

MUSTREAD

Renowned educationist
Vasanthi Devi
passes away

Chennai: Renowned educationist Ms V Vasanthi Devi died here this evening following a cardiac arrest. She was 87. The renowned academician and a leading voice in Tamil Nadu advocating for progressive reforms in the education sector, complained of uneasiness at her Velachery residence. However, she collapsed before being rushed to the hospital. Her body was being donated to the Kilpauk Medical College for research as per her wish.

BJP legislative party meeting held under Babul Marandi's leadership

Ranchi: A meeting of the BJP Legislative Party was held today under the leadership of State BJP President and Leader of Opposition Babul Marandi. Among those present were Working President Dr Ravindra Kumar Rai, State General Secretary (Organisation) Karmveer Singh, former Chief Minister Champai Soren, Chief Whip Naveen Jaiswal, Whip Nagendra Mahato, and MLAs Neera Yadav, Manoj Yadav, Satyendra Tiwari, Alok Chourasia, Devendra Kunwar, Amit Yadav, Roshanlal Choudhary, Ujjwal Das, Pradeep Prasad, Purnima Das Sahu, and Manju Kumari.

Jharkhand monsoon session begins

Ranchi: The monsoon session of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly began today with Speaker Rabindranath Mahato urging members to engage in respectful and constructive debate. Opening the session, he emphasised the importance of accommodating minority voices and cited the vision of the Constitution's framers, who empowered citizens to shape the nation's democratic path. He appealed to members to uphold legislative decorum and respond seriously to public expectations. The session, which will run until August 7, will feature the tabling of the first supplementary budget for the 2025–26 financial year on Monday.

Andhra CM travels in auto rickshaw

Anantapur: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu travelled in an auto rickshaw for some distance at Gudemcheruvu village in Jammaladugu mandal in the district on Friday. Chief Minister Participated in NTR Bharosa social security pensions disbursement programme at the vilage. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, visited the house of Valsala Alivelamma at Gudemcheruvu village of Jammaladugu mandal and handed over the widow pension to her. Later, he spoke to her family members for a while to know her family problems.

Both Houses of Parliament adjourn

Amid Opposition ruckus over SIR in Bihar



New Delhi (UNI)

Both Houses of Parliament adjourned for the day today following persistent protests by Opposition over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar.

Lok Sabha witnessed two ad-

journeys while Rajya Sabha one.

Lok Sabha was first adjourned upto 2pm shortly after it assembled for the day. After the Lok Sabha convened at 2 PM, Presiding Officer Krishna Prasad Tenneti called for the proceedings of the House. However,

the Opposition members trooped into the Well of the House shouting slogans like "SIR pe charcha ho (hold discussion on SIR), Loktantra ki hatya band karo (Stop murder of democracy), SIR wapas lo (withdraw SIR).

Some members were even holding placards with slogans written on them.

Objecting to their actions, the Presiding Officer reiterated, "We've repeatedly told you not to bring placards or disrupt the House in this manner. You are not following the rules. I once again urge you to return to your seats."

Tenneti said, "The Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024, has been pending for a long time. Twice I have requested for a discussion".

PM Modi seeks public suggestions for his I-Day address

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited suggestions from the public for topics to be included in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

In a social media post on Friday, the Prime Minister said he is keen to hear directly from the people of India. "As our Independence Day approaches this year, I look forward to hearing from my fellow Indians," he wrote.

Modi asked citizens to share their thoughts and ideas on what themes or issues should be reflected in his upcoming speech. "What themes or ideas would you like to see reflected in this year's Independence Day speech? Share your thoughts on the Open Forums on MyGov and the NaMo App," he urged.

Back-end support by MoD depts to forces was key to Operation Sindoos success: Rajnath

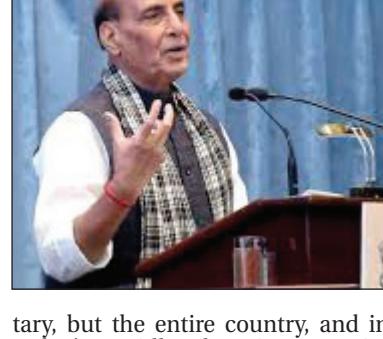
New Delhi (UNI)

To strengthen the nation's security framework amid current uncertainties, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasised the need for greater coordination between civil and military personnel.

He highlighted the crucial role played by various departments within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in providing outstanding back-end support to the armed forces, which was a major factor in the success of Operation Sindoos, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Addressing the 84th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day event at DRDO Bhawan, here, Rajnath asserted that a war is fought not just by the mili-

etary, but the entire country, and in today's rapidly changing security scenario, there is a need to move ahead with dynamism and innovative spirit while making constant improvements according to the evolv-



ing needs.

"We cannot leave scope for even the slightest negligence or mistake," he added. Emphasising that a robust administrative system is integral for a strong military power, he commanded the AFHQ Civilian Services for playing an important role in strengthening the country's security system during war as well as peace time.

"AFHQ Services acts as an institutional memory for the Defence Ministry. It provides consistency, domain expertise and uniformity in the administration, while playing a key role in policy continuity and establishing civil-military synergy. It is a strong pillar of a modern and integrated national defence system," he added.



multiple women surfaced online in 2024 that she came forward with her complaint. Over 2,900 explicit videos were allegedly circulated on social media platforms, prompting the registration of four separate cases against him.

Constable overpowers three armed thieves after 6-Km long chase

New Delhi: In a display of exceptional bravery, a Delhi Police constable posted in South Delhi overpowered three armed thieves after a six-kilometer long chase and a brief fight. During the encounter, the constable suffered a fractured hand, while one of the thieves was shot in the leg.

The accused were identified as Sikandar, Darshan Singh, and Vijender Singh. Sikandar suffered a gunshot wound to his leg.

DCP South Delhi, Ankit Chauhan, said that theft cases had been increasing in the area over the past few days.

Police learned that thieves were targeting locked houses in Malviya Nagar during the early hours, around 4 am.

Mamata targets BJP turf, plans protest in N-Bengal over harassment of Bengalis

Kolkata (UNI)

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is set to intensify her party's protest campaign by turning attention to North Bengal, a region considered a stronghold of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The upcoming rally, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and likely to be held between August 17 and 21, will be the third in a series organised by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), aimed at highlighting the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking people

in BJP-governed states across India.

According to sources within the state Cabinet, Siliguri—North Bengal's key urban center in Darjeeling district—is the likely venue for the third protest.

The campaign began with a rally in Bolpur-Santinketan, Birbhum district, a location chosen for its deep cultural ties to Bengali heritage and its association with Rabindranath Tagore and Visva Bharati University. The second rally is slated for August 6 in Jhargram, a tribal-dominated district with historical

significance due to the Santhal rebellion against British colonial rule in the 1920s. "Both Bolpur and Jhargram are in South Bengal. The Chief Minister now wishes to hold the third rally in North Bengal to balance regional representation," said a senior Cabinet member told UNI on condition of anonymity.

Political analysts suggest that while the first two venues were selected for their cultural and historical resonance, the choice of Siliguri—or any town in North Bengal—is a strategic move to challenge the BJP on its turf.

Prasad Maurya slams Yogi govt

Lucknow (UNI)

Former Uttar Pradesh minister and Apni Janata Party (AJP) president Swami Prasad Maurya, on Friday, criticized the Yogi Adityanath-led government, urging it to operate within democratic norms rather than through authoritarian means.

Speaking to the media at his residence here on Friday, he said, "The government should abandon dictatorship and work within the framework of democracy."

He asserted that his party has the strength to confront anti-people policies: "Whenever the BJP govern-



ment takes any anti-people decision, the Apni Janata Party has the full strength to push it onto the back foot through protests on the streets."

Highlighting the need for governance centered on public welfare, he remarked, "the government is formed for the welfare of the people and should formulate schemes for public welfare."

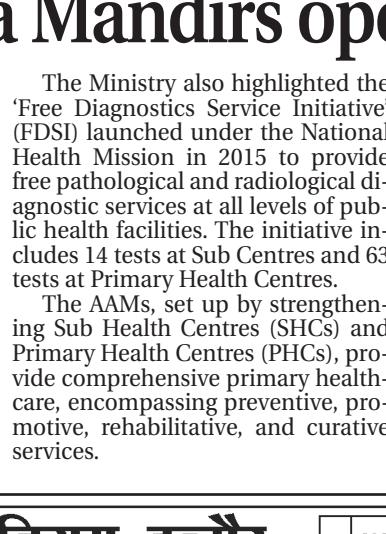
He further alleged, "whether it's a double-engine government or not, it follows undemocratic and unconstitutional methods everywhere and attempts to suppress democracy."

The estimated cost for establishment and maintenance of each AAM is approximately Rs 17.03 lakh, including one-time and recurring annual costs. Funding for AAMs is approved through the National Health Mission's Programme Implementation Plan, submitted by States and

in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

The Ministry also highlighted the 'Free Diagnostics Service Initiative' (FDSDI) launched under the National Health Mission in 2015 to provide free pathological and radiological diagnostic services at all levels of public health facilities. The initiative includes 14 tests at Sub Centres and 63 tests at Primary Health Centres.

The AAMs, set up by strengthening Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs), provide comprehensive primary healthcare, encompassing preventive, promotive, rehabilitative, and curative services.



New Delhi (UNI)

A total of 1,78,154 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), formerly known as Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), have been operationalised across the country as on July 15, 2025, the government said today.

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