



THE Hans India



Broadcasters may move court against PCB
The ICC has warned the Pakistan Cricket Board that it faces the prospect of legal action from T20 World Cup's official broadcasters JioStar for boycotting its February 15 game against India, a PCB source said on Tuesday. **P10**

Prioritise rejuvenation of 'Buckingham Canal'
The rapidity of transformation of human civilization increased anifold ever since inventions were made in transportation modes. Even in India, beginning with the colonial period and after independence, continuous efforts are made to improve the transportation networks **P6**

India-US trade deal to boost country's manufacturing: FM
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday welcomed the reduction in United States' tariffs on Indian goods, describing the development as a major boost for the 'Made in India' initiative. Taking to social media platform X, the finance minister said **P11**

Kayadu Lohar returns to Malayalam; New Poster of 'Pallichattambi' released
A new poster of 'Pallichattambi', directed by Dijo Jose Antony and starring Tovino Thomas in the lead role, has been released. The latest reveal is a single-character poster featuring the film's heroine, Kayadu Lohar. **P12**

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WINDOWS BJP-JD(S) go for overnight agitation inside Assembly

BENGALURU: The BJP and its ally JD(S) on Tuesday jump in an overnight agitation in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly demanding state Excise Minister R B Timmapur's resignation over allegations of corruption in his department. The BJP alleged widespread corruption in the Excise Department, and bribe is demanded to issue liquor licences. Opposition leader R Ashoka charged that the alleged scam is to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore.

He also alleged that the money was being used by the ruling Congress to fund the party in the poll-bound states. The opposition had been alleging corruption in the department. The recent trigger was the arrest of Excise Deputy Commissioner of the Bengaluru Urban District Jagadeesh Naik and two other officials by the Lokayukta sleuths, while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 25 lakh on January 16.

According to Lokayukta officials, they were accused of demanding Rs 80 lakh to issue CL-7 (Hotels & Boarding Houses) and micro brewery licence. The Minister had declined the BJP's demand for his resignation, saying no ministers during the BJP government had ever stepped down. "Corruption is not a new phenomenon, especially in my department," the minister said in the Assembly while replying to the opposition's charge. Timmapur said he was instrumental in reducing the corruption at every level and simplified the process of issuing licences after holding discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. There have been allegations against all the ministers by the Federation of Wine Merchants' Association, right from J H Patel, Renukaswamy and Katta Subramanya Naidu. Now the federation has been non-existent for the past 20 years, the Minister said. He said he knows that there are people having 20 to 100 benami licences. "Shouldn't the people from the weaker section get the licences? That's why I brought E-Auction," the minister said. As the BJP alleged that the officer caught by Lokayukta had mentioned the name of the minister in a purported audio, Timmapur said there were clear audios of a former chief minister involved in horse trading, but in his case, the officer in question was only misusing his name.

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I know for sure nobody can quote from a book in Parliament. I read it on WhatsApp

In-law's info on salary, property cannot be provided to son-in-law: RTI

NEW DELHI

THE Uttar Pradesh State Information Commission has ruled that a son-in-law is not entitled to access his father-in-law's personal information -- like salary, loans and movable and immovable properties -- under the RTI Act.

State Information Commissioner Mohammed Na-deem in an order dated January 7, said, "The objective of the RTI Act is not to gather evidence for private lawsuits,

► The objective of the RTI Act is not to gather evidence for private lawsuits, nor does this law permit unwarranted interference in a person's privacy

► Kulwant was accused by his wife of demanding a dowry of Rs 26 lakh, following which he filed an RTI application seeking details of his father-in-law

nor does this law permit unwarranted interference in a



person's privacy." The matter pertains to Kulwant Singh, who sought details of the financial status of his father-in-law, Rishipal Singh, who

had retired as a revenue inspector, as he wanted to use the information in a dowry case filed by his wife.

Kulwant Singh had filed

the application under the RTI Act on July 27, 2025, with the Tehsildar of Najibabad in Bijnor district, seeking information related to his father-in-law till his retirement on January 1, 2015. Upon not receiving the information, the applicant filed an appeal with the State Information Commission, requesting that the Public Information Officer be directed to provide the requested information.

According to sources, Kulwant was accused by his wife of demanding a dowry of

Rs 26 lakh, following which he filed an RTI application seeking details of his father-in-law's financial status, including his salary, GPF (general provident fund), loans, advances, and details of his movable and immovable property.

He argued that the person whose details were being sought was not an outsider but his father-in-law, and secondly, this information was crucial for him in the dowry-related case to determine whether the person

who allegedly gave Rs 26 lakh as dowry actually had the financial capacity to do so.

Hearing the case, the bench of Information Commissioner Mohammad Na-deem said that the Supreme Court has clarified in several important judgments that salary details, income tax records, provident fund, loans, family details and property-related information clearly fall under the category of personal information, which cannot generally be provided under the RTI Act.

'After mother now Father of all deals'; Russia rebuts

- India has got a very good trade deal with the US, better than competitors, without compromising interest of the agriculture and dairy sectors: Piyush Goyal
- Member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, Sanjeev Sanyal, in a post on X stated that "Duniya jhukti hai, jhukaney wala chahiye"
- Russia has not heard any statements from India about stopping Russian oil purchases, Kremlin spokesman Peskov: 'We haven't heard any statements'
- 'Modi govt should take Parliament into confidence and the text of both the EU and US trade deals must be laid on the table of both Houses and debated'

NEW DELHI

COMMERCE Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India has got a very good trade deal with the US, better than competitors, without compromising interest of the agriculture and dairy sectors. Without giving details of what has been agreed with Washington, Goyal said the trade deal is in the final stages, and an Indo-US joint statement will be issued shortly detailing the contours of the agreement. He also lashed out at the Congress party and its allies for trying to mislead the nation on the deal. In particular, he hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that he has a negative mindset and is opposed to the progress of India. Goyal said that he wanted to speak in Parliament about the deal, but could not do so because of the ugly scenes created by Congress and other opposition parties.

Russia has not heard

any statements from India about stopping Russian oil purchases, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. His comments came a day after US President Donald Trump claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "agreed to stop buying Russian Oil, and to buy much more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela." "We haven't heard any statements from New Delhi on this matter yet," Peskov said. Government sources have said that farmers' interests remain protected under the landmark India-US trade agreement, even as strategic energy purchases, including crude oil from Venezuela, could feature under the new pact.

Former Ambassador of India to Poland, Dr Deepak Vohra described the India-US trade deal as a significant diplomatic achievement, highlighting India's patience, strategic restraint and firm protection of key domestic sectors during ne-



BIG DECISION: MODI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" that will benefit everyone in the country, and asserted that his government always works in favour of the nation. The prime minister made these remarks at the meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party, coalition MPs present at the meeting said. NDA coalition members congratulated Modi for the trade deals with the EU and the US, saying it would strengthen Indian manufacturers, exporters and entrepreneurs. The prime minister said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" and will benefit everyone in the country, an MP who attended the meeting said. India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent.

gotiations and termed it the "father of all deals".

Dr Vohra said there were a few key takeaways from the development. He claimed that the American



establishment had been strongly critical of India in recent years, but New Delhi maintained restraint.

"If the European Union agreement was the 'mother of all deals', the US agreement with India can be described as the 'father of all deals'," he said.

Member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, Sanjeev Sanyal, in a post on X on Monday, stated that "Duniya jhukti hai, jhukaney wala chahiye" following the announcement of the India-US trade deal, where Washington reduced the tariffs on India to 18 per cent. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has called the India-US trade deal "historic", saying it will elevate the strategic partnership between the two countries and pave the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth. In a series of posts

Sensex zooms 2,072 pts

MUMBAI: Benchmark stock index Sensex zoomed 2,072 points while the broader Nifty closed above the 25,700 level on Tuesday after India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent. The 30-share BSE barometer closed at 83,739.13, up 2,072.67 points or 2.54 per cent, logging its best single-day gain in the past eight months. The index started the trade on a buoyant note, and later jumped 4,205.27 points or 5.14 per cent to hit the day's high of 85,871.73.

provided, it is abundantly clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "completely surrendered".

Amid sloganeering from the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha over the India-US deal, Union Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday assured that the central government will issue a suo motu statement, sharing the details of the deal and is also ready to hold a discussion in the house.

"When the government is ready to give a detailed statement, this attitude of Congress and the INDI alliance is wrong. Their way is threatening to democracy. This is Congress's irresponsible behaviour. It is their frustration which is speaking," he said.



Compromised, says Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that PM Narendra Modi has buckled under US pressure to finalise a trade deal and has "sold out" the hard work of Indian farmers through the agreement. "We need to understand why a trade deal stuck for about four months was suddenly finalised last evening," Gandhi said adding that "there was huge pressure on Prime Minister Modi". Asked what kind of pressure he was referring to, Gandhi alleged there is a case against industrialist Gautam Adani in the US and a lot more is to come in the Epstein files. He alleged that Prime Minister Modi "has been compromised" and that Indian farmers must understand their hard work "as well as their blood and sweat" has been "sold out" through the India-US trade deal.

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'Exit India if you can't: CJI warns Meta over WhatsApp Policy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

TECH giant and WhatsApp owners Meta received a dressing down from the Supreme Court Tuesday over the instant messaging platform's privacy policy. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya reprimanded the US company, "You can't play with privacy... we will not allow you to share a single digit of our data", and said it would not stand for exploitation of Indians.

The court was hearing a plea regarding WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy, specifically the company law tribunal upholding the Competition Commission of India's Rs 213 crore fine.

There was also a cross-appeal by the CCI about sharing of user data for advertising purposes, which the tribunal allowed after ruling there was no 'abuse of power' by the company.

Appearing for the government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta criticised the "exploitative" policy for sharing user data for commercial purpose, and the Chief Justice responded, "If you can't follow our Constitution, leave India. We won't allow citizens' privacy to be compromised."

The court made pointed observations about the policy, including asking if it could be understood by the millions of poor and uneducated people in the country. "... a poor woman or a roadside vendor, or someone who only speaks Tamil... will they be able to understand?" "Sometimes even we have difficulty understanding your policies..." the court ripped into Meta and WhatsApp after being told of an 'opt out' clause, "... so how will people living in rural Bihar understand them? This is a way of committing theft of private information. We won't allow it."

'Promised flexibility, living with fear now': Women gig workers protest

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

More than 100 gig workers, mostly women, staged a protest at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday, demanding recognition as employees and alleging arbitrary blocking of accounts, low earnings, and lack of basic labour protection on digital platforms. The demonstration was organised by the Gig and Platform Services Workers Union (GPSWU), a women-

The workers demanded recognition as employees and alleging arbitrary blocking of accounts, low earnings, and lack of basic labour protection on digital platforms; Sunita, who works with a home services platform in Punjabi Bagh, says she already lost nearly Rs 900 in daily income by joining the protest

led body, which said similar protests were being staged in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan as well.

By early afternoon, Sunita, who works with a home

services platform in Punjabi Bagh, said she already lost nearly Rs 900 in daily income by joining the protest. Sunita said she was drawn to gig work after being promised flexible



hours and stable earnings, but she now lives with the constant fear of her account being

blocked. "In the beginning, there were many bookings. They said I could manage my

family. Now my ID is blocked without any explanation," she alleged. Another protester said she worked with the same company for almost four years before her account was suspended in 2022. Her husband died a few months later, leaving her struggling to find steady work.

After briefly working as a cook for Rs 15,000 a month, she lost that job too when the employer's family moved out of Delhi. Several women

at the site covered their faces, saying they feared retaliation if they were identified by the platforms. Many alleged that despite long working hours, deductions and mandatory charges left them with little take-home pay. Sunita said she recently received a booking worth Rs 2,295, from which Rs 431 was deducted as commission and Rs 970 as "compulsory credit recharge". "If we don't pay the credit amount, bookings stop coming.