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HM Amit Shah slams UPA for 'turning Waqf into a land-grabbing machine' before 2014 polls

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday...

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E-processing of import, export via personal carriage by air passengers from May 1

The government on Wednesday said that electronic processing of import and export through personal carriage by...

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IPL 2025: 'I was captain, now I'm not but mindset remains same,' says Rohit on his role in MI

Rohit Sharma, one of the most successful players in the history of the IPL, opened up on how his role has evolved over...

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Supreme Court questions delay in Telangana

MLAs' disqualification petitions

Hyderabad, Apr 2 : The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed strong reservations over the Telangana Assembly Speaker's delay in deciding disqualification petitions against BRS MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and AG Masih observed that inaction for months, or even years, could not be justified. The matter will be heard again on Wednesday. According to online legal news reporting agency Live Law, Justice Gavai pointedly questioned the delay, asking whether courts should "tie their hands and look at the naked dance of democracy."

Continued on pg 02

Most draconian Waqf section 40 to be done away with: Kiren Rijju

New Delhi, April 2 (IANS) Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju on Wednesday said the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposes to repeal Section 40 of the 1995 Act, as it gives the boards power to decide on a property. Calling the section the most draconian law, Rijju said this has now been done away with. "It gave the power to Waqf Boards to declare any property as its own. Now, it will no longer be the case," he pointed out. Section 40 allowed the Waqf Board to declare

any property as Waqf. Once a property was designated as Waqf, ownership was transferred from the individual to the board, rendering it almost irrevocable. The irrevocability has led to various disputes, including the Bengaluru Eidgah ground, claimed as Waqf property, and the Surat Municipal Corporation building, which is claimed due to its historical use as a 'sarai' during the Mughal era. As Section 40 led to disputes, one could challenge them before a Waqf Tribunal, whose decision was final, and courts could do nothing.

Continued on pg 02



BC Associations demand 42 pc reservation

New Delhi /Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Backward Class (BC) groups, under the auspices of the Backward Class Welfare Association National Committee, staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday, demanding that the Union government implement 42 per cent reservation by including it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The BC groups have invited all parties, including the Congress, to join the dharna.

Continued on pg 02



Telangana High Court stays all work on Kancha Gachibowli land

Hyderabad, Apr 2 : The PIL bench of the Telangana High Court comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara on Wednesday issued directives staying all work, including felling of trees or any other action, on the disputed 400 acres of land at Kancha Gachibowli, over which the University of Hyderabad and the State government have been trading arguments for almost a week now. The stay is till the hearing, which will continue on Thursday, is completed. The bench had taken up hearing of the case pertaining to the pro-

posed act of the State government in putting up 400 acres at Kancha Gachibowli in Serilingampally mandal for auction through the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC). Kalapala Babu Rao, a retired scientist from the twin cities had filed the writ plea seeking a court direction to declare the State's action in razing 400 acres of forest land, in pursuance of GO Ms No 54 dated June 26, 2024 issued by the Revenue de-

partment, as unlawful and in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980.

The petitioner had also complained about the inaction of authorities in not constituting an Expert Committee under Rule 16(1) of the Forest Conservation Rules 2023 for the preparation of a consolidated record of forest lands, including forest-like areas, as unlawful, arbitrary and unconstitutional.



Govt protected 400 acres of land from being acquired by private individuals : Jupally

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao has reiterated that the State government has not taken any land from Hyderabad Central University (HCU) and in fact, he stated that the government has successfully preserved 400 acres of land that could have been lost to private individuals. During a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday.



Rescue operations at SLBC tunnel are progressing swiftly: Ponguleti

Nagarkurnool, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Revenue and Housing Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has announced that the rescue efforts at the SLBC Tunnel are progressing swiftly, following the directives of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He stated that these opera-

tions are expected to be completed within the next 10 to 15 days. Minister Ponguleti on Wednesday inspected the site of the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapeda village in the Nagarkurnool district.



Congress bulldozes HCU's legacy : MLC Kavitha

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): BRS leader MLC Kavitha today slammed Congress party's selective bulldozing. It shields the rich, targets the poor and weakens amidst HCU land debate. While the party falsely accuses the BRS of favouring influential figures like MyHome Rameshwar Rao.



KCR holds discussions with Medak, Nizamabad party leaders

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): BRS party chief KCR today held a preparatory meeting with the party leaders of the joint Medak and Nizamabad districts at his Erravelli residence on Wednesday ahead of the party's silver jubilee celebrations. In this program, BRS Party Working President KT Rama

Rao, Former Medak District Minister and the party MLA Harish Rao, MLC Deshapati Srinivas, MLA and Siddipet District Party President K. Prabhakar Reddy, Sangareddy District Party Presi-

dent Chinta Prabhakar, Manik Rao, Medak District Party President Padma Devender Reddy, MLC Dr. Yadav Reddy, MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy.

Most draconian Waqf section 40 to be done away with : Kiren Rijju

Continued From pg 01
This grave anomaly will be removed in the new Act after the amendments get ratified by Parliament. The new amendments in the Bill facilitate appeal in higher courts if the concerned party is not satisfied with the Waqf Tribunal decision. Appeals can be filed in the high court within 90 days, and the district collector will verify the genuineness of registration applications. The Union Minority Affairs Minister, on Wednesday, tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, as proposed by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, in the Lok Sabha for consideration and passage. The Bill seeks to improve the administration of Waqf properties, introduce technology-driven management.

HM Amit Shah slams UP for 'turning Waqf into a land-grabbing machine' before 2014 polls

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, presented a lengthy list of properties he claimed were donated to Waqf. This list included land belonging to temples, other religions, the government, and others. The Home Minister asserted, "You cannot donate someone else's property. You donate something which is yours." His comments reinforced the government's stance that significant lands and properties had been taken over by Waqf, with last-minute interventions to save others. The government argued that Waqf had become a tool for land-grabbing. To highlight his point, Amit Shah cited several examples. He mentioned that the Karnataka High Court had to intervene to stop Waqf from claiming 602 square kilometres of land. He also noted: "Properties in (Delhi's)

Lutyens zone went to Waqf, and they started taking over government land... In Tamil Nadu, a 400-year-old temple property was declared as Waqf property. Land for a five-star establishment was given to Waqf for Rs 12,000 a month... Several properties belonging to different religions were declared as Waqf property, including Chandra Shekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj." The Home Minister asserted that the amended Waqf Bill would help prevent such land seizures. "This bill will protect property. Like ASI property, Tribal land, private property, and for Waqf, you can only donate private, personal property and not the land of the commu-



nity (village). This bill will bring transparency," he stated. Amit Shah slammed the UP government for changing Waqf rules just before the 2014 general election. He described it as another instance of "politics of appeasement" and stated, "In 2013, they (the Congress-led government) wiped out the provision to take

land-grabbing complaints to court. They sinned. The new bill will not come in retrospective effect but they are trying to scare the people." The Home Minister further stated that the government had consulted a broad spectrum of people before bringing the amendments.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Bheemgal Branch, Dist: Nizamabad
POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule 8(1) and (2) (For immovable property)
WHEREAS, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the State Bank of India Bheemgal Branch, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Sec 13(2) of the Act and Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 12-07-2024 and calling upon the Borrower: Sri.Malavath Srinivas, S/o. M.Dhupya H.No-821/1/1, Village:- MG Thanda, Bada Bheemgal, Mandal :-Bheemgal Dist:-Nizamabad-503307. A/c No:- 39948422042 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.9,15,941/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifteen thousand Nine Hundred and Forty One Only) as on 12-07-2024 + interest & expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor 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 sub section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 28-03-2025. The borrower/guarantor 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 Bheemgal Branch, Dist: Nizamabad for an amount of Rs.8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Rupees Only) as on 28-03-2025 thereon less the amount paid if any thereafter. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All the part and parcel of the open plot no(18) lies in survey Nos, 1396& 1398, admeasuring total area:(220.00) Square Yards or (183.94)Suare Meters as per T.L.P.No.44/2013/H, Situated at BARDIPOOR VILLAGE SHIVAR,Mandal Dichpally, District Nizamabad, within the Grampanchayat limits of Dharmaram(B) village, Registration Sub.District Nizamabad Rural, and Registration District Nizamabad. Vide Sale Deed No:8174/2013 Dated 28-09-2013 in Favour of Sri.Malavath Srinivas S/o Malavath Dhupya Bounded by: North: Plot No.(82), South: Proposed 33'-0" wide road, East: Plot No (99), West: Proposed 33'-0" wide road.
Date: 28.03.2025, Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place: Bheemgal, State Bank of India

SCR gets highest-ever revenue through sale of scrap

Hyderabad, Apr 2 (NSS): South Central Railway accomplished a significant achievement in the 'Mission Zero Scrap' by registering Rs 501.72 crore which is the highest-ever revenue through sale of scrap during the financial year 2024-25. The zone has surpassed the target set by Railway Board (Rs 430 Crores) for the financial year and has recorded an increase in revenue as compared to the previous financial year (2023-24) which was Rs 411.39 crore. SCR has been spearheading in optimal utilization of resources by mobilising scrap sales and undertaking sales through e-auction conducted online through Indian Railways E-Pro-

urement System (IREPS) portal. The e-auction process has improved the transparency and competitive bidding amongst the Bidders across India and has ensured paperless transaction, as part of Digital India concept. This has further cut down the erstwhile middlemen who existed during the manual auctions. E-auctions have improved participation and reduced grievances of purchasers drastically. The Materials Management De-

partment of SCR has shouldered the Project, "Mission Zero scrap" and has been ensuring that no scrap is accumulated for more than a month's time or a truck load quantity. This has contributed to cleaning up of workshops, various Railway units and premises, converting every scrap material into financial resource for the exchequer. This project also largely contributed to the "Swatch Bharat Abhiyan" of Government of India.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH-II AT HYDERABAD.
IN
IA. No. 477 /2025
IN
CP(IB) No. 110/95/HDB/2023
UNION BANK OF INDIA
V.
MR. GOKARAJU SRINIVAS CHAKRAVARTHY RAJU ANR.
Please take notice that, the subject Application has been filed under Section 121 and 123 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 R/w Rule 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority for Bankruptcy process for personal guarantors to Corporate Debtor) Rules, 2019 against Mr. Gokaraju Srinivas Chakravarty Raju (Respondent No.1/Personal Guarantor) and M/s Leo Meridian Infrastructure Projects & Hotels Limited. (Respondent No.2/Corporate Debtor) by the Financial Creditor i.e., Union Bank of India. Notice is further given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad, Bench-II, has directed the Financial Creditor to publish the notice in the newspaper intimating the next date of hearing in the above matter. Accordingly, notice is hereby given to Mr. Gokaraju Srinivas Chakravarty Raju (Respondent No.1) R/O H No 6-3-886, Beside Van Heusen Showroom, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082, that the matter is now listed on 02.06.2025 and you are advised to appear before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench-II on 02.06.2025.
Sd/- Counsel for the Union Bank of India
INDIALAW LLP
G.P. YASH VARDHAN
KUBER SINGH
KUBER KAUSHIK
Advocates.
Mobile: 720765141.

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. 38, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV (Gurgaon-122015) (Haryana) and Branch Office at "D.No.5-22/B/501, 5th Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad-500004" 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 RECOURSE 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.iiflhome.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. Sheik Muneer 2. Mrs. Shaikh Sutharna 3. Muneer General Store (Prospect No IL10578932) | 15-Jun-2024 Rs.606770/- (Rupees Six Lakh Six Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Only) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) | All that part and parcel of the property bearing Dr.No- 13-100-116, Sy.No- 287-1, Asst No- 1005019550, Kadiri Village, Kadiri Mandal, Sr Sathya Sai District, Andhra Pradesh, 515591 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area , Carpet Area Property Area: 640.00, 550.00 , 500.00 | 21-Feb-2025 Total Outstanding as On Date 08-Mar-2025 Rs. 7,14,683/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Three Only) | Rs. 6,36,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 63,600/- (Rupees Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Only) |

Date of Inspection of property: 05-May-2025 1100 hrs -1400 hrs. EMD Last Date: 08-May-2025 till 5 pm. Date/ Time of E-Auction: 13-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.iiflhome.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.iiflhome.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.iiflhome.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 automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflhome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-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@iiflhome.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 Friday or write to email:- care@iiflhome.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 Borrowers, 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:- Sathya Sai, Date: 03-April-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))
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. 38, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV (Gurgaon-122015) (Haryana) and Branch Office at "D.No.5-22/B/501, 5th Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad-500004" 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 RECOURSE 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.iiflhome.com

| Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset | Date of Symbolic Possession | Reserve Price |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Shri V Savya Prasad Akula 2. Sai Jyothi Akula, 3. M/s Thalli Gropcos (Prospect No 736960) | 20-Dec-2018 Rs.1,60,14,846/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Lakh Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Six Only) Bid Increase Amount Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) | All that part and parcel of the property Open Plot admeasuring 772.23 Sq.Yds in S.No.172/24 situated at Block-No.1, Ramareesh Nagar, Hyderabad Village, Balangar Mandal, Kukatpally Municipality, Ranga Reddy District on Name of Sn Akula V Satya Prasad S/o Venkata Satya Narayana Murthy, Hyderabad-500072. | 25-Mar-2019 Total Outstanding as On Date 07-Mar-2024 Rs. 1,87,68,043/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand and Forty Three Only) | Rs. 1,30,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakh Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Only) |

Date of Inspection of property: 17-Apr-2025 1100 hrs -1400 hrs. EMD Last Date: 21-Apr-2025 till 5 pm. Date/ Time of E-Auction: 23-Apr-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.iiflhome.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.iiflhome.com > My Bid > Pay Balance Amount.
Important Information: This auction is published on basis possession vide Sec 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act. Physical possession will be offered post receiving of Section -14 order as per process laid down under SARFAESI Act and as when physical possession will be taken. Bidder shall do necessary due-diligence in respect of doc-uments and legality of the subject property before participating in auction proceedings.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-
1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www.iiflhome.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 automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflhome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-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@iiflhome.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 Friday or write to email:- care@iiflhome.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 Borrowers, 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 THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF 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:- Rangareddy, Date: 03-April-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.

BC Associations demand 42 pc reservation

Continued From pg 01
Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnamp Prabhakar, Government Whip Adi Srinivas, Senior Congress leader V Hanumantha Rao, and others participated in the protest. Moreover, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi, MPs Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, and

other leaders also attended the protest to express their solidarity. The leaders insisted that the Bill passed by the Telangana Legislative Assembly, which raises BC reservations to 42 percent, should also be approved and implemented in Parliament. They also called for a caste census to be conducted in conjunction with the national population census and proposed the establishment of a sub-quota for BC women within the existing 33 percent women's reservation. During the event, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy remarked that in order to secure reservations in local bodies and legislative Assemblies, it is essential to understand the population census. He also highlighted that this issue of reservations had been communicated to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He noted that the courts have

stated that reservations cannot be granted without a known population count. Consequently, the Congress party has made the decision to carry out a caste census alongside the population census. Revanth Reddy emphasised that the Mandal Commission recommended allocating 27 percent reservation to the 52 percent of disadvantaged groups. However, he accused the BJP of conspiring against the Mandal Commission and initiating a Kamandal Yatra in opposition. He mentioned that a demonstration was organised in New Delhi to amplify the concerns of the backward classes (BCs). The Chief Minister remarked that if the Centre decides to raise reservations, Congress leaders will gather with 10 lakh supporters to honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby informed that my clients Donda Yadagiri Reddy and 2 others is hereby given to Mr. Gokaraju Srinivas Chakravarty Raju (Respondent No.1) R/O H No 6-3-886, Beside Van Heusen Showroom, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082, that the matter is now listed on 02.06.2025 and you are advised to appear before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench-II on 02.06.2025.
Sd/- Counsel for the Union Bank of India
INDIALAW LLP
G.P. YASH VARDHAN
KUBER SINGH
KUBER KAUSHIK
Advocates.
Mobile: 720765141.

Supreme Court questions delay in Telangana MLAs' disqualification petitions

Continued From pg 01
The court noted that despite repeated requests by the petitioners and subsequent directions from the High Court to decide on the issue within a "reasonable period", the Speaker took nearly 10 months to issue a notice on the disqualification petitions, raising concerns about the erosion of constitu-

tional principles. The apex court is also said to have taken strong exception to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks in the House, claiming that no bye-election would take place even if MLAs switched parties. "If this is said in the House in the presence of the Speaker, he is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule. When politicians make statements in the Assembly, they carry some sanctity," the court remarked. The bench pointed out that while the Court is cautious in issuing contempt notices, it is not powerless to act. Live Law quoted Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the respondents, contending that the courts could only "request" the Speaker, not direct him. However, Justice Gavai countered that the Supreme Court, under Article 142.

BALANAGAR BRANCH,
Bank of India
7-4-194/5, Ground floor, Shiv Ganesh Complex, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500011.
Ph: 040 23771899, Email: balanagar.telangana@bankofindia.co.in
POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX-IV [Rule 8(1)(For Immovable Property)]
Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Bank of India 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 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 31-12-2024 calling upon the Borrower 1. Mr. Satyanarayana Gundabowana S/o. Mr. Gundabowana Balapochaiiah H.No.8-6-27/1, Flat No.102, Classic, Residency, Hasmapet, Old Bowenpally, Hyderabad, Rangareddy Telangana, India - 500011..(Borrower-Mortgagor), 2. Mr. Satyanarayana Gundabowana R/O Flat No.102, Arundathi Phoolbagh H No 1-2/17, (Old No.1-19 B) Phool Bagh, Ferozquda Village, Balanagar Hyderabad, Telangana-500011..(Borrower-Mortgagor), 3. Mr. Satyanarayana Gundabowana R/O H No 7-4-195/ 1&2/C Ferozquda Geetanagar, Balanagar Hyderabad, Telangana-500042..(Borrower-Mortgagor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.26,00,290.89/- (Rupees Twenty Six lakhs Two Hundred Ninety rupees eighty nine paise) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 29th day of March of the year 2025. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for an amount Rs.26,00,290.89 and interest, costs, charges thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immoveable Property
All that piece and parcel of residential Flat bearing No.102, in First floor bearing separate Municipal House No.7-1-2/17/102 with PTIN No.1140702597 of "Arundathi Phoolbagh", having built up area 840 sqt. Along with undivided share of land measuring 22 Sq. Yards out of 300 Sq Yards in bearing Premises bearing house property (Municipal No.1-2/17 (Old No.1-19 B), Sy. No.4, situated at Phool Bagh, Ferozquda Village, Under GHMC Kukatpally Municipality, Balanagar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, and Telangana State and flat bounded by: North: Open to sky & Corridor, South: Open to Sky, East: Flat No. 103, West: Open to Sky.
Document No. and date: 2283/2019 dated 11.07.2019, SRO Balanagar
Date: 29.03.2025 Authorized Officer
Place: Hyderabad Bank of India



Ex-Postal official jailed for 5 years by CBI court in Rs 37 lakh fraud case

Visakhapatnam, Apr 2 (IANS) : A former Sub-Postmaster from Andhra Pradesh who swindled Rs 37 lakh from an account meant for disbursing wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment along with a fine equal to the misappropriated funds. Botsa Peda Rama Rao was handed down the punishment by Principle Special Judge for CBI Cases, Visakhapatnam. He was working as Sub-Postmaster, Sub-Post Office, Donkinavalasa and Sub-Post Office, Uttaravilli, Parvathipuram Division, between July 11, 2010 and October 12, 2015.

Three significant legal aid initiatives inaugurated in Gurugram

Gurugram, Apr 2 (IANS) : In a landmark initiative to deepen access to justice for marginalised communities, Justice Sanjiv Berry of Punjab & Haryana High Court on Wednesday inaugurated three significant legal aid initiatives namely 'Nyay Setu Legal Aid Bridge for Prisoners', 'Sangini Prisons Legal Aid Clinic for Women Inmates' and 'Divyang Nyay Sahayata Kendra' of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Gurugram at District Jail Gurugram. While divulging the details of the three initiatives of the (DLSA), the Secretary of District Legal Services Authority said that Justice Sanjiv Berry alongwith Subhas Mehla, District & Sessions Judge, Gurugram visited the District Jail, Gurugram, and interacted with jail inmates to understand their legal concerns and the challenges they face in accessing justice. He said that the centerpiece of the launch was Nyay Setu Legal Aid Bridge for Prisoners, a two-month intensive legal aid campaign designed to bridge the gap between inmates and the justice system through a structured, data-driven ap-



proach. "Unique to this initiative are dedicated legal aid teams conducting one-on-one interviews with inmates, identifying cases for bail or appeal, preparing paper books, and facilitating coordination with the High Court and Supreme Court Legal Services Committees for effective legal representation," he said. He said that the second initiative, Sangini Prisons Legal Aid Clinic for Women Inmates, has been established within the female ward of the jail to ensure confidential, gender-sensitive legal support through a dedicated female paralegal volunteer and regular visits by women advocates.



Gurugram: MCG to appoint new agency to collect garbage

Gurugram, Apr 2 (IANS) : To improve the cleanliness system in Gurugram, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will soon appoint a new agency to collect door-to-door garbage, officials said. It may be noted that, due to the lack of door-to-door garbage collection, heaps of garbage on the roads from sectors to colonies are testifying to the plight. In such a situation, the corporation has prepared a plan to hand over the door-to-door garbage collection work to a new agency. The officials said that two months later, in June, applications will be sought from private agencies for a contract, and preparations are already underway for the allocation of new tenders for cleanliness by the MCG. The current agency permit will expire in June. The MCG sources said there is a plan to assign the garbage collection and dumping work to a single agency. Under the scheme, this work will be assigned to the agency for seven years.

Over 510 pigs killed due to African Swine Fever in Mizoram

Aizawl, Apr 2 (IANS) : A fresh outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) has killed over 510 pigs in Mizoram, officials said on Wednesday. An official from Mizoram's Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department (AHVD) said that over 510 pigs died due to the ASF during the past two weeks in 13 villages and localities in two Mizoram districts - Lawngtlai and Mamit. Two teams of AHVD have culled around 100 pigs and piglets in the two districts so

far. The fresh outbreak was confirmed on March 20 through tests in the Northeast Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (NERDDL) in Guwahati. According to the officials, earlier this month, the fresh outbreak of ASF hit Lawngtlai district, which shares unfenced international borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Pig fatalities were also reported from the Mamit district, which shares an interstate boundary with Tripura and international frontiers with Bangladesh.

The state government is monitoring the situation closely, as efforts are being made to curb the spread of the deadly disease in the unaffected areas. Last year, Mizoram suffered a loss of Rs 336.49 crore due to the outbreak of ASF, which left 15,000 pigs dead while around 24,200 pigs were culled to prevent the spread of the disease. According to AHVD officials, over 15,000 pigs died while over 24,200 pigs were culled till December 31 (2024) after the outbreak of the ASF on February 9



last year. The outbreak of the contagious disease started in mid-March 2021, and since then, the ASF has caused huge losses to the farmers and government farms. In 2021, around 33,417 pigs and piglets died, and

12,568 were culled due to infectious disease, while in 2022, at least 12,795 pigs and piglets died and 11,686 were culled, and in 2023, 1,139 pigs and piglets died and 980 were culled.

Odisha CM Mohan Majhi launches Antyodaya Housing Scheme

Bhubaneswar, Apr 2 (IANS) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday launched the Antyodaya Housing Scheme in Kalahandi, aiming to provide permanent homes for the underprivileged. On the first day, work orders for 60,000 houses were issued, marking a significant step towards the state's commitment to housing for all.



Greater Noida Authority board meeting approves land acquisition, key projects in Rs 5,600 crore budget

Greater Noida, Apr 2 (IANS) : The 138th Board meeting of the Greater Noida Authority concluded on Wednesday, where a budget of Rs 5,600 crore for the financial year 2025-26 was approved. The meeting was chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and the Chairman of the Authority, Manoj Kumar Singh. The budget prioritises land acquisition, development, and construction activities. According to the approved budget, Rs 1,400 crore will be allocated for land acquisition, and Rs 1,973 crore will be given for development projects. The CEO of the Authority, N.G. Ravi Kumar, said that in response to the demands of industrial investors, the 2025-26 budget focuses on land acquisition. The budget also includes investment in projects such as a stadium in Greater Noida West, a synthetic track



at Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Metro construction, vendor markets, hospitals, and health centres. The Board also approved an average 5 per cent increase in the current rates of industrial, residential, commercial, and institutional properties. This increase is based on market rates and the rates obtained from e-auctions. Under the policy formed on

the recommendations of the Amitabh Kant Committee, 77 out of 98 builder projects have benefited. So far, 35,494 flats have been registered, and 40,003 flats have been issued completion certificates. The plan to develop Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium as a Centre for Excellence was also approved.



Goa extortionist on the run falls into Delhi Police net

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : An impersonator who extorted Rs 30 lakh from a Goa hotel guest by posing as a Delhi Police personnel from the Narcotics branch was arrested in Dehradun by a team of the Delhi Police Crime Branch, an official said on Wednesday. Imad Khan, 33, an accountant from Haryana, was picked up from a hideout near Shimla Bypass Road, near ISBT, Dehradun on Friday by a team of Delhi Police.

Ayodhya gears up for massive Ram Navami gathering, anticipating millions of devotees

Ayodhya, Apr 2 (IANS) : The sacred city of Ayodhya is buzzing with heightened preparations as it anticipates an unprecedented surge of devotees for the upcoming Ram Navami celebrations. The revered Ram Navami Mela is slated to commence on March 30, culminating in the grand observance of Ram Navami itself on April 6. According to BJP MLA Ved Prakash Gupta, the recent consecration of Lord Ram's idol in the grand new temple has significantly amplified the city's allure. "This time after Lord Ram is

seated in the divine grand temple, there is a possibility of overcrowding in all the festivals and fairs of Ayodhya, even as every day 3 to 4 lakh devotees and tourists are coming to Ayodhya," Gupta stated. "So there is definitely a possibility in Ram Navami witnessing a huge gathering," he continued. He further revealed that during a review meeting regarding the Ram Navami preparations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had projected the arrival of 20 to 25 lakh devotees. "He had expressed the possibility that 20 to 25 lakh devotees will come to Ayodhya on Ram Navami,

so it is believed that the number of devotees will not be less than this," he added. Recognising the challenges posed by the anticipated high temperatures, Gupta detailed the planned arrangements. "It will be a time when the heat will be at its peak, in view of that we will make arrangements for sheds, where people go to visit Ram temple for darshan, carpets and matting should be put there," he added. "This arrangement has been directed by the Chief Minister. Sheds should be put up, if it cannot be installed permanently right now, then arrangements for tents



should be made so that there is protection from the sun, arrangements for drinking water at various places." Furthermore, acknowledging the coinciding Navratri observance, he mentioned, "Because Ram Navami is in Navratri, so we will arrange for some fruits in collaboration with social organisations."

He also emphasised the importance of seamless logistics, stating, "It has been ensured that traffic arrangements, parking arrangements, all these arrangements should also be ensured so that the devotees should come and take a good message from Ayodhya."

AFSPA extended in Manipur, parts of Nagaland, Arunachal for another 6 months

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for another six months in certain parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, officials said, adding that further extension of the law would be effective from April 1. The AFSPA, which gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search.



OPINIONmail



'Catch the Rain', PM Modi seeks public participation in water conservation

Addressing the 120th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the pressing need for water conservation, highlighting the extensive efforts being undertaken across the country to address water scarcity. He called upon citizens to actively participate in these initiatives as the summer season approaches.

"As soon as the summer season approaches, preparations for saving water begin in many cities and villages. In many states, works related to water harvesting and water conservation have gained new momentum. The Ministry of Jal Shakti and numerous NGOs are working in that direction. Thousands of artificial ponds, check dams, borewell recharge and community soak pits are being constructed in the country," PM Modi said.

He underlined the significance of the 'Catch the Rain' campaign, stating, "Like every year, this time too, preparations have been made on a war footing for the 'Catch the Rain' campaign. This campaign too, is not of the government... but of the society, of the Janata-Janaardan; the people. Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan is also being run to connect more and more people with water conservation. The endeavour is to safely pass on the natural resources that we have, to the next generation."

Highlighting the impact of rainwater conservation, he added, "By conserving raindrops, we can save a lot of water from getting wasted. Over the last few years, under this campaign, unprecedented tasks related to water conservation have been undertaken in many parts of the country."

PM Modi shared impressive figures, revealing that over the last seven to eight years, more than 11 billion cubic meters of water have been conserved through the construction of tanks, ponds, and other water recharge structures.

"You must have seen the pictures of the water that gets accumulated in the Bhakra Nangal Dam. This water forms the Govind Sagar Lake. The length of this lake is more than 90 kilometres. Even in this lake, not more than 9-10 billion cubic metres of water can be conserved. Only 9-10 billion cubic metres! And the countrymen, through their tiny efforts, have managed to conserve 11 billion cubic metres of water in different parts of the country -- isn't that a great effort!" PM Modi said.

Citing an inspiring example from Karnataka's Gadag district, the Prime Minister spoke about the revival of dried-up lakes by villagers.

"A few years ago, the lakes of two villages dried up completely. There came a time when there was no water left, even for the animals to drink. Gradually, the lake got covered with weeds and bushes. But some villagers decided to revive the lake and started working on it." Reinforcing the idea that determination leads to success, he said, "Noticing the efforts of the villagers, the social organisations in the vicinity also joined them. All of them, together, cleaned the garbage and mud, and after some time, the lake area became completely clean. Now, people are waiting for the rainy season. Indeed, this is a great example of the 'Catch the Rain' campaign." Urging citizens to take part in similar initiatives, PM Modi encouraged small yet impactful steps.

"You can also join such efforts at the community level. You must make a plan from now on to take this mass movement forward, and you have to remember one more thing. If possible, keep cold water in an earthen pot in front of your house during the summers. Keep water for birds on the roof of the house or even in the verandah. See how blessed you will feel after doing this punya karma; pious deed," he added.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

PM Modi inaugurates Solar Defence and Aerospace's Loitering Munition Test Range

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Loitering Munition Test Range of Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, which is supplying the Nagastra-1 'suicide drone' and key components of the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System to the Indian Army, in Nagpur on Sunday. "I visited the Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited facility in Nagpur and inaugurated the Loitering Munition Test Range. This will significantly boost self-reliance in the defence sector," PM Modi said in a post on X. Solar Industries India Ltd in January announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary

Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to establish a mega defence and aerospace project in Nagpur.

"...this is to inform you that in a major commitment towards advancing the nation's capabilities in critical areas like Defence and Aerospace, Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries India Limited has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra, India, on January 22, 2025, in Davos, Switzerland to establish an Anchor Mega Defence and Aerospace Project (Proposed project) in Nagpur," it said in a regulatory filing.



The agreement, formalised during the World Economic Forum in Davos, envisages a project, with an investment of approximately Rs 12,700 crore, will focus on expanding production capabilities in critical defence products such as drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), counter-drone systems,

energetic materials, and next-generation explosives. As per the company, the Maharashtra government will facilitate necessary permissions, registrations, approvals, and fiscal incentives for EEL in accordance with the state's policies and regulations.

Bihar: Women candidates make history with landmark victories in PUSU elections

Patna University Student Union (PUSU) elections have made history as three key positions for the first time, including the president's post, have been won by women candidates. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP) Maithili Mrinalini emerged victorious in the Presidential race, marking the first time in the university's 107-year history when a woman has been elected to the top post. The election witnessed a 45 per cent voter turnout, with Mrinalini securing 3,524 votes and defeating NSUI's Manoranjan Raja by 603 votes, who finished second with 2,921 votes. Independent candidate Dheeraj Kumar won the vice president's post. Apart from Mrinalini's win, Saloni Raj was elected as the General Secretary.



Food processing PLI: 171 firms approved, over 2.89 lakh jobs generated

A total of 171 food processing companies have been approved for assistance under the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and incentives worth Rs 1,155.296 crore has been disbursed, out of which Rs 13.266 crore has been disbursed to MSMEs in 20 eligible cases (as of February 28), the government has in-

formed. The PLISFPI scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2021, with an outlay of Rs 10,900 Crore. The Scheme is being implemented over a six-year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27. According to data reported by the scheme's beneficiaries, an investment of Rs 8,910 crore has been made across 213 locations. As of October 31, 2024, the scheme has reportedly generated employment of over 2.89 lakh. The scheme has significantly con-

tributed to the country's overall growth and development by scaling up domestic manufacturing, enhancing value addition, boosting the domestic production of raw materials, and creating employment opportunities. It supports large companies, millet-based products, innovative and organic products, as well as small and medium enterprises, while also promoting Indian brands globally.

KCBC urges Kerala MPs to support Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament

The Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC) has urged all Members of Parliament from Kerala to support the Waqf (Amendment) Bill introduced by the Central government. The Council stated that passing the bill is essential to ensure justice for the people of Munambam, a coastal suburb in Ernakulam district. In a joint statement, KCBC

president Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, vice-president Bishop Pauly Kannoorkadan, and secretary-general Bishop Alex Vadakumthala appealed to MPs to stand with the people and vote in favor of amending what they described as "unconstitutional and unjust" sections of the existing Waqf law. The KCBC specifically highlighted the Munambam land dispute, where the Kerala State Waqf Board has laid claim to ap-

proximately 404 acres of land. This land is home to over 600 families - primarily Christians from the Latin Catholic community and Hindus from backward sections - who say they have lived there for decades and legally purchased the land from Farook College.



In UP's Sambhal, devotees flock to temples on first day of Chaitra Navratri

Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district, which recently experienced communal unrest over the Shahi Jama Masjid survey, saw grand celebrations on the first day of Chaitra Navratri. Devotees flocked to many

temples to pay obeisance to the Goddess Durga. From the early hours of the morning, temples were abuzz with religious fervour as devotees arrived as early as 4:00 AM on Sunday to offer their prayers and observe fasts in devotion to the goddess.

The Siddh Peeth Shri Chamunda Devi Temple saw a significant thousands of devotees making a beeline for the ancient temple to seek Ma Durga's blessings. The temple's Mahant, Murlis Singh, shared insights into the temple's rich history and the sig-

nificance of Navratri. "Our Siddh Peeth in Sambhal is an ancient temple. Since the establishment of Sambhal, this place has been dedicated to the goddess. Navratri is celebrated twice a year, in Chaitra and Sharad (Ashwin), with a grand

nine-day fair. Every day, more than 10,000 devotees visit the temple during Navratri," he stated. As part of the temple rituals, the divine flame (Divya Jyoti).



Syria's interim leadership announces new 'transitional government'

Beirut, Apr 2 (IANS) : Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa has announced the formation of a "transitional government" in the Syrian capital of Damascus. The announcement, initially scheduled for earlier this month, came on Wednesday amid international calls for an inclusive Syrian transition following recent sectarian bloodshed, as the country's new leaders seek to reunite and rebuild Syria and its institutions after overthrowing former Syrian

President Bashar al-Assad's government on December 8 which brought an end to 14 years of civil war. The new Cabinet retains key figures from the interim leadership, Xinhua news agency reported. Asaad Hassan al-Shibani, previously interim chief of foreign affairs authority, was appointed Foreign Minister, while former Intelligence Chief Anas Khattab was named Interior Minister. Marhaf Abu Qusra, who oversaw defence affairs in the interim administra-

tion, will serve as Defence Minister. The government also introduced several structural changes, including the creation of a Ministry of emergency and disasters to address natural and humanitarian crises, as well as a dedicated Ministry of youth and sports. Veteran opposition figure Hind Kabawat, a member of Syria's Christian minority and longtime Assad opponent, was named social affairs and labour minister, the first woman to be appointed by Sharaa. The leader of the White



Helmets, the Syrian rescuers who worked in rebel-held areas, Raed al-Saleh, was appointed Minister of emergency situations and disasters. The Islamist-led authorities who now dominate Syria have vowed to protect minorities, especially after fighting earlier this month between gunmen from Assad's Alawite community and militia linked to the Sunni rebel forces that overthrew him led to civilian massacres.



US airstrike kills several ISIS operatives in Somalia

Mogadishu, Apr 2 (IANS) : The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, conducted an airstrike on several ISIS-Somalia targets in the east African country. The airstrike was conducted on Saturday in the southeast of Bosaso, Puntland, in the northeastern region of the country.

According to the initial assessment, AFRICOM said that multiple ISIS-Somalia operatives were killed, and no civilians were harmed. It stated that ISIS-Somalia's malicious efforts threaten US security interests.

"ISIS-Somalia has proved both its will and capability to attack US and partner forces. This group's malicious efforts threaten US security interests," AFRICOM said in a statement.

"Additionally, AFRICOM, alongside the Federal Government of Somalia and Somali Armed Forces, continues to take action to degrade ISIS-Somalia's ability to plan and conduct attacks that threaten the US homeland, its forces, and the civilians abroad," the statement further read. Meanwhile, AFRICOM added that the specific details about the operation will not be released to ensure continued operational security. In a similar attempt on March 25, the AFRICOM and the Somali government conducted multiple airstrikes against ISIS-Somalia in the vicinity of the Golis Mountains.

Lebanese army investigates rocket fire into Israel, arrests suspects

Beirut, Apr 2 (IANS) : Lebanese Army Commander General Rodolph Haykal has said that the military is investigating the Wednesday rocket fire from southern Lebanon into Israel, with several suspects detained for questioning, media reported. Haykal made the remarks on Saturday during an inspection of the South Litani Sector Command and military positions along the border, Xinhua news agency reported. He warned that rocket attacks from Lebanese territory serve "the enemy" and reaffirmed the

army's role in protecting Lebanon and its people, regardless of political or sectarian affiliations. "The army is making significant efforts to carry out its missions in the south, a fact recognised by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the five-member committee overseeing the ceasefire," Haykal said. He stressed that Lebanon remains committed to implementing UN Resolution 1701 and the ceasefire agreement, in line with directives from President Joseph Aoun and the government's commitments. Haykal accused Israel of obstruct-

ing the army's full deployment in the south, citing its presence in occupied Lebanese territory and repeated violations of Lebanon's sovereignty. On Wednesday, Israeli warplanes struck targets in southern Lebanon and a building in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahieh after rockets were fired into northern Israel.



US: No survivors expected as plane crashes in Minnesota

Los Angeles, Apr 2 (IANS) : A small plane crashed in a residential area in the US state of Minnesota, setting a house on fire, said the US Federal Aviation Administration.

The SOCATA TBM7 aircraft crashed into the house around 12:20 p.m.

Turkey says detained Swedish journalist faces terror charges for 'insulting' Prez

Istanbul, Apr 2 (IANS) : Turkey on Wednesday said that the Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, who was detained on his arrival to cover unrest in the country over the jailing of Istanbul's mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, has been charged with terror-related offences and insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Medin, who works for the Dagens ETC newspaper and was assigned to cover protests over the jailing of Istanbul's mayor, "has been arrested on charges of 'membership in an armed terrorist organisation' and 'insulting the president,'" according to the Turkish presidency. In a bulletin published by Turkey's "Disinformation Combat Centre," the presidency said the journalist

was "known for anti-Turkey news and his closeness to the terrorist organisation PKK," the banned Kurdish militant group. Medin's employer, Dagens ETC, had raised concerns over his whereabouts after he was unreachable for two days. Speaking on the arrest of the journalist by the Turkish authorities, Swedish Foreign Min-



ister Maria Malmer Stenergard said Medin's arrest was being taken "seriously." Earlier, Mark Lowen, a BBC correspondent, was detained in Istanbul, where he was covering the protests and political crisis ignited by the arrest of Imamoglu. Turkey later deported the correspondent who was covering the anti-government protests in the country after he was detained and labelled "a threat to public order."



Nepal: Govt calls for action against former King, pro-monarchy protestors warn against it

Kathmandu, Apr 2 (IANS) : Nepal's ruling party, the Nepali Congress, and opposition Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) demanded action against the former King Gyanendra Shah, holding him responsible for the violent protests that engulfed Nepal. While the Rajendra Lingden-led Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), which backed the demonstration, warned the government not to drag the former king into the controversy. Two people died, and hundreds were injured in violent clashes between security personnel and pro-monarchy protestors. The protestors were calling for the restoration of the abolished

monarchy in Nepal. The Nepali Congress, the largest party in the House of Representatives, alleged that the former king orchestrated Friday's incident. "Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak briefed us on what happened on Wednesday. We have concluded that several targeted attacks launched against media houses and public and private properties were intended to create anarchy," Nepal's leading daily, The Kathmandu Post, reported, quoting Prakash Sharan Mahat, the Congress spokesperson. "Some are trying to set up a tyrannical political system. There were targeted attacks in which two people were killed. We hold the ex-king responsible for the way the rally was organised and the targeted attacks," he added. Meanwhile, the CPN (Maoist Centre) took a more aggressive stand towards the former king. "We should not spare him. Former King Gyanendra Shah no longer has the privilege of freedom. Nepali people are not ready to accept this. He is behind all the activities of pro-monarchy and pro-Hindu campaigners around the country."

Hamas releases second propaganda video of Israeli hostage Elkana Bohbot pleading for release

Jerusalem, Apr 2 (IANS) : Hamas's armed wing has released a video showing an Israeli hostage, Elkana Bohbot, pleading for his release. Bohbot, who was abducted from a music festival in southern Israel during Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, appears in the footage calling on the Israeli government to secure his freedom.

The footage, approved for publication by his family, marks the second proof-of-life video of Bohbot in recent days. He is one of 59 hostages still held by the terrorist group Hamas.

The three-minute video, spoken in Hebrew, is the second hostage footage shared by Hamas in recent days.

"For the second time, I am prisoner number 22," Bohbot says in the footage, directing his words to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "I am the one who asked to record the video. Hamas did not tell me to record the video."



US woman thanks President Trump after release by Taliban in Afghanistan

Washington, Apr 2 (IANS) : Faye Hall, an American woman who was recently freed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, thanked US President Donald Trump in a video message for securing her release. Trump on Wednesday shared a video on social media of Faye Hall, the freed American woman who had been detained by the Taliban since February. "Thank you for bringing me home. I've never been so proud to be an American citizen," Hall said in the video posted by Trump, expressing her gratitude to the President and saying she was "so glad" he was in office. Hall also took a moment to acknowledge the women still detained in Afghanistan. "They're waiting for you to come

and set them free," Hall said in her message. "Thank you, Faye — So honoured by your words!" Trump's post read, accompanied by the video of Hall. Hall was released on Thursday "following a court order and with logistical support from Qatar," which has been mediating on the US' behalf, a source told CNN. Hall, a British couple and their Afghan translator had been detained since February 1 while travelling to the central Bamiyan province of Afghanistan. Hall's release comes after Trump envoy Adam Boehler and former Trump official Zalmay Khalilzad travelled to Kabul to secure the release of American George Glezzmann, which was also mediated by Qatar.

Climate change needs collective solution : V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said that climate change poses an existential challenge for our planet and the solution to the complex problem must be found collectively. Presiding as Chief Guest at the valedictory session of National Conference on Environ-

ment-2025, organised by the National Green Tribunal, he said the problem of "huge dimensions" needs to be fixed with "immediate, urgent, concerted and sustained" efforts. "Everyone among us is in a position to make a contribution. When the contribution converges into totality, it will be result-oriented," said V-P Dhankhar.

"We are trustees of everything offered by Mother Earth and we must pass on to the future generations all this in good shape," said the Vice President. He also praised the NGT for doing its bit to protect the environment of the country, adding that for him the acronym stands for 'Nurturing Green for Tomorrow'. Calling for collective global ac-

tion on climate change, Dhankhar said, "There is a global need to evolve and believe in environmental ethics. This underscores humans' moral obligation to protect and preserve the environment." "Let us realise the worth of nature before we lose it forever," he said, calling for urgent measures to protect the environment.



Rampaging elephants kill seven in Jharkhand's Gumla and Simdega

Ranchi, Apr 2 (IANS) : A herd of wild elephants has unleashed havoc in Jharkhand's Gumla and Simdega districts, claiming seven lives in the past four days. On Wednesday, an elephant trampled two people to death in Gumla, while another individual sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital. In the latest attack, 45-year-old James Kujur, who had gone to collect Mahua in the Derangdih Ambakona forest in the Raidih police station area, was crushed to death early in the morning. His mutilated body was later recovered by police and Forest Department officials. In another incident, an elephant wrapped 73-year-

old Climate Ekka in its trunk and slammed him to the ground near his house in Albert Ekka block. He was rushed to the hospital in critical condition but succumbed to his injuries. The rampaging jumbo then moved to the neighbouring village of Jarmana, where it trampled 50-year-old Arvind Singh Rajawat, who had gone to the fields early in the morning. He sustained serious injuries. The terror began on Thursday when a wild elephant killed three people in the Simdega district. On that night, Vikas Ohdar, who was sleeping outside his house in Buruirgi Debotoli, was trampled to death. On Friday morning, Sibiyi Lugun, 45, was killed in a similar attack in Jamang village in the Bano police station area. In Gumla, Christopher Ekka was killed in Bardih-Devgaon of Palkot police station area while he was out in the fields.

Confident that those opposing will join RSS fold: Dattatreya Hosabale

Nagpur, Apr 2 (IANS) : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Wednesday said that RSS does not believe in opposing anyone and is confident that one day, those opposing its work will join the fold. He said that in the last 100 years, Sangh, as a movement of national reconstruction, has travelled from neglect and ridicule to curiosity and acceptance. "When Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is completing the hundredth year of its service, there is an evident curiosity about the way Sangh perceives this landmark. It has

been crystal clear for the Sangh since its inception that such occasions are not meant for celebration but provide us with an opportunity to introspect and rededicate to the cause. It is also a chance to acknowledge the contributions of the stalwart.



J&K govt waives off stamp duty on transfer of property among blood relations

Jammu, Apr 2 (IANS) : In a relief to people intending to transfer their properties to children or siblings, the J&K government on Wednesday announced a complete waiver of stamp duty on such documents executed by the transferor to the transferee. The office of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, said on X: "As a reform measure aimed at public ease and as announced in Budget 2025, the Notification for remission of Stamp Duty on Gift Deeds within blood relations has been issued." "Come April 1, such land transfers between close family members will attract zero stamp duty in J&K. #JKBudget2025". A notification to this effect has been issued by the J&K Finance Department. "In exercise of power conferred by clause (a) of Section 9 of the Stamp Duty act 1977, the government being satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the public interest.



As PM Modi gives calls to 'Catch the Rain', 24.24 lakh water bodies enlisted in first-ever census

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call on Wednesday for public participation in water conservation has brought into focus the Jal Shakti Ministry's 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025' drive that has enlisted 24.24 lakh water bodies in the first-ever census. In the 120th episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said, "Catch the Rain' campaign is not just a government effort but that of the people. Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan is also being run to connect more and more people with water conservation." Earlier this month, the Ministry launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025' campaign. As part of the earlier Jal Shakti Abhiyan, till June 2024, 24.24 lakh water bodies were enumerated in the country's first water bodies' census.



Punjab Police bust trans-border drug smuggling racket; 6 kg heroin seized, 2 held

Tarn Taran, Apr 2 (IANS) : In a significant development, Punjab Police on Wednesday busted a cross-border drug smuggling racket and apprehended two drug traffickers who were colluding with Pakistan-based smugglers, in the trafficking of drugs in the state. A large cache of 6 kg heroin was recovered from their possession, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav told the press and also informed about the modus operandi of drug traffickers operating from Tarn Taran. He said that drones were deployed to drop drug consignments in the state, from across the border. Those arrested have been identified as Hardeep Singh alias Deep and Harjeet Singh, both residents of Village Thathi Sohal, Tarn Taran.

Bihar fishermen receive fish marketing kits under PMMSY, thank Modi government

Patna, Apr 2 (IANS) : Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), many fishermen and workers associated with the fisheries sector in Bihar were provided with fish marketing kits and bicycle ice boxes on Wednesday. This brought joy and a smile to their faces, after which they expressed their gratitude to the Modi government for the remarkable step towards improving their lifestyle and livelihood. Many fishermen spoke to IANS about the Centre's innovative scheme, elaborating on how this could bring a decisive change in their lives. Rikhu Devi said, "I got the cycle. We will definitely see some change. First, we used to sell the fish on the road, now we will take our cycle around." Ram Pravesh Chaudhary told IANS that he wants to reach more customers after getting bicycle ice boxes from the government and earn more income.



Delhi: Sarod maestro enthralled music lovers at NDMC's concert

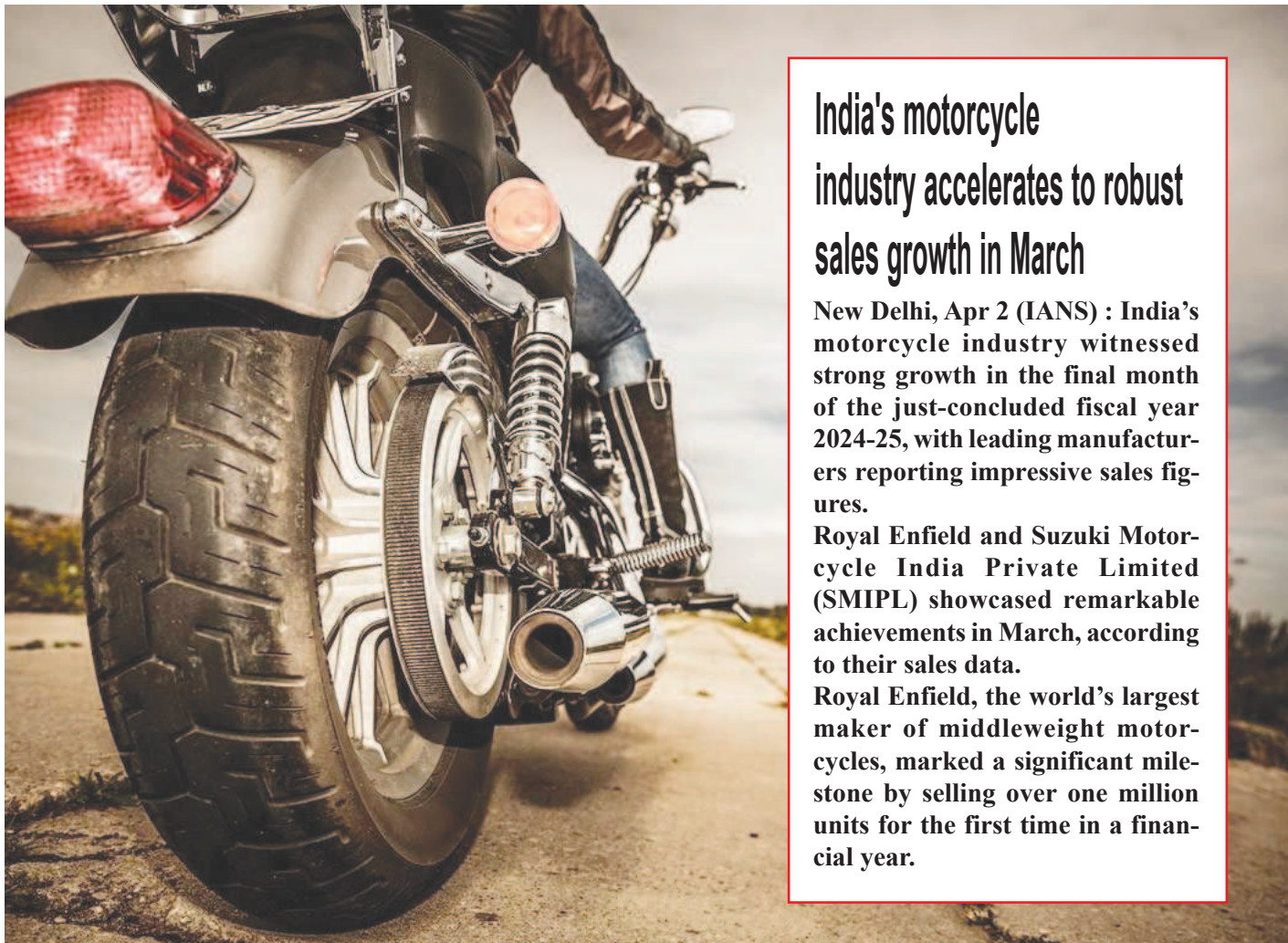


New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Sarod Maestro Tejendra Narayan Majumdar mesmerised music lovers on Wednesday as part of NDMC's ongoing three-day Classical Music Concert under the series of "Music in the Park". Sanjay Subrahmanyam (Carnatic Vocal) accompanied by S. Varadarajan (Violin) and Neyveli B. Venkatesh (Mridanagum) also performed on the second day of the concert at Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in collaboration with SPIC MACAY and SRF Foundation, is organising the concert that will culminate on Monday with performances by Uday Bawalkar (Hindustani Vocal) accompanied by Shri Sukhad Munde (Pakhawaj), Prassanna Vishwanathan (vocal support) and Begum Parween Sultana (Hindustani Vocal).

Rs 25 lakh fraud: CBI court hands ex-UCO Bank employee 3 years' RI

Patna, Apr 2 (IANS) : A Special CBI court in Patna has sentenced a former employee of UCO Bank to three years' Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Rs 6 lakh in a bank fraud case involving Rs 25 lakh, an official said on Wednesday. A.K. Biswas, the then Special Assistant, UCO Bank, Fraser Road Branch, Patna, and others were booked by the federal probe agency on January 20, 1992. It was alleged that during the period 1986 to 1989, the accused opened a fictitious account at the Fraser Road branch and inflated the credit balance and subsequently withdrew the same fraudulently. Investigation disclosed that Biswas was posted in the branch from 1983-91 and cheated the bank to the tune of Rs 25.70 lakh while using forged and fabricated debit vouchers passed by him.





India's motorcycle industry accelerates to robust sales growth in March

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : India's motorcycle industry witnessed strong growth in the final month of the just-concluded fiscal year 2024-25, with leading manufacturers reporting impressive sales figures.

Royal Enfield and Suzuki Motorcycle India Private Limited (SMIPL) showcased remarkable achievements in March, according to their sales data.

Royal Enfield, the world's largest maker of middleweight motorcycles, marked a significant milestone by selling over one million units for the first time in a financial year.



Automakers clock robust SUV sales in India in March amid resilient economy

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Indian automakers on Wednesday reported strong sales figures for the month of March, particularly in the SUV segment, driven by increasing private consumption and a resilient economy.

Among the top performers, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Kia India showcased impressive growth in their SUV sales. Maruti Suzuki India, the largest car manufacturer in India, saw a growth of nearly 4.5 per cent in its SUV sales in March 2025, with 61,097 units sold compared to 58,436

units during the same month last year. The overall sales of Maruti Suzuki in March 2025 rose by 3.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY), totalling 192,984 units, up from 1,87,196 units in March 2024. The company also posted its highest-ever annual sales of 22,34,266 units for FY25, which includes its highest-ever domestic sales of 17,95,259 units and exports of 3,32,585 units.

E-processing of import, export via personal carriage by air passengers from May 1

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The government on Wednesday said that electronic processing of import and export through personal carriage by air passengers at select airports will begin from May 1. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

(CBIC), under the Department of Revenue, has introduced electronic processing of Bill of Entry/ Shipping Bill pertaining to gems and jewellery/samples/prototypes through personal carriage by air passengers from May 1 onwards at specified airports.

"The export/import through personal carriage shall be subject to the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 and Handbook of Procedures (HBP), 2023," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.



Relief on interest and penalty for taxpayers under 'Amnesty Scheme' in Gurugram: Official

Gurugram, Apr 2 (IANS) : Under the 'Amnesty Scheme' introduced by the Haryana government, taxpayers will be granted relief on the interest and penalty amounts payable under the GST Act for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20, provided they deposit only the principal tax amount by March 31, 2025, officials said.

Providing details about this initiative, Geetanjali Mor, Joint Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Gurugram Range), said that in October 2024, the Haryana government launched the Amnesty Scheme for traders/taxpayers registered under the GST Act.

Under this scheme, taxpayers can avail relief from interest and penalty amounts by depositing the principal tax due under Section 73 of the GST Act, 2017 for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19.

Bengaluru civic body presents surplus budget; plans world-class roads in IT corridor, tunnels, sky deck

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (IANS) : A surplus budget for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in Karnataka for the financial year 2025-26 was presented on Wednesday.

The budget promises world-class roads at a cost of Rs 400 crore in an IT corridor and also talks about ambitious tunnel projects, sky deck project to improve the infrastructure of Bengaluru and boost its image at the national level.

Dr. Harish Kumar K, Special Commissioner (Finance), presented the revised estimates for

the year 2024-25 and the budget estimates for the year 2025-26 at the BBMP in the absence of elected representatives. The election to BBMP is yet to be held.

In 2025-26 BBMP's total receipts will be Rs 19,930.64 crore which comprises of an opening balance of Rs.2.53 crore, revenue from its own resources Rs 11,149.17 crore and central and state government grants of Rs 8,778.94 crore.

This budget with the total expenditure of Rs 19,927.08 crore, a surplus of Rs.3.56 crore, is presented before the citizens of Bengaluru.



In Bengaluru, following the principle of "Pedestrian first", emphasis will be given for the construction of 1,000 kms of footpath during the ongoing arterial and sub-arterial road works and also in all future road developments, Harish Kumar announced.

For the development of the area around Outer Ring Road from Central Silk Board to K.R. Puram-Lowry Junction Via Baiyappanahalli Metro Station where IT-BT companies with Fortune 500 status are functioning.

Zomato cuts up to 600 jobs in customer support amid slowdown: Report

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Zomato, the popular online food delivery platform, has reportedly laid off up to 600 customer support employees, just a year after hiring them.



Uber for teens aged 13-17 arrives in India, company claims extra safety tools

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Ride-hailing major Uber on Wednesday announced the launch of a new service called 'Uber for Teens' in India, which, the company claimed, is designed to offer safe and reliable transportation options for teenagers aged 13 to 17 years in the country.

This service has been rolled out across 37 cities in the country, including Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata, among others. The service comes with a set of strict safety protocols, including GPS tracking, real-time ride tracking, and an in-app emergency button. "This is to ensure

that both teens and their parents feel secure while using the service," claimed the company.

A key feature of 'Uber for Teens' is that it allows parents to have oversight on the rides their children book. Parents can create a Teens account, which lets them request rides on behalf of their teens, track the rides in real-time, and even receive detailed ride summaries after the trip.

This adds an extra layer of security, making it easier for parents to monitor their teens' travel. "We recognise the unique transportation challenges faced by teenagers and their families in India. With Uber for Teens, we are committed to



addressing these challenges by providing a service that parents can trust, and that teens will find easy and cool to use," said Prabhjeet Singh, President, Uber India and South Asia.

Meanwhile, a recent survey conducted by Uber revealed that 92 per cent of parents had faced challenges with finding reliable transportation options for their teens to attend activities.

Safety was the biggest concern for 72 per cent of parents when it came to choosing transport for their children.

The survey also showed that many parents often had to use their own cars to take their teens to extracurricular activities or coaching classes.

Specifically, 63 per cent of parents said they used their own vehicles for sports or extracurricular activities, while 61 per cent did the same for after-school coaching.

WhatsApp bans 9.7 million accounts in India in February for rule violations

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : WhatsApp on Wednesday said that it has banned over 9.7 million accounts in India during February 2025, citing violations of its Terms of Service. According to its latest monthly safety report, a significant portion of these bans, over 1.4 million accounts, were proactively removed by WhatsApp before any user complaints were even made. The company, which has more than 500 million users in India, explained that the bans were the result of its ongoing investment in AI-driven moderation and advanced reporting tools.



Cash at Judge's door: Chandigarh court acquits Justice Nirmal Yadav in 2008 corruption case

Chandigarh, Apr 2 (IANS) : Pronouncing its verdict in the 2008 corruption case, a special CBI court acquitted former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nirmal Yadav on Wednesday. The case dates back to August

2008, when a bag containing Rs 15 lakh allegedly meant for Justice Nirmal Yadav had mistakenly been delivered at the residence of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, another High Court judge. The verdict comes a day after the Special CBI judge heard the final

arguments in the case on Friday and posted the case for pronouncement of order on March 29. "I have not committed any crime and there is nothing incriminating found during the entire trial against me," Justice Yadav (retd) stated in her final statement.

The relief for Justice Nirmal Yadav comes at a time when a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court, Justice Yashwant Varma, is facing similar charges of 'amassing' unaccounted wealth. Justice Varma was de-rostered by the Delhi HC after a directive from the Chief Justice of India (CJI) following recovery of mounds of cash from his residence. As per reports, the firemen, while dousing the fire at his Lutyens Delhi residence.



MP: Farmers in Shajapur benefiting from PM-KISAN, praise PM Modi's govt

Shajapur, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) has emerged as a crucial lifeline, significantly impacting the livelihoods of millions of farmers across India. This scheme provides guaranteed financial assistance of Rs 2,000 every quarter, empowering farmers to meet their agricultural and household expenses. Farmers are utilising this financial aid for various purposes, including purchasing fertilisers, seeds, and agricultural equipment, while others are using it to cover essential household costs.

In Madhya Pradesh's Shajapur district, several farmers shared their experiences with IANS, highlighting the positive impact of this flagship scheme. They credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for implementing the PM-KISAN scheme, which has brought about substantial changes in their lives. IANS spoke to beneficiaries of the scheme. Dilip Sauraniya, a beneficiary, said, "I am getting benefit from PM KISAN. I am getting Rs 6,000 every year. I use that money to buy fertilisers. But, due to this scheme, we got many benefits." Kishore Singh Rajput, another beneficiary, said, "I have been get-



ting the benefit of this scheme for more than five years. I am getting a lot of benefits from this scheme. This scheme is helping farmers. I want to say that this scheme should be continued. I want to thank PM Modi for this." The PM-KISAN scheme, a central sector initiative, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2019 to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers. Under this scheme, an annual financial benefit of Rs 6,000 is directly transferred in three equal installments to the Aadhaar-seated bank accounts of farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). A farmer-centric digital infrastructure has ensured that the scheme's benefits reach farmers nationwide without the intervention of middlemen. Maintaining absolute transparency in the registration and verification of beneficiaries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 19th installment of the PM-KISAN scheme on February 24, 2025, in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

Charge sheet filed in Kannur ADM death case; CPI-M's PP Divya lone accused

Kannur, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Kerala Police on Wednesday filed a 400-page charge sheet in a local court here in connection with the Kannur Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Naveen Babu death case, and named CPI-M leader P. P. Divya as the lone accused. The charge sheet pointed out that the lone accused is then Kannur district panchayat president, Divya. Babu was found hanging at his official residence on October 15, 2024, just a day after he was publicly accused of corruption by Divya. The incident occurred shortly after his official farewell in Kannur. Divya, then the Kannur District Panchayat President, had attended Babu's farewell event uninvited and accused him of corruption. The charge sheet also pointed out that Divya had asked a local TV channel to shoot the event, especially her speech. The probe team also found out that she had

sent the visuals of her speech from her mobile phone to several people, and that also finds a mention in the detailed charge sheet. It also pointed out that they have not been able to recover any suicide note nor any leads to suspect that it was not a suicide but a murder, as doubted by the family of Babu. Incidentally, the charge sheet is filed at a time when the Kerala High Court, early this month, dismissed a plea from Babu's family seeking a CBI probe into the case. Divya alleged that Babu delayed issuing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for a petrol pump application by T. V. Prasanth, an electrician at Kannur Medical College.



Rana Sanga a 'traitor': Islamic cleric Tauqeer Raza stirs fresh row

Bareilly, Apr 2 (IANS) : Islamic cleric Tauqeer Raza on Wednesday reiterated the label of "traitor" for Rajput ruler Rana Sanga, mirroring a recent statement by Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman. During a press conference, Raza said: "Babur didn't come to India; he was invited to come. Babur never did any attack on India. Babur attacked Ibrahim Lodhi. But Rana Sanga was the one who cheated him (Babur). He (Rana Sanga) asked Babur to start capturing from Delhi, while Rana Sanga was supposed to start from Agra. So, the motive of Rana Sanga was to make Babur attack India." Raza further alleged that he (Rana Sanga) only wanted Babur to come and loot India and do destruction of

Delhi so that Rana Sanga could become ruler. "Rana Sanga broke his promise to Babur. Angered by Rana Sanga's breach of promise, Babur attacked India. Rana Sanga cheated and betrayed his own country," he added. Earlier, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman, during a Parliament session, also branded Rana Sanga a "traitor", leading to controversy. Suman claimed the 16th-century Rajput ruler invited Mughal ruler Babur to defeat Ibrahim Lodi, ultimately paving the way for the Mughal Empire. The MP's statement triggered a backlash, with Karni Sena activists vandalising his Agra residence near Hari Parvat Chauraha on Wednesday.



Properties involved in fodder scam will be confiscated: Union Minister

Patna, Apr 2 (IANS) : Union Minister Lalan Singh claimed on Wednesday that the properties involved in the fodder scam will be confiscated by the law-enforcing agencies. "The properties of those involved in the fodder scam will be confiscated, and the money will be deposited into the Bihar government's treasury. This is a rightful decision by the court," he said. The Union Minister also reacted to Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav supporting parties opposing the Waqf Bill. He emphasised that the matter will be debated in Parliament.

Women's safety in India improved with legal measures, financial allocations, support services: Govt

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Wednesday said that the government has made remarkable strides to ensure the safety and security of women across the nation with legal measures, financial allocations, and support services. This includes the Nirbhaya Fund, a women's helpline (181) number, one-stop centers (OSCs), an emergency re-

sponse support system (ERSS - 112), SHe-Box, and women help desks that provide legal, medical, and psychological assistance to women. "A multi-pronged approach integrating law enforcement, helplines, rehabilitation, and mental health support is crucial for creating a safer and more empowering environment for women," the Ministry said. The Ministry noted that Rs 7,712.85 crore was allocated un-

der the Nirbhaya Fund in the financial year 2024-25, of which Rs 5,846.08 crore have been utilised - nearly 76 per cent. The fund supports various projects and schemes such as OSCs, ERSS, women helpline, fast track special courts (FTSCs).



Nearly 31 lakh defence pensioners onboarded on SPARSH portal: Centre

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Of the total 32 lakh defence pensioners, nearly 31 lakh have been onboarded on System for Pension Administration-Raksha (SPARSH) and their pensions are being directly credited into their bank accounts, the government informed on Wednesday. Launched in October 2020, SPARSH is a 'Digital India' initiative that aims to provide a comprehensive and efficient solution for managing defence pensions, including sanctioning and disbursing pensions to the Armed Forces personnel and Defence civilians living across the country. Over 200 Defence Accounts Department (DAD) offices, 16 bank branches and nearly five lakh CSCs are operational to help pensioners, said the Ministry of Defence in a statement.

Delhi: Notorious criminal nabbed under Arms Act, has history of 50 criminal cases

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : In a major development, the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Wednesday apprehended a notorious criminal named Rahul Ranjan from Jahangirpuri after months of pursuit. The criminal was on the run and wanted in at least two cases of the Arms Act and theft. The notorious criminal is a habitual offender and has been involved in about 50 cases, including robbery, snatching, theft, NDPS, attempt to murder and more, informed the police. The Crime Branch, acting on a tip-off on Sunday, reached the spot where he was hiding and took him into custody. For months, he had been changing his place of stay to evade arrest. Secret information about Rahul Ranjan was received by a police head constable.





UN Chief appeals for dialogue in South Sudan amid escalating tensions

New York, Apr 2 (IANS) : United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned of a rapidly deteriorating crisis in South Sudan on Wednesday and called for urgent dialogue, immediate release of detained officials, and renewed commitment to the 2018 peace agreement. He further appealed to the regional and international community to speak with one voice in support of peace in South Sudan. "All the dark clouds of a perfect storm have descended upon the people of the world's newest country – and one of the poorest," Guterres said while

addressing reporters at UN Headquarters in New York. "South Sudan may have fallen off the world's radar, but we cannot let the situation fall into the abyss," he added and urged South Sudanese leaders to "put down the weapons" and "put all the people of South Sudan first." Guterres called for the restoration of the Government of National Unity and the full implementation of the peace agreement, which remains the only legal path to free and fair elections in December 2026. "We fully support the initiative to deploy the African Union Panel of the Wise," he said, adding that he had spoken with the Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Bengal Police caution of possible communal tension on Ram Navami

Kolkata, Apr 2 (IANS) : West Bengal Police, on Wednesday, cautioned the people of possible communal tension in the state on the occasion of Ram Navami festival on April 6.

The alert was issued at a joint press conference addressed by the Additional Director General (Law & Order) Javed Shamim and Additional Director General (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar on Saturday. Sarkar told media persons that they have got specific intelligence inputs on some vested interests trying to instigate violence in the coming days.

"There are plans to instigate people through different posters or posts. The police are on alert. There might be attempts to instigate tension among people from different communities, especially focusing on the occasion of Ram Navami. We requested people not to get instigated. There is no need to worry. But at the same time.



Measles outbreak spreads in US

Sacramento, Apr 2 (IANS) : The United States is grappling with a significant increase in measles cases, US health authorities have said. The number of infections in early 2025 has already exceeded the entire 2024 total, according to the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of March 28, 2025, the CDC reported 483 confirmed measles cases across 20 states, among them 2 dead and 70 hospitalised, while only 285 cases were reported in 33 states during the entire year of 2024.

Texas is experiencing the most severe outbreak as 400 cases have been identified since late January, and 41 of the patients have been hospitalised, according to the Texas Department of State



Health Services. The outbreak has turned deadly.

GRAP-I restrictions revoked in Delhi-NCR as air quality improves

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has revoked the Graded Response Action Plan - Stage I (GRAP-I) in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) with immediate effect after air quality improved in the city. The decision came after Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Wednesday clocked 153 as per the daily bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The CAQM said that the AQI of the national capital showed significant improvement due to strong surface winds and improved meteorological conditions prevailing in Delhi-NCR. "AQI of Delhi has shown significant improvement due to strong surface winds and improved meteorological conditions prevailing in Delhi-NCR. The AQI of Delhi has been recorded as 153 for 29.03.2025 (in 'Moderate' category).



Prominent Odisha IAS officer Sujata Karthikeyan takes voluntary retirement

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Senior Odisha cadre IAS officer Sujata Karthikeyan has opted for voluntary retirement after an impactful career focused on women's empowerment.



Rahul Gandhi sends warm wishes for peace, prosperity on Navratri, other festivals

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday, extended his heartfelt greetings to people across the country on the occasion of multiple regional and cultural festivals, including Gudi Padwa, Chaitra Navratri, Ugadi, Cheiraoba, Cheti Chand, and Sajibu. Taking to the social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi wrote, "Best wishes to everyone celebrating Gudi Padwa, Chaitra Navratri, Ugadi, Cheiraoba, Cheti Chand, and Sajibu! May this auspicious occasion bring joy and happiness into your lives and fill your homes with peace and prosperity." These festivals, marking the beginning of the New Year for various communities in different parts of India, hold deep cultural significance. They symbolise the spirit of unity, as people across regions welcome prosperity and good fortune with traditional festivities. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also conveyed his best wishes on the occasion of Chaitra Navratri. In a message shared on X, he stated, "Hearty greetings to all countrymen on the auspicious occasion of 'Chaitra Navratri', the great festival of worship of Adishakti, Maa Durga. It is hoped that this holy festival brings happiness, peace, prosperity, and well-being in everyone's life, and the blessings of Mother Bhagwati remain on everyone." Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also extended her greetings, acknowledging the cultural diversity reflected in these celebrations. "Today is a day of festivals across the country. Warm wishes to all of you on the auspicious Chaitra Navratri, Nav Samvatsara Vikram Samvat 2082, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti-Chand, Navroz, and Sajibu-Cheroba.

India will become a world leader by merging tradition and modern knowledge: Rajasthan Guv

Jaipur, Apr 2 (IANS) : Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde said that India can achieve the status of 'Vishwa Guru' by integrating traditional wisdom with modern knowledge. He highlighted that addressing university vice-chancellors as Kulguru is a step towards reviving the ancient Indian education system, which he described as exemplary. Acknowledging the importance of the new education

policy, he stated that it is closely linked to students' development and future success. Speaking at the 12th convocation of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University in Ajmer, the Governor conferred gold medals for the academic years 2023 and 2024 and awarded degrees to Vidya Vachaspati recipients. He underscored India's rich scientific heritage, referencing Maharishi Bhardwaj's aeronautical concepts, which he claimed influenced Shivkar Bapuji Talpade's flight experi-

ment in 1895 -- years before the Wright brothers' invention. He also pointed out that Indian scholars like Bhaskaracharya had propounded the theory of gravity long before Newton and Copernicus. The Governor recalled Vinoba Bhave's call for an educational overhaul post-Independence and criticised the continued legacy of the colonial-era Macaulay education system. He asserted that the new education policy aligns with Indian society, culture, and citizenry, ensur-

ing meaningful societal impact through future graduates. Stressing the need for employment-oriented courses, he urged universities to promote entrepreneurship among youth, allowing them to contribute actively to national development. Education, he said, should be aimed at shaping individuals



with strong values, citing Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati as an exemplar of human virtues. He further noted that the new education policy was formulated through two years of rigorous discussions among 400 vice-chancellors and over 1,000 educationists.

Single male govt employees in Assam get child care leave

Guwahati, Apr 2 (IANS) : The Assam government has decided to grant childcare leave to single fathers working in state government departments, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Wednesday. Taking to X, CM Sarma wrote, "Sometimes life may take unexpected turns and a man may have to be the sole caregiver for a child. If such a scenario ever arises for our State Govt employees, we've

got you covered." "From now on, we will grant Child Care Leave to single fathers to take care of their little ones," he added. Child Care Leave (CCL) is an important provision granted to employees to ensure they can take care of their children without worrying about salary deductions or job security. In Assam, like other states in India, women government employees benefit from this leave to look after their children during crucial periods

such as illness, examinations, or other essential needs. Child Care Leave in Assam was primarily granted to female government employees. However, according to the latest government directive, male government employees who are single parents (widowers, divorcees, or unmarried fathers) have also become eligible for this leave. The key eligibility criteria include that the employee must be a government servant under the

Assam government. The leave is applicable for children up to 18 years of age and the leave can be availed for biological, adopted, or legally dependent children. Now, single fathers can avail of CCL. As per the amendment, eligible employees will now be able to take CCL for a maximum of two years (730 days). Additionally, government employees who have custody of disabled children will also benefit from the revised policy. It can



be taken in multiple phases but not more than three times in a calendar year. According to a senior government official, the first 365 days are granted with full salary, while the remaining 365 days come with a reduced salary of 80 per cent.



Chirag Paswan predicts NDA's 'historic' victory in Bihar Assembly polls

Patna, Apr 2 (IANS) : Union Minister and BJP ally Chirag Paswan has expressed confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will secure a historic victory in the Bihar Assembly elections. He said the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) has an unstable coalition that would collapse due to internal conflicts over seat sharing. "The NDA is a natural alliance, whereas the opposition's unity is fake and fragile. All NDA leaders, including Amit Shah, will frequently visit Bihar to strategise for the elections. Seat sharing in NDA will be smooth, unlike in the opposition, where internal rivalries will lead to disputes," Union Minister Paswan said. "Amit Shah is visiting the state to formulate the NDA's election strategy. NDA leaders are working together towards a decisive victory in the Bihar Assembly elections," he said. Welcoming his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras' Dalit rally, he said: "Such initiatives should be encouraged to empower Dalit communities."

UP: Aazad Party threatens stir over 'denial of permission' to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : National President of Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) Chandra Shekhar on Wednesday threatened to launch an agitation across Uttar Pradesh if the government refuses to grant permission to freely celebrate the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, falling on April 14. In a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Member of Parliament from Nagina constituency said any attempt to create hurdles in celebrating the Dalit icon's birth anniversary shall be viewed as a "conspiracy against the Bahujan Samaj and the ideology of social justice". In a post on social media platform X, Chandra Shekhar said, "Wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister @myogiadityanath regarding news that permission is being denied for celebrating the birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution."



'Donkey route': NIA arrests accused involved in human trafficking to US

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Wednesday that the agency has arrested a key accused involved in illegally sending to the US, a human trafficking victim, through the 'donkey route'. The agency said that the victim was deported back to India earlier this month. "Gagandeep Singh @ Goldie of Tilak Nagar, New Delhi, was nabbed from the national capital in connection with the case RC-04/2025/NIA/DLI,

in which the victim, hailing from Tarn Taran district of Punjab, was sent to the US via the infamous donkey route in December 2024," the agency informed. NIA investigations have revealed that Goldie, who did not possess any licence/legal permit/registration for sending persons abroad, had used the donkey route and sent the victim to the US via Spain, Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. "Donkers/associates of Goldie had even beaten up and exploited the victim, besides snatching the dollars he was carrying, during the arduous journey," NIA investiga-



tions further revealed. The central investigating agency said that the victim had paid around Rs 45 lakh to the accused agent for the illegal immigration. "The victim was deported to India by the US authorities on 15th February and had thereafter filed the complaint against the accused agent," the NIA. It further added that the case was originally registered by the Punjab Police and taken over by NIA on 13th March.

DMK has blood of NEET aspirants on its hands: Palaniswami

Chennai, Apr 2 (IANS) : AIADMK general secretary and Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, launched a scathing attack on the ruling DMK, accusing its leaders of being responsible for the deaths of several NEET aspirants in the state.

Reacting to the recent death of Dharshini, a girl from Dindigul who was preparing for the NEET exam at a private academy in Anna Nagar, Chennai, Palaniswami expressed deep shock and sorrow. Dharshini had been preparing for the exam since 2021 and had attempted it twice before. Unable to clear the cutoff marks, she was reportedly under immense stress and allegedly died by suicide on Wednesday, fearing the upcoming test scheduled for May 4. Blaming the DMK for the tragic turn of events.



One arrested for vandalising Veer Tejaji idol in Jaipur

Jaipur, Apr 2 (IANS) : The police arrested an accused for vandalising the idol of folk deity Veer Tejaji Maharaj at the temple, located in Pratap Nagar Sector-3 of the Sanganer police station area in Jaipur. The incident, which occurred on Wednesday night, was allegedly carried out by anti-social elements. Officials arrested Siddharth Singh (34), a resident of Bichwal Bikaner Hall, Street No. 3, Rajapark. Initial investigations suggest that Singh, who earlier was running a restaurant, was also struggling with financial difficulties following its closure. This distress allegedly led him to commit the act of vandalism. DCP (East) Tejaswani Gautam stated that three separate cases have

been registered at the Sanganer police station concerning the incident which includes cases related to vandalism filed by the temple priest Manoj for the destruction of the idols; damage to government property and arson registered by the police; petrol pump vandalism and attempted arson filed by petrol pump manager Ramesh, citing damage and an attempt to set fire to the petrol pump. According to Additional DCP Asharam Chaudhary, before committing the crime, Siddharth Singh consumed alcohol with a friend at a hotel and then left for Rajapark. On his way, he fed stray dogs before heading to the temple. Once there, he recorded a video, expressed his anger, and then vandalised the idols, allegedly blaming divine forces for his misfortunes.

Another haul of areca nuts smuggled from Myanmar seized in Mizoram

Aizawl, Apr 2 (IANS) : Assam Rifles, along with Customs, have seized a large consignment of smuggled areca nuts, also known as Burmese Betel nuts, valued at Rs 1.79 crore in Mizoram, officials said on Sunday. A defence spokesman said that Assam Rifles troopers and Customs officials, in a joint raid, recovered 321 bags of areca nuts, which were found dumped in a jungle near Zote-Tlangsam crossing point in Champhai district on Wednesday night. The areca nuts, smuggled from Myanmar, were dumped in the jungle with the intention to ferry them to other parts of India. The recovered items have been handed over to the Cus-

toms Preventive Force in Champhai. This is the second consignment of Myanmar areca nuts seized in Mizoram within nine days. Assam Rifles and Customs officials, in a joint operation on March 21, seized a consignment of areca nuts, contained in 180 bags, valued at Rs 1.08 crore from the same district. Champhai, which shares an unfenced border with Myanmar, is a hotspot for the smuggling of various drugs, foreign cigarettes, areca nuts, arms and ammunition, and exotic animals and their parts. Large-scale smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar is seriously affecting farmers in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura, where betel nuts grow in large quantities. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma had said on Friday that



due to the illegal import of 'areca nut' from Myanmar, local cultivators in the state have faced serious challenges in selling their produce at competitive prices. Addressing the training-cum-seminar on 'Scientific Methods of Cultivation of Areca nut and Pest Management', he emphasised that the government is working diligently to address these difficulties and take corrective measures.

International passengers to shell out more at Delhi airport from April 16

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : International passengers will have to shell out more for flying out of Delhi airport starting April 16, as the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has approved higher and variable user development fees (UDF) for

economy and business class passengers. Recognising that domestic travellers make up 80 per cent of the total traffic at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), AERA has decided to keep the UDF for domestic passengers unchanged at Rs 129 for the fourth

control period. "Against the existing yield per passenger of Rs 145 valid under the 3rd control period, the nominal yield per passenger has been increased to Rs 360 throughout the balance four years of control period valid till March 31, 2029," GMR Airports has said in a regulatory filing.



Delhi: AAP, BJP cross swords over fate of scheme for road accident victims

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Former Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Wednesday accused the BJP-led government of discontinuing a scheme that offered free medical treatment to road accident victims in private hospitals. The Delhi BJP countered

the allegation by claiming that scheme fell prey to corruption.



INDIA bloc spreading misinformation to mislead particular community: Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Waqf bill

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Kerala BJP President Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Wednesday accused the INDIA bloc of spreading misinformation regarding the Waqf Amendment Bill, with an intention to mislead a particular community. He stated that the bill, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not against any community but aims to protect people's constitutional right to property. "The Waqf Amendment Bill is not against anybody. It



is a pro-people, pro-constitutional right to property amendment bill. The Opposition, whether it is Owaisi or Rahul Gandhi.

Cong MP Gaurav Gogoi writes to PM Modi, claims 'irregularities' in Assam Cooperative Apex Bank

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a probe into the alleged financial irregularities at Assam Cooperative Apex Bank. The letter, dated March 20, was posted by Gogoi on his X handle on Wednesday. "I have written a letter to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji about the need for an inquiry into the financial irregularities at Assam Cooperative Apex Bank."



PM candidates disrupted by protesters on first day of Australian election campaign

Canberra, Apr 2 (IANS) : Australia's two candidates for Prime Minister have spent the first day of the general election campaign in the battleground state of Queensland where they were both disrupted by protesters. Incumbent PM Anthony Albanese, leader of the governing Labor Party, and Peter Dutton, leader of the opposition Coalition, both made multiple stops in Queensland on Wednesday at the start of a five-week campaign before the election on May 3. Despite the leaders' events being

carefully planned and subject to strict security, both Albanese and Dutton faced protesters on Wednesday, reports Xinhua news agency. A Labor event in Brisbane focused on the party's plan to boost spending on healthcare was interrupted when an audience member accosted Albanese with questions about the impact of immigration on healthcare and housing pressure before he was escorted away by security. Hours later, an anti-coal and gas protester from a climate activist group interrupted Dutton's first

official appearance of the day at a Brisbane brewery. The female protester carried a sign carrying the message "no new gas or nuclear" referring to Dutton's proposal to build nuclear power plants. It was the first of two disruptions of the day for Dutton, whose second event of the day in Brisbane was again interrupted by a protester from the same climate action group. Also campaigning in Brisbane on Saturday was Adam Bandt, leader of the Greens - Australia's third-largest political party.

The presence of the three leaders on the first day of the campaign confirms the status of Brisbane - and Queensland - as a key battleground in the election. Of the 150 electorates that make up the House of Representatives - the lower house of parliament where the government is formed - 30 are in Queensland. Labor enters the election holding 77 seats in the lower house but only five in Queensland, traditionally considered a Coalition stronghold. Both major parties are targeting three Brisbane seats that



were surprisingly won by the Greens in 2022. If neither Labor nor the Coalition can make gains in Queensland it would increase the likelihood of a minority government -- an eventuality where neither party wins a clear majority of seats in the house and must negotiate with minor parties and independents for their support.

40 Sri Lankan civil servants study India's digital governance

New Delhi, Apr 2 (IANS) : Forty senior civil servants from Sri Lanka, including the Chief Secretary, Uva Province, got an insight into India's digital governance - an initiative that enhances transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric service delivery - as part of a capacity-building programme, an official said on Wednesday. Delivering the valedictory session as the Chief Guest at the 7th Capacity Building Programme, V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), shed light on the principle of 'Maximum Governance, Minimum

Government', which aims to streamline administrative processes and enhance public service delivery with minimal bureaucratic intervention. At the conclusion of the programme on Thursday, Srinivas also discussed the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), emphasising its impact on improving governance through seamless grievance redressal mechanisms. He also spoke about Mission Karmayogi, the Government of India's flagship initiative for capacity-building and skill development among civil servants, designed to foster a future-ready bureaucracy equipped to meet the

evolving challenges of governance. Officials from the island nation who attended the programme included Deputy Chief Secretary, Southern Province, Assistant Divisional Secretaries, Assistant Chief Secretaries, and Directors. Participants represented key ministries such as the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources, Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Planning, Department of the Housing Commissioner, among

others. The capacity-building programme was led under the supervision of A. P. Singh, Associate Professor and Course Coordinator, along with Dr. M.K. Bhandari, Associate Course Coordinator and Faculty at National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Sanjay Dutt Pant, Program Assistant, Monisha Bahuguna, Young Professional, among other team members.



Turkish opposition party leads protest against arrest of Istanbul Mayor

Istanbul, Apr 2 (IANS) : Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) on Wednesday organised a rally in Istanbul in support of jailed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu. The detention of Imamoglu, the arch-rival of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and a potential presidential election contender, sparked the country's largest street demonstrations in more than a decade, according to media reports.

The protesters waved banners and posters of the mayor as they chanted slogans. CHP party leader Ozgur Ozel, speaking to an international media outlet Le Monde stated that he planned to hold rallies in every city across Turkey, with additional demonstrations in Istanbul on Wednesdays next week. He later took to his social media and added that the nation will not remain silent and demanded the release of Imamoglu.

"On the eve of the holiday, I would like to thank all of our citizens who filled the squares for justice and to protect their will. This is just the beginning. From now on, we will be in the squares in a different city every weekend and in a district of Istanbul every Wednesday. This nation will not remain silent: Leave my candidate, bring the ballot box!", Ozel posted on X on Saturday. Turkish security forces have allegedly arrested over 1800 people, including several students, journalists, and lawyers, amid the ongoing protests. Meanwhile, Turkish Lawyer Ferhat Guzel stated that at least 511 students were detained in Istanbul, many in early-morning raids.



Three-fold growth in mining revenue, Cong nervous because of crackdown on mafia: U'khand BJP chief

Dehradun, Apr 2 (IANS) : Uttarakhand unit Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Mahendra Bhatt on Wednesday said that the hill state has witnessed a three-fold rise in the mining revenue under Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami-led government, as compared to previous regimes, and this was the result of 'reforms' initiated in the sector. Addressing a press conference, in the backdrop of an 'ugly altercation' between BJP MP Trivendra Singh Rawat and a top bureaucrat of the Mining Department, Bhatt said that the three-fold jump in revenue was itself an indicator of plummeting mafia operations and the government's growing supervision. "Earnings from mining have gone up from Rs 300 crore to over Rs 1,000 crore. This shows Dhami

government's role in streamlining the sector and weeding out the corrupt and mafia syndicate," he said. The BJP leader also stated that till 2017, when the Congress was in power, the mining revenue stood at just Rs 335.27 crore. The Uttarakhand BJP chief also took potshots at the Congress' charges of government-mafia collusion in the mining sector and stated that the party itself was facing the heat because those being penalised were found to have close links with it. He said that the Opposition, including Congress, were nervous because of the crackdown on the mining mafia in the state. "Congress leaders are concerned over fines being imposed on the mining mafias. The penalty has increased 8 times in the past five years, from Rs 18.05 crore to Rs 74.22 crore. Most of this money has gone from pockets of mafias enjoying the support of Congress



leaders, so it is natural for them to be pained and upset," he stated. Notably, the issue of illegal mining in Uttarakhand cropped up after BJP MP and former state CM Trivendra Singh Rawat raised the matter in Parliament and sought the state government's intervention in containing the menace. Rawat, speaking in Lok Sabha on Thursday, put his own party's government in the dock as he raised the issue of illegal mining in the hill state and stated that this was posing much harm not just to the people.

PMK urges TN govt to create separate Tamil teacher posts in schools

Chennai, Apr 2 (IANS) : Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder Dr S. Ramadoss on Wednesday called on the Tamil Nadu government to create separate Tamil teacher posts in government primary and middle schools, similar to the existing structure in high schools and higher secondary schools. In a statement here, Dr Ramadoss emphasised the need to ensure proper implementation of Tamil as a compulsory subject in private schools as well.

He highlighted that although the state has mandated Tamil education in private institutions by law, enforcement remains weak, resulting in the non-appointment of qualified Tamil teachers.



'Institutionalised extraction', CM Stalin slams Centre over ATM withdrawal fee hike

Chennai, Apr 2 (IANS) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has strongly condemned the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to allow banks to increase charges for ATM withdrawals beyond the monthly free limit -- from Rs 21 to Rs 23 per transaction -- effective May 1. Taking to social media on Wednesday, CM Stalin criticised the Centre's digitisation initiatives, calling

them an "institutionalised extraction" from the poor. He said that while the Centre initially encouraged citizens to open bank accounts, it later introduced demonetisation and promoted the Digital India campaign. "What followed were charges on digital transactions, penalties for low balances, and now this hike in ATM withdrawal charges," he noted. CM Stalin warned that such measures would force people to with-

draw more money than they need, especially hurting the poor and economically vulnerable groups. "This move undermines the very goals of financial inclusion," he said. The Chief Minister pointed out that the increase in ATM charges would particularly affect beneficiaries of welfare schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which is already facing a funding crunch, and those

receiving cash transfers under Tamil Nadu's Kalaigalar Magalir Urimai Thittam. "This is not digitisation. It is institutionalised extraction. The poor swipe, the rich smile," CM Stalin remarked. Until now, banks have been permitted to charge customers Rs 21 per transaction after they exhaust their monthly limit of five free ATM withdrawals from their own bank's ATMs. Under the revised rules, customers will be charged



up to Rs 23 per withdrawal beyond this limit. According to the RBI circular issued on Friday, customers are allowed five free ATM transactions per month (including both financial and non-financial transactions).



Hamilton, April 2 (IANS): Extending their dominance in white-ball cricket, New Zealand's young squad sealed an emphatic 84-run victory over Pakistan in Hamilton on Wednesday, securing an unsaisable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series. With several first-team regulars absent due to franchise commitments, the Black Caps fielded a relatively inexperienced side.

Mitchell Hay lauds young New Zealand players after ODI series win against Pakistan



Rohit Sharma, one of the most successful players in the history of the IPL, opened up on how his role has evolved over the years within the Mumbai Indians setup, from adapting to new roles to leading the team to glory. He said a lot has changed since he started, but his passion and desire to win games and trophies for the franchise have never changed. Rohit has slumped to his worst IPL start since 2020. He has failed to put up his best in the first three games of the ongoing IPL 2025, getting dismissed for a duck in the campaign opener against Chennai Super Kings.

IPL 2025: 'I was captain, now I'm not but mindset remains same,' says Rohit on his role in MI

ISL Playoffs: Jamshedpur FC look to overturn poor record against Mohun Bagan in SF first leg

Jamshedpur, Apr 2 (IANS): Jamshedpur FC are set to host Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) in the first leg of their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 semifinal fixture on Thursday. This will be the first time that these two sides meet in the playoffs, with MBSG reaching the last-four courtesy of winning the ISL League Shield, whereas the Red Miners defeated NorthEast United FC 2-0 in the one-legged eliminator. Jamshedpur FC have not se-

cured a victory in their previous six matches against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the ISL, losing on four occasions. Another failure to win here will make it their longest winless run in front of any opponent in the competition.



Hockey India announces core probable group for senior women national camp

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (IANS) : Hockey India on Wednesday announced a 40-member core group for the ongoing senior women's national coaching Camp at SAI. The camp, which began on March 23, initially featured 65 probables. Based on their performances over the past two weeks, the group has now been trimmed to 40 players. While 28 players from the existing core group have retained their spots, 12 new players have been selected from outside the core group in recognition of their impressive performances in the 15th Senior

Women's National Championship and their efforts in the initial national training camp, Hockey India said in a release. Speaking about the selection, chief coach Harendra Singh said, "We have had some really grand sessions and testing. The selectors and the team have done a good job shortlisting the best 40 players available. After watching the National Championships, we believe we have identified some good talent and I'm sure they are going to serve the country well over the long-term."

Yuva Kabaddi Series helped me land a PKL contract, says former U Mumba defender Shanmugam

Haridwar, April 2 (IANS) Mukilan Shanmugam, who hails from Karur, began playing kabaddi at the age of 14. He played kabaddi in school and often participated in matches in his village. Ini-

tially, his family didn't support him, but they didn't stop him either. However, once he started competing in tournaments regularly and showcasing his skills on larger platforms, his family began to support him.



IPL 2025: Our attitudes have been spot on, says PBKS head coach Ponting



Lucknow, April 2 (IANS) : Punjab Kings (PBKS) continued their stellar start to the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season with a commanding 8-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).



IPL 2025: Samson set to resume captaincy after clearance from BCCI CoE

New Delhi, April 2 (IANS) Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson has received clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) and will resume his full-time leadership role along with the wicketkeeping duties following a period of recovery.

Jokic sets NBA record with 61 points in Nuggets' loss to Timberwolves

Denver (US), April 2 (IANS) : Nikola Jokic delivered a career-best performance with 61 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists, marking the highest-scoring triple-double in NBA history. But it wasn't enough to save the Denver Nuggets from a 140-139 overtime defeat to the Minnesota Timberwolves at

Ball Arena. The three-time MVP surpassed the previous record held by his Nuggets teammate Russell Westbrook, who notched a 57-point triple-double for Oklahoma City Thunder in 2017. With the Nuggets leading 139-138 in the final seconds of overtime, Westbrook had a chance to seal the game but missed a lay-up with 10 seconds remaining. In a cruel twist

of fate, he then fouled Nickeil Alexander-Walker on a last-gasp three-point attempt with just 0.1 seconds left on the clock. Alexander-Walker coolly sank two of his three free throws, completing a dramatic comeback for the Timberwolves. Minnesota pulled off the victory despite missing key players Naz Reid and Donte DiVincenzo,

who were serving suspensions following an altercation with the Detroit Pistons earlier in the week. The win lifted the Timberwolves to seventh in the Western Conference, while the Nuggets remain third.

