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Stalin presents awards to Tamil scholars to mark Thiruvalluvar Day

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin honoured eminent Tamil scholars by presenting Thiruvalluvar Day awards to them and to other personalities on Wednesday. Mr Stalin presented the awards at an event, organised by the Tamil Development department and held at the State Secretariat on the occasion of Thiruvalluvar Day.

CP arrests 2 key operatives of Lawrence Bishnoi Gang

Jalandhar: Jalandhar Commissionerate Police (CP) arrested two key operatives of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar Gang after a hot chase, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Wednesday. He said that the police party fired back in self-defence when the gang member opened fire on the police team; one accused sustained bullet injuries and is currently receiving medical treatment, while another attempted to escape but was apprehended at the same time. He said that the police recovered 4 illegal weapons, a significant cache of live cartridges, and a car, delivering a severe blow to the gang's criminal network involved in narcotics smuggling, arms trade, and extortion rackets.

Confessional statement of convicts not legally valid: Advocate S Nagamuthu

Mumbai: Former Justice of Kerala High Court S Nagamuthu, now a senior advocate, on Wednesday challenged before the Bombay High Court the conviction of two men on death row in the Mumbai 7/11 train blasts case saying the confessional statement of the duo recorded by the police was given under duress and so cannot be used as evidence against them. Arguing before a special bench of Justice Anil Kilar and Justice Shyam Chandak on behalf of the convicts, Nagamuthu cited various judgements of the apex court and claimed that the confessional statement of convicts Faisal Atta Urehman Shaikh and Ali Shaikh were not recorded as per the guidelines framed by the Supreme Court.

PM Modi holds meeting with Mahayuti MLAs in Mumbai

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with MLAs of the ruling Mahayuti alliance here on Wednesday. Earlier, Modi dedicated three frontline naval combatants INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer to the nation on their commissioning at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. He also inaugurated ISKCON temple at Kharghar Mumbai. During the meeting with the MLAs, he gave mantra of development to all. But few NCP (AP) MLAs which includes Dilip Valse Patil, Chhagan Bhubal, Saroj Ahire, Raju Navghare, Dhananjay Munde, Prakash Solanke, Idris Naikwadi were not present in the meeting. Shiv sena (Eknath Shinde) Leader Deepak Kesarkar told media after the meeting with Modi that the latter told us that how should we work in political life, how should we solve people's problems.

Lalu hints for accepting RLJP in Grand Alliance

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Wednesday dropped enough hints for accepting RLJP in the Grand Alliance in Bihar, where assembly elections are slated for October-November this year. Lalu responding to a query of media persons here said that he was prepared to accept RLJP in the Grand Alliance. He had arrived at the office of RLJP to attend the "chura dahi" feast organised by party president and former union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Paras, however, told media persons later that a formal announcement could be made in April this year after a meeting of the national executive of his party. Apparently annoyed with BJP leadership for being ignored in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Paras said he was not a saint and would make the next move as per the political suitability of his party.

Ensure justice for all with prompt grievance redressal: Yogi Adityanath

Gorakhpur (UNI)

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed the officials at Janata Darshan to resolve public grievances promptly and ensure no one faced injustice.

Interacting with citizens in the auditorium of the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan at Gorakhnath temple on the second day of his tour to Gorakhpur, the CM assured them of swift and satisfactory resolutions of their problems.

He met approximately 150 individuals at Janata Darshan, listening attentively to their concerns. Subsequently, he forwarded their applications to the relevant officials, instructing them to ensure prompt and satisfactory disposal of their issues.

Yogi assured the attendees that the



government was committed to resolving the problems of every individual in need. During the Janata Darshan, several

Muda case: Karnataka HC lifts interim stay on Lokayukta probe against Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru (UNI)

In a significant development, the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday lifted the interim stay imposed on the Mysuru Lokayukta police's investigation into the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam case, involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his co-accused.

Justice M Nagaprasanna directed the Lokayukta to resume its probe, which will now be monitored by the Inspector General of Police.

The court further directed the Lokayukta to submit a progress report by January 27, and all relevant records and files pertaining to the case by January 16. The investigation, which concerns allegations of illegal land allotments linked to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvati, has faced significant political attention.

During the hearing, Senior Advo-



cate Maninder Singh, representing activist and complainant Snehamayi Krishna, raised concerns about the fairness of the investigation, suggesting that the state-controlled Lokayukta might not conduct an impartial probe. He also highlighted that a surprise investigation by a committee of IAS officers had removed all records from the Lokayukta, although the High Court clarified that the committee's actions were unrelated to the specific allegations against Siddaramaiah.

The Chief Minister's legal team, led by Senior Advocates Dr. A.M. Singhvi and Professor Ravivarma Kumar, dismissed these concerns, arguing that the committee's actions were in line with the court's earlier directions for the Lokayukta to investigate the case.

The court's decision follows a previous ruling in September, where Siddaramaiah's plea challenging the sanction granted to file corruption charges against him was dismissed. The Karnataka Lokayukta had subsequently filed an FIR against the Chief Minister and three others on charges of corruption, cheating, and forgery.

With the investigation now resuming under the court's close supervision, political observers believe the case could have far-reaching implications for Siddaramaiah's political future, especially with upcoming elections in the state.

individuals sought financial assistance from the Chief Minister for medical treatment. Assuring them of the government's full support, he promptly forwarded their applications to the officials concerned, directing them to expedite the treatment estimation process and submit it to the government at the earliest.

He directed the officials to address revenue and police matters with complete transparency and fairness, ensuring no injustice is done. He also emphasised strict legal action against those found forcibly occupying others' land. Yogi followed his customary routine at the Gorakhnath temple. He began with prayers, offering worship to Guru Gorakhnath and paying respects at the samadhi of his guru, Brahmalin Mahant Avedyanath.

Railway Min clarifies on Madurai-Thoothukudi new line project

Chennai (UNI)

There are no land related issues from Tamil Nadu government on the Madurai-Thoothukudi new line project, Railway Minister Ashwin Vaishnav has clarified on Wednesday.

Earlier, the Minister, while addressing a media meet in Chennai, had allegedly said the Madurai-Thoothukudi line project was dropped on a request from the Tamil Nadu Government.

However, it was immediately denied by Tamil Nadu Transport Minister S S Sivasankar.

Meanwhile, the Railway Minister clarified that No land related issues from TN government in Madurai-Thoothukudi project.

A Southern Railway release here said on January 10 2025, in a press meet at ICF Perambur, mediapersons were asking questions simulta-

Police detain minor for raping aged woman

Mumbai: Police detained a 17-year-old minor for allegedly raping a 37-year-old woman at knife-point while she was alone at home in Mankhurd in the Shivaji Nagar area of the Mumbai suburb, an official said here on Wednesday.

According to police reports, the incident occurred around 4:30 p.m. on Monday. The woman, a homemaker, was sitting near the door of her house with her two children inside while her husband was at work.

The accused, who had been monitoring her movements, followed her into the house, locked the door from inside, and brandished a knife. He threatened to kill her and her children if she resisted. He then forcibly assaulted her, locked the door from outside, and fled the scene.

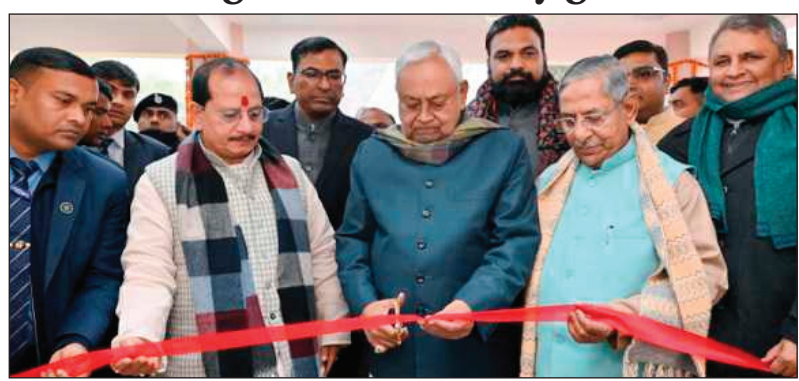
Hearing the woman's cries for help, neighbours rushed to open the door and informed her husband and the police.



neously regarding projects of Tamil Nadu, and a question was asked about the Madurai-Thoothukudi new line project, but due to background noise of factory, it was heard as Dhanushkodi project.

Accordingly, the Minister's reply was regarding Dhanushkodi line project that State Government has written to the Railway Ministry that this project may be dropped due to land/environmental issues.

Nitish inaugurates assembly guest house



Patna (UNI)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday inaugurated newly constructed assembly guest house in Patna. Kumar inaugurated assembly guest house equipped with all modern facilities for dignitaries. He appreciated the newly constructed guest house, saying care has been taken to provide all required comforts to

guests. A total of 24 rooms, three suites, meeting hall and a waiting hall are available in the guest house. Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Chaudhary, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Building Construction Minister Jayant Raj and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Sangeetacharya Pandit Sudhir Pote selected for 2025 'Vasanthostav' puraskar

Kolhapur: Senior classical singer of Jaypur Gharana of Kolhapur, 'Sangeetacharya' Pandit Sudhir Pote, has been selected for this year's prestigious 'Vasanthostav' puraskar (award), Vasanttrao Deshpande Foundation of Pune announced on Wednesday. In a release, the Foundation said the award carries a 'Manpatra,' and a cash prize of Rs 50,000. The award distribution ceremony will be held on January 19 at 'Vasanthostav' Sangeet Mohadtav in Pune. Pote, a national scholarship awardee, successfully presented and produced 22 programmes on the basis of various music concepts, including the 'Anand Parv' concept. He was the coordinator of the music department of the Maharashtra State Encyclopaedia Board.

AP: Adani Krishnapatnam Port receives 18th ICC Environment Excellence Award 2024



AP: Adani Krishnapatnam Port receives 18th ICC Environment Excellence Award 2024. Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Jan 15 (UNI) Adani Krishnapatnam Port Limited (AKPL) on Wednesday said it has received the prestigious 18th Indian Chamber of

Commerce (ICC) Environment Excellence Award 2024 in the service sector under the Platinum category. The award was presented by Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Enterprises of the Government of West

Bengal, along with Roshni Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, AKPL said in a release here. AKPL Head of Dry Cargo Operations received the award, memento and certification.

This recognition highlights AKPL's outstanding contributions to sustainability, environmental innovation, and responsible business practices.

AKPL has implemented groundbreaking initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint, setting benchmarks in operational excellence and environmental stewardship.

Prof Surajit Dhara elected Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences 2025

Hyderabad: Professor Surajit Dhara, from the School of Physics at the University of Hyderabad (UoH), has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Indian Academy of Sciences for the year 2025. Professor Dhara is renowned for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of liquid crystal science and technology. His research spans a wide range of innovative areas, including the fundamental understanding of topological defects and colloidal interactions, the discovery of new states of colloidal organization enabled by topology, and the development of controllable motile particles for topological active matter. Notably, Professor Dhara has pioneered liquid crystal microdroplet-based optical microresonators and micro-lasers and uncovered novel physicochemical effects and properties in ferroelectric and ferromagnetic nematic liquid crystals.

Tribal woman trampled to death by wild elephant at Edakkara

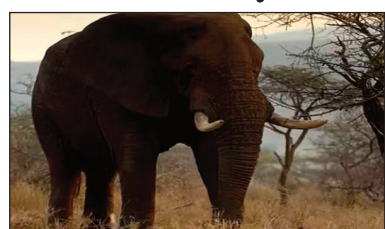
Malappuram (Kerala) (UNI) A 52-year-old tribal woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Edakkara in Moothedam Gram Panchayat bordering to Nilambur forest on Wednesday.

This was the second attack of wild elephants against tribal people within a span of eleven days. Mani (35), a tribal youth of Manchiri-Poochappara colony in Karulai village was trampled to death on January 4.

According to reports, the deceased was identified as Sarojini (52) alias Neeli, residing in Uchakulam colony at Edakkara.

The incident took place around 1000 hrs, when a group of tribal people went to graze their cattle and collect forest resources from Karulai forest areas, which was about half kilometre away from their houses.

Suddenly, they found a herd of elephants and one of them attacked Sarojini and others fled away from



the scene. Later, they returned to the accident spot and found that the body was lying on the ground. They shifted the body by walking around half a kilometre to their house at Uchakulam colony premises. Local residents alerted the forest department about the incident.

People's representatives and political leaders also rushed to the spot and they demanded that the body has to be shifted to Nilambur hospital for post mortem and inquest, after the visit of the District Collector and top forest officials of the district

who should ensure that there will be no further incidents of elephant attacks.

Wayanad South District Forest Officer (DFO) Danithlal said that arrangements will be made soon to set up hanging fencing and trenches bordering the forest areas within a month.

Following the elephant attack, on January 5, Nilambur MLA, P V Anvar led Democratic Movement of Kerala (DMK) workers organized a protest agitation to the DFO office and they also damaged the windowpanes and doors.

Police arrested 11 DMK workers including MLA on January 6 and lodged in a jail and released on bail on January 7. This incident created controversy and led to the resignation of Anvar from the post. He recently joined the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banarjee at a function held in West Bengal.

Sadhguru consecrates 54-foot Mahashula

Bengaluru (UNI)

On Makar Sankranti, Isha Foundation Founder Sadhguru consecrated the Mahashula, a monumental 54-foot trishul, through the ancient yogic ritual of prana pratishtha.

This sacred event, witnessed by thousands, marked the infusion of his life energies into the Mahashula, transforming it into a powerful spiritual symbol.

Alongside the Mahashula, a 21-ft consecrated Nandi, one of the world's largest metal Nandis, was unveiled, further enriching the sanctity of the Sadhguru Sannidhi in Chikkaballapur.

The Mahashula, now a striking addition to the serene backdrop of Nandi Hills, stands near the iconic 112-ft Adiyogi statue. Together, they draw thousands of visitors daily, enhancing Sadhguru Sannidhi's reputation as a major spiritual and tourist destination



in Karnataka. The Mahashula transcends its physical presence, embodying profound symbolism. Representing the cosmic forces of creation, maintenance, and destruction, it mirrors the essence of existence itself. In Indian culture, these forces are revered as Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, expressions of the same creative source. Sadhguru explains that the trishul is not merely a weapon but a unifying emblem: "Though it appears as three,

everything is one at its core." In yogic traditions, it signifies time's past, present, and future, as well as the three principal energy channels within the human system: Ida, Pingala, and Sushumna. The Mahashula's consecration centres on the Sushumna, focusing on spiritual growth.

The Mahashula complements the broader energy space of Sadhguru Sannidhi Bengaluru, which features the Adiyogi, Yogeshwar Linga, Naga, and upcoming additions like Linga Bhairavi and Teerthakunds. Together, they form a kshetra for inner transformation and holistic well-being.

Established in 2022, Sadhguru Sannidhi attracts visitors from Bengaluru, Karnataka and beyond. Open daily from 6 AM to 8 PM, it welcomes all, offering spiritual processes and access to its sacred energies regardless of caste, creed, or religion.

MIT-WPU to host 'Udyamotsav 2025' on Thursday

Pune (Maharashtra) (UNI)

The MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU) will host the 'Udyamotsav 2025' on Thursday to celebrate the National Startup day in a remarkable manner. 'Udyamotsav 2025', a grand initiative by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and AICTE, will be inaugurated in MIT-WPU campus, Kothrud, here, Director of MIT TBI and Founder of the MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions Prakash Joshi said in a release on Wednesday.

Inspired by the Central Government's Shark Tank initiative, 'Udyamotsav 2025' aims to bridge the gap between students, budding entrepreneurs, and the investor community. The platform celebrates startups emerging from academic institutions and incubation centers across India. It provides a

unique opportunity for startups to pitch their ideas to investors, secure funding, and establish strategic partnerships, fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem. The event's highlight is its focus on direct dialogue between investors and startups. Entrepreneurs will present their innovations, interact with prominent investors, and explore new collaborations that could transform their ventures into success stories.

The 'Udyamotsav 2025' event at MIT-WPU will feature an impressive lineup of speakers, including Dr. Pradeep Dhande from AICTE, Bharat Oswal from JITO, CA Ninad Dede, Jitendra Sapkal, Founder and CEO of RISE Capital, and Chitale from GD Chitale Ventures Ltd., who will provide insights into various aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation.