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Souharda Karnataka Sangathan opposes RSS march in Chittapur

Kalaburagi: The Souharda Karnataka Sangathan today strongly opposed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) procession scheduled for November 2 in Chittapur. The organization has demanded that the authorities deny permission for the RSS march, citing concerns over the presence of lathis (sticks) during the procession. The Sangathan argues that allowing such a march could exacerbate existing tensions in the area and potentially lead to disturbances. They emphasise the need for maintaining peace and harmony in the region. The RSS had initially applied for permission to conduct the route march and Vijayadashami program at 3pm on October 19 in Chittapur to commemorate the organization's centenary and the Vijayadashami festival.

Nagrota by-polls: Late BJP MLA's daughter, ex-J&K minister among 9 in fray

Jammu: Nine candidates, including the daughter of former BJP MLA late Devender Singh Rana and former Minister from Jammu and Kashmir Harsh Dev Singh are among the candidates in the fray in Nagrota assembly by-polls. Nagrota will vote on November 11 and the scrutiny of nominations is scheduled for today. The withdrawal of nominations is due October 24. Monday was the last date for filing nominations. Counting of votes will take place on November 14. The Nagrota seat was vacated due to the death of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana on October 31, 2024. The Budgam seat fell vacant on October 21, 2024 after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chose to retain Ganderbal constituency following his victory from both seats in 2024 Assembly elections.

Jharkhand minister warns mineral wealth could be exhausted in 15 years

Ranchi: Jharkhand Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari launched a strong attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that the state's vast mineral resources are being exploited primarily for the benefit of other states while Jharkhand itself remains deprived. The Minister warned that if the current rate of resource extraction continues unchecked, Jharkhand's mineral reserves could be exhausted within 15 years, leaving behind nothing but deep pits and barren land. "What will our children do then? It's time to wake up and fight for our rights," he said. In a post shared on his X handle, Dr. Ansari wrote: "Jharkhand's coal burns in Nagpur, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana, providing them light round the clock. But what does Jharkhand get in return? Nothing. Is this justice?"

Ex-BJP MP faces Valmiki community outrage

Belagavi: Members of the Karnataka Rajya Valmiki Samaj Samiti staged protests across Belagavi and other districts today against BJP leader Ramesh Katti over alleged abusive remarks targeting the community. The protesters have announced a Karnataka bandh on October 24, calling for strict action against Katti. The outcry followed comments Katti reportedly made while addressing supporters after the Belagavi District Central Cooperative Bank elections on October 19. Protests continued in Gokak, Belagavi, Hukkeri, Ramdurg, Bailhongal, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, and other areas. Demonstrators in Belagavi burned Katti's portraits and placed garlands of slippers on his images.

Elderly woman found murdered in Jharkhand's Godda

Godda: A horrific incident has emerged from Goradih village under Boarijor police station in Godda district, where 65-year-old Sona Bhanu Khatoun was found brutally murdered. The elderly woman was reportedly asleep at home with her four-year-old granddaughter when unknown assailants slit her throat with a sharp weapon. Local sources revealed that villagers grew concerned when Sona Bhanu Khatoun did not wake up until late morning.

Congress questions Modi's silence on Trump's Russia oil claims

New Delhi (UNI)

The Congress party today criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not addressing US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions that India has agreed to stop importing oil from Russia.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned the Prime Minister's silence on the matter, pointing out that while PM Modi acknowledged Trump's Diwali greetings, he has yet to comment on the controversial claims regarding oil imports.

"While Mr. Modi conceals, Mr. Trump reveals," Ramesh said on social media platform X, referring to the contrasting narratives presented by the two leaders. "Trump has mentioned India's oil imports from Russia four times in the past six days, including his latest claim that PM Modi personally assured him



India would halt these imports."

The controversy erupted when President Trump publicly stated that during a recent phone call, PM Modi committed to stopping Indi-

an oil purchases from Russia.

However, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs swiftly denied any such assurance was given, leading to a diplomatic dispute and confusion over India's energy policy and its diplomatic stance.

Jairam Ramesh questioned the Prime Minister's decision to remain silent and not directly address Trump's comments. "Why is Modi not replying to Trump directly? Why is he hiding behind the External Affairs Ministry and asking officials to respond?" he asked, emphasizing the need for clarity on India's energy security and its relationship with the United States.

The issue has ignited a vigorous debate across political lines in India, with opposition leaders pressing the government to clarify its position on Russian oil imports amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Rajnath confers Honorary Lt Col rank to Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra



New Delhi (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today formally conferred the gleaming insignia of Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army upon star javelin thrower and two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra during the pipping ceremony in South Block here.

Interacting with Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra and his family

members, the Defence Minister described him as an epitome of perseverance, patriotism and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence, a Defence Ministry statement said.

"Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra embodies the highest ideals of discipline, dedication and national pride, serving as an inspiration to generations within the sporting fraternity and the Armed Forces alike," said Rajnath Singh.

Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and other senior officials of the Indian Army and Territorial Army were present on the occasion.

Enrolled in the Indian Army in 2016, Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra has served with the Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army. Born on December 24, 1997 in Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana, he has brought pride to the nation and the armed forces through his remarkable accomplishments in international athletics.

RSS leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi calls for complete ban on religious conversions

Nagpur: Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi called for a total ban on religious conversions, stating that such practices pose a serious challenge to national and cultural identity.

Speaking at a Diwali Milan event held at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, Joshi expressed concern over the growing incidence of religious conversions in the country. He urged all sections of society to collectively commit to putting an end to it.

"The time has come for every citizen to take a firm stand. A complete ban on religious conversions is necessary," he said.

In his address, Joshi also touched on matters of national security and cultural preservation. Drawing parallels with Israel, he said India should adopt a similarly resolute stance in safeguarding its internal and external integrity.

President Droupadi Murmu offers prayers at Lord Ayyappa in Sabarimala

Sabarimala (Kerala) (UNI)

President Droupadi Murmu today offered prayers at the Lord Ayyappa Temple in Sabarimala, becoming the first sitting President of India to visit the hill shrine in over five decades, the last being President V.V. Giri in 1973.

Adhering to the temple's customs and traditions, President Murmu began her sacred pilgrimage from Pamba where she performed the customary ritual bath in a specially arranged enclosure near the holy river. She then symbolically filled her Irumudi Kettu — the sacred bundle carried by Ayyappa devotees — before proceeding to the temple.

Dressed in traditional black attire, the President offered prayers at the Pamba Ganapathy temple before beginning her ascent to Sabarimala. She was accompanied by her Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and a security official, both carrying Irumudi Kettu as fellow pilgrims.



Travelling in a special Devaswom Board jeep under heavy security, the President reached the hill-top shrine and climbed the famed Pathinettam Padi (18 sacred steps)

with the assistance of a security officer who accompanied her as part of the pilgrimage.

At the Sannidhanam, President Murmu was accorded a traditional

welcome with a Poorna Kumbham by Chief Priest Tantri Kandararu Mahesh Mohanararu, and she reverently touched the offering before entering the sanctum for Darshan.

Following her prayers, the President spent some time at the Devaswom Guest House and partook in a traditional lunch. As a mark of reverence, the Travancore Devaswom Board presented her with a handcrafted Lord Ayyappa idol carved from Kumbil wood.

Her visit was marked by unprecedented security arrangements across Sannidhanam, Pamba, and Nilakkal, with the Kerala Police's special forces managing crowds. Pilgrims' access to the temple was briefly restricted during the President's Darshan.

Earlier in the day, President Murmu departed from Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, at 7.30 a.m and flew by helicopter to Pathanamthitta, landing at the Pramadam Indoor Stadium.

Odisha: Former BJD MLA, mayor among 12 arrested for BJP leader's killing

Bhubaneswar (UNI)

The Odisha police today cracked the murder case of BJP leader and lawyer Pitabash Panda, arresting 12 people. Those arrested include former MLA and Ganjam district Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Bikram Kumar Panda and former Berhampur Municipal Corporation Mayor Sivshankar Dash. The arrests come a fortnight after the high-profile murder in Berhampur city.

Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M said Bikram Panda and Siba Shankar Das had conspired together to eliminate Panda due to financial, personal, and political reasons. The victim, a practising lawyer and member of the Odisha State Bar



Council, was shot dead at point-blank range near his house in Brahma Nagar late on October 6 by motorcycle-borne assailants.

The police investigation revealed that the murder plan was allegedly hatched between September 10 and 14. After an initial pair of hired killers left midway due to personal issues, two other history-

sheeters—Kurupatti Bhuyan and Chintu Pradhan—were hired to execute the crime. The duo was provided with a bike bearing a fake registration number and pistols. Another arrested accused, Uma Bisoyi, provided the original hired criminals with two guns and Rs 10 lakh to execute the crime.

Narrating the sequence of the crime, police said Pradhan rode the bike while Bhuyan rode pillion. They waited near the victim's house and, at 10 pm, Bhuyan got down, stopped Panda, and fired at him. Police said telephonic conversations between the arrested persons before and after the crime provided clinching proof of the conspiracy.

RSS- BJP want Dalit votes; but don't intend to defend their safety & interests : Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur (UNI)

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has strongly condemned the incident in which a Dalit man was allegedly forced to lick urine by a RSS functionary in Lucknow. "The BJP and RSS only want Dalit votes but have no intent to defend them or give them safe space and due social ambience in society", the three-time ex-CM Gehlot, said.

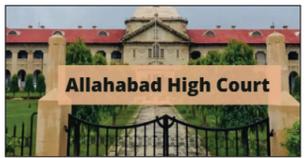
The Congress leader is a senior AICC poll observer for Bihar assembly elections and presently is on tour to that poll bound state. He quipped in a press note yesterday night "This (incident) has now made crystal clear, that the psyche of the BJP and the RSS cadres against Dalits. It also reveals the gravity of hatred they nurture with-

in themselves against Dalit-weaker sections".

Gehlot said that while the RSS calls itself the defenders of Hindutva, Hindu communities and the Sanatan Dharma, however, they act as perpetrators of atrocities and oppression on these (backward) communities. At many places, their workers treat Dalits, backward communities and tribals as adversaries.

If they truly have reverence for the Hindu faith, let them shun the caste based discrimination and untouchability. On frequent instances of atrocities against Dalits under the BJP rule, Gehlot said that whether it is a Dalit Chief Justice or an ordinary Dalit old man, no one is safe and secure under BJP's governance.

Allahabad HC dismisses Sahara plea, upholds ED's money laundering probe



New Delhi (UNI)

In a significant legal setback to the Sahara Group, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court today dismissed a petition filed by four of its co-operative societies seeking to quash a money laundering investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The court ruled that the probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is valid and can proceed.

The petition was filed by Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd., and Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd. They had challenged the ED's Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and the search and seizure operations conducted at their offices in July 2024.

Justice Subhash Vidyarthi, in his judgment, overruled the ED's preliminary objection that the court lacked territorial jurisdiction. He held that since the societies' head office is in Lucknow, crucial records were seized there, and a substantial part of the cause of action arose in the city, the Lucknow bench had the authority to hear the case.

Be sensitive to public concerns, ensure swift action: CM Yogi directs officials

Gorakhpur (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to respond swiftly and sensitively to public grievances, ensuring fair and timely resolutions.

The Chief Minister interacted with citizens and addressed their concerns during the Janata Darshan held at the Goraknath Temple complex this morning. After patiently hearing each complaint, Yogi Adityanath assured the attendees, saying, "Don't worry. The government will take effective action on every issue." During the session, the Chief Minister met nearly 300 people, personally receiving their applications and instructing officials on



the spot to initiate immediate action. Moving among the crowd seated outside the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhavan, he emphasized transparent and time-bound redressal of grievances. Taking a firm stance against land encroachments, CM Yogi direct-

ed police officers to act strictly against land mafias, reiterating that no influential person has the right to forcibly occupy anyone's land and that such offenders must face the strictest legal consequences. He also instructed officials to conduct land measurements wherever required to settle disputes accurately.

Several citizens sought financial assistance for medical treatment, to which the Chief Minister assured that no one's healthcare would suffer due to lack of funds. He asked officials to prepare cost estimates promptly so that government aid could be released without delay, ensuring timely and quality medical support.

Akhilesh Yadav accuses BJP of corruption fueled by internal power battle

Lucknow (UNI)

Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav has once again targeted the BJP government over what he alleges is widespread corruption. He stated that a "mountain of corruption" is rising in every department under the BJP government.

On Wednesday, Akhilesh Yadav released a video on social media platform X, alleging that the root cause of the corruption is not merely extortionists, but the "main ruling people" who are instigating these activities due to internal conflicts and an overwhelming ambition for power.

He said that the huge amount of money being collected through extortion, bribes, commissions, and donations is actually being



used to prepare for the "mahapadhak" (great position). He added that the BJP and its allies believe that whoever controls the "maha treasury" will have the strongest claim to power.

"In this competition for the top post, the prices of everything are rising due to extortion, and ultimately, the common people are

bearing the brunt of this political tug-of-war," he said.

It is noteworthy that the SP chief has consistently raised corruption allegations against the BJP. On several occasions, he has accused BJP leaders and supporters of benefitting from illicit activities.

Recently, Yadav alleged that BJP supporters in several districts, including Aoydhya, Gorakhpur, and Varanasi, have earned profits worth crores of rupees through illegal land registrations, while the poor continue to struggle and suffer due to inflation and unemployment.

He also accused the BJP government of encouraging illegal mining, encroachments on government land, and illegal animal

trade, claiming that these activities enjoy political patronage. He alleged that central schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission have become hotbeds of corruption, with water tanks and pipelines bursting in multiple districts while the pothole-free road campaign has also witnessed massive scams.

Adding another dimension to his charge, Yadav unveils a deadly scandal threatening public health, a "ghuttee ghotale," or syrup scam, where toxic syrups are allegedly being funneled into hospitals, jails, and homes under the very watch of the Chief Minister, while the Health Ministry remains conspicuously silent. He demands an urgent, rigorous probe to expose those cashing in on this lethal malpractice.

BJP leader's son among two killed in UP's Gorakhpur road accident

Gorakhpur: Two youths, including the son of a local BJP leader and businessman, lost their lives in a road accident near the Nainsar Toll Plaza in Gorakhpur, police said today.

The incident occurred around 10 pm yesterday when a speeding XUV, attempting to overtake another vehicle, collided with a Harrier car and was subsequently hit by an oncoming pickup truck.

The deceased have been identified as Adarsh Verma (22), son of prominent jeweller and BJP leader Jay Prakash Verma alias Ganju, and Rohan Kannaujia (22), son of Om Prakash Kannaujia, a resident of Bhagwanpur.