

## MUSTREAD

### Criminal involved in silver loot killed in police encounter

**Mathura:** A key suspect involved in the loot of 75 kg of silver in Mathura was killed in a police encounter near the Agra border late Thursday night. SP City Rajeev Kumar Singh confirmed the development and said the police had received a tip-off about the movement of the criminals. According to officials, the police intercepted a Bolero vehicle without a number, but the suspects refused to stop and opened fire while trying to flee. In retaliatory firing, two suspects, identified as Rahul and Neeraj from Agra, were injured. Both were taken to the district hospital, where Neeraj succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

### Measles Outbreak in Senapati: Over 50 Suspected Cases

**Imphal:** With 54 suspected measles cases reported across Senapati district since June, the local administration has swung into action. In a bid to contain the outbreak and tackle growing vaccine hesitancy, the District Administration today convened a high-level multi-stakeholder meeting-cum-awareness programme at the DRDA Conference Hall. The meeting aimed to formulate a coordinated response to control the spread of the infection and address vaccine hesitancy — a major contributing factor to the current situation.

### Building borderless university the Marwadi way

**Bengaluru:** During a recent two-day visit to the vibrant campus of Marwadi University in Rajkot, Gujarat, a team of journalists from Bengaluru found itself immersed not just in a place of learning, but in an institution determined to reshape the future of higher education in India. With its bold Vision 2027 agenda, Marwadi University is chasing scale, quality, and impact, all while staying deeply rooted in the values of social uplift and academic integrity. The story of the university is both personal and purposeful.

### Forces conduct major crackdown across Manipur, five arrested

**Imphal:** Manipur Police and security forces carried out a series of coordinated operations yesterday across several districts of the state, resulting in five arrests and significant recoveries of arms, ammunition, and contraband. Police said in Bishnupur district, an individual claiming to hold a high-ranking position in a banned insurgent group was arrested. During the arrest, a mobile phone and a SIM card were seized. In a separate operation in Imphal East district, law enforcement personnel apprehended a suspected member of an underground outfit.

### Engineering girl student ran over by train

**Eluru:** An engineering girl student was crushed to death when she was run over by a train when she was crossing the railway track at Sitampet railway gate near here. Police said that the deceased girl, Gajulashetti Pujita (20) was studying final year B.Tech at Ramachandra Engineering College. On the night of Thursday, she went to the house of an auto driver to pay his dues. When coming back, she tried to cross the railway track at Sitampet gate. At the same time, an express train ran over her, killing her instantaneously.

### School shut after pupil sprayed with cleaner

**Mumbai:** Authorities have ordered the immediate closure of Howard English School in Nallasopara following disturbing allegations that a teacher sprayed cleaning solution on an eight-year-old student's private parts. The incident, alleged to have occurred on April 29, prompted the child's parents to file a formal police complaint on July 23 after the school administration failed to address their concerns. According to the complaint filed by Sonal Randive (38), her second-grade son was one of only three students present when teacher Nidah Nizauddin complained of an odour in the classroom.

# SC suggests BJP leader withdraw defamation case against Tharoor

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court today asked BJP leader Rajiv Babbar to consider closing the defamation case filed against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor over his 2018 remark comparing Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a “scorpion sitting on a Shivaling.”

A Bench comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh questioned the sensitivity surrounding such statements and observed, “Let us close all these things.

Why to get so touchy about all this? This way, administrators and judges come in the same group and have thick skin.” The court was hearing Tharoor’s appeal challenging a Delhi High Court order dated August 9, 2023, which had refused to quash the defamation case.

The High Court had ruled that Tharoor’s statement amounted to



Shashi Tharoor

defamation of the Prime Minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), calling the remark “despicable and deplorable.”

Tharoor’s counsel argued that the



Rajiv Babbar

Congress leader was merely quoting an old statement originally made by Gordhan Zadaphia, a former Gujarat minister, which had been in the public domain since its publication in a 2012 article in Caravan magazine.

## Assam CM says Chidambaram must be quizzed now

### Malegaon Blast case



Guwahati (UNI)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today termed the Malegaon blast case as a ‘political witch hunt’ by the then Home Minister P Chidambaram and said that the former Minister must be quizzed now.

Sarma said this on the sidelines of

a press conference here. He said that it was a conspiracy hatched by the then Congress government to frame RSS Sarsangh chalak Mohan Bhagwat.

“It was a conspiracy hatched by Congress to involve Bhagwat, but the court verdict has exposed the party. After this verdict, I feel that Chidambaram should now be quizzed. He should be asked why he tried to frame the Hindu society with terror. People should also ask this question to him,” said the Assam Chief Minister.

Sarma’s statement came a day after the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court yesterday acquitted all seven accused of the case including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit, in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case.

## Meghalaya CM urges his Chhattisgarh counterpart to revoke cases against Catholic nuns

Shillong (UNI)

Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People’s Party (NPP) national president, Conrad Sangma today wrote to his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai, seeking his intervention to revoke the case lodged against the two Catholic nuns — Sister Preeti Mary and Sister Vandana Francis — from Kerala.

The two nuns were detained by the Chhattisgarh police at Durg Railway Station under allegedly false charges and pressure from right-wing groups, he said.

“The situation arose when the nuns were accompanying three girls from Chhattisgarh to Agra. A Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) questioned the girls, who stated they didn’t have tickets and were traveling at the nuns’ request,” Sangma informed Sai.

He said the TTE alerted local ac-



tivists, who then alleged the nuns were attempting to take the girls for forced religious conversion.

“This claim sparked a protest, and the police detained the nuns and girls based on the activists’ complaint. We believe that this is a case of harassment and false allegations,” Sangma stated.

### Five of a family killed, minor injured in road accident in Mainpuri

**Mainpuri:** Five members of a family died and a young girl was seriously injured in a road accident near Nagla Tal on GT Road in the Bewar police station area of UP’s Mainpuri district. The accident occurred around 1:15 pm late Thursday when the family was traveling from Agra to Chhibramau in a car. The vehicle’s driver reportedly lost control and it hit a road divider, overturning on to the opposite lane, where it was struck by an oncoming truck from the Nawiganj side. All six occupants of the car were severely impacted by the collision, police said, adding the deceased were identified as Deepak (36), his wife Pooja (34), their daughters Aashi (9) and Arya (4), and Deepak’s sister Sujata (50).

## SP claims victory as Yogi govt retreats on school merger plan

Lucknow (UNI)

Former national president of the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Sunil Singh Sajan today claimed that the Yogi government had to ultimately bow down before SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Taking to his official social media account, SP leader Sunil Singh Sajan wrote, “The world bows before those who can make it bow. Today, the Yogi government had to yield before our national president, Akhilesh Yadav Ji.”

He further criticized the government’s priorities, claiming that its focus was more on “madhushalas” (bars) than “pathshalas” (schools), and that these intentions had now collapsed. According to Sajan, the administration was forced to roll back its decision.



He alleged that the government was pushing children’s bright futures into darkness, but under Akhilesh Yadav’s leadership, Samajwadi workers had successfully opposed what he called an anti-education policy. Sajan described the development as a victory for all students striving to

### NIA attaches properties of Pakistan based D-Gang’s aide

**New Delhi:** Cracking down further against the Pakistan-based D-Company gang, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached two immovable properties of accused Mohammad Yunus alias Manjro in the 2015 Bharuch double murder case.

A senior NIA official said that the properties of the arrested accused have been attached under Section 33 (1) of the UA (P) Act on the orders of NIA Special Court, Ahmedabad.

“The attached properties include his residential house in Ward No. 3, City Survey No. 3614, Bharuch City (Total area: 143.96 sq. mt.) and Ward No. 3, City Survey No. 3615, Bharuch City (Total area: 29.59 sq. mt.),” said the official.

### Kerala BJP President meets Thrissur Archbishop

**Thrissur:** In an effort to assuage the feelings of the Christian community over the arrests of two Kerala nuns in Chhattisgarh, BJP state President Rajeev Chandrasekhar today met Archbishop of Trichur Andrews Thazhath, the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India and held a closed door discussion.

The meeting, which lasted over 30 minutes was also attended by Auxiliary Bishop Tony Neelankavil and the talks were focussed on the legal and humanitarian response to the arrest.

## Monsoon fury wreaks havoc across HP: 173 dead since June 20

Shimla (UNI)

Himachal Pradesh continues to reel under the impact of relentless monsoon rains, with widespread landslides disrupting life and infrastructure across the state.

As per the latest data, 317 roads, 360 power transformers, and 259 water supply schemes remained non-functional till 10:00 am Friday, severely affecting mobility and essential services in several districts.

The Mandi district, which has borne the brunt of monsoon devastation, reported 174 blocked roads. In Chamba, 142 transformers are down, while Kangra district faces a drinking water crisis with 134 schemes disrupted.

Rain-triggered landslides have crippled key routes, including the Kirtipur-Manali four-lane, now



blocked near Samletu. Traffic is being rerouted via Nauni-Swarghat.

The Chandigarh-Manali National Highway has also been blocked near the Pandoh Dam, prompting emergency clearance efforts under the supervision of SP Mandi Sakshi Verma.

Tharoor had cited the statement at the Bangalore Literature Festival in November 2018.

A trial court had earlier issued a summons to Tharoor based on Babbar’s complaint. Tharoor then approached the Supreme Court through Advocate Abishek Jebaraj.

In September 2024, the apex court stayed the trial court proceedings, observing that the remark was not originally Tharoor’s and appeared to be metaphorical in nature.

The Court remarked that it was unclear why the statement had triggered legal action, suggesting it seemed to allude to PM Modi’s political invincibility rather than being outright defamatory.

The bench today adjourned the hearing at the request of the counsel for respondents, while hinting at bringing the matter to a close.

## U-turn of UP govt, a moral defeat of BJP: Akhilesh



Lucknow (UNI)

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav has claimed that U-turn of BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on merger of schools is a moral defeat of its anti-education policy and a big victory for PDA Pathshala movement.

## Kangana Ranaut dealt blow by HC

### Defamation case over farmers’ protest remark to continue

Chandigarh (UNI)

Himachal Pradesh MP and actress Kangana Ranaut has faced a setback from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which rejected her plea to dismiss a defamation case filed against her. The case stems from a controversial statement made by Ranaut during the 2021 farmers’ protest.

The issue relates to a tweet by Ranaut, where she allegedly referred to an 87-year-old farmer, Mahinder Kaur from Bahadurgarh Jandia village in Bathinda, as a woman who participated in the protests for “100 rupees.” Mahinder Kaur subsequently filed a defamation case against Ranaut in response to the remark.

Ranaut claimed she had merely reposted a tweet by a lawyer. While the detailed court order is yet to be released, the case will now proceed

### Fadnavis slams Congress for ‘Hindu terror’ narrative after Malegaon blast acquittals

**Nagpur:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today strongly criticized the Congress accusing it of deliberately attempting to brand Hindus as terrorists in the aftermath of the 2008 Malegaon blast.

Speaking to media in Nagpur on the sidelines of a public event, Fadnavis alleged that the then UPA government indulged in vote-bank politics by coining terms such as “Hindu terror” and “saffron terrorism” during a time when global terror activities were being carried out by Islamic extremists. The Congress government tried to portray a false narrative to appease a particular community by claiming there was Hindu terrorism, Fadnavis said. They did this to show they were balancing the scale, even though there was no evidence to support it. It was a conspiracy to malign the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Hindutva leaders, some of whom were even arrested without any basis, he said.

“The BJP government has ruined the education system of the state in eight years and now they want to keep the PDA and the poor away from education under a conspiracy. Samajwadi people will not let the BJP’s anti-education conspiracy policy succeed. BJP people should listen carefully and see with open eyes that we will not let anyone snatch the right to education of children,” he said here in a statement on Friday.

SP president said that the BJP government is scared of the huge public support that the PDA Pathshala started by the Samajwadis to educate the students in the entire state is getting from the students and parents. Due to this, the government is on the back foot, he claimed.



in the Bathinda court. Ranaut, however, retains the option to approach the Supreme Court.

During the farmers’ protest, Ranaut posted a tweet suggesting that women were participating in the agitation for “100 rupees.” Following Ranaut’s tweet, Mahinder Kaur filed a defamation case on January 4, 2021. After nearly 13 months of hearings, the Bathinda court issued summons ordering Ranaut to appear.

ba-Tisa and Nakrod-Chanju roads remain cut off.

Power supply is down in Churah due to transformer failure, and large segments of the Kathal-Bhera road in Dalhousie have been washed away, putting even the local sewerage infrastructure at risk.

Alarmingly, the road stretch near Magar drain ahead of Kaichhi Mor—a spot previously devastated in 2023—has started sinking again. Locals demand a permanent geotechnical solution, rather than repeated temporary repairs.

According to the official monsoon damage report, between June 20 and July 31, state registered 173 deaths (including 78 in road accidents), 281 injured, and 36 missing and 1,766 homes and shops damaged and 1,313 cow shelters destroyed.

## AP CM fabricated liquor scam to hide his own corruption: YSRCP



Vijayawada (UNI)

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu created the liquor scam only to divert public attention from the corruption that took place

during his earlier tenure.

Speaking to the media outside the ACB Court in Vijayawada, he said the government is running a malicious campaign using baseless theories and linking unrelated cash seizures to the liquor scam with no clear evidence.

He recalled that the actual liquor scam took place during the TDP regime from 2014 to 2019 when Rs 1,300 crore per annum worth of privileged fees was cancelled without the approval of the Finance Department or discussion in the Cabinet. Chandrababu Naidu himself signed that file.

Sajjala Rmakrishna Reddy questioned why no investigation has been initiated into that clear case of corruption.