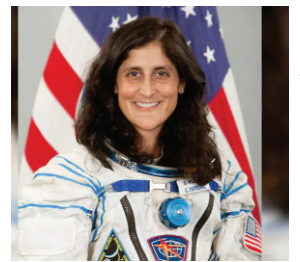


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Rahul Gandhi takes stock of Congress' performance in LS election



Sunita Williams' little jig after she arrives on ISS wins hearts

MUSTREAD

Two killed, 2 injured as car collides with tanker

Shahjahanpur: Two persons were killed and two women injured when a car collided head-on with a gas tanker in the Kant area of Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, a police officer said here. Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Meena said the incident took place near Jamuniya village where the car coming from Jalalabad collided with the gas tanker. "Two car passengers identified as Saurav Kumar (32) and Rampal (62) died on the spot," he said. The SP said two women were injured in the incident and have been admitted to the government medical college. "The accident led to a traffic jam on the Jalalabad-Shahjahanpur road. Later the police reached the spot and moved both the vehicles to the side, after which the traffic started smoothly," he said.



Watchman dies as 40 girls rescued from Pune hostel blaze

Pune: A 45-year-old watchman died of suffocation even as 40 girl students were rescued from a mid-night fire in a four-storey building housing a girls hostel in Maharashtra's Pune city, police said Friday. The police said the building on Kumthekar Road housed the girls hostel on first floor and a private educational institute on third and fourth floor. The fire apparently started on the ground floor. The girls were on the first floor when the incidents took place, said the police. All 40 students were sleeping when suddenly one of them noticed the smoke, said fire officer Devendra Potphode of Pune Municipal Corporation. The fire was brought under control and all girls were rescued, he added.

Teacher sentenced to life imprisonment for raping minor student

Sonbhadra: A teacher was sentenced to life imprisonment along with a penalty of Rs 2 lakh by a special court here on Friday for sexually assaulting a minor student, prosecution sources said here. Prosecution sources said that on November 6, 2019 a woman filed an application at Bahhni police station that her daughter was a class five student. "The complainant alleged that on November 6 after the school closed, teacher Santosh Kumar Jaiswal made the victim stay back on pretext of some work," they said. The sources said that when all the students left, Santosh sexually assaulted the victim after which he left her at her house. "On the basis of the complaint a case was lodged on November 7 and after investigation the police filed the chargesheet in the court," they said.

Mizoram Police have seized 39 kg of heroin this year

Aizawl: Mizoram Police have seized 38.651 kg of heroin worth Rs. 11.59 crore in the local market rate from January till May this year, state IGP (Law and Order) Lalbiakthanga Kiangte said on Friday. Kiangte said that 154 cases have been registered in connection with heroin seizures while 209 people have been arrested. He said 89.445 KG of Methamphetamine has been seized during the same period while 13.49 KG of crystal Meth (crystallised Meth) have also been seized. While the local market value of the seized Methamphetamine is estimated at Rs. 11.62 crore, Crystal Meth is estimated to have been worth Rs. 40.47 crore, he said. The value of Crystal Meth is much higher than Methamphetamine tablets.

Sensex
BSE..... 76693.36 (+1618.85)
NSE..... 23290.15 (+468.75)

Bullion
Gold..... 71665.00 (MCX 10g.)
Silver..... 90421.00 (MCX 1kg.)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 83.42

Weather

Sunrise	Sunset	Day	Night
5.33	7.05	41.3	29.5

PM Modi unanimously elected NDA leader



New Delhi (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday termed NDA as the most successful alliance in India's history, saying, "Our aim will be to reach unanimity in all our decisions." Addressing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliamentary meeting at Centre Hall in old Parliament building, PM Modi said, "Today, the NDA shines as an organic alliance in the political system of Bharat and it becomes synonymous with good governance."

During the meeting, the NDA Parliamentary Party members unanimously elected Narendra Modi as its leader.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Rajnath Singh moved a proposal to elect Modi as NDA leader and it was supported by the leaders of all NDA constituents.

The Prime Minister was also

elected as the leader of BJP in Lok Sabha, and BJP parliamentary party.

Talking about the alliance, the Prime Minister said the NDA was not a grouping of parties that have come together for power, but an organic alliance committed to the principle of 'nation first'.

He further added, "Today, the NDA shines as an organic alliance in the political system of Bharat..." adding, "The NDA government has given good governance to the country and in a way, just saying NDA becomes synonymous with good governance. Poor welfare and good governance have been paramount in the focus of all of us."

Thanking the newly elected members for choosing him as NDA leader, PM Modi said, "It is my good fortune that all of you have unanimously chosen me as the leader of the NDA and given me a new responsibility."

He also took a swipe at the opposition INDIA alliance, saying those questioning EVMs and the Election Commission during the elections were silenced on June 4.

He claimed that the Opposition's attempts to paint the 2024 Lok Sabha results as a loss for the BJP-led NDA were thwarted by the people, who "know we never lost". In a snide dig at the Congress, he said the grand old party couldn't touch the 100-mark in the Lok Sabha polls even after a decade.



PM Modi meets President Murmu, stakes claim to form government

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and staked claim to form the government for the third consecutive term.

The Prime Minister arrived at Rashtrapati Bhavan after he was unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP-led NDA alliance in the presence of TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U) Chief Nitish Kumar and other alliance partners in Central Hall of old Parliament building on Friday.

In his brief remarks after meeting the President, the Prime Minister said "NDA will form a strong, stable and growth-oriented government". He said, "The NDA partners have reposed trust in me. On June 9, 2024, I will take the oath as the Prime Minister of India".

The Prime Minister said, "NDA-3 will put in even more efforts for the development of India and the realization of the aspirations of its people".

NDA means Naidu/Nitish Dependent Alliance: Cong

New Delhi (UNI)

Mocking the National Democratic Alliance as 'Naidu Dependent Alliance' or 'Nitish Dependent Alliance', the Congress on Friday said the 'Modi guarantee' is now gone and it remains to be seen for how long the new NDA government survives.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, party spokesperson Pawan Khera said Modi did not take the name of NDA in the last 10 years but only used the word 'Modi's guarantee'. But the people's mandate has now forced him to say 'NDA's guarantee'.



Stating that the people of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra gave a befitting reply to the BJP, Khera said, "The BJP could not win a seat in Ayodhya. Leave Ayodhya, the party could not win any seats in the nearby areas and after losing they are now abusing the people of Ayodhya. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi's winning margin was reduced to just one lakh fifty two thousand votes only, Whereas our leader Rahul Gandhi won from Rae Bareilly by a margin of 390030 votes and another leader KL Sharma won the Amethi seat by a margin of 167196 votes which were more than Modi's margin."

RBI proposes setting up of Digital Payments Intelligence Platform to curb frauds

Mumbai (UNI)

Taking note of rising frauds in the digital payment system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday proposed setting up a 'Digital Payments Intelligence Platform' for network level intelligence and real-time data sharing across the ecosystem.

The Reserve Bank has taken a number of measures over the years to deepen digital payments while ensuring their safety and security. These measures have boosted consumer confidence. Growing instances of digital payment frauds, however, highlight the need for a system-wide approach to prevent and mitigate such frauds, the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing



the second bi-monthly monetary policy of the current fiscal 2024-25.

It is, therefore, proposed to establish a Digital Payments Intelligence Platform for network level intelligence and real-time data sharing across the digital payments' ecosystem. To take this initiative forward,

the Reserve Bank has constituted a committee to examine various aspects of setting up the Platform, he stated.

Looking at the way and speed at which the adoption of e-mandates for recurring payment transactions has been increasing, Das said that the RBI is also proposing inclusion of Recurring Payments with Auto-Replenishment Facility under the e-man date Framework.

"It is now proposed to include payments, such as replenishment of balances in Fastag, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), etc. which are recurring in nature but without any fixed periodicity, in the e-mandate framework.

Punjab politicians slam Kangana for 'terrorism' remark

Chandigarh (UNI)

Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Bikram Singh Majithia and Sukhpal Singh Khaira are among several other politicians, who have criticised actor and new MP Kangana Ranaut's remark that "terrorism and extremism were on rise in Punjab" after she was slapped by a CISF jawan at the Chandigarh airport a day back.

Shiromani Akali Dal MP Badal said that no one should be allowed to label Punjab as 'Atankwadi' or 'Ugravadi' and fan communal divisions.

Bikram Singh Majithia, while reacting to the incident wrote on X that though he was not a supporter of violence in any form but he had repeatedly said that farmers were supporting nation by providing food and their



sons, brothers and sisters were serving at borders and their voice should not go unheard.

He said what happened at Chandigarh airport was result of refusal by rulers to hear farmers and soldiers' voices.

"Rulers should understand why such a situation has emerged which forced Kulwinder Kaur to take such extreme step," he said.

Majithia said that a statement has been issued: "Punjabis are turning Terrorists...one need to avoid such statements which create atmosphere of bitterness".

Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira took to X to condemn Kangna's comment and wrote: "I never support any kind of violence but she was slapped by CISF personnel Kulwinder Kaur due to her own nefarious divisive agenda and her hate for farmers.

Court grants bail to Rahul Gandhi over 'PayCM' campaign

Bengaluru (UNI)

In a significant development on Friday, a Bengaluru court granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a high-profile defamation case filed by the BJP Karnataka unit.

The case stems from the controversial 'PayCM' campaign launched by the Congress ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections last year, which accused the then BJP government of rampant corruption during its 2019-2023 tenure.

The courtroom drama unfolded as Rahul Gandhi arrived at the special court amidst tight security and a swarm of media personnel. The Gandhi scion's presence was mandated by Judge KN Shivakumar, who had directed him to appear in person



today without fail.

The 'PayCM' campaign, which featured advertisements in mainstream newspapers, alleged that the BJP government was involved in largescale corrupt activities, stirring significant political controversy.

The defamation case has seen multiple high-profile appearances. Just a week earlier, on June 1, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also serves as the State Congress chief, appeared before the court. They, too, were granted bail in the same defamation case, highlighting the campaign's broad implications and the BJP's serious allegations against the Congress leaders.

Mirwaiz placed under house arrest

Srinagar (UNI)

Huriyat Chairman and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest ahead of Friday congregational prayers, the managing body of Jamia mosque said.

Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar strongly condemned the administration for once again placing Mirwaiz under house arrest and preventing him from fulfilling his religious and official duties.

Taiwan slams China for protesting exchange of messages between President Lai, PM Modi

New Delhi (UNI)

Taiwan on Friday slammed China for protesting an exchange of tweets between Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following the latter's election victory.

The Taiwanese Foreign Ministry said Beijing's anger over a cordial exchange on X between the leaders of two democracies is unjustified, and that Taiwan is dedicated to building partnerships with India.

"China's outrage at a cordial exchange between the leaders of 2 democracies is utterly unjustified. Threats & intimidation never foster friendships. #Taiwan remains dedicated to building partner-



ships with #India underpinned by mutual benefit & shared values," it posted.

The response came after China's foreign ministry said that "there is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region" and that Beijing opposes all official interactions between the "Taiwanese authorities" and countries diplomatically aligned with China.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson also said that India has made "serious political commitments" to China regarding the "one China principle" on Taiwan and is obligated to "recognize, be alarmed about and resist the Taiwan authorities' political calculations."

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