

MUSTREAD

Seven injured as auto-rickshaw overturns

Phagwara (Punjab): At least seven people, including the driver, were injured after an auto-rickshaw overturned on Sultanpur Lodhi Road near Kapurthala late Wednesday evening. The incident occurred when the vehicle hit a pothole, causing it to lose balance and overturn. Sources said the driver, identified as Avinash, was returning home to Pithorahaal village in Sultanpur Lodhi after visiting the Mata Bhadrakali temple in Shekhupur along with his family. On the way back, the auto-rickshaw reportedly encountered a deep pothole on the poorly maintained road, leading to the accident.

Young girl commits suicide at Sathye College in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 21-year-old girl student, studying at famous Sathye College in Vile Parle suburb of city, allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the third floor of the college building. The deceased, identified as Sandhya Pathak, was studying in the third year at Sathye College. Sandhya's body was found on Thursday morning.

Mech vessel sinks in mid sea, one TN fisherman missing

Chennai: A fisherman from Mandapam near Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu was reported missing after their mechanised vessel started sinking following a technical snag, while three others who had ventured into the sea with him for fishing, reached the shore safely with the help of other fishermen. Fisheries department officials said on Thursday that the four fishermen --Anees (30), Madavan (28), Pareedu (28) and Ibrahim Shah (40)--ventured into the sea for fishing in a mechanised vessel on Tuesday night. The vessel developed a snag and started sinking on Wednesday night.

Nashik hit by heavy rains, red alert issued

Nashik: The city was lashed by heavy rains since morning today, with the Meteorological Department issuing a red alert for the district. District Collector Jalaj Sharma has appealed to tourists not to go sight-seeing at the dangerous, restricted areas. Water reached the waist level of Dutondya Maraeti on the banks of Gokakatha. Rivers have flooded due in the catchment area of dams. Pataleshwar temple was submerged. Religious rituals at Ramkunda have been stopped and shopkeepers were immediately shifted from there. Around 3,200 cuses of water was released into Godavari from Nandur Madhyameshwar Dam (dam) at 2 pm, increasing the water level of the river.

Odisha to host States' Energy Ministers Conference

Bhubaneswar: Odisha will take the lead in establishing a Community of Practice for Energy Ministers from various Indian states and host a conference of the Energy Ministers of different states later this year. A tripartite Letter of Intent (LoI) in this regard was signed on Thursday in New Delhi by the Energy Department of the Government of Odisha, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI). The LoI was signed by TBI Country Director for India Vivek Agarwal, IIT Kanpur Dean Professor Sachidanand Tripathy, and FA-cum-Additional Secretary of the Odisha Energy Department Devidutta Tripathy.

Two killed, 7 injured in road accident near Shahapur

Mumbai: In yet another fatal crash on the Samruddhi Expressway, two people were killed and seven others were injured, including children, after a jeep rammed into a container truck near Shahapur in Thane district early on Thursday. The tragic accident occurred at around 5 am between Vashind and Amne within Vashind Police Station limits. According to preliminary investigations, the jeep -- travelling from Pathardi in Ahmednagar to Bhiwandi -- struck the rear of a slow-moving Mumbai-bound truck.

“Huge blow to Indian diplomacy (and huglomacy too)”

Jairam Ramesh after Donald Trump hosted Munir at White House

Agencies, New Delhi

After Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir attended a lunch event with US President Donald Trump at the White House, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, on Thursday, raised concerns and said that it is a huge blow to Indian diplomacy.

In a post on X, Jairam said that Munir is the same man whose inflammatory remarks formed the backdrop to the brutal Pahalgam attack on April 22.

“Field Marshall Asim Munir is NOT the Head of State or Head of Government of Pakistan. He is the Chief of Army Staff. Yet he gets invited by President Trump for lunch and receives much praise. This is the same man whose atrocious and inflammatory remarks formed the immediate backdrop to the brutal Pahalgam terror attacks orchestrated by the establishment over which he presides,” he said.

Defence Ministry sets up panel to review Defence Acquisition Procedure

New Delhi: The Ministry of Defence has constituted a committee headed by the Director General (Acquisition) to conduct a comprehensive review of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, with the aim of aligning it with the evolving requirements of the armed forces.

The Defence Ministry on Thursday said that the review has been initiated in view of the declaration of the year 2025 as the “Year of Reforms.”

The objective is also to ensure greater synergy with the government's existing policies and initiatives.

Former IAS officer Apurva Chandra, who had previously served as Director General (Acquisition), has been appointed as the Principal Advisor to the Committee.



“It is a huge blow to Indian diplomacy (and huglomacy too),” Jairam added.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) hosted Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House for a lunch meeting, praising Munir for his role in preventing the escalation of the conflict between India and Pakistan.

Ram Mohan Naidu holds review meeting on safety and airline performance

New Delhi (UNI)

In the wake of the recent mishap involving an Air India flight near Ahmedabad, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Thursday convened a detailed video conference with Airport Directors from across the country to assess ground-level preparedness and enhance support mechanisms for passengers.

The review meeting focused on ensuring better coordination and communication amid flight rescheduling, which is currently being affected due to multiple reasons, including post-accident safety checks, adverse weather conditions, and the temporary closure of

Trump said, “The reason I had him here was I wanted to thank him for not going into the war and ending it...”

Earlier, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi targeted US President Donald Trump over having a dinner with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House.

“Instead of meeting PM Shahbaz Sharif, POTUS says he was ‘honoured’ to meet their self-promoted Field Marshal, clearly acknowledging that Pakistan is governed by its army. His thanking him to end the war from the Pakistan side emphasises the illegitimate order of leadership. What an irony. The President, who is aiming for the Nobel Peace Prize, is lunching with a tainted man who is endorsing his Nobel dream, a man who has actively abetted and aided terrorism to threaten peace across regions and the world!” Chaturvedi said on X.



certain airspaces due to geopolitical tensions, an official statement said.

Moreover, the Minister also held a high-level meeting with the Chair-

Odisha govt has failed to curb crimes against women

Has pushed state into darkness: Congress

New Delhi (UNI)

Accusing the BJP-led government in Odisha of failing to curb the rising crimes against women, the Congress on Thursday strongly condemned the recent horrific gangrape incident in Gopalpur, stating that the state has been plunged into “darkness.”

“A kind of darkness has engulfed Odisha. Women were promised security, but today, they have been left vulnerable. This is not the Odisha we know,” Congress MLA Sofia Firdous said here during a press conference.

The Barabati-Cuttack MLA along with All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba and Odisha Mahila Congress president Meenakshi Bahinipati addressed the media here.

Highlighting the state's cultural legacy of celebrating womanhood through festivals like ‘Raja Parba’ dedicated to fertility and the strength of women, Firdous alleged that three gangrape cases have been reported during the ongoing festival.

“In Gopalpur, on the day of Raja



Parv, a girl visiting the beach with her friend was allegedly gangraped by 10 men. In such a scenario, every girl in Odisha is left asking: when will we get justice?” she said.

Meanwhile, Alka Lamba slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of making false promises to women voters during election campaigns. “The Prime Minister seeks votes from half the population by promising safety and security. But the reality on the ground tells a different story,” she alleged.

Passengers banned from standing with bags at doors in Mumbai trains

Mumbai: Taking lessons from the Thane tragedy, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has banned passengers from standing at the door with bags in Mumbai local trains, an official said here on Thursday.

On June 9, eight passengers fell from moving trains near Mumbai railway station in Thane, leading to the death of four commuters.

Following the incident, the Railway authorities have introduced various safety measures to manage the footboard crowding and regulate passenger behaviour.

One of the measures is that passengers will no longer be allowed to stand at the train doors while carrying bags, especially during peak hours and Additional RPF or local police personnel will be deployed at major stations during the evening rush.

Former Mayor seeks removal of old telephone poles in Delhi

New Delhi: Former Mayor of Delhi, Shyam Sunder Agrawal, wrote to Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, requesting the removal of thousands of old telephone poles in Delhi.

Agrawal stated that these poles, which are no longer in use due to advancements in technology, are being used for large-scale encroachments.

He pointed out that each pole costs thousands of rupees, and some unscrupulous elements are cutting and selling them to scrap dealers.

Agrawal suggested that if these poles are removed through an agency, it would not only prevent encroachments but also generate revenue for the department.

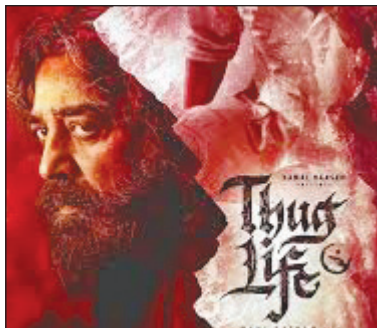
SC closes plea on ‘Thug Life’ ban

Says films with CBFC OK cannot be stopped by mobs

New Delhi (UNI)
The Supreme Court on Thursday closed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the unofficial ban on the Tamil film ‘Thug Life’ in Karnataka, after the state government assured the court that no official ban had been imposed and that full protection would be provided for the film's release if the producers chose to screen it.

A bench comprising justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan recorded the Karnataka government's affidavit stating that it would ensure law and order during the film's screening and found no need to pass further directions or impose costs.

However, the court strongly criticised the increasing trend of artistic expression being suppressed by



protest groups.

“Just because someone is offended, should a movie, a stand-up act, or a poem be stopped?” the bench asked during the hearing, expressing concern over rising instances of mob threats stalling lawful artistic work.

Manipur Governor instructs strengthening of education system

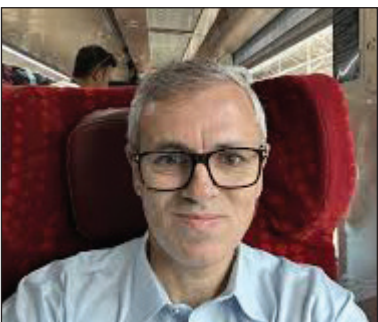
Imphal: Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, on Thursday, chaired a meeting at Raj Bhavan, Imphal, and reviewed the prevailing education system, focusing on strengthening the system in the state.

Secretary of the Department of Education (Schools), N. Praveen Singh, made a presentation highlighting progress in school enrolment.

He also presented a district-wise overview of school distribution, showcasing areas of growth and opportunities for further enhancing the rate of enrolment in each district.

He also noted that improved infrastructure, digital learning tools, and well-trained teachers are central to shaping a strong future for the state's youth.

Omar Abdullah takes ride on newly launched Vande Bharat Express



Srinagar (UNI)

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday took a ride on the newly launched Vande Bharat Express from Srinagar to Katra, officials said.

Omar was accompanied by his

advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani. “Omar boarded the Vande Bharat train for Katra from the Nowgam Railway Station this morning,” an official said. “ He will later head to Jammu.” This comes just nine days after his father, veteran politician and National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, also travelled on the same train to Katra.

The Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, began operations on June 7 and has quickly gained immense popularity among locals, pilgrims, and tourists. The two semi-high-speed trains now connect the Kashmir Valley to Jammu's Katra town via Banihal, operating six days a week, with Wednesday as the only non-operational day.

Modi govt returning Keezhadi excavation report affront on Tamil culture, civilisation : Stalin

Chennai (UNI)

Continuing his tirade against the Centre for returning the Keezhadi excavation findings that established the antiquity of Tamils, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin termed it was an affront on Tamil culture and civilisation.

Hitting out at the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government for returning the report seeking further scientific validation and justification, he said it was a blatant attack on Tamil culture and showed the Centre's hatred for Tamils, which was ingrained in it.

Upping his ante, Mr Stalin said Tamil tastes bitter for the BJP-led Government at the Centre.



The hatred for Tamil was ingrained, and that was why it is persistently trying to conceal and bury the pre-eminent antiquity and uniqueness of Tamil civilisation,” he

Kerala CM to launch ‘My Family, Drug-Free Family’ campaign

Thiruvananthapuram (UNI)

‘My Family, Drug-Free Family’ campaign with the involvement of residential associations will be launched by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as part of the fifth phase of Kerala's anti-drug state-wide campaign to be held on June 26.

In connection with the ‘International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking’, the campaign will run until January 30, 2026.

Stating that Kerala is moving forward strongly in the fight against drugs, the Chief Minister said, “As part of the Operation D-Hunt, conducted between June 10 and 16,



13,700 people were screened, 730 cases registered, and 769 people arrested.”

“Authorities seized 378.375 grams

said in an epistle to the party cadres, lauding yesterday's protest demonstration organised by the DMK's Students Wing at Madurai that has reflected the sentiments of Tamils and sent a strong and clear message to the Centre.

It was a brazen and blatant attack on Tamil culture and civilisation, the Chief Minister said on Centre's refusal to publish the Keezhadi report which was scientifically validated.

Mr Stalin accused the BJP of being hellbent on destroying the Dravidian cultural identity of the Indus Valley Civilisation while holding aloft the imaginary Saraswati civilisation without an iota of any evidence.

Contending that till date the

of MDMA and 24.833 kg of cannabis. During this period, 274 source reports related to drug activity were forwarded to respective district police chiefs, and follow-up action is ongoing, he said.

Drug awareness rallies will be organised in schools and colleges under the leadership of NSS, SPC, and anti-drug clubs.

School parliaments will be conducted in high schools and higher secondary schools under the local self-government and the education departments, focusing on the theme “Drug-Free, Safe Campus: A Child's Right”.

SC sets aside HC order against ADGP Jayaram, directs probe shift to CB-CID

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court to transfer to a different bench the case involving abduction allegations against Tamil Nadu Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) HM Jayaram.

A bench comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan also set aside the June 17 order of the High Court that directed action against the senior IPS officer.

The apex court further ordered the Tamil Nadu government to transfer the investigation in the case to the Crime Branch-Criminal Investi-



gation Department (CB-CID). “We will request the Chief Justice to assign it to some other bench. Courts are running administration now,” the Bench observed while passing its directions.

The directives came in response to a petition filed by Jayaram, who approached the top court after the Madras High Court directed police action against him during a hearing on an anticipatory bail plea filed by Puratchi Bharatham Party MLA Poovai M. Jagan Moorthy. The case pertains to the alleged abduction of a teenage boy following an inter-caste marriage opposed by the girl's family.