

# Central Chronicle

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**Central govt approves Rs 1554 cr of additional assistance to 5 states**



**Trump signs executive order to expand access to IVF**

## MUSTREAD

### Six militants arrested in Manipur

**Imphal:** Manipur Police and security personnel nabbed six militants in six separate operations during the last 24 hours. Police said on Wednesday that police nabbed and alleged sympathizer of KCP (PWG) from Imphal West District. Arms and ammunition were recovered from him in another operation at Kaching district another cadre of KCP(PWG) was nabbed. Security Forces arrested an active cadre of PREPAK (PRO) from Bishnupur District in another operation. Security Forces also arrested an active cadre of PREPAK (PRO) from Imphal West District, police said.

### Rahul on two-day visit to Rae Bareilly from Feb 20

**Rae Bareilly:** Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and local MP Rahul Gandhi will visit his parliamentary constituency for two days from Thursday, during which he will participate in various programs. Congress district president Pankaj Tiwari said on Wednesday that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi will be on a two-day visit to Rae Bareilly. "During this time, he will discuss with Dalit students and will participate in many programs, including the unveiling of Rana Beni Madhav's statue," he said. He said that Rahul will reach Lucknow Airport on Thursday at around 9:30 am and from there he will directly leave for his parliamentary constituency.

### BSF hold meeting with BGB in Bangladesh to curb illegal activities

**Shillong:** A sector-level meeting between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held on Wednesday to address concerns, maintain peace, and curb cross-border illegal activities. The meeting was held near BGB BOP Jandanga in Bangladesh opposite BSF BOP at Durgapara in Meghalaya's South West Garo Hills district. The BSF delegation was led by Lalit Mohan Sharma, Deputy Inspector General of BSF, Sector HQ BSF Tura, while Colonel Sarker Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, Sector Commander BGB Mymensingh, Bangladesh, led the BGB delegation.

### Union Minister tries to "enter" Punjab CM's residence, security personnel scuffle

**Chandigarh:** A scuffle broke out between Union Minister of State Raveet Singh Bittu's security staff and Chandigarh police on Wednesday when Bittu sought to "enter" Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's residence to engage him in a "debate." Bittu has been alleging that his close aides were being targeted by the Punjab police and the Aam Aadmi Party government was playing vendetta politics. So he had come to CM's house to have a "debate" with him on this issue. Chandigarh police sources, on the other hand, claimed that Bittu had no permission and they were blocking the road. The CM's security said that Bittu's arrival at Mann's residence was a "security breach".

### Over 50 lakh people of Nepal took holy dip in Maha Kumbh

**Prayagraj:** More than 50 lakh devotees from Nepal have taken a holy dip in the sacred Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati at Prayagraj, participating in the world's largest cultural gathering, Maha Kumbh, official sources said here on Wednesday. Sources said that the grand event, organised under the leadership of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has attracted devotees from across the world, including Nepal.

### Sensex

BSE..... 75,939.18 (-28.21)  
NSE..... 22,932.90 (-12.40)

### Bullion

Gold..... 87,650 (24 carat 10gm)  
Silver..... 1,00,500 (1kg)  
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 86.94

### Weather

| Sunrise | Sunset | Day  | Night |
|---------|--------|------|-------|
| 6:50    | 6:18   | 32.2 | 16.2  |

## 4 women Naxals gunned down in MP's Balaghat

### Agencies, Balaghat

Four women Naxals were killed in an encounter with Hawk Force and police in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district on Wednesday, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said.

According to police, the encounter took place between the forces and Naxals near Raunda Forest Camp of Supkhar Forest Range under Garhi police station limits in Balaghat district. The force also recovered three weapons: INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) rifle, self-loading rifle (SLR) rifle and 303 rifle and other daily use items from the spot.

Additionally, some other Naxals were suspected to be injured in the said encounter and escaped taking advantage of the dense forest. An intensive search operation is underway by over 12 teams including Hawk Force, CRPF, CoBRA and District Police force to trace them, the police added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav extended greetings to the police force on gunning down the Naxals and said that the state government is working seriously to eliminate Naxalism from the country by 2026 as part of Union Minister



Amit Shah's campaign. "I congratulate Madhya Pradesh Police. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is running a campaign to eliminate Naxalism from the country by year 2026 and our government is also working seriously in this direction. Today, three female Naxals have been killed in Balaghat and weapons have also been recovered from them. An encounter between Naxals and Police is underway. There will be no place for Naxals in our state," CM Yadav told reporters.

"Our police are working with full potential to eradicate Naxals from the state. We have also made all arrangements for full assistance to the forces. I hope the police will not rest until it ends this movement," he added.

The Maoists have of late started building bases in Balaghat jungles following pressures mounted on them in Bastar in Chhattisgarh and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra.

Over two dozen senior Maoists have been killed in separate anti-Naxal operations in Balaghat district in the last five years.

## Gyanesh Kumar takes charge as CEC



### New Delhi (UNI)

Former bureaucrat Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday took charge as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner, succeeding Rajiv Kumar who served in the post for over two years.

In his first address as CEC, he said, "The first step for nation building is voting."

"Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote. In accordance with the Constitution of India, electoral laws, rules and instructions issued therein, the Election Commission of India was, is and will always be with the voters," he added.

Kumar assumed charge as Election Commissioner on March 15, 2024. Gyanesh Kumar has served as secretary in the ministry of parliamentary affairs.

He belongs to the 1988-batch from the Kerala cadre. The government also appointed Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, as Election Commissioner.

Gyanesh Kumar was appointed as the CEC by the President upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee chaired by PM Modi.

### Five Railway officials among six arrested by CBI in alleged bribery case

**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday arrested six persons including two Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officers in connection with alleged bribery for Railways' Departmental Examination.

The arrested accused have been identified as Sunil Bishnoi, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (IRPS 2008 Batch), Vadodara Division, Western Railway, Vadodara; Ankush Wasan, Divisional Personnel Officer (IRPS 2018 batch), Western Railway, Vadodara; Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, Deputy Chief Commercial Manager, Church gate, Western Railways, Mumbai; Neeraj Sinha, Deputy Station Superintendent; Dinesh Kumar, Nursing Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad; and another Mukesh Meena.

## Rekha Gupta's appointment sends a strong message

**Pravesh Kumar Mishra**  
**New Delhi:** By appointing Rekha Gupta as Delhi BJP chief, the party has made a calculated political move, targeting multiple objectives with a single decision. This marks the first time a first-term MLA has been given such a crucial responsibility in the national capital.

**A Strong Signal to Women Voters**  
With women making up 46% of Delhi's electorate, the BJP's decision underscores its commitment to female leadership.

Moreover, by entrusting a Union Territory like Delhi to a woman leader, the party has sent a broader message across the 21 BJP and NDA-ruled states.

**Strategic Endorsement from Modi and RSS**

Sources suggest that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS had already greenlit Rekha Gupta's ap-

### Delhi HC asks Railways to respond to PIL over stampede at New Delhi railway Station

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Railways regarding a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) over the recent stampede at New Delhi Railway Station during peak hours, which resulted in the loss of 18 lives. The PIL alleges that the stampede on Platform No. 16 was caused by overcrowding due to multiple long-distance trains arriving and departing simultaneously on the Delhi-Prayagraj route during the Mahakumbh.

It claims that the tragedy was a result of administrative negligence and violated the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The bench of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay and Justice Tuskar Rao Gedela directed that the Railway Board should undertake this examination and subsequently file a short affidavit detailing the steps to be taken. Next Date of Hearing: March 26.

## Rekha Gupta to be Delhi's new chief minister

### Two deputy CMs also announced

**New Delhi:** The suspense over Delhi's next Chief Minister has ended, with Rekha Gupta being named as the new CM.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for February 20 at 11:00 AM at Ramlila Maidan, where Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena will administer the oath to the new Chief Minister and her cabinet at 12:35 PM. Initially, the event was planned for 4:30 PM, but it has been rescheduled.

### BJP legislators unanimously approve Rekha Gupta

A crucial meeting of newly elected BJP legislators was held in Delhi on Wednesday evening, where Rekha Gupta was elected as the leader of the legislative party. Following this, party leaders met LG V.K. Saxena to stake a claim for forming the new government.

### BJP appointed observers for selection process

Earlier on February 19, the BJP's Parliamentary Board appointed Ravi Shankar Prasad and O.P. Dhanekar as observers to oversee the selection of the legislative party



leader. The meeting was held in their presence, confirming Rekha Gupta's appointment as Delhi's new CM.

### Prominent leaders, guests and celebrities expected at ceremony

The grand swearing-in ceremony is expected to witness the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Chief Ministers from BJP-NDA-ruled states.

Given the high-profile nature of the event, Delhi Police has intensified security measures.

Since the Prime Minister will be present, SPG personnel will be deployed to ensure stringent security.

## Abu Salem moves court seeking premature release

### Mumbai (UNI)

Gangster Abu Salem, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts case, has moved the Bombay High Court seeking remission of his sentence and premature release, his lawyer Farhan Shah said here on Wednesday.

### 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts

The petition, filed before a division bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and S M Modak, is listed for hearing on March 10.

Salem in his petition said that as per terms of the extradition treaty between India and Portugal, he has already completed 25 years in prison and hence, he should be released from prison.



His petition further contended that he has spent 11 years, nine months and 26 days as an undertrial from November 2005 to September 2017.

As a convict in 2006 TADA case, he has spent nine years, 10 months and four days between February 2015 and December 2024.

### Clean chit to Siddaramaiah, his wife in Muda case

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka Lokayukta gave a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife, and two others in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (Muda) site allocation case, with the anti-corruption watchdog set to submit a B-report citing lack of evidence. The investigation concluded that the allegations were civil in nature and did not warrant criminal proceedings.

A notice was sent to complainant Snehamayee Krishna, a journalist and social activist, informing him of the findings. He has been given a week to challenge the report before the designated magistrate.

The Lokayukta's notice stated that the probe did not find sufficient proof to substantiate the charges and suggested that any discrepancies may have arisen from a misunderstanding of legal provisions.

## PM Modi to guide MPs and MLAs on service and dedication in politics

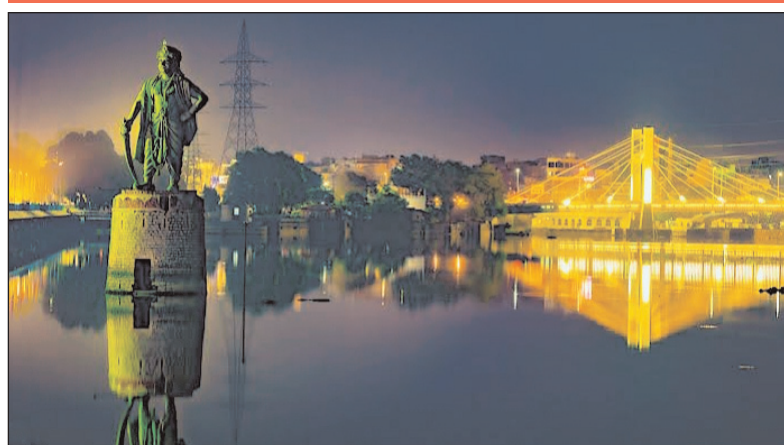
**Bhopal:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to engage in a two-hour interactive session with Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and key state officials at the Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Center in Bhopal on February 23.

The session aims to impart lessons on service and dedication in politics, guiding leaders on effective governance that fosters both regional development and active communication with constituents.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has approved the venue, situated near the Raj Bhavan. Four days prior, senior BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh proposed the session, considering Modi's early arrival for the Global Investors Summit (GIS).

The PMO confirmed the schedule on Wednesday morning, prompting immediate preparations at the convention center. By the af-

### 2-hour Interactive Session at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Center on February 23



ternoon, BJP state president VD Sharma, along with senior administrative officers, including Dr. Rajesh

Rajoura from the Chief Minister's Secretariat and ACS Home Sanjay Dubey, inspected the arrangements.

### PM Modi's Itinerary

Before the interaction, PM Modi will visit Chhatrapur's Bageshwar to lay the foundation stone for a cancer hospital.

He will then fly to Bhopal from Khajuraho and proceed directly to Raj Bhavan for an overnight stay. The next morning, on February 24, he will inaugurate the Global Investors Summit at the National Museum of Mankind.

### A Unique Political Dialogue

Typically, PM Modi holds such interactions with Lok Sabha MPs, especially after general elections, to discuss priorities and governance strategies.

Occasionally, he engages with MPs from specific states, but these sessions generally take place in New Delhi.

This event marks the first time that Modi, as Prime Minister, will interact collectively with MPs,

MLAs, and key BJP leaders from the state. The Madhya Pradesh BJP unit is abuzz with excitement, viewing this as an unprecedented opportunity.

### Who Will Attend?

Approximately 300 attendees are expected, including around 50 senior BJP officials, all 29 Lok Sabha MPs, and 9 Rajya Sabha MPs from the state.

While Madhya Pradesh has 11 Rajya Sabha seats, two are held by Congress. Among BJP's 9 Rajya Sabha MPs, Union Ministers Dr. M. Murgan and George Kurian may also participate.

Furthermore, all Madhya Pradesh MPs who have been appointed as Union Ministers post the Lok Sabha elections are likely to attend.

Discussions are also underway to include BJP mayors and district panchayat heads.