#### **Amit Chavda** appointed Gujarat Cong chief, succeeds **Shaktisinh Gohil**

**New Delhi:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today ap-pointed Amit Chavda as the new president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, succeeding Shaktisinh Gohil in the role. According to a statement issue by Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, Kharge also appointed Tushar Chaudhary as the Leader of the Congress Legislative Party in Gujarat. All the appointments were with immediate effect. "Hon'ble Congress President has appointed Shri Amit Chavda as the President of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate ef-

#### Security forces intensify operations across Manipur; two arrested, arms recovered

Imphal: Security forces have stepped up coordinated search and area domination operations in vulnerable and fringe regions across several districts of Manipur. These efforts have resulted in the recovery of arms and ammunition, along with the arrest of two individuals involved in insurgency and illegal nar-cotics trafficking yesterday. A significant cache of arms, ammunition and related equipment was recovered by security forces during an operation conducted in an isolated area situated between a village in Jiribam district and another in Tamenglong district, according to a statement released police said.

#### **INS Nilgiri makes** maiden visit to Chennai

Chennai: INS Nilgiri, the esteemed Naval warship, sailed into Chennai for her maiden visit, marking a momentous occasion as she touched the shores of the state that inspired her name. The ship draws her namesake from the majestic Nilgiri Hills, affectionately known as the Blue Mountains of Tamil Nadu, embodying the spirit of strength, courage, resilience, and rich heritage. A defence release here today termed it as a Beacon of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Built indigenously under Project 17A, INS Nilgiri stands as a testament to India's growing prowess in ship-building and maritime capabili-

#### Free electricity upto 125 units for 1.67 cr families from August onwards: Nitish

Patna: In a move that is apparently aimed at wooing voters before the next Bihar assembly elections to be held in October-November this year, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced that his government will provide free electricity of 125 ûnits to 1.67 crore famílies, Kumar made the announcement in a post made on his social media account 'X', saying that his state government had decided to give free electricity of 125 units to 1.67 crore families in Bihar with effect from August 1, 2025. This means that consumers would get the benefit of this on their bills of the July month.

#### 3 workers killed, 19 hurt in TN mishap

Chennai: Three workers were killed and 19 others injured when the van in which they were on their way to work overturned at Chinnarpathi village on the Valparai-Aazhiyar road in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu today. An official release here said while a woman worker Rani (45) died on the spot, two others died on way to the hospital. While Thilagaraj (40) while being shifted to hospital, Sanjaykumar (20) succumbed to injuries at Coimbatore Government Medical College hospital where he was shifted for advance treatment.

#### Arms smuggling gang busted in Varanasi

Varanasi: Sleuths of the Special Task Force (STF) Uttar Pradesh claimed to have arrested two members of an inter-state arms smuggling gang with 4 country made pistols and 7 magazines. The arrest was made from Varanasi. According to ADG STF, Amitabh Yash, information was being received about the interstate gang involved in smuggling of illegal arms being active in Purvanchal.

# Rahul accuses EC of 'stealing votes in Bihar in name of SIR'



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today once again attacked the Election Commission, accusing it of "stealing votes in the name of SIR" in Bihar.

In a post on X, Gandhi claimed

Guwahati: One person died in police

firing while several others including policemen were injured today after the opening existing driver and the opening existing driver.

the ongoing eviction drive at Paikan

when a group of people, who had

been living there despite the eviction drive last Saturday, clashed with a

team of police and forest depart-

ment officials who had gone there to

carry out the eviction drive.
Police said that a mob attacked

them with pelting stones when the

police and forest teams have

reached there to carry out the evic-

jured during the stone pelting. Two

civilians protestors were injured

and one of them sucumbed to his

injuries," said Goalpara District

Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar

"At least five policemen were in-

The incident took place today

in Goalpara district turned violent.

that the Election Commission in Bihar was "caught red-handed stealing votes in the name of 'SIR", referring to the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls being held in the state ahead of the Assembly elections. 'Their job is just theft, named

'SIR'-and now an FIR will be filed against those who exposed them!'

Questioning the neutrality of the Election Commission, Gandhi fur-ther asked, "Is the EC still the 'Election Commission' or has it completely become the BJP's 'Election Theft'

Notably, an FIR was filed against a journalist related to his reporting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, on July 13. It was lodged at the Ballia police station in Begusarai district based on a complaint from a Booth Level Officer (BLO), according to reports.

#### BJP slams Rahul over remarks on Assam CM

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today described as "highly objectionable" Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks suggesting that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma should be sent to jail. Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Dr. Syed Zafar Islam accused Gandhi of attempting to create unrest in Assam and said it was ironic that "a family out on bail in corruption cases is making statements about sending a sitting Chief Minister to jail." He also said that Gandhi's remarks reflected poorly on his political maturity and public credibility.

### Cong slams govt over NMMS app Says 'FAST means First Announce Second Think'



The Congress today attacked the Modi Government accusing it of pushing ahead with the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app in MGNREGA without adequately assessing its implications for rural workers.

Taking aim at the government's approach, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh in a statement said, "FAST is the self-declared mot-to of the Modi Govt. It actually stands for First Announce Second

"In May 2022, the Modi Govt in-troduced the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app in MGN-REGA for digital verification of atten dance and works. Ever since this was done, the Indian National Congress had been highlighting the operational problems with NMMS and how it was damaging the letter and spirit of MGNREGA. Now in a notification issued on July 8, the Union Ministry of Rural Development has finally acknowledged the various problems associated with the NMMS," Ramesh said.

"It was evident from the beginning that many workers would be unfairly denied wages simply because their photographs couldn't be uploaded in real time due to network issues," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

"At the same time, the NMMS has roven ineffective at preventing fraud. Fake workers can simply turn up twice a day to be photographed and still get paid without doing any real work," he said.

#### Resetting Ties: India and China seek common ground Eviction drive turns violent in Goalpara: One killed

The "re-setting" in India-China ties should not be viewed in isolation, but as a strategic move driven by several converging geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts, experts say.

This recalibration is evident in External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent Beijing visit for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. This was Dr Jaishankar's first visit to China after the 2020 Galwan incident, reflecting renewed engagement with China after years of

Dr Jaishankar's task was to finalise India's agenda for the SCO Summit scheduled to be held on August 31-September 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Tianjin for the Summit, his first such visit since the Galwan clashes in

These high-level diplomatic moves point to the roadmap of de-



escalation set during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the 2024 BRICS Summit

According to Anil Trigunayat, who served as Ambassador to Jordan, Libya and Malta, "Dr. Jaishankar's visit is significant. It continues the momentum of bilateral re-engagement following the Kazan meeting. The recent visits by the Defence Minister and the NSA reflect the broader roadmap being pursued by India and China, with the SCO providing a parallel diplomatic plat-

Beyond border tensions, the bi-lateral dialogue is unfolding against the backdrop of global strategic shifts—particularly weaponization of rare earth elements by China. Beijing's restrictions on rare earth exports have triggered alarm worldwide. For India, which is aggressively pushing its Make in India initiative, access to rare earths is essential, not only for electric vehicles and smartphones, but also for military applications like the Akash and Astra missile

"China is keen for visa facilitation and direct flights while India would want lifting of curbs on supply of rare earths etc," Trigunayat said.

#### **EAM Jaishankar meets** with South Korean President's team of Special Envoys to India

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today met with South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung's delegation of special envoys to India led by former prime minister Kim Boo-kyum, during which the two sides discussed economic, technology, defence and maritime cooperation.

In a post on X, the EAM wrote: 'Delighted to meet RoK Presiden Lee Jae Myung's delegation of Spe cial Envoys to India led by former PM Kim Boo-kyum this morning in Del "Discussed economic, technolo gy, defence and maritime cooperation. As well as expanding people-topeople exchanges.

India will engage the new ad ministration actively and work towards further enhancing our Special Strategic Partnership.'

### In 8 years since 2017, UP cops conducted 14,000 encounters: DGP

tion drive.

The Uttar Pradesh police said today that since 2017, it has pursued a strict zero-tolerance policy towards crime, conducting over 14,000 encounters, arresting more than 30,000 criminals and injuring over 9,000 in the leg during operations targeting fugitives and repeat offenders. DGP Rajeev Krishna stated that,

acting on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directives, the state police has maintained an aggressive crackdown on crime. Over the past eight years, 14,973 operations have been carried out, resulting in the arrest of 30,694 criminals. Of these, shot in the leg, while 238 were killed The highest number of actions

took place in Meerut Zone in west-



ern UP, where 7,969 criminals were arrested and 2,911 were injured. In Agra Zone, 5,529 criminals were ar-Bareilly Zone, 4,383 criminals were caught, with 921 injured. In Varanasi Zone, police arrested 2,029 criminals

#### RSS strengthens organisation in UP ahead of Panchayat and **Assembly Elections**

Lucknow: Ahead of next year's Panchayat polls and the 2027 Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has undertaken the significant task of organisational overhaul in Uttar Pradesh.

As part of this restructuring, more than 60 district 'pracharaks' (fulltime workers) have been reassigned to new roles.

RSS sources say the reshuffle is strategically important, given the approaching elections, adding that the exercise will revitalise the organisation and enhance coordination at the grassroots level

District pracharaks are instrumental in mobilising volunteers and expanding ideological influence on

## Modi to launch projects worth Rs 12,000 cr in Bihar, Bengal today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar and West Bengal tomorrow to launch and lay foundation stones for development projects worth over Rs 12,000 crore, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said today.

In Motihari in Bihar, the Prime Minister will launch projects worth Rs 7,200 crore across sectors, including railways, roads, rural development, fisheries, and IT while in Durgapur, West Bengal, projects worth over Rs 5,000 crore will be launched in oil and gas, power, road, and rail

He will lay the foundation for rail rural infrastructure, including a major Rs 4,080 crore rail project between Darbhanga and Narkatiaganj, the PMO said in a statement here.



He will also inaugurate highway projects like the Parariya-Mohania 4 lane stretch, and a 2-lane Sarwanwith Jharkhand while in Patna and Darbhanga, the Prime Minister will launch new STPI software parks and an IT incubation centre.

## Odisha Bandh: Congress workers clash with police near CM's residence, several arrested

Bhubaneswar (UNI)

Several Chhatra Congress workers and senior party leaders were arrested today while attempting to gherao the official residence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during the statewide Odisha bandh, called by eight opposition parties over the death of FM College student Soumyashree Bisi. Chhatra Congress activists, carrying placards and shouting slogans, marched to the Chief Minister's residence blaming the state government for the student's death.

A scuffle broke out as the agitaters tried to breach the security cordon near the CM's residence. Police personnel deployed at the site dispersed and chased them away from Lower

Among those detained were



tee (OPCC) President Bhakta Charan Das and AICC Odisha in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu and former minister

leaders. The Police later cleared MG Road near the CM's residence.

The dawn-to-dusk Odisha bandh

was called by Congress, along with the Samajwadi Party, NCP, RJD, and several Left parties, to demand jus-tice for 20-year-old Soumyashree Bisi, a second-year Integrated B.Ed student of FM (Autonomous) College, Balasore.

Soumyashree succumbed to 90 percent burn injuries on July 14, two days after allegedly attempting selfimmolation, following alleged mental and sexual harassment by Assistant Professor Samir Sahu, who has since been arrested and suspended.

Opposition parties demanded a judicial probe into the incident and sought the resignation of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, accusing them of administrative failure.

#### UP chief secretary likely to get extension Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh chief secre-

tary Manoj Kumar Singh, an IAS officer of 1988-batch slated to retire on July 3, is likely to get service exten-

The UP government has written a letter to the Centre requesting the extension of the service of the chief secretary.

Sources said that a reply from the Centre is expected by next week.
Singh is scheduled to retire on Ju-

He was appointed to the top position of the state on June 30, 2024 after the retirement of Durga Shankar

IAS Durgashankar Mishra, who was the chief secretary of UP before Manoj Kumar Singh, got the service extension twice for

one year and for the third time for 6 In this way, he got two-and-a-half years of service extension.

## Pilgrim dies in shooting stone incident

A lady pilgrim from Rajasthan died due to a shooting stone incident along the Amarnath Yatra route in Ganderbal district, officials said.

The incident occurred yesterday along the Baltal axis, in one of the

### Amarnath Yatra

two routes leading to the Amarnath shrine in South Kashmir. The slain lady has been identified as 52-year-

old Sona, a resident of Rajasthan. "The lady yatri died due to the shooting stone incident along the yatra route," a senior police officer

The Amarnath Yatra Yatra has



been suspended for today from both twin base camps of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal Ganderbal dis-

An official spokesman said that heavy continuous rains over the last

two days have necessitated restoration work to be carried out on tracks

along both the routes. Meanwhile, persistent rainfall last evening triggered a landslide between Rayalpathri and Brarimarg along the Baltal axis, resulting in the halting of Yatra movement and stranding of a large number of pil-

The Indian Army, Police, CRPF and other agencies responded swiftly to assist the stranded pilgrims.

Defence spokesman said in immediate response, the Army detachment deployed at Brarimarg swung into action and around 500 Yatris stranded in the area were accommodated in tents and provided with tea and drinking water.

### Waqf Act petitioner being spied upon, files complaint

Mumbai (UNI)

Mumbai resident Muhammad Jameel Merchant, who was among the five petitioners to challenge the new Waqf Act, has filed a complaint alleging that he was being spied up-on. Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 2025, popularly known as the new Waqf Act of UMEED Act, was passed by Parliament in April. Days later, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Act.

Merchant has filed a complaint with the Malvani police station, citing that he is being spied upon and assured top police officials that he will share the CCTV footage to sup-

'Over the past few days, certain unknown individuals have been keeping watch on me, my residence and my office. The activities of these unknown persons are more during the night hours when they closely monitor the entry and exit," he said

He claimed that the identified individuals are particularly active during night hours and closely monitor-ing entry and exit points of his build-

ing compound.

In a detailed three-page letter addressed to the Senior Inspector of Police at Malvani police station,

Merchant expressed serious apprehension for his life.



















