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TN Fin Min meets
Union Environ Min,
seeks funds for projects

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Minister for Finance, Environment and Climate Change Thangam Thenarasu met Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi and sought clearances funds for various projects. During the meeting, Mr Thenarasu submitted a memorandum detailing the projects and urged him to sanction funds for the same. An official release here said Chief Minister M.K.Stalin had made a request to Mr Yadav to exempt Environmental Clearance for industrial sheds with area up to 1,50,000 sqm, with a view to expedite Industrial development in Tamil Nadu. A Notification in this regard was brought out by the Ministry accepting the request of the Tamil Nadu Government.



Indian Army pays
tributes to soldiers
martyred in IED
explosion

Jammu: Indian Army on Wednesday paid tributes to the soldiers martyred in an Improvised Explosive Device explosion on the Line of Control in Akhnoor sector. "In a solemn wreath-laying ceremony, #GOC@Whiteknight JA laid a wreath at Air Force Station #Jammu to pay homage to #Bravehearts Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi and Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas, who made the supreme sacrifice on February 11 in the highest traditions of the #IndianArmy," the White Knight Corps posted on X. An Army Captain and a Naik were killed in a suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Akhnoor sector during a fence patrol.

Three killed, 1
injured in multiple
vehicle collision

Virudhunagar: Three people were killed and another grievously injured in a multiple-vehicle collision involving a motorcycle, cargo vehicle and a truck at Agragarapatti village on the Sattur-Virudhunagar highway in this Southern district of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Police said the accident occurred, when the driver of a cement-laden truck suddenly stopped the vehicle after one of the tyres of the vehicle was burst. Two persons, identified as M.Selvam and D.Vinodh, who were riding a motorcycle lost control in which the two-wheeler crashed into the rear-side of the truck. A cargo vehicle ferrying fruits coming behind the motorcycle subsequently rammed into it, killing both Selvam and Vinodh on the spot.

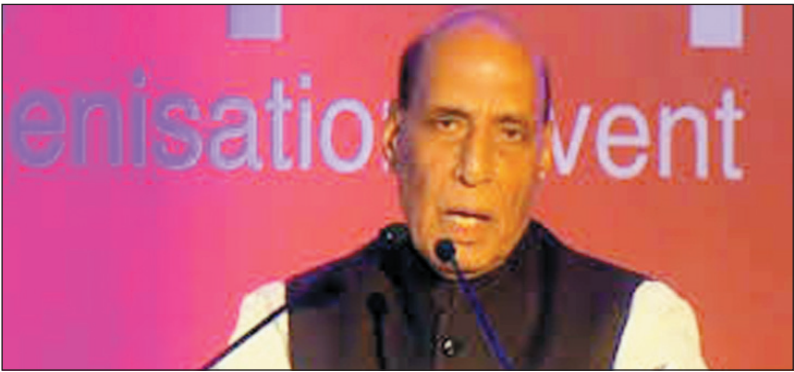
Japan expresses
interest in UP's
Buddhist Circuit

Lucknow: Vice Governor of Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture, Ko Osada on Wednesday paid a courtesy visit to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence in state capital Lucknow. During the meeting, the CM and Ko Osada discussed employment opportunities for the youth of UP in Japan, particularly in Yamanashi Prefecture. It was emphasised that young professionals from UP would be equipped with the necessary Japanese language proficiency and specialised skills before being sent for employment opportunities in Japan.

638 stolen/lost mobile
phones recovered

Eluru, AP: The Eluru district police have recovered 638 stolen/lost mobile phones worth Rs 76.56 lakh and handed over some of them to the owners. Superintendent of police Pratap Shiva Kishore here on Wednesday said that the CCS police, the Cyber Crime and the Law & Order police personnel jointly recovered stolen and lost mobile phones over the past three months. Using the district toll-free number and the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, a total of 638 mobile phones were recovered in the 14th phase, amounting to a total value of Rs 76,56,000.

Rajnath engages in key
bilateral talks at Aero India



Bengaluru (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Zimbabwe, Yemen, Ethiopia, Gambia and Gabon on the sidelines of Aero India 2025 here on Wednesday, discussing avenues for enhancing defence cooperation.

Rajnath Singh met Zimbabwean Defence Minister Oppah Muchinguri Kashiri, with both sides reviewing the existing bilateral defence co-operation and agreeing to strengthen collaboration in training, military courses, and capacity building of the Zimbabwe Armed Forces.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation was signed, with both leaders expressing confidence that this would lead to further deepening of ties.

Both sides underscored the importance of regular ministerial engagements for the effective implementation of the MoU and affirmed their commitment to enhancing collaboration in the defence industry for the production and maintenance of assets. Cooperation in military medicine was also discussed.

During Rajnath Singh's discussions with Ethiopian Defence Minister Aisha Mohammed (Eng), both countries expressed satisfaction over the growing bilateral defence ties.

Acknowledging the significance of close engagement, an MoU on defence cooperation was signed to institutionalise the ongoing relations.

1984 Anti Sikh riots: Court convicts former
Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in murder case

Agencies, New Delhi

The Rouse Avenue court convicted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 Anti Sikh riots case.

This case is linked with the killing of father son duo in Saraswati Vihar area on November 1, 1984. Sajjan Kumar is serving a life sentence in another anti Sikh riots case of Delhi Cantt.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja pronounced the judgement and convicted Sajjan Kumar.

Sajjan Kumar was produced physically before the court. On January 31, the court had reserved the order after hearing additional submissions by the Public Prosecutor Manish Rawat.

This case is related to the killings of one Jaswant Singh and his son



Tarundeep Singh in Saraswati vihar area on November 1, 1984.

Advocate Anil Sharma had submitted that Sajjan Kumar's name was not their from very beginning, law of foreign land is not applicable in this case and there was a delay of 16 years in naming Sajjan Kumar by

Maha Deputy CM Eknath Shinde
receives Mahadji Shinde award



Mumbai (UNI)

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday received the Mahadji Shinde National Honour Award at the 98th Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan in Delhi.

The award was given to Shinde by Sharad Pawar, the former Union Minister and the reception president of the Sahitya Sammelan.

The award consists of a cash prize of five lakh rupees, a badge of honour, and a Shinde Shahi turban. After receiving the award, Shinde ad-

ressed the gathering and shared that he has good relations with Pawar. The event was organised on the occasion of the All India Literary Conference at Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi. Shinde said, 'I consider it my privilege to receive the Mahadji Shinde National Honour Award. I thank the organisers.'

Shinde dedicated the award to "sisters, brothers, and people" of Maharashtra and announced he would donate the award of Rs 5 lakh to Sarhad Santha, an NGO.Shinde said Mahadji Shinde's deeds were as intense on the battlefield as also in the realms of literature as he was well-known as a poet.

Mahadji Shinde has written many songs for the Dhrupad Gharana and Khayal Gaiki Gharana from Gwalior, recalled the Dy CM.

Shinde promised that he would try to include the history of the mighty Mahadji Shinde in the school education curriculum of the Maharashtra government.

Man arrested in Goa for
bomb hoax call to
Mumbai police

Mumbai: A 40-year-old labourer was arrested in Goa by a team of Bandra Railway Police for allegedly issuing a threat to blow up the Chembur Police Station in Mumbai, an official said here on Wednesday.

According to details on Feb 9, a hoax call was received on the Bandra Railway Police station's landline from a mobile phone, threatening that the Chembur station would be blown up.

According to the police, the caller's number was traced to Goa. A team of railway police was dispatched to Goa, and with the help of local police, they arrested a 40-year-old man working as a labourer in Goa.

Police said that during the probe, it was revealed that the accused was under the influence of alcohol when he made the call.

HAL not in mission
mode: Air Chief Marshal



Bengaluru (UNI)

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh has expressed concerns over Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), stating that he is not confident in its ability

to deliver on commitments, particularly regarding the production of the Tejas Mk1A fighter jets.

In an interaction with the HAL officials sitting in the cockpit, the IAF Chief said, "I can only tell you what our requirements and worries are. You have to alleviate those worries and make us more confident. At the moment, I am just not confident of HAL, which is a very wrong thing to happen."

Highlighting the delays in aircraft production, he remarked, "HAL is our own company. Even I have worked there... But I find that HAL is just not in mission mode. I was promised that when I come here on February, 11 Tejas Mk1As would be ready. And not a single one is ready."

His ideals will guide us:
Rahul Gandhi extends
greetings on Guru
Ravidas Jayanti

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday extended greetings to the countrymen on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

Guru Ravidas, a revered saint of the Bhakti movement in the 15th and 16th centuries, is known for his powerful message of unity, devotion, and service to humanity.

Taking to X, he posted, "Hearty congratulations to all of you on the birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas ji. His teachings give us the message of service to humanity, social harmony and brotherhood -- these ideals of his will always guide us."

Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge also shared his greetings on social media.

PRL scientists discover new exoplanet, a dense sub-Saturn

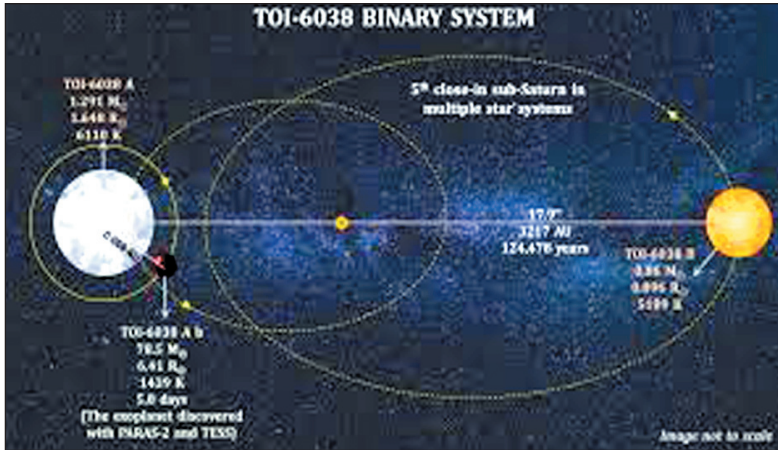
Chennai (UNI)

The Scientists of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, have discovered new exoplanet, a dense sub-Saturn using PARAS-2 Spectrograph at Mt Abu Telescope.

In an update on Wednesday, ISRO said the PRL scientists have discovered a new exoplanet, TOI-6038A b, a dense sub-Saturn size with a mass of 78.5 Earth masses and a radius of 6.41 Earth radii in a wide binary system.

The planet orbits a bright, metal-rich F-type star every 5.83 days in a circular orbit.

"The TOI-6038A b lies in the transition region between Neptune-like and gas giant exoplanets, called as "Sub-Saturn," a category absent in our solar system, providing a



unique opportunity to study planetary formation and evolution", the Space Agency said.

This marks the second exoplanet discovery using the state-of-the-art PARAS-2 spectrograph attached to

the 2.5-meter telescope at PRL's Mount Abu Observatory at Gurushikhar, Mt. Abu.

Furthermore, it is the fifth exoplanet detection using the combined efforts of the PARAS-1 and PARAS-2 spectrographs.

It highlights India's growing expertise in advanced astronomical instrumentation, with the PARAS-2 spectrograph being the highest-resolution stabilized radial velocity (RV) spectrograph in Asia.

Precise Radial-Velocity data from PARAS-2, which was used to measure the mass of the planet, along with high-spatial resolution speckle imaging from the PRL's 2.5-meter telescope, were thus absolutely crucial in validating the planetary nature of the transit signal and hence the discovery.

SC strikes down appointment of National
Commission for Homeopathy Chairperson

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday struck down the appointment of Dr. Anil Khurana as Chairperson of the National Commission for Homeopathy, ruling that 'it was not in accordance with the law'. A bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Manmohan directed Dr Khurana to vacate the office within a week.

"The Respondent shall step down from the office of Chairperson forthwith. By forthwith, we mean a week from today to enable him to complete his assignment without taking any policy decisions involving finances," the Court stated.

The case stemmed from a writ petition filed before the Karnataka



High Court, challenging the appointments of Dr Khurana as Chairperson and Dr K.R. Janardanan Nair as President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.

The petitioner, an applicant for both positions, argued that the ap-

pointments violated Section 4(2) and Section 19 of the National Commission for Homeopathy Act, 2020, which mandate a minimum of 20 years of experience, including at least 10 years in a leadership role.

A single-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court had ruled in favour of the petitioner, finding that Dr Khurana lacked the required leadership experience. However, a division bench later overturned this ruling on August 31, 2022.

Reinstating the single judge's verdict, the Supreme Court held: "We have given our reasons why we are holding that the selection and appointment of the 3rd Respondent is not under the law.

Mumbai Police issue notices to
podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia

Mumbai (UNI)

The Mumbai Police's Cyber cell has issued notices to podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, comedian Samay Raina and others directing them to appear for questioning in connection with the ongoing probe related to an FIR registered against them for allegedly making obscene content and broadcasting it on Raina's India's Got Latent show, which sparked a huge controversy.

Confirming about issuing notices, Police sources on Wednesday said, Yesterday Cyber cell of the police had registered FIR invoking Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, among other sections, citing the alleged use of "obscene and foul language" during the show's six



episodes.

The FIR names hosts, judges, participants, and other artists associated with the program, all of whom were summoned for questioning.

The Assam Police had on Monday registered an FIR against five people, including Allahbadia and Raina.

