

## MUSTREAD

BJP protests pothole outside Vidhana Soudha

Bengaluru: BJP leaders staged a protest on Monday in front of a pothole outside Vidhana Soudha, highlighting what they described as the Congress government's chronic inability to maintain even the central arteries of the state capital. They warned that the pothole was symptomatic of a deeper malaise affecting Karnataka's infrastructure. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Chief Whip N Ravikumar, State Farmers' Morcha President and former MLA AS Patil Nadahalli, BJP State Secretary Sharan Tallikeri, Farmers' Morcha Vice-President Bharati Mallikarjun, and State Spokesperson Mohan Vishwa were among those present.

INS Mahe commissioned in Mumbai

Mumbai: A major boost to India's coastal defence capability the Indian Navy on Monday commissioned INS Mahe, the first vessel of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, in Mumbai. The ceremony, held at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, was hosted by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command and presided over by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi. The commissioning marks the arrival of a new generation of indigenous shallow-water combatants, compact, highly manoeuvrable and designed specifically for India's littoral warfare requirements.

Fire in Mumbai chawl injures six people

Mumbai: Six people, including four children, were injured after a fire broke out in a Mumbai chawl located in Ghatkopar area of city suburb on Monday afternoon, fire brigade sources said. The injured were admitted to the civic-run Rajawadi Hospital, where the condition of the children is reported to be stable. However, a man and a woman have suffered severe burns and are in a critical condition, police said. According to the fire bridge sources, the fire broke out at 12.49 pm on Monday in Chawl No. 10, Sai Nagar, in Ghatkopar East.

BSF-DRI seize foreign cigarettes worth Rs 7.5 cr in Mizoram south

Aizawl: In one of the largest seizures of its kind recorded in Mizoram, a joint team of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) confiscated foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 7.5 crore during an operation in Lunglei district on November 22. Acting on specific intelligence about the trafficking and storage of illegal cigarettes, personnel from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Battalion BSF and DRI launched a joint operation at Chandmari locality in Lunglei.

Punjabi actress in row over film shoot inside Sarhind mosque

Chandigarh: Punjabi and Bollywood actress Sonam Bajwa has landed in a religious dispute in Punjab after accusations that a portion of her upcoming film 'Pit Siyappa' was filmed inside a historic mosque in Sarhind, district Fatehgarh Sahib. The allegation was raised by Punjab's Shahi Imam, Maulana Mohammad Usman Ludhianvi, who termed the shooting a direct act of disrespect. Addressing a press conference, the Shahi Imam claimed that the film's team entered the mosque premises, shot scenes without religious sensitivity and even consumed food inside the worship area.

Cop injured in attempt to apprehend robbery suspect in Delhi

New Delhi: A Delhi Police constable on patrol duty was injured when a robbery suspect attacked him with a knife in the Raj Park area of central Delhi, officials said on Monday. The accused, who is alleged to have robbed a rickshaw puller of Rs 500, was arrested. Police stated that this arrest has helped solve one robbery and two theft cases. According to police, the incident took place on November 22, when constable Vikash, on routine patrol, was approached by rickshaw puller Md Kamal — the complainant — who reported that a youth had robbed him near Gaushala Road, Ghode Wali Gali.

# BJP plans high-voltage Modi-Shah campaign in Bengal ahead of 2026 assembly polls

Kolkata (UNI)

Buoyed by its decisive victory in the recent Bihar Assembly elections, the BJP's central leadership is gearing up for an aggressive, high-profile campaign in West Bengal from next month ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, featuring both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah.

According to party sources, the initial plan includes two mega public rallies every month until the Election Commission announces poll dates. One rally will be addressed by the Prime Minister, the other by the Home Minister.

"Once the poll dates are declared, the frequency of these public meetings will increase. Our state president, Samik Bhattacharya, will be in Delhi this week to finalise the tentative dates and venues. The effort will be to choose locations that can si-



multaneously cover more than one district," a senior BJP state committee member told UNI on condition of anonymity.

The party plans to roll out its campaign in phases across the BJP's five organisational zones in West

Bengal.

According to sources in the party, the Bengal unit has already approached the local administration seeking permission to hold a rally in Arambagh, Hooghly district, on either December 13 or 14.

If the Prime Minister's Office clears the proposal, the Arambagh rally will effectively kick-start the BJP's Assembly election campaign.

Amit Shah is expected to visit the state towards the end of December, with a possible Kolkata meeting after December 19 to review organisational preparations and guide the state unit on poll strategy.

Bilding on by back-to-back victories in Odisha (2024) and Bihar (2025), the BJP has sharpened its slogan: "After Odisha in 2024 and Bihar in 2025, it will be Bengal in 2026."

Political observers say the early mobilisation of both Modi and Shah underscores that the slogan is not mere rhetoric but a reflection of how seriously the central leadership views the Bengal battle. Alongside physical rallies, the BJP's Bengal unit is also placing significant emphasis on digital mobilisation.

## DKS & I bound by high command on leadership issue: CM

Chikkaballapur (Shidlaghatta) (UNI)

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday made it clear that both he and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar are bound by whatever decision the Congress high command takes on the issue of power sharing in Karnataka.

Responding to media questions on whether the leadership change formula would come into effect mid-term, Siddaramaiah said, "whatever the high command decides, both DK Shivakumar and I must accept. When the high command met five months ago, they had suggested a cabinet reshuffle. I had said we could take it up after completing two and a half years. Now we will go by whatever instructions they give."

Turning to the BJP's criticism of the government's finances, the Chief



Minister attacked the opposition for spreading "baseless lies".

"The BJP says the government has no money. If that is so, can develop-

ment works worth 2,000 crore rupees be carried out without funds?" he asked.

He said development works were underway across all districts of Karnataka, including Chikkaballapur, where he laid foundation stones and inaugurated several projects on Saturday.

"The BJP is engaged in a misinformation campaign. They have nothing to offer except lies — lies are their family deity," he remarked.

Siddaramaiah asserted that the government had honoured its commitments.

"More than one lakh crore rupees have been spent on guarantee schemes. We had said ours is a government that acts as it promises and we have done exactly that," he said.

## Govt prioritises ensuring justice for every person: Keshav Maurya

Lucknow (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya stated on Monday that providing justice to every individual is the government's top priority and no laxity in resolving public issues will be tolerated.

The Deputy CM was listening to the grievances of hundreds of complainants from various districts of the state during the Janta Darshan held at his camp office in Lucknow during which he issued clear directives to the concerned officials for their prompt and effective resolution.

Most of the cases presented before the Deputy CM concerned land disputes, revenue issues, medical as-



sistance, pensions, housing, police-administrative action, electricity, water, roads, education and employment. He directed officials to ensure timely and satisfactory resolution of all cases and, where necessary, to conduct on-site inspections.

Maurya specifically urged that cases of land disputes and illegal encroachments be addressed with utmost seriousness and strict action be taken where necessary.

He said that Janta Darshan is an effective medium for direct communication with the public, bringing out ground realities and enabling realistic solutions to problems.

## Justice Surya Kant's 14-month tenure begins at critical juncture: Kcharge

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hailed Justice Surya Kant's appointment as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on Monday, calling his elevation a pivotal moment for the nation's judiciary.

In a post on X, Kharge said Justice Surya Kant's 14 month tenure begins at "a critical juncture" for the judiciary.

"I am confident that under his leadership, Constitutional values, institutional strength, and public trust in the rule of law will be further reinforced, advancing the promise of justice for every citizen," he wrote.

Justice Surya Kant was administered the oath by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan. He succeeds Justice B.R. Gavai and will serve a tenure till February 9, 2027.

## Jharkhand Minister's 'Lock BLO inside' sparks row; but says he meant to protect BLOs

Ranchi (UNI)

Jharkhand Health Minister Irfa Ansari has triggered a fresh political row with his remarks on the Election Commission's proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. His statement advising people to "lock the BLO inside the house" if a Booth Level Officer (BLO) visits has drawn criticism from several quarters.

Ansari told UNI his warning was aimed at safeguarding vulnerable families who lack essential documents. Ansari said that a large number of Adivasi, Dalit and economically weak households do not possess land papers, Aadhaar cards or other identity documents.



According to him, such communities face the highest risk of exclusion during SIR-related verification. "People in rural areas don't always have documents. If they are called repeatedly and still can't pro-

duce papers, getting their names added back becomes difficult. They may end up cut off from key services," he said.

The Minister also clarified his controversial line on locking BLOs inside a house. He said the comment had been taken out of context and that he was referring to the stress and pressure faced by field officers.

Ansari accused the BJP of using revision exercises in other states to target certain communities. He claimed that in Bihar "65 lakh names were removed and 22 lakh new names were added," raising concerns about identity and citizenship for large groups of people.

## Chili spray attack: Delhi Police arrest 22 protesters at India Gate

New Delhi (UNI)

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested 22 protesters for allegedly assaulting police personnel with chili spray and causing a major traffic disruption at the India Gate circle during a demonstration.

The demonstration was being carried out to highlight poor air quality in the capital. However, a section of the crowd reportedly began shouting slogans in support of slain Naxalite Hidma.

"The protest, which initially gathered to highlight pollution issues in the capital, escalated when a section



of the demonstrators displayed posters in support of the late Naxalite Hidma. The situation intensified as they blocked the road at the India Gate circle," said a police officer.

When the police person-

nel intervened to clear the blockage and disperse the crowd, they were met with resistance.

The protesters allegedly attacked them with chili spray, leading to the subsequent arrests.

## ED conducts raids on online gaming firms

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Bengaluru Zonal Office today stated that it recently conducted search operations at various locations across Bengaluru and Gurugram.

The raids targeted the offices of Nirdesa Networks Pvt. Ltd. (NNPL) and Gameskraft Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (GTPL), as well as the residential premises of their directors and other accused persons.

The ED initiated its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) based on an FIR (first information report) registered by the Karnataka Police.

The FIR alleged that Pocket52, a gaming platform operated by Nirdesa Networks Pvt. Ltd., allegedly committed large-scale fraud through manipulated game outcomes, player collusion, technical glitches, withdrawal restrictions, and a lack of transparency.

## PDUNASS director inaugurates orientation programme for newly promoted EPFO assistant commissioners



For newly promoted EPFO assistant commissioners

New Delhi: Kumar Rohit, Director of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS), today inaugurated a comprehensive three-week Orientation Programme for newly promoted Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners (APFCs) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

Addressing the trainees during the inaugural session, Kumar Rohit encouraged an interactive dialogue, prompting participants to share their expectations for the course. Addressing a query from Pratibha Thukral, APFC (Delhi Central), regarding time and stress management, the Director advised the officers to adopt a systematic, planned, and methodical approach to their new responsibilities.

Responding to comments on compliance by Bigy Vargese, APFC, Rohit highlighted the critical link between compliance and service quality. He noted that in the current digi-

tal era, where information is exchanged instantly via platforms like WhatsApp, organizations must remain highly responsive to customer expectations. He urged the trainees to align their mindset with this service-oriented reality, emphasizing

personal growth through teamwork, coordination, and consistent upskilling. He further advised the veteran officers to embrace a "student mindset" to maximize their learning during the training.

Earlier in the session, Rizwan Ud-

din, RPFC-I & Chief Learning Officer, welcomed the participants, encouraging them to actively engage in the upcoming team-building exercises. Manish Kumar Naiyer, RPFC-II, provided an outline of the course structure.

Despite the average age of the participants being fifty-five years, the cohort displayed remarkable enthusiasm and curiosity, interacting freely with the Director.

As part of the curriculum, the trainees will proceed next week to Rammagar, Uttarakhand, for outbound training. This module will focus on essential leadership skills, including time management, team building, problem-solving, innovation, volunteerism, adaptability, and effective communication.

The inaugural session was also attended by Ojot Kshetrimayum (Fellow, VVGNLI), Ankur Gupta (RPFC-I), Ram Anand (RPFC-I), Harish Yadav (RPFC-I), and other senior officers of the Academy.