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**'Galgotian blunder': Sibal slams Govt on robodog row, accuses it of negligence**

P-11

**Allu Arjun Wins Best Actor For Pushpa 2 At Filmfare Awards South, Dedicates Win To Fans**

P-10

## B'desh fully restores visa services for Indians

Bangladesh diplomatic missions in India would fully restore tourist visa services starting Monday, a Bangladesh foreign ministry official said.

The Bangladesh government had suspended tourist visa services from its diplomatic missions in India citing security reasons. However, with the election of a new government under Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Tarique Rahman, the visa services will be resumed

Cont. on P9 >

## Truck driver detained for questioning

A truck driver was late last night detained for questioning after some Pakistan contact numbers were found in his mobile phone during checking at Pangdour Chowk in Samba district near here.

According to officials, the truck was on its way to Kashmir when police stopped it at a check point during random checking of vehicles.

After the cops found

Cont. on P9 >

## Next agri revolution to be AI-driven: Jitendra



Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said India's next agricultural revolution would be driven by artificial intelligence, positioning AI as the central pillar of farm policy, research and investment architecture at the AI4Agri 2026 Summit in Mumbai.

Addressing the inaugural session of the

Cont. on P9 >

## SA beat India in T20 WC match

AHMEDABAD, FEB 22: David Miller rolled back the years with a stroke-filled fifty before South Africa executed clinically with the ball to choke India and secure a handsome 76-run win in their Group 1 Super Eights match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, South Africa rode on Miller (63 off 35 balls) and young Dewald Brevis' (45 off 29 balls) recovery act -- 97-run fourth-wicket stand from just 51 balls -- to post 187 for 7.

In reply, India never got going as the Aiden Markram-led side outsmarted them to bowl the

Cont. on P9 >

## ED sets target of filing 500 chargesheets

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has set a target of filing 500 chargesheets in money-laundering cases in the current financial year and investigating officials have been directed to ensure that once a case is registered, the probe should be completed within one to two years, except in "complex" matters, the agency said on Sunday.

These measures were discussed and finalised during the federal probe agency's 34th Quarterly

Cont. on P9 >

## 'Mann Ki Baat'

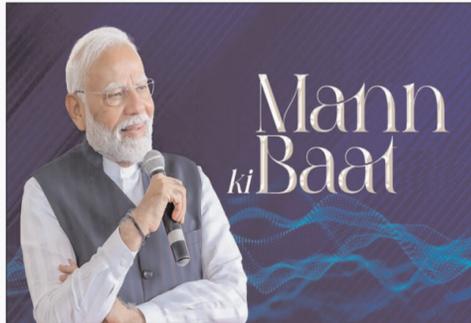
# British architect Lutyens' statue to go from Rashtrapati Bhavan: Modi

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Sunday that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens, which has stood in Rashtrapati Bhavan, will be replaced by a statue of C Rajagopalachari, the first Indian governor-general of independent India.

"Unfortunately, even after independence, statues of British administrators remained in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, while those of India's great leaders were not honoured with a place there," he said during his monthly radio address, 'Mann Ki Baat'.

"However, the country is moving away from symbols of colonial rule and is beginning to embrace symbols of Indian culture," the prime minister stated.

"A statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens also stood in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Now, this statue will be replaced by a statue of



Rajaji (C Rajagopalachari)," he said.

Modi mentioned that during the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' he had discussed the 'Panch-Pran' from the Red Fort, highlighting the importance of freeing oneself from the mentality of slavery.

Affirming that the Rashtrapati Bhavan is taking a significant step forward in this regard, he announced that the 'Rajaji Utsav' will be celebrated on February 23, during which the statue of C Rajagopalachari will be unveiled in the central courtyard of Rashtrapati

Bhavan.

"Rajagopalachari was among those who saw power not as a position but as a service. His conduct, self-restraint, and independent thinking in public life inspire us even today," the prime minister said.

Additionally, an exhibition on Rajagopalachari will take place during the Rajaji Utsav, running from February 24 to March 1. "Do pay a visit there, to have a look, whenever possible," Modi said.

Edwin Lutyens, in collaboration with Sir Herbert Baker, had designed sev-

eral monumental buildings in New Delhi, including Rashtrapati Bhavan, North Block, South Block, and India Gate.

In recognition of his contribution, a part of New Delhi is also known as 'Lutyens' Delhi'.

He also pitched for use of 'swadeshi' products during festivals and asked people to always remember to be 'vocal for local'.

Modi said the Islamic holy month Ramzan was currently going on and wished everyone the best for the occasion.

"Holi is also coming in a few days and this means that a time filled with colours, gulas, and laughter is about to knock at our doors," he added.

"May you all celebrate all festivals happily with your family and loved ones. And yes, always remember some mantras, like being vocal for local," Modi said.

The prime minister said many foreign-made products had entered the Holi

Cont. on P9 >

## Brazil Prez asks US not to spark 'new cold war'



NEW DELHI, FEB 22: Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday urged the United States not to spark a "new Cold War" and called for all countries to be treated equally, signaling a desire to reset relations ahead of a planned visit to Washington next month.

"I want to tell US Presi

Cont. on P9 >

## Netanyahu calls Modi 'personal friend'



TEL AVIV (ISRAEL), FEB 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Israel on Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday, adding that the two sides will look to strengthen economic, diplomatic and security cooperation

"On Wednesday, the Prime Minister of India will

Cont. on P9 >

# 3 top Pak terrorists killed in Chatroo encounter

Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 22

Three Pakistani terrorists of the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit were today killed by security forces in an encounter in the dense Chatroo woods of Kishtwar district of Jammu.

Acting on a tip-off, Army, police and CRPF launched a 'seek & destroy' operation in the woods of Passerkut in Chatroo belt of Kishtwar in the morning, officials said.

"Pursuant to credible intelligence inputs collated from police, IB and own intelligence sources, a joint operation was launched in the Kishtwar region under operation Trashi-I to track down and neutralise terrorists operating in the area," Army's White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

It was at about 11 am when forces established contact with the terrorists who were hiding in a mud hut at the foot of the hill. They opened fire on the approaching search parties, leading to an intense gun-

fight, officials said.

During the exchange of fire between the two sides which continued for quite some time, all the three terrorists, who were in the hut, were killed and their bodies were charred beyond recognition, the officials added, saying that AK rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists.

"Displaying tactical precision, seamless synergy and resolute aggression, troops dominated the encounter site wherein three terrorists have been successfully neutralised," Army said.

Later, the charred bodies of the terrorists were recovered from the scene and efforts were on to establish their exact identity, officials said, adding intelligence inputs, however, suggested the presence of Saifullah and his associates, all Pakistani terrorists of JeM, inside the hut.

Saifullah was said to have infiltrated into Jammu & Kashmir nearly five years ago and masterminded sev-

## 'Tyson' takes first bullet

In a remarkable act of bravery, sniffer dog of 2 Para SF named Tyson was the first to confirm the presence of terrorists in the operation zone.

Tyson was hit by a bullet in its leg while advancing ahead of the troops, but despite the injury, it continued with the mission, helping the forces establish contact with the terrorists.

The dog was later airlifted for medical treatment and was now safe and recovering, according to officials.

eral deadly attacks on security forces, including the one in July 2024 that had left four soldiers, including a Captain, martyred. He had escaped a number of encounters in the past.

Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma complimented the troops of White Knight Corps for their "swift & precise" action that led to the

Cont. on P9 >

## 'Women, children killed'

# India strongly condemns Pak strikes in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: India on Sunday strongly condemned Pakistan's overnight airstrikes on neighbouring Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan. The strikes reportedly targeted alleged terror hideouts that Islamabad had blamed for recent suicide bombings in Pakistan.

In an official statement, the ministry of external affairs highlighted the casualties of women and children in the attack. In response to media queries about Pakistan's airstrikes

on Afghanistan, official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "India strongly condemns Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in civilian casualties, including women and children, during the holy month of Ramadan."

Meanwhile, Kabul has repeatedly denied allegations that armed groups are using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan.

Afghanistan's ministry of defence said on Sunday that "dozens of innocent

civilians, including women and children, were martyred and wounded" after airstrikes hit a school and residential homes in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Paktika.

Pakistan said it killed 70 terrorists in military strikes targeting at least seven militant hideouts inside Afghanistan, describing the action as retaliation for recent rebel attacks in the country.

"Afghanistan has long been exporting terrorism. Pakistan is taking all ac

Cont. on P9 >

# Poll rolls shrink by 1.7 cr in 9 states/UTs under SIR phase 2

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: With nine of the 12 states covered in phase 2 of special intensive revision (SIR) having published their final electoral roll - including six on Saturday - their combined electorate is down 7.9 pc to 19.7 cr, as compared to 21.4 cr at the time of announcement of SIR exercise on October 27, 2025.

Over 1.7 crore electors have been struck off the electoral rolls of the nine states/UTs - Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Puducherry,

Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands - on account of SIR.

While the final electoral rolls of Gujarat, Puducherry and Lakshadweep were published earlier, those for Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar were published on Saturday.

Interestingly, the range of net decline in electors at the end of SIR varies from a steep 16.9 pc in Andaman & Nicobar and 13.4 pc in Gujarat to just 0.3 pc in Lakshadweep and 3.2 pc in Kerala. While four of the

nine states/UTs recorded net deletions above the 7.9 pc overall average, it was the opposite in five states/UTs.

Three states - West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu - are yet to publish their final electoral roll as part of SIR phase 2.

While Tamil Nadu's roll will be out on Feb 23, the timeline for West Bengal is Feb 28 and for UP, April 10.

Among the six states where SIR stands concluded, Gujarat saw the highest net decline in its electorate since the start of

Cont. on P9 >

# India, US postpone trade deal meet amid Trump's tariff setback

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: India and Washington have decided to reschedule the official meeting over the interim bilateral trade agreement, so that both sides can factor in the implications of the US Supreme Court judgment striking down the Trump administration's tariff hikes.

A three-day meeting between teams headed by the chief trade negotiators of the two countries was earlier slated to take place in the US on February 23.

A senior official confirmed that the proposed

visit of the Indian team to Washington to give the final touches to the bilateral trade deal will be held after the two countries have studied the latest developments that flow from the US Supreme Court judgment. A decision will be taken to set a new date for the meeting that is convenient for both sides, he added.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday raised the global tariffs from 10 per cent to 15 per cent after the big setback in the Supreme Court on Friday. Taking to Truth Social,

he wrote, "Based on a thorough, detailed, and complete review of the ridiculous, poorly written, and extraordinarily anti-American decision on tariffs issued yesterday, after many months of contemplation, by the United States Supreme Court, please let this statement serve to represent that I, as President of the United States of America, will be, effective immediately, raising the 10 pc worldwide tariff on countries, many of which have been "ripping" the U.S. off for decades, without retribution (until I

came along!), to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15 pc level."

The Supreme Court of the United States on Friday struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariff measures, ruling that the executive branch exceeded its constitutional authority by using emergency powers to levy broad import duties.

The judges, in a 6-3 verdict, held that Trump's aggressive approach to tariffs on products entering the United States from across the world was not permit

Cont. on P9 >

# Will respond to any US attack, says Iran's Foreign Minister

TEHRAN, FEB 22: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned Sunday that his country would respond to any US attack, but held out hope for a diplomatic solution, saying he expected another round of talks in Geneva later in the week.

He said there was a "good chance" that talks with US negotiators would head off renewed military strikes.

He insisted, however, that Iran had a right to continued uranium enrichment for civilian purposes -- and to strike US interests

in the Middle East in response to any aggression.

"If the US attacks us, then we have every right to defend ourselves. If the US attacks us, that is the act of aggression. What we do in response is an act of self-defence," Araghchi said.

"It is justified, legitimate. So our missiles cannot hit the American soil. So obviously we have to do something else. We have to hit, you know, the American base in the region."

Last year, in response to US strikes on its nuclear facilities, Iran had fired missiles at the US airbase at Al-

Udeid in Qatar. Iranian officials sometimes also refer to Israel as a US base.

Araghchi, nevertheless, also said: "I believe that still there is a good chance to have a diplomatic solution which is based on a win-win game."

After a recent round of talks in Geneva, Iran said it was preparing a draft proposal for an agreement, which would be ready in a matter of days.

Araghchi said negotiations were continuing, and "we are working on the elements of a deal and draft

Cont. on P9 >

# Hindi reflects India's traditions, values, cultural continuity: Kavinder

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: Stating that Hindi bridges Ladakh's linguistic diversity with national mainstream, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today said "the language reflects India's traditions, values & cultural continuity".

"Hindi is not merely a language of communication but also the living expression of India's civilisational consciousness," he said while addressing the International Hindi Olympiad-Prize Distribution and Amrit Kumbh Samman Ceremony organised by Hindi Olympiad Foundation at India International Centre



here. "The language carries the essence of a nation's traditions, values, and cultural continuity, and serves as the foundation of intellectual

self-reliance," the LG told the distinguished gathering of students, educators, scholars, and eminent guests from across the

Cont. on P9 >