

MUSTREAD

Arunachal CM wraps up Japan visit

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu concluded his official visit to Japan today, marking a significant step towards strengthening cooperation between Japan and India's North Eastern region. As part of his concluding engagements, the Chief Minister held a productive meeting with Dr Atsushi Sunami, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), and senior members at SPF Headquarters in Tokyo. The discussions focused on key takeaways from the visit and a future roadmap for deeper engagement in areas such as infrastructure development, education, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Siddaramaiah warns officials over slow project clearances

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today warned that strict action will be taken against officials who fail to implement decisions taken in government meetings within the stipulated timeframe, directing all departments to ensure speedy clearances for industrial projects. Chairing an investment promotion meeting, CM Siddaramaiah said Karnataka has emerged as a progressive and industry-friendly state and must further strengthen its investment ecosystem. He emphasised that no delay should occur in granting approvals for industrial projects and instructed the Chief Secretary to issue necessary directions to all departments.

JCC to intensify strike over IAS induction issue in Nagaland

Dimapur: The joint coordination committee (JCC) of the state service associations has decided to intensify the ongoing pen-down strike and tools-down strike from October 27, demanding transparency, meritocracy and adherence to due process in the induction of officers into the IAS in Nagaland. The decision was taken at a meeting of the JCC with the All Nagaland Government Drivers' Association, Nagaland Civil Secretariat Drivers' Association, All Nagaland Directorate & District Government Drivers' union and the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Grade-IV Staff Employees Association on October 19, the media cell of the JCC said in a release.

Woman drowns her three children in water tank in Balotra, later dies by suicide

Balotra: A mother drowned her three young children in a water tank and then died by suicide by jumping into the same tank, police said. The bodies of all four were found in the tank in a field. The incident occurred in Panotri Nadi, a village in Balotra district. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police arrived at the scene and recovered the bodies. During the initial police probe, it was revealed that Mamta (32) took her two minor sons and a daughter and jumped into the water tank.

Digital arrest cyber crime solved with arrest of two Indian operatives

New Delhi: In a major breakthrough against cyber fraud, Delhi Police's Cyber Crime Unit (West District) has arrested two individuals from Gujarat linked to a high-profile "digital arrest" scam that defrauded a government employee of Rs 7 lakh. The accused, identified as Soyebhai Multani (24) and Aslambhai Multani (37), were apprehended from Surendranagar, Gujarat, following an interstate investigation involving both Jharkhand and Gujarat.

Delhi-NCR Air Quality remains under "poor" category

New Delhi: The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi and its National Capital Region reported varied air quality levels on Friday morning, with several areas falling into the 'Poor' category with the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) 2 norms already in place. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) in the national capital stood at 292 as of 8 am today.

Jaishankar questions UN's credibility over inaction on terrorism

New Delhi (UNI)

Without mentioning Pakistan, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar today launched a strong attack at the United Nations' handling of terrorism, saying the global body's credibility is being eroded when powerful member states shield terror groups and block meaningful action.

Speaking at an event marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, Jaishankar said the UN's failure to act decisively against terrorism reflected the larger challenges confronting multilateralism.

"Few examples are more telling than the UN's response to terrorism. When a sitting Security Council member openly protects the organisation that claims responsibility for barbaric terror attacks, such as at Pahalgal, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism?" he asked.



He called it "deeply cynical" that victims and perpetrators of terrorism are often equated in the name of global strategy, adding that such attitudes undermine the very spirit of international cooperation.

"When self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from sanctions, it raises

serious questions about the sincerity of those involved," he said.

He added, "I take it as a statement of our collective attachment to the United Nations at a time when the world is perhaps passing through some of its most difficult circumstances."

Jaishankar also reaffirmed India's commitment to global peace, security, development, and multilateralism, while calling for urgent reforms within the United Nations to make it more representative and effective.

Speaking at an event marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, Dr Jaishankar said, "India remains committed to the ideals of peace and security, as well as development and progress. India has always been and will continue to be a strong votary of the United Nations, and indeed, of multilateralism."

The minister, however, pointed out that "all is not well" with the UN system.

"Its decision-making neither reflects its membership nor addresses global priorities. Debates have become increasingly polarised and their functioning visibly gridlocked. Any meaningful reform is obstructed using the reform process itself," he said, adding that growing financial constraints have further worsened the situation.

"How to sustain the UN even while seeking its re-invention is clearly a major challenge before all of us," Jaishankar said.

He said the pursuit of international peace and security has increasingly become "lip service," while the challenges of development and socio-economic progress are more serious than ever.

SIR exercise in TN to begin next week, ECI informs Madras HC

Chennai: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the 2026 elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly due in 6-7 months, will begin from next week, the Election Commission of India (ECI) informed the Madras High Court today.

The SIR exercise will be held as part of the Nation-wide exercise.

This process aims to update and verify voter lists comprehensively ahead of the ensuing elections. The SIR will include the addition of new eligible voters, deletion of names of those no longer qualified, and correction of any discrepancies in the existing electoral rolls. The clarification was given during a hearing of a case filed by former AIADMK MLA Sathyanarayanan, who had alleged that 13,000 AIADMK supporters' names were removed from the voter list in favour of the DMK in the T.Nagar constituency in Chennai city.

SP names star campaigners for Bihar polls; both 'uncles' absent



Lucknow (UNI)

The Samajwadi Party has released a list of 20 star campaigners' list for the Bihar Assembly elections, but made a big surprise by not including two senior-most party leaders and uncles of party president Akhilesh Yadav.

In the campaigners' list of SP released today names of Akhilesh Yadav's two uncles, Ramgopal Yadav and Shivpal Yadav, are missing. Shivpal Yadav is the party's general secretary, and Ramgopal is the chief national general secretary.

Party sources here said that Akhilesh Yadav will launch his Bihar campaign from tomorrow.

In the star campaigners' list, Mohammad Azam Khan's name is third on the list of star campaigners, behind Akhilesh Yadav and Kiranmay Nanda, who is the vice-president of the party.

Akhilesh's nephew, Tej Pratap Yadav, is also on the list. Tej Pratap is the son-in-law of Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Army has been pillar of peace in JK

India will respond on its own terms, says Rajnath Singh

New Delhi (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that the Indian Army has played a crucial role in ensuring peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. Calling it a historic move, the minister said that post-abrogation, the streets of the region are now filled with hope instead of unrest.

"People are confident about their future. Most importantly, the decision-making system is now in the hands of the local people. The Indian Army has played a crucial role in this endeavour," he said. Singh was speaking at the ongoing Army Commanders' Conference in Jaisalmer, today.



Referring to the recent de-escalation process in the eastern Ladakh areas of Demchok and Depsang following a series of talks between India and China on October 24, the Defence Minister said that the ongoing

dialogue and de-escalation steps have demonstrated India's balanced and firm foreign policy. "Our policy is clear that there will be dialogue and our readiness on the border will remain intact," he said.

The minister also noted that the action taken by the Indian Armed Forces against terrorists during Operation Sindoor reflected both policy precision and respect for human dignity. His statement came a day after he asserted that the operation had sent a clear signal, compelling Pakistan to think twice before attempting any provocation against India again.

While reviewing the security situation and operational preparedness of the Indian Army, the minister also

Kharge takes potshots at Centre, teases Kumaraswamy on RSS

Bengaluru: Karnataka's fiery minister Priyank Kharge today fired a salvo at the union government over why a state that has twice sent its own Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, to Delhi is still sidelined, while taking a dig at union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, quipping that the JDS stalwart is, by default, secular, not saffron.

"We have sent the Finance Minister from here twice," Kharge told media, "and what do we get in return? Nothing. Karnataka contributes immensely to the economy, generates employment, and has become a global technology hub. We deserve recognition, rewards, and resources to build better infrastructure and create more jobs."

He didn't spare Karnataka's BJP MPs either. "What are they doing? Raising the state's concerns in Parliament? Not really. And why drag Bihar elections into Karnataka's legitimate demand for its share of taxes? We've been watching this before Bihar polls and after," he said, shaking a finger at the Centre.

Kharge also highlighted Karnataka's starring role in national initiatives. "Amritkal, Vikshit Bharat, Skill India, Make in India, Digital India, Startup India... you name it, it's happening here. Slogans you can shout anywhere, but work is happening in Karnataka. We are only asking for what is rightfully ours."

On HD Kumaraswamy, Kharge teased, with a wink that seasoned political watchers would catch: His past writings against RSS align perfectly with the questions I am raising now. I worked with him in his cabinet.

ECI issues directives to ensure voter-friendly polling stations ahead of Bihar Elections

New Delhi (UNI)

The Election Commission of India today issued detailed instructions to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) across all States and union Territories, mandating that every polling station be equipped with Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) and comprehensive voter assistance on polling day.

Key facilities under AMFs include access to drinking water, waiting shelters, toilets with water supply, adequate lighting, ramps with appropriate gradients for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), standardized voting compartments, and clear, visible signage to guide voters.

To boost voter awareness, the Commission has directed the installation of four standardized Voter Fa-



cilitation Posters (VFP) at every polling station.

These posters will provide essential information such as polling station details, candidate lists, voting guidelines, approved identity docu-

ments, and the voting procedure. In a bid to provide additional support, Voter Assistance Booths (VABs) manned by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or other officials will be set up at all polling locations.

These booths will help voters locate their polling booth number and their serial number on the electoral roll, with clear signage to ensure easy accessibility. As a new security measure, the ECI has introduced a mobile phone deposit system outside polling station entrances.

Voters will be required to hand over their switched-off mobile phones to designated volunteers before entering and collect them after voting, to prevent unauthorized recording and preserve ballot secrecy.

Out of turn promotion for constable Shivani to the rank of head constable

New Delhi: Constable Shivani of BSF has been given an out of turn promotion to the rank of Head Constable today for her outstanding performance in the World Wushu Championship. The rank ceremony has been conducted by Sh Daljit Singh Chawdhary, DG BSF at BSF Camp Chhawla. Constable Shivani has earned this promotion within just five months of her service with BSF. Necessary relaxations and permission have been obtained from Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), GoI.

Constable Shivani (Now Head Constable) has represented the country at 17th World Wushu Championship 2025 in Brazil and won a Silver medal.



Bus overturns on Lucknow-Agra Expressway; 12 seriously injured, 28 hurt

Lucknow: A private bus lost control and overturned this morning near the Revri Toll Plaza on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in the Kakori area, leaving 12 passengers seriously injured and 28 others with minor injuries.

All injured passengers were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

According to police, the accident occurred around 4:30 am. The bus was travelling from Anand Vihar, Delhi, to Muzaffarpur, Bihar when the driver reportedly lost control about two kilometers before the toll plaza.

Eyewitnesses said the bus was speeding when it suddenly went out of control and overturned. Panic spread among passengers as they screamed for help and struggled to get out.

ICG launches twin fast patrol vessels; coastal security gets a strategic boost

New Delhi: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) marked a significant milestone with the launch of two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), 'AJIT' and 'APARAJIT', at M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). These vessels are the 7th and 8th in a series of eight being constructed by GSL for the Coast Guard.

The vessels were launched by Smt. Manju Sharma amid the resonant chanting of the Atharva Veda, in the august presence of Dr. Mayank Sharma, IDAS, Financial Advisor (Defence Services), Ministry of Defence, as the Chief Guest. Senior dignitaries, including IG Bhisham Sharma, PTM, TM, COMCG (West), and other senior officers from the ICG and GSL, graced the occasion.

Designed and built by GSL, the FPVs are tailored to meet the operational requirements of the Coast Guard. With a length of 52 metres and a displacement of 320 tonnes, these vessels are equipped with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP), the



first of their kind for this class in India, thereby offering enhanced manoeuvrability and propulsion efficiency. Designed to undertake a wide range of missions, these agile platforms will be deployed for fisheries protection, coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search & rescue operations, particularly around India's island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Chief Guest commended the

Indian Coast Guard and Goa Shipyard for their commitment to fully indigenous shipbuilding and congratulated all stakeholders on achieving this critical milestone. Aligned with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the project showcases the power of indigenous innovation, significantly contributing to local industry, employment generation, and the MSME ecosystem.

VP Radhakrishnan to represent India at Seychelles' President-elect's swearing-in

New Delhi (UNI)

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan will be visiting the Republic of Seychelles from October 26 to 27 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Patrick Herminie, the newly elected President of Seychelles.

This visit, extended at the invitation of the Seychelles government, will be undertaken on behalf of India, according to an official government statement. During the visit, Radhakrishnan will convey India's heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Dr Herminie and reaffirm the enduring and robust ties between the two nations.

The inauguration ceremony stands as a testament to the strengthening diplomatic and strategic partnership that has evolved over the years. Seychelles occupies a strategic position in India's foreign policy, especially within the ambit of Vision MAHASAGAR, which focuses on enhancing maritime cooperation and fostering strong partnerships throughout the Indian Ocean region.



The island nation remains a key ally in India's commitment to solidarity and collaboration among Global South countries. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs emphasized, "The Republic of Seychelles is a vital partner in India's vision to boost regional connectivity and collective progress. The Vice President's visit underscores our unwavering commitment to nurturing and expanding this partnership."