

MUSTREAD

2 more killed in rain- related incidents at Kannur

Kannur: The body of Muhammed Nishad (9) of Kakkad, who was swept away in Kakkad river around afternoon on Wednesday, was fished out by fire force personnel in the evening and shifted to Kannur Government Medical College hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile, the body of a youth Abhijith (23) of Kanhangad in Kasaragod district, who was also swept away while bathing along with his friends at Bavali river during the Kottiyoor Mahotsavam temple festival on June 15, was recovered by fire force personnel of Peravoor from Chappath near Aralam farm in the morning.

Tomato Price Crash: Farmers dump produce in Mysuru

Mysuru: In a distressing development that underscores the volatility in agricultural markets, scores of tomato farmers in Mysuru dumped their produce in heaps at the Bannimantap APMC yard on Wednesday, following a drastic fall in wholesale prices. The farmers, who had transported their tomatoes from various parts of the district, said they were receiving as little as Rs 2 to Rs 3 per kilogram – far below the cost of production. Unable to recover even the basic input and transport costs, several aggrieved cultivators unloaded their harvest within the market yard premises in protest. “This is a dire situation,” said one farmer. “Last week, a box of tomatoes fetched around Rs 600. Today, traders are offering Rs 17 per box. Just a few days ago, prices were Rs 500 per box. It changes overnight.”

Solapur police bust inter-district gang, recover 12 lakh in stolen assets; Sr officers lauded

Solapur: In a major breakthrough, Solapur Police apprehended three inter-district criminals linked to eight serious offences, recovering stolen valuables worth Rs 12 lakh,an official confirmed on Wednesday. . The operation drew high praise from Special Inspector General (Kolhapur Range) Sunil Phulari, who commended the Local Crime Branch (LCB) for its exemplary efficiency, an official confirmed. The accused—identified as Chaitanya alias Bhaiyya Pandurang Shelke (23) of Dharshiv, Karan Shivaji Bhosale (22) of Barshi, and Maruti Naganath Mane of Dharshiv—were involved in four daring robberies, three vehicle thefts, and one Arms Act violation. Police seized two country-made pistols, three live cartridges, gold ornaments (58 grams), two cars, three motorcycles, and three mobile phones during the operation.

Panchayati Raj Ministry & Bhashini partner to boost governance at grassroot level

New Delhi: Union Panchayati Raj Ministry and Bhashini, an AI-powered language translation platform under MeitY, are collaborating to harness AI-powered language technologies to help people interact smoothly with Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs), especially in diverse linguistic regions in the country. The pact will be signed on Thursday in the national capital in the presence of Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Professor SP Singh Baghel. The initiative is a strategic collaboration to expand multilingual access across the ministry's digital platforms and outreach efforts, enabling wider public participation in Panchayati Raj initiatives, programmes, dialogues, and live events through advanced translation technologies, said a statement from the Ministry.

Odisha Vigilance conducts searches in Tripura & Himachal Pradesh in IAS officer bribery case

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Vigilance has deputed three teams to Tripura and Himachal Pradesh to carry out further verification related to suspended IAS officer Dhiman Chakma, who was recently caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs.10 lakh. Chakma, a 2021-batch IAS officer posted as Sub-Collector of Dharamgarh in Kalahandi district, was arrested under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, on June 9 for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.10 lakh from a local businessman. During a subsequent search at his official residence, Vigilance officials recovered Rs.47 lakh in cash.

Tribal culture has special place in cultural richness of Odisha : CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar (UNI)
Tribal culture has taken a special place in the cultural richness of Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday said. Inaugurating the state-level Adivasi Shakti Samavesh organized at Chhau Podia, Baripada on the occasion of the first year of the state government, the Chief Minister said to achieve the goal of a prosperous Odisha in the next 11 years, the tribals and scheduled castes who constitute 40 percent of the state, must be developed. He said there is a unique fusion of culture and tradition in this “Adivasi Shakti Samavesh,organized under the auspices of the State Government’s Department of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare.



This convention, Majhi said, has created an opportunity to bring together all the tribal communities of the state and introduce them to each other's culture. The main objective of this gathering is to ensure that all the problems and needs of the tribal community are addressed,the Chief Minister said, adding that we are committed to improving their education, health, and social security.

India, UK share legacy of industrialisation, innovation: Andrew Fleming

Bhubaneswar (UNI)
British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North East India, Andrew Fleming, on Wednesday said that India and the United Kingdom share a rich legacy of industrialisation and innovation. “Today, we stand on the brink of a new era, shaped by digital transformation, green technologies, resilient supply chains, and the growing importance of critical minerals,” Fleming said while addressing the 2nd Edition of the Odisha Manufacturing Conclave 2025, organized by the ASSOCHAM Odisha State Council. He noted that with Odisha aspiring to become a major manufacturing hub, it naturally aligns as a strategic partner for the UK.



“Together, we can drive industrial innovation while upholding the principles of sustainability,” Fleming added. He highlighted that the UK is currently at the forefront of smart factory automation, advanced industrial engineering, and sustainable supply chain practices — all supported by cutting-edge advancements in artificial intelligence. This year's conclave, themed “AI-Driven Manufacturing: Innovation, Efficiency, and Sustainable Growth,” brought together industry leaders, policymakers, technology pioneers, and academics to discuss Odisha's roadmap toward becoming a future-ready manufacturing hub. Odisha Additional Chief Secretary for Industry, Hemant Sharma, pointed out that manufacturing currently contributes 36 percent to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while the combined share of industry and manufacturing stands at 53 percent.

Tripura CM invites educated youths to join politics

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha invited educated youths to get involved in politics to do good for the country. He regretted that good and talented children from families are not involved in politics, but the prime minister wants to bring them into politics for the betterment of the country. “This will help us get out of the precarious situation in politics. In the future, talented students will have to use their talent, knowledge, and intelligence properly for the development of society and the country. The parents didn't want their wards to join politics; instead, they preferred to get a degree and serve with a good package, which is not a good sign,” Dr Saha said.

Union ministers discuss Hyderabad Metro Phase-2; DPR under review



New Delhi/Hyderabad (UNI)
Telangana BJP chief, who is also Union Coal and Mines Minister, G Kishan Reddy met his ministerial colleague Manohar Lal Khattar, Urban Development Minister, at Shram Shakti Bhavan to review the progress of various urban development initiatives in Telangana, with focus on the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. Kishan Reddy highlighted the importance of continued Central support for infrastructure projects in Telangana. The discussion centered around the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Hyderabad Metro Phase-2, which was recently submitted by the Telangana government to the Union Urban Development Ministry. Khattar confirmed receipt of the DPR and said that officials of the Ministry are currently reviewing the document. He expressed hope that the new DPR was prepared by incorporating the suggestions and feedback provided earlier by the Centre on the previous draft. Khattar said the Centre remains committed to supporting Telangana's development and would continue to assist with key infrastructure projects like the Metro expansion, an official statement said on Wednesday.

Apni Party holds Shikara rally to woo tourists

Srinagar (UNI)
Apni Party organised Shikara rally at the iconic Dal Lake on Thursday to send a message across the country that Kashmir is safe and secure to visit. This rally was led by party president Altaf Bukhari and attended by prominent party leaders, workers and supporters. The rally featured dozens of shikaras decorated with Apni Party flags, making it a vibrant and festive atmosphere on the iconic lake. Bukhari said that this event was aimed at sending a message across the country that Kashmir is safe and secure to visit. “This event has been organised



to send out a strong message to our fellow citizens across the country who wish to visit Kashmir — that we are eagerly waiting for you. We want to tell everyone that Kashmir is safe and secure like any other part of the country,” he told media after the rally. “Also, we organised this event

PM Modi to unveil Roadmap for Odisha’s development on June 20: Samal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil a comprehensive roadmap for the development of Odisha during his visit to the state on June 20, marking the first anniversary of the BJP government in the state. Announcing this at a press conference on Wednesday, BJP Odisha unit president Manmohan Samal said that Prime Minister Modi will release two key documents — the Odisha Vision 2036 and 2047 booklet. He will also lay foundation stones for various developmental projects, dedicate completed initiatives to the public, and felicitate beneficiaries of both Central and State welfare schemes. Additionally, individuals who have made significant contributions in the social sector will be honored. A grand Roadshow and Tricolor Yatra are planned from Biju Patnaik International Airport to Janata Maidan — the main venue for the state government's first anniversary celebrations. This will be Modi's sixth visit to

Google opens its first Google Safety Engineering Centre in India at Hyderabad

Hyderabad (UNI)
Google inaugurated its Google Safety Engineering Centre, India (GSEC India) in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the first such facility in the Asia-Pacific region and fourth globally. Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy inaugurated the facility along with IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu. The centre would be the first of its kind in the APAC region and only the fourth in the world, with similar facilities in Dublin, Munich, and Malaga. The GSEC India is a specialised international cybersecurity hub that will play a vital role in developing advanced security and online safety products for the Indian context. It marks a pivotal milestone in the company's commitment to securing India's digital future, Google said in a release here. The inauguration follows the unveiling of Google's Safety Charter for India's AI-led Transformation in Delhi on June 17. The Centre in India will serve as the operational heart where strategic commitments transform into tangible solutions; and represents a unique convergence of Google's global safety expertise, bringing together teams focused on privacy and security engineering, and advanced cybersecurity capabilities under one strategic umbrella to address India's distinct digital landscape. GSEC India will operationalise the three foundational pillars of Google's Safety Charter — keeping end users safe from online fraud and scams, strengthening cybersecurity for government and enterprise infrastructure, and building AI responsibly — while serving as a regional hub for developing solutions across the broader APAC region. Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy, said, “The establishment of GSEC represents a pivotal moment in Telangana's journey toward becoming a global hub for cybersecurity innovation. This first-of-its-kind facility in the Asia-Pacific region affirms Hyderabad's crucial role in developing privacy, safety, and cyber-defence solutions for the next billion users, placing our state at the forefront of global digital safety efforts.”



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Meghalaya ranks sixth in HIV prevalence in India

Shillong (UNI)
Meghalaya is now ranked sixth among the highest HIV prevalence states in India, State Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh said. “There is a 221.1 per cent increase in HIV/AIDS cases in the state during the last 19 years, while Tripura has seen over 330 per cent plus. These are alarming indicators, and this is something only a community can get together to deal with,” Lyngdoh said. On Tuesday, the Health and Family Welfare Minister chaired a high-level meeting with medical experts and officials from various departments to formulate strategies aimed at containing the spread of the virus across the state. Moreover, she said the state is witnessing close to 982 new HIV cases annually—a figure she described as deeply concerning. “As an immediate step, the government will roll out extensive public education and awareness initiatives focused on prevention, early detection, and responsible health practices,” Lyngdoh said. The Health and Family Welfare Minister also informed that around 15 to 17 per cent of the HIV-positive patients have stopped their medication.

SC grants anticipatory bail to advocate booked under Gangsters Act

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to Advocate Sandeep Kumar, who was booked under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986, for allegedly acting as a deed writer in certain sale transactions. A bench comprising justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan was hearing a special leave petition filed by the advocate challenging the August 2, 2024, order of the Allahabad High Court, which had refused to quash an FIR registered under Sections 2 and 3 of the 1986 Act. Appearing on behalf of the petitioner, advocate-on-record Anurag Ojha submitted that Sandeep Kumar is a practising advocate who merely rendered professional assistance in preparing the sale deeds. He argued that the invocation of the Gangsters Act against a lawyer for such services was mechanical and arbitrary.

KMF to open eight Nandini outlets at metro stations: Shivakumar



Bengaluru (UNI)
In a series of announcements aimed at improving civic amenities and asserting local economic priorities, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the state government has directed the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) to open Nandini outlets at eight identified metro locations, following Amul's earlier application for retail space under the tender floated by Bangalore Metro. Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar clarified that although Amul had initially applied to open outlets and later expanded its request to ten outlets, the BMRL (Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd) tender process was open to all, and thus their presence could not be reversed. “Since the tender was global in nature, it was open to any applicant. Two Amul outlets have already been opened. However, we have now instructed KMF to apply and take up eight additional locations to expand Nandini's reach,” he said. Shivakumar also revealed plans for a city-wide “Swachha Bengaluru” (Clean Bengaluru) drive. Citizens can now submit photos and addresses of garbage spots via a helpline, and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will respond with clean-up operations within a week.

Security forces move in for Bengal's Kaliganj assembly by-election on June 19

Kolkata: Over 2.5 lakh voters are expected to exercise their voting right as the Kaliganj assembly seat by-poll is set to be held on June 19. Central armed forces with the assistance of state police have begun taking up position to ensure peaceful polling in some 309 booths in West Bengal's Nadia district, official sources said on Wednesday. Sources said some 14 companies of Central armed forces will man the designated 209 polling stations spread across 13 panchayat areas under the assembly segment. A total of 2,52,670 voters, including 1,30,363 males and 1,22,303 females, are expected to cast vote between 7 am to 5 pm.