

MUSTREAD

4 villagers shot at, injured in Punjab

Phagwara: Six masked men riding two motorcycles opened fire and injured four villagers in Punjab's Phagwara district, police said on Thursday. The assailants fled after spraying bullets in village Bhabhiana on Wednesday night, police said. The motive behind the attack is not known, police said. The injured were identified as Bittu (42), Jashanpreet Singh (19), Butta Ram (55) and Shinda (45). Phagwara MLA Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal and AAP spokesman Harji Maan met the injured at civil hospital.

Woman jumps to death in river Chenab in Akhnoor

Jammu: A middle-aged woman on Thursday jumped to death in river Chenab in the Akhnoor area here in the city outskirts. Police said that a woman in mid of her 40s, jumped from the new bridge to river Chenab this afternoon. "Some passers-by raised an alarm but by the time she jumped into the river," said police. They said that the woman reportedly had some health issues, adding, "Her body has been fished out." The identity of the deceased is being ascertained, said police adding that a case has been registered.

6 injured in fire-cracker explosion during procession

Hoshiarpur (Punjab): Six members of a religious procession were injured after a bag containing around 250 firecrackers accidentally exploded in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district on Thursday morning, police said. The incident took place in Parhlad Nagar around 6 am during a procession of Lord Hanuman for the ongoing Dussehra festival, said SHO Satish Kumar. Some members of the procession were bursting firecrackers as part of the celebrations when the explosion in the bag carrying crackers took place, he said. All the injured were taken to the local government hospital, where four were discharged after receiving first aid. Two individuals, Sarath and Pardeep Kumar, were referred to a private hospital in critical condition, police said.

Sambhaji Brigade activists pour ink on doctor in Nashik

Nashik: Taking an aggressive stand, activists of the Sambhaji Brigade on Wednesday allegedly poured an ink on a doctor here who allegedly posted an offensive post against quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil. The Sambhaji Brigade activists went to clinic of Dr Vijay Gavli in CIDCO area of Nashik and poured ink on the doctor. The doctor had posted that Jarange-Patil's friends are Muslims.

Man, his two sons drown in canal

Eluru, AP: In a tragic incident, a man and his two teenage sons were drowned in the Polavaram right canal at Kalavagunta village in Pedavegi mandal on Wednesday. Pedavegi CI K Venkateswara Rao told the media that the deceased Shettipalli Venkateswara Rao (50), his two sons Shettipalli Manikantha (16) and Shettipalli Sai Kumar (13) went to the Polavaram Right canal to impart training to a rooster in swimming. Venkateswara Rao was rearing roosters and giving them training to take part in cockfights. When the trio were giving training to the rooster in swimming, Manikantha slipped and started drowning and his brother Sai Kumar went to his rescue and he also drowned. Their father Venkateswara Rao went to their rescue and he was also drowned.

PM inaugurates skill institute in Mumbai

Mumbai: In a significant step towards enhancing the employability of Indian youth for national and global opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai virtually, a statement said on Thursday. The Prime Minister said that the government is preparing the country's youth for global opportunities by aligning their skills with international standards. He said the global community sees India as a significant hub for human resources, with vast opportunities in education, skilling, healthcare, and software development across the globe.

Omar Abdullah to be next J&K CM

Srinagar (UNI) National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah was unanimously elected as Legislature Party Leader (LPL) on Thursday, a big step towards formation of the first elected government in a decade in Jammu and Kashmir.

The newly-elected legislators of NC participated in a meeting in Srinagar during which Omar's election as Legislature Party Leader (LPL) was approved.

"I am thankful to party legislators for electing me as their leader," Omar told reporters after the meeting.

"We have also got the support of four Independents and we are waiting for the letter from our alliance

Elected leader of National Conference MLAs



partner Congress so as to stake a claim for government formation," he said.

Omar said once he gets the letter from the Congress, he will call on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to fix a date for government formation.

After the legislature party's meeting, senior party leader and MLA Ali Mohammed Sagar announced that Omar has been elected as LPL.

"Omar has been unanimously elected the Legislature Party Leader," Sagar said and added "there is none except Omar Abdullah to take the reins of the government soon... and he will be the next Chief Minister".

In the 90-member Assembly, the National Conference secured 42 seats in the recent election. The INDIA bloc has a tally of 49.

IED recovered along Baramulla Handwara NH destroyed: Army

Srinagar: Security forces averted a major tragedy when they recovered and destroyed an improvised explosive device (IED) along the Baramulla Handwara National Highway in North Kashmir on Thursday.

Officials said suspicious object was found at Thokerpora along the Handwara-Baramulla Highway, leading to the suspension of traffic in the area as a precautionary measure.

They said the area was sealed and a bomb disposal squad was called. "The suspected object was blasted in a controlled explosion," officials said.

Army's Srinagar based Chinara Corps said a major terror incident was averted with the recovery of the IED.

Bengal: Sr doctors join hunger strike as govt negotiations fail to resolve issues



Kolkata (UNI)

A group of senior medics representing the Joint Platform of Doctors on Thursday joined their protesting juniors of the West Bengal government hospitals, who are on a fast-unto-death hunger strike, which entered

the 6th day, official sources said.

The senior doctors on a 12-hour hunger strike, which began at 9 AM, alongside the juniors' indefinite fast, appealed to the government's highest authorities to make efforts to end the deadlock as no other officials in

the state have any power to concede doctors 10-point demands, including the removal of state health secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam.

They said the health of the fasting doctors, although they looked okay for now, might create a major problem for the health condition at any time.

Altogether, seven juniors from five hospitals have been on fast since Saturday evening at the Dorina Crossing in Esplanade; two others have been on fast since Monday in the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital in Siliguri.

Overall, the agitation of the junior medics crossed over two months since the protest erupted after a 31-year-old 2nd-year postgraduate trainee doctor was found raped and murdered at her workplace in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on the morning of August 9.

IIT Madras launches Quantitative Research Lab

Chennai: The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras) on Thursday launched a new research lab focused on Quantitative Finance.

AlphaGrep Securities, a quantitative trading and investment firm, is providing CSR funding of Rs. 5.65 crore towards the establishment of this lab. The 'AlphaGrep Quantitative Research Lab' will conduct Exploratory Research Projects in the areas of AI for quantitative finance, including research in financial markets and its microstructure, quantitative investment management and quantitative risk management, among other areas, a release from IIT-Madras said.

Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "Three decades before, the financial institutions were predominantly run by their legal group, the next decade by their finance/audit group and currently by the Information Technology group."

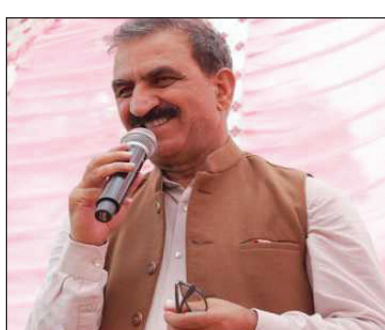
Himachal CM Sukhu shuffles bureaucrats

Shimla (UNI) The Himachal Pradesh government has transferred nine officials from the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Forest Service, an official said on Thursday.

This reshuffle comes as the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government faces increasing pressure from opposition parties and public sector employees, particularly over unfulfilled election promises and perceived lapses in governance.

The 2009-batch IAS officer, Manasi Sahay, formerly Director of Tourism and Civil Aviation, has been appointed as Labour Commissioner-Director Employment.

Yunus, a 2010-batch IAS officer and Commissioner of State Tax and Excise, has been given additional responsibilities as Director of Industries, retaining his previous post. Vivek Bhatia, Principal Private



Secretary to the Chief Minister and Special Secretary, has now taken on additional roles as Director of Tourism and Civil Aviation and Director of Sports. The move reflects the government's strategy to consolidate leadership in key departments, with Bhatia overseeing crucial portfolios that affect both revenue and public engagement.

Maha govt sacks two JJB members who granted bail to minor accused

Agencies, Pune

The Maharashtra Government has sacked two state appointed Members of Juvenile Justice Board, Pune on the charge of "misuse of power", State commissioner for women and child development said on Thursday.

The two members had faced a probe over the bail granted to the 17-



Pune Porsche Case

year-old Juvenile accused driver in the May 19 Porsche car crash with a condition of writing a 300-word essay on road safety, among other controversial bail conditions.

The women and child development department issued a notification on Tuesday for mentioning of sacking both members.

The notification stated that after holding an inquiry by the state government, the two members had

been found guilty of misusing their powers vested under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015) and so the government had terminated their appointment.

Notably in a tragic incident on May 19, 2024, in Pune, a speeding Porsche car driven by a 17-year-old boy allegedly under the influence of alcohol crashed into a motorcycle, killing 24-year-old Anish Awadhya and his friend Ashwini Koshta.

Maha cabinet approves land allotment for govt employee colony



Agencies, Mumbai The Maharashtra Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday approved the allotment of land for the construction of homes for government employees currently housed at Bandra East government colony in northwest Mum-

bai, and also for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

Built in 1959, the government colony houses 4,782 flats for class 1, 2, 3 and 4 state government employees. As per old records, the colony was spread over 125 acres, but around 35 acres were under encroachment. The Chief Minister had recently ordered an evaluation of the potential of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) area at Bandra East government colony.

The evaluation will consider the capacity of the SRA, technical aspects, and the funnel zone before a decision is taken on its redevelopment. Additionally, plans include vacating dangerous buildings, completing construction on under-construction buildings, and allocating land for a new Bombay High Court complex.

Air Customs seizes gold, electronics items worth Rs. 1.02 crore

Chennai: Officials of the Customs Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) have made a significant seizure of smuggled goods worth Rs. 1.02 crores at Anna the International Airport here.

The haul included 700 grams of 24K gold chains, 3,220 electronic cigarettes, and 4 iPhone 16 Pro 256 GB devices. An official release today said based on specific intelligence developed by DRI, four passengers who arrived at Chennai Airport from Kuala Lumpur were intercepted by the AIU officers.

Upon search of their person and baggage, two Nos. of gold chains of 24K purity totally weighing

700 gms were found concealed in their inner garments and 3,220 Nos of E-Cigarettes of assorted flavors and four I-phones 16 Pro 256 GB devices were found concealed in their baggage.

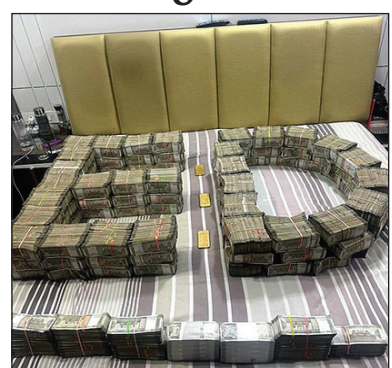
ED identifies over Rs 200 cr assets in raids at 15 places across Delhi, Gurugram

Agencies, New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has identified properties worth more than Rs 200 crore during raids conducted at 15 premises in the national capital and its neighbouring Gurugram city three days ago in the case of Vatika Limited and others under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said on Thursday.

The agency had carried out the searches on October 7 in the two cities in relation to a case wherein more than four hundred investors of various commercial projects did not receive assured returns as incorporated in the Builder Buyer Agents (BBAs), nor did the company hand over the commercial units to the buyers and investors.

During the search operations, the ED said, various incriminating docu-



ments and records related to investments of the buyers, loans borrowed by the group companies from the financial institutions and digital devices such as pen drives, hard drive, laptops and mobile phones have been seized.

Karnataka Governor hosts Maldivian President

Bengaluru (UNI)

In a significant move to bolster India-Maldives relations, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot welcomed Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed at the Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday.

Gehlot highlighted the deep-rooted friendship between the two nations, noting President Muizzu's recent meetings with India's top leadership, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"These high-level engagements have further strengthened the cordial relations between our countries," he stated.

Emphasising the Maldives' importance in India's "Neighbourhood First" and "Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" policies, Gehlot praised the currency swap



agreement as a testament to robust economic cooperation.

He also lauded key developments like the launch of the RuPay card in the Maldives, expanded air connectivity, and enhanced visa facilities. "These initiatives are milestones in our bilateral relations," he added.

He welcomed the Maldivian business delegation accompanying Pres-

ident Muizzu, highlighting Bengaluru's potential to deepen economic and commercial partnerships.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah attended the meeting along with Minister M C Sudhakar, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, and Political Secretary Govindaraju.

Siddaramaiah echoed the Governor's sentiments, expressing pride in

hosting the Maldivian delegation. He noted the historical connections between Bengaluru and the Maldives, mentioning that First Lady Sajidha Mohamed had pursued her studies in the city.

"Karnataka is a global hub for IT, innovation, and startups. We see immense opportunities for collaboration with the Maldives in these sectors," the Chief Minister remarked.

He emphasized strengthening trade ties by promoting Karnataka's handloom and handicraft industries within the Maldivian tourism market. "We invite collaboration in educational and cultural exchanges to enrich both our societies," he added.

In response, President Muizzu expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the Indian government and the state of Karnataka.

"We aim to enhance cooperation, particularly in education and tourism," he said.

Former Murasoli Editor Selvam passes away

Chennai: Mr 'Murasoli' Selvam, the former editor of Tamil daily and ruling DMK's mouthpiece Murasoli, passed away in Bengaluru on Thursday following a heart attack. He was 86. He is survived by his wife and daughter. He is the son-in-law of late DMK Patriarch and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, whose daughter Selvi was married to him.

Mr Selvam is the younger brother of former DMK ideologue and late Union Minister Murasoli Maran and the brother-in-law of DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Mr Stalin condoled his death and paid rich tributes to him.

He termed as his mentor and guide since his childhood days and said he had lost a pillar.

In a statement, Mr Stalin said "After Kalaignar (Mr Karunanidhi) left us, I have lost my last shoulder to lean on, my pillar of principle".