

**MUSTREAD**

**National Lok Adalat in Telangana rescheduled to Mar 28**

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TGLSA) has announced that the first National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on March 14, has been rescheduled to March 28. According to an official release issued on Thursday, the decision was taken as per the orders of the Executive Chairman of TGLSA. The National Lok Adalat will now be conducted on March 28 (Saturday) across all courts in Telangana. The authority has urged litigants to utilise the opportunity to settle various pending cases, including compoundable criminal cases, cheque bounce cases, matrimonial disputes (except divorce), partition suits, money disputes and other civil matters.

**Kidnap-murder accused dies by suicide in police custody in Ranchi**

Ranchi: An accused arrested for kidnapping and murdering a 12-year-old boy died by suicide inside the lock-up of Namkum police station in Jharkhand capital's neighbourhood on Thursday, police said. According to police sources, the accused, Jagay Munda, hanged himself inside the police station lock-up. His body was later sent to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for postmortem. Munda was a resident of Kolhapuri village under Saiko police station in Khunti district. Police said he had been living in the Namkum area with a woman from his village, with whom he allegedly had a relationship. Sources said a dispute broke out between the accused and the woman on Sunday, following which he allegedly abducted her 12-year-old son, Ramesh Hajam.

**Varsha Usgaonkar, Mrinalini Jambhale duped of Rs 47 lakh; cheating case filed in Mumbai**

Mumbai: A major fraud case has surfaced in Mumbai, where noted actresses Varsha Usgaonkar and Mrinalini Jambhale were allegedly cheated of nearly Rs 47 lakh. The incident has created a stir in the film and theatre fraternity. A case has been registered at Shivaji Park Police Station, and an investigation is currently underway. Director and builder Avinash Jadhav has been booked on charges of cheating. According to police sources, the complaint was filed by actress Mrinalini Jambhale, who has worked in Marathi theatre and films. She reportedly had a professional acquaintance with Jadhav. As per the complaint, Jadhav introduced himself as a film producer and builder and allegedly persuaded Jambhale and her associates to invest in a project in Dombivli, promising high returns.

**Post-mortem confirms rape and murder of class 11 student in Lakhimpur Kheri**

Lakhimpur Kheri: A sensational revelation has emerged in the case of a 16-year-old girl whose body was found in a sugarcane field in the Sadar Kotwali area of Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. The post-mortem report has confirmed that the girl was strangled to death and sexually assaulted, police said on Thursday. According to police, the body of the Class 11 student was discovered on March 3 under suspicious circumstances in a village under the Sadar Kotwali police station. The victim was originally a resident of the Laharpur area of Sitapur district and had been living in a rented house in Lakhimpur Kheri to pursue her studies. The teenager had been missing since February 25.

**Naidu claims his government created 6.28 lakh new jobs in 20 months**

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that 6.28 lakh jobs have been created in the state within the last 20 months. Of these, 2.48 lakh jobs were generated in MSMEs, 1.46 lakh through Skill Development initiatives, 95,000 in industries and 64,000 in the food processing sector. Additionally, 30,500 government jobs were provided through Mega DSC, police constable recruitment and other government appointments, the chief minister claimed.

**Irfan Ansari urges Nitish Kumar to reconsider Rajya Sabha move**

Ranchi (UNI)

Reacting to the decision of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to move to the Rajya Sabha, Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari said stepping down from the important responsibility of Chief Minister to join the Upper House appears to be a politically self-destructive decision.

Ansari said it was difficult to understand what circumstances led Kumar to take such a step. He questioned whether there was any political pressure behind the move and said that if Kumar had been compelled in any way, it would be a matter of serious concern not only for him but also for the spirit of democracy.

He further stated that people have always expected stability and courage from an experienced and visionary leader like Nitish Kumar. If a leadership transition was neces-



sary, Kumar could have promoted a successor and taken on the role of a mentor while continuing to guide the government. He said the decision to go to the Rajya Sabha had surprised not only Bihar but also the political circles in neighbouring Jharkhand and across the country.

Ansari appealed to Kumar to reconsider his decision and said that bowing to pressure, coercion, or blackmail would not suit his person-



ality. He added that in a democracy, the path of dialogue and cooperation is always open and urged Kumar to speak openly if he was facing any political harassment.

The minister concluded by saying that the people of the country and democratic forces stand with him, adding that history respects those who take decisions with courage and conscience rather than under pressure.

**Three suspended Congress MLAs join BJP ahead of Assam assembly elections**

Guwahati (UNI)

Just ahead of the Assembly elections in Assam, three suspended Congress MLAs have joined ruling BJP today.

Three-time legislator from North Karimganj constituency, Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha, three-time MLA from Mangaldai, Basant Das and Raha MLA, Sashikanta Das — formally joined the BJP.

The three had been suspended from the Congress — Basanta Das and Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha since 2024 and Sashi Kanta Das since 2021 — for supporting the BJP.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomed the three to the party fold at the BJP headquarters in Guwahati and said that it is a big day for the BJP and that it signifies the BJP's rising popularity across the state.

"Today, 3 Congress MLAs have joined our party. This is a big day for the BJP. I am sure this reflects the growing popularity of the BJP and the respect people have for Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said the Assam

Chief Minister.

Later, talking to the media, Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha said that the decision to join the BJP was taken keeping in mind the larger interests of Assam and the country.

Purkayastha said that he is keen to work in line with the BJP's policies and contribute to the development and security of the state as well as the nation.

Claiming that the appeasement policy had not only weakened the Congress, Purkayastha said that unless the party revisits its ideological approach, it risks becoming "hollow" in the future.

Asked about if the three would be given tickets for the forthcoming assembly elections, the Chief Minister said that the party's state election committee would consider the possibility.

"In BJP, we have three-member and five-member panels. Names of these three would be included in the panel and the party would take a decision," added Sarma.

**CM lays foundation stone for Ladakhi architecture foot-over bridge at Monastery market**

New Delhi (UNI)

Delhi Chief Minister of Delhi Rekha Gupta on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a foot over bridge (FOB) to be constructed near Ladakh Budh Vihar on Outer Ring Road, Kashmere Gate at an estimated cost of Rs 2.17 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta said that the project marks an important step towards fulfilling a long-standing demand of local residents. She noted that the bridge will enable citizens visiting Ladakh Budh Vihar and the Monastery Market to cross the road safely, making movement in the area more convenient and secure.

BJP MP from Chandni Chowk Praveen Khandelwal and PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh were also present at the event.

The Chief Minister informed that the design of the bridge has been de-

veloped keeping Ladakhi architectural elements in mind, so that the structure not only provides modern facilities but also reflects the cultural identity and traditions of the area.

She added that lifts will also be installed on the bridge to provide special convenience to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women.

Gupta further said that Delhi is the mirror of the nation, where people from different states and cultures live together in harmony. Families from Ladakh have been residing in Delhi for many years in peace and goodwill, spreading the message of harmony and compassion through the teachings of Lord Buddha.

She emphasised that the Delhi Government continues to work for the development and welfare of all communities while respecting their cultural traditions.

**Rahul Gandhi raises concerns over oil supply risks amid regional tensions, targets PM Modi**

New Delhi (UNI)

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday voiced concern over potential disruptions to India's energy supplies amid escalating geopolitical tensions in the region, saying the country could face serious risks due to its dependence on oil shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

In a post on X, Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said the global situation had entered a volatile phase and called for decisive leadership from the government. "The world has entered a volatile phase. Stormy seas lie ahead," he wrote.

The Congress leader warned that India's energy security could be affected if tensions escalate further.



"India's oil supplies are under threat, with more than 40% of our imports transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The situation is even worse for LPG and LNG," he said.

Referring to recent regional developments, Gandhi added, "The conflict has reached our backyard, with an Iranian warship sunk in the Indian Ocean. Yet the Prime Minister has

said nothing."

He also took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, arguing that the country requires stable leadership during a period of global uncertainty. "At a moment like this, we need a steady hand at the wheel. Instead, India has a compromised PM who has surrendered our strategic autonomy," Gandhi said.

The remarks come amid rising tensions in West Asia and growing concerns about the security of maritime trade routes that are critical for global energy supplies. The Strait of Hormuz, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints, with a significant portion of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas shipments passing through it.

**Amit Shah launches digital tools and mascots for Census 2027**

New Delhi (UNI)

Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Thursday soft-launched four digital tools and formally unveiled the mascots "Pragati" (female) and "Vikas" (male) for the upcoming Census 2027 in New Delhi.

The Census 2027, which will be conducted in two phases, is set to be the world's largest census exercise. For the first time, the census will be conducted digitally, with the additional option of self-enumeration available to citizens.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has developed advanced digital platforms to facilitate enumeration operations nationwide, and several senior officials, including the union Home Secretary and the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, were present for the launch.



The Central Government had notified its intent to conduct Census 2027 through a Gazette Notification on June 16, 2025, formally commencing the census process.

The mascots "Pragati" and "Vikas" were unveiled as friendly and relatable faces of Census 2027, symboliz-

ing the equal participation of women and men in the collective resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. Through these mascots, information, objectives, and key messages related to the census will be communicated in a citizen-friendly manner across diverse sections of society.

**CISF designated as Recognised Security Organisation for over 250 Indian sea ports: DG Praveen Ranjan**

Bhubaneswar: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been designated as the Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for more than 250 major and minor sea ports in India, Director General Praveen Ranjan said on Thursday.

Briefing the media on the occasion of the 57th Raising Day of the CISF, Ranjan said the force is developing domain experts in key areas such as information technology, aviation security, cyber security, battle craft, weapons and tactics, anti-drone solutions, and fire management.

He said the CISF is in the process of transforming its training architecture with the objective of making every recruit battle-ready and operationally prepared.

**Mamata assures Matua community of protection amid voter list concerns on Boroma's death anniversary**

Kolkata (UNI)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday, on the death anniversary of Binapani Devi, popularly known as Boroma, assured the Matua community that her government would not allow any injustice against them and would fight attempts to deprive them of their rights.

The chief minister, while paying tribute to Boroma through a social media post, also accused the BJP-led central government of creating confusion and uncertainty among Matua voters by allegedly removing their names from the electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Her remarks come amid allegations that nearly 63 lakhs names have been deleted from the final voter list released recently by the Election Commission, with several people from the Matua community in districts such as North 24 Parganas and Nadia reportedly affected.



Many names have also been placed in the "under consideration" category, triggering anxiety among community members over their citizenship status.

In her message, Banerjee paid rich tribute to Boroma and highlighted the contribution of the Matua Mahasangha to social reform in Bengal.

Referring to the legacy of Harichand Thakur and Guruchand Thakur, she said the movement led by them played a key role in protecting the rights of Dal-

its and marginalised people and in promoting education and an egalitarian society.

"Following the path shown by Harichand Thakur and Guruchand Thakur, the Matua Mahasangha has been an inseparable part of Bengal's social reform and renaissance. Boroma cherished these ideals throughout her life and under her leadership the organisation became a pillar of social equality and brotherhood," Banerjee wrote.

The chief minister also recalled her personal bond with Boroma, saying, "My relationship with Boroma was personal and spiritual. I received her motherly affection closely — that is one of the greatest blessings of my life. Whenever she called me for any need, including medical treatment, I rushed to her. It is a matter of pride that our government honoured her with the state's highest award, Banga Bibhushan, for her immense social contribution."

**RS polls : All 6 candidates from TN file nomination papers on last day, set to be elected unopposed**

Chennai (UNI)

All the six candidates — four from the ruling DMK-led Front and two belonging to the Opposition AIADMK-led NDA, filed their nomination papers on the last day today to fill up six seats that would fall vacant next month in the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

Though the elections are scheduled for March 16, all the six candidates would be declared elected unopposed on March 9, the last date for withdrawals after scrutiny tomorrow.

Those who filed their papers were five-time member Trichy N Siva, who will be entering the Upper House of Parliament for a record sixth successive term and Prof J Constantine Ravindran of the DMK, Christopher Tilak of Congress and the L K Sudeesh, Treasurer of the DMK of late actor-politician Vijayakanth,

which would be entering the hallowed precincts of Parliament for the first time ever since the party was formed two decades back in 2005.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin, Lok Sabha MP and Parliamentary Party Leaders Ms Kanimozhi, senior DMK leaders, alliance party leaders including TNCC President K Selvapurthagai, AICC TN election in-charge Girish Chodankar, Congress Legislature party leader Rajesh Kumar, DMDK General Secretary Ms Premalatha Vijayakanth and others.

On behalf of the AIADMK-led alliance, incumbent M Thambidurai and alliance party leaders former union Minister Anbumani, heading one of the factions of the vertically split PMK, filed their papers, in the presence of AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, former Ministers and other senior leaders.

**Iran-Israel war disrupts grape exports to Gulf, Sangli farmers face heavy losses**

Pune (UNI)

The ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel has dealt a severe blow to grape exports to Gulf nations, plunging growers and traders in Maharashtra's Sangli district into a deep financial crisis.

The escalating hostilities between Iran and Israel have disrupted key maritime and air trade routes across the Gulf region, forcing export operations to a near standstill. With uncertainty looming over shipping schedules and insurance costs soaring, transactions worth crores of rupees have been left in limbo.

Every year, thousands of tonnes of grapes from Sangli are exported to Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. This season, however, nearly 350 containers of grapes are lying



unsold in cold storage across Sangli, with facilities running out of space to accommodate fresh arrivals.

An additional 700 containers

worth of grapes remain in vineyards, awaiting harvest. If they are not shipped promptly, the produce risks spoilage, compounding

the losses for farmers.

At the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (Nhava Sheva) in Mumbai, around 300 containers are stranded as shipping schedules collapse under regional instability. The sharp rise in insurance premiums has further compelled traders to suspend new consignments.

During the state Budget session, BJP MLA Dr. Atulbaba Bhosale raised the issue of grape and raisin producers, urging the government to intervene. He alleged that cheap Chinese raisins are entering India via Afghanistan in large quantities, severely affecting the market for raisins produced in Sangli and Tasgaon. He demanded a thorough investigation into the import routes and called on the Customs Department to take strict