

MUSTREAD

PM Modi pays tribute to MGR on his birth anniversary

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday paid homage to the legendary actor and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MGR, on his Jayanti. "Paying homage to the exceptional MGR on his 'Jayanti'. His contribution to Tamil Nadu's progress is outstanding. Equally noteworthy is his role in popularising Tamil culture," Modi said in a post on handle X. The Prime Minister also highlighted MGR's vision for society, saying, "We will always keep working to realise his vision for our society."

Banke Bihari Temple Corridor gets first property registry

Mathura: A significant breakthrough has been achieved in the construction of the Thakur Banke Bihari Temple Corridor in Vrindavan with the completion of the first property registry for the project in the name of Lord Banke Bihari. The registry was completed following the efforts of the High-Powered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court. The district administration has clarified that those whose land or shops are being acquired for the corridor construction will receive compensation at rates better than the market rate.

One child dies, three injured in cylinder leak fire

Firozabad: A fire caused by a suspected LPG cylinder leak left four children seriously injured, one of whom later died, in the Dakshin police station area of Firozabad city, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred on Friday night in Malviya Nagar locality when the children were cooking food at home. According to police, the parents were not present at the time. The children's mother had recently undergone surgery and was admitted to the district hospital, where the father, Dharmendra Kumar, was staying to look after her.

Major mishap averted as hot air balloon makes emergency landing

Hyderabad: A major accident was averted here on Saturday during the hot air balloon festival in Hyderabad when a balloon carrying three passengers was forced to make an emergency landing near Ibrahim Bagh Lake following a technical snag. According to organisers, the balloon, which took off from Golconda Golf Club as part of Sankranti celebrations, developed a technical glitch mid-air, leading to a gradual loss of air pressure. The pilot successfully steered the balloon to a muddy patch close to the lake and executed a safe emergency landing despite challenging terrain.

Parliamentary delegation of Commonwealth nations visits Jaipur

Jaipur: A Parliamentary delegation of the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth nations (CSPOC) arrived on a sight-seeing visit to the Pink City Saturday. Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani welcomed the foreign delegates at the airport in traditional royal Rajasthan hospitality. Assembly Principal Secretary Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Principal Secretary (GAD) Navin Jain and the Jaipur Collector Dr Jitendra Soni were present. Speaker Devnani said "we intend to provide the delegates with glimpses of the history, legacy, heritage, art and culture of our glorious past, which has been preserved at various tourism monuments."

AIMIM rules out tie-up with BJP-NDA in Maharashtra

Hyderabad: AIMIM President and Hyderabad MP, Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday categorically ruled out any political alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Maharashtra, signalling the party's intent to chart an independent political course in the state. The statement comes on the back of AIMIM's significant gains in the Maharashtra municipal corporation elections held on January 15, where the party secured 125 wards across key urban centres.

PM Modi inaugurates, lays foundation of Rs 3,250 crore rail & road projects in Malda

Kolkata (UNI)

Months before the crucial assembly polls in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,250 crore in Malda on Saturday, aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating development in West Bengal and the North-Eastern region.

Addressing a public gathering after the inauguration, Modi said the process of development had been accelerated from Malda with the launch of new rail services that would not only benefit people but also boost business.

Referring to the introduction of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train, he said it marked the beginning of a new era of comfortable overnight travel in the country.



"This is the beginning of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train. People I spoke to inside the train said they were feeling comfortable. We are creating world-class comfort in Indian Railways," the Prime Minister said.

Calling it a "Made in India" train, Modi said it symbolically connected the land of Maa Kali with Maa Kamakhya through improved rail connectivity.

He said West Bengal had also received three more Amrit Bharat Express trains and added that Indian Railways was becoming modern and self-reliant by manufacturing its own trains and coaches, thereby strengthening the economy.

"Connectivity is our mission. Our aim is to bring India together," he said.

During the programme, the Prime Minister flagged off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya) from Malda Town Railway Station and also virtually flagged off the return service from Guwahati.

The fully air-conditioned sleeper train significantly reduces travel time on the route and is expected to boost religious travel and tourism between eastern India and the Northeast.

Suspend EC and order probe into poll irregularities: Uddhav Thackeray

Mumbai (UNI)

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) chief Uddhav Thackeray today demanded the immediate suspension of the Election Commissioner and a thorough investigation into alleged large-scale irregularities in the municipal corporation elections.

Addressing a press conference, Thackeray claimed that this was one of the most controversial elections, marked by widespread malpractices in both the election and voting processes.

He alleged that the ruling dispensation had resorted to intimidation, distribution of money, and pressure tactics against candidates during the elections. Thackeray also pointed to serious irregularities such as discrepancies in voter lists, manipulation of voting machines, removal of indelible ink from voters' fingers after polling, and instances of double voting.



According to Thackeray, the Election Commission was "complicit" in these alleged malpractices and acted in favour of those in power. At any cost, there is an attempt to win elections through such irregularities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insistence on 'One Nation, One Election' raises serious doubts in this context, he said.

He further stated that while the Constitution grants citizens the right and duty to vote, the Election Commission was creating conditions that prevented voters from exercising this right. Calling such actions unconstitutional, Thackeray demanded an impartial and in-depth inquiry into the functioning of the Election Commission.

Second tourist's body recovered from Sela Lake

Itanagar: The body of the second tourist, identified as Mahadev M (24) from Kerala, was recovered on Saturday near the accident site at Sela Lake in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Confirming the recovery, Tawang district Superintendent of Police DW Thungon said the body was located following an intensive joint search operation carried out by the Indian Army, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Arunachal Pradesh Police.

Officials informed that four trained divers from SDRF Bomdila and the Indian Army were deployed for the operation.

Poor underwater visibility in the frozen high-altitude lake initially hampered the search, delaying the recovery.

CJI visits Baba Vishwanath temple

Varanasi (UNI)

Supreme Court Chief Justice Surya Kant arrived in Kashi on January 16 evening for a two-day visit.

He offered prayers at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple and witnessed the world-famous Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat from a cruise on Friday late evening.

Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with his wife Savita Vashisht and several other judges, participated in the daily Ganga Aarti organized by the Ganga Seva Nidhi at Dashashwamedh Ghat, watching the ceremony from a cruise. He was mesmerized by the Aarti.

Five other Supreme Court judges and 16



judges from the Allahabad High Court are also accompanying the Chief Justice on this visit.

All the judges are staying at the Taj Hotel, Nadesar Palace. Several other

judges, including the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Arun Bhansali, are also staying there.

A route diversion plan has been issued for various

routes in view of the VIP movement. On Saturday, the Chief Justice will lay the foundation stone for the construction of district and sessions court buildings in six districts, including Chandauli.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will arrive at Babatpur Airport at 9:30 am on Saturday. From there, he will leave directly for Chandauli to attend the Chief Justice's program.

At 12:30 pm, he will return to the Circuit House and hold an important meeting regarding law and order and development works.

Abhishek accuses BJP of 'Voter Deletion' plot



New Delhi (UNI)

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the BJP, accusing it of attempting to subvert democracy in Paschim Medinipur by deleting legitimate voters and spreading "fear and intimidation" ahead of the next Assembly elections, while invoking the district's long history of political resistance.

In a strongly worded post on his WhatsApp channel following a mass rally, Banerjee framed Paschim Medinipur as a land that has repeatedly risen against oppression — from the anti-colonial struggle to the political churn of 2011, when the TMC ended 34 years of Left Front rule in West Bengal.

"Defying the iron grip of the British Empire, the soil of undivided Midnapore once roared in resistance against tyranny, exploitation and injustice," Banerjee wrote. "Carrying forward that same legacy, the people of Paschim Medinipur stood at the forefront in 2011 to restore democracy."

Addressing the media, Mann said

In response to the statement by Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said on Saturday that the BJP government in Delhi is free to demand a CBI probe into the issue of the forensic report over the alleged remarks by AAP leader Atishi in the Delhi Assembly.

Mann pointed out that forensic investigation has already established that Delhi Assembly Leader of Opposition (LoP) Atishi did not say anything such which insults the Sikh gurus. He accused the BJP of adding subtitles to the video, which, he said, was the real insult.

Addressing the media, Mann said



"The forensic report has come, and the court has also made its position clear. But if the BJP believes that the CBI is above even the forensic laboratory, then it should go ahead and

Congress begins strategic planning to ensure victory in Assam Elections

Ranchi (UNI)

With the objective of ensuring the Congress party's victory in the upcoming Assam Assembly elections, the process of formulating an electoral strategy has begun.

The party has entrusted a key responsibility to Jharkhand Congress Working President Bandhu Tirkey, appointing him as Senior Observer for the Assam elections.

In this connection, Bandhu Tirkey is currently on a visit to New Delhi. On Saturday, he held a detailed meeting with Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal to discuss strategies for the Assam polls.

Speaking after the meeting, Tirkey stated that the Congress is fully prepared to enter the electoral battle in Assam with complete strength and



determination.

He said that the party has devised its strategy after carefully assessing the social, political, and geographical dynamics of each Assembly constituency in the state. K.C. Venugopal offered several important sugges-

Dense fog triggers deadly road accidents across UP; 5 dead, over 50 injured

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh experienced the densest fog of the season on Saturday, resulting in extremely poor visibility and a series of devastating road accidents across the state.

Conditions were so bad that even vehicle headlights were barely visible on roads. So far, more than 40 vehicles have collided in at least 12 districts, including Meerut, Fatehpur, and Barabanki. The accidents have claimed five lives, including a one-and-a-half-year-old girl, and left over 50 people injured.

In the Barabanki district, a major accident occurred early Saturday morning in the Badosearai town area under Sirauli Gauspur tehsil. On the Ramnagar-Tikaitnagar road, a speeding pickup vehicle collided head-on with an unidentified vehicle due to dense fog.

The impact was so severe that the front portion of the pickup, including its front wheel, was completely damaged.

Fresh unrest in Beldanga as protests resume for second day

Kolkata (UNI)

Beldanga in Murshidabad district witnessed fresh unrest on Saturday, a day after violent protests over the death of a migrant labourer brought the area to a standstill, with demonstrators again blocking roads and disrupting rail services.

On Saturday afternoon, hundreds of protesters blocked Baruya More in Beldanga, bringing traffic on National Highway 12 to a halt. The fresh agitation was triggered by allegations that another migrant labourer from the district had been assaulted in Bihar.

This came a day after at least 12 media personnel were injured. Tensions escalated further on Saturday morning when protesters allegedly vandalised a rail gate near Beldanga station and damaged a



railway signal close to the station premises.

As a result, train services in the area were disrupted for the second consecutive day. Eastern Railway General Manager Milind K Deoukar said additional Railway Protection Force and Rapid Action Special Force personnel were being deployed to bring the situation under control.

Rewari farmer Yashpal Kholaa to be the president's guest on Republic Day

Chandigarh: Yashpal Kholaa, a progressive farmer from Kanwali village in Rewari district (Haryana), will spend three days as a guest of President Droupadi Murmu after being selected for national recognition on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day. He is among six farmers from across the country chosen for the honour in recognition of their contribution to sustainable and natural farming practices.

An official invitation has been issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan, confirming that Kholaa will travel to New Delhi on January 25 along with his wife, Anita Kumari, and return on January 28. Arrangements for his stay at the President's House will be made by the government, while the invitees are required to report at ICAR, Delhi, before being escorted to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

ED intensifies probe in high-profile Codeine cough syrup case

Lucknow (UNI)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stepped up its investigation in the high-profile codeine cough syrup case in Uttar Pradesh. As part of the probe, ED officials have questioned family members of former STF constable Alok Singh.

According to sources, Alok Singh constructed a luxurious bungalow in Swastik City, Lucknow, valued at nearly Rs 10 crore. He is also believed to own several other properties. Notably, Alok did not take any bank loan to build the bungalow, raising serious questions about the source of funds. Alok Singh was dismissed from the Uttar Pradesh Police a few years ago.

In connection with the case, the STF has already arrested Amit Singh,



a close associate of Alok Singh and of Shubham Jaiswal, who is alleged to be the mastermind of the codeine cough syrup racket. Sources claim that both Alok Singh and Amit Singh are not cooperating with the ED. The agency is trying to trace the sources of its income to take the investigation forward.