

MUSTREAD

Athawale receives Kohinoor of India award at London Ceremony

Mumbai: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Republican Party of India (A) chief Ramdas Athawale was conferred the Kohinoor of India Award at a ceremony in London. The hon-our recognised his five-decade-long advocacy for social and economic justice benefiting the Dalit, the underprivileged, and the Bahujan communities. Industrialists Anil Agarwal, Chairman of Vedanta Group, and Sanjay Hinduja, Head of Hinduja Group, presented the award to Athawale yesterday.

Tension erupts in Mainpuri after labourer's death

Mainpuri: Tensions occurred in Mainpuri district this morning over the suspicious death of a labourer which led to angry protests by his family and local residents at the Sindhiya Tiraha in Kotwali area. The deceased, identified as Ramswaroop (35), was a daily wage labourer who had been working in the area for the past few years. According to family members, Ramswaroop was brutally beaten to death over a monetary dispute.

One critically injured in firing in Kushinagar

Kushinagar: A shocking incident unfolded in the Padrauna Kotwali area of Kushinagar district on Tuesday morning, when armed miscreants opened fire in the presence of police personnel. The situation turned so tense that even uniformed officers had to flee for their safety. One young man sustained a gunshot injury and was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Police have arrested three individuals and seized a licensed firearm used in the attack. The incident occurred near Khirkia, where a police assistance centre is located.

Former Union Min and DMK MP TR Baalu bereaved

Chennai: Ms Renuka Devi, wife of former Union Minister and DMK Lok Sabha member T R Baalu and mother of Tamil Nadu Industries Minister TRB Raaja, passed away here today after a brief illness. She was undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospitals here for the last few days. She breathed her last this morning. Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin, his son and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, their Cabinet colleagues and senior DMK leaders condoled her death. They also visited Mr Baalu's residence and paid their last respects.

Youth swept away in Gadchiroli, search operation underway

Nagpur: A 19-yr-old boy from Kodpe village in Gadchiroli's Bhamragadh taluka went missing after being swept away in an overflowing stream on Monday following heavy rainfall, officials said. The youth was attempting to cross the stream when the incident occurred. Rescue teams have launched a search operation to trace him, the officials said. Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorological Centre has issued an 'orange alert' for Gadchiroli district and a 'yellow alert' for Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldhana, and Washim districts in Vidarbha for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sarma warns against 'External Interference' in Assam's citizenship matters

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has issued a strong caution to individuals and groups from outside the state, warning them against intervening in Assam's sensitive issues such as the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and eviction drives. Speaking at a press conference, Sarma alleged that certain activists and professionals from other states have been visiting Assam with what he termed as "an agenda to protect foreign infiltrators." He said the government is closely monitoring their activities and assured strict action if anyone crosses legal or political boundaries.

EC's 28 new initiatives focus on engagement with stakeholders

Agencies, New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday informed that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was an initiative to "purify" electoral rolls in Bihar, which ensures that "no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible names remain.

The EC has started 28 new initiatives during the past six months, focusing on engagement with all stakeholders and strengthening of electoral systems.

According to an official release, the EC conducted 4,719 all-party meetings that included 40 meetings by Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), 800 by District Election Officers (DEOs), and 3,879 by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), engaging over 28,000 representatives of various political parties.

Strengthening of electoral systems



"The Commission is regularly interacting with Presidents and senior leaders of National and State parties. 20 such meetings held so far," the EC said, adding that the poll body delisted

334 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPP) and initiated proceedings to delist another 476 RUPPs for failing to contest elections for six consecutive years.

Further emphasising the use of technology, the EC highlighted its one-stop digital platform "ECINet" that subsumes 40+ apps and web-sites for the electors and other stakeholders.

"Presiding Officers to now upload turnout data on ECINET App every two hours on polling day in order to reduce the time lag in the updation of the approximate polling trends. Technology-driven system to promote accessibility of election-related data at the constituency level for all stakeholders," the poll body said in a

Security forces recover ammunition, warlike stores

Agencies, Imphal (Manipur)

Indian Army troops of Spear Corps, in coordination with Assam Rifles and Manipur Police, recovered arms, ammunition, and warlike stores during intelligence-based joint operations in the hill and valley districts of Manipur.

According to a post on X by Spear Corps, the operations were conducted between August 11 and 17 across districts, including Jiribam, Tamenglong, Tengnoupal, Kakching, Churachandpur, Thoubal, Imphal West, and Imphal East.

"Intelligence-based joint operations were launched between 11-17 Aug 25 by #IndianArmy and #AssamRifles formations under #SpearCorps, with #Manipur_Police in the hill and valley districts of #Manipur, namely Jiribam, Tamenglong, Tengnoupal, Kakching, Churachand-



pur, Thoubal, Imphal West and Imphal East.

The coordinated operations have resulted in apprehension of 11 cadres, recovery of 11 IEDs, 39 weapons comprising automatics, rifles, pistols, improvised mortars,

grenades, ammunition and warlike stores," the post read.

"These coordinated efforts by #IndianArmy and #AssamRifles highlight their unwavering commitment to maintaining peace and security in #Manipur," the post added.

Kishtwar cloudburst: Priority is to retrieve bodies, says Omar Abdullah

Srinagar (UNI)

As chances of finding survivors diminish after the Kishtwar cloudburst, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the priority is to retrieve the bodies of those missing so their families can perform the last rites.

"Day by day, the chances of finding the nearly 70 missing people alive are diminishing. In such circumstances, our effort will be to retrieve as many bodies as possible and hand them over to their families," Omar said while speaking to reporters.

Omar said the disaster in Kishtwar was caused not by a glacial lake burst, but by a cloudburst.

"A team of experts will have to be



appointed to identify the areas most at risk so that such tragedies can be mitigated in the future.

We saw similar devastation in Ramban a few months ago. Steps

Dharmasthala row scripted by TN Cong man: Reddy

Bengaluru (UNI)

Former Karnataka minister Janardhan Reddy today alleged that Tamil Nadu Congress MP and former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil is the mastermind behind the conspiracy targeting the Dharmasthala temple.

Speaking to the media, Reddy claimed that Senthil, along with two individuals from Dakshina Kannada, had prepared a blueprint aimed at maligning the reputation of the historic temple.

"Though the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister initially showed no interest in the matter, the SIT investigation was initiated only under pressure from the party high command," he alleged.



Supreme Court.

Earlier, Karnataka BJP president Vijayendra Yediyurappa said the "conspiracy" must be thoroughly investigated to protect the temple's dignity.

Meanwhile, the issue also resonated in the Assembly where Home Minister DR G Parameshwara was questioned on the government's response.

EC hiding evidence of vote theft: Alka Lamba

Nawada (UNI)

Congress women wing national president Alka Lamba today accused the Election Commission of deliberately concealing evidence of electoral malpractice, claiming that the poll body was refusing to share the digital voter list and destroying video footage of voting to cover up irregularities.

Addressing media persons on the third day of the Voter Adhikar Yatra in Nawada, Lamba said the repeated demands by the opposition for uploading the digital voter list have been ignored by the Commission.

Scared of being exposed, the Election Commission was neither uploading the digital voter list nor keeping permanent records of polling-day video footage, she alleged.

She criticised the Commission's policy of destroying CCTV footage of polling within 45 days, calling the



justification of women's privacy "a childish excuse."

"Women vote in a normal manner; there is no privacy issue in recording that," Lamba remarked.

Describing Election Commission as a puppet, Lamba also questioned the very process of appointing the Election

Commission of India, recalling that earlier the Chief Justice of India was part of the selection panel, but the government removed this provision to ensure its dominance.

She alleged that now, with the ruling party enjoying a majority on the committee, they can appoint anyone as a puppet to head the Commission.

In the context of Bihar, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Gupta has practically turned into a BJP spokesperson, she charged.

Warning against underestimating the opposition's ongoing campaign, Lamba said that those taking the Voter Adhikar Yatra lightly should wait till September 1. By then, the Chief Election Commissioner may be forced to resign in shame. She added that during the special voter revision drive, names of large numbers of poor women were deleted from the rolls, triggering widespread resentment.

release.

The EC informed that it has worked to eliminate the same EPIC number issued for different persons across the country. "Polling Station Limit of 1,200 Voters - Ensures reduced crowding, shorter queues, and additional booths in high-rise residential complexes and societies," the EC said, adding that remuneration has been doubled for Booth Level officers (BLOs).

"Candidate Booths allowed just outside 100 meters of PS - booths set up by the candidates on poll day for issuing unofficial identity slips to electors, in case the electors are not carrying their official Voter Information Slips (VIS) issued by the Commission, can be set up just beyond 100 meters of any polling station," the release read.

RSS chief responds to Kalli Purie's observations on Women's representation in RSS

Agencies, New Delhi

At the launch of "Tan Samarpit, Man Samarpit", a biography of swayamsevak Ramesh Prakash published by Suruchi Prakashan, two perspectives came together, one from the Sangh's leadership, and one from a journalist's world.

India Today Group Vice Chairperson Kalli Purie reflected on her interactions with the RSS, noting its simplicity, discipline, and unusual capacity for long-term planning through a centennial blueprint. She spoke of the Panch Parivartan vision and introduced India Today's initiative on Gross Domestic Behaviour



(GDB), which measures attitudes on civic discipline, inclusivity, gender, and corruption. She also suggested that corruption should not be normalised as a way of life and called for stronger representation of women in the Sangh's

leadership structures.

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, in his address, directly responded to her remarks.

Dr.Bhagwat, in his speech said, "Change in society will come only when it comes in the life of the swayamsewak. Knowledge alone is not enough. Transformation requires discipline, example, and practice."

Shepherds to march for passage of law

Bengaluru: Thousands of shepherds are set to march through the streets of Bengaluru, pressing for the immediate passage of the Shepherds Protection and Prevention of Atrocities Bill.

Representing nearly 8 per cent of the state's population, the community have long faced threats to their livelihood, safety, and dignity due to insufficient legal protection.

The procession will start at Freedom Park at dawn and culminate at Vidhana Soudha. Shepherds, dressed in traditional attire and accompanied by their flocks, will symbolically transform the city into a grazing ground of protest, drawing attention to their struggles.

The march highlights the challenges faced by the OBC community and demands recognition, dignity, and protection for shepherds.

Chhattisgarh cabinet okays decision on PDS, IT sector growth in Naya Raipur

Raipur (UNI)

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai today chaired a Cabinet meeting at Mahanadi Bhawan, where the state government approved two key decisions aimed at strengthening welfare delivery and accelerating economic growth.

The Cabinet resolved that families belonging to Antyodaya and Priority categories in Scheduled Areas and Mada Pocket regions will continue to receive two kilograms of chickpeas every month under the Public Distribution System (PDS). To ensure transparent procurement, the State Civil Supplies Corporation will purchase the commodity through the NeML e-auction platform at a service charge capped at 0.25 percent for the 2024-25 fiscal



year.

The government directed officials to ensure pending quotas from July to November 2025 are delivered to beneficiaries by December. "Food security for vulnerable families is a top priority. The Cabinet is committed to ensuring no eligible house-

No change in India's position on Taiwan

New Delhi (UNI)

India has conveyed to China that there is no change in New Delhi's position on Taiwan and that it will continue to maintain economic, technological and cultural ties with Taipei, sources said on Tuesday.

The clarification came after Beijing claimed that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had reaffirmed India's support for the "One-China" principle during his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Government sources clarified that India's position on Taiwan remains unchanged.

"There is no change in India's position on Taiwan. India stressed that like the rest of the world, India has a relationship with Taiwan that focuses on economic, technology and cultural ties. India intend to continue it," as per sources.

The development happened as Wang met with Jaishankar yesterday



in New Delhi.

The Chinese readout of the talks stated that Jaishankar had conveyed that "Taiwan is a part of China".

Government sources clarified, "there is no change in our position on Taiwan." New Delhi had previously reaffirmed its adherence to the 'One-China' policy in joint statements with Beijing.

