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TUESDAY



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DIPR



A US intel assessment has raised doubts about whether Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel could stay in power, as the CIA director said a hostage deal was the most practical way to halt the war in Gaza Strip

TN hikes employees' DA from 46% to 50%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Chief minister K M Stalin on Tuesday ordered enhancement of dearness allowance from 46% to 50% with retrospective effect from January 1, 2024. The move would benefit 16 lakh govt employees, pensioners and family pensioners. It would additionally cost the exchequer ₹2,500 crore a year, said an official release.

The release said state govt was aware of the contribution made by its staff and teachers in implementing several pioneering schemes of govt for the benefit of people.

"As part of a severe financial crisis and debt burden, govt is actively working to realise the demands of govt staff and teachers in a phased manner based on the financial position," Stalin said.

Pokhran witness to India's belief, pride & self-reliance: Modi

PM Modi witnessed a synergized demonstration of indigenous defence capabilities in the form of a tri-service live fire and manoeuvres exercise "Bharat Shakti" in Pokhran on Thursday. "Today once again Pokhran became a witness of the triveni of India's astamabharta (self-reliance), belief & pride," Modi said, adding, "It is the same Pokhran that witnessed India's first nuclear test, and today we witness the power of strength from indigenisation." He said those who "ruled" the country for decades were "not serious" about India's defence & were even more serious about the party's veteran Arvind Vilas, who held the home and health de-



POWER-PACKED: PM Modi during the Bharat Shakti exercise in Pokhran on Tuesday

Akash air defence missiles, K-9 Vajra self-propelled tracked guns, Dhanush howitzers, Prithvi medium range ballistic missiles, all indigenously developed, were tested in border areas.

From Tejas fighters and Prachaud helicopters to

Tejas jet crashes for first time, pilot ejects safely

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaisalmer/New Delhi: A Tejas fighter, which participated in the Bharat Shakti military exercise at Pokhran, crashed near a residential area in Jaisalmer on Tuesday, in the first such accident of the indigenous single-engine jet since it was inducted into IAF eight years ago.

The pilot, an experienced Wing Commander, managed to eject safely and suffered minor injuries. A part of the fighter debris fell on a room of a community hostel in Jawahar Nagar Colony, which fortunately was empty at the time of the crash shortly after take-off, 2 km from the centre of the city.



TECH SHAG? The burning wreckage of the Tejas fighter in a residential area of Jaisalmer

► Near exercise site, P 16

Rishabh Pant fit for IPL, declares BCCI

New Delhi: BCCI on Tuesday declared Rishabh Pant fit to play as a wicketkeeper-batter in the upcoming IPL, brightening his prospects of a return to the Indian team's T20 World Cup after suffering multiple injuries in a harrowing car crash 14 months ago. Pant, who will once again be back as Delhi Capitals skipper, has undergone extensive medical tests and is ready to shoulder the mental responsibility in the event starting March 22, ending weeks of speculation surrounding his exact role in the league.

After undergoing an extensive 11-month rehab and recovery process, following a life-threatening road mishap on Dec 30, 2022, near Rohtak, Uttarakhand, Rishabh Pant



BACK IN CONTENTION: Rishabh Pant was seriously injured in a car crash in Dec 2022

has now been declared fit as a wicket keeper batter for the upcoming IPL 2024," BCCI said in a statement.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in the West Indies and the US in June.

► Good Test innings, P 25

Ahead of polls, Haryana BJP chief replaces Khattar as CM

Photo: News Network

Dushyant Out As Tie-Up With JJP Also Off

Ajai Sora, Manvir Singh & Akhilesh Singh | TN

Chandigarh/New Delhi: BJP on Tuesday reorganized its chessboard for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, putting former Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar with Neeraj Singh Saini, a Lok Sabha MP, understanding of the tie-up with Dushyant Chautala's Janayati Janata Party (JJP). Chautala was deputy CM in the outgoing government.

The exercise, prompted by the desire to re-energize the rainbow coalition comprising OBCs and others that BJP has tried to mobilize with Congress's plan to rally the dormant Jan Adhikar Party (JAD) and a new People's Democratic Congress (PDC) group.

► Also bid to bring in fresh face over over 90% of Khattar's Jan Adhikar posts lost in Oct. Former home minister Atul Vilas, Chautala was deputy CM in the Lok Sabha MP, understanding of the tie-up with Dushyant Chautala's Janayati Janata Party (JJP). Chautala was deputy CM in the outgoing government.

► Khattar dropped after hours PM Modi praised his progressive

parties in the outgoing govt, protesting over being passed over yet again. He is said to have left the meeting when it became clear that it was going to be Saini's day.

► Also over 90% of Khattar's Jan Adhikar posts lost in Oct. Former home minister Atul Vilas, who has an RSS background and had started off as Khattar's protege, was meant to give a sharp



Leadership at inauguration of Neeraj Singh Saini as Haryana CM on Monday

► By CM Dushyant Chautala of JJP, who was dropped as ally, also shared stage on Monday

► Related reports, P 12

Gaurav Gogoi, Gehlot's son on Congress 2nd list

Saborth Ghoshal @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Resolving the contentious issue of Congress' communists in Assam, Congress has fielded sitting MP Gaurav Gogoi from Jorhat and retained Pradyon Bordoloi in Nagaon in Assam, as per its second list of 43 candidates for the 2024 elections announced on Monday.

Gogoi's Kalabar seat has been disbanded after redrawing of maps, and he was seek-

ing either Nagaland or Jorhat, while Bordoloi was projected to be shifted elsewhere.

The two MPs are Congress's big hopes in Assam where electoral battles have tilted heavily towards BJP after 2014.

Former Rajasthani CM Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot will contest from Jorhat, seven in Gujarat, three in Uttarakhand and one in Damodar and Diu. Congress functionaries KC Venugopal

Nath, will defend Chhimeswara, Vaibhav lost from Jodhpur in 2019. Rahil Kawsar, a former Lok Sabha member from Meghalaya, after having declined the ticket by his party has been fielded from Churua in Assam.

MLA Brijendra Ola is the party face from Jhunjhunu and MLA Lallu Yadav from Alwar (Rajasthan). Ganesh Godiyal from Jhunjhunu, Purnima Tamang from Almora (Uttarakhand), Ketan Patel will contest from Daman.

► Barpeta candidate, P 29

SC bar body seeks Prez reference on bond ruling

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Seeking that apex court consider suo motu election bonds to be illegal against Supreme Court Bar Association chief Adish C Aggarwala Tuesday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu requesting her to seek presidential reference on the judgment, which struck down the naming of corporates that had contributed to political

SBI obeys SC orders, gives details to EC
I Election Commission of India confirmed SBI Tuesday submitted electoral bonds data to it in compliance of SC's directions on Monday. EC is to upload this data on its website by 5pm on Friday. P 29

parties would render them vulnerable to victimisation he contended. "Disclosing sensitive information that too retrospectively, will result in a chilling effect on corporate donations and participation in democratic process," he said.

"The possibility of them (corporates) being singled

out by those parties that had received less contribution from them, and harassed cannot be ruled out if names of corporates and their quantum of contributions to various parties are revealed. This will be renegotiating our promise given to them while accepting their voluntary contributions," Aggarwala wrote.

► India's reputation, P 16

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Reforms to improve ease of living

சொன்னதைச் செய்யும் நம் முதல்வர்!

Shiv Das Meena IAS,
Chief Secretary to Government

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