

MUSTREAD

Fresh batch of 6,482 Amarnath pilgrims leaves from Jammu

Jammu: A fresh batch of 6,482 pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Yatra amid the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' this morning left for the holy cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas here from Bhagwati Nagar based Yatri Niwas. Officials said that the pilgrims left from the Jammu base camp in a fleet of 268 vehicles. "A fresh batch of 6,482 pilgrims this morning left for Shri Amarnath Yatra cave shrine in Kashmir from Jammu base camp amid tight security arrangements," they added. They said that 4,129 pilgrims left for Pahalgam and 2,353 for Baltal in a fleet of 268 vehicles comprising light and heavy motor vehicles.

Wait for govt's action on illegal migrants, says Tripura HC

Agartala: A division bench of the Tripura High Court today disposed of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking immediate action against illegal migrants settled in Tripura from neighbouring Bangladesh and Myanmar. The court asked the petitioners to wait for the state government's action. The bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice Biswajit Palit heard the PIL jointly filed by Dr Bijay Debbarma, convenor of a civil rights body, the Joint Action Committee, and John Debbarma, a student activist affiliated to Twipra Students Federation (TSF).

Bar owner injured in knife attack for refusing free liquor

Nashik: A bar owner was injured when two youths attacked him with a knife after being refused free liquor, at Manmad city of the district last night. The bar owner, Kuljit Singh Kant, saved his life as he dodged the attack in time. However, he was injured in the neck. This incident has created a stir among the traders. The traders' federation has condemned the incident and demanded strict action against the accused. The attack was captured on CCTV cameras. The police, taking cognizance of the incident, immediately arrested both the accused and registered a case against them.

Hotel owner injured in bullet firing

Jalgaon: A hotel owner was seriously injured in a fire incident in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. An unidentified assailant shot hotelier Pramod Shriram Baviskar at Chincholi Phata in Yawal taluk yesterday night. Baviskar was subsequently admitted to a private hospital. According to Yawal police, the victim owns a hotel called Chincholi Phata. Last night, when he closed the hotel at 9:30 pm, he was sitting in a car with his friend Ratan Wankhede. While the car was reversing, at that time two youths on a two-wheeler approached him.

Manipur security crackdown: 3 insurgents arrested

Imphal: In a series of coordinated counter-insurgency operations, Manipur Police and central security forces have apprehended three active members of banned militant outfits across Imphal West, Kakching, and Bishnupur districts. The operations resulted in the seizure of arms, ammunition, and various incriminating documents yesterday. According to the police, security forces arrested a self-styled member of a proscribed insurgent group from the Mayang Imphal Thana Mamang Leikai area in Imphal West district today.

Four killed, several feared trapped truck accident

Kabirdham (Chhattisgarh): Four people were killed today when a truck carrying boulders overturned and plunged into a deep gorge in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh, police said. Two others were found seriously injured, while several others are feared trapped under the wreckage. The accident occurred near Agarpani village in the Kukdoor police station area. Police said locals spotted the truck in the gorge in the morning and informed the authorities. Upon arrival, the police recovered four bodies from under the truck and admitted two critically injured individuals to the Kukdoor Community Health Centre.

Planned parenthood crucial for maternal, child health, says Nadda

New Delhi (UNI)

Union Health Minister JP Nadda, on the occasion of the World Population Day today, underscored the importance of planned parenthood in ensuring improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Observed annually on July 11, this year's theme, 'Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy for the health and well-being of mother and child', highlights the critical role of informed family planning in public health.

In a message shared on social media platform X, Nadda stated, "World Population Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about family planning and renew our commitment to addressing population-related challenges." He emphasised that planned parenthood is integral to achieving healthier outcomes for mothers and children.



Highlighting this year's slogan, "The right age to become a mother is when the mind and the body is ready," the Health Minister called for increased awareness around physical and emotional preparedness for parenthood. "This underscores the importance of informed and em-

powered decisions with both physical and emotional readiness," he noted.

Nadda further stated that through public health facilities, including Aushman Aranya Mandirs, the Central Government is working to deliver essential family planning services

across the country. These efforts, he said, are "empowering families and paving the way for a healthier India."

Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of World Population Report 2025, released earlier this week, noted that 36% of Indian adults experience unintended pregnancies, while 30% face an unfulfilled desire for more or fewer children. Alarmingly, 23% experience both.

Commenting on the report, Dr Sombrita Ray, Unit Head at CK Birla Hospitals, CMRI, Kolkata, described the figures as indicative of broader systemic issues related to reproductive health access, education, and empowerment. "I think this is not just a statistic, but it is indeed millions of families going through emotional, financial, and physical consequences of either a lack of timely information or support.

Assam disqualifies elected panchayat members for under age marriage

Guwahati: Reiterating its stand against the child marriage, the Assam government has recently disqualified and removed four ward members from their concerned panchayats for their involvement in child marriage.

The four ward members were elected during the recently held panchayat elections in Assam.

All the four elected ward members are from four wards of Morigaon district.

It may be mentioned here that Assam had recently amended the rules which makes it clear that candidates with a history of child marriage may be deemed ineligible to contest in local body elections.

The disqualified ward members includes Shoriful Islam and Shamshun Nahar, elected member of Ward no 5 and Ward no 7 of Doloigao GP respectively. Similarly, Gul Mehera and Eliza Begun, elected Ward members of Ward no 6 and Ward no 9 respectively under Dhumkura GP in Morigaon.

Karnataka HC stays trial against CM Siddaramaiah



Bengaluru (UNI)

In a significant relief to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court today stayed trial court proceedings in a criminal defamation case filed by the BJP over the Congress' controversial 'corruption rate card' advertisements re-

leased during the 2023 Assembly election campaign.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar, while hearing the matter, issued notice to the respondents and granted an interim stay on the trial pending before the lower court.

Advocate general Shashi Kiran Shetty, appearing for the Chief Minister, argued that the case was similar to those involving other Congress leaders.

On July 4, the High Court had stayed proceedings against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the same case.

Similar interim relief has also been granted earlier this year to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Three dead, two critical after snakebites in Palamu

Palamu: Three persons, including two close relatives of Medininagar MLA Alok Chaurasiya, died in separate snakebite incidents in Jharkhand's Palamu district late last night. Two others are reportedly in critical condition.

In the first incident, which occurred in Narsinghpur Pathra village under Chainpur police station limits, a venomous snake bit Prem Chaurasiya—son-in-law of MLA Alok Chaurasiya's brother Bhisham Chaurasiya—and his two sons, Arjun Kumar and Dev Kumar, while they were sleeping.

The three were initially rushed to Medinirai Medical College and Hospital, from where they were referred to RIMS, Ranchi, due to their critical condition. However, they were later taken to Navjeevan Hospital in Tumbaraga, where Arjun and Dev were declared dead on arrival.



Srinagar (UNI)

Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) today conducted simultaneous search operations at three suspected locations in Union Territory to unravel a complex conspiracy involving cross-border funding through cryptocurrency, designed to fuel terrorism.

Police said that searches were conducted in Jammu, Doda, and Handwara.

"These meticulously executed searches aimed to secure critical evidence to unravel a complex conspiracy involving cross-border funding through cryptocurrency, designed to fuel terrorism and destabilize peace in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," a police statement said.

The search operations also targeted efforts to identify individuals inciting youth against India, thereby threatening national security.

The searches were part of an ongoing investigation under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, along with Sections 120B, 121, and 121A of the Indian Penal Code, registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir.

Calcutta HC asks for report from Centre on Bengali migrant workers 'pushed back' into Bangladesh

Kolkata (UNI)

The Calcutta High Court today directed the Union Home Ministry to submit a detailed report on whether migrant workers from West Bengal had been sent to Bangladesh.

The court also instructed Chief Secretary Manoj Pant to remain in contact with his counterpart in Delhi to gather information about the workers.

The court has also directed the Centre to submit a detailed report on the entire matter before it comes up for the next hearing on Monday.

The directive from the division bench of the Calcutta High Court was issued during a habeas corpus hearing concerning six migrant workers from Birbhum who had gone to Delhi for work. The petitioner alleged that some of them, includ-



ing a family with an eight-year-old child, were sent to Bangladesh.

The lawyer appearing for the petitioners claimed that on June 18 last month, six individuals were detained in the K.N. Katju Marg area under the Rohini Police District in Delhi.

After being detained, they contacted their families and informed

them that they had been arrested by Delhi Police on suspicion of being Bangladeshis.

They urged their families to come to Delhi quickly and help secure their release.

Upon hearing this, the family members immediately set out for Delhi. However, upon arrival, they were informed by the K.N. Katju Police Station that those detained on suspicion of being Bangladeshis had been handed over to the BSF (Border Security Force) and 'pushed back' into Bangladesh.

The family members alleged that the police have not provided any information regarding from where in West Bengal the pushback occurred. They also stated that they have contacted the state labour department regarding the matter.

Cong reaffirms commitment to 42 per cent BC quota

Minister Prabhakar urges unified support

Hyderabad (UNI)

Telangana BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday reiterated the Congress party's unwavering commitment to 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in Telangana, stating that the party has remained consistent from the Kamareddy Declaration to the legislative enactment.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan, he emphasised that this major social reform is a result of the vision of Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, and TPCC working president Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Ponnam recalled that the Con-

gress government, which assumed office on December 7, 2023, passed a resolution in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on February 4, 2024, to conduct a caste census — a key demand for ensuring social justice.

Dhanbad observes Population Day with awareness rally

Dhanbad: To mark World Population Day, the Dhanbad district administration on Friday organized an awareness rally aimed at promoting family planning and population stabilization.

The rally commenced from the Sadar Hospital and was flagged off by Civil Surgeon Dr. Alok Vishwakarma.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vishwakarma emphasized that the rally seeks to sensitize communities about the importance and accessibility of family planning services.

A special campaign has been launched from today and will continue till July 30, 2025. During this period, all government hospitals across the district will offer a range of family planning services.

Thackerays' possible alliance sparks talks between Amit Shah and Shinde

Mumbai/ New Delhi (UNI)

The recent unity between Uddhav and Raj Thackeray over opposition to the imposition of Hindi in education has prompted serious strategic discussions within the BJP.

Senior leaders in the ruling Mahayati alliance revealed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde held a detailed meeting about the potential impact of a Thackeray brothers' alliance in the upcoming municipal elections.

The trigger was a government decision to make Hindi compulsory from the first grade under the three-language policy. In response, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray

and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray shared the same stage for the first time in 19 years, voicing strong opposition. During the 'Marathi Victory rally', Uddhav hinted at a long-term alliance, stating, "We've come together to stay together".

This development has alerted

the BJP, known for always staying in "election mode."

Eknath Shinde's recent visit to

Delhi gained significance in this context. Sources confirm that Shah and Shinde discussed the potential alliance between Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS and its possible fallout for the Mahayati in the municipal elections.

Shah also advised Shinde on

counter-strategies to neutralize the impact of the Thackeray brothers' alliance. To gauge the ground sentiment, the BJP commissioned a private survey to assess how a united Thackeray front could affect voter behaviour. The findings of this survey have been shared with Shinde.

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