



THE Hans India



Copter carrying 7 crashes into sea, all rescued
A Pawan Hans helicopter carrying seven people, including two crew members, crashed into the sea just 300 metres away from its scheduled landing at Mayabunder helipad in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Tuesday. **P6**

NMP 2.0 is a bold step; it can unlock resources for reinvestment
The government has done well to set a target of Rs 16.7 lakh crore for National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0. The objective is to monetise assets of more than 2,000 projects in 12 sectors till 2029-30. **P4**

Markets in red as tariff fears rattle IT stocks
Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent on Tuesday, dragged down by heavy losses in IT stocks amid concerns over artificial intelligence-led disruption and renewed trade-related uncertainties. **P7**

Mrunal Thakur grabs fashion lovers attention
Bollywood actress Mrunal Thakur's latest release Do Deewane Seher Me, produced by celebrated filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and co-starring Siddhant Chaturvedi, has opened to a modest response at the box office. **P8**

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RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR (Wed) 06:27 PM
SEHAR (Thu) 05:15 AM

WINDOWS
13 of family sentenced to life in UP

SAHARANPUR : A local court has sentenced 13 people of the same family to life imprisonment for killing two brothers about 10 years ago in a land dispute, officials said. The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Vikas Gupta also imposed a fine of Rs 10.73 lakh. Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Deepak Saini told PTL. Saini said that on November 12, 2016, the police registered an FIR based on a complaint from Israr stating that his father, Yasin and uncle Tasin were murdered by a group of people over a dispute regarding approximately 20 bighas of land. After the investigation, the police arrested the accused and collected evidence. Upon hearing the case, the court sentenced all 13 people to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 10.73 lakh.

Bride dies two days after wedding in Gorakhpur

GORAKHPUR: Celebrations turned into mourning after a 21-year-old woman died under alleged suspicious circumstances just two days after her wedding in P P Ganj area here, with her family accusing the in-laws of murder. The deceased, identified as Seema, was married on February 20 to Manoj, a resident of Badhni village under P P Ganj police station area, an official said on Tuesday. According to police, Seema, daughter of Kamal Prabha Devi of Ratanpur village in Pipraich area, reached her in-laws house on February 21. On February 22 evening, her family was informed that her health had suddenly deteriorated. She was taken to BRD Medical College, where she died during treatment. Seema's parents alleged by the time they reached the hospital, her in-laws had fled, leaving the body behind.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Not a 'naked protester'...
A Dalal Street player

● The programme will use a single-shot Gardasil, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine, that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, as well as types 6 and 11

● The drive would be a special vaccination campaign and not under the government's Universal Immunisation Programme. It is in line with the World Health Organisation recommendations

Centre set to launch HPV vax against cancer for girls aged 14

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

IN a major step towards eliminating preventable cancers among women, the Union government will soon launch a nationwide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 years, official sources said on Tuesday.

According to sources, the programme will use a single-shot Gardasil, a quadrivalent

HPV vaccine, that provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, as well as types 6 and 11.

The drive would be a special vaccination campaign and not under the government's Universal Immunisation Programme. It is in line with the World Health Organisation recommendations, which identify HPV vaccination as a central pillar of the Global Strategy to Eliminate

Cervical Cancer. "Strong global and Indian scientific evidence confirms that a single dose provides robust and durable protection when administered to girls in the recommended age group," an official source said.

The nationwide programme will target girls aged 14 years, an age at which the HPV vaccine offers maximum preventive benefit, well before potential exposure to the virus. In the open market, quadrivalent

Gardasil-4 is a two-dose vaccine -- each costing Rs 3,927 -- for girls below 15 years. For those above 15 years, three doses of the vaccine are required. Gardasil-4 vaccine is manufactured by MSD India.

"Vaccination under the national programme will be voluntary and free of cost, ensuring equitable access across socio-economic groups. By prioritising prevention at the right



age, the programme is expected to provide lifelong protection and significantly reduce the future burden of cervical cancer in the country," the source said. The vaccine has an excellent safety record, supported by more than 500 million doses administered globally since its introduction in 2006. Widespread vaccination has

led to substantial reductions in HPV infection, precancerous lesions, and cervical cancer incidence in several countries. Once the vaccination programme is launched, India will join 160 countries that have introduced HPV vaccination in their national immunisation schedules.

RENAMING POLITICS: KERALA TO KERALAM

BJP-CPM understanding helped Kerala get new name; Centre never considered Bengal's case: Mamata

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to change the name of the state to Keralam, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The decision, which comes ahead of the assembly elections in the state, was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at its first meeting held at Seva Teerth, the new PMO complex.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that an "understanding" between the BJP and the CPI(M) helped Kerala get a new name, while accusing the Centre of repeatedly ignoring her government's proposals to name the state



'Bangla'.

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for altering the name of Kerala to Keralam, Vaishnaw said. Prime Minister Modi hailed the Cabinet decision, saying it reflects the will of the people of the state. "It is in line with our efforts to

strengthen the connect with our glorious culture," he said in a post on X.

The Kerala assembly elections are due in April this year, with the tenure of the 140-member current assembly ending on May 23. After the Union Cabinet's approval,

the president of India will refer a Bill, namely the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the Kerala Assembly for expressing its views under the proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution of India. After receipt of the views of the Kerala Assembly, the government of India will obtain the recommendation of the president for the introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to alter the name of Kerala to Keralam in Parliament, an official release said.

Asked why a decision like this was coming just ahead of the assembly elections in Kerala, Vaishnaw said decisions are taken by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Modi without keeping elections in view.

Rs 275 hike in MSP of jute

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a hike in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute by Rs 275 to Rs 5,925 per quintal for the marketing season 2026-27.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, in its first meeting at the PMO new office, Seva Teerth.

The new MSP will ensure a return of 61.8 per cent over the all-India weighted average cost of production.

"The announced MSP of raw jute for Marketing season 2026-27 is in line with the principle of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

'The Kerala Story 2' depicts State in wrong light: HC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI

THE Kerala High Court on Tuesday observed that 'The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond' depicts a state like Kerala where everyone lives in communal harmony in a wrong light. The court also observed that using the state's name and claiming the film is based on true facts can lead to communal tensions in the state.

The observations came from Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas while hearing arguments on three separate pleas seeking to quash the certificate for public viewing granted to 'The Kerala Story

2 - Goes Beyond'. When the matter came up again in the post lunch session, the court was told that the producers of the film were willing to withdraw the teasers of the film.

The court, thereafter, said it will hear the matter again on Wednesday when it is likely to decide whether to see the movie before its scheduled release on February 27. Earlier in the day, during the arguments, the court indicated it was inclined to watch the film before passing an order. It also asked the censor board whether the movie complies with all the mandatory guidelines.



Sensex plunges 1,000 pts

Markets dive over 1 pc on IT stocks selloff, global trade worries

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent on Tuesday, dragged down by heavy losses in IT stocks amid concerns over artificial intelligence-led disruption and renewed trade-related uncertainties. Rising global crude prices amid escalating US-Iran tensions and sluggish global cues also hit investor sentiment, traders said.

Snapping its two-session rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,068.74 points, or 1.28 per cent, to settle at 82,225.92. During the day, the benchmark plunged 1,359.93 points,



or 1.63 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 81,934.73. A total of 2,802 stocks declined, while 1,422 advanced and 143 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty fell 288.35 points, or 1.12 per cent, to close at 25,424.65. In the intraday session, it depreciated by 385.4 points, or 1.49 per cent, to hit a low of 25,327.60. As many as 32 of its components ended in the red while 18 settled in the green territory.

Rekha lays foundation for Rs 264 cr works in Mundka

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday laid foundation stones of works worth Rs 264 crore in Mundka, saying her government is bringing the villages neglected so far in the mainstream of development.

The development works initiated in Mundka include 49 projects for bringing urban facilities to the rural pocket of the city, said a Delhi CMO statement. In the last year, the Delhi government has initiated development works worth Rs 1,600 crore in the rural areas of Delhi, Gupta said, addressing a gathering in Mundka. The chief minister



said that once these projects are completed, the Mundka Assembly constituency will witness smooth connectivity, access to clean drinking water, improved sewerage systems, and strengthened education and healthcare facilities. These initiatives are significant steps towards

bringing rural Delhi on par with urban standards, she said. North West Delhi MP Yogender Chandolia, Development Minister Kapil Mishra, local MLA Gahender Drall, and chairman of Delhi Gramin Vikas Board Raj Kumar Chauhan were present in the programme.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

SKM announces nationwide stir

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURUKSHETRA

THE Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Tuesday announced a nationwide agitation against the proposed India-US trade agreement and other key policy issues, stating that protests will continue until the Centre accepts farmers' demands. The decision was taken at the SKM National Council meeting held at Jat Dharamshala in Kurukshetra, according to a press release issued by its media cell. More than 150 representatives from nine states - Punjab, Haryana,

Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Maharashtra and Kerala - attended the meeting. SKM said a joint Kisan Mazdoor Parliament will be organised at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on March 9, the opening day of the next Parliament session. From March 10 to April 13, the Morcha will hold Mahapanchayats across the country, beginning from Barnala in Punjab, to raise awareness about what it described as the "dangers" of the proposed trade pact and other "corporate-friendly" policies of the Centre.

US customs rolls out new 10% tariff, lower than Trump's promised 15%

TEXAS

Modi should scrap 'anti-farmer' Indo-US deal approved under pressure: Rahul; 'the agreement an arrow in the heart of farmers; I challenge PM to scrap it if he has courage, but he won't be able to do so'



this to 15 per cent.

A US Customs notice, which is described as intended to "provide guidance regarding the February 20, 2026

Presidential Proclamation", said imports would be subject to "an additional ad valorem rate of 10%", Reuters reported. A White House official,

quoted by The Financial Times, has said the increase to 15 per cent will come later. This has, however, not been officially confirmed. The collection of the new

tariffs began at midnight, while the earlier tariffs were annulled.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Indo-US interim trade deal was sealed under pressure and dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the "anti-farmer" agreement, following the US Supreme Court ruling. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha described the agreement as "an arrow in the heart of farmers". "After the US Supreme Court ruling on the trade deal

(global tariffs), I challenge PM Modi to scrap it if he has courage...but he won't be able to do so," said the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Gandhi alleged that the Prime Minister approved the agreement under external pressure linked to the threat of releasing "Epstein files" and an ongoing criminal case involving industrialist Gautam Adani in the US. "Narendra Modi is compromised. He has been trapped. He has signed

this agreement under pressure. This is not a deal, it is an arrow in the heart of the farmer," Gandhi said, claiming that the pact had been stalled for months before being cleared suddenly.

He questioned that the India-US trade agreement had been stalled for four months, but what happened that made Prime Minister Modi suddenly agree to it? "There are two reasons for this. The first reason is the lakhs of Epstein files lying in America.