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Massive fire guts 20 structures in Gurez's Tulail, 25 injured including SHO

Srinagar: A massive fire ripped through the remote Tulail area of Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district today, damaging around 20 structures and injuring at least 25 people, including the local Station House Officer (SHO). Officials said the blaze broke out earlier in the day in Kashpath village, close to the Line of Control, and quickly spread to adjoining wooden structures, including residential houses. The fire was finally brought under control after several hours of strenuous joint efforts by locals, police, and fire service personnel in the difficult mountainous terrain. "The fire has been brought under control and 20 structures have been damaged," Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gurez, Mukhtar Ahmad, said.

NIA chargesheets five Moist operatives for murder of Army personnel

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today filed a supplementary chargesheet against five cadres of the CPI (Maoist) terror organisation for their alleged involvement in the murder of an Indian Army personnel in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh in 2023. In the supplementary chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court at Jagdalpur, the accused Bhawan Lal Jain, Suresh Kumar Salam, Shailendra Kumar Baghel, Anduram Salam and Sonu Hemla have been charged under various sections of IPC, Arms Act and UA(P) Act.

CM Yogi conducts aerial survey of Ghazipur floods

Ghazipur: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Ghazipur after his visit to Varanasi and directed officials to ensure that people face no inconvenience during the crisis. The CM directed divisional and district officials to remain on constant alert and make timely arrangements for food, water, health services, and shelter for the affected population. He stressed special focus on cattle feed, clean drinking water, and medical supplies, while ordering adequate stock of medicines, anti-snake venom, and anti-rabies vaccines in flood-hit villages.

Sewadar beaten to death at Delhi's Kalkaji Temple

New Delhi: A servant (sewadar) of South Delhi's Kalkaji temple was brutally murdered by a group of four persons last night over an argument on Chhuni Prasad. Police said that one of the accused, identified as Atul Pandey, was held from the spot. The victim, Sewadar, identified as Yogendra Singh, worked as a Sewadar at the temple premises. UNI accessed the CCTV footage of the incident, in which it could be seen that the accused, Pandey, along with his aides, was brutally assaulting the victim with sticks.

One killed in massive explosion at house

Kannur: One person was killed in a massive explosion in a rented house at Keezhara near Kannapuram, Kannur, Kerala, today. According to police, the deceased was not identified yet. The human body parts were recovered from the debris of the roof-tiled house by fire force and police personnel during the search and rescue operation. Unexploded materials like "Gundu" (crackers) were also found at nearby sites. The windows of several houses were broken, and cracks appeared in the walls within a 500-metre radius of the rented house at Keezhara.

Jammu Police nabs man impersonating as JMC official

Jammu: Police today arrested a man impersonating as an official of Jammu Municipal Corporation in Sainik Colony area here. A team from Police Post Sainik Colony cracked a case lodged by Advocate Deepak Singh Baloria of Sainik Colony Jammu, who reported that one person impersonating as official of municipality and took Rs 15000/- for spot verification.

Cong calls Voter Adhikar Yatra a milestone

Thanks Bihar for unprecedented support

New Delhi (UNI)

The Congress today called the Voter Adhikar Yatra a milestone in Bihar's rich history of popular movements and thanked the people for giving unprecedented support.

Congress general secretary KC Venugopal on X said that the Voter Adhikar Yatra, launched by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Bihar's former Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswini Yadav, has gained unprecedented momentum across Bihar, drawing thousands in support from all walks of life.

"The people of Bihar have given unprecedented support to the Voter Adhikar Yatra embarked upon by Rahul Gandhi and Tejaswini Yadav and the entire Mahagathbandhan," Venugopal said.

Venugopal said, "For a state that has seen historic deprivation and hardships, the threat of their one true power - the right to vote - being stolen was unimaginable. The fear



they had in their hearts needed comforting, and the Yatra came in as a ray of hope against the blatant destruction of democracy being orchestrated in the name of SIR". The Alappuzha MP said the yatra would conclude with a rally in Patna from Gandhi Maidan to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar statue, Ambedkar Park.

Akhilesh Yadav exhorts people to oust BJP from power in Bihar

Arrah: SP president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav today exhorted the people to oust BJP from power in Bihar in next state assembly elections.

Addressing a public meeting here during 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', Yadav said massive response from the people to ongoing 'Yatra', clarified that they had made up their mind to overthrow BJP and its allies from Bihar. "BJP was trying to fulfill its agenda of snatching democratic rights of the people by operating through Election Commission," he added.

"People of Bihar have extended their massive support to ongoing Voter Adhikar Yatra, making it a highly successful event", SP leader said. The minister also remarked that "Special Intensive Revision(SIR) of electoral rolls just before Bihar assembly elections, was a mindless decision of Election Commission, on being instigated by BJP".

"Those who are scaring us, are themselves scared of US President Donald Trump", Yadav said making an oblique reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders. "Trump has not only slapped high tariff on Indian products but also on face of BJP as its leaders were silent on the issue." "High tariff imposed by US will also affect the interests of our youths besides its fallout on various aspects of the economy," Yadav said.

SP leader while referring to Bihar, said that RJD leader Tejaswini Prasad Yadav had provided employments to a large number of youths of the state when he was in power.

Kiren Rijju criticizes opposition for undemocratic language

Bengaluru (UNI)

Union Minister Kiren Rijju today criticized opposition parties for their language and behavior, calling it "unacceptable in a democracy".

Reacting to media questions on Congress and RJD leaders hurling abuse on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rijju highlighted that some leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have repeatedly resorted to abusive language against the Prime Minister and other national figures, which he said sets a dangerous precedent.

Rijju emphasized that the BJP and NDA consistently respect democratic norms and the Constitution. "We contest elections fairly. If people



do not vote for you, insulting the Election Commission or the Constitution will not change the outcome," he said.

He questioned the opposition's repeated use of terms like "corrupt" or "stolen" to describe electoral outcomes, saying that the public has chosen its representatives through a transparent process.

The minister also expressed concern over retired judges participating in political matters. Referring to a recent signature campaign during the ongoing Vice President election that criticized the Home Minister, Rijju said: "Political involvement by retired judges is not appropriate."

STF South East Delhi nabs Mewati criminal after shootout

New Delhi: A wanted member of the Mewati gang was apprehended after a brief encounter between the special staff of South East Delhi and the criminal in Delhi's Tughlakabad area today morning.

The accused, identified as Pappi alias Pappu, sustained a gunshot wound to his right leg during the encounter.

The team was led by Inspector Shiv Kumar of the Special Staff.

"Pappu is an ATM robber and auto-lifter from Mewat. He was arrested after an encounter near Tughlakabad village in Delhi. Pappu, was shot in the right leg during this shootout," said a police officer.

The official said that Pappi was wanted in four states, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Kerala.

Sharad Pawar calls for constitutional amendment to resolve Maratha reservation issue

Ahmednagar (UNI)

Senior leader and NCP-SP supremo Sharad Pawar said that a constitutional amendment is necessary to find a permanent solution to the ongoing maratha reservation issue.

Citing the Supreme Court's directive that the reservation quota cannot exceed 50-52 percent, he pointed out that Tamil Nadu has managed to implement 72 percent reservation, which was upheld in the apex court.

"If this can happen there, why not in Maharashtra?" he questioned while addressing the ongoing Maratha reservation issue.

Pawar emphasised that if the "overall progress of society is to be achieved, there is no alternative to reservation".

The quota limit must be in-

Jiban Krishna Saha's jail custody extended upto Sept 12

Kolkata: Arrested Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha was today remanded in 14-day judicial custody after he was produced before a city court in the alleged teachers recruitment scam in West Bengal, official sources said.

Saha, an MLA representing Burwan assembly seat in Murshidabad, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from his house on Monday last for the alleged irregularities in the teachers recruitment for class IX and X in the state government-aided schools across the state.

"After spending six days in ED custody, Saha was produced before a special court (Bankshal) in the city, which remanded the lawmaker in 14-day judicial custody up to September 12," said an ED source.

Eight Opposition states back GST slab reduction but with key conditions: Cong

New Delhi (UNI)

The Congress today said that eight Opposition-ruled states have extended support for reducing the number of GST rate slabs and lowering rates on essential goods, but with some key conditions. These states are Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

"These states have extended their support to the reduction in the number of GST rate slabs and a reduction in the rates themselves for items of mass consumption," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared on X.

"They have also called for a mechanism that ensures that the benefits of the rate cuts get passed on to consumers. Compensation to all states for a period of five years



with 2024/25 as the base year, since their revenues are bound to be adversely impacted by the rate cuts and additional levies on 'sin' and luxury goods over and above the proposed 40% should be fully transferred to states. Today the Centre gets close to 17-18% of its revenue from various cesses that are not shared with the states," Ramesh said.

No details can be shared before probe concludes: Parmeshwara

Bengaluru: Dr G Parmeshwara, commenting on the ongoing Dharmasthala investigation, stated that no specific information could be disclosed until the probe is completed. He emphasised that the investigation is being conducted independently and according to the terms of reference provided to the investigative team. "We can only hope the investigation concludes quickly. Beyond that, we cannot comment on any particulars at this stage," Dr Parmeshwara said.

On reopening of Sowjanya murder case, he clarified that authorities are not directing the investigative team on how to combine or sequence cases, and any decisions regarding links between cases or additional information discovered will be made solely by the investigators.

Two dead, another critical after consuming alcohol in Bareilly

Bareilly (UNI)

Two young men died after reportedly consuming alcohol in Bareilly, while a third is in a critical condition and receiving treatment at a private hospital, police said, adding that the unconscious youngster had brought alcohol from Haryana, and that the exact cause of deaths will be known once he regains consciousness.

The incident took place in the Tigaidattnagar village of Aliganj police station area. The deceased were identified as Ramveer (35) and Surajpal (50), both from the same village.

The two, along with another man identified as Bhagwandas, had been consuming alcohol since early morning. Bhagwandas had brought alcohol with him from Faridabad, Haryana, after returning home on Thursday night. He called his two friends to join him, and they continued drinking till the evening.

As the evening progressed, their condition deteriorated. Ramveer died late yesterday night, and Surajpal passed away today morning during treatment. Bhagwandas remains in a critical condition and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chowpala.

The police investigated the scene and found empty bottles of Haryana-marked alcohol at Bhagwandas's house. They are still trying to determine the exact cause of death.

Senior police officers, including the SP South and CO Amla, arrived at the location and have initiated further investigations.

Ramveer's uncle, Mitrapal, claimed the three men had actually consumed petrol instead of alcohol, as they had hauled over the alcohol bottle they brought from Haryana to a local police officer.

Punjab intensifies flood relief operations: Over 4,700 rescued during past 24 hrs

Chandigarh (UNI)

Relief operations in flood-hit Punjab have been ramped up, as 4,711 people were evacuated to safety during the past 24 hours, according to state authorities. The rescues include 812 individuals from Firozpur, 2,571 from Gurdaspur, four from Moga, 60 from Tarn Taran, 25 from Barnala, and 1,239 from Fazilka.

Since the onset of the floods, a total of 11,330 people have been rescued from nine affected districts, including 2,819 from Firozpur, 1,052 from Hoshiarpur, 240 from Kapurthala, 4,771 from Gurdaspur, 24 from Moga, 1,100 from Pathankot, 60 from Tarn Taran, 25 from Barnala, and 1,239 from Fazilka.

Currently, 77 of the 87 established relief camps are operational, providing shelter to 4,729 individuals. These camps are spread across the



affected districts, with Kapurthala hosting 110 people in 4 camps, Firozpur accommodating 3,450 in 8 camps, Hoshiarpur sheltering 478 in 20 camps, Gurdaspur housing 255 in 12 camps, Pathankot supporting 411

in 14 camps, and Barnala aiding 25 in one camp. Additional camps are operational in Fazilka (11), Moga (5), and Amritsar (2). The administration is ensuring comprehensive care for all camp residents.

Self-reliance in Defence is not merely an option, but a condition for survival & progress: Rajnath

New Delhi (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that in today's era of terrorism, pandemics and regional conflicts, self-reliance in Defence is not merely an option but a condition for survival and progress.

"It is not about protectionism, it is about sovereignty and national autonomy," the Defence Minister said at a Defence Conclave with the theme 'Warfare in the 21st Century' here today, a Defence Ministry statement said.

He said many developed nations are resorting to protectionist measures with situations of trade war and tariff war becoming increasingly serious. Self-reliance in Defence should not be confused with isolation, he added.

"This is not protectionism. It is about sovereignty. When a nation of youth, energy, technology and possibilities moves towards self-reliance, the world pauses and takes note. This is the strength that enables India to withstand global pressures and emerge stronger," he said.

Hailing Operation Sindoore as a shining example of India's growing indigenous Defence capabilities, Rajnath Singh said the precise strikes carried out by the armed forces on their targets using indigenous equipment demonstrated that no mission can be successful without vision, long preparation and coordination.

"Operation Sindoore may appear to be a story of a war of a few days, India's victory and Pakistan's defeat, but years of strategic preparation and Defence preparedness have



played a long role behind it," he said, adding that India's forces, through years of hard work and reliance on indigenous equipment, executed the operation effectively and decisively.

The Minister described the 'Su-

darshan Chakra Mission' as a game-changing initiative for India's future security. The mission envisions providing complete aerial protection to critical locations across the country within the next decade, using both defensive and offensive technologies.

Citing lessons from Operation Sindoore, Rajnath Singh underlined the growing importance of air defence in modern warfare.

He further mentioned that DRDO successfully tested an indigenous integrated air defence weapon system on August 23, which hit three targets simultaneously. He expressed confidence that although full implementation will take time, the Ministry of Defence has already moved decisively forward in this direction.

"All our warships are now being

built in India. The recent commissioning of stealth frigates INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri, equipped with advanced weaponry and electronic warfare systems, reflects our Navy's resolve not to buy any warship from abroad. These ships are world-class and will enhance India's strength in the Indian Ocean Region," he said while highlighting the indigenisation milestones such as complete self-reliance in warship construction.

The Minister announced that the Government has taken up the challenge of developing and manufacturing a powerful indigenous aero-engine, an area where India had faced limited success for a long time. He pointed out that preparations for this critical project are now almost complete and the work will soon be visible at the ground level.