

MUSTREAD

Rs 9 lakh siphoned through fake workers' registration in Hamirpur

Hamirpur: In a major corruption scam, Rs nine lakh designated for the welfare of poor workers has been siphoned off through fake registrations by 38 individuals from affluent families, Nardev Kumar, chairman of the State Labour Welfare Board, revealed during a press conference at the State Secretariat. Kanwar informed that the fraud was uncovered in Barsar, Bhoranj, Hamirpur and Sujapur areas of Hamirpur district. Of the 38 fake registrations, 12 people had illegally availed benefits such as maternity leave and house construction assistance.

Nitish announces ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kith of Khagaria victims

Patna: Expressing deep sorrow over the death of four students drowned in a pond in Khagaria, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the deceased. Describing the incident as extremely tragic, Kumar directed that an ex-gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh each be provided to the families of the deceased. The Chief Minister prayed to God to give strength to the bereaved families to bear this immense sorrow. Earlier, four students were drowned on Monday while bathing in a pond in Malpa village under Chautham police station area of Khagaria district.

Vigilance raids BMC Executive Engineer in disproportionate assets case

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Vigilance today conducted simultaneous raids at four locations across the state in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case involving Jagannath Patnaik, Executive Engineer of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). According to Vigilance sources, the operation was carried out by a team comprising six Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), 10 Inspectors, and other supporting staff, after search warrants were issued by the Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar. Raids were conducted at four premises located in Bhubaneswar and Gunupur (Rayagada district).

Three killed as JCB machine slips into gorge in J&K's Kishtwar

Jammu: Three people were killed after a JCB machine slipped into the gorge in Dachhan area of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir today. Police said that as per reports, the JCB machine engaged in some developmental work, slipped into the gorge. "All three occupants died on the spot," police said. Police added that at about 6:40 pm, a JCB rolled down at Dhanrashi Dachhan resulting in the death of three persons on the spot. The deceased were identified as Nazir Hussain (23), Ishaq (26) and Majeed (28), all residents of Bhalassa.

Hemant Soren visits Kariya Munda at Ranchi hospital

Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren today visited Medica Manipal Hospital in Ranchi to inquire about the health of former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda, who is currently undergoing treatment there. The Chief Minister met Kariya Munda and interacted with the attending doctors to get an update on his condition. He wished the veteran leader a speedy recovery.

11 injured in bus-truck collision in S 24 Parganas

Kolkata: At least 11 people were injured, two of them critically, when a passenger bus and a goods-laden truck collided head-on in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district today, official sources said. The injured have been taken to the Kakkdip primary health centre, of them two were shifted to the Diamond Harbour Medical hospital after their condition deteriorated. Both the drivers of the government-owned passenger bus and the private truck sustained critical injuries as the vehicles' front sides were damaged heavily on impact.

SC dismisses Kalanithi Maran, KAL Airways' appeal in SpiceJet arbitral award dispute

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court today dismissed an appeal filed by Kalanithi Maran and KAL Airways challenging a Delhi High Court judgment that had held they engaged in a "calculated gamble" by delaying the filing and re-filing of their challenge against a 2023 arbitral award in the SpiceJet dispute.

A bench comprising justices PS Narasimha and Justice AS Chandurkar passed the order.

The case stems from a longstanding commercial fallout between Kalanithi Maran and Ajay Singh, promoter of SpiceJet, relating to control and financial obligations of the airline.

In 2018, an arbitral tribunal consisting of three retired Supreme Court judges directed SpiceJet to refund ₹270 crore to Maran and KAL Airways while rejecting their other



claims.

Both sides filed petitions under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 challenging parts of the award.

On July 31, 2023, a single judge of the Delhi High Court upheld the refund direction but dismissed the appellants' challenges against portions of the award unfavourable to them.

SpiceJet and Singh filed intra-court appeals within the limitation period in August 2023, which were heard on multiple dates and decided on May 17, 2024.

The division bench remanded the matter for fresh consideration by a different single judge, effectively putting the refund order on hold. Maran and KAL Airways' Special Leave Petitions against this ruling were dismissed by the Supreme Court on July 26, 2024.

Four days later, on July 30, 2024, Maran and KAL Airways refilled defective appeals they had originally filed with a 55-day delay, but left pending for 226 days due to unresolved objections.

On May 24, 2025, the division bench of Justice C. Hari Shankar and Justice Ajay Diggapal dismissed these appeals, refusing to condone both the initial filing delay and the prolonged re-filing delay.

In its strongly worded judgment, the High Court found the appellants' conduct lacking in bona fides and intentionally misleading.

Indian-Origin Investor among 6 tourists on upcoming Blue Origin Spaceflight

Chennai: Blue Origin, the American aerospace company founded by Jeff Bezos, has announced the crew for its upcoming space tourism mission, NS-34.

Among the six passengers is Arvinder (Arvi) Singh Bahal, an India-born American real estate investor.

Arvi is a real estate investor born in Agra, India, and now a naturalized US citizen.

A lifelong traveller and adventurer, Arvi has visited many countries in the world, the North and South Poles, and skydived Mount Everest and the Pyramids of Giza. He holds a private pilot's license and also flies helicopters.

Congress MP moves adjournment motion notice in LS to discuss SIR in Bihar

New Delhi (UNI)

Congress MP Manickam Tagore today submitted an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, demanding an urgent discussion in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, on what he described as a "blatant and unconstitutional attempt" to deny voting rights to the poor, backward, Dalit, and marginalised communities in Bihar through the Election Commission's Special Investigation Report (SIR) mechanism.

In his notice under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, Tagore accused the Modi government of



misusing the Election Commission to disenfranchise vulnerable sections of society—a move he said amounts to a violation of the fundamental right to vote en-

Congress leaders involved in urea black marketing, alleges BJP Chief Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad (UNI)

Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao today accused Congress leaders of engaging in black marketing of urea that was supplied by the central government for the benefit of farmers in the state.

Addressing party workers from the Makthal Assembly constituency of Narayanpet district at the BJP state headquarters here, Rao alleged that the Congress government in the state has been creating an artificial scarcity of urea despite receiving excess supplies from the Centre.

"Local body elections are approaching. It is the responsibility of our cadre to expose the misdeeds of the state Congress government, particularly its failure in ensuring proper distribution of urea," he said.

The BJP chief questioned the rationale behind the alleged shortage, pointing out that the Modi government had supplied over 12 lakh metric tonnes of urea to Telangana, even though the

Revanth Reddy-led government had sought only 9.5 lakh metric tonnes.

"Why are farmers still lining up at fertiliser shops? Who is responsible for the black marketing? The state government owes an answer," he remarked.

Calling it "unfortunate," he said even regions like Makthal, known for cotton cultivation, are facing supply issues due to the negligence of the Congress government.

"Farmers are suffering because the state administration has failed to deliver fertilisers to where they are needed," he said.

HC rejects SP leader's pleas in fake passport case, gives bail to SP MLA

Prayagraj: Samajwadi Party leader and former MLA Abdullah Azam received a setback in the Allahabad High Court today as it rejected both his petitions in the fake passport and PAN card cases. The single bench of Justice Sameer Jain on Wednesday rejected both the petitions. The court had reserved the decision after hearing arguments of both sides on July 1. Trial in the case will continue in Rampur's MP-MLA court. Abdullah Azam had filed two petitions in two different cases in Allahabad High Court. The first case is related to the fake passport of Abdullah Azam Khan and the second case was related to the making of two PAN cards.

President to attend AIIMS, IIT convocations; Jharkhand readies visit plan

Ranchi (UNI)

Jharkhand is gearing up for President Droupadi Murmu's two-day visit from July 31 to August 1, during which she will attend the first convocation of AIIMS Deoghar and the convocation of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting and directed officials to ensure flawless arrangements across Deoghar, Ranchi, and Dhanbad.

Given the Sawan rush in Deoghar, an alternative route from the airport to AIIMS has been finalised to avoid disrupting Kanwariya movement.



Tiwari stressed timely execution of all protocols—from reception to departure. Nodal officers Amitabh Kaushal (Commerce Tax Secretary) and IG Akhilesh Kumar Jha will oversee the entire coordination. The Information and Public Relations Department will manage the public address system.

SC refuses to entertain Baghel's plea against nephew's election petition

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court today refused to entertain a plea by former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel challenging an election petition filed against him by his nephew and BJP leader Vijay Baghel, which alleged violation of the mandated silence period norms during the 2023 Assembly elections.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi dismissed the petition as withdrawn while granting Baghel



liberty to approach the High Court-cum-Election Tribunal to raise the issue of maintainability as a preliminary issue.

"If such an application is filed,

the High Court is requested to decide it after giving an opportunity of being heard to the other side and before proceeding on merits.

Observations made in the said order shall have no bearing on the application sought to be moved," the Bench clarified.

Baghel had approached the apex court against the Chhattisgarh High Court's dismissal of his application filed under Order 7 Rule 11 CPC seeking rejection of Vijay Baghel's election petition.

Keralites to pay homage to ancestors on Amavasi today

Thiruvananthapuram (UNI)

Tens of thousands of people are expected to offer 'Karkidaka Vavu Bali,' the traditional ritual performed to pay homage to ancestors, on the Amavasi, which will be observed across Kerala tomorrow.

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the temple administrative body in Kerala, has made elaborate arrangements for the traditional ritual, promoting a plastic-free and environmentally friendly observance, sources said.

In memory of departed ancestors, devotees usually offer Bali at riverbanks, beaches, and temple ghats. This ritual, dedicated to deceased ancestors, is performed by Hindus in Kerala during the Malayalam month of Karkidakam, the last month of the Malayalam calendar.

It is an important Hindu religious observance performed in honour of forefathers in Kerala



and other South Indian states.

According to Hindu customs, when a family member dies, the younger members of the family are expected to perform Bali (also known as Pitru Tharpanam) to help the soul attain eternal peace.

In northern Kerala, there is a belief that the souls of departed ancestors visit homes on Karkidaka Vavu. Therefore, people prepare and offer Ada (a sweet made of rice) to honour them.

It is believed that performing Bali Tharpanam on Karkidaka Vavu helps appease the souls of ancestors and brings good fortune and prosperity.

VS Achuthanandan final journey delayed, thousands pay tribute on way to Alappuzha

Thiruvananthapuram/Alappuzha (UNI)

The funeral procession of former Kerala Chief Minister and veteran CPI(M) leader VS Achuthanandan was significantly delayed as tens of thousands of people lined the roads to pay their last respects.

The procession, which began from Thiruvananthapuram yesterday afternoon, was still en route to Alappuzha due to the overwhelming public turnout that turned it into a moving tribute to one of Kerala's tallest political icons.

Though the distance from Thiruvananthapuram to Alappuzha is just 127 km with an average travel time of around 3 hours by road, the funeral procession, which began from Thiruvananthapuram yesterday, has still not reached Alappuzha.

The mortal remains of the 102-year-old leader are being transported in a specially arranged KSRTC bus, designed to allow public view-



ing during the journey. As the convoy passed through towns and villages, it was met with emotional tributes, floral offerings, and tearful crowds—reflecting the deep respect Achuthanandan commanded across political and social boundaries.

Many places witnessed spontaneous gatherings, with people chanting slogans, holding aloft his portraits, and waving red flags in memory of the communist icon who spent decades championing the rights of the poor and marginalized.

Annual pass facility for private vehicles at NH Toll plazas from Aug 15

Chennai (UNI)

In a move that could be seen as a great boom to frequent travellers, the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry will implement the Annual pass facility for private vehicles at NH Toll plazas across the country from August 15.

With the amendment to the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide Notification dated June 17, 2025, frequent travellers on National Highways will have a great boom from August 15, 2025 when the proposed Annual Pass facility for private Car/Van/Jeep will come into force.

With the payment of Rs.3,000 private Car/Van/Jeep can pass through the designated Fee Plazas on National Highways and National Expressways for one year or 200 trips (whichever is earlier), without per-trip user-free charges, an official release said.

With the introduction of the new



Annual Pass Policy, the regular/frequent travellers will be immensely benefitted, both saving in the user-free charges and ease of recharge of FASTag.

For example, a person who travels from Chennai to Bangalore has to pass through six Fee Plazas and based on the prevailing user-free rates, he/she has to pay total user-free of Rs.445.

If one undertakes a minimum of one 'To' and 'Fro' journey in a month, the expected annual expenditure towards user-free would be Rs.10,680 involving 144 trips (crossing of Fee Plaza).

With the Annual Pass, the saving would be a whopping Rs.7,680. Still he/she can undertake additional 56 trips (crossing of Fee Plaza) within the one-year period.

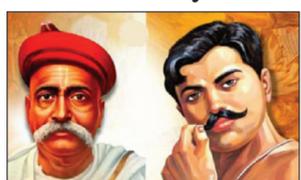
On similar lines, the savings on Chennai-Trichy sector would be Rs.8,880 where seven Fee Plazas are involved and the total number of trips (crossing of Fee Plaza) would be 168. If the frequency of travel is more, correspondingly, the savings would also be higher.

The Annual Pass can be activated only with Rajmargyatra mobile application or NHAI Website.

The Annual Pass can be activated on the existing FASTag, provided it meets the eligibility criteria (i.e. it is properly affixed on the vehicle's windshield, linked to a valid Vehicle Registration Number, not blacklisted, etc.).

The Annual Pass is applicable only for private non-commercial Car/Jeep/Van after checking through VAHAN database and use in any commercial vehicle will result in immediate deactivation without notice.

PM pays tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak



New Delhi (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to two iconic freedom fighters, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, on their birth anniversaries, hailing their courage, conviction, and lasting impact on the nation's struggle for independence.

The Prime Minister said that the legacies of Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Tilak continue to inspire generations in the country.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, "Tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary. He epitomised unparalleled valour and grit. His role in India's quest for freedom is deeply valued and continues to inspire our youth to stand up for what is just, with

courage and conviction."

Paying tribute to Lokmanya Tilak, the Prime Minister said, "He was a pioneering leader who played a vital role in kindling the spirit of India's freedom movement with unwavering conviction. He was also an outstanding thinker who believed in the power of knowledge and service to others."

Born in 1856, Tilak was a scholar, mathematician, philosopher and one of the earliest advocates of Swaraj or self-rule. He fearlessly challenged British rule through his writings and launched two influential weeklies, Kesari and The Mahratta. As president of the Indian Home Rule League in 1914, Tilak mobilised nationalistic sentiments across the country.

Chandra Shekhar Azad, born in 1906, became involved in the national movement as a teenager, participating in the Non-Cooperation Movement at just 15 years of age. He later became a key figure in the Hindustan Republican Association, which he reorganised after the arrest or death of many of its members.