

**MUSTREAD**

**SIT arrest Vishal Sisodia in cough syrup case**

**Kanpur:** Uttar Pradesh's Crime Branch and Special Investigation Team (SIT) in Kanpur have arrested Vishal Singh Sisodia in connection with a codeine-laced cough syrup case, officials confirmed on Tuesday. Sisodia had been absconding for a long time. Earlier, police had arrested Vinod Agarwal, operator of Agarwal Brothers, whose interrogation confirmed Sisodia's active role in the illegal network. A case under various sections has been registered at Hanumant Vihar police station.

**Kolhapur: Sexual assault on fourth-grade girl**

**Kolhapur:** A shocking incident occurred in Kolhapur where a girl studying in fourth grade was subjected to obscene acts. This heinous act was committed by a 40-year-old man, causing outrage in Kolhapur city. A complaint has been filed with the police stating that the girl was taken to the bathroom under the pretext of bringing a tobacco pouch and sexually assaulted. The accused is named Shashikant Ghatge, and the police have taken him into custody.

**Two Rohit Godara gang shooters arrested**

**New Delhi:** In a major crackdown, the North district of Delhi Police has arrested two shooters of the Rohit Godara gang in connection with the firing at the legal team of Lawrence Bishnoi in Delhi. According to information, both the accused are said to be associated with the Rohit Godara gang and preliminary investigation has revealed their links to a gambling and betting racket allegedly being operated through a call centre. Police have recovered a Glock pistol from their possession.

**Former union minister K.P. Unnikrishnan passes away**

**Kozhikode:** Former union Minister and senior Congress leader K.P. Unnikrishnan passed away in Kozhikode in the early hours of Tuesday. He was 90. Unnikrishnan had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kozhikode for age-related ailments for some time. He served as union Minister for Telecommunications, Shipping, and Surface Transport in the V.P. Singh Cabinet. Unnikrishnan represented the Vatakara Lok Sabha constituency from 1971 to 1996, during which he was associated with three political parties. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Vatakara in 1971 and 1977 on a Congress ticket.

**Arms and Ammunition recovered in Churachandpur**

**Imphal:** Security forces have recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during a search operation conducted at Old Gothol village under Churachandpur Police Station in Churachandpur district. According to police, the items recovered on Monday included one country-made single barrel rifle, one bolt-action rifle, one country-made grenade, one .22 rifle fitted with a telescopic sight, one pumpi ammunition, four single barrel ammunitions, one pumpi mortar and five country-made shells. The recovered arms and ammunition have been handed over to the concerned police station for further investigation and necessary legal action.

**Budget Session of HP Assembly to Resume on March 18**

**Shimla:** The Budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced on February 16 with the Governor's Address, would resume on March 18 after being adjourned earlier. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will present the State Budget for the financial year 2026-27 on March 20. This would be his fourth budget as Chief Minister. During the two days preceding the Budget presentation, the House is expected to take up discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address, supplementary demands for grants, the Appropriation Bill, and presentation of the Economic Survey. Addressing mediapersons here today, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said that preparations for the second phase of the session have been completed.

# Stalin credits Rs 2,000 for senior citizens, widows along with pension

Chennai (UNI)

In yet another political masterstroke ahead of the key Assembly elections, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday credited additional financial assistance of Rs 2,000 each to senior citizens and widows directly in their bank accounts over and above their regular pension as part of a major welfare push ahead of the polls.

Announcing this Chief Minister and DMK President M.K. Stalin said this special fund was intended to ease the economic burden on vulnerable groups across the state.

In a statement, he said the extra amount will be deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts along with the March pension, fulfilling the longstanding demands from citizens living on the margins of society.

He described the step as a continuation of the state government's commitment to uplift the elderly,



widows, women and disabled persons during times of financial need.

Under the expanded scheme 29,29,000 senior citizens and women will receive a total of Rs 3,200 each (including the Rs 2,000 special credit), while 5,92,000 persons with disabilities will get Rs 3,500 each.

Stalin also announced that Rs 4,000 each was credited today in the accounts of 2,58,000 families of differently-abled individuals receiving maintenance assistance.

In addition to this, he said the government has been distributing an assistance of Rs 8,000 per family to

**In yet another poll masterstroke**

1,62,900 fishing households during the annual fishing ban period from April to June, and providing financial support amounting to Rs 8.53 crore for 14,870 tea plantation growers in the Nilgiris district through a purchase support programme coordinated with 15 cooperative tea factories.

Stalin also reiterated his declara-

tion at this moment asserting that his government would never anyone to lag behind in Tamil Nadu's growth journey.

It may be noted that Stalin had on February 13 announced that the DMK government headed by him had deposited Rs 5,000 in the bank accounts of the 1.31 crore women beneficiaries of the flagship Kalaigarnar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam (Kalaigarnar Women's Financial Right Scheme), under which women household heads were extended Rs 1,000 a month.

In what is seen as a masterstroke, the Chief Minister, taking a cue from Bihar where beneficiaries were given Rs 10,000 on the eve of the assembly election, has deposited the amount before announcing it through a social media post in the morning, taking the wind out of the opposition sails.

# Rahul Gandhi urges Centre to take clear stand amid rising US-Israel-Iran tensions

New Delhi (UNI)

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday expressed concern over escalating hostilities involving the United States, Israel and Iran, warning that the fragile West Asian region was being pushed towards a wider conflict and calling on the Indian government to adopt a morally clear and consistent position.

In a statement issued amid rising tensions, Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said, "Escalating hostilities between the United States, Israel and Iran are pushing a fragile region towards wider conflict. Crores of people, including nearly a crore Indians, face uncertainty." He underscored the potential impact on the large In-



dian diaspora in the Gulf and the broader Middle East, as well as on regional stability.

While acknowledging that security concerns are real, the Congress MP cautioned against actions that

violate national sovereignty. "Attacks that violate sovereignty will only worsen the crisis," he said. "The unilateral attacks on Iran, as well as Iran's attacks on other Middle Eastern nations, must be condemned. Violence begets violence - dialogue and restraint remain the only path to peace."

The remarks come at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with fears of retaliatory strikes and a broader regional spillover. India has traditionally maintained diplomatic relations with multiple stakeholders in the region, balancing ties with Israel, Iran, and Arab nations, while consistently advocating for de-escalation and dialogue.

# Siddaramaiah backs Stalin's federal push



Bengaluru (UNI)

In a politically significant move that could reshape the national federal discourse, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has formally backed Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's initiative to review Centre-State relations and called for a collective front of states to "right-size" the union government within the frame-

**About 30 lakh offer Pongala to Attukal Devi**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** In an extraordinary display of devotion, Kerala's capital city witnessed an overwhelming surge of faith on Tuesday as nearly 30 lakh women devotees assembled across a 10-kilometre stretch to offer the sacred Pongala to Attukal Devi.

Revered as the 'Sabarimala of Women,' the Attukal Devi temple once again became the epicentre of one of the largest gatherings of women in the world, cutting across distinctions of caste, creed, and religion. The massive congregation transformed the city into a sprawling landscape of prayer, unity, and spiritual fervour.

From early morning, roadsides, residential courtyards, terraces, vacant plots, and public spaces across Thiruvananthapuram were turned into rows of temporary hearths.

Women devotees prepared the traditional sweet offering in earthen pots, praying for health, prosperity, and the well-being of their families.

work of the Constitution.

Responding to Stalin's letter dated February 20, forwarding Part I of the report of the High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations, Siddaramaiah said the exercise represents a thoughtful and timely constitutional intervention.

His reply, issued from Vidhana Soudha on March 2, underscores Karnataka's alignment with Tamil Nadu on what he described as the need for a principled recalibration of federal balance.

Placing the debate within the context of the Constitution of India, the Karnataka Chief Minister observed that the Constitution was framed under extraordinary historical compulsions, including Partition and national integration, which led to the creation of a union with certain unitary features.

**BJP MP's daughter returns safely from Dubai**

**New Delhi:** BJP MP from Chandni Chowk Praveen Khandelwal on Tuesday highlighted what he described as a "big lesson in responsible citizenship and governance" from the United Arab Emirates amid the ongoing tensions between Israel and Iran.

In a statement, Khandelwal said abnormal conditions arose in the Gulf region due to the conflict, leading to a large number of people being stranded in the UAE. He said his daughter, who had travelled to Dubai for business, was among those stranded for three days but returned safely to India on Tuesday morning.

Describing the past few days as emotionally stressful, the MP said the safe return of his daughter brought immense relief to the family.

Khandelwal underlined that despite high demand during the crisis, hotels, airlines and taxi services in Dubai did not resort to overcharging.

# Seven including two kids killed in separate accidents, several injured

Unnao/Agra/Badaun (UNI)

Two people, including a three-year-old girl, were killed and seven others injured after a speeding loader overturned on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway near Gahar Purva village in Bangarmau area of Unnao district.

The accident occurred Tuesday morning when the driver reportedly dozed off, causing the vehicle to hit a divider and overturn. The victims were returning from Faridabad to celebrate Holi.

The deceased were identified as Diksha (3) and the driver, Murari. The injured have been referred to the district hospital. Police have sent the bodies for a postmortem.

In another incident, two people, including a minor girl, were killed and seven others seriously injured in a head-on collision between a car and a truck early Tuesday morning on the Bah-Fatehabad road in Agra.

The victims were traveling from Noida to Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, for Holi celebrations. The impact was so severe that the car was mangled, and police had to cut it open to retrieve the trapped passengers.

Tanvi (5) died on the spot, while Ramkumar (45) succumbed to injuries after being extricated. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals. Police have sent the bodies for postmortem and initiated an investigation.

Meanwhile, a father and son were killed in a head-on collision between two motorcycles on Holi evening near Karanpur village on the Bisauli-Islamnagar road in the Ughaiti police station area of Badaun district.

Gendan Lal (55) and his son Sher Singh (27), residents of Kudh Fatehgarh in Sambhal district, were returning from Karanpur village after visiting relatives for 'Gami ki Holi' when the accident occurred on Tuesday. The other motorcycle riders, Jabir and Rafi Mohammad, sustained serious injuries and were referred to a higher medical center. Police suspect overspeeding and negligence as the cause.

# Congress exposed as compromised organisation, claims Pradeep Bhandari

New Delhi (UNI)

BJP leader Pradeep Bhandari on Tuesday attacked the Congress, claiming that over the past few days one issue has dominated public discourse - that the grand old party has allegedly been exposed as a compromised organisation.

Bhandari alleged that the husband of a Haryana Mahila Congress leader has levelled serious accusations regarding an alleged cash-for-ticket deal for the Bawal Assembly seat in the state.

He claimed that, according to the person's allegations, Rs 7 crore was taken from him in exchange for the promise of a Congress election ticket.

The BJP leader further alleged that Rs 1.6 crore was paid to a Member of Parliament, after which addi-



tional money was allegedly transferred to the personal assistant of a senior Congress leader.

Bhandari stated that the payments were allegedly made into parliamentary salary accounts and claimed that despite more than one-and-a-half years having passed, the money has not been returned.

He also alleged that Rs 35 lakh was taken by the personal assistant of a senior Congress leader and that when a refund was sought, the concerned Congress leader allegedly behaved rudely.

According to Bhandari, the total amount paid reached Rs 7 crore, including multiple instalments and additional expenses.

He further claimed that the complainant alleged similar collections of large sums - Rs 100 crore, Rs 200 crore and Rs 50 crore - from contractors in southern India through comparable arrangements.

The BJP leader also alleged that a member of a senior Congress leader's office informed the individual that the matter would be "discussed" and that he would be accommodated in some position.

**Security guards beat devotee at Trimbakeshwar Temple**

**Nashik:** An alarming incident unfolded on Sunday (March 1) at the Trimbakeshwar Temple, where a devotee was brutally beaten by temple security guards, leaving her clothes torn.

The shocking episode was captured on a mobile phone by another devotee, and the video quickly went viral on social media, sparking widespread outrage and calls for action against the security personnel.

There was also a demand to register a case against the security guards. After that, the Trimbak Police has taken cognizance of the matter and filed a police complaint.

# INS Vikrant achieves 1,000 arrested landings

New Delhi (UNI)

India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, has achieved a major operational milestone by completing 1,000 successful and safe arrested landings, underscoring the Navy's growing blue-water combat capabilities.

Announcing the landmark feat, the Carrier described it as a testament to relentless teamwork, precision training and sustained combat readiness at sea.

"From first-light launches to late-night recoveries-1000 traps strong... #INSVikrant achieves 1000 successful and safe arrested landings, marking a testament to relentless teamwork and combat readiness," the post on X read.



Arrested landings are a critical feature of aircraft carrier operations, enabling high-speed fighter jets to be brought to a swift halt within a limited deck space through a sophisticated arresting mechanism.

Unlike land-based airfields, carriers offer only a short stretch of runway, leaving no margin for conventional landings. Without the arrestor wire system to rapidly decelerate incoming aircraft, jets would over-

shoot the deck. The mechanism ensures sustained air operations at sea, even amid rough weather and rolling waves.

For pilots, the task demands exceptional precision and timing, as they must land on a constantly moving flight deck, a challenge that makes arrested landings among the most exacting skills in naval aviation.

Rear Admiral Vivek Dahiya, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), commended Team Vikrant and her embarked squadrons for this proud operational milestone.

Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), INS Vikrant, is the largest warship ever constructed in the country.