series opener in Pakistan, happening on February 10 in Lahore against New Zealand.



**Ryan Harris backs McSweeney for Test comeback after tough summer**

**New Delhi, Feb 5 (IANS) :** Former Australia cricketer and South Australia coach Ryan Harris has voiced his frustration over how Nathan McSweeney was handled by selectors during the recent home Test summer.

