

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY

WEDNESDAY, 02 April 2025

VOLUME : 15 ISSUE : 216 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4

PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Man City expect Haaland to return from injury in time for FIFA Club WC

Manchester City is expecting its star forward Erling Haaland to be fit in time for the FIFA Club World Cup after the...

12



India remains strong growth pillar for Nissan as firm registers best fiscal sales in 7 years

Nissan Motor India on Tuesday said it has delivered its best single year performance for FY 2024-25 in the last seven years....

07



Distribution of fine rice in Ration Shops is a first in the country

State BC Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that the distribution of fine rice in all ration shops in the state is a first in the country. The state government's...

02

HC issues notice to complainant in KCR's rail roko case

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (NSS): It is known that former CM KCR has approached the Telangana High Court for the dismissal of the Rail Roko case registered against him during the

separate Telangana State movement. On Tuesday, a hearing was held in the High Court on KCR's petition in the Rail Roko case. The lawyer for the former CM told the HC that KCR was not

at the place where the Secunderabad rail roko incident took place on October 15, 2011. However, the public prosecutor told the court that the rail roko was carried out only on KCR's

call. After hearing the arguments, the High Court ordered that a notice be given to the person who complained to the police about the rail roko incident. Following the orders, the High

Court adjourned the further hearing of the case. The rail roko program was carried out in Secunderabad on October 15, 2011 as part of the separate Telangana movement.



Distribution of fine rice will increase self-esteem of poor : Komatireddy

Nalgonda, Apr 1 (NSS): Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has stated that the State government's decision to distribute fine rice is a significant step toward enhancing food security for the underprivileged. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he pointed out that the fine rice distribution initiative will bolster the self-esteem of the impoverished, and emphasised that the government is making strategic efforts to ensure better.



400 acres of land at Kanche-Gachibowli is government property : Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, April 1 (NSS): Minister for Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has reiterated that the 400-acre land in survey No. 25 at Kanche-Gachibowli is unequivocally government property. Speaking to the media at Secretariat here on Tuesday, Sridhar Babu, along with Deputy

Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accused the BRS and BJP leaders.

Continued on pg 02



Protests intensify at Hyderabad University over land row

Hyderabad, April 1 (IANS) Protests by student groups, green activists and opposition parties intensified on Tuesday at the University of Hyderabad over the Telangana government's action in bulldozing trees on 400 acres of land next to the campus for its auction. Activists of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M).



Census was conducted even during wars, now an unprecedented delay: Kharge

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday raised concerns over the delay in conducting the national census and the caste census and urged the government to start it as soon as possible. Kharge pointed out the government's silence on the issue, saying that despite wars and crises in the past, the census was never delayed.

Continued on pg 02



BJP MPs seek Dharmendra Pradhan's intervention to save 400-acre land near Hyderabad University

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (IANS) : BJP MPs from Telangana on Tuesday urged Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to intervene and save 400 acres of land in Kanche Gachibowli near the Hyderabad Central University campus.

A delegation of MPs led by Union Minister for Mines and state BJP president G. Kishan Reddy met Pradhan in Delhi and submitted a memorandum.

The delegation included Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and MPs Arvind Dharampuri, Eatala Rajender, K. Vishweshwar Reddy and G. Nagesh.

The BJP MPs sought Dharmendra Pradhan's intervention to protect 'ecological and heritage land' which the Telangana government has decided to auction. "This land, which is home to unique rock formations, rich biodiversity, and vital green cover, plays a critical role in maintaining the environmental balance of our city," reads the memorandum. The MPs pointed out that the area located near the University of Hyderabad is not just a real estate asset, but it is a carbon sink, housing 734 species of plants.

Strengthening ties: How India is shaping the future of BIMSTEC

New Delhi, April 1 (IANS) India plays a dynamic and central role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), acting as a key driver of regional integration and cooperation. Significantly, India is the largest and most influential member of the grouping. It has been instrumental in shaping BIMSTEC's agenda and promoting collaboration across various sectors. The grouping, which connects South Asia and Southeast Asia, brings together seven member states -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka from South Asia, and Myanmar and Thailand from Southeast Asia.

Continued on pg 02



Jana Reddy requests Congress leadership to give a ministerial post for Rangareddy district

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (NSS): Following discussions about a potential cabinet expansion, senior Congress leader and former minister K Jana Reddy addressed a letter to the party's high command on Tuesday. In his correspondence to AICC President Mallikharjun Kharge and General Secretary KC Venugopal, Jana Reddy requested that a ministerial position be allocated to the combined Rangareddy district.

He expressed that appointing a minister from Rangareddy district would not only be beneficial for the local people, but also enhance the Congress party's development and contribute to the overall progress of Telangana State.

Incidents of sexual assault will not be taken lightly : Seethakka

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (NSS): In response to incidents of violence against women in the state, particularly the recent events in Nagarkurnool district and the attack on a German tourist in Hyderabad, Minister for Panchayat Raj Seethakka has adopted a strong position on the issue of sexual assault.

The Minister has engaged with relevant police officers and women's welfare officials to inquire about the status of the investigations and the health of the victims.





SCR registers best-ever performance in freight business

Hyderabad, April 1 (NSS): South Central Railway registered its best-ever performance in freight business during the last financial year 2024-25 by surpassing the previous best figures registered in 2023-24. The Zone registered 144.140 Million Tonnes freight loading which is 2% higher than the previous best freight loading i.e., 141.120 MTs registered during the financial year 2023-24. Similarly, in terms of freight revenue, the Zone registered Rs 13,825 Crores, which is also 2% higher than the previous best freight revenue of Rs 13,620 Crores registered during 2023-24. The record-breaking performance by the Zone was a result of the exceptional team work by the SCR's workforce and effective co-ordination between all the departments. The Zone has been giving a major thrust towards attracting new streams of freight business,

while strengthening its existing freight basket. Special focus was given towards enhancing the infrastructure, work atmosphere at Freight terminals, improvements to Goods Sheds, etc. Simultaneously, regular communication is being maintained by the SCR officials with the freight customers so as to address the requirements of the freight customers within stipulated time. The buoyancy in the Zone's loading was witnessed across all commodity streams during the year 2024-25. The approximate freight loading of the different commodities transported by the Zone is as follows - Coal, the major commodity in the Zones freight basket, contributed 70.147 MTs of loading (vs 70.510 MTs in FY 23-24). Cement (along with Clinker) is the second largest commodity contributing 37.604 MTs in loading (vs 36.47 MTs in FY 23-24).

Distribution of fine rice in Ration Shops is a first in the country

Rajanna Sircilla, Apr 1 (TIM Bureau) : State BC Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said that the distribution of fine rice in all ration shops in the state is a first in the country. The state government's ambitiously implemented Sanna Rice Scheme was launched on Tuesday at the ration shop located at the new bus stand in the Sircilla district center by the government whip, Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas, Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, and SP Mahesh B Githe. On this occasion, Sanna Rice was distributed to several beneficiaries along with the Minister, Whip, Collector, SP and others. Later, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar spoke and re-

minded that for the first time in the country, the distribution of Sanna Rice to ration beneficiaries in the state was started by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Ugadi day. He stated that the scheme is being implemented as per the promise given and said that Sanna Rice will be distributed to two lakh 91 families in 17,263 ration shops in the state. He called on every beneficiary to make good use of the Sanna Rice. He explained that the state government is implementing various schemes aimed at the welfare of all sections. It was revealed that 3275 metric tons of rice will be distributed to 1 lakh 70 thousand ration card beneficiaries through 345 ration shops in the district. Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha said that fine



Implementation of schemes aimed at the welfare of all sections: Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar

rice will be distributed to all beneficiaries in accordance with the orders of the state government. He explained that all measures will be taken to ensure that no problems arise anywhere. The program was attended by District Library Chairman Nagula Satyanarayana Goud, Market Committee Chairperson

Swaroopa, Additional Collector Khimya Nayak, Sircilla RDO Radhabai, District Civil Supplies Officer Vasantha Lakshmi, Civil Supplies Manager Rajitha, Choppadandi Prakash, Madupu Sridevi, Kamuni Vanitha, Boppada Devaiah, Aakunuri Balaraju, Ramana and others.

KTR slams Govt's stance on HCU lands

Hyderabad, April 1 (NSS):BRS party working president KTR today reacted strongly to the State government's stance on the Hyderabad Central University's land issue and CM Revanth Reddy's style of conduct. He was furious that first the houses of the poor

people were demolished by the CM in the name of environmental protection and added that the CM later made a futile attempt to forcefully take away the lands of the tribal people of the State. "Now, the CM is chasing animal nests and committing mass murders. The CM's justification is Development? Is the CM an elected

representative or a real estate agent," he asked. He mocked that destruction was the only slogan of the CM! "I ask you Revanth Reddy why did your bulldozers work continuously on weekends and during night times? Why are you afraid of the court?"

400 acres of land at Kanche-Gachibowli is government property : Sridhar Babu

Continued From pg 01 of misleading the people for their political gains. "Such actions are unacceptable. Political maneuvering that hinders the state's progress is not in the best interest of the people," he said. The Minister clarified that the State government has not encroached upon even an inch of land belonging to Hyderabad Central University. "Until now, the university has had no legal ownership rights over a single acre of land. Students and staff have long been demanding a resolution to this issue. However, the BRS government, during its tenure, ignored their concerns. Now, they are engaging in a false propaganda campaign against us," Sridhar Babu criticised. The Minister further informed that a week ago, the State government held a dedicated meeting with the univer sity's Vice-Chancellor and Registrar and responding to their request.

Koil alwar tirumanjanam held at Vontimitta

Tirupati, April 1 (NSS): The traditional temple cleansing fete, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, was observed at Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple at Vontimitta in Kadapa district, on Tuesday in view of the annual Brahmotsavam from April 5 to 15. Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam is an Agamic temple cleansing ritual which is usually observed before any mega religious event. 'Koil' means the temple, 'Alwar' means the devotee and 'Tirumanjanam' means divine cleansing activity. Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam is a Agama ritual which means cleaning of the temple premises by the devotees. On Tuesday, an aromatic mixture called "Parimalam" was smeared all along walls, roofs of the main temple, sub-temples, puja utensils.

Strengthening ties: How India is shaping the future of BIMSTEC

Continued From pg 01 These nations of the grouping together account for 1.7 billion people and a combined GDP of US\$ 5 trillion. Through its leadership and active participation, India has significantly contributed to the development of BIMSTEC, especially in areas of security, connectivity, trade, and climate change. Hopes are high as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the BIMSTEC Summit on April 3 and 4, to be held in Thailand. Experts say that the presence of the Indian leader will further elevate India's prominent role on the regional stage, reinforcing its leadership in enhancing cooperation and progress within the BIMSTEC framework. Established in 1997 through the 'Bangkok Declaration', BIMSTEC has since

then developed into an entity which is a key player in promoting regional cooperation across various sectors. As a leader in various sectors, New Delhi spearheads the security pillar that includes critical areas such as counter-terrorism, transnational crime, disaster management, and energy security. Remarkably, India is the host country for major BIMSTEC institutions such as the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate (BCWC) based in Noida. This entity provides vital weather data for the region. Moreover, another

institution is the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, which focuses on energy security. It was during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in Colombo in 2022 that India's leadership was highlighted prominently. On this occasion, India committed to a series of initiatives which were aimed at advancing regional cooperation. These included a one-time grant of USD 1 million to help the BIMSTEC Secretariat complete its institutional development.

Harish slams CM Revanth for cheating farmers

Hyderabad, April 1 (NSS): BRS leader & former minister Harish Rao today strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to implement the Rythu Bharosa scheme as promised, accusing him of repeatedly deceiving farmers. Harish Rao pointed out that Revanth Reddy had publicly assured that Rythu Bharosa funds would be deposited into farmers' accounts by March 31, a promise he reiterated during the recent Assembly Budget session. However, despite these commitments, the funds have not been disbursed, leaving farmers disappointed. He remarked that while the Chief Minister

makes grand announcements, his actions fail to match his words. "His promises cross mountains, but his steps do not even cross a doorstep," Rao said, criticising the Congress government's failure to provide the promised financial support to farmers in time for Ugadi. Harish Rao listed multiple instances where the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises.

CPM to hold State-wide protests against HCU land auction & police brutalities

Hyderabad, April 1 (NSS):The State CPM today gave a call to hold a statewide agitation against the auction of the Kanche Gachibowli lands. A dharna was held at the main gate of the Hyderabad Central university, opposing the State government's decision to auction 400 acres of land belonging to Hyderabad Central University. CPI(M) leaders, Rangareddy district, Hyderabad South, Hyderabad Central city leaders and activists rescued the university in large numbers. In a statement, CPM State Secretary John Wesley alleged that the police misbehaved with their party leaders and students who reached the university peacefully and arrested them. "They misbehaved with women activists. CPI(M) leaders and activists who went to announce a protest program in front of HCU

today under the auspices of the party were arrested. CPI(M) State committee members Bhupal, J Venkatesh, P Jayalakshmi, R Aruna Jyothi, B Prasad, P Ashaiah, Udatha Ravinder, Anaganti Venkatesh, Kota Ramesh, Shobhan Nayak, Kadigalla Bhaskar, Shobhan, G Vitthal, Meena, Shrivani Kumar, Kavitha, Sasikala, Prakash Karat, Krishna, Jagadish, Rudrakumar, Stalin, Shankar, and others were arrested during the program. Around 430 CPI(M) leaders and activists were arrested in all districts and mandals across the State," he alleged. He said the party's State committee was calling for protests across the State today to protest the State government's stance and oppose the police brutality. "We appeal to the public to heed this call. The students opposing the auction process are being detained on a large scale.

Governor praises Odisha's rich cultural

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (NSS): Governor Jishnu Dev Varma attended the Odisha Foundation Day celebrations as the Chief Guest at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor praised Odisha's rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions, and diverse natural beauty. He highlighted the

State's renowned temples, calling Odisha the "Temple State of India." The Governor noted the deep historical and cultural connections between Odisha and Telangana. He spoke about the four spiritual pillars of our gratis nation i.e. north, Badarinhath.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT2) 1st Floor, Triveni Complex Abids, Hyderabad 500001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/573/2024 25-02-2025

Canara Bank Versus M/S Advanced Biomed Equipments India And Another

To (CD 1) M/S Advanced Biomed Equipments India Rep. by Its Proprietor Sri Koduri Devakinandan, P/O D.No.13/A, Road No 8, Kukatapally, Industrial Estate Gandhinagar, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500 037.

(CD 2) Sri Koduri Devaki Nandan, S/o Late Koduri Raja Rao, D.No.13/A, Road No.8, Kukatapally Industrial Estate, Gandhinagar, Balanagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500 037.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD(DRT 2) in OA/100/2023 an amount of Rs 5487613.30 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousands Six Hundred Thirteen And Paise Thirty Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 8.80 % Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 27/12/2022 till realization and costs of Rs 99505 (Rupees Ninety Nine Thousands Five Hundred Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 22-04-2025 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date 25-02-2025

Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT2)

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

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

| Name of the Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower(s) | Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property) | Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.) | Date of Demand Notice | Date of Possession |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Kunnuru Mamatha, Mr. Kamuru Nagendra (Prospect No. IL10341297) | All that piece and parcel of Sy.No.62/1, Dhona Village And Mandali, Venkatapuram, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh, India-518222. Area Admeasuring (In Sq.ft.) Property Type: Built-Up Area, Carpet Area, Land Area, Property Area-350.00, 320.00, 1289.00. Bounded By: North: Kondapuram Obulesu, South: C C Road, East: Ajiboyini Gorantla, West: Moku Chinna Kistaiah. | Rs.3,23,487/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) For IL10341297 | 06-Jan-2025 | 28-Mar-2025 |

For further details please contact to Authorized Officer at Branch Office: D.No.37-1-175/8/2, 1st Floor, Opp. Konjeti Petrol Bunk, Kurmool Road, Ongole-523001 or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Kurmool, Date: 02-04-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

K'taka Bajrang Dal leaders booked for threatening man who supported inter-faith marriage

Chikkamagaluru (Karnataka), Apr 1 (IANS): The Karnataka Police have registered an FIR against Bajrang Dal leaders for issuing threats to a man who supported an inter-religious marriage in the Chikkamagaluru district, officials said on Tuesday. The Basavanahalli police

have booked Bajrang Dal district-level leaders Shyam and Sagar under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 353(1)(C) and 353(2). The action follows a police complaint filed by Mahesh, the owner of a Gobi chat shop. According to the police, Mahesh ran a Gobi centre in Chikkamagaluru city. One of his

workers, who belongs to the Muslim community, was in a relationship with a Hindu girl. Upon learning about their relationship, Mahesh helped them get married at the Sub-Registrar's office in Chikkamagaluru city four days ago. He also signed as a witness to their marriage. After the incident came to light, Hindu

organisations expressed outrage and accused him of supporting "love jihad". The Bajrang Dal leaders allegedly launched a social media campaign against Mahesh, labelling him a traitor to Hindus. They further alleged that he was actively supporting "love jihad" by facilitating marriages between Hindu women and Muslim men.

The accused also urged people not to tolerate individuals who, according to them, act against the interests of the Hindu community. Recently, an incident of a Muslim youth and a Hindu girl submitting a fake address document at the Sub Registrar's office in Mysuru had come to light. The submission of fake documents had raised con-



cerns, and the Hindu organisations questioned the affidavit with authorities.



BJP slams Hemant Soren govt over rising crime; Marandi demands accountability for murders

Ranchi, Apr 1 (IANS): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a scathing attack on the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government over the rising incidents of crime in the state. BJP state president and Leader of the Opposition Babul Marandi has accused the administration of shielding criminals while law and order continue to deteriorate. Marandi took to social media to lash out at Soren, holding him responsible for the recent surge in violent crimes in Ranchi. In a direct message to the Chief Minister on Instagram, he wrote, "Hemant Soren ji, if you can take a break from attending Iftar parties and sending Eid greetings, perhaps you should also take responsibility for the two brutal murders that occurred in Ranchi within two days." Accusing the government of fostering a culture of lawlessness, he further stated, "The criminals nurtured under your rule have become so emboldened that innocent people are being murdered. Women are losing their husbands, children are being orphaned, and families are being destroyed."

TVK meet: Vijay's party demands withdrawal of Waqf Bill, continuation of bilingual policy

Chennai, Apr 1 (IANS): The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by actor-turned-politician Vijay, held its first-ever general council meeting on Tuesday in Thiruvanimiyur, Chennai, where it demanded withdrawal of the Waqf Bill and continuation.



Relief for CM Vijayan, daughter as Kerala HC junks plea for vigilance probe in payoff case

Kochi, Apr 1 (IANS): The Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed two pleas seeking a probe by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department into the allegations that Veena Vijayan's IT firm, Exalogic, got monthly gratification from a Kochi-based mining firm, Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL), for mining sanctions. Veena is the daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and the court gave its verdict after hearing two different pleas -- one filed by Congress legislator Mathew Kuzhalsadan and the other by Kochi resident Gireesh Babu, who passed away last year. Incidentally, Kuzhalsadan approached the High Court after the Thiruvananthapuram Vigilance Court dismissed his petition seeking the Vigilance department probe, likewise, Babu's petition was also dismissed by another Vigilance Court in the Ernakulam district.



BJP leader Ajay Mahawar calls for renaming Babarpur; proposes 'Kalampuri'

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS): BJP leader Ajay Mahawar will raise the issue of renaming Babarpur during the ongoing Delhi Assembly session. He advocated for changing the name, suggesting that it could be named after any Hindu or Muslim freedom fighter or someone who contributed to the nation's development.

Delhi Speaker slams 'organised disruption' of House by AAP; want answers on dole for women, says Atishi

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS): Amid pandemonium in Delhi Assembly on Tuesday, Speaker Vijender Gupta condemned the 'organised disruption' of the House by legislators of the Opposition AAP which, he claimed, is part of a 'strategy' to escape discussions on thorny issues. However, former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi said that they were demand-

ing answers on the Rs 2,500 monthly dole for Delhi women. Speaker Gupta's observation came during the fag end of the Question Hour and just before a House discussion on the CAG report on the functioning of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).



Cong slams UP Police's Namaz rule, accuses govt of spreading hatred towards Muslims

Mumbai, Apr 1 (IANS): Senior Maharashtra Congress leader and former Member of Parliament, Husain Dalwai, strongly criticised the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government for its strict stance on 'namaz (prayers)' during Eid-ul-Fitr, claiming it reflects an un-

derlying hatred towards Muslims. This controversy follows the Uttar Pradesh Police's decision to take a strict approach regarding congregational 'namaz' during Eid. Meerut Police, in particular, have announced that offering 'namaz' on public roads

will not be allowed this year. Those found praying on roads will face legal consequences, including the registration of an FIR and potential revocation of their passports and driving licences.



Just 4 days before retirement, JU's acting vice-chancellor relieved

Kolkata, Apr 1 (IANS): The acting vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University (JU), Bhaskar Gupta, has been relieved of his duties from that chair just four days before his retirement. The order directing the removal of Gupta from the chair was issued on Tuesday by the office of the secretariat of West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose, who is also the chancellor of all state universities, including JU. "The authorisation given to Professor Bhaskar Gupta as per Order No. WBG/AB/657 dated April 20, 2024, to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University till further orders is withdrawn and shall come into effect immediately," read the order issued from the Governor's Secretariat, West Bengal, a copy of which is available.

Lord Hanuman's idol vandalised in Bihar

Patna, Apr 1 (IANS): Tension gripped Karpoorigram village in Bihar's Samastipur district on Tuesday after a man allegedly vandalised an idol of Lord Hanuman, leading to protests and unrest in the area. The accused, identified as Mohammad Rashid, a mentally unstable resident of Karpoorigram, was immediately arrested by the local police. The SHO of Karpoorigram confirmed the incident, stating: "We received information around 9 a.m. that Mohammad Rashid has vandalised an idol of Lord Hanuman. Preliminary investigation indicates that he is mentally unstable. He has been arrested, and legal action has been initiated." The district police are investi-

gating whether he was provoked to do the disruptive act. Police are interrogating the accused and taking statements from local people about the incident. The district police are also scanning the available CCTV cameras to find whether any other person is involved or not. As news of the incident spread, several residents gathered, ex-

pressing anger and discontent. The situation quickly escalated, with some resorting to arson and ruckus in protest. Given the sensitivity of the matter, particularly with Ram Navami approaching, the tension in the area intensified. Senior police officials, along with personnel from multiple police stations, were deployed to calm the situation. To prevent further escalation.



Delhi Minister: Will punish officials behind AAP govt's failed Rs 2,100 scheme for women

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS): The Delhi government on Tuesday vowed to punish even government functionaries if they are found guilty in an ongoing enquiry into the previous AAP government's illegal registration of women beneficiaries for a monthly honorarium of Rs 2,100. Responding to a question by the BJP's MLA from Nangloi Jat constituency, Manoj Shokeen, Minister Parvesh Verma informed the House that the matter was under investigation to identify those responsible for the wrongdoings. "If anyone in the government machinery is found guilty in the enquiry, we will take action against him," said Verma.

OPINIONmail



India and Sri Lanka sign updated agreement on defence cooperation during PM Modi's visit

India and Sri Lanka are working on an update of an existing agreement on defence cooperation that is expected to be concluded during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation next week, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri revealed during a special media briefing in New Delhi on Friday. After attending the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit in Bangkok, PM Modi is scheduled to travel to Sri Lanka on a State Visit from April 4-6, at the invitation of Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake.

Colombo has maintained that the State Visit of Disanayake to India in December last year - his first overseas visit as the President of Sri Lanka - marked a "watershed moment" in bilateral relations. The robust diplomatic relations between the two neighbours are expected to get a further boost as PM Modi will be the first foreign leader to be hosted by President Disanayake in his capacity as Sri Lanka's President. "The India-Sri Lanka relationship is deeply rooted in civilizational links, shared history, religion, culture, and strong people-to-people ties. In the modern era, it has evolved into a close economic, cultural, and technical partnership. Sri Lanka is an integral part of our 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and this relationship, built on mutual trust and goodwill, has stood the test of time. India has come to the assistance of Sri Lanka at critical moments, most recently during the unprecedented economic crisis that Sri Lanka faced in 2022. India was glad to be able to play a key role in the economic stabilization and recovery of the country thereby demonstrating its commitment as a dependable neighbour and as a first responder to any crisis in the region," said Foreign Secretary Misri. During the visit, the Prime Minister will hold discussions with the President of Sri Lanka to review progress made on the areas of cooperation agreed upon in the Joint Vision for 'Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future' adopted during the Sri Lankan President's State Visit to India. The Prime Minister will also have meetings with senior dignitaries and political leaders. The two leaders will also witness the exchange of multiple agreements related to energy connectivity, digitization, defence, health, and multisectoral grant assistance. During his stay in Colombo, PM Modi will meet other political leaders of the nation before travelling to Anuradhapura with Disanayake for the inauguration of development projects implemented with Indian financial assistance. In Anuradhapura, both leaders will pay respect at the historic Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi temple complex in Anuradhapura. PM Modi had also visited the temple, which holds a special significance in India-Sri Lanka civilizational partnership, during his visit to the country in 2015. Prime Minister Modi then visited Sri Lanka again in 2019.

During their discussions, both leaders will also be discussing all issues related to fishermen, including the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen and fishing boats. The Indian government maintains that it has attached the "highest priority" to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen and has been consistently taking up these issues through bilateral mechanisms, diplomatic channels, and various official interactions, including by the Prime Minister in his recent meeting with the Sri Lankan President on December 16, 2024. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri acknowledged that it is a longstanding issue that traces its origins to arrangements made in the mid-1970s when the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Sri Lanka was agreed upon by the authorities at both the central and state levels. India has also repeatedly requested the Sri Lankan Government to treat the fishermen issue as a humanitarian and livelihood concern without using force under any circumstances.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

India's 1st robotic system performs cardiac telesurgery over a distance of 2,000 Km

Made-in-India surgical robotic system maker SS Innovations on Friday announced that its SSI Mantra has successfully performed robotic cardiac surgery via telesurgery spanning a distance of 2,000 kilometres. The long-distance tele-robotic assisted intracardiac surgery was performed from SS Innovations' headquarters in Gurugram on a 35-year-old patient at Aster CMI Hospital in Bengaluru. The surgery, lasting for 2 hours and 40 minutes, involved closing a complex Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) -- a congenital condition where there is a small hole between the two upper chambers of the heart. The surgery demonstrated exceptional precision, achieving incredibly low latency, further underscoring the accuracy and efficiency of robotic-assisted remote surgery, SS Innovations said. "This is a defining moment for the future of surgical care in India. With telesurgery powered by SSI Mantra -- designed for India, for the world, we are bridging healthcare gaps and ensuring world-class surgical expertise



reaches even the most remote areas. By seamlessly connecting North to South India, we have demonstrated how distance is no longer a barrier to advanced medical care," said SS Innovations Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava. The success of this critical cardiac telesurgery brings a big revolution in Indian healthcare, paving the way for a future where advanced surgical technology plays a vital role in making healthcare more accessible and efficient worldwide.

Cabinet approves Rs 6,282 crore Kosi Mechi Link Project in Bihar under PMKSY

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday, approved the inclusion of Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP). The CCEA also approved Central support of Rs.3,652.56 crore to Bihar for completion of the project by March 2029, with an estimated cost of Rs 6,282.32 crore.



First 1,000 fungi on IUCN Red List reveal growing threats

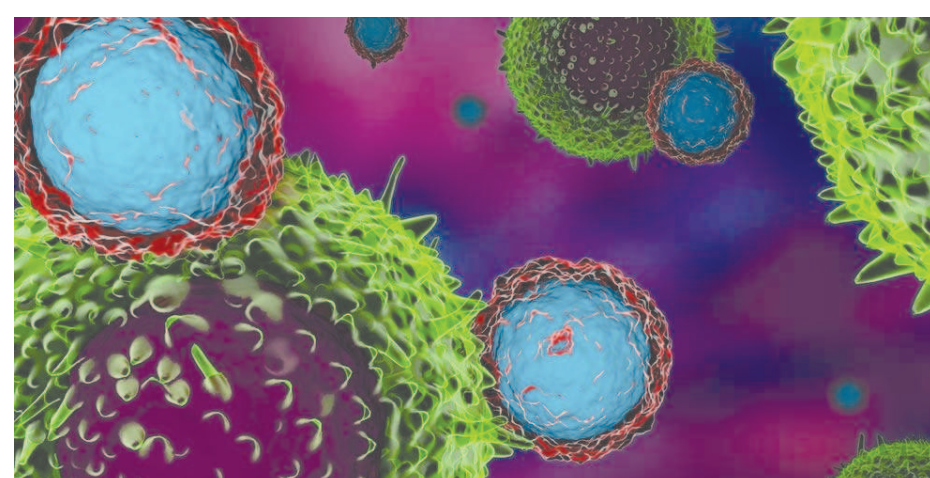
The number of fungi species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has surpassed 1,000, confirming that deforestation, agricultural expansion and urban development are driving these species to decline worldwide. Thursday's update also reveals that frankincense trees face an increasing risk of extinction, and new Green Status assessments show the impact of conservation on species, including the lion. The IUCN Red List now includes 169,420 species, of which 47,187 are threatened with extinction. The addition of 482 newly assessed fungi species brings their number on the IUCN Red List to 1,300, of which at least 411 are at risk of extinction. "Fungi are the unsung heroes of life on earth, forming the very foundation of healthy ecosystems -- yet they have long been overlooked. Thanks to the dedication of experts and citizen scientists, we have taken a vital step forward: over 1,000 of the world's 155,000



known fungal species have now been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the most comprehensive source of information on extinction risk. Now, it's time to turn this knowledge into action and safeguard the extraordinary fungal kingdom, whose vast underground networks sustain nature and life as we know it," said Dr Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Director General. Rapid growth of agricultural and urban areas has replaced fungi habitats, putting 279 species at risk of extinction. Nitrogen and ammonia run-off from fertilisers and engine pollution also threaten 91 species. These are serious threats in Europe, impacting species that are well-known in traditional countryside such as the vulnerable fibrous waxcap (*Hygrocybe intermedia*).

'First responder' India ready to assist Myanmar in earthquake relief efforts

Continuing with its role of being a first responder in the region and extending emergency humanitarian assistance in the wake of natural disasters, India on Friday said that it remains in touch with the authorities in Myanmar to provide relief to the country which was rocked by a powerful earthquake, earlier in the day. "Insofar as relief and assistance is concerned.



Scientists develop method to expose cancer cells to immune system

An international research group has developed a new method to help the immune system recognise and attack cancer cells by leading them to expose themselves. Researchers led by Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) said cancer cells typically evade detection by displaying very few suspicious proteins that the immune system can identify and target, Xinhua news agency reported. In the study published in the journal *Cancer Cell*, the team, including from the US and Germany, disrupted protein production in cancer cells, forcing them to produce abnormal, recognisable proteins, which could trigger a strong immune response capable of destroying cancer cells. In mouse models, the approach has been proven effective in activating immune cells to target and destroy cancer cells, inhibiting tumour growth. Combining this method with existing immunotherapy has led to tumour eradication in around 40 per cent of the mice, said Yardena Samuels, who led the research. "An existing type of immunotherapy that was not at all effective against the kind of melanoma we tested suddenly became very effective when tested in mouse models.

Earnings from sale of scrap under 'Swachhata' drive at govt offices rise to Rs 2,666 cr

The total revenue earned from the disposal of scrap from Central government offices under the 'Swachhata (cleanliness)' campaign from 2021-2025 has now gone up to Rs 2,666 crore, according to the monthly report released by the Centre's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on Friday. The report states that between December 2024 and February this year, an amount of Rs 301.98 crore was raised, with as many as 1.05 lakh files being weeded out in the cleanliness campaign from various offices nationwide during February. The 19th edition of the monthly 'Secretariat Reforms' report for February 2025 provides an analysis of the ongoing initiatives aimed at transforming governance and administration through 'swachhata'.





It will 'work out very well', Trump says of trade issues with India

Washington, Apr 1 (IANS) : US President Donald Trump, on Tuesday, called Indian tariffs "brutal" but expressed optimism that things will "work out very well" between the two countries on trade. The US President also spoke warmly and effusively about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and their relationship. "It's brutal... it's brutal," Trump said of Indian import duties at a White House news conference in response to a question

about trade talks between the two sides. "I think it's going to work out very well, between India and our country," he said further, without divulging his plans or the size of the hike on imports from India that could take place on April 2, when he is scheduled to announce a system of reciprocal tariffs that will match American tariff on imports from trading partner countries. "He's a very smart man and a great friend of mine, actually," he said of Prime Minister Modi, and referring to his recent White House, he added, "we had very good talks." He went on to call him "a great Prime Minister". Trump has also complained about Indian tariffs and the trade imbalance between the two sides. The US goods trade deficit with India was \$45.7 billion in 2024, a 5.4 per cent increase (\$2.4 billion) over 2023.

Global expansion of China's data-driven authoritarianism

New Delhi, Apr 1 : As technological advancements become increasingly pervasive in all aspects of life, concerns regarding the ethics of new-age digital ecosystems gain acute significance. On the one hand, the deployment of data-driven technologies into governance has led to path-breaking advantages in terms of efficiency, reduction of time and energy, inclusivity, and exceptional smoothness of operations. And, on the other, it has provided governments with unprecedented access to data regarding citizens' everyday choices, escalating the possibility of invasive surveillance, social repression, and manipulation. This is of particular alarm when it comes to authoritarian regimes with loose laws around privacy.



Foreign diplomats urge South Sudan to free Machar to avert crisis as mediation begins



Juba, Apr 1 (IANS) : Foreign diplomats have called on South Sudanese President Salva Kiir to reverse action on the reported house arrest of First Vice President Riek Machar to prevent further escalation of the country's political tensions. In a joint statement issued in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on Tuesday evening, the diplomats from Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, France, Germany, the United States, and the European Union delegation also called on Kiir and other leaders with control or influence over armed groups to order an immediate cease-fire. The diplomats said they are gravely concerned about the reports that Machar has been detained at his residence. "We call on President Kiir to reverse this action and to prevent further escalation. We note that First Vice President Machar's position in the government is established under Article 1.7.2 of the 2018 Peace Agreement (the R-ARCSS)," the foreign envoys said.

Putin cites North Korea among Russia's potential partners to settle Ukraine war : Report

Seoul, Apr 1 (IANS) : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday listed North Korea as one of the partner countries he is willing to work with to settle its war in Ukraine, according to a Russian report. Speaking about efforts to settle the war during his visit to Murmansk, Russia, President Putin said not just the United States, but also China, India, Brazil, South Africa, all BRICS countries, as well as North Korea, can be partners for cooperation. President Putin also reportedly said he welcomes any efforts to resolve the situation, Yonhap news agency reported quoting the Russian news agency Tass. BRICS is an interstate association of 10 countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and Egypt.



The remarks came amid deepening military alignment between Russia and North Korea over the Ukraine war, with Pyongyang deploying thousands of troops on the Russian side. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko was reported to have said the previous day that preparations were underway for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Russia this year. Earlier on Thursday, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was awarded a medal commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory Day by the Russian government. According to the embassy's social media post, the medal.

Curfew imposed in Nepal as two die, 45 injured during pro-monarchy protests

Kathmandu, Apr 1 (IANS) : Curfew was imposed in certain areas of Nepal's capital Kathmandu on Tuesday as two people died and 45 others were injured in violent clashes between security personnel and pro-monarchy protesters. The protestors were calling for the restoration of the abolished monarchy in Nepal.



India, Russia participate in six-day bilateral naval exercise

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The navies of India and Russia participated in a six-day Naval bilateral exercise, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. The naval bilateral exercise 'INDRA' began on Tuesday in India. This is the 14th edition of the India-Russia bilateral naval exercise 'INDRA', a cornerstone of the enduring maritime partnership between the two countries, taking place at Chennai. The naval bilateral exercise will conclude on April 2. According to the Ministry of Defence, since its inception in 2003, Exercise 'INDRA' epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies. The bilateral exercise has evolved into a symbol of maritime cooperation, showcasing the two nations' commitment to enhancing naval interoperability and op-

erational synergy. The exercise is being conducted in two phases -- Harbour phase is being organised from March 28 to 30 at Chennai, and Sea phase will be conducted from March 31 to April 2 in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise will see participation of Russian Federation Naval Ships, Pechanga, Rezkiiy and Aldar Tsydenzhapov, along with Indian Naval Ships -- Rana, Kuthar and Maritime patrol aircraft P81. The Harbour Phase includes opening ceremony, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, reciprocal visits, sports fixtures, and pre-sail briefings between personnel from both navies.



Israel launches strong airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs

Beirut/Jerusalem, Apr 1 (IANS) : Israeli airstrikes hit a building in Beirut's southern suburbs on Tuesday, marking the first such attack since a ceasefire was agreed on November 27. The Israeli military said it targeted a "drone storage facility" belonging to Hezbollah in Dahieh, a stronghold for the Shiite militant group near the Lebanese capital. There is no immediate report of casualties or damage. Before the strike, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) issued an evacuation warning via social media, advising civilians to leave a 300-meter radius around the site. IDF Arabic-language spokesperson Avichay Adraee posted a map marking the location and urged immediate evacuation. Witnesses described scenes of panic as families fled their homes, some evacuating schools in haste.

Two days before deadline, Pakistan deports 213 Afghan refugees

Rawalpindi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Over 200 Afghan refugees have been deported by Islamabad to their home country as Pakistan remains determined on its mass deportation plan. Out of the 923 individuals arrested in Rawalpindi, 213 were deported to Afghanistan, according to local media reports on Tuesday. This deportation comes before the March 31 deadline set by the Pakistani government. As Islamabad launched the arrest and detention of refugees, as many as 923 Afghan nationals were shifted to the Afghan refugee holding centre near the Golra Mor in Rawalpindi, Pakistan's leading daily, Dawn reported, quoting sources. However, 22 of the arrested detainees escaped from the centre on Wednesday, and on Thursday, the centre had no inmates, according to the reports. Among the total number of Afghan refugees detained, 86 had their visas expired, 116 had Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC), and 290 possessed Proof of Registration (PoR). A senior police official told Dawn that it was very clear



that ACC holders would be expelled from Rawalpindi and Islamabad before the deadline. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has decided against extending the March 31 deadline for Afghan nationals to leave the country. Earlier, Islamabad had turned down the Afghan government's request to extend the stay of Afghan nationals residing in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Condemning the Pakistani government, the Human Rights group Amnesty International recently stated that the government's unyielding and cruel deadline, which is a few days away to remove Afghan refugees and asylum seekers, resulting in the deportation of many at risk, shows little respect for international human rights law.

Australian PM calls general election for May 3



Canberra, Apr 1 (IANS) : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Governor-General Sam Mostyn on Tuesday to dissolve the federal parliament and formally call a general election for May 3. Albanese visited the Governor-General, the representative of the British monarch in Australia, in the morning and asked her to initiate the formal process for an election to be held on May 3 to elect members of the 48th Parlia-

ment of Australia. It sets up a five-week campaign that will pit Albanese and his governing Labor Party against Opposition leader Peter Dutton's Coalition of the Liberal and National parties, Xinhua news agency reported. Speaking at a press conference at Parliament House after visiting Mostyn, Albanese said that voters would "choose the way forward" at the election. "We cannot decide the challenges that we will face, but we can determine how we respond," he added. "Your vote has never been more important," he said. Opinion polls have indicated that the election is set to be a tight contest. The 62-year-old's Albanese-led government released its annual budget earlier this week, courting votes with surprise tax cuts and a raft of other sweeteners.

Northeast region poised to emerge as nation's economic engine: Minister

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday that the northeast region is set to emerge as the "economic engine" of the nation, as it is no longer just adopting new digital technologies but also leading the way in the country's growing economic expansion. "The northeast region has seen major development activities under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi including expanding air, road and rail connectivity and waterways. At present northeast has 17 airports and is also well connected digitally," said Scindia, Union Minister for Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER). Addressing the annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the minister said, "Each of the eight states of the northeast embodies unique strengths, re-

sources and opportunities, making this region an invaluable asset in India's growth story. "Most of its villages are already connected but by August-September this year and all villages will be digitally connected with 4G and 5G through the BharatNet programme," he told the gathering. The minister further stated that the government, with an investment of around \$16 billion, is setting up broadband digital high-

way which includes installing 27,000 cell towers out of which 15,000 have already been installed. "The process is expected to be completed by August-September this year which will connect each inch of the country with broadband and every single village in northeast with 4G and 5G connectivity" the minister noted. Women in the northeast region have been fast to use digital connectivity for increasing business.



"They are using North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE), launched by the government with an aim to integrate farmers and sellers, enhancing

agricultural connectivity in the region. They are selling Kiwis and other agri-products worldwide through this app," the minister explained.

HM Shah to embark on two-day Bihar visit, chair high-stake meetings

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah will begin a two-day visit to Bihar on Tuesday, packed with crucial political and administrative engagements. His visit is expected to play a significant role in shaping the NDA's election strategy, alongside key announcements aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector. BJP Bihar unit President Dilip Jaiswal confirmed that HM Shah will land at Patna airport at 7:45 pm on Saturday, following which he

will engage in discussions with party MLAs and senior officials. Later in the night, an important BJP core committee meeting is scheduled, where deliberations on the upcoming Assembly elections are expected to take place. On Sunday morning, the Home Minister will attend a grand event organised by the Cooperative Department in Patna. Later, he will travel to Gopalganj district, where he is slated to address a major rally. His speech is expected to outline the BJP's vision and strategy for the upcoming elections while



energising party workers and supporters. Following his return from Gopalganj, HM Shah will take part in a crucial NDA meeting at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's residence. Leaders from the BJP, JD(U), LJP (RV), and Hindustani Awam Morcha will be present at the discussions, which are likely to focus on seat-sharing arrangements, electoral strategy, and alliance consolidation.

Death threats to Raj CM, his deputy: DSP removed, nine cops suspended

Jaipur, Apr 1 (IANS) : Nine cops have been suspended in connection with death threats to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa. On Tuesday evening, ADG Rupinder Singh arrived at Bikaner Jail to investigate the threats made to the CM. As a result, Deputy Jailor Jaising, Chief Guard Vijay Pal, Guard Jagdish Prasad, and Anil Meena were suspended. Another police officer is under suspicion for providing mobile phones and SIM cards to the inmate involved in the threats. In a related case, jailor Bhanwar Singh, Deputy Jailor Ramesh Chand,

Chief Watchman Virendra Singh Bhati, Guard Chandrapal, and Surender Singh were suspended from Jaipur Central Jail following the March 27 incident where Deputy CM Prem Chand Barwa received a threatening call.



After Disha's murder, SS(UBT) targeting Satish Salian's character: Shiv Sena

Mumbai, Apr 1 (IANS) : Shiv Sena Deputy Leader and Spokesperson, Sanjay Nirupam on Tuesday alleged that after the murder of Disha Salian, the SS(UBT) is now maligning her father Satish Salian. He demanded that Mumbai Police disclose the truth behind the closure report on Disha Salian's death.

Calcutta HC seeks report from Bengal administration on communal tension in Mothabari

Kolkata, Apr 1 (IANS) : A division bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Tuesday, sought the reports on the situation in Mothabari from the district administration in West Bengal's Malda over alleged attacks on the Hindus. The petition refers to alleged "attacks on people of a particular religious community by people from another community". The West Bengal unit of the

BJP filed a petition at Calcutta High Court's division bench of Justice Soumen Sen and Justice Smita Das seeking the court's intervention in the matter. The matter came up for hearing on Friday, and at the end of the hearing, the division bench directed the district magistrate and district police superintendent of Malda to submit a report to the court by April 3. In the petition filed by state BJP leader and senior counsel, Calcutta High Court Kaustav

Bagchi also made an appeal for the court's direction for the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel at Mothabari till the time the situation is totally under control. It is learned that although the situation at Mothabari is currently under control, the division bench wanted to know what exactly happened there. Earlier in the day, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari,



informed that he had written a letter to Governor C.V. Ananda Bose requesting him to direct the state government to deploy CAPF at Mothabari following the large-scale attacks on the Hindus there.

The LoP has accused the West Bengal government and the ruling Trinamool Congress of preparing the blueprint for "Greater Bangladesh" through appeasement politics.

Delhi Power Minister counters Kejriwal's claim on power outage

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood strongly refuted Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal's claims about power cuts in the national capital's Jagatpur Extension area. He labelled Kejriwal's allegations as exaggerated and politically motivated. Sood as-

sured that electricity in the area has improved, describing the reported outages as minor incidents rather than prolonged interruptions. Sood challenged Kejriwal's statements on social media, noting that data from the past year shows 21,597 power cuts lasting an hour or more -- an average of 59 outages per day. He also dis-

missed Kejriwal's claims of no power cuts over the last decade as misleading, accusing him of spreading false information. To back his argument, Sood cited planned outages conducted for maintenance purposes and shared January 2025 data, which recorded 3,278 power cuts. He highlighted improvements



made under his leadership compared to the previous administration and outlined initiatives like a 24x7 control room.

Assam Cong chief set to record more defeats in polls: Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah

Guwahati, Apr 1 (IANS) : Assam Public Health Engineering Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah on Tuesday took a jibe at state Congress president Bhupen Borah and said that the opposition leader is set to achieve a "record of defeats" in the Panchayat polls. Minister Mallabaruah told reporters here, "Since Bhupen Borah has become the state president of the Congress party, he has lost all polls. Borah himself lost in many Assembly elections

and he is set to mark a record of serial defeats in the polls." The minister asserted that Congress has lost the support of people in the state, and they will suffer a huge loss in the upcoming Panchayat polls also. "People do not like the Congress party at all. They have lost support, and Congress is cut off from the ground. They will lose the next Panchayat elections also. The BJP has mass support among voters and this is our strength." The Panchayat polls will take place in Assam in April.



Madras HC grants interim protection to Kunal Kamra till April 7 in controversial remarks case

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Madras High Court on Tuesday granted interim protection to stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, who is facing multiple criminal cases over the "traitor" jibe towards Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, till April 7. A bench of Justice Sunder Mohan was hearing a plea filed by

Kamra seeking transit anticipatory bail. Earlier in the day, Kamra's plea was mentioned for urgent hearing before Justice Mohan, who assured to examine the matter post lunch session. Mumbai's MIDC police station on Monday registered a Zero FIR against Kamra for cracking an al-

legedly objectionable joke during a stand-up comedy show. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 9 (Mumbai), Dixit Gedam said two offences have been registered at Khar police station. One is against Kamra for derogatory comments.



LIC's potential stake in ManipalCigna to boost health insurance market : JP Morgan

New Delhi, April 1 (IANS) : The Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) potential acquisition of a 40-49 per cent stake in ManipalCigna Health Insurance could reshape the health insurance market, a JP Morgan report said on Tuesday. According to the brokerage, the potential acquisition is expected to be a strategic move for LIC, leveraging its extensive agency distribution network of 1.4 million individual agents to scale its new health venture. "Despite the relatively small size of ManipalCigna compared to LIC, the acquisition is anticipated to bring substantial value over the next few years," the brokerage noted. LIC India is reportedly in the final stages of acquiring a significant minority stake in ManipalCigna Health Insurance, a standalone health insurer.



LG Energy to acquire GM's stake in Michigan battery plant for \$2.04 bn

Seoul, Apr 1 (IANS) : LG Energy Solution Ltd (LGES), South Korea's leading battery maker, said on Tuesday it will acquire General Motors' entire stake in their joint venture (JV) battery plant in the state of Michigan in the US for 3 trillion won (\$2.04 billion). The planned acquisition of the Ultium Cells JV 3 plant in Lansing, Michigan, is aimed at minimising the burden of fresh investments in facilities and "effectively"

India remains strong growth pillar for Nissan as firm registers best fiscal sales in 7 years

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Nissan Motor India on Tuesday said it has delivered its best single year performance for FY 2024-25 in the last seven years, despite multiple headwinds faced by the domestic auto industry. In FY25, the automaker recorded total domestic volume of over 28,000 units, led by the New Nissan Magnite introduced in October 2024. This strong performance was delivered despite the rising consumer preference for alternate fuel vehicles in the B-SUV segment in India, said the company in a statement. On the export front, the company expanded its operations from 20 markets to 65+ international markets and registered an unprecedented and historic.

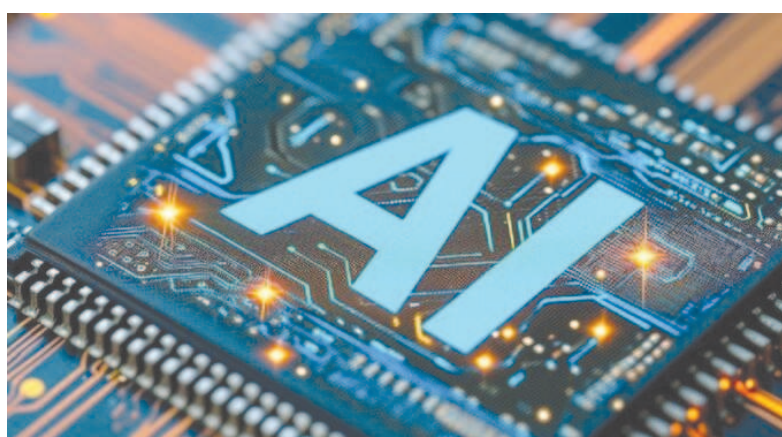


New tariff policy for pipelines on anvil to reduce cost of CNG and piped cooking gas

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has proposed a new tariff policy for long-distance pipelines to provide for charging lower rates to city gas entities that sell CNG for vehicles and piped cooking gas to households. The PNGRB has issued a public consultation document for changing the zonal tariffs levied on pipelines that carry natural gas from domestic producing fields or sea ports in the case of imports, to users such as power plants, fertiliser units and city gas entities that sell it as CNG for sale to automobiles or pipe it to household kitchens for cooking purposes. "In yet another far-reaching reform for bringing investments and to increase the gas consumption, especially in CNG and domestic piped natural gas in the country, the PNGRB has brought a proposal for reducing the price of piped natural gas used by domestic consumers and in transport," the regulator said. The public consultation document has been webhosted for seeking comments from stakeholders on various aspects of tariff regulations like reducing the unified tariff

Ola Electric's sales plunge 56 pc YoY in March

Mumbai, April 1 (IANS) : Ola Electric said that it has nearly cleared the backlog from February and expects to complete the remaining February-March registrations in April 2025. The company also assured that it is ramping up its registration operations and actively coordinating with external stakeholders to smoothen the process. Despite the annual decline, Ola Electric's March 2025 sales were a significant improvement from February, growing by 171 per cent month-on-month. The company also commenced deliveries of its Gen 3 portfolio during the month, with an overwhelming response from customers. Ola said it has increased production of its new models and will continue to scale up in April to enhance delivery speeds and improve customer experience.



Global GenAI spending to hit \$644 billion in 2025: Gartner

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Global generative AI (GenAI) spending is expected to reach \$644 billion in 2025, a surge of 76.4 per cent from 2024, a report said on Tuesday. According to a forecast by Gartner, GenAI spending in 2025 will be driven largely by the integration of AI capabilities into hardware, such as servers, smartphones and PCs, with 80 per cent of GenAI spending going towards hardware. "Expectations for GenAI's capabilities are declining due to high failure rates in initial proof-of-concept (POC) work and dissatisfaction with current GenAI results," said John-David Lovelock,

Distinguished VP Analyst at Gartner. "Despite this, foundational model providers are investing billions annually to enhance GenAI models' size, performance, and reliability. This paradox will persist through 2025 and 2026," he mentioned. GenAI spending is poised for significant growth across all core markets and submarkets in 2025. GenAI will have a transformative impact across all aspects of IT spending markets, suggesting a future where AI technologies become increasingly integral to business operations and consumer products.

Commercial LPG cylinder prices reduce by Rs 40.50 in Rajasthan

Jaipur, April 1 (IANS) : Starting April 1, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Rajasthan has been reduced to Rs 1,790, down from the previous Rs 1,830.50. However, there is no change in the price of domestic LPG cylinders, which will continue to be available at Rs 806.50. The Oil marketing companies have announced a Rs 40.50 reduction in the price of commercial LPG cylinders. This follows a Rs 7 decrease in February and a Rs 62 hike in December. The new rate in Delhi is Rs 1,762, while in Jaipur, it is Rs 1,790. According to Deepak Gehlot, State President of the Rajasthan LPG Distributors Association, commercial gas prices saw an increase of Rs 6 in March, while there were reduction of Rs 14.50 in January and Rs 6 in February. Domestic consumers can breathe easy as there has been no change in household LPG prices. In Rajasthan, a domestic LPG cylinder remains priced at Rs 806.50.



Hyundai Motor's March sales down 2 pc, Kia reports 2.2 pc rise

Seoul, Apr 1 (IANS) : Hyundai Motor said on Tuesday its monthly sales for March dropped 2 per cent from a year earlier due to a decline in overseas markets. The automaker sold 365,812 vehicles last month, down from 373,290 units in the same month last year, the company said in a press release. Domestic sales gained 0.9 percent on-year to 63,090 units, but overseas sales shed 2.6 percent to 302,722 units, reports Yonhap news agency. At home, the bestselling model was the Avante, selling 6,829 units, followed by the Grandeur sedan, selling 6,211 units. The Sante Fe was the most popular sport utility vehicle (SUV) domestically, selling 5,591 units. "We will strengthen our sales and production systems tailored to local demand and policies



to respond flexibly to regional market changes," a Hyundai Motor official said. Meanwhile, Kia said its monthly sales for March rose 2.2 per cent from a year before, as the company said demand increased both at home and abroad. Kia sold 278,058 vehicles last

month, up from 272,011 units in the same month last year, the company said in a press release. Domestic sales increased 2 percent on-year to 50,006 units, while overseas sales gained 2.2 percent to 227,724 units.

Mamata should at least speak with caution when she is abroad: Shahnawaz Hussain

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, currently in London, appears to have openly disagreed with the prediction that India would be the world's largest economy by 2060, senior BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain said on Tuesday that the Chief Minister should at least speak with caution when she is abroad. Speaking to IANS, Shahnawaz Hussain said, "When Mamata Banerjee goes out of the country, she should understand that

she does speak well about India here. At least she should speak with caution when she goes abroad. She is saying that we will become the third largest economy, but she does not agree with this. Why does she disagree? She should answer this. When she goes to Bengal, she faces opposition on the streets, in villages, and in neighbourhoods. No one is asking her in the country. She went to Oxford and faced opposition there as well. Slogans were raised in Oxford too, saying 'Go back, go back, Mamata Banerjee'. What is

happening? She should introspect." The BJP also reacted to the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which urged Muslims across the country to wear black armbands on Alvida Juma. Alvida Juma is marked as a special namaz, held on the last day of the month-long of fasting and Eid-ul-Fitr. "The AIMPLB has no right to direct how someone should offer namaz. Namaz is a matter between an individual and God. The AIMPLB is not the one to decide



anything on this. This is completely wrong advice. If they want to offer namaz wearing black bands, they should do so. But the common Muslim goes to offer namaz, not to protest. Today, wherever Jumme ki namaz was performed, I myself have just offered Jumme ki namaz, and I didn't see anyone wearing a black band. The agenda of AIMPLB is failing completely. If they have any problem with Jumme ki namaz, they should speak up. The propaganda being spread about properties, mosques, graveyards.



Centre inks contracts worth Rs 62,700 crore with HAL for supply of 156 LCH

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The government on Tuesday signed two contracts worth Rs 62,700 crore with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the supply of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) -- Prachand. The first contract is for supply of 66 LCHs to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and second is for supply of 90 LCHs to the Indian Army, according to the Ministry of Defence.

The supply of these Helicopters will commence from the third year and will be spread over the next five years. LCH is India's first indigenously designed and developed combat helicopter having a capability of operating at an altitude of over 5,000 metres. This helicopter has a large number of components designed & manufactured in India and it is planned to achieve an overall indigenous content of over 65 per cent during the execution of this procurement. This will involve over 250 domestic companies mostly MSMEs and will generate over 8,500 direct and indirect jobs.



Nitin Gadkari approves Rs 1,237.71 crore for Jaisalmer-Barmer highway; Cong MP Benivalu expresses gratitude

Jaipur, Apr 1 (IANS) : Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved the construction of a two-lane highway in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts, near the India-Pakistan border, government officials said. The project, valued at Rs 1,237.71 crore, was officially announced on Friday through a tweet from the Union Minister. Taking to social media platform X, Minister Gadkari said, "Strengthening/widening of existing connection of NH-70 and NH-11 (total length 134.86 km) in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan as well as strengthening and widening of Myajlar-Jaisalmer section of NH-11 and Sundara-Myajlar-Ambasingh Ki Dhani Road portion of the Munabao-Tanot to two-lane has been approved at a cost of Rs 1,237.71 crore." "The proposed alignment will establish connectivity with NH-25 and NH-68, and will also connect with NH-70, thereby further enhancing the regional transport network. The project is of vital strategic importance as it is located near the International Border, which will greatly enhance the ability of our security personnel to reach the border areas quickly." "The project road will also pass through the popular tourist destination, Khuri sand dunes, and will benefit a number of villages located along the route, and contribute to the overall development and connectivity of the region," Minister Gadkari added.

Umrah pilgrimage fraud: Man gets 7-yr RI for duping devotees of Rs 1.2 crore

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court, Balasore on Tuesday sentenced a person to seven years rigorous imprisonment for duping devotees of Rs 1.2 crore on the pretext of providing cheap, secured and safe pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for Umrah.

The court delivered the judgement in a record time period of three months since the submission of a charge sheet in the case. The court has also asked the convict Nabeel Abdul



Mubin Shaikh of Mumbai to pay a fine of Rs 2.75 lakh. If the convict fails to deposit the fine amount, he would serve further imprisonment of 15 months.



Punjab gov legalises transfer of prisoners to other states

Chandigarh, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Punjab government has legalised the transfer of prisoners from its state jails to other states. The Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Bill 2025, introduced by Jails Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, was unanimously passed by the legislative assembly on Tuesday.

Patna High Court rejects pleas for re-examination of 70th BPSC preliminary exam

Patna, Apr 1 (IANS) : In a major setback for candidates demanding a re-conduct of the 70th BPSC Civil Preliminary Examination, the Patna High Court on Tuesday dismissed all petitions related to the issue. This decision comes as a significant relief for the Bihar government and the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC). The verdict was delivered by a division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar, who had earlier reserved the judgment after hearing multiple petitions, including a PIL filed by Pappu Kumar and others. The court firmly ruled that the 70th PT examination will not be conducted again, bringing closure to the prolonged legal battle. With this decision, BPSC has resumed preparations for the Mains Examination, which is scheduled for April 2025. The 70th BPSC Preliminary Examination was held on December 13, 2024, with over 3.80 lakh candidates appearing at 912 centres. However, the exam



was marred by allegations of question paper leaks at several centres. Bapu Sabhagar Centre, Patna, was found to have significant irregularities, prompting the BPSC to cancel the exam at this centre alone. A re-examination was conducted on January 4, 2025, for candidates of the Bapu Sabhagar centre at 22 locations. One of the major concerns raised by petitioners was the granting of six additional marks to candidates who appeared in the re-examination, while three questions were found to be incorrect.

BJP-led govt in Odisha failed to ensure women's safety: Congress

Bhubaneswar, Apr 1 (IANS) : The opposition Congress on Tuesday lashed out at the BJP-led Odisha government over crimes against women, saying that the Mohan Charan Majhi-led government has failed to ensure women's safety in the state. Addressing the mediapersons here on Friday, senior Congress leader Pawan Khera said: "Despite announcing schemes in the name of Goddess Subhadra, the government has failed to ensure women's safety. In a state where atrocities against women and girls are rampant, even divine peace seems absent." He further added that the Con-

gress will continue its fight on the issue until women in Odisha are safe. "History shows that no matter how small in numbers, we have always fought for justice," he added. The senior Congress leader asserted that ironically, women advocating for better safety measures are now victims of violence in the state. He said Odisha which once known for its peace and beauty, is now being plunged into unrest under the BJP rule. Khera claimed that under the previous BJD government, as many as 44,000 women had gone missing. "Shockingly, in just eight months of BJP rule, another 20,000

women have disappeared. While we worship Goddess Subhadra, we fail to protect our daughters -- there's nothing more shameful than this," Khera said. Pawan Khera, along with Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bhakta Charan Das on Friday also visited a hospital and met the injured party workers admitted there. Speaking at the press conference, OPCC president Das said that the party will soon conduct Nari Nyaya Satyagrah at every district, block and Panchayat headquarters across the state. Das also claimed that the persons who were found engaged in violent activities during the protest rally on Thursday at PMG



Square here were not Congress workers. Reacting on the DGP Y.B. Khurania's statement on initiating action against the protestors involved in violence on Thursday, the OPCC president said that the party will hit the streets with more force if police take action against the congress leaders who gathered there from

across the state for protest against atrocities against women. It is worth noting that the Bhubaneswar Police have started the process to identify and nab the protestors involved in violence during the congress party's protest rally on Thursday. The police have registered

three cases in this regard here on various charges including rioting. More than 50 persons including many police officials sustained injuries as a face-off ensued between the supporters of congress party and security forces during the protest rally over women safety here on Tuesday.



MP govt procures wheat valued at Rs 757 crore: Minister

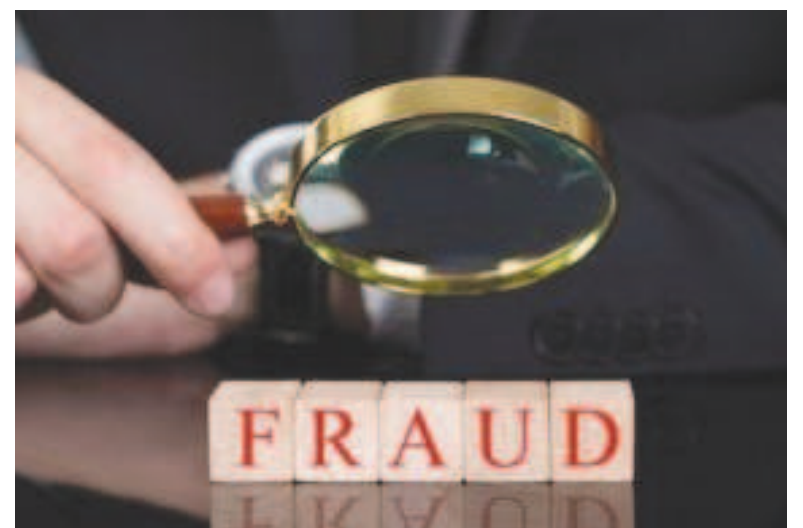
Bhopal, Apr 1 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh's Food and Civil Supplies Minister Govind Singh Rajput said on Tuesday that the state government has procured wheat valued at more than Rs 757 crore till now at a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,600 per quintal. He added that wheat procurement has started two weeks ago and more than 5.8 lakh metric tonnes of wheat have been procured from around 75,000 registered farmers in the state at the MSP. "Payment for the procured wheat is also being made from time to time to the farmers. So far, Rs 7,57,36,00,000 has been paid to the farmers," the Minister said in a statement. The state government anticipates procuring nearly 80 lakh tonnes of wheat this Rabi season, he added. Official government data indicates

that wheat sowing in Madhya Pradesh ranges between 6.4 million and 9.5 million hectares annually. The Minister said that, so far this year, around 15 lakh farmers have registered for the sale of wheat at the MSP. The last date for registration is March 31, he added. Madhya Pradesh is known for its high-protein wheat varieties, like Sharbati and Durum, which are in demand both domestically and globally. According to official sources, around 4,000 centres have been set up across the state to facilitate procurement of wheat. The government has sent SMS notifications to registered farmers and enabled online registration via a dedicated web portal and mobile app, the Minister said.

MP: Unidentified man cheats people on pretext of providing homes under PMAY, probe underway

Indore, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Madhya Pradesh Police is in the search of an unidentified person, who allegedly cheated more than a dozen people in Indore, on the pretext of providing homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) at minimum price, officials said. Police swung into action af-

ter receiving a complaint from an Indore-based resident identified as Chandan Pathak, who alleged that one of his room partners, took money from people on the pretext of providing homes and now left his room all of a sudden. In his complaint, Pathak told the police that he shared room with a person, who identifies himself as Deepak (fake name).



Maharashtra govt issues order for prompt response to media reports

Mumbai, Apr 1 (IANS) : To promptly address public grievances and issues highlighted through various media platforms, the Maharashtra government, on Tuesday, issued a circular, officials said. "The government aims to enhance its operational efficiency by taking cognisance of significant news related to governance and providing better services to citizens," said Principal Secretary and Director General of Information and Public Relations,

Brijesh Singh. Government departments will promptly take note of reports published in various media outlets, the circular said. This initiative will help in resolving public complaints and issues more effectively. Media reports will assist in improving service delivery mechanisms and ensuring speedy resolution of problems, it added.



Adult content empire: ED unravels dark web of illegal foreign remittances, hidden studio in Noida company raid

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched an investigation into Subdigi Ventures Private Limited, a company controlled by a Noida-based couple, after discovering a complex web of illegal foreign remittances and a connection to adult content streaming platforms. The search operations were carried out under Section 37 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), in conjunction with Section 132 of the Income Tax Act, across multiple locations associated with the company and its directors. The ED's probe revealed that Subdigi Ventures Private Limited, under the leadership of the couple, was receiving significant foreign remittances from Technius Limited, a Cyprus-based company. Technius Limited is known to operate adult entertainment websites, including Xhamster and Stripchat, which cater to adult content streaming. The foreign remittances, sent under the pretext of services like advertising, market research, and public opinion polling, were allegedly funds derived from adult content streamed on the platforms.

Student groups to move Supreme Court after Patna HC's order over BPSC prelims exam

Patna, Apr 1 (IANS) : After the Patna High Court rejected the plea for re-examination of the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) preliminary examination, several student groups, backed by coaching institutions, have decided to take up the matter to the Supreme Court. The High Court dismissed a total of 14 petitions filed by aggrieved candidates, delivering a significant relief to BPSC and the Bihar government. However, the decision has left many students and coaching operators disap-

pointed. Guru Rahman, a well-known coaching teacher, expressed his displeasure with the apex court's judgment. "The decision from Patna High Court is disappointing for students. We have enough proof of irregularities in the preliminary exam, but the court rejected our claims. It may be a temporary win for BPSC and the Bihar government, but we are confident of winning in the Supreme Court," Rahman said. Prominent coaching figure Khan Sir also visited the Gardanibagh Dharna Sthal, where students gathered in large numbers to protest the court's decision.



He expressed solidarity with the students. Several students voiced their discontent, calling the Supreme Court's judgment a setback for justice. "This is not a victory for BPSC or the Bihar government; it is a victory for corruption. We re-

spect the judiciary but are disappointed with today's verdict. We will approach the Supreme Court to get justice," a protesting student said. The 70th BPSC preliminary test examination was held on December 13, 2024, with more than 3.8

lakh candidates appearing at 912 examination centres. Irregularities were reported, including question paper leaks at certain centres.

Rajasthan govt to merge two civic bodies in Jaipur ahead of 2025 polls

Jaipur, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Rajasthan government has decided to merge the Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation and Jaipur Municipal Corporation Heritage ahead of the civic body elections in the state, government officials said on Tuesday. The Department of Autono-

mous Governance issued an official order on Thursday, confirming that in the future, there will be only one unified Jaipur Municipal Corporation. Indrajit Singh, Director of the Department of Autonomous Governance, said that Jaipur was originally divided into Heritage and Greater Municipal Corporations

in 2019. However, the merger will take effect only after the completion of the current term of both the corporations. "Using the powers of Sections 3, 5, 6 and 10 of the Rajasthan Municipality Act, 2009, the state government has merged the Greater Municipal Corporation and Municipal Corporation Heritage,"

Indrajit Singh, Director, Directorate of Local Bodies, added. Jaipur Municipal Corporation was initially established in 1994, evolving from the Jaipur Municipal Council. Over the years, the number of wards increased due to population growth, but the corporation's boundaries remained unchanged.



AAP MP questions intent of Immigration and Foreigners Bill

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Aam Aadmi Party MP Malvinder Singh Kang on Tuesday raised his concerns in Lok Sabha regarding the Immigration and Foreigners Bill 2025 and questioned the intent of the government behind the Bill. Kang said the government should reconsider the negative



aspects of the Bill and address the related concerns.

Suwendu Adhikari demands CAPF in Bengal's Mothabari to 'protect' Hindus

Kolkata, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday said he has written a letter to Governor C.V. Ananda Bose requesting him to direct the state government to deploy the Central Armed Police

Forces (CAPF) in Mothabari in Malda district following large-scale attack on the Hindus. In the letter, a copy of which is available with IANS, the LoP has informed the Governor that "a shocking incident has taken place on Apr 1, 2025, where a large group of miscreants of a particular community targeted and launched a vicious attack on the

Sanatani Hindus of the area above". In the letter, he has also stated that "such a despicable act reflects the complete state of lawlessness in West Bengal, and there is an urgent need for the CAPF deployment to protect the Sanatani Hindus from such attack at the hands of the aforesaid miscreants".



Manipur: Security forces apprehend 7 more militants, recover huge cache of arms & ammunition

Imphal, Apr 1 (IANS) : Continuing its operation against the militants' activities in Manipur, security forces nabbed seven more militants belonging to different proscribed outfits from different districts during the past 24 hours, an official said on Tuesday. A police official said that besides the seven militants, a large cache of arms and ammunition were also

recovered from Kakching, Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Thoubal districts. The arrested militants belonged to PREPAK, different factions of Kangleipak Communist Party. The arrested militants were involved in abduction, forcible collection of money from traders, officials, contractors, and issuing threat notices to people. The Manipur Police have

arrested six militants of different outfits and seized a cache of arms and ammunition on Wednesday and Thursday. The official said that a big cylindrical shaped Improvised Explosive Device weighing 11 kg along with a large cache of arms and ammunition were recovered from Imphal East district. The recovered arms and ammunition include Carbine machine gun,

Excalibur rifle, .303 sniper rifle, foreign made pistols, 9 mm pistol with magazine, automatic single-barrelled gun, hand grenades with detonators, .303 LMG, INSAS rifles, LMG magazines, foreign made grenades, radio wireless set. Security forces also dismantled two bunkers and burnt down the remnants to ashes in Kangpokpi district.



Trump pulls back Elise Stefanik's nomination as UN ambassador

Washington, Apr 1 (IANS) : US President Donald Trump, on Tuesday, withdrew the nomination of Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik for ambassador to the United Nations (UN), saying he needs her to remain in Congress to "help me deliver" on his legislative agenda. Republicans hold a razor-thin majority in the House of Representatives of 435 elected members, which could turn if Stefanik, who represents a Democratic-leaning district in New York is succeeded by a

Democrat in a special election that would follow if she leaves for the UN job. There are special elections taking place that could also alter the math in the House. Stefanik was nominated as ambassador to the UN, which usually carries the rank of a Cabinet member. Republicans hold the House with 218 members to 213 Democrats. Four seats are vacant following Michael Waltz's move to the White House as Trump's National Security Adviser and Matt Gaetz not taking the oath of office fol-



lowing his nomination to head the Justice Department, which was withdrawn in the face of pushback from Republicans. Two other seats fell vacant because of the passing of two representatives. "As we advance our America First Agenda, it is essential that we maintain EVERY Republican Seat in Congress," President Trump wrote in a long post on Truth Social, his social media platform.



BJP announces statewide protest against price hike in Karnataka

Bengaluru, Apr 1 (IANS) : The Karnataka BJP has strongly criticised the state government over the increase in taxes and commodity prices, calling Chief Minister Siddaramaiah "India's number one in deceit." The party has also announced statewide protests against the price hikes, with dates to be finalised after the Ugadi festival. Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru, leader of the opposition R. Ashoka alleged, "No taxes were imposed in the budget, but a hidden agenda was followed, leading to post-budget increases in taxes and rates." The BJP will hold protests across Karnataka against these hikes. Ashoka noted that milk prices have been raised three times since the Congress-led government came to power, totaling a Rs 9 hike. "Of this, no profit has been passed on to farmers, and incentives are still pending. The Congress had promised increased incentives in its manifesto, but nothing

has been implemented yet," he said. Criticising the budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ashoka said it was full of falsehoods. "I had warned that a disaster was coming. Taxes should have been announced in the budget itself, but instead, they were raised afterward to deceive the public and garner media praise," he charged. "The entire economy depends on electricity and fuel. When their prices rise, the cost of all goods increases, making life harder for people. Meanwhile, the Rs 2,000 given under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme is not helping the common man.

Chhattisgarh: Awas Utsav programme organised in Balod, ahead of PM Modi's visit to Bilaspur

Balod (Chhattisgarh), Apr 1 (IANS) : Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), the flagship scheme of the Modi government, is assisting lakhs of economically weaker sections and low-income families in building pucca houses (permanent residence) of their own. The transformational change in people's lives is visible on the ground. An Awas Utsav programme was organised in Chhattisgarh's Balod district on Tuesday, where hundreds of PMAY beneficiaries participated and got the benefits of the path-breaking scheme. Many beneficiaries from the rural areas were handed over certificates and house keys during the programme. The beaming faces and broad smiles on the faces of beneficiaries summed up their happiness and excitement on moving to pucca houses. Notably, the development comes days ahead of PM Modi's visit to Bilaspur district in the state. PM Modi is

set to lay the foundation stone, initiate commencement of work and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects related to power, oil and gas, rail, road, education and housing sectors worth over Rs 33,700 crore. A Griha Pravesh ceremony for about 3 lakh beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) will also be held, where the Prime Minister will hand over the keys to some of the beneficiaries. The Awas Utsav programme in Balod was attended by Collector Indrajit Singh Chandrawal, CEO District Panchayat Dr Sanjay Kannauje, BJP District President Cheman Deshmukh, District Panchayat Vice President Tomman Sahu and other administration officials.



UP woman's chilling claim: 'Bhabhi returned home to kill my brother'

Lucknow, Apr 1 (IANS) : Days after the Meerut horror, a woman from Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district has alleged that her sister-in-law returned home with the intention to kill her husband. She shared that her "bhabhi", who served poison-laced coffee to her husband, has told the family that she came back with a purpose. Anuj Sharma, a resident of Bhangela village in Khatauli, married Pinki alias Sana of Farukhnagar in the Loni police station area two years ago. Their relationship was strained, with frequent quarrels. Pinki had even filed a domestic violence case against Anuj at the Ghaziabad police station.

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan calls for tech infusion for future security

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan emphasised the importance of embracing technological advancements, strategic thinking and adaptability are key to meeting future security challenges, said an official on Tuesday. Inaugurating Techkriti 2025, Asia's largest intercollegiate technical and entrepreneurial festival, at IIT-Kanpur, General Chauhan shared his views

about the need for advancement and modernisation in the Indian Armed Forces. He also shared his perspectives on preparing for emerging challenges of Future Wars, specifically in the Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum and Cognitive domains. Driving further synergy between armed forces, academia and defence industry, General Chauhan interacted with budding technologists and motivated students to pursue careers in defence and technology.



He also inspired the young audience comprising scholars, students and NCC Cadets by highlighting the values of discipline and resilience, courage and sacrifice. The inaugural ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, AOC-in-C, Central Air Command, and Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur.



Diplomats celebrate unity in diversity at 'Sadhbhavana Iftar' hosted by Indian Minorities Federation

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : A gathering of ambassadors and diplomats of various Islamic nations convened in New Delhi for the 'Sadhbhavana Iftar' hosted by the Indian Minorities Federation (IMF). The occasion provided a platform for dignitaries from diverse backgrounds to exchange perspectives on India's unshakable ethos of 'Unity in Diversity.' Held at the residence of Rajya Sabha MP, Satnam Singh Sandhu, on Tuesday night, the event brought together over 15 ambassadors, diplomats, religious scholars, and community leaders to celebrate the spirit of Ramzan and promote interfaith harmony. The dignitaries gathered there praised India's rich cultural tapestry, religious unity.

Japan agrees to extend 192 billion yen loan for 6 projects in India

New Delhi, Apr 1 (IANS) : The government of India and the government of Japan have signed loan agreements worth 191.736 billion Japanese Yen (JPY) for six projects under Japan's Official Development Assistance to India in the sectors of forest management, water supply, urban transport, aquaculture, biodiversity conservation and investment promotion, according to a Finance Ministry statement issued on Tuesday. The six loan agreements were signed between the Government of India and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) here on Thursday. These include the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Program (Phase 3) with a loan of JPY 36.114 billion, the project for Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management (JPY 8.280 billion).



Macron unveils Ukraine support plans at Paris summit

Paris, Apr 1 (IANS) : French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a range of initiatives to support Ukraine at a summit in Paris, amid growing uncertainty over continued US assistance. At a press conference following the summit of the "coalition of the willing," Macron announced a joint Franco-British plan to send a team to Ukraine to help shape the future structure of the Ukrainian army. The French President said that he and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer would "jointly lead" the coordination efforts of Ukraine's international coalition of allies, Xinhua news agency reported. He also raised the idea of deploying "reassurance forces" from a few willing European Union member states to strategic



locations in Ukraine should a peace agreement be reached with Russia. However, "There is no consensus on this point," Macron acknowledged. He underscored the importance of continued American support for any potential European deployment but said Europe must prepare for a scenario in which the US is no longer involved. Following the summit, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer revealed that British Defence Secretary John Healey will chair the next Ukraine Defence Contact Group meeting on April 11, where efforts will focus on coordinating additional military aid to support Ukraine's defence.

ing the summit, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer revealed that British Defence Secretary John Healey will chair the next Ukraine Defence Contact Group meeting on April 11, where efforts will focus on coordinating additional military aid to support Ukraine's defence.

Pakistan: Six labourers from Punjab province killed in Gwadar after identification

Islamabad, Apr 1 (IANS) : At least six labourers hailing from the Punjab province were killed in a firing incident in Kalmat area of Balochistan's Gwadar district early Tuesday after unknown gunmen blocked the main highway and offloaded them from a Karachi-bound passenger bus after checking their IDs. Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari and the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the overnight killing of passengers. "The terrorists are the enemies of the country's development."



Russia awards medal to North Korean leader Kim ahead of 80th Victory Day celebrations

Seoul, Apr 1 (IANS) : North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has been awarded a medal commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory Day by the Russian government on Tuesday, Moscow's embassy in Pyongyang said. According to the embassy's social media post, the medal marking the Soviet Union's World War II victory over Nazi Germany was conferred on Kim on the directive of Russian President Vladimir Putin. An award ceremony was held at Pyongyang's Mansudae Assembly Hall, where Russian Ambassador Alexandr Matsegora presented

the medal and certificate to Kang Yun-sok, Vice Chairman of North Korea's Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. The certificate stated that Kim received the medal in recognition of his contributions to honoring the memory of Soviet soldiers who died and are buried in North Korea, Yonhap news agency reported. The medal was awarded more than a month ahead of Victory Day, which falls on May 9. Russia had previously conferred similar medals on Kim in May 2015 and May 2020 to mark the 70th and 75th anniversaries.



Trump, Canadian PM Carney discuss ties

Washington, Apr 1 (IANS) : US President Donald Trump and the next Prime Minister of Canada will meet immediately after the upcoming elections in Canada, the American leader said on Tuesday after a call with Mark Carney, the current Prime Minister. This was the first call between Trump and Carney, who was elected to the office by the ruling Liberal Party in a party vote to replace Justin Trudeau. Canada goes to the polls on April 28 to elect the next government. "It was an extremely productive call, we agree on many things, and will be meeting immediately after Canada's upcoming Election to work on elements of Politics, Business, and all other fac-

tors, that will end up being great for both the United States of America and Canada," President Trump wrote on Truth Social, his social media platform. "Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Notably, President Trump did not deride the Canadian Prime Minister or insult by addressing him as Governor, which he had with Trudeau. The American leader also did not refer to Canada as potentially the 51st state of the US, which he had also done repeatedly during Trudeau's term. President Trump has hit Canada with an all-around 25 per cent tariff -- along with Mexico -- for failing to prevent the flow of illegal migrants and fentanyl through its

borders into the US. He has also announced a 25 per cent tariff on all cars and spare parts shipped to the US, which is almost half of all cars sold in the US, and many of them come from Canada and Mexico. The Tuesday call was sought by the White House, according to reports. But Trump said, "Mark called me." Carney had previously said he would not speak with the US President until Trump showed respect for Canada's independence. "I'm available for a call, but we're going to talk on our terms. As a sovereign country -- not as what he pretends we are -- and on a comprehensive deal," he said earlier this week. Carney replaced Justin Trudeau as Canadian Prime Minister on March 14.



Indian-American student alleges 'Hinduphobia' at US university after row over Hinduism course

Houston, Apr 1 (IANS) : An Indian-American student and activist has said the content of the course on Hinduism offered by the University of Houston is "Hinduphobic" and "distorting India's political landscape". According to an Indian tv channel report, the university has said it is reviewing the concerns raised by the student named Vasant Bhatt. The University of Houston's Lived Hindu Religion course is offered to the students online, with video lectures delivered by Professor Aaron Michael Ullrey weekly. Bhatt, a political science major at the university, has lodged a complain before the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and So-

cial Sciences under which this course is being offered. According to the student, Professor Ullrey reportedly said that Hinduism was not an "ancient, lived tradition", but a "political tool" weaponised by "Hindu nationalists, and a system of oppression against minorities". According to the report, Bhatt shared a quote from the syllabus that stated that the word 'Hindu' is recent and not found in scriptures. "Hindutva", or "Hindu-ness", is a term that Hindu nationalists, those who believe Hinduism should be the official religion of India, use to designate their religion and denigrate others, namely Islam," Bhatt quoted the syllabus according to the report.

Britain's King Charles III suspends visit due to side effects of cancer treatment

London, Apr 1 (IANS) : Britain's King Charles III has suspended his planned public visit to Birmingham in England, originally scheduled for Tuesday, due to side effects from his ongoing cancer treatment, Buckingham Palace announced. The King began treatment for cancer in February 2024, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the palace, the recent side effects required a short hospital stay for observation. He has since returned to Clarence House in London. "His Majesty would like to send his apologies to all those who may be inconvenienced or disappointed as a result," the palace added in a statement, CNN reported.



Barred from contesting forthcoming polls, Canadian MP says took 'firm stance' against Khalistani extremism

Ottawa, Apr 1 (IANS) : Canada's three-term Liberal Member of Parliament Chandra Arya, who has been barred from contesting in the forthcoming elections under the party's banner in his own Ottawa Nepean constituency over alleged foreign-interference concerns involving India, believes he has been denied nomination this time for speaking out against the Khalistani extremist movement in the country. The Indian origin MP of Hindu faith has been a vocal critic of highly unpopular former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for giving refuge to pro-Khalistani elements in the country. "As a Member of Parliament, I have engaged with numerous diplomats and heads of government, both in Canada and internationally. Not once have

I sought — nor been required to seek — permission from the government to do so. At no point did former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or any cabinet minister raise concerns about my meetings or public statements. The sole point of contention with the Liberal Party has been my outspoken advocacy on issues important to Hindu Canadians and my firm stance against Khalistani extremism," said Arya while reacting to a media report on the Liberal Party

revoking his candidacy to contest in the forthcoming election. Citing sources, a report in Canada's leading daily The Globe and Mail, mentioned that Arya, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi last August, had not informed the government of that trip even though bilateral relations of Canada with India are in a deep freeze.



Germany evacuates Afghan refugees from Pakistan amid imminent deportation threats

Berlin, Apr 1 (IANS) : Over 170 Afghan refugees facing imminent threats in Pakistan were evacuated by Germany in a chartered plane as part of Berlin's ongoing efforts to resettle at-risk Afghans. The aeroplane carrying 174 Afghan refugees from Islamabad landed at Hanover Airport, marking the second flight this month. Pakistan has set a March 31 deadline for the deportation of all Afghan refugees, according to media reports. The group that arrived on Thursday includes 82



women and 92 men, 74 of whom are younger than 18 years of age, including nine children under two years of age, German media outlet Bild reported, quoting a spokesman for the German Federal Ministry of the Interior.



Women's T20I Rankings: Mooney remains on top as Litchfield, Voll and Sutherland gain big

Dubai, Apr 1 (IANS) : Australia opener Beth Mooney maintained her place as the No.1 ranked T20I batter in the latest ICC Women's T20I Rankings released on Tuesday. The Aussies registered an emphatic 3-0 series whitewash over their trans-Taman rivals last month, with Mooney adjudged Player of the Series for her 166 runs across the three matches. Fellow southpaw Phoebe Litchfield gained a new career-high rating and improved two places overall to 20th on the back of her 60 runs in the series while teammate Georgia Voll jumps a whopping 29 spots to equal 41st following.

'If it happens, I act differently but I can't promise': Slot reflects on his red card ahead of Merseyside Derby

Liverpool, Apr 1 (IANS): Liverpool and Everton battled it out for a 2-2 draw in the last ever Merseyside Derby at Goodison Park on Feb 13. The tempers were at an all-time high after the final whistle which saw Liverpool head coach Arne Slot shown a red card. The Dutch head coach was seen talking to referee Michael Oliver post the final whistle and was shown the red card subsequently. Alongside the two game suspension, he was also handed a 70,000 pounds fine by the governing body.



Wagner retires from NZ domestic cricket with Plunket Shield win

Dunedin, Apr 1 (IANS) : Northern District have won the Plunket Shield First-Class competition in decisive fashion in Dunedin on Tuesday, for the first time since 2011/12. It is a poetic moment for Neil Wagner, who concludes his domestic career at the same ground he started at back in 2008. Coincidentally, Wagner's debut game was for Otago against Northern District. He made the move up north for the 2018/19 season.

The Kiwi pacer retired from international cricket in 2024 and has now secured one of the only honours he had not been able to in 17 years. "Definitely up there. Yeah, cherry on the top, like it's just, couldn't have asked for a better ending. Plunket Shield is one of the only things I've never been able to achieve as a team, and to do that in your last game here is definitely a tick off the bucket list and a pretty special day.



IPL 2025: Our goal is to win title and celebrate with fans in open-bus parade, says PBKS' Arshdeep

New Delhi, April 1 (IANS) Punjab Kings pacer Arshdeep Singh is banking on their squad's strength to end the 18-year-long title hiatus in the IPL and celebrate the feat with fans in an open-bus parade in Chandigarh. Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab are the only teams to have never lifted the title in the tournament's history. Arshdeep, who has become a mainstay in India's white-ball line-up, remains committed to his process and hopes to turn things around this season under Shreyas Iyer's leadership. "Life hasn't changed much; it's still the same, but it's fun. As they say, change is the only constant.

ICC Women's WC Qualifier plays a huge role for countries like Bangladesh and Ireland, says Sana Mir

Dubai, Apr 1 (IANS) : Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir feels that the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier in Pakistan will benefit teams like Bangladesh, Ireland and West Indies and welcomed the approach taken by the ICC to grow the game. The qualifier tournament set to take place in Pakistan from April 9, featuring six teams, will finalise the remaining teams for the eight-team tournament later this year in India.



ISL Playoffs: BFC players are hungry for more, says Zaragoza on eve of SF vs Goa

Bengaluru, Apr 1 (IANS): Bengaluru FC will look to carry the momentum from their emphatic 5-0 playoff win against Mumbai City as they take on FC Goa in the first leg of their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 semifinal at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday. The Blues, who booked their spot in the last four with a commanding performance against the Islanders, will be eager to make the most of their home advantage before heading to Fatorda for the return leg on Sunday. "It is a semifinal between two strong sides, and the bench

strength of both teams will be very important. Nobody from my camp thinks that the job is done. You can see that the players want something; they are hungry for more," said head coach Gerard Zaragoza, speaking to the media on the eve of the fixture. Having finished third in the league stages with 38 points, Zaragoza's men have rediscovered their form from the start of the season just in time for the knockouts and the Spaniard will be keen on ensuring his side maintains their high-intensity approach against a well-drilled Goa outfit that finished second in the league with 48 points.



Man City expect Haaland to return from injury in time for FIFA Club WC

Manchester, Apr 1 (IANS) : Manchester City is expecting its star forward Erling Haaland to be fit in time for the FIFA Club World Cup after the Norwegian was subbed off during the second-half of the FA Cup quarterfinal against Bournemouth on Sunday. Haaland has suffered an injury on his left ankle and is undergoing further tests to determine the extent of the injury with the club confirming he will be available for the final part of the season, including the FIFA Club World Cup 2025. "Manchester City FC can confirm that Erling Haaland has suffered an injury to his left ankle. The Norwegian striker sustained the injury during Sunday's FA Cup quarter-final

victory away at AFC Bournemouth. "Erling underwent initial tests in Manchester on Monday morning and will now seek specialist consultation to confirm the full extent of the injury. Assessment remains ongoing to ascertain a full prognosis. The expectation is that Erling will be fit in time to play a further part in the remainder of this season, including this summer's FIFA Club World Cup," read the statement by the club. Haaland's injury comes as a major blow as Manchester City gear up for the end run-in of the 2025 season. The defending Premier League champions are currently in fifth place in the league table and are one point behind Chelsea in their bid to qualify for the UEFA Cham-

pions League, having already been eliminated from the European competition by Real Madrid this year. Haaland has scored 21 league goals in 28 games this season and is the second-highest goalscorer in the league, only behind Liverpool's Mohamed Salah. The new format of the FIFA Club World Cup will grace the world stage in June and July 2025, when 32 of the globe's leading teams gather in the USA for the inaugural edition. This global event will bring together the most successful club sides from each of the six international confederations: AFC, CAF, Concacaf, CONMEBOL, OFC and UEFA.aaa/

Huafrid Billimoria gains the right to participate in international para-triathlon and para-cycling events

Mumbai, April 1 (IANS) : Mumbai-based para-athlete and para-cyclist Huafrid Billimoria has achieved the qualifying classification to represent India in international para-triathlon and para-cycling events. Billimoria claimed he was the first Indian para-sportsman to get this distinction. Billimoria finished second in the category classification race that was held in challenging conditions in Hyderabad on Sunday. "It was a crazy race for category classification which meant I was participating in the toughest category -- Senior Men 2 -- with more than 10 others. To finish second in



42+ degrees Celsius at 1 pm in the Hyderabad heat was very challenging. Had difficulty in breathing because of how dry it was," said Billimoria in a release on Tuesday, adding that they had to cycle at 32km average speed re-

gardless of the conditions to make it to the podium. The classification competition involved cycling for an 18 km time trial as part of the 1st National Para Road Cycling Championship 2025.