

MUSTREAD

Nirmala Sitharaman likely to visit TN today

Chennai: Senior BJP Leader and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to visit Chennai tomorrow to take part in a GST awareness programme, besides addressing and meeting Tamil Nadu State Unit party leaders ahead of the Assembly elections due in 7-8 months time. After taking part in the awareness programme on GST in the wake of rate rationalisation announced by her recently, Ms Nirmala was also expected to meet BJP leaders and discuss party matters in the state.

ATS detains two suspects in Nagpur

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) detained two youths from the Kamptee area of Nagpur, Maharashtra, for their alleged online links with individuals in Pakistan. According to ATS sources in Mumbai, both suspects were questioned by police a few days ago but were released the same day. Based on fresh intelligence inputs, ATS officials took them into custody again today for further interrogation. Sources said both are residents of Kamptee and were quite active on social media, allegedly maintaining contact with individuals in Pakistan.

INS condemns attacks on Sakshi scribes

New Delhi: The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) today expressed deep concern over the rising incidents of assault and intimidation against journalists and media organisations and said it strongly condemns such acts, calling them a grave threat to press freedom and democratic values. The INS highlighted a recent case involving Sakshi, a member publication based in Andhra Pradesh, whose journalists, it said, have reportedly faced multiple attacks.

Drone found hanging in tree in Garkhal area

Jammu: Police have found a drone hanging in trees in Garkhal area of Akhnoor here in the city outskirts. According to the police, this morning, a team, during a routine patrolling in village Fattu Kotli, found a drone hanging in the tree. "The drone was brought to Police Post Garkhal and on checking it was found that a thermal payload was attached under it," police informed. Investigation into the matter is underway, they added.

Sikh woman assaulted in UK's Oldbury Park, cops identify suspects

Chandigarh: A 20-year-old Sikh woman of Indian origin was allegedly subjected to a brutal gangrape and racial attack in Oldbury Park, West Midlands. The assailants reportedly hurled racial slurs, telling the victim to "go back to your country" and claiming she had "no right" to be in the UK. West Midlands police are investigating the incident as both a sexual offence and a hate crime, sparking outrage and concern in the local community.

Blast incident in bathinda village: Police register case

Chandigarh: A blast in Jida village, Bathinda, has led to the hospitalisation of Jagtar Singh and his son Gurpreet Singh at AIIMS for treatment. The Bathinda police have registered a case against Gurpreet Singh, a local youth, in connection with the incident. District Police Chief Avneet Kondal disclosed significant details about the case. Authorities have secured the site of the incident, deploying bomb disposal teams and utilising a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for investigation.

CM Majhi calls for accident-free Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today urged citizens to work together to make Odisha an accident-free state, emphasizing that safety is a shared responsibility, not just that of the government. Majhi launched the "Zero Accident Day" (ZAD) campaign in Keonjhar, where he inaugurated the Zero Accident Selfie Point and felicitated road safety ambassadors. He also flagged off awareness drives across all 13 blocks of Keonjhar district and launched the Singanechar campaign.

Nepal India's 'close friend and trusted partner'

Imphal (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today described Nepal as India's "close friend and trusted partner" and that both nations are bound by shared history, faith and a collective journey forward.

Addressing a public meeting in Imphal, he said he wished to address his "friends in Nepal from the soil of Manipur" and expressed confidence that Prime Minister Sushila Karki will pave way for peace, stability and prosperity in the country.

"Nepal, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, is a close friend and trusted partner of India," Prime Minister Modi said and congratulated Mrs Sushila Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government.

Describing her appointment as Nepal's first woman Prime Minister as a remarkable example of women empowerment, he lauded the efforts of every individual in Nepal who upheld democratic values even in a climate of instability.

...both nations have collective journey forward': PM Modi



Highlighting a notable aspect of recent developments in Nepal that have not received much attention, Mr Modi said that over the past two to three days, young men and women in Nepal have been seen diligently cleaning and painting the streets with a spirit of ded-

ication and purity.

The Prime Minister described their positive mindset and constructive actions as not only inspiring but also a clear indication of Nepal's resurgence.

Earlier while congratulating Ms

Sushila Karki, the Prime Minister said on X that "India remains firmly committed to the peace, prosperity and progress of the people of Nepal."

"I extend my best wishes to Right Hon. Mrs. Sushila Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Nepal. India remains firmly committed to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal."

On Friday night, India had in a statement welcomed the formation of a new interim government in Nepal and expressed hope it will help in fostering peace and stability.

The Ministry of External Affairs, in a late night statement, said India as a close neighbour will continue to work closely with Nepal for the well-being and prosperity of their people.

We welcome the formation of a new Interim Government in Nepal, led by Right Honourable Mrs Sushila Karki. We are hopeful that this will help in fostering peace and stability.

Mayawati urges saints to avoid remarks against Dr Ambedkar

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati took to social media platform X urging controversial saints and religious figures to refrain from making irresponsible remarks about Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution.

Highlighting that such individuals often make provocative statements to stay in the limelight, Mayawati stated yesterday that their lack of understanding of Dr Ambedkar's immense contributions to the nation is deeply concerning.

She said, "It would be better if such saints and sadhus, who lack proper knowledge about the Indian Constitution and Dr Ambedkar's unmatched role in its making, maintain silence rather than make baseless comments."

Mayawati further emphasized the need for these religious figures to shed their casteist prejudices and understand why Ambedkarites oppose the Manusmriti.

IAS appointments row deepens tensions between Shinde and CM Fadnavis



Mumbai (UNI)

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is reportedly upset over Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' alleged interference in the Urban Development Department.

This comes amid growing discontent within Shinde's own party ahead of the upcoming municipal elections.

Traditionally, Class A, B, and C

municipal corporations in Maharashtra are headed by IAS officers, while non-IAS officers lead Class D corporations.

However, the Chief Minister has now directed that IAS officers should also be appointed as administrative heads of Class D corporations. Shinde considers this an encroachment on the Urban Development Department, which falls under his jurisdiction.

Speculation about differences between Shinde and Fadnavis has persisted since the formation of the current government, although both leaders have repeatedly denied any rift.

Simultaneously, internal dissent is brewing within the Shinde faction in Mumbai over the appointments of division heads ahead of the civic polls.

Nadda slams RJD for "State-Supported Crimes," recalls 'Jungle Raj' in Bihar

Patna (UNI)

Union Health Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President J. P. Nadda today launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), recalling what he described as the "dark era" of jungle raj in Bihar.

He accused the party and its supreme leader Lalu Prasad Yadav and Bihar's opposition leader Tejaswi Yadav of pushing the state into lawlessness, family rule and caste-based politics during their regime.

Addressing a public meeting here, Nadda said that there was a vast difference between law and order issues and "state-supported crimes," alleging that the RJD era represented the latter.

"People ask us to forget jungle raj, but its memories are etched on the minds of the people. Bihar was sys-



tematically destroyed during that period," he remarked.

Targeting RJD's leadership, Nadda ridiculed the party's initials by saying, "R stands for Rangdari (extortion), J for Jungle Raj, and D for Dadagiri (bullying)."

MNS leader Prakash Mahajan resigns from party

Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader and spokesperson Prakash Mahajan resigned from the party, alleging he was being ignored. In a video message today, Mahajan said he never received appreciation for his work but was blamed for mistakes he did not commit.

Citing a lack of respect within the Raj Thackeray-led MNS as a key reason for his resignation, he also clarified that he has no intention of joining any other party.

Mahajan, the younger brother of late BJP leader and former union Minister Pramod Mahajan, further stated that he was not consulted during the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and was used only for campaigning purposes. "I honestly carried out all responsibilities assigned to me. I never received praise for my work but was blamed for mistakes I never committed," he reiterated.

India to host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in Chennai in 2027

New Delhi (UNI)

India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in Chennai in 2027, coinciding with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

The decision was taken unanimously at the 4th CGGS held in Rome, Italy, which was held from September 11-12, and attended by delegates from 115 countries and international organisations, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Director General (DG) ICG Paramesh Sivamani emphasised that no single nation can address the full spectrum of maritime issues alone, and underlined that the Chennai Summit in 2027 will serve as an inclusive forum to foster interoperability, trust, and stronger cooperation among Coast Guards worldwide.



During the ceremonial handover of the CGGS presidency, DG ICG hailed the summit as a beacon of global Coast Guard cooperation in addressing shared maritime challenges, while expressing gratitude to the Italian Coast Guard for its hospitality and to the Japan Coast Guard for its role as CGGS Secretariat.

The three-day event will include an International Coast Guard Fleet Review and a World Coast Guard Seminar, providing a global platform for dialogue on emerging maritime challenges and showcasing international maritime unity.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the 4th CGGS Summit, DG ICG met the Commandant of the Italian Coast Guard.

Shivakumar second richest minister in India

Bengaluru (UNI)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has emerged as the second richest minister in India, declaring assets exceeding Rs 1,413 crore, according to the latest report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The study underscores Karnataka's growing prominence in political wealth, revealing that eight of its cabinet ministers are billionaires, the highest number among all states. Andhra Pradesh follows with six billionaire ministers, while Maharashtra has four.

The richest minister nationally is Dr Chandrasekhar Pemmasani of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), representing Guntur in the 18th Lok Sabha and serving as Minister of State for Rural Development and



Communications, with declared assets exceeding Rs 5,705 crore.

Other notable Karnataka ministers include Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh of Hebbal constituency, who ranks fifth nationally with assets worth Rs 648 crore.

RG Kar's fourth year student found dead

Kolkata: In a shocking development, the death of a fourth year student of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital under mysterious circumstances has sparked concern and raised many questions.

The incident happened just a day after an undergraduate student in Kolkata was found dead in the pond of Jadavpur University.

Though police said initial investigation suggests that Malda based tribal junior doctor Anindita Soren (24) might have consumed poison and taken her own life, her family alleged that she was murdered.

Family members said she was in a relationship with a young man from Purulia, who was studying at Malda Medical College. The two had reportedly married at a temple in Puri.

Vijay begins his first state-wide political tour

Chennai (UNI)

Embarking on his state-wide political tour in Trichy today, actor-turned neta and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) Founder Vijay in his first address by launching a frontal attack on the ruling DMK and accused it of failing to honour its poll promises.

His maiden address at the massive rally ended on a disappointment note as almost his entire speech could not be heard due to a technical glitch.

Standing atop his caravan-like campaign bus which was brightly painted with images of iconic leaders, C.N. Annadurai and MGR and also featured the campaign slogan, "Unga Vijay Naan Varen" ("Your Vijay, I am coming"), he said he was starting the good work from Trichy, because starting from Trichy will



herald a turning point.

"Anna (Annadurai) first decided to contest from Trichy and MGR had conducted his first state conference in Trichy", he said, justifying his



move to start his four-month long political tour from Trichy and hitting the campaign trail ahead of polls to the Tamil Nadu Assembly due in 7-8 months.

Cloudburst wreaks havoc in Bilaspur, 577 roads closed

Shimla (UNI)

A cloudburst this morning caused widespread destruction in Gutrahan village of Namhol sub-tehsil, Bilaspur district. Several vehicles were buried under debris while farmlands and roads suffered heavy damage.

Officials said two vehicles were completely buried and five others damaged before being removed from the site. The Namhol-Dabar road remains blocked due to accumulated debris. Villager Kashmir Singh reported severe losses to his fields. "The water flow got diverted towards the road, otherwise the entire village could have faced a major disaster," he said.

The impact of continuous rains is being felt statewide. In Ghumarwin, the Sir Khad rivulet has swelled to its



highest level this monsoon season. Landslides triggered by heavy downpours disrupted traffic on the Barmour-Pathankot highway near Tunnuhatti, Lahad and Mahla, leaving long queues of stranded vehicles.

National Highway Division Executive Engineer Meet Sharma confirmed that falling trees and debris have slowed vehicle movement considerably.

As of 10 am today, 577 roads, in-

cluding three national highways, were blocked in Himachal Pradesh. District-wise closures include 174 in Kullu, 166 in Mandi, 48 in Shimla, 45 in Kangra, 44 in Chamba and 28 in Sirmaur. Alongside, 389 electricity transformers and 333 water supply schemes have also been affected.

The Meteorological Centre Shimla has forecast rain across many parts of the state until September 19. A yellow alert has been issued for heavy rain and thunderstorms on September 13 and 14.

Palampur recorded the highest rainfall last night at 86 mm, followed by Murari Devi (69.2 mm) and Kangra (58.2 mm).

The monsoon toll in Himachal Pradesh has been grim, as per government sources.

Siddaramaiah: I'm Hindu too, but hate speech won't be spared

Mysuru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today issued a firm warning against provocative speeches, stressing that the law will act against anyone threatening communal harmony, irrespective of religion or political affiliation.

Reacting to BJP leader CT Ravi and suspended BJP MLA Basanagouda Yatnal facing FIRs for allegedly incendiary remarks, Siddaramaiah said: "I, too, am a Hindu — my name carries the names of Ishwara and Rama. But maintaining peace is essential. When BJP leaders make provocative statements, what should the police do? This is not politics; it is about protecting public order."

He made the comments while addressing the media at Mysuru airport, following the Hassan road tragedy that killed several people during a Ganesha procession.

On the government's relief for the victims, Siddaramaiah clarified that the Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia was only an act of solace, not compensation for the value of life.

"The government gives relief to console the bereaved, not as a replacement for the deceased. The accident was caused by driver negligence; the state cannot be directly blamed," he explained.

He said district in-charge minister Krishna Byregowda was instructed to meet the families and announce aid.

Responding to questions about whether the support was linked to the victims' background, Siddaramaiah noted that most of the deceased were daily wage earners and students. "That is why the government extended relief — they were economically weak," he said.