

## MUSTREAD

### Nitish donates one month's salary to Chief Minister's relief fund

**Patna:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday donated his one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Kumar handed over the cheque equal to his one month salary to the Officer-in-Charge of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Secretary to the Chief Minister, Anupam Kumar. The Chief Minister appealed to the people of Bihar, those capable sections of society, to contribute generously to the Relief Fund. He said that public support is essential to provide timely help to people affected by natural disasters and other emergencies. Kumar said that donations to the Relief Fund play a vital role in ensuring quick relief and assistance to those in distress during times of crisis.

### Prez Murmu to arrive in TN today on a brief visit

**Chennai:** President Droupadi Murmu will be arriving tomorrow on a brief visit to Tamil Nadu. During her short visit, the President will perform darshan and aarti at the Golden Temple in Vellore, an official release said. She was expected to land in Chennai from where she was likely to reach Vellore by a chopper. She would arrive from Mandya in Karnataka and after offering darshan at the Sripuram Golden Temple she would leave for Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum, Secunderabad, for a winter sojourn.

### Two killed in massive fire breaks out in Dhanbad House

**Dhanbad:** A devastating fire broke out late on Monday night at Chintamani Niwas in Vikas Nagar under the Saraidhela police station area of Dhanbad district, claiming the lives of two people and leaving six others severely injured. The deceased have been identified as 70-year-old Chinta Devi and her 18-year-old grandson Prashant Kumar alias Golu. Police said that Golu had arrived from Patna to his grandmother's house around 15 days ago. According to preliminary information, about 15 people were present in the three-storey house at the time of the incident. Eight people were sleeping on the first floor, three on the second floor and four on the third floor.

### Four killed in SUV crash on Agra-Lucknow Expressway in UP's Unnao

**Unnao:** Four people were killed in a horrific road accident on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway early today morning after the tyre of their SUV burst, causing the vehicle to lose control and crash into the divider. The accident occurred around 5 am near Kilometre Number 241 in the Bangarmau area. The victims were travelling in an SUV from Ghaziabad towards Lucknow when the front tyre reportedly burst at a speed of over 100 kmph. The vehicle went out of control and rammed into the divider, resulting in severe damage to its front portion. The collision led to a loud explosion, drawing the attention of people nearby. Police reached the spot soon after receiving the information and sent the bodies for post-mortem examination.

### Road blockade in Bokaro against murder

**Bokaro:** Protests erupted in Bokaro on Tuesday after the alleged abduction and murder of a resident belonging to the Harla police station area. Agitated locals blocked the road at Naya Mor, disrupting traffic and demanding strict action against those responsible for the crime. Police have so far arrested six suspects following the registration of the case in which the accused were named, police said. Meanwhile, the arrest of Vinod Kumar, one of the arrested, has sparked controversy, with his wife submitting a written application to the district administration claiming that her husband is innocent. She alleged that Vinod has been deliberately implicated in the case under a political conspiracy. Describing him as a social worker, she asserted that he has no involvement in the murder.

# President inaugurates Param Vir Dirgha on Vijay Diwas

**New Delhi (UNI)**

President Droupadi Murmu led the country in paying rich tributes to the bravehearts whose courage and sacrifice ensured India's historic victory in the 1971 war against Pakistan and also led to the formation of Bangladesh.

On the occasion, the President inaugurated the Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan, showcasing portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, the highest gallantry honour.

The aim is to educate visitors about the national heroes who displayed an unconquerable spirit in defending the nation.

The President also felicitated PVC awardees and next-of-kin on the occasion.

In a post on X, Murmu paid tributes to the bravehearts, whose val-



our, devotion and patriotism have always brought glory to the nation, and will continue to inspire every citizen.

“On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, I pay my humble respects to the brave

sons of Mother India. Their courage, valour and unparalleled devotion to the motherland have always filled the nation with pride. Their heroism and patriotism will continue to inspire the people of the country.”

## Defence Estates Organisation marks 100 years

**New Delhi (UNI)**

Highlighting the pivotal role of defence land management in strengthening the country's security architecture, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday underscored that defence estates form the very foundation of India's defence mechanism, with over 17 lakh acres of strategically vital land under their stewardship.

Addressing the Defence Estates Day-2025 celebrations, held at the Chanakya Auditorium, Raksha Sampada Bhawan, in the national Capital, the Defence Minister lauded the Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) for successfully balancing tradition with modernisation, embracing technology-driven reforms, transparent administration and digital transformation while preserving its institutional legacy.

### Rajnath highlights digital push



“The scope of our defence estates today is wide. The importance can be understood from the fact that you manage more than 17 lakh acres of defence land. This is not a simple responsibility. This is a huge responsi-

## National Herald case: Judiciary again exposes BJP govt's misue against Oppn leaders: Stalin

**Chennai (UNI)**

Welcoming the Supreme Court refusing to take cognisance of ED's FIR/Chargesheet on moneylaundering charges against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin today said the judiciary has once again exposed the BJP government at the Centre's misuse of central agencies totarget Opposition leaders.

He said the acts of vendetta by the union BJP government is tarnishing the credibility of premier investigative institutions and reducing them to just being instruments of political intimidation.

Even as the stand of Ms Sonia and Mr Rahul stood vindicated, the BJP



remained hell bent on hounding the Gandhi family for standing firm on secularism and constitutional values which it could not tolerate. Mr Stalin said, slamming the saffron party for its act of indulging in vendetta politics.

Writing on X, the Chief Minister, whose party DMK was a key partner in

the Opposition Congress-led INDIA Bloc at the National level and heading the Secular Progressive Alliance in Tamil Nadu in which the National party was a major partner, said “in the National Herald case, the judiciary has once again exposed the union BJP government's misuse of central agencies to target opposition leaders.”

“Without any legal basis, such cases are pushed only to harass and malign political rivals”, he charged. “With truth on their side and no fear, CPP Chairperson Respected Tmt. Sonia Gandhi and Hon'ble LoP, my brother Thiru. @RahulGandhi stand vindicated, even as the BJP remains hell bent on hounding the Gandhi family for standing firm on secularism and constitutional values which it cannot tolerate”, Mr Stalin said in the post.

## 12 detained as CIK conducts valley-wide raids in terror network case



**Srinagar (UNI)**

Jammu and Kashmir Police's Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Tuesday detained 12 suspects for questioning during the raids that were conducted at multiple locations across the Kashmir Valley in connection with a terror-related case, officials said.

The searches targeted a suspected

terror-support network allegedly operating under the guise of social activism.

Police said searches were carried out at 12 locations across seven districts- Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara, Budgam and Shopian- after search warrants were obtained in case registered in 2023 under Sections 153-A and 505 IPC, and Sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Police Station CIK.

According to police, the case stems from credible intelligence inputs indicating that certain individuals in Jammu & Kashmir were exploiting platforms linked to mass media, social media, human rights advocacy, environmental causes and women empowerment as a cover to carry out activities gravely prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and security of India.

## J&K leaders seek apology, resignation of Bihar CM

### After Hijab incident

**Srinagar (UNI)**

Political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday demanded an apology from Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and asked him to quit after a video surfaced allegedly showing him pulling down the hijab of a Muslim woman during a government function.

In a post on X, former Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti questioned whether the act reflected age-related behaviour or the growing normalisation of publicly humiliating Muslims

“Having personally known & admired Nitish ji I was shocked to see him pull down a young Muslim woman's nagaab. Does one attribute it to old age or the normalisation of humiliating Muslims publicly? The



fact that people around him watched this horrific incident unfold as some form of entertainment is even more unsettling. Nitish Sahab perhaps it's time you step down?,” she said.

Lok Sabha member and Nation-

al Conference leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi said the conduct displayed by the Bihar Chief Minister, publicly pulling a Muslim woman's burqa, is indefensible and deeply disturbing.

## Row over symbolic ‘purification ritual’ carried out by IUML workers

**Kozhikode (UNI)**

A symbolic “purification ritual” carried out by Indian union Muslim League (IUML) workers at the Changaroth gram panchayat office after the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) wrested control from the CPI(M)- led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has sparked a controversy over alleged caste discrimination, on Tuesday.

IUML workers, part of the UDF, cleaned the panchayat premises on December 13 by brooming and spraying dung water, after winning 17 of the 20 wards in the recent local body elections. The visuals showing party flags during the act, went viral on social media on Tuesday.

The LDF won one ward, while the remaining two were secured by the Welfare Party of India (WPI). The swearing-in ceremony of the new panchayat president is scheduled on December 21. The incident drew protests from DYFI, the youth wing of the CPI(M), and the Pattikajathi

Kshema Samithi (PKS), who organized separate marches to the panchayat office alleging caste discrimination.

Protesters claimed that dung mixed water was sprayed as part of “purification ritual”, insulting former panchayat president Unni Vengeri, who belongs to the Schedule Caste (SC) community. Police stopped the protestors at the gate.

DYFI leaders alleged that such rituals were not conducted in any other panchayats, including nearby Perambra and Chakkitupara, where the UDF had earlier taken control from the LDF. They claimed the act targeted a Dalit leader and reflected an upper-caste feudal mindset. DYFI and PKS demanded strict legal actions against the IUML workers.

Responding to the allegations, IUML Changaroth unit President A Nazir said the cleaning was symbolic and aimed at “sweeping away corruption”, from the LDF administration, not at any individual or community.

### Four killed, 3 hurt in multiple vehicle collision in TN Ghat road

**Chennai:** In a tragic accident, four people were killed and three others suffered serious injuries when a speeding cattle fodder laden lorry collided with multiple vehicles on the Thoppur Ghat Road in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu today.

Police said the ill-fated lorry was heading for Namakkal district from Maharashtra when the accident occurred after the driver lost control of the vehicle and collided with atleast four vehicles on the accident-prone Ghat road.

The lorry first collided with a bike and then hit a parcel van and car and another van killing four people, including the lorry driver, on the spot.

The deceased included a brother and his sister, who were travelling in a motorbike.

## Keshav Maurya slams SP, dismisses PDA model claim

**Lucknow (UNI)**

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party and its national president Akhilesh Yadav.

He said that the so-called PDA (Backward, Dalit, Minority) model being promoted by the Samajwadi Party neither exists on the ground nor has any credible acceptance among the public. It is merely an attempt to spread political confusion, which the public has already rejected.

In a post on his social media account on Tuesday, Maurya said



that the Samajwadi Party has still not broken free from its old character.

“In the name of workers, the SP has the same gang of thugs, mafia, and criminals who, while in power, disrupted law and order in the state.

The public has not forgotten the lawlessness and insecurity of that period, and this is why the SP has been repeatedly rejected in elections,” he added.

Maurya said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has won the public's trust through development, good governance, and strong law and order.

## Another firm booked in UP's Rampur for illegal sale of codeine syrup

**Rampur (UNI)**

One more firm in the city has come under the scanner for the illegal sale of codeine-based cough syrup. Legal action is set to be initiated after the firm failed to provide records of the purchase and sale of the syrup. The Drug Inspector has submitted a complaint at the City Kotwali police station, sources said on Tuesday.

The state government has taken a tough stand against firms involved in the illegal trade of codeine-based syrup. Across Uttar Pradesh, as many as 298 firms have been found involved in the illegal purchase and sale of codeine syrup. Around half-a-dozen of these firms are from Rampur district and are currently under investigation by the Drugs Department.

Information about these firms was received from Ghaziabad, where Drugs Department officials conducted raids at several wholesale traders. During the raids, it was revealed that a large quantity of codeine syrup had been purchased from Ghaziabad by about six firms from Rampur, but no sales records were maintained by them.

Notices were issued to all firms seeking explanations. Drug Inspector Mukesh Kumar said that a notice was also sent to Lata Pharmaceutical, located in Rajdwara locality of the city. The firm failed to submit records related to the purchase and sale of codeine-based syrup. The proprietor of the firm is Harsh Agrawal. Following this, a complaint has been filed at City Kotwali for legal action.

### Hoax bomb threat at Bhatkal tahsildar's office

**Bhatkal:** A hoax bomb threat sent via email to the Bhatkal Tahsildar's office triggered panic on Tuesday morning, prompting authorities to tighten security and deploy specialised squads to ensure public safety.

The threatening email, received around 7:25 am from the address 'gaina [ramesh@outlook.com](mailto:ramesh@outlook.com)', claimed in Kannada: “Revenge of Tamils and Pakistanis: A powerful bomb will soon explode in the Tahsildar's office. Evacuate everyone quickly.” This led to immediate activation of emergency protocols by the local administration.

Police personnel were deployed around the office, and surrounding areas were secured as a precaution. Bomb disposal and canine squads were called in to inspect the premises and confirm there was no real threat.