

MUSTREAD

Major fire in Mumbai's business park

Mumbai: A major fire broke out today at a nine-storey commercial building, Golden Crush Business Park, located on LBS Marg near Ghatkopar, in Mumbai's eastern suburbs. No injuries or casualties have been reported. The incident occurred in afternoon at around 2:35 pm, and authorities declared it a Level II fire. According to the BMC Disaster Management Cell, the blaze originated on the ground floor of the building situated near Shreyas Cinema on the busy LBS Road.

Minister Samant questions MNS-Shiv Sena alliance

Mumbai: Minister Uday Samant today advised Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray to reconsider his decision before forming an alliance with the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction). Samant said, "The Congress party has become so self-righteous that it does not respect freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. Not only that, the Congress government in Karnataka also refuses to honor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. How can a leader like Raj Thackeray, who follows Hindutva ideology, accept this?" It is almost certain that the MNS and Shiv Sena (Thackeray faction) will form an alliance.

KTR alleges massive voter fraud in Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad: BRS Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) today accused the Congress Party of large-scale voter fraud in the Jubilee Hills Assembly Constituency, submitting a detailed representation to the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana highlighting irregularities, duplicate entries, and fake votes. Speaking to the media, KTR alleged that Congress is misusing power and government resources to influence the election, with ministers and officials deployed in Jubilee Hills for electoral gain. He claimed at least 20,000 duplicate and fake votes have been identified, with some polling booths recording nearly 50 fake votes per booth. In extreme cases, over 100 votes were registered at a single small house, while around 15,000 votes lacked valid addresses.

Nepalese student Bipin Joshi confirmed dead by Hamas

New Delhi: Bipin Joshi, the 22 year old Nepalese agriculture student who was kidnapped by Hamas in the terror attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, has been confirmed dead by Hamas. Hamas which released the last 20 Israeli hostages under a US-brokered peace deal with Israel, confirmed the names of four hostages whose bodies it says will be returned to Israel. The four are Bipin Joshi, Daniel Peretz, Guy Illouz and Yossi Sharabi. Of the 48 hostages believed in the custody of Hamas, 26 were confirmed dead while 20 were released today. The fate of the remaining two Bipin Joshi and Tamir Nimrodi remained uncertain until Hamas confirmed that Joshi was dead.

Maharashtra reports first Monkeypox case in Dhule district

Dhule (Maharashtra): Maharashtra has reported its first confirmed case of monkeypox after laboratory tests identified the infection in a 45-year-old man from Dhule district, prompting the state health department to issue a high alert across the region. The patient, who recently returned from Saudi Arabia, is currently receiving treatment in an isolation ward at the government-run Diamond Hospital in Dhule, officials confirmed today.

Security Forces recover huge cache of arms

Imphal: Security Forces have recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from multiple locations across Bishnupur district and carried out successful operations leading to the arrest of two active cadres belonging to proscribed outfits and the seizure of narcotic substances in Imphal West, Imphal East, Tengnoupal district on Sunday. Police today said, the recoveries made from Bishnupur district include: one INSAS rifle with magazine, five bolt action rifles, one AK-47 rifle with magazine, one MP-9 with magazine, two DBBL guns.

ECI completes first randomization of EVM-VVPATs

For Bihar Phase-I elections, shares lists with political parties



New Delhi (UNI)

The Election Commission of India today announced the successful completion of the first randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) for Phase-I of

the Bihar General Elections. The process, conducted as per ECI's directives, marks a crucial step in ensuring transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

District Election Officers (DEOs) across all 18 districts involved in

Phase-I elections carried out the randomization following the First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs and VVPATs. The exercise was conducted through the EVM Management System (EMS) in the presence of representatives from National and State Recognised Political Parties, underscoring the commitment to inclusive oversight. In total, 54,311 Ballot Units (BUs),

54,311 Control Units (CUs), and 58,123 VVPAT devices were randomly allocated to the 121 Assembly Constituencies encompassing 45,336 polling stations. Constituency-wise lists detailing the randomized EVMs and VVPATs were shared with political party representatives at their respective district headquarters.

SP opposes ECI directive on identification of burqa-clad voters by Anganwadi workers

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) withdraw its new directive regarding the identification of burqa-clad women voters by Anganwadi workers. The party stated that such an instruction by the ECI will only create a hindrance in holding transparent, free, fair, and fearless elections in the country. The EC has directed that its directive be strictly implemented in the Bihar Assembly elections and also in the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Samajwadi Party, UP President Shyam Lal Pal, while submitting a memorandum addressed to the CEC to the Chief Electoral Officer, UP, stated here today that the Chief Election Commissioner's new directive is contrary to the rules of the Election Commission of India.

Former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan joins Congress

New Delhi: In a significant development, former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan today joined the Indian National Congress, at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. The ceremony was attended by Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal and party leader Pawan Khera, among others.

Kannan Gopinathan, a 2012-batch IAS officer, had resigned from his position in 2019, protesting the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. He was also vocal about issues related to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and had faced police custody for participating in protests.

Welcoming Gopinathan to the Congress family, Venugopal said, "We warmly welcome Shri Kannan Gopinathan, former IAS officer and fearless voice for democracy, to the Congress family. He has served as a principled administrator, an active citizen, and a committed democrat."

Rajbhar announces SBSP to contest 153 seats in Bihar

Lucknow (UNI)

Annoyed at not being allotted any seat in the NDA alliance for the Bihar Assembly Elections, the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), a key NDA constituent in Uttar Pradesh, has announced it will contest the elections in Bihar alone or with other like-minded parties.

Speaking to the media today, SBSP chief and UP Panchayati Raj Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar announced that his party will contest 153 seats in Bihar.

Isolated during the seat-sharing negotiations in Bihar by NDA, Rajbhar met UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak yesterday, his first meeting with Pathak since his illness.

Sources hinted that Pathak has previously acted as a coordinator between Rajbhar and the BJP. However, Rajbhar displayed a rebellious attitude after the talks failed to yield re-



sults.

"The Prajapati, Rajbhar, and Rajbanshi communities have a vast population in Bihar. We will form a front and fight there," declared Rajbhar.

"We trusted BJP leaders, spoke to Dharmendra Pradhan and others, and everyone gave us assurances. But they ditched us by not giving us even a single seat," Rajbhar added.

Jan Suraj releases second list of 65 candidates

Patna: Jan Suraj today announced its second list of 65 candidates including (18 for Scheduled Castes and 1 for Scheduled Tribes) and 46 general category seats for Bihar assembly elections. Founder of Jan Suraj Prashant Kishor told news persons here that in line with its promise to provide representation to all social groups based on population, the party has fielded 14 candidates from the (Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) (10 Hindus and 4 Muslims), 10 from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), 11 from the General category, and 14 from minority communities.

"I am a Bihari & not afraid of outsiders": Tejashwi

Patna (UNI)

Reacting strongly to the framing of criminal charges in the alleged Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) scam case, Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav today said that he is a Bihari and not afraid of outsiders. Yadav expressed his reaction on the social media platform X after the court framed criminal charges in the IRCTC scam case.

He wrote, "As long as the riot mongering and anti-constitution Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains in power and as long as I live, I will continue to fight against the BJP."



There is a special thrill in fighting storms. We have chosen the path of struggle, and by walking on this path, we will become better travelers and surely reach our destination."

He further said that union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his last month's visit to Bihar, had said that they would not let him contest elections. Yadav said he will fight and win, and being a Bihari was not afraid of outsiders. As it is, a court in Delhi today framed several criminal charges against former Railway Minister and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tejashwi Yadav, and several others in the alleged IRCTC scam case.

Bhujbal clarifies stand on alliance, Maratha quota

Nashik (UNI)

State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal today addressed key political and social issues, including alliance equations, Maratha reservation, and the OBC movement, during a press conference held in Maharashtra's Nashik. Talking about the alliance equations ahead of the upcoming elections, Bhujbal said, "We read in the newspapers that there will be an alliance of all three parties (BJP, Shinde group, Ajit Pawar group). But the reality is different."

He clarified that the local political situation in each place is unique. "In some places, the BJP and Ajit Pawar groups will come together, while in some places the Shinde and Ajit Pawar groups will form an alliance."



In some areas, the BJP can also stay aside. The decisions on the alliance will be taken only after looking at the situation at the local level," he explained.

Bhujbal made a humorous comment when reporters asked about the Guardian Minister post of Nashik and mentioned Mahajan and Bhuse. He said, "I will not go that far (to Donald Trump). I will go to Ajit Pawar, Devendra Fadnis and Eknath Shinde. I will go very far to Modi (PM Modi), but not beyond that."

Regarding the Maratha reservation, Bhujbal clarified his stance after activist Jarange Patil met Vikhe Patil. While Bhujbal initially preferred not to comment, he stated that since Jarange takes his name, he is compelled to answer.

Bengal Guv to visit Durgapur to meet gang-rape victim and her parents

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose today strongly condemned the alleged gang-rape of a 2nd year MBBS student in West Bardhaman's Durgapur town, and said he would go to Durgapur to meet the survivor in hospital and her parents.

In a strong message to the state administration, the Governor said that such a crime on women is not new in the state and advised the police forces to be more proactive and find out some mechanism to ensure the safety and security of people.

Bose said the Police force is primarily responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and in this case there was some lacunae.

He said he would meet the survivor and her parents in Durgapur to learn more about the incident.

Siddaramaiah dismisses cabinet reshuffle rumours

Bengaluru (UNI)

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today dismissed speculation over a possible cabinet reshuffle, asking whether a dinner meeting with his ministers could be considered an offence.

"Should we not meet? I can't understand. Listening to the BJP you have made our meeting over dinner an offence. Why are you asking then? We keep meeting always," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

The dinner gathering, however, comes amid widespread conjecture about a reshuffle as the Congress government approaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, a milestone some have dubbed the "November revolution."



Sources within the party indicated that Siddaramaiah is exploring a reshuffle to reinforce his leadership, a move that could overshadow Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who has been regarded as a potential successor. Shivakumar, meanwhile, dismissed the reshuffle rumours as "just that — rumours."

The meeting is also expected to discuss preparations for upcoming taluk, zilla panchayat, and urban local body elections, as well as strategies to counter recent corruption allegations, including claims by the Karnataka State Contractors Association that kickbacks had "doubled" under the Congress government.

Mumbai Police rules out terrorist link in naval arms theft case

Mumbai: Sources in the Mumbai Police Crime Branch investigating the Navy Nagar rifle theft case today ruled out any Maoist or terrorist links in the incident.

A senior officer connected with the investigation said that multiple angles were explored during the probe, but no evidence of terrorist involvement was found.

He added that the charge sheet will soon be filed against the two arrested accused, Agniveer Rakesh Dubbula (22), and his elder brother Umesh Dubbula (25).

According to police, the accused have confessed to stealing the INSAS rifle and magazines not only as a 'status symbol' in their village but also with the alleged intention of using the weapon for extortion and robbery.

SC declines to quash FIR against Neha Singh Rathore

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court today refused to quash the First Information Report filed by the Uttar Pradesh Police against folk singer Neha Singh Rathore for her allegedly provocative social media posts on the Pahalgam terror attack, which the police claimed "endangered the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India."

A Bench, comprising Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi, declined to interfere with the Allahabad High Court's order that had permitted investigation into the case.

The Bench observed that the petitioner may raise objections to specific charges, including those related to "waging war against India," at the time of framing of charges.

"We have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case. The petitioner is at liberty to raise these is-



sues during framing of charges or seek discharge before the trial court," the Bench ordered.

Appearing for Rathore, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal argued that the

charges were excessively harsh and unwarranted.

"I can't be tried for mutiny. How can I be accused of waging war over a tweet?" Sibal contended, urging the Court to quash proceedings under certain sections while allowing the trial to proceed on others.

He questioned the applicability of several provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 153A, 159, and 294, stating, "We accept the tweets, but how do they attract these sections? There can't be mutiny merely because I said something against someone."

However, the Court declined to entertain the plea or allow the petitioner to approach the High Court on the same issue, reiterating that such arguments could be raised at the appropriate stage before the trial court.

Oct 18 a major date for India's fast breeder test reactor

Chennai (UNI)

The Indian fast breeder nuclear power programme will reach a major milestone this week. The country's first breeder reactor, the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) will reach the milestone of 40 years of successful operation after going critical on October 18, 1985.

However, it is learnt no major commemorative event is planned by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, except a small get-together of its current and former directors.

The FBTR is a 40MW-thermal/13.6 MW-electrical, loop type, sodium cooled fast reactor using a mixture of plutonium carbide and uranium carbide as fuel.

In the power sector MWt refers to the input energy required for the power plant. The IGCAR is tasked with design and development of fast



breeder reactors in the country.

The first such reactor coming up in Kalpakkam is being built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Viduyt Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) a public sector undertaking with a mandate to build and operate fast reactors.

It was on March 7, 2022, the FBTR attained its design power level of 40MWt. Starting with a small core of 22 Mark-I fuel sub-assemblies rated

for 10.5 MWt in 1985, the power was gradually raised in steps by adding fresh fuel sub-assemblies based on the performance of mixed carbide fuel in terms of fuel linear heat rating and burn-up.

However, with the limitation on reactivity in the core, the maximum power was limited to 32 MWt which was achieved in 2018. For raising FBTR power to design power level, a novel core with few poison sub-assemblies was designed and safety analysis was carried out, IGCAR had said then.

After getting the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board's (AERB) clearance, FBTR core was converted to a new 40 MWt core and all the reactor physics parameters were measured to ensure safety.

Reactor was re-started with a new core and power was raised to 40 MWt.

Congress says 'trust hurt', hints NC may rethink INDIA bloc role: Tariq Karra

Srinagar (UNI)

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Karra today said the party feels "trust has been hurt" after the National Conference (NC) offered it only one "unsafe" seat in the ongoing seat-sharing talks, suggesting that the NC may itself be reconsidering its place in the INDIA bloc.

Congress in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday decided to not contest in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections on an unsafe seat after it could not secure a safe seat from its coalition partner National Conference.

Speaking to reporters, Karra said that the understanding conveyed to the Congress earlier was that it

Clash between IGMC MBBS and Sanjauli college students leaves 6 injured

Shimla: A clash broke out between MBBS students from IGMC Medical College and students from Sanjauli College in Shimla last evening, leaving six students injured.

The incident occurred near the medical college, where an altercation between two groups of students quickly escalated into a brawl, with dozens clashing and exchanging kicks and punches on the road.

A heated argument between MBBS students and Sanjauli College students sparked a brawl near the medical college, which intensified when hostel students rushed to the scene upon learning of the assault on their classmates.

About six students were injured in the clash and have been admitted to IGMC Hospital for treatment.



would be allotted a "safe seat" in the first or second round of seat distribution. "But when the fourth seat — which we consider unsafe for Congress — was offered, our leadership met for six hours and unanimously decided that we should not contest elections just to lose," he said.

Karra added that senior party leaders expressed resentment over what they described as a "backtracking" on commitments made at the highest level to Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. Karra said a letter was sent to Omar Abdullah, as the last communication regarding seat sharing was between Abdullah and AICC leader Nasir Hussain in Delhi.