

MUSTREAD



Four girls drown in pond in Agra

Agra: Four children drowned while taking bath in a pond in Khandauli area of Agra district here in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, police sources said here. Police sources said that seven families of labourers from Kanpur and Auraiya live in tents on Yamuna Expressway interchange. "On Sunday morning three girls Heena, Khushi and Chandani went to take bath in a nearby pond and started drowning," they said. Police sources said that after hearing their cries Nagina, Anuradha, Ragini, Prachi, Sunny and Riya also jumped in the pond to save them. "The police, which reached the spot after being informed by the villagers, somehow pulled them out of the pond with the help of rope," they said.

IAC demands to root out corruption in India

Pune: Expressing concern about rampant corruption in the country, India Against Corruption president Hemant Patil on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stamp it out in order to make India a truly developed country in the world. Even as corruption is increasing, neither the central government nor the state government were doing anything about it, he claimed and said that basically, corruption starts from people's representatives like MPs, MLAs, corporators. "If these elected representatives show determination to throw away corruption from its roots. If this happens, India will become a developed country and will be the number one country in the world," he averred.

Maharashtra BJP leader Raju Shinde joins SSUBT

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received a jolt on Sunday when the former deputy mayor of Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar Raju Shinde, along with his followers, joined Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray, Shinde crossed over from the BJP to SSUBT in the presence of his chief Uddhav Thackeray. Those who joined the Thackeray-led party along with Shinde included former corporators Gokul Malke, Pralhad Nimgaongar, Akram Patel and Prakash Gaikwad among 16 others. Speaking on the occasion, Thackeray said "I have come here deliberately because unfortunately our party candidate lost the recent Lok Sabha election and a Gaddar (traitor) won the seat. I want to tell them that our party will win in the upcoming assembly election."

Haryana Gov pays tributes to former MP D Srinivas

Hyderabad: Bandaru Dattatreya, Governor of Haryana, paid tributes to late D Srinivas, former MP and former Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president, at a condolence meeting here on Sunday. He expressed condolences to Srinivas's son, Dharmapuri Arvind, MP, and wife, Dharmapuri Vijayalaxmi. Nadendla Manohar, Andhra Pradesh Food & Civil Supplies Minister, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Santosh Reddy, former Minister, V Hanumanth Rao, former MP, and other dignitaries also participated in the meeting.

African man shot in outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar succumbs to injuries

New Delhi: A 40-year-old African man, identified as Sunday Ernest Morah, was shot dead in Outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar area last night. The incident occurred around 10 pm outside a garment shop in A Block, Vikash Vihar, Chander Vihar, Nilothi Extension. Upon arrival, they found blood stains on the ground and inside a nearby shop, but the injured man had already been transported to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital by an unknown individual.

Rahul writes to CM Yogi Urges hiked relief to Hathras stampede victims' families

New Delhi (UNI)

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Raebareilly MP Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to raise the compensation amount of the Hathras stampede victims and demanded a transparent probe into the accident and strict action against the culprits.

In a letter addressed to the UP Chief Minister, Gandhi said, "The compensation to the bereaved families of the Hathras stampede that has been announced by the state government is insufficient. I request that the compensation amount be raised and disbursed soon."

The Congress leader also urged the state government to provide adequate compensation and proper treatment to the injured.

"I had met the families of Hathras stampede victims. The bereaved families told me that the local ad-



ministration and their insensitive was responsible for the accident. The need of the hour is a thorough and transparent investigation so that such tragic incidents don't happen in future. Strict action should be taken against those responsible for the in-

cident." He said that in this hour of grief, it is the responsibility of all to stand with the bereaved families, and assured the state government that the Congress party would provide all assistance to the UP government.

Apna Dal (S) leader shot dead over land dispute

Prayagraj: A 29-year-old Apna Dal (Sonelal) leader was shot dead allegedly over a land dispute in Soraon area of Prayagraj district here in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, a police officer said here. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ganganagar) Ahishek Bharati said that Indrajeet Patel alias Monu, a resident of Achkawapur Khas village, was having a land dispute with his neighbour Sarvesh Patel for a long time.

He said that on Sunday morning when Indrajeet went to irrigate his farm, Sarvesh also reached the spot. "During the discussion Sarvesh shot Indrajeet in his head. The family members took Indrajeet to Swarup Rani hospital where doctors declared him dead," he said. The DCP said that the accused has been arrested and two illicit firearms have been recovered from his possession.

Looking forward to discussions on boosting ties

New Delhi (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked Chancellor of Austria Karl Nehammer for his remarks welcoming the visit of PM Modi to the European nation on July 9-10, the first by an Indian prime minister in over 40 years.

PM Modi, in a post on X, said he looks forward to their discussions on strengthening the bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of co-operation.

"Thank you, Chancellor @karlnehhammer. It is indeed an honour to visit Austria to mark this historic occasion."

"I look forward to our discussions on strengthening the bonds between our nations and exploring new avenues of cooperation. The shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law form the

PM Modi to Austrian Chancellor Nehammer



bedrock upon which we will build an ever closer partnership."

He was replying to the post on X by the Austrian Chancellor saying he was looking forward to the visit by PM Modi.

"I very much look forward to welcoming @narendramodi, the Prime Minister of India, the world's largest democracy, next week in Vienna."

Maha adjudged best state in agriculture



Mumbai (UNI)

Maharashtra has been adjudged the best state in agriculture for its sustainable development policies by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Award Committee, an official said on Sunday.

State's Agricultural Value Com-

mission Chairman Pasha Patel said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will receive the Best Agriculture State Award 2024 at a ceremony to be held on July 10 in New Delhi.

The decision to confer the award was taken by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Award Committee at its meeting chaired by former Chief Justice of India P. Sadashivam on Saturday.

The committee took note of the sustainable development policies adopted in the state through environmental protection and food security.

The government under Shinde's leadership has taken revolutionary steps in the state like bamboo cultivation, Millet grain Srianna campaign and use of biomass in thermal power generation, said Patil.

Rain-hit HP issues safety tips for tourists

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh's Traffic, Tourist and Railway Police have issued an advisory, cautioning tourists to take precautions while visiting the state during monsoon when various water bodies are in spate, an official said on Sunday.

TTRP said, in a post on social media platform X, that people are cautioned in response to heavy rain forecast from July 6 to July 11 and a yellow alert issued, warning of rain, storms, and lightning.

Residents and visitors are urged to exercise caution and follow safety measures to prevent accidents, the advisory said. The authorities have advised people to avoid regions prone to rain-induced avalanches and landslides, particularly in upper and hilly areas.

Amarnath Yatra resumes

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath shrine

Srinagar (UNI)

Amarnath yatra resumed on Sunday after remaining temporarily suspended for a day as a precautionary measure from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to rains, officials said.

As the weather improved, fresh batches of yatris were allowed to proceed from the twin routes of Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and NunWan Pahalgam base camp in south Kashmir's Anantnag district this morning to the cave shrine for paying obeisance there, they said.

The 52-day Amarnath Yatra began on July 29, and so far, over 1.5 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the cave shrine, which houses the naturally formed ice lingam.

The Yatra was temporarily suspended on Saturday as a precautionary measure as rain lashed both routes, making the track slippery.

"Weather improved, and the sun appeared partially cloudy over both



tracks," officials said.

The yatra will end on August 19. Last year, 4.5 lakh pilgrims visited the holy shrine, and this year the authorities are expecting numbers to go up.

The yatra was suspended on Saturday due to unfavourable weather conditions in Pahalgam and Baltal. As per the meteorological department, the valley received moderate rainfall which disrupted the yatra for a day.

Kumaraswamy questions Siddaramaiah's 2013 election affidavit

Bengaluru: Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy, on Sunday raised questions about Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2013 election affidavit, alleging that there was no mention of a land parcel gifted to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.

The 3.16-acre land in question was allegedly gifted to Parvathi by her brother Mallikarjuna in 2005, and is presently in the eye of a storm in connection with the alleged Mysore Development Authority (Muda) site scam.

Siddaramaiah has already rubbished any allegations of his involvement in any scam. According to Kumaraswamy, the parcel of land was conspicuously missing from the asset's column in Siddaramaiah's 2013 election affidavit.

AP and Telangana like my two eyes: Naidu

Hyderabad (UNI)

Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said that AP and Telangana are like two eyes to him.

Naidu, who visited NTR Bhavan here on Sunday for the first time since assuming office as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, participated in an Aatmeya Sammelan with the TDP cadre.

He acknowledged the hard work of the Telangana TDP cadre, which contributed to the party's victory in AP, and expressed his gratitude to them. Naidu mentioned that he felt excited when he saw the admiration of the activists and expressed hope that the TDP would regain its strength in Telangana.

Chandrababu Naidu remarked that he was imprisoned without rea-



son and expressed his gratitude for the concern shown by the people of Hyderabad. He recalled the support meeting held in Gachibowli and felt proud of the support he received, considering it a blessing. He thanked Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, emphasising the need for unity among the Telugu states.

Land-for-job scam case: Delhi court directs ED to file concluding chargesheet

Agencies, New Delhi

Delhi's Rouse Avenue court has granted the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) additional time to file an additional or concluding charge sheet in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-job scam in the Indian Railways by the next hearing date.

The court was apprised of the investigation status and steps taken by the ED by its Joint Director, who appeared on court's direction.

Accused individuals Rabri Devi, Misa Bharti, and Hema requested and were granted exemption from appearance in the case.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne recorded the submissions of the ED that the investigation is at an advanced stage and directed that a concluding complaint be filed within the time-frame indicated by the Joint



Director of the ED. The matter was listed for August 6.

The court also listed the CBI's conclusive charge sheet for consideration on July 15 and the ED's application for a copy of the CBI's charge sheet on July 10.

CBI Special Public Prosecutor D.P. Singh argued that the charge sheet could not be supplied before the court's cognizance. ED's SPP Manish Jain stated that the ED's investigation is independent of the CBI's doc-

uments and would conclude within 5-6 weeks regardless.

Whether we get the charge sheet or not, we will file the charge sheet in 5-6 weeks. There is some miscommunication and we will take instructions to clear this. We will inform the court, the ED's SPP said.

The court, satisfied with the ED's progress, directed them to expedite the investigation and file the charge sheet by the next date.

The ED was previously directed on June 7 to provide a status update and had been asked in April to conclude the pending investigation in the land-for-job money laundering case. In this case, former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi and her daughters, Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, have been charge-sheeted along with Amit Katyal and Hridyanand Chaudhary.



Lakhs of devotees throng Puri for grand Rath Yatra

Puri (UNI)

Amidst tight security cover, lakhs of devotees from across the country thronged this pilgrim city of Odisha to witness the world famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balavadra and Devi Subhadra, the presiding deities of the Sri Jagannath temple.

Chants of "Jai Jagannath", "harobol" and the clanging of cymbals rented the air around the 12th-century shrine and the three km long Grand road, popularly known as "Bada danda" as the deities were taken out from the "Ratna Sinhasan" of the temple's sanctum sanctorum to their respective chariots by the daitapatis - the temple servitors.

This time, after a gap of almost 53 years, the rituals such as Netra Ustav, Nabajouban darshan of the deities and the Rath Yatra were performed on a single day on July 7.

Since all three major rituals were performed on a single day on Sunday, the pulling of the chariots is all likely to be suspended after rolling down a few meters on the grand road. The journey would resume on

Monday morning for the final destination - he Gundicha temple, located 3 kms away from the Jagannath temple.

President Droupadi Murmu will not only witness the Rath Yatra but also pull the chariots, temple sources said.

Early in the morning, the servitors offered 'Gopal bhog' (breakfast) to the deities who were then taken out from the 'Ratnavedi' in a ceremonial 'pahandi bije' to their respective well-decorated chariots parked outside the temple.

Hundreds of temple servitors carried the deities on their shoulders from the temple amidst the blowing of conch shells through Ananda Bazar and the 'Baishi Pahacha' (the twenty two steps of the temple) to the Lions Gate.

The chariots - the red and yellow 'Nandighosha' of Lord Jagannath with 16 wheels, red and green 'Taladhwa' of Balabhadra with 14 wheels and the red and black 'Devadalana' of Devi Subhadra with a dozen wheels, were lined up outside the temple near the Lions

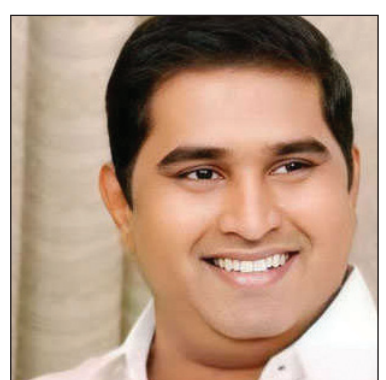
Slain BSP leader Armstrong's body to be buried in Tiruvallur dist: HC

Chennai (UNI)

The Madras High Court on Sunday ordered that the body of slain BSP Tamil Nadu Unit President K Armstrong should be buried at Pothur village coming under Villivakkam Panchayat Union near Red Hills in Tiruvallur district of the State.

Passing orders after two hearings on an urgent plea filed by his wife Ms Porkodi seeking permission to bury the body at the BSP party office in Perambur in Chennai city, Ms Justice V Bhavani Subbaroyan said there was no problem in erecting a memorial for him at the party office after getting permission from the state government.

The Judge accepted Additional



Advocate General (AAG) J. Ravindran's submission that officials were ready to per the burial of his

body in an one acre private land in Tiruvallur district. He also informed the Court that the Panchayat has passed a resolution.

Accepting the submissions, the Judge said Mr Armstrong's body could be buried permanently in Tiruvallur and a memorial could be built in Chennai city.

While stating that Armstrong, who was hacked to death on Friday night, should be given a dignified burial, the Judge also directed the police to provide adequate security to ensure that the last rites were held peacefully. Mr Armstrong's family too has accepted it after which works relating to digging a pit at the burial site commenced.