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It can be argued that Empuraan, featuring Malayalam superstar, Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles is one of the most anticipated...

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Samsung likely to report decline in operating profit for Q1: Report

Samsung is expected to report a decline in operating profit for the first quarter, largely due to weak semiconductor performance, a report said on Monday. The company's operating....

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Strengthens feeling of brotherhood: Prez Murmu extends greetings on Eid-ul-Fitr

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday extended her heartfelt greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr...

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CM Revanth Orders Vigilance Inquiry Into HCA-Sunrisers Hyderabad Issue

Hyderabad, Mar 31 (NSS): Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has taken a serious stance regarding the ongoing controversy surrounding the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).

He has instructed the Vigilance department to investigate claims of threats directed at the management of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) concerning

pass distribution. The Chief Minister also emphasized the need for officials to gather information regarding the alleged harassment faced by the SRH management when requesting passes.

Vigilance Director General Kothakota Srinivas Reddy has been tasked with conducting a thorough investigation and submitting a report. Revanth Reddy has warned that action will be ini-

tiated if the SRH management continues to face disturbances over the issue of passes.

There is an ongoing conflict between Sunrisers Hyderabad and the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). The SRH management has accused the HCA of subjecting them to harassment in their efforts to obtain free passes. In a letter addressed to the Hyderabad Cricket Association, the SRH management indicated that they may leave Hyderabad due to the unbearable harassment, claiming that HCA President Jagannohana Rao has been pursuing them for free tickets.

Continued on pg 02



Eid Mubarak; may this festival enhance spirit of hope, harmony, kindness: PM Modi

New Delhi, March 31 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the country on Monday on the occasion of Id-ul-Fitr and prayed for the enhancement of the spirit of hope, harmony and kindness in

the society. Taking to his social media handle, PM Modi wished Eid Mubarak to all. He wrote, "Greetings on Eid-ul-Fitr. May this festival enhance the spirit of hope, harmony and kindness in our society. Continued on pg 02



'Communal, coercive agenda', Sonia Gandhi attacks Modi govt on education

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Sonia Gandhi, MP and Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, has accused the Modi-led government at the Centre of following an agenda "leading to damaging consequences in the domain of education." She in an article in a newspaper shared by Congress leader Pawan Khera has said there are '3Cs' that haunt Indian education today -- centralisation, commercialisation and communalisation.

Gandhi has said the government was coercing the state governments to implement the PM-SHRI scheme of model schools by withholding the grants due to them under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan as leverage. Criticising the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, she says in the article, "The in-

troduction of the high-profile National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has hidden the reality of a government that is profoundly indifferent to the education of India's children and youth.

Continued on pg 02



No change in filthy language of CM : Jagadish Reddy

Suryapet, Mar 31 (NSS): Former minister and BRS leader Jagadish Reddy today criticised that there had been no change in the language of CM Revanth Reddy. He was angry that the CM was making vulgar comments by forgetting that he is a Chief Minister of Telangana. He said the CM's language would only embar-

ass him. He said even after attaining the rank of Chief Minister, the CM's stupidity had not decreased. Jagadish Reddy was angry over CM Revanth Reddy's comments in the Huzurnagar assembly constituency. He criticized that the CM was spending his time with the same blatant lies and meaningless allegations. He commented that even after 15 months of coming to power, no assembly could be held without former CM KCR's words by the CM. "It is only due to the Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's six guarantees.

Continued on pg 02

Bandi Sanjay Condemns Attack On HCU Students

Hyderabad, March 31 (NSS): Union Minister Bandi Sanjay today responded to the students' agitation at Hyderabad Central University. He condemned the actions against the students by the State police. He said lathi-charge on the students was brutal. Speaking to the media persons on Monday.

Continued on pg 02



Arrangements underway for BRS silver jubilee celebrations, public meeting on April 27

Hyderabad, Mar 31 : The Bharat Rashtra Sami thi (BRS) is leaving no stone unturned to make its silver jubilee celebrations a grand spectacle. The party has finalised Elka thurthy in Hanamkonda district as the venue for the massive public meeting on April 27, where a staggering 10 lakh people are expected to gather. With weeks of preparation in full swing.



Congress govt failed to deliver six guarantees : Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, Mar 31 (NSS): Union Minister and BJP Telangana President Kishan Reddy today alleged that the Congress government had failed to fully implement the six guarantees given to people. A meeting of BJP office-bearers was held at the party's central office in Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Kishan Reddy. The party MLAs, MPs, MLCs and newly elected district presidents were present in this meeting. Kishan Reddy discussed key issues during the meeting and gave directions to the party leaders on organizational matters. He asked the party leaders to complete the process of the appointment of the remaining district presidents and mandal presidents. He gave advice and suggestions to the BJP cadre to prepare for struggles on behalf of the people against the Revanth Reddy's government. Kishan Reddy discussed the steps to be taken to take the fight on behalf of the farmers on the six guarantees.

Continued on pg 02

Festive atmosphere prevailed across Hyderabad with Eid ul Fitr celebrations

Hyderabad, Mar 31 : A festive atmosphere prevails across the city as the Muslims are celebrating the Eid-ul-Fitr, on Monday. The festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the tenth Hijri calendar month of Shawwal marking the end of the holy month of Ramzan. On the occasion, Eid-ul-Fitr

prayers were conducted at Eidgah and mosques in the morning. The biggest congregation was witnessed at the Mir Alam Eidgah, Bahadurpura where more than one lakh people attended the congregational prayers. The prayers were led by Khateeb of Mecca Masjid Maulana Hafeez Rizwan Qureshi. The TG Wakf Board and other



government departments made elaborate arrangements at the venue. Since early morning hours, dressed in the traditional attire.



Anger as youth's body found in Bengal, DC among officials injured

Kolkata, Mar 31 (IANS) : Five police personnel, including a Deputy Commissioner, were injured in an attack by the villagers in West Bengal's Burdwan district after the recovery of a youth's body under mysterious circumstances on Monday. After getting information, the police came and, as per the rule, recovered the body of the deceased youth Pallab (22) for sending it to the post-mortem. However, the tension started after Pallab's family members accused the cops of taking away the body without informing them.

TN Assembly passes resolution urging Centre to withdraw Waqf Bill; BJP walks out

Chennai, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution urging the Union government to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, citing concerns that it undermines the interests of Muslims in the country. While all major political parties, including the AIADMK, supported the resolution, the BJP staged a walk-out ahead of the vote. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who moved the resolution, said the Indian Constitution guarantees all religious groups the right to practice and preserve their faith, and it is the duty of a democratically-elected government to uphold these rights. He expressed strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, 1954, stating that they would severely impact Muslim minorities. CM Stalin further noted that DMK representatives A. Raja and M.M. Abdullah, who are members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), were not allowed to voice their opinions on the proposed changes during committee discussions. In a display of democratic courtesy, CM Stalin also requested Speaker M. Appavu to allow BJP leader Vanathi Srinivasan to express her views on the matter. He added that the DMK has consistently upheld democratic values by allowing Opposition voices to be heard in the Assembly. Speaking in defence of the Bill, Vanathi



Srinivasan said the Centre had decided to amend the Waqf Act following numerous complaints regarding irregularities in the management of Waqf properties across various states. She maintained that the Bill aims to protect the interests of the "backward sections" of the Muslim community and to ensure better representation for women. However, Tamil Nadu Law Minister, S. Regupathy, countered her claims.



Cong gov't's hidden agenda behind Greater Bengaluru project, says K'taka BJP chief

Bengaluru, Mar 31 (IANS) : Karnataka BJP has accused the Congress-led government in the state of trying to implement the Greater Bengaluru Project with a hidden agenda, which will only harm the state capital's growth. The statement came soon after Governor Thawarchand Gehlot returned the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2025. BJP state President B.Y. Vijayendra said on Thursday, "Bengaluru has a rich historical legacy of development. It has been expanding as one of the most well-planned cities in India since the time of its founder, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. In the interest of preserving and developing Bengaluru, it is certainly possible to set aside party politics and formulate a robust plan by consolidating the views of senior politicians, retired officials, and public representatives across party lines who have worked sincerely for the city's progress." "The Greater Bengaluru Project is likely to give rise to economic and developmental disparities, which could ultimately disrupt the balanced and holistic development of the city."

Huge uproar in Jharkhand Assembly over BJP leader's murder in Ranchi

Ranchi, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Jharkhand Assembly witnessed a massive uproar on Monday over the murder of BJP leader and former Zila Parishad member Anil Mahto Tiger in Ranchi. Before the session began, the BJP MLAs staged a sit-in protest outside the House. As proceedings commenced, they stormed into the Well of the House, raising slogans against the government. Countering the Opposition's charge, Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu and several ruling party MLAs also gathered in front of them, shouting slogans. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto repeatedly appealed for restraint, but the ruckus continued, forcing an adjournment of the House. Outside, BJP MLAs continued their dharna, demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order. Leader of the Opposition, Babul Marandi, said the murder of Anil Tiger, barely 100 metres from the Kanke police station, had exposed the deteriorating security situation

in the state. "The most shameful part is that Ranchi police attempted to malign the deceased. The DGP is overburdened, and the state police seem more focussed on protecting criminals than ensuring public safety," he alleged. Former Chief Minister Champai Soren also condemned the incident, saying, "The rising crime shows that criminals in Jharkhand enjoy government protection. We demand that the central government dismiss this ineffective state government and impose President's Rule."

ing party MLAs also gathered in front of them, shouting slogans. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto repeatedly appealed for restraint, but the ruckus continued, forcing an adjournment of the House. Outside, BJP MLAs continued their dharna, demanding the resignation of the Chief Minister, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order. Leader of the Opposition, Babul Marandi, said the murder of Anil Tiger, barely 100 metres from the Kanke police station, had exposed the deteriorating security situation



Need for synergy among armed forces amid evolving nature of warfare: COAS Gen Dwivedi

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi has highlighted the evolving nature of warfare, the strategic challenges facing India and the need for jointness and synergy among the armed forces. He was addressing the student officers under the Indian Armed Forces undergoing the 80th Staff Course and the permanent staff at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in Tamil Nadu. COAS commended DSSC for its pivotal role in grooming future military leaders and emphasised the importance of professional military education in enhancing operational preparedness and decision-making capabilities. The Army chief underscored the significance of leadership, adaptability and technological integration in modern warfare.

Wellington in Tamil Nadu. COAS commended DSSC for its pivotal role in grooming future military leaders and emphasised the importance of professional military education in enhancing operational preparedness and decision-making capabilities. The Army chief underscored the significance of leadership, adaptability and technological integration in modern warfare.

K'taka govt may hike Nandini milk price by Rs 3 on KMF, farmers' demand; final call by Cabinet today

Bengaluru, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Karnataka Cabinet will decide on hiking the price of Nandini milk supplied by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) on Monday. Sources have confirmed that while KMF and farmers' organisations are demanding a hike of Rs 5 per litre, the government has decided to increase the milk prices by just Rs 3. Earlier, on March 5, the Karnataka government had stated that it was set to increase the price of the popular Nandini milk supplied by KMF in the state. "We will definitely increase the price of milk. A discussion on how much to increase it by will be held with the Chief Minister," said Minister for Animal Husbandry K.

Venkatesh on the floor of the House. Minister Venkatesh made this statement during the Question and Answer session in the Legislative Council. "Farmers are demanding a hike of Rs 10 per litre. We will definitely increase the price of milk. The quantum of the hike will be decided after discussions with the Chief Minister," he said. Earlier, KMF sources had stated that despite its pressure, the state government was yet to take a final decision on increasing the price of milk. Sources revealed that the government was in the final round of discussions with authorities and experts, as KMF continues to strongly advocate for the increase. However, the government is proceeding cautiously, anticipating potential public backlash over the issue. The demand for a price hike

is being supported by farmers, various organisations, and the Department of Animal Husbandry. Yet, the government has not reached a final decision. Milk federations across the state are backing the price hike. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier opposed the hike but assured KMF that a decision would be taken by the Cabinet soon. On February 10, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Green Brigade staged a protest at the KMF office in Bengaluru, demanding an increase in the milk procurement price to at least Rs 50 per litre. They also called for an interim support price of Rs 10 per litre until the implementation of a Minimum Support Price (MSP). The Karnataka government revised the price of milk in the state



by Rs 2 on June 25, 2024, with an additional 50 ml of milk added to each packet, which led to criticism. The most popular blue packet of 1 litre of Nandini milk now costs Rs 44, up from Rs 42. Speaking to mediapersons after announcing the price revision, the KMF Chairman Bheema Naik had said the decision was made to avoid losses for the KMF. The milk price per litre in Gujarat and Maharashtra is Rs 56, in Kerala it is Rs 54, while in Andhra Pradesh it is Rs 58, he said. "Our rate is Rs 16 less compared to the other states. There will be no price hike for any of the other Nandini products," Naik had said.

Dilip Jaiswal slams Lalu Prasad for opposing Waqf Amendment Bill

Patna, Mar 31 (IANS) : Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal on Monday criticised RJD chief Lalu Prasad for supporting protests against the Waqf Amendment Bill, calling it "opposition for the sake of it." Jaiswal accused the opposition of backing issues without assessing their merits. Speaking to IANS, he said, "Every reform has positives

and negatives. If the Waqf Bill is being amended for improvement, why oppose it merely to appease a particular community?" He alleged that RJD leaders had joined the protests to "please their Muslim brothers." Drawing a historical parallel, Jaiswal likened the amendment to past reforms in Sanatan Dharma. "We once had the Sati Pratha, which was abolished when society realized it was



wrong. Similarly, if the Waqf Bill requires changes, they should be welcomed. Political decisions should be based on merit, not appeasement," he told IANS. Jaiswal also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

'BJP suppressing free speech,' says Pramod Tiwari on LoP Gandhi's treatment in Parliament

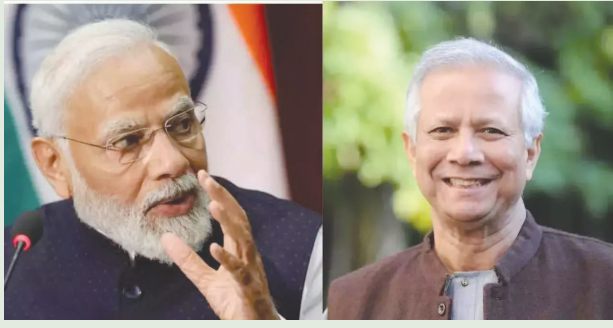
New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Congress leader Pramod Tiwari has strongly criticised the BJP for deliberately suppressing free speech, the right of Opposition leaders, particularly that of Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, to speak in Parliament. Tiwari accused the BJP of using its powers to obstruct LoP Rahul Gandhi's attempts to

voice his criticism against the government. He remarked, "The whole country sees that whenever Rahul Gandhi stands up to speak and criticise the government's policies, the cameras are turned away, and the microphone is switched off. His freedom of expression and his rights are being deliberately suppressed by the ruling party, undermining democracy. I would say that the BJP government is dicta-



torial." Tiwari's statement comes after a recent incident where LoP Gandhi was allegedly not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha, even as he attempted to raise concerns over the government's policies.

OPINIONmail



'Mutual sensitivity to each other's interests, concerns', PM Modi's letter to Bangladesh's Yunus

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a letter to Muhammad Yunus, chief advisor to Bangladesh's interim government, highlighting the significance of mutual sensitivity while referring to the Bangladesh Liberation War as a 'shared history'. PM Modi wrote the letter to commemorate the Bangladesh National Day on Wednesday and reiterated India's commitment to advancing the partnership between the two countries. "I extend my felicitations to you and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the National Day of Bangladesh," the Prime Minister wrote.

"This day stands as a testament to our shared history and sacrifices that have laid the foundation of our bilateral partnership. The spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh continues to remain a guiding light for our relationship, which has flourished across multiple domains, bringing tangible benefits to our peoples," he wrote. "We remain committed to advancing this partnership, driven by our common aspirations for peace, stability, and prosperity, and based on mutual sensitivity to each other's interests and concerns. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration," the Prime Minister added. President Droupadi Murmu also extended greetings to her Bangladesh counterpart, Mohammed Shahabuddin. She reiterated India's support for a democratic and progressive Bangladesh. "On behalf of the government, the people of India and my own behalf, I extend warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of Bangladesh on the occasion of your National Day," President Murmu said. The relations between the two countries have been tense after the Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina was toppled, and she was forced to flee to India. The interim government that was formed after the change of guard is led by Nobel laureate and economist Muhammad Yunus. Since then, there have been attacks on minorities, especially Hindus. India has shared its concerns with Bangladesh on this.

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has said the Centre was engaged with the interim government at various levels and will continue to raise such issues. As per reports, Muhammad Yunus, on the occasion of Bangladesh's Independence Day, recalled the sacrifices of 1971 and addressed the country's current challenges. He paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War and also the victims of the July 2024 agitation. Yunus condemned the atrocities committed by the Pakistani military on the night of March 25, 1971, and reiterated the importance of remembering history. During his address, he stressed the potential of a joint economy involving Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Bhutan.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



Time to exit: Pakistan has lost the war it started against people of Balochistan

The United States, being highly strategic and far sighted, realised after 20 years of war in Afghanistan that achieving victory there was impossible. It took into account the horrors and defeat of the Vietnam War, as well as the collapse of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, ultimately concluding that further involvement in Afghanistan would be a waste of resources and time.

It is important to note that for the past 30 years, Baloch nationalist leaders have been continuously trying to explain to the United States, NATO, and other Western nations that while their enemies were operating in Afghanistan, their roots lay in Pakistan, specifically within GHQ. Despite carrying out extensive carpet bombings in the caves and mountains of Tora Bora, and even deploying the 'Mother of All Bombs', the US failed to

achieve its objectives. Meanwhile, the Pakistani military and ISI, recognised globally as a mercenary force, deceived multiple US administrations — including those of George W Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden — by extracting billions of dollars while secretly providing military support to anti-American groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Pakistan cleverly used the military aid received from the US to suppress the Baloch independence movement. Concrete evidence exists showing that Pakistan's Air Force has deployed phosphorus and cluster bombs, as well as American-made missiles and explosives, against pro-independence Baloch civilians. This raises serious accountability concerns for the United States on an international level — why was military aid provided under the guise of counterterrorism allowed to be used against the homegrown

Baloch owned, Baloch led liberation movement? Balochistan and Pakistan are two distinct entities. Pakistan possesses jets, tanks, artillery, and military strength, whereas Balochistan lacks comparable war capabilities. This imbalance of power perpetuates Pakistan's military oppression and occupation of Balochistan. For the past seven decades, Pakistan has trampled on international war protocols and the UN Charter, ruthlessly using aerial power to suppress the legitimate Baloch independence movement.

Despite this ongoing seven-decade conflict between Pakistan and Balochistan, the international community has failed to take meaningful action. The global community must exert diplomatic, military, and economic pressure on Pakistan to relinquish its illegal control over Balochistan.

India pips Sri Lanka to become world's 2nd-largest tea exporter

India has surpassed Sri Lanka to become the world's second-largest exporter of tea with 255 million kg of tea exports in 2024, while Kenya has retained the top spot, according to data compiled by the Tea Board of India.

India's tea exports touched a 10-year high at 255 million kg in 2024 despite the uncertainties in the global market triggered by geopolitical tensions.

The country's exports shot up by a robust 10 per cent during the year from the corresponding figure of 231.69 million kg recorded in 2023.

The value of India's exports jumped by over 15 per cent to Rs 7,111 crore in 2024 from Rs 6,161 crore in 2023 as the prices were also higher during the year.



Jaleel's veiled attack on Speaker Shamseer raises eyebrows in Kerala CPI-M

The growing rift within the ruling CPI-M in Kerala became evident once again as four-time legislator and former State Minister K.T. Jaleel took a swipe at Speaker A.N. Shamseer, reigniting tensions within the party. The strained relationship between Jaleel and Shamseer is no secret in political circles. While Jaleel served as the State Higher Education Minister in the first Pinarayi Vijayan government (2016-21).



2.18 lakh gram panchayats have BharatNet link for high-speed Internet services

As many as 2.18 lakh gram panchayats out of the total 2.68 lakh in the country have been made service-ready for providing high-speed internet services under the BharatNet

project, according to information tabled in Parliament. Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, SP Singh Baghel, informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that the BharatNet project is be-

ing implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in a phased manner to provide broadband services to all gram panchayats in the country.

EC commences first ever training of over 1 lakh Booth Level Officers

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the first-ever training of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) along with Election Commissioner Dr Vivek Joshi at India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi, on Wednesday.

Over 1 lakh BLOs with an average of one BLO per 10 polling stations will be trained in such training programmes over the next few years. These well-trained BLOs will form a corps of Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs) to strengthen the entire network of BLOs nationwide, who are the

first and most important interface between the 100 crore electors and the Commission. This unique capacity-building programme will continue in phases, focusing first on poll-bound states. Currently, 109 BLOs from Bihar, West Bengal and Assam are participating in this 2-day residential training programme along with 24 EROs and 13 DEOs from Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.

The training is planned to familiarise the BLOs with their roles and responsibilities as per the RP Act 1950, the Registration of Elector Rules 1960 and instructions of the Commission issued from time to time, and to equip them with requirements of filling

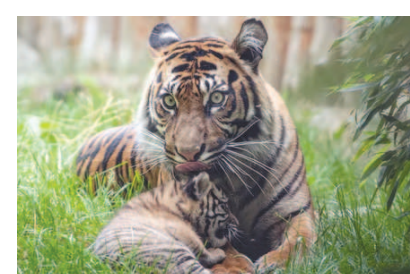


relevant forms for an error-free updation of electoral rolls. They will be familiarised with IT applications designed to support their work. BLOs are State Government officials and are appointed by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) after the approval of the District Election Officers (DEOs). CEC Gyanesh Kumar, while acknowledging the critical role of EROs and BLOs in error free updation of electoral rolls, stressed that the state governments should nominate SDM level or equivalent officers as EROs, who then should appoint BLOs giving due consideration to their seniority and who are ordinary resident of the polling station under their charge.

Tiger cub disappears in MP's Panna Reserve, authority says 'natural'

The disappearance of a tiger cub from Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) has once again brought the reserve into the spotlight, capturing the attention of park authorities and wildlife enthusiasts alike.

The missing cub belonged to tigress P-141, who recently gave birth to her fourth litter of four cubs. These cubs, aged seven to eight months.



Cong begins protest rally in Bhubaneswar over 'rising' crime against women

Amidst heavy security arrangements and barricading on the roads connecting to the Odisha Assembly, hundreds of Congress workers and leaders on Thursday began their protest rally against alleged increase in the crime against women in the state. The Congress supporters in different groups from different directions marched towards the PMG Square area of the city.

**European Union regrets
Trump's car tariffs : EU Chief**

Brussels, Mar 31 (IANS) : European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed deep regrets about the United States' decision to impose tariffs on imported European cars. Von der Leyen's remarks came as US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday to levy a 25-per cent tariff on car imports starting April 2. "The automotive industry is a driver of innovation, competitiveness and high-quality jobs, with deeply integrated supply chains on both sides of the Atlantic," von der Leyen said in a statement. She added that tariffs "are bad for businesses, worse for consumers" in both the United States and the European Union (EU). "We will now assess this announcement, together with other measures the US is envisaging in the coming days," she said, noting the bloc would continue to seek negotiated solutions while protecting its economic interests, Xinhua news agency reported.



**BOK warns against
market volatility amid uncertainty,
rising household debts**

Seoul, Mar 31 (IANS) : The South Korean central bank warned on Monday of the possibility of increased volatility in the financial market and its potential impact on the country's financial stability amid weak economic growth and high uncertainties at home and abroad. The Bank of Korea (BOK) made this point in its latest financial stability report, where it also called for close monitoring of real estate market risks and household borrowing, given the recent rise in housing prices in Seoul and the surrounding region, reports Yonhap news agency. "The South Korean financial system has generally stabilized, supported by the resilience of financial institutions and external payment capabilities. Amid high uncertainties and low economic growth, however, there is a chance that the volatility of financial market price variables could increase in the event of domestic or external shocks," the BOK said in the report.

**Trump contrasts India's
Aadhaar-EPIC linking with lax US voter identification**

New York, Mar 31 (IANS) : US President Donald Trump has cited India's requirement for voters to link their Aadhaar card with their Election Photo Identification Card (EPIC) as an example of a nation ensuring the integrity of its election and contrasted it with the lax US voter identification system. In an order on Monday requiring voters in federal elections to prove their citizenship, he compared the US and Indian practices, writing in the very first paragraph that India was "tying voter identification to a biometric database, while the United States largely relies on self-attestation."



**Denmark voices concern
over US intentions in Greenland
despite scaled-back visit**

Nuuk, Greenland, Mar 31 (IANS) : Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen expressed concern over ongoing tensions related to US activities in Greenland, despite the recent scaling back of Vice President JD Vance's planned visit.

**Putin to visit India, 'one of the
great powers of our time', soon : Lavrov**

Moscow, Mar 31 (IANS) : Citing that the political dialogue between India and Russia is "developing dynamically" and is facilitated by the fact that Moscow and New Delhi "have close or even coinciding views on the objectively emerging multipolar world order", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that preparations are being made for Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to India. "Relations between our countries have a long history. It can be said that they have stood the test of time more than once. Today, Russia and India are developing equal cooperation

based on sincere, mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests," Lavrov told the participants of the first international conference 'Russia and India: Towards a New Agenda for Bilateral Relations' which was also addressed by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar. "It is difficult to overestimate the contribution of our leaders to this process."



**UN experts seek release of
Baloch human rights defenders by Pak; end of crackdown on peaceful stirs**

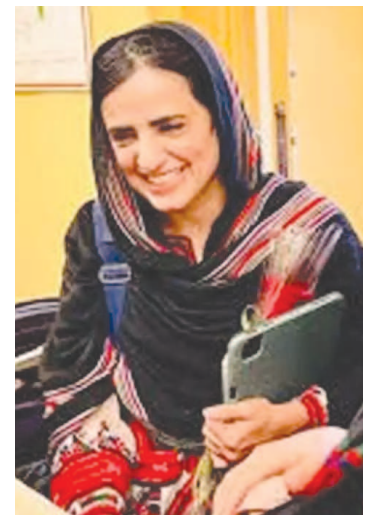
Geneva, Mar 31 (IANS) : The United Nations experts on Monday demanded that Pakistan release Balochistan human rights defenders and end the crackdown on peaceful protests. The human rights experts expressed concern for the welfare of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders Mahrang Baloch, Sammi Deen Baloch, and other human rights defenders detained

for staging peaceful protests. They highlighted an escalating series of brutal actions by the Pakistan police against the BYC, a network advocating for the rights of the minority Baloch community. In a statement issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the experts stated that the actions intensified after a massive attack by Baloch separatists on a passenger train on March 11, after which

several prominent Baloch human rights defenders from the BYC were allegedly arrested by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department or forcibly disappeared. "We have been monitoring with growing concern reports of alleged arrests and enforced disappearances of Baloch activists over the past number of months, and the violent incidents in the past few days have significantly increased our concerns," the experts said.

On March 21, Quetta Police stormed a peaceful BYC protest in front of the University of Balochistan calling for the release of detained and forcibly disappeared activists. Three people were reportedly shot and killed while others were injured, and dozens more were arrested. In response to this incident, BYC, including Mahrang Baloch, a woman human rights defender and a leader of the movement, organised a sit-in, with the bodies

of those killed in the police operation on March 21, to protest police violence. On March 22 morning, this demonstration on Sariab Road, Quetta, was raided by police, who used batons and tear gas to disperse protesters. Several BYC activists, including Mahrang Baloch, were detained. The whereabouts of Mahrang were reportedly unknown for nearly 12 hours, and she was allegedly denied access to family visits or legal counsel. Mahrang



and numerous other BYC members have been reportedly charged under sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act.



**Sudanese army declares
'Khartoum is free' from presidential palace**

Khartoum, Mar 31 (IANS) : Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council and commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), declared from inside the Presidential Palace in Khartoum that "Khartoum is free," referring to the end of the conflict between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces' control over the capital, according to Sudan TV. "Khartoum is free, and the matter is over," Al-Burhan said in a brief address on Monday, commending the Sudanese army soldiers and supporting forces who fought "intense battles" to expel the RSF and secure key state institutions.

Video footage broadcast by Sudan TV showed Al-Burhan walking through the Presidential Palace while surrounded by officers and soldiers from the military unit tasked with securing the palace. According to a statement from the sovereign council media, Al-Burhan arrived in Khartoum on Monday via helicopter, landing at Khartoum International Airport -- the first aircraft to touch down there since the conflict erupted in April 2023. He then inspected military units securing the airport before proceeding to the Presidential Palace.

**US wildfires lead to evacuations
as dozens of homes burnt in Carolinas**

New York, Mar 31 (IANS) : Wildfires sweeping through the US states of North and South Carolina have forced evacuations and prompted a state of emergency. In North Carolina's Polk County, the hardest-hit area, about 250 households have been evacuated, and at least 20 homes and outbuildings destroyed, according to Kellie Cannon, public information officer of the county. Firefighters have managed to save most of the structures near the fires. Only one injury has been reported -- a firefighter in North Carolina got his leg caught under a tree, officials said. The fires, fueled by dry conditions, strong winds, and

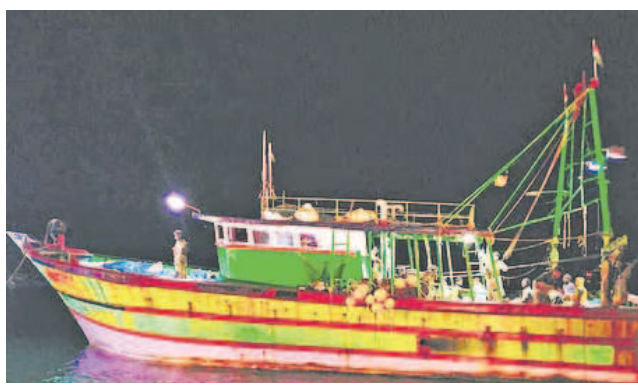
downed trees from Hurricane Helene, continue to spread. The hurricane, which struck North Carolina in late September 2024, left a trail of destruction and claimed hundreds of lives. Many people in the region still haven't recovered from the hurricanes, said Bo Dorsett, spokesman for the North Carolina Forest Service. Evacuations remain ongoing, as dry weather on Wednesday sparked more fires in western North Carolina. North Carolina Governor Josh Stein urged residents to stay alert, saying, "Please continue to pay attention to emergency alerts and evacuation orders if you need to leave your homes."



**WFP warns of malnutrition threats in
Afghanistan, 3.5 million children at risk in 2025**

Kabul, Mar 31 (IANS) : The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that in 2025 a whopping 3.5 million children in Afghanistan are at risk of malnutrition. The agency expressed concern over the huge number of children expected to be affected. Additionally, 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are suffering from malnutrition and urgently need treatment and nutrition support. "Once a child or a woman becomes malnourished, we

have to help them, or they risk worsening to severe malnutrition, which is a life-threatening situation. The mortality risk is very high for moderately malnourished children -- three times higher than for children who are not malnourished," says Mona Shaikh, Head of Nutrition for the WFP in Afghanistan. The UN agency in its report said that nearly one-third of Afghanistan's population -- up to 15 million people -- need emergency food assistance to survive.



Sri Lankan Navy arrests 11 TN fishermen, seize mechanised boat

Chennai, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Sri Lankan Navy on Monday arrested 11 fishermen from Tamil Nadu for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). According to officials from the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department, the arrested fishermen were taken to the Kangesuthurai Naval Camp in Sri Lanka. One mechanised fishing boat was also seized during the operation. This latest arrest comes on the heels of another incident where 13 Tamil fishermen, previously detained in January, were released and returned to Chennai late Wednesday night. Among them was 27-year-old Senthamizh from Karaikal, who sustained a gunshot wound to his right leg during the arrest when the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire. He was treated in Sri Lanka and, upon arrival in Chennai, was immediately taken by ambulance to MGM Private Hospital in Aminjikarai for further medical care. The group, which hailed from Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, and Karaikal, had been arrested on January 27 after their two fishing boats were intercepted by the Sri Lankan Coast Guard for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

Nitish Kumar responsible if Waqf Amendment Bill is passed: Prashant Kishor

Patna, Mar 31 (IANS) : Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor said on Monday that if the Waqf Amendment Bill is passed in Parliament, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar must be held directly responsible. While interacting with media persons in Patna on Wednesday, Kishor extended his support to the All India Muslim Personal Law Board's (AIMPLB) protest against the amendments in the bill. "I have supported the protest of AIMPLB against the Waqf Bill. This bill has been introduced multiple times in Parliament, creating discomfort among the Muslim community. If the bill is passed, Nitish Kumar will be responsible for it," Kishor said.



TN teachers' associations demand probe into POCSO cases against educators on exam duty

Chennai, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Teachers Joint Action Committee, comprising members from various teachers' associations, has demanded a thorough investigation into recent cases filed under the POCSO Act against teachers on exam duty. The demand follows multiple incidents, including the arrest of a 44-year-old teacher who was on invigilation duty for the Class 12 public examination in Krishnagiri. The teacher was reportedly taken into custody after a student accused him of misconduct. However, the associations claim that some teachers are being unfairly accused of harassment simply for reprimanding students caught engaging in malpractice during the examinations. In response, the committee has urged the School Education Department to install CCTV

cameras in all examination halls for Classes 10, 11, and 12. According to the associations, the installation of cameras would ensure transparency, safeguard both students and teachers, and help determine the facts in such incidents. R. Srinivasan, State Legal Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Headmasters' Association, reiterated the importance of CCTV surveillance. He said that it would be unfair if teachers are framed for misconduct while merely performing their duty and added that a proper probe has to be conducted to ascertain whether the teachers were being framed or not. The Directly Recruited Post Graduate Teachers' Association (DRPGTA) also weighed in, criticising the arrest in Krishnagiri as unjust and lacking proper evidence.

Man held for objectionable post against Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : A man has been arrested for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in Mumbai. The accused has been identified as 50-year-old Wajid Hazrat Momin. In a post on social media, Wajid said: "Don't know how Aurangzeb killed him, the painful screams are heard till date." Wajid has been booked for inciting religious sentiments. Malvani Police are conducting an investigation. On Monday, a journalist was arrested for derogatory remarks about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his son Chhatrapati Sambhaji. The accused, identified as Prashant Koratkar was arrested from Telangana. Koratkar was booked under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Kortakar was booked on the basis of his audio conversation with Kolhapur-based historian Indrajeet Sawant.



PM Modi to flag off train from Katra to Valley on April 19

Jammu, Mar 31 (IANS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the first train from Katra to the Valley on April 19 fulfilling the over 70-year-old dream of rail connectivity to Kashmir. The train will chug off from Katra town in Reasi district and will cross the Pir Panjal mountain range to reach Srinagar and then its final destination at Baramulla in north Kashmir. PM Modi will flag off the train

from Katra in the presence of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. At present, the train operates from Sangaldan to Baramulla. The Prime Minister is scheduled to land at Udhampur Army airport from New Delhi on the morning of April 19 and then fly to the world's highest railway bridge

over Chenab river in Reasi district. PM Modi will be briefed about the construction of the bridge, which is considered to be an engineering marvel. The Prime Minister will then reach the Mata Vaishno Devi base camp, Katra from where he will flag off the Vande Bharat train to the Valley. PM Modi will address a public rally at Katra before returning to Delhi in the afternoon. Railway officials said after completion of expansion work at

Jammu Railway Station, including increase in the number of platforms, the train to the Valley will start operations from Jammu, expectedly by July-August this year. "There will be no direct train from Delhi or any other part to Kashmir. The passengers will have to de-board at Katra and change the train. Later, the same process will shift to Jammu", officials said. Several trials of the train from Katra to Baramulla including that



of Vande Bharat Express have been successful and the security issues have also been addressed.

Out of the total 272 kms of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

8 years of Yogi govt: Exhibition in Prayagraj informs about schemes, women hail initiative

Prayagraj, Mar 31 (IANS) : As the Yogi government has completed eight years in Uttar Pradesh, a three-day exhibition has been organised to inform people about the welfare schemes at the District Panchayat Bhawan of Sangam city, Prayagraj. On the second day of the exhibition, beneficiaries of various government schemes along with Sakhis of many women's groups attended the programme. They

said that the schemes play an important role towards promoting women's empowerment and making women self-reliant. While talking to IANS, a female beneficiary praised the 'double engine government' of the state. She said, "The double engine government in the state has brought a lot of change in the lives of women. Earlier, women were not able to go out of their homes, but today women join many groups and go out of their homes and help



each other. Earlier, our financial condition was very bad, but now it has improved a lot. Earlier, there was only one earning member in the family, due to which there were difficulties in the education of children, but now we are also

earning. This has improved the financial condition of the family. I appeal to all women to come out of their homes and join groups. Everyone should come forward to help each other."

Manipur Police arrest six militants, three smugglers, seize drugs worth Rs 3.15 crore

Imphal, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Manipur Police have arrested six militants of different outfits and seized a cache of arms and ammunition, officials said here on Monday. The police also seized drugs worth Rs 3.15 crore and arrested three smugglers, the officials said. A police official said that two cadres of the proscribed outfit People's Liberation Army (PLA) were arrested from Imphal West district on Wednesday night. Two more militants of People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) (Pro) outfit and an active member of Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) were arrested from Imphal East district. The police also arrested a militant of the Koirang-led United National Liberation Front (UNLF-K) from Tengenoupal district. The arrested militants were

involved in abduction, forcible collection of money from traders, officials, contractors, and issuing threat notices to people. Several two-wheelers, mobile sets, sharp-edged weapons, incriminating documents and various other materials were recovered from the militants. Manipur Police arrested three drug peddlers from Imphal East district and recovered 10.5 kg of heroin valued at Rs 3.15 crore from their possession. The drugs, suspected to be smuggled from Myanmar, were contained in 880 soap cases. A car in which the smugglers were travelling was also seized. Manipur has around 400 km of unfenced border with Myanmar. The police also recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including AK series rifles and Self-Loading Rifles.



Governance has undergone a massive overhaul : Assam CM

Guwahati, Mar 31 (IANS) : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the governance has experienced a massive overhaul in the last few years and the administration has become citizen-centric for the welfare of the people. While interacting with a new batch of IAS officer trainees, CM Sarma mentioned in an X post, "It was a delight to hear their field experiences and aspirations. I emphasised the fact that governance has undergone a massive change and bureaucracy is required to deliver in a proactive, 24by7 citizen-centric mode.

Two children die of food poisoning at govt-run home in Lucknow; 23 others hospitalised

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Two children tragically lost their lives due to suspected food poisoning at the Nirvana Rajkiya Bal Grah, a government-run children's home in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on Monday. The incident has also left 23 other children hospitalised, with two in critical condition being referred to King George's Medical University (KGMU) for further treatment. The children were reportedly admitted to Lok Bandhu Hospital after their condition deteriorated. Dr. Rajiv Dixit, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) of Lok Bandhu Hospital, said, "It's dif-



Ashok Leyland wins Rs 700 crore worth orders to supply vehicles to Army

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Hinduja Group company Ashok Leyland announced on Monday that its defence business has won multiple orders valued at more than Rs 700 crore to supply vehicles to the Army.

The vehicles to be supplied under these orders are to fulfil the defence sector's needs for troop transportation, logistics, and other specialised mobility requirements under the Close-in Weapon Systems (CIWS)

programme. The recently awarded contracts encompass a diverse range of specialised vehicles, including the Stallion 4x4, Stallion 6x6, Short Chassis Bus, and Mobility System Travelling Platform. These vehicles combine superior reliability with exceptional off-road capability, ensuring seamless manoeuvrability across the country's most demanding terrains, meeting a variety of operational requirements, according to a company statement.

Ashok Leyland MD & CEO

Shenu Agarwal said, "We are immensely proud to have secured these new orders, which reaffirm the company's commitment to deliver cutting-edge solutions for the armed forces. The defence business remains a key pillar of Ashok Leyland's future growth."

Amandeep Singh, president of Ashok Leyland's defence Business, said, "As a proud proponent of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', we are committed to strengthening India's defence capabilities through indigenous design and manufacturing



in the Defence mobility sector. Our vehicle platforms, ranging from 4x4 to 12x12, packed with contemporary defence-specific requirements, including armouring, are known for their

versatility and durability. We take immense pride in supporting our forces and remain committed to delivering these orders on time. Our future Defence order and tender



90 pc of Indian CEOs optimistic about prioritising investments in operations, acquisitions

New Delhi, March 31 (IANS) : About 90 per cent of Indian CEOs believe that investments in existing operations and new areas through joint ventures and mergers and acquisitions are critical for growth, a report showed on Monday. Indian CEOs are more confident than their global counterpart on cost of doing business, revenue and competitive position, according to the latest EY-Parthenon CEO Outlook Survey: Global Confidence Index 2025. They are very optimistic that they can successfully reimagine their business model for the future through transformation. The survey also found that 86 per cent CEOs recognise the pivotal role of emerging technologies, marking them as a key investment priority for the next 12 months, while 90 per cent believe successful AI adoption and workforce upskilling will define industry leaders.

Samsung likely to report decline in operating profit for Q1 : Report

Seoul, March 31 (IANS) : Samsung is expected to report a decline in operating profit for the first quarter, largely due to weak semiconductor performance, a report said on Monday. The company's operating profit for the January-March period is projected to reach 4.7 trillion won (\$3.2 billion), down 27.8 percent from a year ago and also down 26.6 percent from the previous quarter, according to a recent analysis by Yonhap Infomax of earnings forecasts from various brokerage firms.

This, if realised, would mark the third consecutive quarter of a drop in profits for

Samsung Electronics. Its operating profit fell from 10.4 trillion won in the second quarter of 2024 to 9.2 trillion won in the third quarter and to 6.5 trillion won for the fourth quarter, reports Yonhap news agency. The downturn is attributable to lacklustre performance in the company's flagship semiconductor business.

Sluggish demand for information technology (IT) devices and intensified competition in the global memory market weighed heavily on Samsung Electronics, which depends highly on conventional memory chip sales.



Hyundai Motor to hire top-tier foreign engineering talent

Seoul, March 31 (IANS) : Hyundai Motor said on Monday it will open a global recruitment programme this week to secure top-tier overseas talent across various fields of engineering.

The company plans to open the program for hiring overseas engineering Ph.D. holders, as well as an internship program for foreign university students studying in South Korea and a separate one for overseas bachelor's and master's degree holders on Tuesday. The recruitment programme for overseas Ph.D. holders will be open to individuals who hold or are set to earn a doctoral degree in engineering fields by August 2026, reports Yonhap news agency. Key research areas

include artificial intelligence and data, battery technology, hydrogen fuel cells, smart factory systems, robotics, advanced air mobility (AAM) and cybersecurity.

The company will conduct application screening in May, followed by an interview in June. Finalists will be invited to the company's Namyang Research & Development Center in South Korea, where they will undergo a final interview process.

The internship programmes will comprise five-week training in July and August. Those who perform well will be offered full-time employment. Applications will be made available at the company's official recruitment website (<http://talent.hyundai.com>). "Hyundai

Motor is committed to strengthening its global competitiveness by actively securing talent with high potential and expertise," a company official said.

Meanwhile, more than half of South Korea's top 100 companies paid their employees an average annual salary of more than 100 million won (\$67,981) in 2024, industry data showed on Monday. An analysis by Yonhap News Agency of the latest business reports from the 100 largest non-financial firms by sales showed that 55 companies had an average annual employee salary of over 100 million won last year. Last year's tally marks a sixfold increase from nine companies in 2019.

Foreign investors pump Rs 31,000 crore into Indian stocks as market rebounds

Mumbai, Mar 31 (IANS) : Foreign investors have injected nearly Rs 31,000 crore into Indian equity markets in the last six trading sessions of March, according to the latest depository data. This surge in investment is mainly due to attractive stock valuations.



Early April critical for investors' sentiment amid key economic data

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Early April will be critical for market sentiment, with key economic data releases providing insights into global manufacturing, employment trends and economic activity, a report showed on Monday.

As April begins, the focus will shift to the United States, with the S&P Global Manufacturing PMI reflecting business sentiment and industrial output. Auto companies will also release their numbers for the month of March. "On April 2, India's S&P Global Manufacturing PMI will indicate domestic manufacturing trends, while the US ADP Non-farm Employment Change report will provide a preview of private-sector job growth ahead of the official labour market data," said Bajaj Broking Research in a note. On March 31, China's Chinese Composite PMI and Manufacturing PMI for March will offer insights into the country's economic health, manufacturing activity, and demand trends, which could influence global markets, particularly commodities and industrial sectors.

India targets 100 GW nuclear energy by 2047, opens sector to private players

New Delhi, March 31 (IANS) : The recently announced nuclear mission aims to generate 100 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear energy by 2047, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh told the Parliament on Monday.

Addressing the Rajya Sabha, the MoS said this constitutes 10 per cent of India's total energy needs. To achieve this, the government has taken a bold step by opening the nuclear sector to private players. Dr Singh said the move was "previously considered unthinkable". "This is a historic decision that breaks past taboos. The nuclear programme has traditionally operated behind a veil of secrecy, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have now paved the way for private sector participation," he stated. Calling it "a groundbreaking initiative".



India least exposed to US tariffs due to domestic demand strength : Morgan Stanley

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : When it comes to the ratio of goods exports to GDP in the wake of US trade tariffs, India and Japan are the least exposed economies owing to domestic demand strength, a Morgan Stanley report said on Monday. The ratio of goods exports to GDP is the most important metric; it determines the extent of trade orientation of the economies. This allows global research firms to assess which economy will face more downward pressures on growth. "India and Japan — these economies have robust tailwinds from domestic demand strength as an offset and relatively lower ratios of goods exports to GDP," the report mentioned. The US has also implemented 25 per cent tariffs

on auto imports. The report said that the imposition of 25 per cent tariffs on auto and auto parts will affect Japan and Korea the most, as auto exports to US account for 7 per cent of their exports. On April 2, the US administration is likely to propose a plan for addressing reciprocity in trade relations. The US administration also continues to signal that it will impose sectoral tariffs on energy, pharmaceuticals.

Gujarat to introduce new body to oversee fisheries sector under new amendment bill

Gandhinagar, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Gujarat Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, set to be introduced in the on-going Assembly session, aims to establish the Fisheries Port and Aquaculture Development Authority. An official said that this newly proposed body will be responsible for the development, regulation, and management

of the fisheries sector, with a special focus on aquaculture, as discussed in the Gujarat Vidhansabha on Monday. He said that the bill seeks to amend the Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003, by introducing new definitions that emphasise the importance of aquaculture, which includes fish, shrimp, prawn, and seaweed farming in fresh, brackish, and saltwater environments. He added that it also defines key

aspects of aquaculture business operations, such as harvest and post-harvest activities, equipment usage, infrastructure development, and licensing requirements. He said that the key objectives of the amendment include establishing a specialised authority to oversee fisheries and aquaculture management, integrating fishing port management with aquaculture develop-

ment for a more systematic approach, ensuring the sustainable growth of Gujarat's fisheries sector by regulating licensing, quality control, and infrastructure support, and boosting seafood exports while strengthening the economy by providing financial assistance and policy guidance. The official said that the Fisheries Port and Aquaculture Development Authority will



have extensive powers to conduct surveys and research on aquaculture trends, regulate aquaculture licensing, infrastructure, and quality control, promote skill development programs for farmers and entrepreneurs, and oversee the construction and management of fisheries harbor terminals.

Rajasthan Dy CM Prem Chand Bairwa gets death threat from Jaipur jail

Jaipur, Mar 31 (IANS) : Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa received a death threat here on Monday, the police said. An unidentified man called the Jaipur Police Control Room and issued the threat. The duty officer immediately informed senior police officers about the incident. Upon investigation, the call was traced to a mobile phone located inside the Jaipur Central Jail. Following this, the East District Police and Line Force, in coordination with the Jail Department, launched a search operation inside the prison. Rajasthan Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader, Tika Ram Jolly, has said, "It is deeply concerning that the Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Prem Chand Bairwa.



Always tried to embrace challenges : Jyotiraditya Scindia

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, citing his studies in Harvard, said that he had always tried to embrace challenges and advised students to move out of their comfort zones and explore new things, if they wanted to grow. Addressing the NDTV Yuva Conclave, the Union Minister also spoke of the crucial role of young Indians in building a developed India (Viksit Bharat). "I have always tried to embrace challenges. If I am here to give you any advice, I will give you just one - always step out of your comfort zone. The environment where you feel comfortable, the job where you feel settled - your exponential growth will happen only when you step out of your comfort zone," said the Union

Minister while addressing the conclave. Reflecting on his time at Harvard, he recalled how his parents were initially hesitant about him studying abroad, fearing the challenges he might face. "My father and mother were not very keen on me going abroad. They feared I might struggle or feel distant from home. I had a curiosity within me, but I was also scared; it was a different country. Though I had been in a boarding school before, this was even farther away. I applied on my own, and I was fortunate to get into one of the world's best institutions," he said. Scindia also pointed out that in India, students memorised textbooks for marks, while abroad, professors focused on students' analysis and thoughts.



Recruited 4,656 teachers to provide quality education: Tripura CM

Agartala, Mar 31 (IANS) : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Monday said that the state government has taken various significant steps to provide quality education to students and recruited 4,656 teachers in the last five financial years. Answering questions of the MLAs in the Tripura Assembly session, the Chief Minister said that to provide better education, 'Nipun Mission' was launched in the state on

November 18, 2022. The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) is a program launched by the Union Ministry of Education to ensure that all children in India have foundational literacy and numeracy skills by the end of Grade 3. Saha, who also holds the Education portfolio, said that as part of the government's steps to improve the quality of education, 10,182 primary teachers have been

trained as 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' teachers under the 'Nipun Tripura Mission'. "As a result, activity-based teaching has commenced in schools," he claimed. He said that additionally, 200 Block Resource Persons and Cluster Resource Persons have been trained as master trainers to equip all primary teachers in the state for the implementation of Nipun Tripura.

SC trashes PIL seeking probe into Karnataka 'honey trap' scandal

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking an independent probe into Karnataka Minister for Cooperation K.N. Rajanna's claim that political rivals tried to "honey trap him". Refusing to entertain the plea, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta asked the PIL litigant's counsel to explain as to how a non-Karnataka resident was concerned with the affairs of Karnataka. Ultimately, the apex court dismissed the PIL seeking an investigation into the alleged honey trap scandal to be either monitored by the Supreme Court itself or by a committee headed by a retired top court judge. Last Thursday, Senior Minister Rajanna, on the



floor of the state Assembly, admitted that he had fallen victim to a honey trap, further claiming that over 48 politicians across Karnataka and the country had been trapped similarly. On March 24, the PIL was mentioned for urgent hearing before Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, who assured listing the matter in a day or two. After Rajanna's claim and the state opposition BJP's demand for an investigation into the issue, state Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced that a high-level probe would be conducted.



Oppn slams Maha govt for taking up Aurangzeb grave and Kamra show, bypassing core issues

Mumbai, Mar 31 (IANS) : After the conclusion of the four-week budget session of the Maharashtra Legislature on Monday, the opposition strongly criticised the Mahayuti government for devoting more time to the Aurangzeb grave or Kunal Kamra show, bypassing the core issues during the session. The opposition legislators comprising Jayant Patil, Nana Patole, Bhaskar Jadhav and Jitendra Awhad also criticised the ruling alliance for disrupting the House proceedings and its attempt to undermine the opposition due to their smaller numbers. They also claimed that less time was devoted to

opposition during various debates and also taking up calling attention motions. "The Constitution that we discussed in the legislature for two days is being repeatedly trampled upon. I have been working in the legislature for 36 years now. I have seen the Congress party, which had a huge majority, but the Congress party has never done anything to suppress the voice of the opposition. Giving due share to the opposition is the responsibility of the ruling party, which is not being followed now," claimed NCP-SP legislator Jayant Patil. "Even though we are few in number, it was our responsibility to raise issues of various sections as their representatives.

K'taka: BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal expelled over party discipline breach

Bengaluru, March 31 (IANS) : Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA from Bijapur City in Karnataka, has been expelled from the party for six years due to his repeated violations of party discipline and controversial remarks against senior party leaders, including former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. The expulsion was announced by the BJP's Central Disciplinary Committee in a letter issued.



Govt tough against travel agents, says Haryana CM

Chandigarh, Mar 31 (IANS) : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday that the state government has taken stringent action against travel agents involved in sending youth abroad through illegal means. A total of 127 cases have been registered, and action has been taken against 102 agents, with eight travel agents arrested. The Chief Minister was speaking during the discussion on the Haryana Travel Agents Registration and

Regulation Bill, 2025, presented during the Budget session in the Assembly here. He said the Bill, which was later passed in the Assembly, aims to protect the youth from exploitation, ensuring transparency, accountability of travel agents, and the investigation and curbing of illegal activities. The Chief Minister added that the state government's intention "is clear that stringent action will be taken against travel agents who facilitate illegal migration". He said that with the introduction of three new criminal laws, some

sections were revised. "This Bill is now being reintroduced with strengthened provisions to safeguard the youth from exploitation," he added, before tabling the Bill.



Houthis vow to continue pro-Gaza operations despite US strikes

Aden, Mar 31 (IANS) : Yemen's Houthi militants said that the ongoing US military attacks will not deter their operations in support of Gaza, as tensions in the Red Sea continue to escalate. In a televised address on Monday night marking "National Resilience Day", commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Saudi-led coalition's initial airstrikes, Mahdi Al Mashat, chairman of the Houthis' Supreme Political Council, delivered a defiant message challenging the ongoing US military operations in Yemen. Al Mashat directly addressed US President Donald Trump, asserting that "the entirety of your presidential term would be

insufficient to dissuade us". "Your decision to attack our country will not succeed in halting our operations supporting Gaza," he said. Al Mashat criticised US foreign policy, describing the military actions against Yemen as "reckless" and lacking legitimacy. He called on the international community to adopt a unified stance against what he termed "American aggression" and "Zionist crimes". The Houthi leader emphasised the group's preparedness to respond to potential attacks, saying they have multiple options to protect their territorial integrity. The Houthi-controlled media reported that US warplanes conducted 17 airstrikes in the past 24 hours, targeting their strongholds in Saada and Amran provinces in



northern Yemen. The Houthis claimed these strikes caused material damage to civilian property, though specific casualty details were not provided, Xinhua news agency reported. In mid-March, Trump ordered the US military to launch "decisive and powerful military action" against the Houthi militia, after the latter announced their plans to resume attacks on Israeli ships in the Red Sea, citing Israel's blockade of aid to the Gaza Strip. The Houthis on Wednesday said that they had launched fresh attacks on a US aircraft carrier in the Red Sea and "military targets" in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv.

China urges US not to project its 'hegemonic logic' onto China

Beijing, Mar 31 (IANS) : China urges the United States not to project its hegemonic logic onto China or view China-US relations through an outdated Cold War mentality, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in Beijing on Monday. Guo made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a media query on a US report that claimed China was the United States' top military and cyber threat.



India-EU ties in focus: Ambassador Saurabh Kumar meets MEP Angelika Niebler

Brussels, Mar 31 (IANS) : Focussing on enhancing India-European Union ties, Ambassador of India to the EU, Saurabh Kumar on Monday met Angelika Niebler, Member of European Parliament (MEP) and Chair of Delegation for Relations with India, following her visit to India for Raisina Dialogue. During their meeting, they discussed opportunities to strengthen parliamentary cooperation through high-level interactions after the European Commission visited India last month. They exchanged views on the latest political developments in Europe and across the globe.



Odisha: BJP launches attack on Oppn for disrupting Assembly proceedings

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31 (IANS) : The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday lashed out at the opposition Congress alleging that the party has been instructed by its high command in Delhi to stall the proceedings of the Assembly till March 27 in view of their proposed rally before the state Assembly. Speaking to the mediapersons here on Wednesday, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan also alleged that the opposition BJD and Congress have been disrupting the house since the last 13 days for their political gains. He alleged that both the Congress and BJD had failed to provide justice to the victims in many women atrocity-related cases during their rule in the state in the past.

Centre notifies appointment of 4 lawyers as Rajasthan HC judges

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday notified the appointment of 4 judges of the Rajasthan High Court, though the Supreme Court Collegium had approved the proposal to elevate 7 advocates to the Bench. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint S/Shri (i) Anand Sharma, (ii) Sunil Beniwal, (iii) Mukesh Rajpurohit and (iv) Sandeep Shah to be Judges of the Rajasthan High Court, in that order of seniority, with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices," said a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. In its meeting held on March 5, the SC Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, recommended the appointment of 7 advocates as judges of the Rajasthan High Court. "The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on 05th March, 2025 has approved the proposal for appointment of the following Advocates, as Judges of the Rajasthan High Court: (i) Shri Anand Sharma, (ii) Shri Sunil Beniwal, (iii) Shri Sandeep Taneja, (iv) Shri Mukesh Rajpurohit, (v) Shri Sandeep Shah, (vi) Shri Baljinder Singh Sandhu, and (vii) Ms. Sheetal Mirdha," said a statement uploaded on



the website of the apex court. The proposal to elevate advocates Taneja, Sandhu, and Mirdha is yet to be acted upon by the Centre. Earlier in the day, the Union government notified the appointment of three permanent judges to the Punjab and Haryana High Court and extended the term of three additional judges of the Chhattisgarh High Court for a year following the recommendations made by the apex court Collegium. In November 2023, the Supreme Court had remarked that the Centre's selective 'pick and choose' approach in appointments of judges to the higher ju-

diciary "doesn't send a good signal". A bench headed by Justice S.K. Kaul (now retired) had said that if a candidate did not know what seniority they would have on becoming a judge, it became difficult to persuade other eligible and deserving candidates. Earlier, the top court had warned the Centre of "an unpalatable order" if it delayed and continued to have the selective 'pick and choose' approach in notifying the appointment or transfer of judges after recommendations were forwarded by the SC Collegium.



Faux pas by Mar Thoma Church Secretary announcing 'death' of priest leads to protest

Thiruvalla (Kerala), March 31 (IANS) : An error that took place due to a communication gap left the Thiruvalla-headquartered Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Kerala in a spot of bother.



Rwanda tackles malnutrition with food safety, quality improvement campaign

Kigali (Rwanda), Mar 31 (IANS) : Rwanda has launched an awareness campaign aimed at improving the quality of locally produced food products. Running from March 31 to March 28, the nationwide initiative seeks to enhance food safety standards and combat malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable popula-

tions. Ensuring compliance with safety standards is critical, said Emmanuel Gatera, manager of the National Standards Division at the Rwanda Standards Board, during an awareness session on Monday in Rusizi district, Western Province. "People need to consume products that meet safety and quality requirements," he said. According to Gatera, through government-led quality enhancement

programs, fish processors receive support and training to meet regulatory standards, ensuring food safety for all consumers. Amza Kagombe, project manager of Peche Project Cyanguu, a fish-processing company in Rusizi District, highlighted the strides made in fish processing to enhance nutrition.



Pakistan's Baloch party announces long march against illegal detention of BYC leaders

Quetta, Mar 31 (IANS) : Against the illegal detention of Pakistan's Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders and activists, including Mahrang Baloch and Sammi Deen Baloch, amid a brutal police crackdown, the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) has announced a long march from Wadh to Quetta on March 31. The march will be led by BNP-M President Akhtar Mengal, local media reported. According to the party statement the decision to organise a long march was taken during the BNP-M's central executive committee meeting. The party condemned the Pakistani police crackdown on Baloch women.

South Korean appeals court acquits opposition leader of election law violation charges

Seoul, Mar 31 (IANS) : South Korean appeals court on Monday acquitted opposition leader Lee Jae-myung of lying as a presidential candidate during the 2022 election, overturning a lower court's sentence of a suspended prison term. The decision by the Seoul High Court removed a major legal hurdle for Lee, as a suspended prison term, if finalized, would have stripped him of his parliamentary seat and barred him from running in the next presidential election. The appellate ruling can still be overturned by the Su-

preme Court. "I thank the court for delivering a proper ruling based on the truth and justice," Lee told reporters. "I hope the prosecution will now reflect on their actions and refrain from wasting any more national energy." The leader of the main opposition Democratic Party has been considered the presidential front-runner, particularly in the event the Constitutional Court upholds the impeachment of suspended South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, which would trigger a snap presidential election within 60 days.



J&K: Over 46,800 homes built under PMAY-G in Poonch, beneficiaries share their stories

Poonch, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAY-G) has brought a significant change to the lives of poor families in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, with 46,800 houses built so far under the scheme.

Beneficiaries, who once lived in fragile mud houses, are now grateful for their new concrete homes, thanks to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central government's focus on rural development.

In areas like Noorkot, situated near the Line of Control (LoC), more than fifty concrete houses

have been constructed, offering relief to families who had previously struggled with leaking roofs and sleepless nights during rainy seasons. Many of these families now find themselves with safe, permanent homes, a change they never thought possible.

Assistant Commissioner, Development, Shafiq Ahmed, shared that the target for this year's PMAY-G scheme in Poonch was to construct 49,200 houses. So far, 46,800 homes have been completed, with the remaining ones expected to be finished within a week. IANS spoke to some of the beneficiaries, who shared their

experiences. Zainab Kors, one of the beneficiaries, said: "We received this house under the PMAY-G scheme. Earlier, we faced many issues with our mud house, especially during the rains. Now, thanks to the Central government's help, we have a pucca house. This is a blessing for the poor."

Wahid Khan, another beneficiary, added: "We once lived in a mud house, but with this scheme, we now have a concrete house. I want to thank PM Modi because we didn't have such a home before. We are truly happy."



Centre extends term of 3 additional judges in Chhattisgarh HC

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Centre on Monday extended the term of three additional judges of the Chhattisgarh High Court for a year following the recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint S/Shri Justices (i) Sachin Singh Rajput, (ii) Radhakishan Agrawal, and (iii) Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal, Additional Judges of the High Court of Chhattisgarh, to be Additional Judges of that High Court for a period of one year w.e.f. 16.05.2025, 02.08.2025, and 01.05.2025, re-

spectively," said a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

Last week, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna-led SC Collegium had recommended the extension of the term of these three additional judges of the Chhattisgarh HC for a year.

"The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on 19th March 2025 has resolved to recommend that S/Shri Justices (i) Sachin Singh Rajput, (ii) Radhakishan Agrawal, and (iii) Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal, be appointed as Additional Judges of High Court of Chhattisgarh for a fresh term of one year," said a statement uploaded on the official website of

the apex court. The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Courts are to be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution. Additional Judges can be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution.

The Chief Justice, while sending his recommendation for appointing an additional Judge as a permanent Judge, must, along with his recommendation, furnish statistics of month-wise disposal of cases and judgments rendered by the judge concerned as well as the number of cases reported in the Law Journal, duly certified, by them.



Gujarat: SITCO invites proposals for Rs 226 crore Surat multi-modal transport hub development

Surat, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Surat Integrated Transportation Development Corporation (SITCO) has invited proposals via e-tendering for granting sub-lease-hold rights for the mixed-use development, operation, and maintenance of a 2,08,975 sqm vertical space above the GSRTC bus terminal at the Surat Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH).

Those who consider Shiv Sainiks as trash have not recovered from the high voltage shock: Eknath Shinde

Mumbai, Mar 31 (IANS) : Shiv Sena leader and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, on Monday, led a scathing attack against the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena-UBT, saying that everyone has abandoned those who consider ordinary Shiv Sainiks as garbage, and that they have not yet recovered from the high-voltage shock caused by the electricity generated from garbage.

While responding to the final week's Motion in the Legislative Council, Deputy Chief Minister Shinde, without naming Uddhav Thackeray, claimed that the latter put the Shiv Sena founded by late Balasaheb Thackeray in the dustbin.

He warned the Uddhav Thackeray faction not to repeatedly target him as he knows many secrets that he will expose. "No matter how many defamation campaigns are launched by giving 'supari' (contract), it will not make any difference to me. It is unfortunate that such people are taking support from some hypocrites. One day, the party (Shiv



Sena-UBT) will have to be closed after being called as traitors. Those who are sleeping peacefully by lighting torches must have become wiser due to the election results," the Deputy CM said. "The Election Commission, the Supreme Court and the Assembly Speaker have decided who the traitor is," he added.

Deputy CM Shinde said that the people's court, which is above all of them, has also decided who the traitor is and who is the self-serving one. He criticised that one cannot tell the legacy of a party by looking in the mirror.

"The people have ended the season of those who give reasons in the elections. The wheel of the Opposition's car has been punctured. The Opposition is focused on when there will be a fight in the ruling grand alliance.



Chennai chain snatching accused killed in police firing: Commissioner claims self-defence

Chennai, Mar 31 (IANS) : Following the death of an alleged chain snatcher in police firing, Greater Chennai City Police Commissioner, A. Arun, stated on Monday that the cops fired in self-defence.

Commissioner A. Arun said that the accused in a chain snatching case, identified as Jaffar, opened fire on the cops and was killed in retaliatory firing.

Kerala's new BJP chief Chandrasekhar faces first test - finding who is behind smear poster campaign

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 31 (IANS) : Two days after former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar took over as the BJP's new Kerala unit president, the first issue for him to confront surfaced on Monday - a poster campaign against the party's former

Thiruvananthapuram district President V.V. Rajesh. Numerous posters were pasted in and around the state BJP office in the state capital city and in front of Rajesh's home, demanding that an Enforcement Directorate probe should be launched into his financial details over the past one de-

cade. They also alleged that the main reason why Chandrasekhar went down to three-time Congress MP Shashi Tharoor in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha during the 2024 Parliamentary elections was the foul play enacted by Rajesh, who took money from the Congress leaders to ensure that

Chandrasekhar didn't win. Chandrasekhar reacted by saying that if this has been done by BJP workers, then strict action will be taken. Meanwhile, Rajesh has approached the police to find out those behind this smear poster campaign. The state unit of the BJP is deeply faction-ridden, and the choice of Chandrasekhar as the next state chief, in itself, has been the game plan of the national leadership of the party.



Will nominate those workers in upcoming polls who contributed to NCP's growth: Ajit Pawar

Mumbai, Mar 31 (IANS) : The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday announced that the party



CBI raids: Ex-Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel terms searches at official residence illegal; slams BJP

Raipur, Mar 31 (IANS) : After CBI's reported departure from Raipur, former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has come down heavily on the agency and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government. In a series of posts on X, he said: "It has come to my attention that the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) visited my 'government residence' in Raipur. I was neither informed about this visit nor was I notified by the officers who arrived at

my Bhilai residence. Entering my official residence without my knowledge or consent is a blatant overreach. Is the BJP orchestrating a conspiracy through the CBI?"

The former chief minister further said on his post, "the CBI claims their visit was linked to the

Mahadev Satta App. Interestingly, this app was virtually unknown across the country until our Congress government took decisive action against it during my tenure as Chief Minister". He also told reporters that the CBI took away three of his mobile phones.

Increased defence spending won't affect welfare state : Spanish PM

Madrid, Mar 31 (IANS) : Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday pledged that increases in defence spending would not mean cuts to social services or the Welfare State. Speaking in the Spanish Congress, Sanchez addressed the need for Europe to raise its spending on defence due to doubts over the United States' commitment to European defense under a Trump Presidency. He explained that "the development of global peace is more necessary than ever," insisting that

"the leadership of the EU is vital," while lamenting that at the moment "Europe lacks a common policy for defence and security." The Spanish leader believes it is vital to "establish the basis for a European army," an "armed forces with the same flag and interests," which is able to deal with military and cyber threats, as well as the consequences of climate change, Xinhua news agency reported. "We aren't going to attack any territory, but we are going to protect our way of life," said the Spanish leader, adding that this also meant

defending the Welfare State. "I want our citizens to be clear that while I am Prime Minister, this effort in security will not be made to the detriment of our Welfare State," said Sanchez, who also made an appeal for the US government to change its mind over defense and tariffs. "We ask for the United States to reconsider and to talk. Europe is a World power and will respond like a power. We don't want a trade war, but we are negotiating an intelligent joint response," he said.

Meanwhile, Hungary is currently hosting a major military exercise of the European Union, involving more than 900 troops from 11 member states. The exercise, dubbed 'MILEX 2025', runs from March 25 to April 10 and aims to test the EU Battlegroups' land-based operational capabilities under real-life conditions. Hungary's media described it as "the largest" of the bloc. Training is taking place at the Papa Air Base and Hungary's Central Shooting and Training Range, where soldiers conduct



live-fire drills and tactical operations using advanced technology and procedures. The exercise is overseen by the multinational EUROCORPS command. Participating troops come from Hungary, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Spain, France, Croatia, Lithuania, and Latvia.



UN chief welcomes agreement on freedom of navigation in Black Sea

United Nations, Mar 31 (IANS) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the commitments reached by the United States, Russia and Ukraine in Saudi Arabia on freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, and viewed the move "a crucial contribution to global food security and supply chains," his spokesman said. The United States has reached agreement with Russia and Ukraine to ensure safe navigation, eliminate the use of force, and prevent the use of commercial vessels for military purposes in the Black Sea, the White House said on Monday. The agreement followed separate technical-level talks between US and Ukrainian delegations, as well as between US and Russian delegations, held from March 23 to 25 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Xinhua news agency reported. "Reaching an agreement on freedom of navigation in the Black Sea to ensure the protection of civilian vessels and port infrastructure will be a crucial contribution to global food security."

Some Sudan market bombing casualties dying from lack of care : UN humanitarian

United Nations, Mar 31 (IANS) : Some of the injured from a market bombing, which caused hundreds of casualties in Sudan's North Darfur State, are dying from lack of medical care, UN humanitarian said on citing reports. "Our humanitarian colleagues tell us that there are disturbing reports that some of the injured are dying due to lack of access to timely medi-

cal care in El Fasher, where ongoing siege and hostilities have forced most health facilities to just shut down," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at a daily briefing on Monday. Dujarric reported that the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said, "Monday's horrific attack on the Tora market in North Darfur.



Multiple US airstrikes hit Yemen's Houthi-held capital Sanaa

Sanaa, Mar 31 (IANS) : The US military conducted multiple airstrikes on Yemen's Houthi-held capital Sanaa, residents said. According to the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, three airstrikes targeted the Jarban area in the Sanhan district.

Egypt, Qatar discuss resuming, implementing Gaza ceasefire deal over phone

Cairo, Mar 31 (IANS) : Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani held phone talks on Monday, during which they discussed efforts to resume and implement the Gaza ceasefire deal. According to a statement published by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the two sides exchanged opinions over paving the road to an early recovery and reconstruction of Gaza to ensure settling the Palestinians on their land. They agreed to continue coordinating to ease the regional escalation and prevent further regional tensions, the statement said. The two sides also stressed the importance of joint work to reach a political settlement

that ensures regional stability, by establishing a Palestinian state as a final solution to the conflict, the statement said, Xinhua news agency reported.

A phased ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas took effect on January 19 after 15 months of Israel's devastating assault on Gaza.



Yunus had no plans to visit India before China: Former diplomat

New Delhi, Mar 31 (IANS) : Veena Sikri, a former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, on Monday stated that reports of Bangladesh interim government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus desiring to visit India before China are incorrect as he has not expressed any such interest in the recent past. Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of a two-day conference in New Delhi on 'Impli-

cations of the Political Turmoil in Bangladesh', the former diplomat stated that, unlike many countries, India always wants to maintain a good relationship with its neighbours. "Yunus has expressed no interest in visiting India. He has never asked to visit India. In fact, even his foreign advisor Touhid Hossain has already been to China and shown no interest in visiting India. They have expressed no interest in seriously discussing any of the

so-called problems, which they are saying are problems between India and Bangladesh, but then they should be discussed," she Sikri. Asserting that India and Bangladesh are very important neighbours, the former diplomat stated India has always wanted to have a good relationship with Bangladesh as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first leaders to send a message after the formation of the interim government in the country, last August. India wished them well

and expressed a desire to continue the relationship. "At the same time, India has also raised concerns about the condition of minorities in Bangladesh under the Yunus-led interim government. It has gone from bad to worse," she said. Sikri stated that there is a complete degradation of the law and order



situation in Bangladesh with the economic situation of the country also very volatile currently.

Hezbollah rejects normalisation with Israel, condemns Israeli violation in Lebanon

Beirut, Mar 31 (IANS) : Hezbollah Secretary-General, Sheikh Naim Qassem, reaffirmed that Lebanon will not accept any normalisation of ties with Israel, and condemned Israel's ongoing violations in southern Lebanon. Speaking at the Jerusalem Forum, Qassem emphasised that "Hezbollah and the Lebanese resistance have stood firm, preventing Israel from achieving its objectives in Lebanon," emphasising that normalisation remains off the table, Xinhua news agency reported quoting al-Manar TV channel. He reiterated Hezbollah's commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces, calling on the Lebanese state to exert pressure on international actors to fully implement.



South Africa's G20 presidency to push for stronger global climate commitments, says minister

Johannesburg, Mar 31 (IANS) : South Africa will use the G20 presidency to drive stronger global commitments to climate action and environmental sustainability, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dion George said. George made the remarks at the first virtual meeting of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) on Monday. In his opening address, he out-

lined an ambitious agenda focused on biodiversity, climate finance, waste management, and ocean conservation, Xinhua news agency reported. With less than five years remaining to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), George said, poverty and inequality remain pressing global challenges, while carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise. "The G20 can play a crucial part in halting and reversing

biodiversity loss by 2030, aiming for a 'nature-positive world' for the benefit of people and the planet. Building on the Brazilian presidency's initiative on bioeconomy.



India and China make 'further progress' to resume Kailash Manasarovar Yatra: MEA

Beijing, Mar 31 (IANS) : India and China have made further progress on the modalities to resume Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said following the official consultation between Foreign Ministries of India and China.



Kalyanram set to deliver mass feast with Nayaaldhi song

Nandamuri Kalyanram starrer Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi has created a huge wave of anticipation with the glimpse. The response for the glimpse is so huge that it created a huge record for any film of NKR. With legendary star ac-

triss Vijayashanti in a prominent role, the anticipation is like never before seen for the film. The makers have released a special promo of the first single, Nayaaldhi, on the occasion of Ugadi. The full single will be released Tomorrow. Nandamuri

Kalyanram pulled off some incredible steps in the song and it is going to be a massy feast. Leading lady Saiee Manjrekar is also looking stunning in the song. Ajaneesh Lokanath has composed a vibe track that compels

us to shake our legs as well. The song will be a party and carnival anthem in mass circuits for sure. Pradeep Chilukuri is directing the film produced by Muppa Ashok Vardhan and Sunil Balusu on a massive scale.



Controversy brewing: Star Hero Mohanlal Finally Reacts

It can be argued that Empuraan, featuring Malayalam superstar, Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles is one of the most anticipated Malayalam films in recent years.

Vijay Varma's first word on break up with Tamannaah?

It is already known that star couple, Vijay Varma and Tamannaah Bhatia are no longer together. After having spent a couple of years together, and even making public appearances, the couple has reportedly broken up and they are no longer together anymore. In this context, Tamannaah had recently made a cryptic statement.



Harish Shankar decides not to have children

Usually, the Indian social and family situation revolves around the concept of children and nurturing parent. But it appears that leading Telugu director, Harish Shankar is of the conclusion that he and his wife do not need

to have any kids. Here is what he had to say on this matter when asked about the same by the Media.



Puri Jagannadh and Vijay Sethupathi join hands for an Epic movie

Puri Jagannadh, the craziest director of Telugu Cinema has decided to join hands with Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi for his next. The movie is stated to be an Epic in the making as Puri scripted a different and interesting script.

Producer Abhishek Nama announces stunning visual drama Sethu

Renowned producer Abhishek Nama is known for his eye for great talent. He is now joining hands with Hari Krishna, a highly experienced VFX artist, who worked for big blockbusters like Pushpa and Dasara. Under his supervision, many big films have constructed a

never before seen stunning visuals for spectacular films. Hari Krishna and Abhishek Nama have come together to make Sethu. The movie is said to be never seen before fictional drama and the taglines read - "One War, One Weapon and One Sentinel". The makers promise a great visually appealing drama on big screens. The poster contains

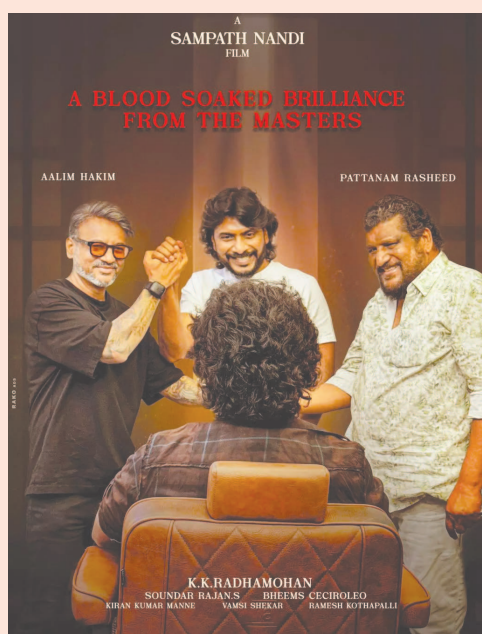
many elements like stunning location, a bridge, a hero with bow and arrow ready to take on the War. The makers have risen our curiosity with the announcement and let's wait for the regular updates.



How Chiranjeevi fulfilled his daughter's wish?

Megastar Chiranjeevi created a new prospect for himself as he announced the film with director, Anil Ravipudi and officially launched it on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi today. This project has been in the making for a long time now, and it also features a personal connection for Chiranjeevi. Incidentally, Chiranjeevi had been wanting to do a film for his daughter, Sushmita for a really long time now. This project was originally intended to be produced by Sushmita and Senior writer BVS Ravi had also prepared the script for the same. However, Chiranjeevi was never fully excited about this project as principal did not want his daughter to be involved with film production and related activities.

However, Sushmita had been determined to produce a film with Chiranjeevi and she assisted with her efforts. Finally, after a long wait, Sushmita managed to secure a project with Chiranjeevi and this turned out to be the film with Anil Ravipudi. After struggling to materialise a film with Chiranjeevi due to scripting issues, Sushmita has finally on boarded the film that marks the collaboration of Chiru and Anil. This project was formally launched today, and it must be noted that Sushmita is one of the producers of the film. The film will be produced jointly by Sahu, Garapati and Sushmita. It is being heard that Sushmita will be taking a substantial share in the profits of the film for endorse her production label Goldbox Entertainment for this film.



Sharwanand and Sampath Nandi making an exciting action entertainer

Charming Star Sharwanand has been known for his diverse script selection and brilliant acting skills. The actor has decided to take action route in the director of massy director Sampath Nandi. The movie is going to be a violent blood fest placed in 1960's. The story is a period drama and the makers have decided to give a makeover to Sharwanand. The actor has gone to Mumbai to work with experts like Hakim Aalim and Rasheed Pattanam to create the perfect one that suits the character. The look has been finalised and the movie team will go on floors from April. The team revealed this update for Ugadi and the promised a high octane entertainer. KK Radhamohan is producing the film with a high budget.



Vishnu Announces Kannappa Got Postponed : Here's Why!

Manchu Vishnu had a lot riding on his upcoming film Kannappa, which had an enormous lead acting, including the rights of Prabhas, Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar, and others. The film was originally announced for release on April 25, and the promotions were also in full swing. However, the latest announcement from Manchu Vishnu confirms that the film's release got postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. He announced that the new release date of the film will be announced soon and asked to be a bit more patient about the same. "Bringing #KANNAPPA to life has been an incredible journey, and we are committed to delivering a cinematic spectacle that meets the Highest Standards. To ensure this, we need a few more weeks to perfect a key episode requiring extensive VFX work. This means the release of the project will be a bit delayed. We sincerely regret the wait and understand the anticipation surrounding this film. I truly appreciate your patience and support it means everything to us.

Kannappa is a tribute to Lord Shiva's greatest devotee, and we want to present it in the most extraordinary way possible. Our team is working tirelessly and we promise it will be worth it. We'll be back soon with an update and the New Release Date! Thank you for standing with us." Vishnu tweeted a short while back. Vishnu has evidently announced that the film has gotten postponed due to the delay in the production and graphics works, which is taking longer than expected. He rightly asked patrons to be a bit more patient and lenience as he promises a top grade product very soon. The new release date is going to be announced in the due course.

Rashmika's Much Hyped Film Becomes Disaster?

South Indian actress Rashmika Mandanna is one of the most loved and followed female actresses in Indian cinema currently. Her following multiple times after the terminal success of Pushpa, and she is now a big name in Bollywood as well. After a blockbuster in the form of Animal earlier, Rashmika followed with another blockbuster in the form of Chhaava.

