

**MUSTREAD**

**Lord Ayyappa temple to open for Onam rituals**

**Sabarimala (Kerala):** The world-famous Lord Ayyappa temple will open tomorrow for the annual Onam festival rituals. The sanctum sanctorum will be opened at 5 pm by Melsanthi Arun Kumar Namboothiri in the presence of Tantri Kandararu Mahesh Mohanaru, who will perform the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Devotees will be allowed darshan from 5 am on September 4, coinciding with the auspicious Uthradam day. As part of the Onam celebrations, special feasts (Onasadya) will be served at Sannidhanam on Uthradam, Thiruvonam and Avittam days.

**PM Modi extends birthday wishes to Pawan Kalyan**

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today extended warm birthday greetings to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Pawan Kalyan, lauding his efforts in public service and his commitment to the people of Andhra Pradesh. In a message shared on the occasion on social media X, the Prime Minister said that Pawan Kalyan has made a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of countless individuals and is playing a pivotal role in strengthening the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state by focusing on the principles of good governance. The Prime Minister also prayed for Kalyan's long, healthy, and fulfilling life.

**UP unveils e-buses for Kanpur and Lucknow**

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government has taken a significant step towards making urban transport advanced and efficient. The state Cabinet on Tuesday gave its nod to e-buses on Net Cost Contract (NCC) model in Lucknow district and Kanpur city along its regional key cities. UP Urban Development Minister AK Sharma said that so far 743 electric buses are being run in 15 municipal corporations of the state, out of which 700 buses are on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. He said under this initiative, 9 meter long AC e-buses will run on 10 routes each in Lucknow and Kanpur city and nearby towns.

**DRI Imposes Rs 270 crore fine on Ranya Rao, co-accused for smuggling**

**Bengaluru:** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has issued show-cause notices and imposed penalties exceeding Rs 270 crore on actor Ranya Rao and three others in a major gold smuggling case, marking a significant development in one of Karnataka's high-profile criminal investigations. On March 3, the DRI seized 127.3 kg of smuggled gold from multiple locations in Karnataka, leading to the arrest of actor Ranya Rao and his associates. The case drew widespread attention due to the sheer scale of the smuggling operation and the involvement of prominent individuals.

**Eight-foot-long Indian rock python rescued from Odisha village**

**Bhubaneswar:** An eight-foot-long adult Indian rock python which had strayed into Ragadapatia village lying in close proximity of Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha's Kendrapara district was rescued today by forest personnel. "Locals did not harm the animal. After they informed us regarding the reptile, we rushed to the village and caught it alive," said Manas Das, Assistant Conservator of Forest. The python had strayed into the crop field in the village. But it was ensnared in the net that farmers had spread out to keep the cattle at bay from the standing crop, said the official.

**Three killed in road accident in Raigad**

**Kolhapur:** Three individuals, including a woman, were killed in an accident at Kasarmalai in Mhasala tehsil of Raigad district today. According to police, an autorickshaw en route to Kanghar village from Sanderi slammed against a roadside direction indicator after its brake failed on a sharp turn. In this incident, rickshaw driver Santosh Babasaheb Sawant (40), was killed on the spot while five others were injured.

**Heavy rains: Loss of Rs 7.20 crore in 24 hours in Hamirpur district**

**Hamirpur (HP) (UNI)**

The district of Hamirpur has suffered a loss of Rs 7.20 crore during the last 24 hours due to heavy rains and bad weather. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Amarjeet Singh here today.

With this, the total loss to government and private properties has gone up to 192 crore rupees since the onset of the monsoon season.

He said that continuous rain has caused extensive damage in all areas of the district.

According to reports received at the District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC) of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) till this afternoon, public and private property has suffered damage of more than Rs 7.20 crore during the last 24 hours across the district.

During this period, 4 kutcha houses and 24 cowsheds have col-



lapsed. 18 other kutcha houses and pucca houses have also been partially damaged. With this, the total figure of loss in the district during this monsoon season has exceeded Rs 191 crore.

The Jal Shakti Department has al-

so suffered the maximum loss of Rs 93.64 crore, Public Works Department suffered Rs 88.13 crore, Electricity Board Rs 1.67 crore, Education Department Rs 1.83 crore, Health Department Rs 1.5 lakh and Fisheries Department Rs 55 thousand.

**Monsoon chaos in Haryana**

**Chandigarh:** Torrential rains have thrown life out of gear in six districts of Haryana, with authorities issuing a high alert till this morning. Hisar, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Jind, Jhajjar, and Charkhi Dadri are grappling with sporadic down-pours.

Schools in Bhiwani, Hisar, Sirsa, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, and Panchkula have been shut, and Gurugram offices have switched to remote work.

Educational institutions are conducting classes online to ensure safety.

In Faridabad's Rajpura village, Yamuna River flooding has submerged around 50 acres of farmland, cutting off all access paths.

**BJP MLA hits back at CM's illegal mining claims**

**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister on Tuesday made a comprehensive report in the Assembly, declaring that illegal mining under the alleged protection of influential people had come under police surveillance.

The CM revealed that on August 12, police acting on a tip-off, raided a stone crusher in Sujampur area which was officially closed last year but continued operations illegally.

Despite heavy rains, a team led by the Additional SP seized one Poklane machine, two JCBs, four tippers, one mixer machine, about 50 tipper loads of boulders, a DVR from the crusher premises, and a tractor belonging to Manveer Singh.

The CM said an FIR was registered under Section 303(2) of the Indian Justice Code, 2023 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Preliminary investigation found the lease was cancelled in March 2024, yet illegal extraction persisted.

**Next gen GST reforms to make economy transparent, cut compliance burden: FM**

**Chennai (UNI)**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the next generation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will make the economy more transparent, ease compliance, and empower small businesses to grow.

Speaking at the 120th Foundation Day of City Union Bank, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently set up a task force for next-generation economic reforms with a clear mandate: simplify regulations, lower compliance costs, and create a stronger ecosystem for startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The Finance Minister said the GST Council will meet over the next two days to deliberate on reforming the tax regime.

Citing that the country is moving



towards the goal of becoming a developed nation, Sitharaman called upon the banking sector to provide the momentum for infrastructure development, ensure timely support to the MSME sector, bring the un-

banked under the formal banking fold and meet the diverse requirements with the support of banking channels.

She also said that trust, technology and transparency are important for the banks.

Highlighting India's economic momentum, Sitharaman said GDP grew 7.8% in the first quarter, exceeding estimates. "For the first time in 18 years, the global credit rating agency S&P has upgraded India's long-term credit rating and inflation rate is also low," she added.

On financial inclusion, she said over the past 11 years, more than 56 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts have been opened with deposits worth Rs 2.68 lakh crore. Of these, 67% are in rural and semi-urban areas, and 56% are held by women.

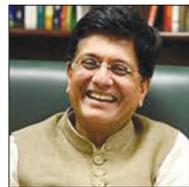
**India's emerging as global leader of sustainability: Piyush Goyal**

**New Delhi (UNI)**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal today said India has emerged as one of the best-performing G20 nations in meeting sustainability commitments, with renewable energy capacity surging and global partnerships expanding.

Speaking at CII's 20th Global Sustainability Summit in the Capital, Goyal credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership with putting sustainability at the heart of India's growth journey. "Without Prime Minister Modi's decisive role, COP21 may not have been a success. He brought the Global South together to make sustainability a shared responsibility," he remarked.

Highlighting India's achieve-



ments, Goyal said the country had already installed 50 percent renewable energy capacity, well ahead of schedule, and was on course to achieve 500 GW by 2030.

"India now offers round-the-clock renewable power at globally unmatched rates, around Rs4.60-Rs5.00 per kWh," he said, adding that transparent bidding had cut solar tariffs drastically over the last decade.

The Minister said India's economic strength and resilience were rooted in sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. He pointed to the success of the UJALA scheme and urged startups to innovate in areas such as energy efficiency, water harvesting, and waste management.

**Akhilesh slams BJP govt over law & order, says custodial death akin to murder**

**Lucknow:** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav today slammed the Uttar Pradesh government over the death of a youth in police custody in Hardoi district and said the death in custody amounted to murder. Two days ago, a youth died in police custody in Shahabad police station of Hardoi district. Police sources said Shahabad police had detained Ravi Rajput (20) on charges of luring and kidnapping a minor girl.

Police sources said on Sunday, he hanged himself in the toilet located in the police station premises. After this, he was taken to the Community Health Centre Shahabad, where the doctor declared him dead. On receiving the information, Superintendent of Police (SP) Neeraj Jadoun said the incident was being investigated.

**Assam evictions spark row as Jamiat alleges communal targeting; CM Himanta Biswa Sarma dismisses claims**

**New Delhi/Guwahati (UNI)**

Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind has accused the Assam government of disproportionately targeting Muslim families in its eviction drives and urged Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai to take suo motu cognisance of what it described as an "unlawful and communal campaign."

Jamiat president Maulana Arshad Madani claimed that bulldozers were being deployed selectively against Muslim settlements, alleging that "more than 50,000 Muslim families" faced eviction.

"It is not just Muslim homes being demolished, it is the Constitution and the rule of law that are being crushed in Assam," Madani told members of the organisation's working committee in Delhi.



His comments came days after the state government launched the second phase of evictions inside the Rengma Reserve Forest in Golaghat district, displacing nearly 230 fami-

lies to clear encroached land.

Earlier in August, the first phase of the drive at Uriamghat along the Assam-Nagaland border had removed encroachments from about 9,000 bighas of land, affecting some 1,500 families.

Officials insist the operations are part of a wider campaign to reclaim forest land, but rights groups argue that Bengali-origin Muslims, locally referred to as Miya, are disproportionately affected.

Reacting strongly, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma dismissed Madani's remarks, saying, "Madani is nobody, and his reaction on the issue does not hold any value." He further warned that the Assam government could initiate legal action if Madani "poked his nose into the affairs of the state."

**Two arrested with cache of illegal firearms in Sri Muktsar Sahib**

**Chandigarh:** In a significant crackdown on organized crime, Sri Muktsar Sahib Police arrested two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and seized five illegal firearms, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said today.

The operation aligns with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's directive to enhance state security. The arrested individuals, identified as Gurdeep Singh from Badhni Kalan, Moga, and Gursewak Singh, alias Mota, from Manu Ke Sandhu, Jagraon, Ludhiana, were found in possession of four .32 bore and one .30 bore country made pistols, along with 10 magazines.

DGP Yadav said that initial investigations indicate the duo's active role in the gang's criminal activities. Further probes are underway to uncover additional connections.

**BJD accuses Odisha govt of bias in declaring NACs**

**Bhubaneswar (UNI)**

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) today accused the BJP-led Odisha government of implementing a discriminatory approach in announcing new Notified Area Councils (NACs) in the state.

BJD vice president Debi Prasad Mishra said that during the tenure of former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, 57 NACs were proclaimed across various districts in February-March 2024.

These NACs, he added, were declared in accordance with the Odisha Municipalities Act, 1950, based on reports from District Collectors and duly published through gazette noti-



fications.

Mishra alleged that BJP government's tenure was marked by delayed approvals of previously declared NACs and the introduction of new ones raising concerns about selective and discriminatory decision-making.

He expressed surprise that even after 15 months, the new government was unable to issue a single gazette notification for any NAC. On the occasion of Self-Governance Day yesterday, the government announced 16 new NACs and 7 municipalities, while ignoring 39 of the 57 NACs declared by the previous BJD-led government.

**Stalin invites Germany NRW Minister-President to visit TN, explore investment opportunities**

**Chennai (UNI)**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin signed off his first leg of European tour by extending an invitation to Germany NRW Minister-President Hendrik Wuest to visit TN and explore the opportunity of investing in the state.

He said Tamil Nadu was India's industrial powerhouse, and North Rhine-Westphalia is Germany's economic powerhouse, and both came together with the spirit of trust and optimism.

In a post on X, he said the meeting was held at Dusseldorf in Germany, the first leg of his European tour to scout for investments. From Germany, he will land in UK tonight or tomorrow morning.

Mr Stalin hailed Mr Hendrik as a



leader who has assumed high office at such a young age and whom he warmly wish to see reach even greater heights in the years ahead.

He said during his meeting, he detailed Mr Hendrik about TN's remarkable growth under his Dravidian Model rule and wished that great companies in NRW should explore the opportunities in the state and invited him to visit TN.

"Two powerhouses, one vision for the future", Mr Stalin wrote.

"In Dusseldorf, I met NRW Minister-President Thiru. Hendrik Wuest — a leader who has assumed high office at such a young age, and whom I warmly wish to see reach even greater heights in the years ahead", he said.

"Tamil Nadu, India's industrial powerhouse, and North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's economic powerhouse, came together with the spirit of trust and optimism", he added.

**Massive drug seizure in Manipur, militants arrested**

**Imphal:** The state police and security forces intensified their counter-insurgency and anti-narcotics drive, making a series of major arrests across Manipur.

In one of the biggest drug hauls in recent weeks, a joint team yesterday arrested two suspects, M Musharaf and Ruhani from Lilong Hangamthabi in Thoubal district. From their possession, 2,357 kg of methamphetamine WY tablets, Rs 2,04,800 in cash, six mobile phones, three notebooks, multiple identification documents, a walkie-talkie set with charger, and jewellery items including gold ornaments were seized.

**Parameshwara rules out NIA probe in Dharmasthala probe**

**Bengaluru (UNI)**

Karnataka Home Minister and senior Congress leader Dr G Parameshwara today reiterated that there is no need to involve the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the Dharmasthala case, asserting that repeated demands for NIA intervention appear to be aimed at disrupting the investigation.

Speaking to the media, Dr Parameshwara said the SIT has been functioning efficiently and there is no justification for handing over the case to another agency. "We have repeatedly stated that the SIT is conducting the investigation thoroughly. The NIA is being requested only with the intention of obstructing the



process," he said, stressing that the SIT has the necessary mandate, resources, and expertise to handle the investigation.

He pointed out that Chief Minis-

ter Siddaramaiah has also expressed similar views, but certain parties continue to press for NIA involve-

ment on a daily basis, taking the issue in different directions despite repeated clarifications.

**Dharmasthala issue is RSS vs RSS: Priyank Karge**

Karnataka Minister Priyank Karge today termed the Dharmasthala controversy an internal clash within the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is caught in confusion over which faction to support.

Addressing the media, Priyank said the issue has been wrongly portrayed as a government matter, while in reality it is a fallout of factional rivalries within the Sangh Parivar.

"This is an RSS vs RSS issue. It is purely their infighting, but attempts are being made to shift the blame onto the state government," he remarked.

He highlighted the role of key individuals involved in the dispute. "Mahesh Thimmaraiah is from RSS, BJP, and Bajrang Dal. Girish Muttanavar was BJP Yuva Morcha District President and was even given the B form to contest from Gurmital assembly segment. These are all RSS-BJP men. Their own leadership grooming has led to this conflict," Priyank said.