

MUSTREAD



**IIT Madras gears up for 3rd edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam**

Chennai: The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras) is all set to e 3rd edition of 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam', an event of the Union Ministry of Education, to be held from February 15 to 24. The objective is to create awareness about the cultural connections between the two important centres of learning and culture in ancient India - by facilitating people-to-people connections across different walks of life. Call for applications is enabled in five categories for participation in this event. Registration is open to the public. The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will be the receiving Institute in Varanasi for this event, a release from IIT-Madras today said.

**Maharashtra: Youth dies after choked by kite thread**

Nashik: A twenty-three-year-old youth riding a two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Nashik district died after a nylon Kite thread got stuck in his neck on Tuesday, police said. The deceased youth has been identified as Sonu Dhotre, who had come to Nashik from Valsad in Gujarat for Sankranti. He was to get married four months later. The incident occurred around 12:30 p.m., while Dhotre was crossing the Chau-phuli of Pathardigaon village on his two-wheeler. Seeing him bleeding profusely, some citizens immediately took him to a private hospital for treatment.

**Private passenger transport companies to be under one regulation: Maharashtra Minister**

Mumbai: Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Tuesday said all private passenger transport companies like Ola, Uber and Rapido will be brought under one regulation. He was addressing a meeting organised in the Mantralaya (secretariat) during the day. Sarnaik said after studying the policy brought by the central government regarding private passenger transport companies, it is necessary to bring these companies under one transport rule. Passenger safety should be given priority. Four-wheelers, bikes, taxis will be brought under the provision. He said women drivers should also be given priority to ride bikes, as the emphasis was on generating maximum employment.

**Justice Sujoy Paul appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Telangana High Court**

Hyderabad: Justice Sujay Paul has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. President Droupadi Murmu issued the notification, officially assigning the responsibilities of Chief Justice to Justice Sujoy Paul, who is a senior judge of the Telangana High Court. This appointment follows the transfer of the current Chief Justice, Justice Alok Aradhe, to the Bombay High Court as its Chief Justice. Born on June 21, 1964, Justice Sujoy Paul holds degrees in B.A., M.A., and LL.B. He was enrolled with the Bar Council of Madhya Pradesh in 1990 and has served various organisations, including banks, the Human Rights Commission, and other boards.

**National Startup Day program to be inaugurated on Jan 16**

Mumbai: Under the Department of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a 'National Startup Day' program has been organised on behalf of the State Innovation Society based on the concept of Empowering Innovation, Elevating Maharashtra, said Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Minister Mangal on Wednesday. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis will inaugurate the event at Jio World Centre at Bandra-Kurla Complex on January 16, 2025, with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar expected to attend.

**BJP is using bomb threats to schools for political gains: AAP**

New Delhi (UNI)

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Tuesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of engaging in petty politics by using bomb threats to schools for political gain, just ahead of the upcoming elections.

This came after BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi asked AAP to clarify its ties with individuals linked to NGOs involved in activities such as protesting against Afzal Guru's hanging, while citing the Delhi Police investigation into hoax bomb threat emails and calls in the national capital. Delhi Police today claimed that a school student, who was recently apprehended for allegedly sending bomb threats to more than 400 schools in the national capital, is linked to an NGO supported by a political party.



Addressing the media, Singh asserted, "Several threats have been made to blow up Delhi's schools, but police have not been able to provide

any information, but today BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi has come up with a fabricated story." It is extremely shameful that BJP is

using bomb threats to schools for political gains, Singh said adding that AAP has been raising concerns about Delhi's deteriorating law and order for a long time, but the BJP-led government at the Centre has done nothing.

"Just a while ago, you might have watched the press conference of Delhi's self-appointed Police Commissioner, Sudhanshu Trivedi. He has now been unofficially appointed as the Police Commissioner of Delhi, unveiling new revelations every day," he said. "Information that even the police cannot provide is now being communicated by Sudhanshu Trivedi. When the police remain silent, Anurag Thakur speaks. What the police don't know, Smriti Irani seems to know. For example, they mentioned the name of one of our Dalit MLAs, Jai Bhagwan Upkar, saying that he received a notice," Singh accused.

**Kharge names Indira Bhawan library after Dr Manmohan Singh**



New Delhi (UNI)

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday announced that the library of the new AICC headquarters - Indira Bhawan will be named after former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

Addressing the party leaders and workers after the inauguration of the new building, Kharge said, "Remembering the historic contribution of Dr Manmohan Singh ji, I pay my tributes to him and announce that the library in this new headquarters will be named after former PM".

**SC dismisses KTR's plea against FIR in Formula-E Race 'scam' case**

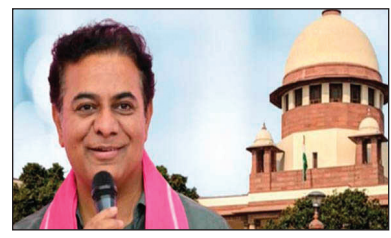
New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed as withdrawn a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) MLA Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) challenging a Telangana High Court order that refused to quash an FIR against him in connection with the alleged Formula-E Race 'Scam' case.

A bench comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice P.B. Varale declined to interfere at this stage, prompting KTR to withdraw his plea. The FIR accuses KTR, the then Urban Development Minister, of misusing funds of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority.

The Telangana High Court, in its January 7 order, observed that as the Urban Development Minister, KTR had control over HMDA and its funds.

The High Court held that there



was a prima facie case against him under Section 409 of the Indian Penal Code (criminal breach of trust by a public servant) and under Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act (criminal misconduct by a public servant).

Justice K. Lakshman of the High Court noted that HMDA is a corporate body with its funds, and the allegations in the FIR suggested that KTR misused these funds for purposes unrelated to public welfare.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the State of Telangana,

**CISF holds grand passing out parade in Hyderabad**

Hyderabad: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) celebrated the successful completion of training for the 37th batch of Assistant Commandants/Probationers and the 20th batch of Constables/DC-POs with a grand Passing Out Parade held on Wednesday at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hakimpet, Hyderabad.

A total of 53 Assistant Commandants and 221 Constables/DCPOs were inducted into service after undergoing rigorous and comprehensive training tailored to prepare them to safeguard the nation's critical infrastructure.

The Assistant Commandants were trained in specialized areas, including Industrial Security Management, Aviation Security, Disaster Management, VIP Security, urban tactics, Jungle Warfare, and advanced weaponry. They also earned a postgraduate diploma in Industrial Security Management in collaboration with NALSAR University.

opposed the plea, arguing that the investigation was still ongoing and that interference at this stage was premature. The advocate representing KTR argued that the case was politically motivated, with no evidence of personal financial gain.

"The entire charge is about payments made for the event to prevent a loss. There is no allegation that KTR benefited personally or took a single rupee," the counsel submitted. The bench refused to entertain the plea, observing that it was not inclined to intervene in an ongoing investigation. After the court expressed its disinclination, KTR withdrew his petition. The High Court had previously rejected KTR's contention that the FIR lacked ingredients of Section 409 of the IPC, noting that as the Minister for the MA & UD Department, he had direct control over HMDA and approved financial decisions related to the event.

**Smallest newborn in Southeast Asia regains life at Lourdes Hospital**

Kochi: A newborn baby, "Nova," weighing only 350 grams at birth, has overcome extreme odds to regain health, setting a new record as the smallest newborn in Southeast Asia. A baby from Hyderabad previously held the record for the smallest newborn in India and Southeast Asia, weighing 375 grams at birth.

The second position is occupied by Kashvi, who was born weighing 380 grams and is now studying in UKG with good health, and he was brought into the world in 2019 at Lourdes Hospital in Ernakulam.

Born prematurely at just 23 weeks of gestation, Nova's survival was uncertain, but thanks to the dedication and expertise of Dr. Rojo Joy and the neonatal team at Lourdes Hospital, Nova's life was saved after over 100 days of advanced and intensive care.

For any newborn, survival typically requires at least 24 weeks of growth in the mother's womb.

**SC seeks comprehensive medical report on farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal**

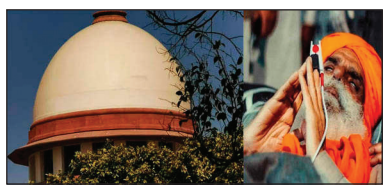
New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Chief Secretary of Punjab to submit a complete comparative medical report of farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a hunger strike for over 49 days.

The reports, including Dallewal's latest vitals, are to be handed over to the Registrar (Judicial) of the Supreme Court, who will then obtain a medical opinion from the Director of AIIMS.

A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N.K. Singh after the State of Punjab claimed that Dallewal's health condition was "improving" but later clarified that his vitals were "stable" rather than improving.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the State of Punjab, informed the bench that a medical facility had been set up just 10 meters from the protest site and that an affidavit on Dallewal's latest vitals had been submitted. Sibal added that his



parameters were currently stable.

Justice Kant expressed concern over the claim of "improving vitals" and questioned the State's position, noting the inconsistency with earlier reports indicating deteriorating health. "How can a person's vitals improve after fasting for more than 46 days?" Justice Kant remarked, emphasizing the need for accurate and transparent medical updates.

Sibal clarified that the statement of "improvement" was based on the findings of a Medical Board and reiterated that Dallewal's condition is stable, not improving.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a cancer patient with age-related ailments, has been on a fast-unto-death since No-

**SC directs Kerala govt to maintain confidentiality of data in Malankara Orthodox-Jacobite Church dispute**

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the State of Kerala to refrain from publishing or circulating data regarding the population, assets, and churches belonging to the Malankara Orthodox and Jacobite factions, amidst ongoing tensions between the two denominations.

The bench, comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N.K. Sigh, emphasized the need for utmost caution in matters of religious disputes, asserting that judicial intervention in such sensitive issues must be handled delicately. "Courts have to tread very carefully in religious affairs. Today you have come; tomorrow, some other group might come. We must exercise extreme caution," Justice Surya Kant re-



marked during the hearing.

In December 2024, the Court directed the Kerala government to provide detailed data on the population of the Orthodox and Jacobite denominations (preferably sub-region/gram panchayat-wise), a list of churches under their complete administrative control, and the status of churches where disputes over management persist.

**Karnataka challenges VC appointment draft**

Bengaluru (UNI)

Karnataka government has urged the University Grants Commission (UGC) to immediately withdraw its draft guidelines on the appointment of Vice Chancellors, terming them a violation of the federal structure and an encroachment on the rights of State Governments. In a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Karnataka Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar expressed strong opposition to the proposed rules, which he claimed undermine the State's authority over higher education governance.

Dr Sudhakar highlighted that the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, exclude State Governments



from the Vice Chancellors' selection process. The guidelines empower the Chancellor/Visitor to appoint a search-cum-selection committee and make appointments without any involvement of the State Government. Calling the provisions unacceptable, Dr. Sudhakar argued that they contradict existing state legislation, jeopardise the federal structure, and dilute the State's responsibility to provide quality education.

**EAM Jaishankar calls on Spanish President Pedro Sanchez, King Felipe**

Madrid/New Delhi (UNI)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is in Madrid, called on President Pedro Sanchez and conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also called on King Felipe VI.

In posts on X, the EAM said: "Called on President @sanchez-castejon of Spain today in Madrid. Conveyed greetings of PM @narendramodi. "Recalled his successful visit to India which reaffirmed our long standing partnership. Briefed him on my discussions in Madrid and apprised him of progress on our bilateral agenda." The Spanish President, in a post, said: "I just had a meeting with the In-



dian External Affairs Minister, @DrSJaishankar.

"Our countries will continue to strengthen their ties with the celebration in 2026 of the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establish-

ment of diplomatic relations between Spain and India." The EAM on his meeting with the King, posted:

"Honored to call on His Majesty King Felipe VI today in Madrid. "Conveyed the warm wishes of President Droupadi Murmu and

PM @narendramodi. Value his guidance for the further advancement of India-Spain ties."

Earlier in the day, EAM held talks with Spain's Defense Minister Margarita Robles during which they discussed boosting bilateral cooperation in the defence sector. In a post on X, the EAM said: "A productive exchange of views with Defense Minister Margarita Robles today in Madrid. "Discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in the defence sector, as also regional and global issues."

He also joined his Spanish counterpart Manuel Albares to address the Spanish-India Council Foundation.

**Six detained in Srinagar for inciting sectarian unrest**

Srinagar: J&K Police on Wednesday detained six persons for allegedly inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory remarks.

Police said the six miscreants have been charged under sections 126 & 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and detained at Central Jail, Srinagar.

"6 miscreants have been charged under sections 126 & 170 of the BNSS and have been detained at Central Jail, Srinagar, for inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory remarks," a police statement said.