

THE INDIAN MAIL

ENGLISH DAILY WEDNESDAY, 23 April 2025 VOLUME : 15 ISSUE : 237 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA



Gold touches
Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams for 1st time
Gold prices reached a historic milestone on Tuesday as the rate of 24-carat gold touched Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams for the first time ever. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers...

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WI allrounder Hayley Matthews
returns to top 10 in ODI batting rankings
West Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews has returned to the top five of the ICC Women's ODI batting rankings on the back of her 240 runs in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025...

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All should work hard to achieve
Indra Reddy's dreams BRS party MLA Sabitha
Former Minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy today said that everyone should work hard to achieve former Minister Indra Reddy's dreams...

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Telangana, Hiroshima States discuss on opportunities for mutual cooperation

Hiroshima, Apr 22 : The delegation from TelanganaRising, headed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, met the Deputy Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture (State Government) in Japan on Tuesday. On the occasion, they discussed extensively the possibilities of mutual co-operation between the two states.



All set for Hyderabad Local Body MLC elections

Hyderabad, Apr 22 (NSS): All arrangements are in place for the Hyderabad District Local Body MLC elections, which will be held at Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) headquarters on Wednesday. Polling will be held from 8 AM to 4 PM. The results will be announced on April 25. Arrangements have been made for polling and counting at the GHMC headquarters. Two separate polling stations have been set up for Ex-officio members and corporators for the election. The MLC contest is between the AIMIM and BJP parties. Mirza Riaz ul Hasan will be the AIMIM candidate and Gautam Rao will be the BJP candidate.



Unprecedented turmoil in Andhra Pradesh, says Jagan

Amaravati, April 22 (IANS) : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday slammed the coalition government in the state and claimed that the state is under unprecedented turmoil. He lashed out at the government over the arrest of former Intelligence chief and senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer PSR Anjaneyulu and the questioning of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy and others. He

termed the arrest and questioning of the MP in the liquor case as vindictive action by the TDP-led government. Addressing the meeting of the Political Advisory Committee (PAC), the highest decision-making body of the party, he said that unprecedented and atrocious developments are taking place in the state under the TDP-led government. He called for challenging and standing up to these happenings to check the deterioration of various systems, which are under constant threat.

Continued on pg 02



Girls outshine boys in Telangana Intermediate exams

Hyderabad, April 22 (IANS) Girls outperformed boys in the Telangana Intermediate public examinations, the results of which were announced on Tuesday. The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) declared the results of the Intermediate first year and second year (11th and 12th classes). A total of 9.97 lakh students appeared in the examination held in March-April. The overall pass percentage for the first year was 66.89. The pass percentage among girls was 73.83 while it was only 57.83 per cent among boys.

US Vice President Vance praises PM Modi, says his approval rating makes him jealous

Jaipur, April 22 (IANS) : US Vice President J D Vance on Tuesday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, remarking that the Indian leader's popularity is something most politicians would envy. "I told Prime Minister Modi last night - he has approval ratings that would make me jealous," Vance said during his visit to Jaipur. Praising PM Modi's negotiating skills, Vance described him as a "very tough negotiator" who fights fiercely for India's commercial interests. "I've seen firsthand how strongly he defends Indian industry. The US and India will move forward together through mutual cooperation across many sectors," he stated. Reaffirming the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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FM Sitharaman invites global CEOs, investors to join India's growth story

San Francisco, April 22 (IANS) : Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met global CEOs, pension fund managers and other institutional investors here, and discussed the opportunity for collaboration in the domain of energy and sustainability, the Rs 1 lakh crore (\$12 billion) corpus private sector-driven research, development, and innovation scheme, and GIFT-IFSC, among others. In the presence of Finance Secretary Ajay Seth and Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the US, the Finance Minister listened to their views on the reforms pursued by the Indian government, and gave feedback and observation on the exist-

ing policy framework. They spoke about their keen interest and commitment for a deeper and broad-based investment collaboration between the US and India and shared feedback on how to further facilitate and enhance the investment experience. The Union Minister thanked the participants for their valuable feedback and suggestions.

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Bandi rescues Ranga Reddy youth from cyber criminals

Hyderabad, April 22 (NSS): The youth from Telangana, who were held hostage in a cyber fraud cafe in Myanmar and forced to work as cyber labourers with the hope of getting a good job in Bangkok, have been released following the intervention of Union minister Bandi Sanjay. Three of them are from Telangana and the other one is from AP. On the orders of Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar took a special initiative and brought them back to their home country. The victims were all deceived because the broker promised them a good job in Bangkok and a salary of lakhs of rupees every month. On the same matter, Myanmar victim Rakesh Reddy from Koheda of Hayatnagar mandal from Rangareddy district said a person named Yash Nath Goud, who lives in his area, promised him a good job in Bangkok.

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KTR demands Revanth's apology & dismissal of erring police officers

Hyderabad, April 22 (NSS): In a scathing condemnation of police excesses in Lagacherla, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) demanded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public apology and the immediate dismissal of police officers involved in the sexual harassment and human rights violations of Dalit and tribal girls. The demand comes in the wake of a damning report by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



Tourist killed, several injured in Pahalgam terror attack; operations launched to hunt down perpetrators

Srinagar, Apr 22 (IANS) : A tourist was killed and at least 12 other persons, including tourists & locals, were injured in a terror attack in Pahalgam hill station in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, leading to the security forces launching a massive operation to hunt down the perpetrators. The tourist was killed, and other tourists and locals were injured, when terrorists attacked a group of tourists in the Baisran area of



Pahalgam hill station. As per reports, 2 to 3 terrorists wearing army fatigues came and fired at horse-riding tourists in the Baisran area around 2.30 p.m. Baisran is a small meadow 3 to 4 km from the Pahalgam market.

Unprecedented turmoil in Andhra Pradesh, says Jagan

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“The coalition government has been brazenly arresting people and foisting false cases to create an atmosphere of fear to subdue the opposing voice, but it’s time we stand up for the people and start questioning the state,” he said. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that since a case of irregularities in liquor sales during the previous TDP rule was registered against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu

Naidu, he was trying to implicate YSRCP leaders in fabricated cases. The former chief minister alleged that the government is making all efforts to suppress issues of public interest, irregularities, corrup-

tion, and misgovernance from reaching the people through diversion tactics, either by making arrests of high-profile people or by spreading false narratives on the party leadership. He warned that if the government

continues to act in this manner, the deterioration of all systems will further deepen, and anarchy will prevail. “We have to rip apart the government’s ill intentions on various issues, including the allotment of land on a platter to companies of their choice with no proper checks and balances, be-

sides giving contracts at inflated prices at their whims and fancies without following any procedure or prudence,” he said. The YSRCP chief claimed that the state’s revenues are shrinking and wealth is being created for a select few.

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline 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 Authorised 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". The date of further disposal 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 Rs.	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Varre Vimala Vimala Tailoring Shop Mr. Varre Kotibabu (Prospect No. IL10778575)	All that piece and parcel of Plot No. 11930, Sy.No. 348(P) Nidigalla Village, Kurukonda Mandal, East Godavari District, 533101, Andhra Pradesh. Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up, Area Carpet Area Property Area: 484.00, 350.00, 280.00 Bounded By: North: Plot No. 11660, South: Plot No. 11929 East: Road, West: Plot No. 11659.	Rs.349988/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Only)	07/01-2025	19-04-2025

For further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office: Door No 20-11, 1st Floor, Shreya Towers, Rashtrapathi Rod, Tanuku - 534211 or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Tanuku Date: 23-04-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD
Unit 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, "A" Wing, Navbharat Estate, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai 400015, Maharashtra. CIN No.: U65922MH2005PLC272501

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers named herein below in the said mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the date mentioned below. The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited Branch for an amount mentioned as below and interest thereon, costs etc.

S N	Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower and LAN No.	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
1	Srinivasarao Banala, Hymavathi Banala & LP0000000014884 & LP0000000053493	18-Dec-24 Rs.653106 & Rs.225751 as on 09-Dec-24	R.s.no 64/4, Door No 5-237, Eluru Road, near Water tank Appanaveedu Village And Panchayath, Appanaveedu, Peddapadu Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, 521105 Plot/Built up Area Adm.33.33 Sq.ft.Mir. North : Site of Banala Subrahmanyam, South : GNT Road, East : Site of Banala Subrahmanyam, West : Site of Banala Subrahmanyam	Symbolic Possession Taken on 21-Apr-25
2	S Reeta, D Sathya LP0000000211520	12-Dec-24 Rs.679067 as on 09-Dec-24	D No 8-5, S No.384, Mogaralappali Village and Gram Panchayat, Gudipala Mandal, Chittoor Dist., Andhra Pradesh, 517132, Total Admeasuring 498.75 Sq.ft or 55.41 sq.yds.. North : Site of Jayaraj, South : Site of Vincar, East : House of E Seyyan, West: road	Symbolic Possession Taken on 21-Apr-25

Date : 23.04.2025 Authorised officer
Place : West Godavari, Chittoor Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale of Immovable Properties
Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at D.no - 912-1,2nd Floor, SR Plaza, OPP. Court Building, Railway station road, Narsaraopet-522601.Guntur Dist. Andhra Pradesh. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS" AS IS WHAT IS BASIS and WITHOUT RESERVE BASIS for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iflhome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1. Mr. Islavathu Venkateswarlu Naik, 2. Mrs. Islavathi Ramana Bai 3. M/S Venkateswarlu Naik Dairy Farm (Prospect No. IL10423394)	23-May-2024 Rs.657687/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Seven Only) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing House No. 6-156, Asst. No.1156, Survey No. 31/B1, Peddapalem Village, Atchampeta Mandal, Konusuru Sub District, Narsaraopeta Registration District, Ponnuru District, Andhra Pradesh 522410. Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Carpet Area, Built Up, Area Property Area: 2178.00, 480.00, 300.00 (Area admeasuring 600 sq. ft.)	19-Mar-2025 Total Outstanding as of Date 17-Apr-2025 Rs. 7,68,183/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Three Only)	Rs.8,67,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 86,700/- (Rupees Eighty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
Date of Inspection of property 23-May-2025 1100 hrs -1400 hrs.		EMD Last Date 26-May-2025 till 5 pm.	Date/ Time of E-Auction 28-May-2025 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.	

Mode Of Payment:- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit <https://www.iflhome.com> and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset, you intend to buy vide public auction. For Balance Payment - Login <https://www.iflhome.com> >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount.

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

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place:- Palnadu, Date: 23-April-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 2nd Floor Flat No.203, Office No.3A & 3B, Aditya Trade Center, Above passport office, Ameerpet, Hyderabad Telangana India-500038/ Door No: 50-81-70/7(9), 1st Floor, Aditya complex, Door No: 50-81-70/7(9), 1st Floor, Aditya complex, Seethanmapeta, Visakhapatnam-530016/ Door No:38-8-28, 3rd floor, Above KTM Bike Showroom, opp to All India Radio station, Punnamma Thota, M.C. Road, Vijayawada - 520010.

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

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : VAIZAG, LAN: 408TSH600518 and 409HSLH537056, 1.Venamma Chintagunta (Borrower), 2. Buridi Srinu (Co-Borrower) both at Flat No 504 Sai Surya Residency Navodaya School, Sai Surya Residency Navodaya School, Road, Visakhapatnam-530048.	All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: A-Schedule All that site measuring an extent of 38.5 Sq.yds or 32.19 Sq.mts (out of the total extent of 800 sq.yards) together with flat no.4F-4 in fourth floor, together with the total built up area of 1100 sft (including of common areas, balconies & car parking in the 1st floor) of 'Sai Surya' residency, in plot nos. MIG-23, MIG-24, Mig-25 Of Vuda B.L.P.No.18/88,R.C.No.343/88, The Plot Was Regularized By Vuda, Vide R.C.No.1234/09/L5, DL26-04-2013, covered by survey no.2/P of maduravada village, with-in the Limits of greater Visakhapatnam municipal corporation, in the registration sub-district of Maduravada and in the registration district of Visakhapatnam bounded as follows. Total site bounded by: East : plot no. Mig-26, 27, 28 south : plot no.MIG-22 West : 33 feet wide road north : gayatri engineering college. Measurements: East Wing : 120 Feet or 36.57 Mts, South Wing : 60 Feet or 18.28 Mts, West Wing : 120 Feet or 36.57 Mts, North Wing : 60 Feet or 18.28 Mts, B-Schedule: Flat No. 4F-4 In Fourth Floor, Flat Area 1100 Sft. East : Flat No.4F-3, West : Open To Sky, North : Common Corridor, Staircase & Lift, South : Open To Sky.	25th Mar 2025 Rs.37,58,679/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Nine Only)
Branch : VIJAYAWADA, LAN: 409TSHB326074 & 409HSLA989552 1.Nandyala Pavan Kumar (Borrower), 2. N Venkatagopala Rao (Through Legal Heir Since Deceased (Co-Borrower) at Flat No. SRI Sai Residency, Near Sarjanareddy Rd, Yanamalakuduru, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-520007	All that piece and parcel of the Non-agricultural Property described as: An Extent of 40 Sq. Yds. (33-44 Sq. Mtrs., of Undivided Share in a Total Extent of 264-87 Sq. Yds., of Site Along With Flat Being in Bearing Flat No. SF-1 in the Second Floor of Sri Sai Residency With a Plinth Area of 1026 Sq Ft. Common Area of 100 SF Ft., Car Parking Area 100 Sq Ft., in Plot No. 7 R.S. No. 105/4 Yanamalakuduru Village Do Panchayat, Penamaluru Vijayawada Krishna District : Open to sky West : Corridor and lift, North : Open to sky, South : Open to sky	25th Mar 2025 Rs.19,32,214/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only)
Branch : Hyderabad, LAN: 400TSHC689627 and 400HSLH583281 1. Puppala Sravani (Borrower), 2.Pavankumar Totakuru (Co-Borrower) at Flat No G3, H No 9-200 Garudardi Heights, Nizampet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500090.	All that the Semi-Finished Flat bearing No. G-3, in Ground Floor, in the building known as "GARUDARDI HEIGHTS", with a plinth area of 1110 Sq.ft., (including common area) and car parking area of 80 Sq.feet, along with an undivided share of land admeasuring 26.00 Sq. Yards., Out of total land of 823 Sq. Yards., On Plot Nos. 280, 280/A, 281/A & 281/B, in Survey Nos. 5, 36, 37, 39, 40, 46, 50, 73, 74, 364, 379, 387 & 388, Situated at Nizampet Village and Gram Panchayat, Quthbullapur Mandal, Rang Reddy District, Sub-Dist: Quthbullapur, Dist & Regn-Dist: Ranga Reddy, (Nature of Roof: R. C. C., Type of Structure with Pillars) and bounded by: Boundaries for Plots: North: Neighbours Land, South: Plot Nos. 279 & 281, East : 30' Wide Road, West : 30' Wide Road	25th Mar 2025 Rs. 26,66,233/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Three Only)

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

Date: 23-04-2025, Place: Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana, Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

US Vice President Vance praises PM Modi, says his approval rating makes him jealous

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Vance emphasised the importance of the US-India partnership. "The 21st century will be shaped by the strength of this relationship. President Trump wants to rebalance global trade so that the US, along with allies like India, can build a better future," he said. Reflecting on the shift in Washington's stance towards New Delhi, Vance noted that the cur-

rent US administration avoids a condescending tone. "Too often in the past, Washington approached Prime Minister Modi with preachiness and even condescension," he said. "Previous administrations viewed India as merely a source of cheap labour while criticising a government that is arguably the most popular in the democratic world". On trade relations, Vance called for fairness and mutual benefit. "President Trump and I respect Prime Minister Modi for being a tough negotiator. We don't blame him for defending Indian industries. Rather, we question why past American leaders didn't do the same for our workers," he said. Expressing optimism about ongoing bilateral trade talks, he noted, "We're making good progress on the terms of reference for a trade agreement". Addressing defence cooperation, Vance highlighted the growing strategic partnership between the two countries. "In defence, our nations enjoy a close relationship. We can co-develop advanced military platforms," he said.

Rakesh Reddy said he had recently learned that Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay had brought hundreds of victims like him back to the country from Myanmar and informed his family members. “When my father Yadi Reddy wrote a letter to Bandi Sanjay, he immediately responded and wrote a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs and immediately took all kinds of steps to bring us back to our country. Our entire family is indebted to Bandi Sanjay,” he said.



All should work hard to achieve
Indra Reddy’s dreams BRS party MLA Sabitha
Hyderabad, April 22 (NSS): Former Minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy today said that everyone should work hard to achieve former Minister Indra Reddy's dreams and follow in his footsteps. On the occasion of Indra Reddy's death anniversary, former Minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, along with her son Karthik Reddy, Kaushik Reddy, Kalyan Reddy, Chevella MLA Yadayya and Rangareddy District DCMS Chairman Pattolla Krishna Reddy, paid floral tributes at his statue at the Chevella Municipality Center. Speaking on the occasion, she said that although Indra Reddy was away from everyone for 25 years but he was still in the hearts of the people. She said that Indra Reddy constantly lived among the people and worked for the development of the poor. She said that the Indra Reddy family would remain in the hearts of the people of Chevella area forever. She explained that she was mov-

Bandi rescues Ranga Reddy youth from cyber criminals

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“He took me to Vamsi Krishna, the broker’s agent (team leader) in Jagityal. Vamsi Krishna interviewed me. He said the job was 200 km away from Bangkok and took me there. When I went there, I was assigned to work

for 16 hours a day. That work was cybercrime. If I did not do that work, they would not even give me food. I worked in that company for five months. I did not like the cyber crime work and became stubborn. With this, the Chinese there confiscated my passport. They tortured us without even giving us food. However, when we did not listen, they told the local army there and said we had entered that country secretly and handed us over to the army. They put us in jail,” he recalled.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
ETURNAGARAM BRANCH (20319)
MULUGU DISTRICT, PIN-506165, Email:sbi.20319@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
(APPENDIX-IV)
(Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
(For immovable property)

A/C No.37263959510
WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, ETURNAGARAM BRANCH (20319), MULUGU DISTRICT, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated: 12.08.2024 calling up on the Borrower: 1) Mr. Bhukya Lal, S/o.Ramana Nayak, H.No.10-70, Jawahar Nagar, Machapur, Venkatapur Village, Mulugu District, Pin-506344, Telangana to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.27,25,969/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine only) as on 11-08-2024 along with future interest and cost, charges, etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, mentioned demand notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 17th day of April 2025. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, ETURNAGARAM BRANCH (20319), MULUGU DISTRICT, for an amount of Rs.27,25,969/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine only) as on 11-08-2024 together with interest at contractual rate from 12-08-2024 and expenses thereon.



Assam: ED seizes Rs 7.33 crore assets in PMLA case

Guwahati, April 22 (IANS) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized Rs 7.33 crore in assets in a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case against the former Kamrup Additional Deputy Commissioner in Assam, officials said on Tuesday. ED sources said that the central agency's Guwahati zonal office, as part of an investigation related to a disproportionate assets case against former Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development), Kamrup (Metro), Assam Sukanya Bora, has attached immovable and movable properties of Rs 7.33 crore under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002. The ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Vigilance.



Siddaramaiah neglected backward communities, claims K'taka BJP

Vijayapura, Apr 22 (IANS) : Karnataka BJP has held Janakrosha Yatra against the Congress government over price rise and Muslim quota in tenders in Vijayapura city in north Karnataka on Tuesday. Speaking at a public gathering during the Janakrosha Yatra, BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra claimed that ever since Siddaramaiah became the Chief Minister, he has completely neglected all the backward communities in the state.

He said that the Congress and CM Siddaramaiah have abandoned backward communities and are working only in favour of minorities. Reiterating Siddaramaiah's recent budget announcement, Vijayendra stated that he promised 4 per cent reservation for Muslims in government contracts, Rs 50,000 financial aid for the marriages of Muslim women, and Rs 30 lakh in assistance for Muslim youth pursuing higher education abroad. He said Prime Minister Narendra

Modi scrapped triple talaq to ensure dignity for Muslim women. Initiatives like the Bhagyalakshmi scheme and the Bicycle scheme introduced by B.S. Yediyurappa benefited not just Hindus but Muslims as well. He recalled that during the UPA regime, numerous scams had erupted, and youth had lost hope in the country's future. "But Prime Minister Modi revived that hope and proved that India has a bright future," he said. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi

Narayanaswamy, in his address, stated that it is the BJP that has truly honoured B.R. Ambedkar. "We increased Dalit reservation and regularised civic workers," he said. Narayanaswamy reminded that Ambedkar himself had referred to the Congress as a "house of destruction" and appealed to Dalits to understand this and join hands with the BJP. He said the BJP government is correcting the "historical mistakes" committed by the Congress.



NIA files charge sheet against 5 more individuals in 2022 Coimbatore blast case

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed charge sheet against five more persons in the ISIS-inspired Coimbatore car bomb explosion case of 2022, in which the suicide bomber who perpetrated the blast was killed, an official said. According to a statement, in its fourth supplementary charge sheet in the case RC-01/2022/NIA/CHE, the NIA has charged Sheikh Hidayathullah, Umar Faaruq, Pavas Rahman, Sharan Mariappan and Aboo Hanifa for their involvement in terror financing and other activities linked with the terror attack that had targeted a Hindu temple, Arulmigu Kottai Sangameshwarar Thirukovil, in Coimbatore in October 2022.

'Act assault on constitutional values': Congress welcomes SC interim relief on Waqf Act

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : The Congress on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's interim relief on the recently passed Waqf Act, which it termed "retaliation in the guise of reform". The party highlighted that it was not defending a particular community but a "constitutional principle". It contended

the act was not aimed at improving but "infiltrating" and "controlling" the institutions. Addressing a press conference at the party office, Congress MP, Law, Human Rights and RTI Department Chairman, and senior lawyer Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi, and senior party leader and MP Imran Pratapgarhi said that they were extremely grateful

to the Supreme Court for having spent considerable time on hearing the matter. Rejecting the government's claims of reform by the act, he said: "It is retaliation in the guise of reform. It is retaliation meticulously scripted, strategically timed, and constitutionally questionable." Dr Singhvi rejected the government's claims that the Waqf

Amendment Act was meant to increase efficiency, terming it "an exercise in erasure behind the bland language of governance lies, the bold ambition of control where religious autonomy is being reduced to state-administered protocol and community rights are being redrawn with bureaucratic pens". "Let us be clear, this is not about

improving institutions, this is about infiltrating them, controlling them and closing them." Observing that it should not be treated as a particular community-specific issue, the senior Congress MP maintained that the party was not defending just one community. "We are here to defend a constitutional principle. The constitutional principle is that rights like Article



26 (of the Constitution) cannot be sacrificed at the altar of majoritarian convenience," he said. "Today, it is the Waqf; tomorrow it could be your shrine, your institution.

Gurugram Police save girl from committing suicide

Gurugram, Apr 22 (IANS): The Gurugram Police managed to save the life of a girl who was attempting to commit suicide here as she was apparently upset over some personal reasons, an official said on Tuesday. According to the police, the girl had locked herself in a room and had opened the knob of LPG gas cylinder while holding a lighter in her hand.



"On receiving the information, the police team reached the spot in just six minutes. Police Team's EHC Sanjay, Constable Dinesh, and SPO Sundarlal acted promptly and broke the door of the room and took the girl out of the room safely and pacified her," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson of the Gurugram Police, said.

Patna HC stays proceedings in National Anthem insult case against Nitish Kumar

Patna, Apr 22 (IANS) : The Patna High Court (HC) has granted interim relief to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar by staying proceedings in a complaint case alleging insult to the National Anthem on Tuesday. The court has also issued a notice to the complainant in the matter. The order was passed by Justice Chandra Shekhar Jha during the hearing of a criminal petition filed by the Chief Minister seeking quashing of the complaint.

The controversy erupted following a video that went viral on social media platforms, showing Chief Minister Nitish Kumar waving his hands while the National Anthem was being played during the inauguration of the Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025 at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna's Kankarbagh locality last



month. Acting on the video, Vikas Paswan, a resident of Begusarai, filed a complaint in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Begusarai, on March 22, 2025, accusing the Chief Minister of disrespecting the National Anthem. Due to the CJM being on leave, the matter was transferred to Judicial Magistrate

Mayank Kumar, who accepted the case for hearing and issued a notice to Nitish Kumar on March 25, asking him to present his defence by April 4, 2025. Appearing on behalf of the Chief Minister, Advocate General P.K. Shahi argued that the complaint was politically motivated and constituted a misuse of criminal law.



Assam CM kickstarts development projects worth Rs 100 crore

Guwahati, Apr 22 (IANS) : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, during his visit to the Karbi Anglong district, dedicated development works worth more than Rs 100 crore on Tuesday. The development works encompassing laying, widening, improving, and upgrading of roads, including bridges and other projects, are expected to revolutionise connectivity in Karbi Anglong. Speaking at a programme, Sarma said, "Today is an important day for Karbi Anglong. Connectivity projects worth over Rs. 100 crore have been dedicated to the people along with other important projects. All these projects will bring about unprecedented development in Karbi Anglong." He also said that the pre-school kit materials at Anganwadi Centres as a whole aim to create a joyful and enriching learning environment for young children, fostering their holistic development through play-based activities and diverse learning materials. The Chief Minister said that the Anganwadi workers and helpers across the state have been demanding an increase in their remuneration for a while.

DoNER Minister bats for accelerating the Special Economic Zone in Manipur

Agartala, Apr 22 (IANS) : Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday directed officials to accelerate the pace of key infrastructure projects, including universities, Information Technology and Special Economic Zone in Manipur, mental, maternity and child hospital, officials said. A Manipur government official said that Scindia,

who also holds the Ministry of Communications, during a meeting with Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and top officials of the Centre and state government, highlighted several areas that require focused attention for the development of the state. "The Union Minister stressed those areas which include handicrafts and handloom, sports, tourism, international trade, agriculture, particularly palm oil farming in the

region, logistics, and the development of national highways," the official said. The DoNER minister also directed officials present at the meeting to accelerate the pace of key infrastructure projects such as universities, the Special Economic Zone in Manipur, mental, maternity and child hospitals. During the meeting, the Union Minister, along with officials from the Ministry of DoNER, presented a comprehensive review of the status



of various projects currently underway in Manipur. Later, the Governor, along with the Union Minister, chaired a meeting of the High-Level Task Force on Sports for the North Eastern Region. Chief Minister of Mizoram Lalduhoma, Deputy Chief

Minister of Nagaland Yanthungo Patton, Meghalaya's Additional Chief Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Department of Sports joined the meeting via video conferencing.

OPINIONmail



Bohra community
acquaints PM Modi with problems
of erstwhile Waqf Act

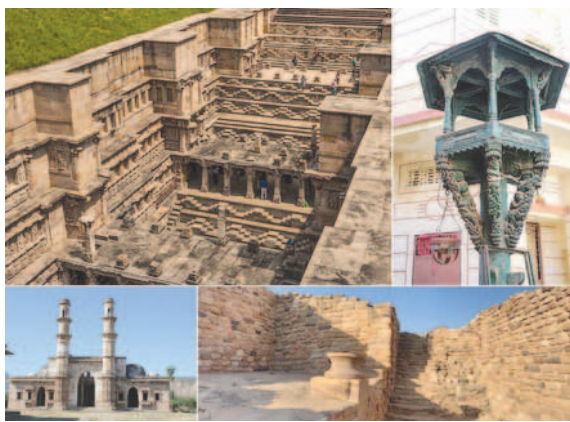
A delegation of the Dawoodi Bohra community on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and acquainted him with the problems of the erstwhile Waqf (Amendment) Act. PM Modi, along with the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, met a delegation of the Dawoodi Bohra community at the Prime Minister's House in New Delhi on Thursday. One of the members told the Prime Minister that the community bought a place in 2015 in Bhendi Bazaar in Mumbai at a very high cost after hectic negotiations. "We were the owners of that place. We bought it at a very high cost. But in 2019, a third party came from Nasik and Ahmedabad, claiming that this place is the Waqf property," apprised one of the members of the community. He told the Prime Minister that is why the amendments were needed in the Waqf Act, adding that he (PM Modi) has the full support of the community. "You have rightly said that development should be made keeping the next 100 years in mind, and by amending the Waqf Act, you have proved what you have said," he told the Prime Minister. Another member told the Prime Minister that they are a minority within the minority, and by amending the Waqf Act, the Prime Minister has taken care of the community like no other Prime Minister. "We are a minority within a minority. And you have taken care of us. You have taken a strong step to strengthen our community," he told the Prime Minister. Another member of the community thanked the Prime Minister for inviting them to his (PM Modi) house and took time to listen to their concerns. "You invited us to your home and gave us time, we thank you for this gesture. We always have a strong relationship with you," he told the Prime Minister. He said that by passing the Waqf Act, PM Modi has given the minority community a place in society, and the Act will only be good for the country. "You have always believed in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas. You have always kept the country first. I firmly believe that this bold decision (passing of Waqf Act) of yours will only take India leaps and bounds forward," he told the Prime Minister. He added, "We are in a minority, but your heart is too big for us. Even being busy, you gave us your precious time and listened to our concerns. We thank you for it." Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, was also present at the Dawoodi Bohra community's meeting with the Prime Minister. He took to social media to share pictures of the meeting. "Dawoodi Bohra Community met PM Modi to express their heartfelt gratitude for the Waqf Amendment Act, fulfilling a long-pending demand," he wrote in a post on X. "Their trust in PM Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas was deeply moving," he further said. The Dawoodi Bohra community is a sect within the Shia Ismaili branch of Islam and has a significant presence in India and forty other countries of the world.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Gujarat's 18 heritage sites
attract over 3.6 mn visitors in 2024

More than 3.695 million domestic and international tourists visited Gujarat's 18 heritage sites in 2024, as per government data shared on Thursday. The four UNESCO-recognised world heritage sites in Gujarat saw a notable influx of visitors. Ahmedabad, a heritage city recorded the highest footfall with more than 7.15 lakh tourists, followed by Rani ki Vav in Patan with 3.64 lakh, Dholavira in Kutch with 1.6 lakh, and Champaner-Pavagadh with more than

47,000 visitors. These four globally recognised sites are vital cultural landmarks. Champaner-Pavagadh, listed in 2004, is known for its fusion of Hindu and Islamic architecture and sacred Kalika Mata Temple. Rani ki Vav, inscribed in 2014, is a spectacular 11th-century stepwell adorned with detailed sculptures and also featured on India's Rs 100 currency note. Ahmedabad, declared India's first UNESCO World Heritage City in 2017, showcases a rich architectural legacy with ancient havelis, mosques, temples, and pols reflecting more than 600 years of history. Dholavira, a former city of the Indus Valley civilisation and UNESCO site since 2021, offers a glimpse into advanced ancient urban planning and water conservation techniques, as per government data. Beyond these, several lesser-known but



culturally significant sites across Gujarat are also attracting increasing tourist attention, supported by sustainable tourism initiatives and improved accessibility. The state's Heritage Tourism Policy has been instrumental in reviving old forts, palaces, and heritage buildings, especially in rural and semi-urban regions. The policy promotes adaptive reuse of heritage properties and encourages public-private partnerships to conserve and showcase the region's architectural legacy.



Gujarat govt to begin
procurement of chana and
mustard at MSP prices

In a move aimed at securing fair prices for farmers and enhancing their income, the Gujarat government will begin the procurement of chana (gram) and mustard (rayda) at the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) from April 21. The state will procure these vital crops through the government's PM-Asha Scheme, which guarantees a fair price for farmers annually. This scheme ensures that farmers can confidently sow their crops, knowing that the MSP for each commodity will be announced before sowing begins. State Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel shared details about the procurement process, emphasising that the 2024-25 Rabi season will see the government purchase chana at a price of Rs 5,650 per quintal (Rs 1,130 per mann) and rayda at Rs 5,950 per quintal (Rs 1,190 per mann). These prices were set by the Central government, encouraging farmers across the state to cultivate these crops in large quantities, confident in the guaranteed return. As a result, more than 3.36 lakh farmers have registered online for the sale of chana, while 1.18 lakh farmers have registered for mustard.

Darjeeling's legendary steam
locomotive 782B marks 125 years of service

In a significant tribute to India's rich railway heritage, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) on Thursday celebrated the 125th year of continuous service of the legendary B Class steam locomotive number 782B. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO).



India saved Rs 3.48 lakh crore as
DBT cut leakages in last 10 years: Report



India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system has resulted in cumulative savings of Rs 3.48 lakh crore through a reduction in leakages that were taking place earlier, and a 16-fold expansion in beneficiary coverage from 11 crore to 176 crore since its launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, according to a report released on Thursday. Since the money goes directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries the leakage as been curbed which has resulted in a halving of subsidy allocations from 16 per cent to 9 per cent of total expenditure. "The DBT has redefined welfare delivery by enhancing transparency, curbing leakages, and ensuring precise fund distribution," the study states. This policy document evaluates a decade of data (2009-2024) to assess DBT's impact on budgetary efficiency, sub-

sidy rationalization, and social outcomes. The newly developed Welfare Efficiency Index (WEI), which quantifies fiscal and social gains, surged from 0.32 in 2014 to 0.91 in 2023, underscoring systemic improvements, the policy document states. According to the document, despite a rise in welfare budgets from Rs 2.1 lakh crore in 2009-10 to Rs 8.5 lakh crore in 2023-24, subsidy allocations declined proportionally, reflecting DBT-driven efficiency. It points out that food subsidies accounted for 53 per cent of total savings (Rs 1.85 lakh crore), while programs like MGNREGS and PM-KISAN achieved 98 per cent timely wage transfers and Rs 22,106 crore in savings, respectively. Aadhaar-linked authentication eliminated ghost beneficiaries, enabling coverage expansion without proportional fiscal expenditure. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, synthesizing Union Budget data, DBT portal records, and secondary sources. Analytical tools include correlation analysis, Granger causality tests, and the WEI—a composite metric weighting DBT savings of 50 per cent, subsidy reduction of 30 per cent, and beneficiary growth of 20 per cent. The

policy recommendations emanating from the study include expansion of DBT coverage through the transition of remaining subsidy-based schemes to direct benefit transfer. It also recommends the strengthening of digital infrastructure and the prioritisation of rural and semi-urban banking access to bridge inclusion gaps. Besides, the study has come out in favour of leveraging advanced analytics with the integration of AI-driven fraud detection to further minimize leakages. It also recommends the need to improve grievance redressal through the establishment of robust mechanisms to address exclusion. "Contrary to critiques of reduced welfare spending, DBT has optimized resource utilization, enabling broader beneficiary reach with lower fiscal outlays. By replacing inefficient subsidies with targeted transfers, India has achieved measurable gains in welfare efficiency," the report states. Future efforts must focus on scaling up DBT's reach, harnessing technology, and sustaining inclusive growth to ensure equitable welfare governance, the report concludes.

MP Ordnance Factory received threat e-mails, search continues

The Ordnance Factory Itarsi, district Narmadapuram, in Madhya Pradesh, received threatening emails, warning of an explosion at the facility on Thursday. As soon as the authorities were informed, a bomb disposal squad and a police team rushed to the location to investigate. Senior police officers confirmed the threats and began search operations immediately.

An official disclosed that the emails were received through the factory's official accounts. The police conducted an extensive search of the premises, but have planned further searches on Friday to ensure safety. Senior police officials were actively involved in the operations. Sanjeev Pawar, in charge of the Pathrota police station, stated, "We have registered an FIR against unknown persons. The search will continue tomorrow, and we are investigating the ori-

gin of the emails." In light of the situation, strict security measures have been implemented at the factory. A police team remains on-site to monitor the area closely. Authorities are tracing the email's source, though the sender and the exact content of the message are yet to be identified. "It cannot be revealed at this stage," commented one official. Given the gravity of the threat, senior officers assured that investigations are proceeding rapidly. Security within the factory has

been significantly bolstered to prevent any untoward incidents. The factory, established as part of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in 1979, was one of several facilities aimed at meeting India's defence equipment needs. The legacy of Indian Ordnance Factories stretches back to the 18th century when gunpowder factories were set up in Ishapore near Kolkata by the British East India Company. These facilities evolved into India's first Ordnance Factories in Cossipore, Kolkata.





Oman to mediate 2nd round of US-Iran nuclear talks in Rome

Muscat, Apr 22 (IANS) : Oman's Foreign Ministry has confirmed that it will continue to mediate a second round of nuclear talks between US and Iranian officials scheduled to take place in Rome on Tuesday.

A spokesman of Oman's Foreign Ministry "confirmed that Rome will be the venue this Saturday for the second round of talks between representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States

of America," the Omani Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday in a statement on X.

In a statement, the Ministry said that the Italian capital was chosen as the new site for the talks due to logistical reasons, expressing hope that the discussions could make further progress toward reaching a just, binding, and sustainable agreement, Xinhua news agency reported.

Oman also expressed appreciation to the Italian government for its cooperation and support in hosting the upcoming meeting.

South Korea: Yoon's lawyers shelve plan to launch political party in support of ousted President

Seoul, Apr 22 (IANS) : A plan to create a new political party in support of former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has been put on hold at his request, the ousted president's lawyers said on Tuesday.

Kim Gye-ri and Bae Ui-cheol, attorneys who have represented Yoon since his impeachment proceedings.



2 killed, 6 injured in US university shooting

Washington, April 22 (IANS) : Two people were killed and six others were injured after an active shooter opened fire on the Florida State University (FSU) campus in Tallahassee on Tuesday, law enforcement said at a news conference.

The injured victims and the suspected shooter were brought to a local hospital.



UN sees US-Iran nuclear talks as 'good sign': Spokesman

United Nations, Apr 22 (IANS) : The United Nations views the second round of negotiations between the US and Iran on Tuesday as "a good sign," and hopes it will yield positive results, a UN spokesman said.

The second round of US-Iran indirect negotiations will be held in Rome on Saturday, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The two sides will discuss Tehran's nuclear issues and Washington's sanctions, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We very much hope that the dialogue between the US and the Islamic Republic of Iran yields a positive outcome, which we're seeing the lowering of tensions in the Gulf region, in the Middle East, and between the two countries," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said at a daily briefing.

"We understand that there will be a second round from what I've seen, I think this weekend, which in itself is a good sign," he said.

Russian embassy denies airstrike on Indian pharma warehouse in Kyiv, blames Ukraine for attack

Moscow, Apr 22 (IANS) : The Russian Embassy in India has dismissed the claims made by Ukraine that it attacked Indian pharmaceutical company Kusum, calling the news fake.

It instead accused the war-torn nation (Ukraine) of attacking the warehouse, saying "one of Ukrainian air defence missiles fell on Kusum Healthcare's warehouse setting it on fire".

"In response to the accusations spread by the Embassy of Ukraine in India, the Russian Embassy in New Delhi informs that the Russian Armed Forces did not attack or plan to attack on April 12, 2025, Kusum Healthcare's pharmacy warehouse in the eastern part of Kiev. On that day, Russian tactical aviation, strike unmanned aerial vehicles and missile forces hit an aviation plant of the Ukrainian military industrial complex, the infrastructure of a military airfield and armoured vehicle repair and UAV assembly workshops at a completely different location," the Embassy said.

"The most likely explanation of the incident

is that one of Ukrainian air defence missiles fell on Kusum Healthcare's warehouse setting it on fire. Similar cases have occurred previously whereby Ukrainian air defence interceptors failing to hit their targets fell in urban areas due to ineptly operated electronic warfare systems," it added.

Last week, Ukrainian Embassy had criticised Vladimir Putin-led Russian government, claiming that it made a "deliberate" attack while the country claimed a "special friendship" with India.

"Today, a Russian missile struck the warehouse of Indian pharmaceutical company Kusum in Ukraine. While claiming "special friendship" with India.



Bangladesh demands US\$ 4.32 billion, apology for 1971 genocide from Pakistan

Dhaka, Apr 22 (IANS) : Bangladesh on Tuesday raised the issue of financial claim to the tune of USD 4.32 billion from Pakistan as a fair share from the assets of undivided Pakistan before 1971 besides also seeking a formal apology for the genocide committed by the Pakistani armed forces during the Liberation War.

The issues were raised during the Foreign Secretary-level Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) held in Dhaka between the two countries after a gap of 15 years.

Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin led the Bangladesh delegation while the Pakistani side was represented by its Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch.

During the meeting, Bangladesh also demanded USD 200 million - the foreign aid from countries and agencies to East Pakistan - during the extremely deadly Bhola cyclone.

"We said that as a friendly neighbour of Bangladesh in South Asia, we seek Pakistan's cooperation in building a strong, welfare-oriented and forward-looking relationship with Paki-



stan by resolving the existing historical unresolved issues at the earliest and we emphasise on working together towards this end," Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after the talks.

"These issues need to be resolved for having a solid foundation of our relations," he added.

Interestingly, the local media reported that the Pakistani side refused to comment on the outcomes of the meeting.

During her visit, Baloch held separate meetings with Bangladeshi interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain, where they discussed issues of mutual interest.

During his meeting with the visit-

ing Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Yunus called for strengthening ties with Pakistan to boost mutual cooperation and explore trade and business potentials.

"There are certain hurdles. We have to find ways to overcome those and move forward," Yunus said after Baloch called on him at the State Guest House Jamuna.

Referring to the past, Baloch said Bangladesh and Pakistan must find ways to "harness the potentials between the two countries".

"We have huge intra regional markets on our own rights. We should use it. We can't miss the bus every time," Baloch said.

Following the FOC talks held for the first time between the two nations since 2010.



Iran ready to expand all-out cooperation with Saudi Arabia : President Pezeshkian

Tehran, April 22 (IANS) : Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met here with visiting Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, calling for expanding cooperation between their two countries in all areas.

Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that Iran is fully prepared to expand its relations with Saudi Arabia in all fields and extend bilateral cooperation to other Islamic countries, according to a statement published on the website of his office.

He also welcomed the establishment of joint working groups in various political, economic, and security areas,

emphasising that Iran and Saudi Arabia could coordinate to resolve many of the problems in the region, without the need for foreign intervention, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Saudi Defence Minister, for his part, described his meetings with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Baqeri earlier on Thursday as "very useful, positive, and constructive".

He called Iran and Saudi Arabia "two main pillars of the region," stressing their strong relations could be an effective model for convergence and synergy in the Muslim world.

"We discussed our bilateral relations and topics of mutual inter-

est," the Saudi Defence Minister wrote on X.

"Our belief is that the relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia is beneficial for both countries," Iranian state media cited Khamenei as saying in the meeting on Thursday.

"Ties between the Saudi and Iranian armed forces have been improving since the Beijing agreement," Baqeri said after the meeting, according to Iranian state media.

Saudi Arabia has welcomed Iran's nuclear talks with the US, saying it supported efforts to resolve regional and international disputes.

Karnataka truck owners call off indefinite strike amid govt assurance

Bengaluru, Apr 22 (IANS) : The truck owners' associations in Karnataka called off their indefinite statewide strike on Tuesday. The strike was announced in protest against the hike in sales tax on fuel, the increase in toll charges, and alleged harassment by RTO officials. Although no decision has been made regarding the reversal of the diesel price hike, the government has met the other key demands of the truckers. The Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents Association (FOKSLOAA) and the

Karnataka Goods Transporters' Association had jointly called for the indefinite strike. The All India Motor Transport Congress, the apex body of motor transport operators comprising state and regional associations, also extended its support to the protest. Speaking to the media in Bengaluru on Thursday, G.R. Shanmugappa, President of FOKSLOAA, announced the withdrawal of the strike and thanked the Congress-led government for responding to their demands. "We had presented five genuine

issues before the state government. Border check posts have been removed across the country. So, why are they still operational at Karnataka's borders? Why is there a compulsion to collect money there? The RTO is causing unnecessary problems," Shanmugappa said. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has promised to study the matter in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat states in one month. Minister Reddy also assured that all border check posts in Karnataka will be removed within three months, Shanmugappa added.

He further stated: "Diesel pricing was a major issue. The government has not yet decided on a fixed rate for trucks like it has for autos and taxis. Successive governments have failed to address this. However, the current government has promised to fix fares based on distance and per-tonne rates within a month. This assurance brings us relief." On the issue of toll discrepancies on state highways, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured that tolls would be withdrawn once the cost of infrastructure is recovered. A



study team will be formed to review this matter. Regarding the "no-entry" rule, which barred goods vehicles from entering the city after 5 a.m., truckers had requested permission for medium goods vehicles carrying

essential items such as vegetables, milk, diesel, and petrol to operate until 10 a.m. Home Minister G. Parameshwara accepted the proposal, and the new rule will be implemented soon, Shanmugappa said.

Bihar : Tejashwi Yadav to lead Mahagathbandhan's coordination committee

Patna, April 22 (IANS) : A high-profile meeting of the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) took place in Patna on Tuesday, in which it was decided to form a coordination committee to streamline decision-making, while Tejashwi Yadav will lead the committee. The leaders of all constituent parties, including RJD, Congress VIP, CPI-ML, CPI and CPI (M), were present. All parties pledged unity and a joint fight against the ruling NDA in Bihar. "There is no difference of opinion in the alliance now. We have agreed on every issue. Now the people of NDA will have to worry. We'll go to the public. The double-engine government has been running for 20 years, yet Bihar tops in crime, migration, and farmer distress," Tejashwi Yadav said. He further added that according to NCRB, Bihar is at the top in crime, adding that the migration is high, low per capita income, and minimum support for farmers is very low. "Nitish Kumar is unconscious right now. PM Modi and Amit Shah are coming here frequently. I want to ask them to explain this rampant lawlessness and migration," he said.



Odisha's road infrastructure will be developed at par with US standards: Nitin Gadkari

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22 (IANS) : The Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday asserted that the road infrastructure in Odisha will be developed at par with the US standards in the coming years. He was speaking during an event held at Baramunda in Bhubaneswar for the foundation laying and inauguration of 19 major National Highway projects worth over Rs 4000 crore across the state. While addressing the gathering, Gadkari stated that Odisha is developing rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after the BJP assumed power in the state. "We have to build world-class infrastructure for the development of the state. The infrastructure includes water, power, transport and communication. Odisha has ports, mineral resources, forests, wildlife and immense potential for the growth of tourism. It is very important to develop good road infrastructure for the development of all these sectors," said the Union Minister.

Media reports on caste census are not wrong: K'taka Minister

Bengaluru, Apr 22 (IANS) : Karnataka Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism Minister H.K. Patil said on Tuesday that media reports on the caste census are not wrong, and a final decision on the report is likely to be taken on May 2. "A lot of information that is

coming in the media, I don't say that it is wrong. The Cabinet held a prolonged discussion on the study report based on the data from the 2015 Social and Educational Survey (caste census). As more information and technical details are required for further deliberation, senior officials have been directed to provide them. The discussion remains incomplete,"



the minister said following the special Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday evening. He said that in what was described as a very cordial debate, preliminary discussions were held on issues like population-based backwardness.

FIU-IND signs MoU with RBI for closer ties to combat money laundering

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Tuesday as part of continued efforts to strengthen co-ordination for the effective implementation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Rules framed thereunder. According to the MoU, the FIU-IND and the RBI will co-operate with each other in the areas of mutual interest including the sharing of relevant

intelligence and information, available in their respective databases. Each party to the MoU will appoint a nodal officer and an alternate nodal officer to interact with the other party.



GMDA, MCG conduct 2-day joint demolition drive on Sheetla Mata Road in Gurugram

Gurugram, Apr 22 (IANS) : Continuing their ongoing action against encroachment, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) conducted an intensive two-day demolition drive on the Sheetla Mata Road in Gurugram on Tuesday and Wednesday. During the drive unauthorised structures were cleared on total 2.5-km stretch on both sides from Mata Mandir to Gurugram's Sector-5. During the two-day drive, encroachment in front of more than 200 shops which were also proving hindrance to the moving traffic were removed and the main carriageways were cleared. Illegal sheds and advertisement boards were dismantled. Additionally, gensets which were set-up along the roadsides were also directed to be shifted on roof top of the buildings after checking the stability of the structures.



Use space tech, involve public : PM Modi's advice on Yamuna cleaning

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : Calling for the use of technology, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed Yamuna cleaning, taking a big step towards fulfilling his promise of personally monitoring the rejuvenation of the holy river and delivering a memorable ex-

perience to Chhath devotees. The meeting, held at PM Modi's residence, also discussed the need for the Jan Bhagidari Movement, enlisting volunteers for river rejuvenation and public events around the Yamuna. The Prime Minister emphasised the urgent need to rehabilitate

Delhi's drinking water system to reduce leakages and pilferage. It was also decided that Delhi would prepare an Urban River Management Plan, for holistic water management, and integrate it with the City Master Plan, said a statement.

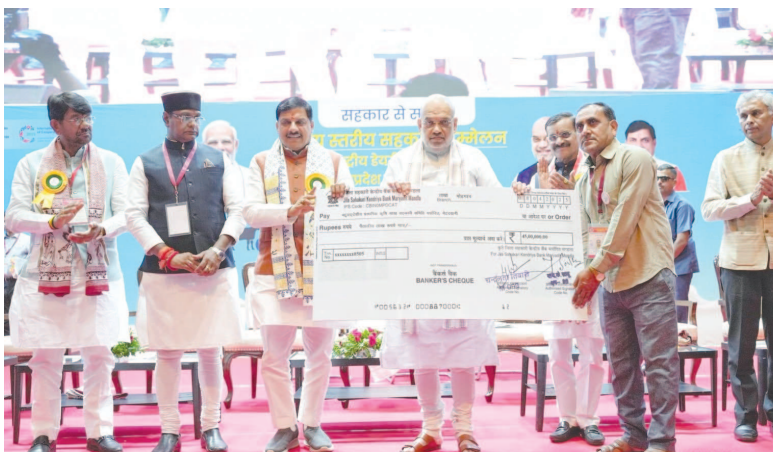
MP govt forms panel to study Centre's guidelines for Cooperative Act

Bhopal, Apr 22 (IANS) : Madhya Pradesh Cooperation Minister Vishvas Kailash Sarang said on Tuesday that the state government has formed a high-level committee to study the Cooperative Act and related guidelines issued by the Centre. The six-member committee, which will function under the supervision of Cooperative Commissioner and Registrar

Manoj Pushp, has been tasked to conduct a detailed study on guidelines issued by the Centre and will present its recommendations at a higher level. Managing Director of Apex Bank Manoj Gupta, Principal of Apex Bank Training College P.S. Tiwari, Joint Commissioners K.K. Dwivedi and H.S. Baghela have been included as the members of the committee. The development came days after Union Home and Cooperation

Minister Amit Shah chaired a state-level cooperative conference in Bhopal last week and has issued necessary directions to the state government. "In compliance with the directives given by Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah during the state-level cooperative conference, a committee has been setup to conduct detailed study and to prepare its recommendations," Minister Sarang said after holding a review

meeting of state Cooperation department on Thursday. He issued necessary directions to the officials and emphasised that the roadmap must be formulated strictly following the Central government's guidelines. Minister Sarang said that the State Cooperation department has planned to organise a workshop on the Cooperative Public-Private Partnership (CPPP) model. Officials have been instructed to



prepare for the workshop, he added. "In this workshop, cooperative officers from across the country will be presented with in-

sights into the CPPP model. The training has been scheduled for June 20," Minister Sarang told media persons.

Gold touches Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams for 1st time

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Gold prices reached a historic milestone on Tuesday as the rate of 24-carat gold touched Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams for the first time ever. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold rose sharply from Rs 96,670 to Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams -- a jump of Rs 3,300 within 24 hours. Along with 24-carat gold, other categories also saw a

steep rise. The price of 22-carat gold climbed to Rs 97,600 per 10 grams, 20-carat gold reached Rs 89,000 per 10 grams, and 18-carat gold touched Rs 81,000 per 10 grams. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), October futures briefly went above the Rs 1 lakh mark and touched an all-time high of Rs 1,00,484 per 10 grams -- gaining nearly Rs 2,000 or 2 per cent in a single day. Experts say the sudden spike in gold prices is due to increased glo-

bal demand for gold as a safe-haven investment. "The new all-time-high attained by the yellow metal is primarily influenced by the rising tensions between President Trump and US Fed Chair Jerome Powell regarding the Fed rate cut," said Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewellery. This demand has been driven by rising geopolitical tensions and ongoing global economic uncertainties. His recent comments and decisions, including imposing tariffs on Chinese goods and ques-

tioning the Fed's policies, have added to market volatility. The weakening US dollar and interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve have made gold, a non-yielding asset, more attractive to investors. Lower interest rates reduce the cost of holding gold, which leads to higher investments in the yellow metal. Another major reason behind the price surge is central banks across the world, including India and China, increasing their gold reserves. This strategy, known as



'de-dollarisation,' is aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar and preparing for economic uncertainties by investing more in gold.

"While the gold price is on an upward trajectory, the fall in dollar will make gold affordable in other currencies.



70 pc of E-com, tech startups intend to hire freshers in India with AI in mind: Report

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : About 70 per cent of e-commerce and tech startups in India intend to hire freshers in the first half of 2025, with high demand for AI-centric roles, a report showed on Tuesday. Overall, 74 per cent of employers in the country intend to hire freshers for the January-June period, with varied AI-related roles taking the lead. This uptick in demand for AI-related roles is also in line with the government's push to reinstate the country's commitment to technological progression and workforce growth, according to 'Career Outlook Report 2025' by TeamLease EdTech.

Nifty turns 29: From 1,000 in 1996 to over 26,000, a look at its journey so far

Mumbai, Apr 22 (IANS): Over nearly three decades, the Nifty index has evolved into a key barometer of the Indian equity market, growing from a base value of 1,000 to over 26,000. On Tuesday, the Nifty marked its 29th anniversary, continuing to serve as a reflection of India's economic growth, investor confidence, and market sentiment. Launched by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on April 22, 1996, the Nifty was introduced just two years after the exchange began operations. The index was created with a base date of November 3, 1995, and a base value of 1,000. Today, it tracks the performance of 50 of the most traded and largest companies in India across 15 sectors and represents about 55.48 per cent of the NSE's total free-float market capitalisation as of March 28, 2025.



Launch of e-bike taxis: Maha govt issues notification on eligibility, safety and fares

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) : The Maharashtra government has released a notification specifying strict guidelines for eligibility, safety and fares for the launch of electric-bike taxis or two-wheeler bike-taxi collective service (aggregator) for cities with at least one lakh population, which is expected to benefit single passengers travelling up to 15 km and cover Mumbai besides several other urban centres in the state. Notably, on April 1, the state cabinet cleared the

launch of e-bike taxis. The State Transport Officer will issue a single permit for the entire state. According to Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, the initiative is expected to create more than 10,000 jobs in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and another 10,000 in the rest of the state. According to the notification, the bike-taxi coverage license will be given for five years. All two-wheeler taxis should be painted in purple with a mention of bike-taxi, the name and contact

number of the bike-taxi service provider. The vehicles should comply with emission standards. Two-wheelers belonging to the aggregators operating under two-wheeler taxis will have to be 100 per cent electric. The two-wheeler drivers should have permission to drive as per the provisions of Section 3 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. They should possess a badge, as per the provisions of Rule 4 of the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

JB Chemicals shares fall over 13 pc in 6 months amid weak results, stake sale concerns

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Shares of JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited have seen a significant decline in recent months, dropping Rs 250.65 or 13.15 per cent over the last six months. The downward trend has continued through 2025, with the stock losing Rs 222.80 or 11.86 per cent year-to-date (YTD). On a yearly basis, the shares have slipped by Rs 132.55 or 7.41 per cent. Even though the stock managed to close flat on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday at Rs 1,655.40, up slightly by Rs 9.10 or 0.55 per cent, the overall sentiment around the stock remains subdued. The weakness in JB Chemicals' shares can be traced back to March 27, when the stock plunged 7.4 per cent in a single session. The sharp fall came after reports surfaced that promoter Tau Investment Holdings Pte was planning to offload a 10.2 per cent stake in the company through block deals.



India's real estate sector saw 47 pc jump in investments in Jan-March: Report

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Institutional investments in the real estate sector during Q1 (January-March) this year reached \$0.81 billion, marking a 47 per cent year-on-year increase, reflecting a renewed sense of confidence among investors, according to a report by real estate consultancy firm Vestian. As investments approach the billion-dollar mark in Q1 2025, the residential sector has emerged as the frontrunner, dominating with 62 per cent of the total share -- up from 41 per cent in the same period last year. In value terms, investments reported an annual increase of 125 per cent, reaching \$506.1 Mn in Q1 2025, the report states. Commercial assets witnessed investments worth \$307.2 Mn in Q1 2025, accounting for 38 per cent of the total investments received during the quarter. While the share declined from 42 per cent in Q1 2024 to 38 per cent in Q1 2025, investments surged by 33 per cent in value terms during the same period. Interestingly, the industrial and warehousing sector did not record any significant investment in Q1 2025. However, it is expected to garner investments in the future on the back of the rapidly growing e-commerce sector.

RBI issues new LCR guidelines for banks

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) : The RBI has issued new Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) guidelines which will require a bank to assign additional run-off rates of 2.5 per cent to internet and mobile banking-enabled retail and small business customer deposits with effect

from April 1, 2026. Banks will also have to adjust the market value of Government Securities (Level 1 HQLA).



Cement demand in India poised to rise 7.5 pc in 2025-26: Report

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : The cement sector is expected to see a 6.5-7.5 per cent demand growth this fiscal, driven by a 10 per cent rise in budgetary allocation for core infrastructure ministries and on expectation that an above-normal monsoon will boost agricultural profitability -- in turn lifting rural housing demand, according to a Crisil report released on Tuesday. In fiscal 2025, cement demand growth was moderate at 4.5-5.5 per cent owing to a sluggish start to the year because of the general elections.



Sensex, Nifty extend winning streak for sixth day, rise nearly 8 pc in 6 sessions

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) : The Indian stock market continued its upward journey for the sixth straight trading session on Tuesday, supported by gains in fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and private banking stocks. The Sensex began the day with a strong start, opening 320 points higher at 79,728. However, it soon slipped into the red, touching a low of 79,253, as investor sentiment was affected by steep losses in the US markets overnight. Despite the early fall, the Sensex recovered quickly and remained in positive territory for the rest of the trading day. It even touched an intra-day high of 79,824 before finally closing 187 points or 0.24

per cent higher at 79,596. With Tuesday's gains, the Sensex has now climbed 5,749 points, or 7.8 per cent, over the last six trading sessions, showing strong momentum in the domestic markets. The Nifty also followed a similar trend. It slipped to a low of 24,072 during early trade but bounced back sharply to hit a high of 24,243. The Nifty finally ended the intra-day trading session with a gain of 42 points or 0.2 per cent at 24,167.

‘Why so quiet?’: CM Yogi tears into Opposition over Murshidabad violence

Lucknow, Apr 22 (IANS) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister ripped into the Opposition over their ‘silence’ on the recent incidents of violence in West Bengal’s Murshidabad, which apparently broke out during protests by the Muslim groups, following the passage of the Waqf Amendment Act. He severely criticised the Opposition for their ‘utter silence’ on Bengal violence, as against utterances in other regions and said that this has completely exposed their double standards. Speaking at an event titled “Uttar Pradesh: Towards a Glorious Century”, the Chief Minister slammed the opposition parties and blamed them for deep-rooted issues like cor-

ruption, casteism, and mafia rule during previous regimes. “The same people who were involved in scams and built hotels in London using public money are the ones who looted the state and divided people along caste lines,” he said. “Those who built their political empires on corruption, casteism, mafia power, and dynastic politics are now silent on incidents like Murshidabad,” he remarked. Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh, he said that the mafia raj has been eliminated and today the state has turned into a safer and peaceful place. “In the past, mafias used to control entire districts. They took over government contracts, caused riots, and harassed women and busi-



nessmen. People used to be scared during festivals. Today, festivals in UP are celebrated peacefully and with grandeur,” CM Yogi stated. CM Yogi also drew a parallel between Murshidabad violence and what cities like Muzaffarnagar, Bareilly, Aligarh, and Lucknow faced in the past. The Chief Minister further blasted the Opposition for insulting national heroes like Shivaji, Maharana Pratap, and Rana Sanga, while glorifying figures like Aurangzeb, Babur,

and Jinnah, who he said were against the idea of India. He accused opposition parties and leaders of spreading propaganda and hatred in society for vote-bank politics. “To build a prosperous Uttar Pradesh and a self-reliant, developed India, it is important to respect our national heroes. This is also one of the pledges of the Prime Minister’s ‘Panch Pran’ vision,” he highlighted.

Community engagement key to restoring rivers, aquatic biodiversity: C.R. Patil

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil has stressed the need for increasing community participation in projects related to restoration of aquatic biodiversity and improving river health, an official said on Tuesday. Reviewing key Projects of Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Minister also launched a digital platform to boost freshwater biodiversity conservation. Information dashboard www.rivres.in, developed under the Ministry of Jal Shakti



and WII as part of the Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre/National Centre for River Research, serves as a comprehensive digital hub. It offers ecological insights, conservation case studies, and information on physiography, biodiversity, and community engagement activities across major Indian rivers, including the Ganga, Barak, Mahanadi.



SIT formed to investigate air hostess sexual abuse case: Gurugram Police

Gurugram, Apr 22 (IANS) : The Gurugram Police have formed a six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the 46-year-old air hostess sexual abuse case on Tuesday.

BJP routinely uses ED, CBI as political weapons: Somnath Bharti after raid on Durgesh Pathak's residence

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : AAP leader Somnath Bharti on Tuesday accused the BJP of routinely misusing central investigative agencies including the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as ‘tools’ to target the Opposition leaders. His remarks came following an CBI raid at the residence of senior AAP leader Durgesh

Pathak, a move the party claimed is politically motivated. Speaking to IANS, Somnath Bharti said, “There’s an old English idiom that says, ‘When a dog bites a man, it’s not news. But when a man bites a dog, it is.’ Under the BJP regime, raids by ED or CBI on opposition leaders have become so common that they no longer surprise anyone. However, if these agencies were to target BJP leaders, that would be actual

news.” He added, “This has become a day-to-day activity. The use of ED and CBI as political weapons is a standard operating procedure under the BJP government.” Bharti further alleged that the timing of the raid on Pathak was politically driven, given his growing promi-



nence within the party and his recent appointment as co-incharge for AAP’s Gujarat campaign ahead of the 2027 state elections. “There is massive anti-incumbency in Gujarat. Congress has never posed a real challenge to the BJP there. But AAP’s entry has disrupted their comfort zone.

NDMC close to 100 per cent girl child registration under Sukanya Yojana: Kuljeet Chahal



New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Vice Chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Tuesday complimented the Education Department for achieving 98 per cent registration of girl students under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to ensure the education and financial security of girls.

After a review of various NDMC projects, Chahal said he had written to the District Magistrate (New Delhi) to resolve documentation issues concerning the remaining 2 per cent of the girl students who have not been enrolled under the Yojana. Chahal said that to achieve 100 per cent coverage under the scheme, the NDMC had

organised special camps in schools with the cooperation of banks and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and conducted awareness campaigns for parents. While reviewing the progress of ongoing development projects, Chahal reiterated that ‘Viksit Bharat @2047’ is a visionary initiative of PM Modi aimed at transforming India into a developed nation by the 100th year of its independence.

This initiative focuses on inclusive development, sustainable progress, effective governance, and most importantly, the active participation of youth, he said. The directions issued by him at the meeting included the acceleration of development work. He directed departments facing delays to expedite their work and adhere to defined timelines.



New Act enacted to curb Waqf misuse, claims Tripura CM

Agartala, April 22 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday said that the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 has been passed in the Parliament, aiming to address allegations of misuse of Waqf properties by a section of leaders, misuse of Section 40, land grabbing, and other corruption. While addressing the

Janajagaran Abhiyan organised by the ruling BJP here, the Chief Minister said that the loopholes of the Waqf Act 1995 severely affected the poor Muslims among the backwards groups. As part of the country-wide campaign, the Janajagaran Abhiyan was launched to raise awareness among the Muslim community about the amended law.

Bihar govt to give Rs 1 lakh for land purchase in Panchayats

Patna, April 22 (IANS) : The Bihar government has expanded its support for economically weaker sections by offering Rs 1 lakh financial assistance for land purchase in panchayats, where government land is unavailable. This initiative is part of “Abhiyan Basera-2”, aimed at ensuring housing and land ownership for the landless people, particularly among Dalits, Mahadalits, minori-

ties, and backward and extremely backward communities. Announcing the initiative, Sanjay Saraogi, Bihar’s Land Reforms and Revenue Minister, stated: “Those living in panchayats where government land cannot be allotted will now be given Rs 1 lakh via cheque under the Chief Minister’s Vas Niti Yojana to buy land for housing.”



Delhi Assembly to go paperless from Monsoon Session in July : Speaker

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Tuesday announced that the Monsoon Session scheduled to be held in July will be conducted in a completely paperless mode. The adoption of a paperless legislative process will become possible through the implementation of cutting-edge software and mobile applications developed.

Will not form coalition govt with BJP: AIADMK

Chennai, Apr 22 (IANS) : Senior AIADMK leader and Rajya Sabha MP M. Thambidurai on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of forming a coalition government with the BJP in Tamil Nadu, asserting that the AIADMK would form the government on its own if the alliance secures victory in the 2026 Assembly elections. Speaking to reporters, Thambidurai said: “Tamil Nadu has never had a coalition government - not under Congress veterans like C. Rajagopalachari and K. Kamaraj, nor under Dravidian

stalwarts like M.G. Ramachandran and M. Karunanidhi. Similarly, in 2026, Edappadiyar (Edappadi K. Palaniswami) will form the government alone. There is no place for a coalition government in Tamil Nadu, and it will never happen.” Thambidurai’s remarks reinforce the statement made by AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) on Wednesday, clarifying that the party’s renewed alliance with the BJP is strictly for the 2026 Assembly elections and does not extend to governance. Palaniswami, addressing reporters after leading a walkout from the Tamil Nadu As-



sembly - in protest against the House’s refusal to take up the AIADMK’s no-confidence motion against the DMK government - said: “He (Amit Shah) never spoke about forming a coalition government. We have entered into an electoral alliance, not a governance pact.” The AIADMK leader was responding to persistent media queries regarding Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s comments during his visit to Chennai.



AAP Punjab chief slams Congress leader Bajwa for threatening state's peace

Chandigarh, April 22 (IANS) : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab unit president Aman Arora on Tuesday slammed Congress legislator and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa for making "reckless" statements that threaten Punjab's peace and align with the agenda of the state's adversaries. He called out the Congress and the BJP for their "failure" to clarify their positions on these "provocative" remarks, particularly those endorsed by controversial figures like designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Arora told the media here that certain political leaders, desperate to revive their fading political relevance, are resorting to reckless and dangerous statements. "These politicians, instead of addressing the real issues of the people, are engaging in baseless rhetoric to further their political agendas," he said. He pointed out that such ac-

tions not only undermine the state's security but also create fear and panic among the people. Arora criticised Bajwa for his statements regarding grenades allegedly entering Punjab, which he had earlier claimed in a media interview. Bajwa had linked these claims to intelligence reports, asserting that his sources were credible, though he later admitted that his information had come from a newspaper report. "If Bajwa had simply acknowledged that his source was a news article, the situation would have ended there. Instead, he chose to make sensational claims and spread fear," said Arora. He expressed disappointment that Bajwa, despite being a seasoned politician, failed to act responsibly and undermined public trust in state institutions. "Bajwa's comments have fueled fear and confusion," he said. He also highlighted the High Court's direction for Bajwa to co-



operate with the Punjab Police and refrain from making further inflammatory statements. Arora also condemned the fact that extremist elements such as Pannun had used Bajwa's comments to justify their anti-national rhetoric. He pointed out that Pannun, who had previously threatened to destroy statues of B.R. Ambedkar in Punjab, had now echoed Bajwa's claims. "When leaders like Bajwa make such statements, it emboldens anti-national forces like Pannun, who then use the opportunity to further their divisive agenda," Arora said.

India's sugar production touches 254.97 lakh tons in current season

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Sugar production in the current sugar season touched 254.97 lakh tons, as on April 15, with 38 factories operating across the country, according to a statement issued by the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) on Tuesday. Around 35 lakh tons of sugar is expected to be diverted towards ethanol production this year, compared to last year's diversion of 21.5 lakh tons, the statement said. As many as 22 factories are still operational during the current season in Uttar Pradesh, out of which 16 factories are operating in western UP. Owing to the improved yield of plant cane, cane availabil-



ity has improved in UP, and these factories are expected to remain in operation up to late April 2025 or May 1st week. Moreover, sugar recovery has also shown improvement in the second half of the season, resulting in better output of sugar, the statement said. In Maharashtra, one sugar mill in Pune district is expected to remain in operation up to the 2nd week of May this year. At the same time, some factories

in south Karnataka are expected to restart operations during the special season from June/July to September 2025. Historically, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu collectively contribute around 4-5 lakh tons of sugar in the special season. ISMA is also optimistic on the outlook for the 2025-26 sugar season due to better crop prospects in the southern and northern states.

Uddhav Thackeray hijacked Shiv Sena, faked Balasaheb's legacy, claims Shinde faction

Mumbai, April 22 (IANS) : The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Tuesday accused the Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray of hijacking the Shiv Sena by emotionally blackmailing Balasaheb Thackeray during a crucial leadership transition. Shiv Sena MP and spokesman Naresh Mhaske claimed that Uddhav Thackeray had threat-

ened to leave the Thackeray household when Balasaheb was considering handing over party reins to leaders like Raj Thackeray, Ganesh Naik, and Narayan Rane. "He used the same pressure tactic with Narayan Rane to consolidate his control," he added. He recalled that Raj Thackeray had once offered to take charge of the party in regions where Shiv

Sena was struggling, and that Balasaheb was willing to trust him with that responsibility - until Uddhav Thackeray intervened. "It was emotional blackmail that pushed Balasaheb into handing over power to Uddhav," he alleged. Mhaske also slammed the Uddhav faction for what he called "manipulating Balasaheb's legacy" through doctored videos and fabricated statements. "You



misuse Balasaheb's voice because you lack the courage to directly criticise Eknath Shinde or Devendra Fadnavis," he said. Highlighting electoral performance, Mhaske said that Uddhav Thackeray's group contested 100 seats and won just 20, while the Shinde-led Shiv Sena contested 80 and won 60.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to release book

'The Hindu Manifesto' on April 26



New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Amid an engaging discourse around governance, decolonisation and societal development in Bharat, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will release 'The Hindu Manifesto', a book by Swami Vigyananand, on April 26. The event to launch the work of Swami Vigyananand, a senior functionary of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and initiator of the World Hindu Congress, will be held at the PM Museum in New Delhi, said a statement. The Hindu Manifesto offers a transformative framework for prosperity, governance and justice in modern times, rooted in the principles of Dharma and the timeless wisdom of ancient Hindu texts such as the Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Arthashastra, and Shukranitisar, it said. Swami Vigyananand has crafted The Hindu Manifesto as a blueprint for civilisational renaissance, based on eight guiding principles, or Sutras, that emphasise prosperity for all, national security, quality education, responsible democracy, respect for women, social harmony, sacredness of nature, and respect for one's heritage.

'Nothing surprising': Mehbooba Mufti on Dulat's controversy

Srinagar, Apr 22 (IANS) : Former J&K Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti said on Tuesday that she is not surprised by the disclosure made by former R&AW Chief A. S. Dulat in his latest book about National Conference (NC) president, Farooq Abdullah "privately" supporting the abrogation of Article 370. "Dulat's revelations are nothing new for me. The father-son duo (Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah) went to meet them (Prime Minister, Narendra Modi) on August 3, 2019. Farooq Sahib did not even go to Parliament on August 5, 2019. He stayed back. So nothing is surprising for me," said the former Chief Minister while addressing a PDP workers' convention in Srinagar. Article 370, granting special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated by the Parliament on

August 5, 2019. Mehbooba also claimed that in 2014, Omar Abdullah met Amit Shah for government formation in Jammu and Kashmir. "He told Amit Shah not to form a government with the PDP, but to go with the NC and that too unconditionally," she alleged. Dulat's book, titled 'The Chief Minister and the Spy', will be released on April 18. Mehbooba also claimed that one of the cornerstones of PDP's alliance with the BJP from 2015 to 2018 was that Article 370 would not be touched. "In those two years and 10 months, Article 370 remained untouched," she claimed. The PDP president also spoke about the Waqf (Amendment) Act and attacks on mosques and shrines, saying graves are being dug up on the pretext that these were remnants of the Mughal Empire.



Trump signs memo to extend federal hiring freeze through July : White House

Washington, Apr 22 (IANS) : US President Donald Trump has signed a memorandum extending the federal hiring freeze through July 15, White House principal deputy press secretary Harrison Fields wrote in a post on social media platform X. The move is part of President Trump and Elon Musk's aggressive efforts to cut spending within the federal government, CNN reported. The original action dictated that no new federal civilian positions could be created and no vacant positions could be filled. It specifies that it does not prohibit hirings to "maintain essential services, and protect national security, homeland security, and public safety". A fact sheet put out by the White House called the move "a critical step in shrinking the federal government and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently". "The American people elected President Trump to drain the swamp and end ineffective government programs that empower government without achieving mea-

surable results," it said. The hiring freeze stops federal agencies from filling vacant positions or creating any new ones. The only exceptions are for immigration enforcement, national security or public safety positions. The freeze is now through July 15, and once that is up, agencies will still only be able to hire one employee for every four that leave. Trump first implemented the hiring freeze through executive order on his first day in office, and it was set to expire on Sunday. "The President will usher in a Golden Age for America by reforming and improving the government bureaucracy to work for the American people," the administration said in January. "He will freeze bureaucrat hiring except in essential areas to end the onslaught of useless and overpaid Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) activists buried into the federal workforce." The hiring freeze mirrors an initiative Trump took at the beginning of his first term. A memorandum he signed in January 2017 put a freeze on federal government hiring except for military and other positions that were deemed necessary. Since January, several federal agencies have been turned upside down with mass firings, while others have been liquidated altogether by the work of Elon Musk, whom Trump made the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). The Department of Education has been reduced by nearly 50 per cent, and the Health and Human Services Department by around 24 per cent.

31.52 lakh

MT wheat procured in Haryana

Chandigarh, Apr 22 (IANS) : A total of 31.52 lakh metric tons (MT) wheat has been procured in Haryana since April 1, officials said on Tuesday. Out of this, 8.59 lakh metric tonnes of wheat have been lifted.

A government spokesperson said wheat has been procured from more than 2 lakh farmers, and Rs 1,400 crore has been transferred directly to the farmers' bank accounts. Last year, 18.24 lakh metric tonnes of wheat were procured.



Naveen Patnaik files nomination for BJD's president position for 9th time

Bhubaneswar, Apr 22 (IANS) : Odisha Leader of the Opposition and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik filed his nomination papers for the post of the president of Biju Janata Dal at the party's headquarters (Sankha Bhawan) on Tuesday. Patnaik was the sole contender for the post of president of the principal opposition BJD. He has been elected president of the BJD eight times in a row since its formation in 1997, and was last elected for the post in 2020. Patnaik also addressed a gathering here on the occasion of his late father Biju Patnaik's death anniversary. Launching a veiled attack on the BJP-led state government, the BJD supremo said: "Nowadays, some people are making a deliberate attempt to delete the contributions and sacrifices of our great sons. Attempts are also being made to change history, but they should remember that history reflects the collective experiences of a nation over a period of time. It can't be changed at anybody's pleasure." He also advised the government to work towards adding new chapters in the history of development of the state, rather than wasting time on changing or erasing history. "His (Biju Patnaik's) aim was to make Odisha a leading state in the country."



Madras HC questions TN minister K Ponmudy over hate speech

Chennai, Apr 22 (IANS) : Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court on Tuesday questioned Tamil Nadu Forest Minister K. Ponmudy regarding his derogatory public speech against Saivites, Vaishnavites, and women, and sought to know what criminal action had been initiated against him by the state police. The judge summoned Advocate General P.S. Raman during the hearing of a suo motu revision petition initiated in 2023 against Ponmudy's acquittal in a disproportionate assets case. Expressing displeasure over the minister's remarks, Justice Venkatesh noted that such deprecatory comments against women and religious groups could not be dismissed as mere slips of the tongue, especially when video evidence circulating on social media suggested they were made with full consciousness.

Gujarat govt raises grant to Rs 40 lakh for panchayat offices with 10,000+ village population

Gandhinagar, April 22 (IANS) : The Gujarat government has announced an increase in financial grants for the construction of new, well-equipped offices for local self-government bodies, including gram panchayats, taluka panchayats, and district panchayats. The initiative aims to modernise administrative infrastructure

across rural and semi-urban areas, ensuring that citizens have improved access to public services and local governance. Under the new policy announced on Tuesday, the state government will offer higher financial assistance to gram panchayats that currently



lack a panchayat ghar or have office buildings in a dilapidated condition. The revised grants are categorised based on village population.

MP: 'Impersonator' cardiac surgeon's remand extended by one more day

Bhopal, Apr 22 (IANS) : A court in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday extended the police remand of Dr. Narendra Yadav by another day. Yadav faces serious allegations of performing fatal cardiac surgeries on multiple patients at "Mission Hospital" in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh. His bail application was also rejected during the proceedings. "The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Sneha Singh extended the remand after the police requested more time for interrogation."



Madhya Pradesh: PMMY gives new direction to grocery businesses and youth entrepreneurship in Shivpuri

Shivpuri, Apr 22 (IANS) : In Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is emerging as a transformative force, especially for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. The scheme, launched by the Centre, has provided significant financial support to individuals looking to start or expand their businesses. Many beneficiaries in the district have not only accessed loans under the scheme but have also successfully advanced their enterprises. Several entrepreneurs have shared their inspiring journeys with the pub-

lic. IANS spoke with a few beneficiaries of the scheme to understand its impact. Yogesh Rajak, Director of Yogesh Studio, shared his experience, saying: "I received a loan of Rs 10 lakh under the PMMY, which I used to establish my studio. We offer services like song editing, video editing, and other media-related work." He expressed his gratitude for the government's aid and described the scheme as highly beneficial for budding entrepreneurs.



'Crime master, bhoo-mafia' Robert Vadra: BJP's scathing attack at Gandhi family over ED probe

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Amid Robert Vadra's interrogation by the ED sleuths for the third consecutive day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday launched a blistering attack at the Gandhi family and dubbed Priyanka Gandhi's husband as a "crime master" and "bhoo-mafia" (land-mafia). Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia cited the rampant corruption under the Congress regimes and how its governments facilitated a corrupt land deal for the country's "jijaji" (brother-in-law), from which he garnered profits of more than 700 per cent in just 4 months.

No major mistake in K'taka caste census report: Backward Classes Chairman

Bengaluru, April 22 (IANS) : Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde on Tuesday claimed that no major mistake exists in the caste census report, prepared by the state government. "I don't think there is

any mistake in the report or the data. There may be small mistakes, but there are no major mistakes in the report. It is with the Cabinet. They will discuss and then take a decision," the Chairman Hegde told media persons. He further added that some people have started complaining without

checking and reading the report. "After satisfying myself, members and the member-secretary signed the report and submitted it to the government," the Chairman said. He further said that, like Hindus, among Muslims also they have also found 93 castes and subcastes during the survey. "As per their request,

we have verified them and taken a decision," he said. When asked about Hindu major castes divided into subcastes while the Muslim community is shown as one group, he stated, Muslims are put under one category.



'Mega drama continuing like television serial' : BJP slams K'taka govt on caste census

Bengaluru, Apr 22 (IANS) : Karnataka BJP on Tuesday criticised the state government over the inconclusive meeting of the special Cabinet on the caste census, saying it is a mega drama which is continuing like a television serial. "The caste census mega-drama initiated 10 years ago

by Chief Minister Siddar amaiiah seems to be continuing like a never-ending television serial," said Karnataka Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka. He added that in an apparent attempt to divert attention from the raging public anger over rising prices.



India's economic fundamentals are strong, growth to continue: Industry leaders

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : India's economic growth story is expected to strengthen further, backed by strong fundamentals, robust policymaking, and a skilled talent pool, top industry leaders said. Speaking to IANS on the sideline of 120th anniversary celebrations of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) here, they expressed optimism about the country's economic trajectory in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. JK Tyre & Industries Limited Chairman and Managing Director Raghupati Singhania said: "So far, so good -- and I'm sure it will continue to grow because our fundamentals are good and sound."

"The government is keen and working earnestly on building strong bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for further collaboration globally," Singhania told IANS. Echoing the sentiment, PHDCCI President Hemant Jain highlighted that India is in a "sweet spot" on the global map. "Inflation is under control, the market is looking good, and we have one of the most stable governments in the region. India is now the centre of attention globally," Jain told IANS. Jain added that strong ties between global leaders, including PM Modi and the US leadership, would ensure further progress in trade relations. He expressed confidence that India would continue to benefit from global shifts in trade patterns.

Mizoram: Leaders of striking 15,000 workers discuss job regularisation with CM's Political Adviser

Aizawl, April 22 (IANS) : Leaders of the agitating 15,000 workers employed under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in Mizoram, on Tuesday met Lalmuangpuia Punte, Political Adviser to Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and discussed the demand to regularise their jobs under the state government. Officials said that the leaders of the All Mizoram CSS Employees Coordination Committee (AMCECC) during the

meeting with Punte explained their demands and their difficulties, which arose due to non-regularisation of their jobs for many years. During the meeting Punte said that the Chief Minister's attention to the AMCECC's strike is important and requested the agitating casual employees to discuss their demands with CM Lalduhoma. The AMCECC leaders also thanked the government for taking their concerns seriously and arranging the meeting.



Acting Chief Secretary H. Lalengmawia was also present in the meeting. The AMCECC began their three-day strike on Tuesday demanding regularisation of their jobs under the state government.

A senior Mizoram government official said that the state government has been taking steps for regularisation of the casual CSS employees and asserted that those workers.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam batters New Zealand's North Island

Wellington, Apr 22 (IANS) : Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam has unleashed severe weather across New Zealand's Northland and Auckland, leaving thousands without power and causing widespread damage as it tracks southward. Heavy rain and strong winds have downed powerlines, felled trees, closed roads, and disrupted transport. As of Tuesday afternoon, around 5,000 properties in Northland remained without power, with Northpower, the electric power distribution company,

warning repairs could take up to three days. At the storm's peak, over 8,700 Northland homes were affected, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Radio New Zealand (RNZ). Telecommunications were also impacted, with power outages affecting cellphone towers, RNZ reported on Tuesday. Air New Zealand cancelled multiple flights, and some Auckland ferry services were suspended. Motorists were urged to take care on the Auckland Harbour Bridge due to

high winds, with the local council receiving 284 storm-related calls between Wednesday night and Tuesday afternoon, local media reported. MetService, in its precautionary measure, has decided to continue referring to the weather system as Cyclone Tam, despite its technical downgrade. This is being done to emphasise and spread the seriousness of the situation. The storm is now moving toward Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, and the upper South Island, prompting

warnings for a wild and wet Easter weekend, according to MetService forecast. Cyclone Tam, which formed earlier this week near New Caledonia, is bringing widespread disruption from Northland to Auckland and is expected to track further south by the end of the week. On April 16, a yacht reportedly sank off the Northland coast, while wind gusts reached up to 130 km/h at Cape Reinga. In Auckland, strong winds forced multiple lane closures on the Harbour Bridge throughout the



afternoon and evening. Northland has so far borne the brunt of the storm, with residents warned to brace for continued strong winds, large swells, and

possible thunderstorms. MetService meteorologist Georgina Law noted that "some locally intense bursts of rainfall" are also likely.

First India-Africa multinational maritime exercise will boost ties with African nations : MEA

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : India on Tuesday said that the first edition of the India-Africa Multinational Maritime Exercise, being co-hosted by India and Tanzania off the coast of Africa, marks a significant milestone in strengthening relations between India and the African nations. The exercise, involving participation from nine countries - including Tanzania, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa - ends on April 18. It positions both India and African nations in leadership roles as far as security of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is concerned and is in line with India's maritime Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) vision, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.



Sydney teenager charged with organising overseas contract killings

Sydney, Apr 22 (IANS) : Australian authorities have arrested and charged a teenage foreign national for allegedly facilitating contract killings in Europe. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Tuesday that the 15-year-old was arrested on Wednesday after officers executed a search warrant in western Sydney. In a joint statement with Danish Police and the Swedish Police Authority, the AFP said that the teenager is accused of using an encrypted application to facilitate plans for contract killings in Denmark and Sweden on behalf of a transnational crime syndicate. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the 15-year-old is a Swedish national. He has been charged with one count of using a telecommunications device to commit conspiracy to murder and one count of using a telecommunications device to commit murder. The AFP said that it commenced an investigation earlier in April after receiving information from Danish Police about a foreign national living in Australia allegedly linked to attempts to organise crimes-as-a-service contract killings in Europe.

Working closely with Belgium for Mehul Choksi's extradition to India, says MEA

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : India on Tuesday said that it continues to "work closely" with the authorities in Belgium for the extradition of fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi to India. "Based on our extradition request, he was arrested in Belgium. We are working closely with the Belgium side for his extradition to India so that he can face trial in the country," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at a regular media briefing in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) of Justice on Monday confirmed the arrest of Choksi, who is wanted in connection with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case in India, revealing that the Indian authorities have introduced an extradition request for him already. "The Belgian federal public service of Justice can confirm that Mr. Mehul Choksi was arrested on the Saturday 12th of April 2025. He is being detained in anticipation of further judicial proceedings. Access to his legal counsel has been assured," the FPS said. "Please note that the prosecution services retain the right to refrain from comment in ongoing cases. Finally, the Belgian federal public service of Justice can confirm that the Indian authorities have introduced an extradition request for Mr.



Choksi. As is standard in individual cases, no further details can be released at this stage," it added. The FPS acts like the Ministry of Justice and assists in preparation and implementation of legislation while supporting the Minister of Justice in the areas for which he is responsible. It also provides the guidance and operational support of the judiciary, with a focus on coordination and organisational development. It is responsible for the supervision of the adequate implementation of legal and administrative decisions, while guaranteeing legal certainty and equal treatment of all parties involved. 65-year-old Choksi was apprehended by the police in Belgium at India's request for his extradition. He was reportedly living in Antwerp with his wife, Preeti Choksi, after obtaining a 'residency card'.



Kailash Manasarovar Yatra likely to resume soon: MEA

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : India and China continue to make progress on finalising the modalities to resume Kailash Manasarovar Yatra which can start soon, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Tuesday. "We will soon issue a notice for the public on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. There is a possibility of resumption of the Yatra soon," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at a regular media briefing in New Delhi on Thursday. The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra has not taken place since 2020 following the Covid-19 outbreak and the subsequent non-renewal of Yatra arrangements by the Chinese side.



Bihar: ECI organises 2-day training programme for Booth Level Agents ahead of Assembly polls

Patna, Apr 22 (IANS) : In preparation for the upcoming Bihar Assembly Elections 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) organised a two-day workshop aimed at training Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of various political parties to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the electoral process. The training programme, held on Tuesday, brought together BLAs from major political parties, including BJP, JD-U, RJD, Congress, LJP-RV, RLJP, CPI-ML, and others. Altaf Aalam (JD-U) praised the initiative, stating: "This is the first time such a technical training program has been organized in Delhi. We received guidance from electoral and returning officers at the district level. But this is the first time that ECI gave

training to us." Raghendra Jha (BJP) highlighted the workshop's impact, saying: "It's a very good initiative. We have learned many useful points and plan to educate our teams at the district and state levels." Mithilesh Kumar Das (RJD) said: "If all BLAs follow the ECI guidelines and actively connect with voters, we can achieve 100 per cent voter turnout during the polling." Prabhat Kumar (Congress) welcomed the initiative stating: "It's a great step by the ECI and I sincerely thank them for organizing this for the first time."

Singapore PM outlines vision for regional, global cooperation amid global tensions

Singapore, April 22 (IANS) : To navigate an "increasingly fragmented and turbulent world," Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has proposed three key thrusts to strengthen the city-state's regional and global partnerships. Speaking at the S Rajaratnam Lecture, Wong said the first thrust is to "contribute actively to the stewardship of the global commons." Singapore, while maintaining its focus on Southeast Asia, will set aside more resources for partners further afield, including those in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. The second thrust is to "champion deeper regional cohesion and integration." Noting that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remains "central to Singapore's foreign policy," Wong called for eliminating 100 per cent of tariffs across the region, further reducing non-tariff barriers, and concluding the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement. He also urged the upgrading of ASEAN's free trade agreements with key partners such as China, India, and South Korea, Xinhua news agency reported. The third thrust is to strengthen Singapore's global network of partnerships. Wong advo-



cated for greater collaboration between the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the European Union (EU), while also deepening the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership. Beyond economic ties, Singapore seeks to expand strategic partnerships with like-minded countries and forge new connections in regions like the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, he said. To that end, Singapore plans to open new diplomatic missions in Africa and Latin America in the coming years. Wong proposed the three thrusts in response to what he called "deeply worrying" global trends. While such practices, like using economic tools to advance national interests, are not new, he noted that they have reached new intensity with the latest US tariff moves.

Gurugram : Ganja valued at Rs 50 lakh recovered; two held

Gurugram, Apr 22 (IANS) : With the arrest of two ganja suppliers, the Gurugram police have resolved more than 196 ganja recovery cases, which they had recovered from an abandoned Hyundai Verna car on March 5, 2025, police said. The estimated cost of the illegal contra-

band was valued at 50 lakh, police claimed. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Arif, alias Bittu, and Abdul Samad, both residents of Delhi.



Kalinga Super Cup: AFC CL Two qualification is a big motivation for Bengaluru FC, says coach Zaragoza



Bhubaneswar, April 22 (IANS) : Bengaluru FC open their Kalinga Super Cup campaign with a Round of 16 tie against Inter Kashi at the Kalinga Stadium on Wednesday. With a spot in the AFC Champions League 2 Playoffs the ultimate goal, Gerard Zaragoza's side takes extra motivation in hopes of qualifying for the continental cup. "Qualifying for the AFC Champions League 2 Playoffs by winning the Kalinga Super Cup is a big motivation. I want the players to win everything on offer. BFC is a club that has done well in Asia in the past, and we want to return there," Zaragoza said in the pre-game conference. With a maximum of six foreign players allowed to start a Super Cup tie.



Forest midfielder Anderson is desperate to be back in Champions League

London, Apr 22 (IANS) : Nottingham Forest midfielder Elliot Anderson says he is desperate to be back in the UEFA Champions League and believes his club have a great chance to qualify for next season's competition after 2-1 win at Spurs helped reclaim third place in the Premier League table. First half goals from Elliot Anderson and Chris Wood were enough for Nottingham Forest to claim a first ever win at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium against Spurs. "I'm desperate to be there again. It was a really proud moment playing in the Champions League and to be honest I never thought I'd be playing in my first season away from Newcastle, but I think if we keep going the way we're going and do what we've done all season then I think we've got a good chance," Anderson was quoted by Premier League website. Forest entered Monday's match on the back of two straight league defeats, but returned to winning ways after earning their ninth away win of the campaign, second only to the 11 of leaders Liverpool. "It was really important to get back on track and do what we've been doing all season. Everyone in there is buzzing to get the three points.



Football: Lotte Wubben-Moy signs new contract with Arsenal Women

London, April 22 (IANS) : Lotte Wubben-Moy has signed a new contract with Arsenal Women, continuing her long-term association with the Lady Gunners. England international defender Lotte has so far made 143 senior

appearances for Arsenal, scoring ten goals along the way. Aged 26, Lotte developed through Arsenal's youth academy before making her senior debut in 2015 at the age of just 16.

'Playing for my deceased father is my biggest motivation', says Ajmina ahead of India's tour of Australia

Perth, April 22 (IANS) : The 23-year-old Ajmina Kujur could make her much-awaited senior India team debut soon as she has been included in their squad for the upcoming five-match tour against Australia. India are set to play two matches against Australia A on April 26 and 27, followed by three crucial encounters against the Australian senior team on May 1, 3 and 4 at the Perth Hockey Stadium.



WI allrounder Hayley Matthews returns to top 10 in ODI batting rankings

Dubai, Apr 22 (IANS) : West Indies all-rounder Hayley Matthews has returned to the top five of the ICC Women's ODI batting rankings on the back of her 240 runs in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier in Lahore. The West Indies skipper, who was named Player of the Match for her quickfire 70 off 29 against Thailand that helped her team win by six wickets with 235 balls to spare, has moved up two spots to fifth position, just one below her career-best fourth position attained at the start of the tour-

namment, ICC reports. The win, though, was not enough for the West Indies to qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 to be hosted by India, as they finished with a net run rate that was 0.013 short of Bangladesh, the second team to qualify behind hosts Pakistan. In-form players from Bangladesh and Pakistan also received a ranking boost after qualifying for this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India.



Shivam Dube donates Rs 7 lakh to young Tamil Nadu athletes at TNSJA awards

Chennai, April 22 (IANS) : Indian cricketer and Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Shivam Dube has extended a helping hand to budding athletes in Tamil Nadu by donating Rs 7 lakh at the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA).

Mahaveer Raghunathan to lead Indian charge with AF Corse in Italian GT C'ship

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : India's Mahaveer Raghunathan is set to represent the tricolour in one of Europe's most prestigious racing series, as he joins forces with AF Corse for the 2025 Italian Gran Turismo Championship. The Chennai-born driver will compete in the Pro-Am class, sharing the Ferrari 296 GT3 (Car No. 51) with Italy's Lorenzo Ferrari across all eight rounds of the season. For the four endurance rounds, the duo will be joined by Riccardo Ponzio.



IPL 2025: Rayudu lauds GT captain Gill's incredible 90 against KKR

New Delhi, Apr 22 (IANS) : Former India batter Ambati Rayudu lauded Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill's 90-run knock against Kolkata Knights Riders at Eden Gardens on Monday. Rayudu termed it "incredible batting" by the opening batter who hammered 10 fours and three sixes in his 55-ball stay and guided them to 198/3. Gill and Sai Sudharsan were involved in a 114-run opening stand as the latter scored 36-ball 52 to lay the foundation for Jos Buttler to score 23-ball 41 laced with eight fours. Prasidh Krishna and Rashid Khan bagged two scalps each to power Gujarat to a commanding 39-run win. Rayudu analysed Gill's fluent

knock and his ability to adapt on a tough pitch. "It all started with Harshit Rana bowling those two wide deliveries - Gill was struggling a bit before that. But after that, he really found his rhythm. We saw some incredible shots - pure cricketing strokes. That slog sweep against Sunil Narine was especially impressive. It wasn't an easy shot to execute, and he managed runs all around the pitch. "That shows batsmanship - boundaries along the ground, intelligent placement. It speaks to the quality he has and the strength of the top-order partnerships. That's how you bat on a slow, sluggish pitch. Incredible batting by Shubman Gill," Rayudu said on Hotstar.



Shooting World Cup: India ends third in Peru, takes a lot of positives from South American leg

New Delhi, April 22 (IANS) : The Indian shooting team ended third in the standings as the Peru International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup wrapped up proceedings, with Australia taking the final gold on offer in the mixed team trap event. Two Indian pairs Prithviraj Tondaiman/Pragati Dubey and Lakshay Sheoran/Neeru

finished eighth and 12th respectively with scores of 134 and 128 out of 150 targets, in qualification respectively. As China topped the tally with four gold, three silver, and six bronze medals, the USA came in second with a silver and five bronze medals less than the first-placed. India's final tally read two gold, four silver and a lone bronze won by Saurabh Chaudhary in the men's air pistol.

Earlier in the day, Simranpreet Kaur Brar had won silver in the women's 25m pistol, to give India their seventh medal and a fourth silver of the competition. India will take a lot of positives from the double-legged South American World Cup leg, which kickstarted the new international season. In the previous Argentina World Cup.

IPL 2025: Desperate Sunrisers Hyderabad eye revenge against resurgent Mumbai Indians

Hyderabad, April 22 (IANS) : The Indian Premier League 2025 caravan returns to Hyderabad for a high-stakes clash between a struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and a resurgent Mumbai Indians (MI) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday. For the hosts, this fixture is more than just another game — it's a crucial shot at revival in what has been a disappointing campaign so far. With only two wins in seven outings, Pat Cummins' side is under immense pressure to turn things around. Their campaign has been riddled with inconsistency, especially in the batting de-



partment which, despite boasting of explosive names, has flattered to deceive. The bowling unit too has lacked bite, and the combination of both has left SRH languishing in the bottom half of the table. SRH's vulnerabilities on slow, turning tracks have been thoroughly exposed this season.