

**MUSTREAD**

**Two killed as vehicle of alleged cattle smugglers overturns**

Deoria (UP): Two persons, including a woman, were killed and another seriously injured after a four-wheeler allegedly carrying cattle smugglers overturned while evading the police in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh late Friday night. Police sources said the incident occurred near Rampur Chauraha in the Gauri Bazar area when an out-of-control vehicle overturned. The injured person has been admitted to the medical college, where doctors described his condition as critical. The identities of the deceased and the injured had not been established.

**Wife of retired Punjab Police sub-inspector shot dead**

Chandigarh: In a chilling incident, the wife of a retired Punjab Police sub-inspector was brutally murdered in the Garhshankar area of Hoshiarpur early Saturday morning, police said. The victim, identified as 62-year-old Rachna Devi, was shot multiple times while returning home from a shrine. The incident occurred around 5am when the deceased, a resident of Mahadwani village, was heading back on foot after offering prayers at a local religious hutment (Kutiya), a part of her daily routine. According to eyewitnesses and family members, two unidentified assailants intercepted her at a secluded stretch under the cover of darkness.

**Jewellery shop looted of Rs 25 lakh in Ranchi**

Ranchi: A group of armed robbers struck a jewellery shop in Barkagaon's main square, Hazaribag district, on Saturday, taking gold and silver ornaments worth an estimated Rs 22-25 lakh, local police said. According to eyewitnesses, the masked assailants stormed the shop, swiftly grabbing the precious items before fleeing the premises on an Apache motorcycle. In a shocking turn of events during their escape, two of the perpetrators opened fire on bystanders. A local youth, identified as Sudhir Soni, was injured in the shooting; the assailants reportedly fired four to five rounds, sending shoppers and shopkeepers scattering in panic through the bustling marketplace.

**39 passengers have miraculous escape as bus catches fire**

Vijayawada: As many as 39 passengers had a miraculous escape when the bus they were in caught fire at Keesara village of Nandigama mandal, about 40 km from here, on Saturday. Police said the bus was coming to Vijayawada from Hyderabad with 39 passengers on board, when flames erupted in the bus engine. The bus driver alerted the bus passengers who alighted immediately. Within minutes, the flames engulfed the bus. The bus was completely gutted in the flames.

**83 acres of illegal poppy plantation destroyed**

Imphal: A combined team of security forces and the forest department, along with the Executive Magistrate, destroyed 3 acres of illegal poppy plantation at Lakhamai hills under Phai-bung-PS, Senapati district on Friday. Three huts found at the plantation sites were burnt and destroyed. Meanwhile, the security forces arrested an active PREPAK cadre, Sapam Barlin Singh alias Nongthang (22), of Thangmeiband Khomdrang Selungba Leikai, Imphal West district, from Porompat Ayangpalli Road near the JNIMS main gate under Porompat-PS, Imphal East district.

**Four Indian girls rescued from Oman**

Chandigarh: Four Indian girls, three from Punjab and one from Kerala, trapped in human trafficking networks in Oman have safely returned to India. Their repatriation was made possible through persistent efforts of Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Embassy in Oman. One of the survivors visited Nirmal Kutia in Sultanpur Lodhi on Saturday to express her gratitude to Sant Seechewal.

**Tribal harmony with nature holds lessons for the nation: President**

Jagdalpur (UNI)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said the tribal way of life, rooted in collective living and harmony with nature, offers enduring lessons for the entire country. She was speaking at the inauguration of Bastar Pandum 2026, a three day tribal cultural festival, at Lalbagh Ground in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.

Starting her address with 'Jai Johar' and paying homage to Maa Danteshwari, the President underlined the need to preserve tribal identity, culture and education. She said indigenous traditions reflect deep wisdom and remain relevant in modern times. "Whenever I come to Chhattisgarh, it feels like coming home," she said, describing the warmth of the people as an invaluable gift.

The President noted that Chhattisgarh has often been viewed through a narrow lens, despite its abundant natural resources and rich cultural heritage. "This land is beautiful. It feels as though Maa Danteshwari herself has shaped it. Tribal society is precious. What is old is sweet, and these traditions teach us the essence of life," she said.



Highlighting the tribal community's collective ethos, President Murmu said the nation has much to learn from a society that lives in balance with nature rather than exploiting it. She observed that this philosophy has become even more relevant amid present day environmental challenges.

Referring to the challenge of Left wing extremism, the President described Chhattisgarh as a land of courage and sacrifice. Paying tribute to those who laid down their lives for the nation, she appealed to those who have surrendered to place faith in the Constitution and democratic institutions. "I have been informed that many have returned to the mainstream. I urge them to trust democracy and the Constitution. The government will ensure their full rehabilitation through welfare measures," she said.

**Farmers, Congress workers disrupt Union Minister's programme in Varanasi**

Varanasi (UNI)

Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan faced a protest at Circuit House as farmers and Congress workers raised slogans over land acquisition. The protest took place when the minister was to address a press conference on the union Budget.

Some farmers, along with local Congress leaders and workers, also arrived at the venue. The farmers strongly protested against the proposed land acquisition under the Kashi Dwar scheme. Upon seeing the protest, police forces also arrived at the scene and controlled the situation.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Nitin Taneja said that the minister's press conference was underway



when some people, accompanied by Vaibhav Tripathi, arrived and suddenly started protesting.

"Their protest was not conducted in a proper manner. Everyone was immediately removed from the

premises. Some people were protesting against the Kashi Dwar scheme. Appropriate action will be taken if a complaint is filed," Taneja said.

Under the Kashi Dwar scheme, several acres of land in about 10 villages in the Pindra area are to be acquired. Farmers have been protesting against the scheme for a long time. Survey work has already been completed in some villages.

On Saturday, the farmers surrounded the union Minister.

Explaining the Budget features, the union Minister said the Budget is a strong and decisive step towards realizing the vision of a 'developed India' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the Budget focuses on the poor, farmers, youth, women, and the middle class.

**NCP candidate's husband injured in attack in Pune**

Pune: Amid elections for Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti on Saturday, the husband of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) official candidate Sunita Butte was critically injured in an attack by unidentified assailants at Ambethan Pait in Khed taluka.

Sharad Butte Patil sustained serious injuries and was immediately rushed to Balaji Hospital at Vasuli Phata, where he is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU). Sharad Butte Patil, a former Zilla Parishad member and former group leader, had switched sides from BJP to NCP in the presence of late Ajit Pawar.

According to preliminary information, Sharad Butte was out on personal work when a group of attackers suddenly assaulted him. Local citizens promptly shifted him to the hospital.

**Pappu Yadav sent to judicial custody, shifted to hospital**

Patna (UNI)

The special court constituted to hear criminal cases against MPs and MLAs on Saturday sent independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav to judicial custody in over a three-decade-old case related to allegedly taking a house on rent through fraud and issuing threats.

Special Judge Praveen Kumar Malviya ordered Yadav be sent to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for treatment.

Patna Police had produced Yadav before the special court after executing a warrant and an attachment order issued by the court. Following his arrest and deterioration in health, police had admitted him to PMCH from where he was brought to the court for production.

After hearing the matter, the court remanded Yadav in judicial custody and directed to send him back to PMCH for medical treatment.



The case dates back to 1995. According to the allegations, a person named Shailendra Prasad had rented a house from the complainant, but it later emerged that the premises had allegedly been taken by Yadav through fraudulent means to run his office.

The complainant had lodged an FIR at Gardanibagh police station in this connection.

**BJP Chief Nitin Nabin kicks off election campaign in Thrissur**

Thrissur (UNI)

Virtually kicking off BJP's election campaign in Kerala, party president Nitin Nabin on Saturday painted a lotus, the party's election symbol, on the wall of a polling booth at Ollukkara near Thrissur. Party leaders described the gesture as deliberate and symbolic, signalling the formal commencement of the BJP's ground-level campaigning in Kerala.

The elections for the 140-member Kerala Assembly are due in a few months.

Thrissur, where the party has been attempting to expand its electoral footprint, was carefully chosen to underline that intent. In 2024, Thrissur gave a shocking win to the film star-turned politician Suresh Gopi, who became the first Lok Sabha

**Six killed as speeding container runs over passengers on Yamuna Expressway in Mathura**

Mathura: At least six passengers were killed and one critically injured after a speeding container truck ran over them on the Yamuna Expressway in Mathura early Saturday morning. The accident occurred around 2:45 am near milestone 88 in the Surir police station area. According to officials, the bus was traveling from Noida to Farrukhabad when some passengers asked the driver to stop for a bathroom break. Instead of stopping at a designated green zone, the driver halted the bus on the roadside.

Several passengers got off the bus and were standing near the bus when a high-speed container approaching from behind ran over them. The deceased have been identified as Sonu, a resident of Sarwa Katra in Auraiya; Devesh from Alawal in Basti; Aslam from Ganesh Ka Purwa in Kannauj; and Santosh from Prem Nagar in Delhi.



winner in Kerala from the BJP.

Nabin's Kerala visit has also been marked by intense organisational engagement. This was his first visit to Thrissur after taking charge as BJP's national president. Today, on the second day of his visit to Kerala, Nabin visited the birthplace of philosopher Adi Sankara, where he offered prayers at the temple.

**UPSC extends call centre operations to support aspirants**

New Delhi: The union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced an extension of the operational hours of its call centre to provide enhanced guidance and support to candidates, ensuring greater convenience during the ongoing application process for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2026 and the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) Examination 2026.

The call centre will now operate daily, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, in two shifts from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, allowing aspirants to access assistance beyond standard working hours. Additionally, the call centre's capacity has been doubled to reduce waiting times for applicants seeking guidance on application procedures or examination-related queries.

**Time will give the answer**

Dy CM Shivakumar on leadership change



Mangaluru (UNI)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President DK Shivakumar, addressing speculations about his Chief Ministerial ambitions, said on Saturday that while legislators and the public may have aspirations, "we have to listen to what the party says."

Speaking to reporters here, Shivakumar said, "People have dreams, MLAs have dreams, and even you (media) have dreams. We have to listen to what the party says." On the possibility of a power-sharing arrangement after the State Budget, he added, "Time will give the answer."

Asked about Dalit organisations supporting Home Minister G Parameshwara for the top post, Shivakumar responded, "Supporters will have their own aspirations. I cannot say no to that, and there is nothing wrong with it."

The leadership debate in Karnataka was reignited after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah stated that demands for a change at the helm have not been accepted by the central leadership and that his father will complete a full five-year term.

**Brotherhood beyond rank: Army Chief reconnects with retired soldier in border village**

New Delhi (UNI)

What began as an official review of operational preparedness in the forward areas of Poonch district turned into a deeply moving reunion on Saturday, as Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi met a former soldier who once served under his command more than two decades ago.

Amid snow-dusted ridgelines and tense border deployments, the Army Chief's visit carried a rare personal moment when he stopped at Kamsar village to meet Subedar (Honorary Captain) Parvez Ahmed (Retired) of 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles. The two soldiers shared more than a handshake; they exchanged memories forged in uniform more than two decades ago.

General Dwivedi had commanded the battalion between 2002 and 2005, a period during which Sub Parvez Ahmed served alongside him. Their reunion, marked by warm smiles and quiet conversation, reflected the enduring brotherhood



ed the battalion between 2002 and 2005, a period during which Sub Parvez Ahmed served alongside him. Their reunion, marked by warm smiles and quiet conversation, reflected the enduring brotherhood

that outlasts service years and ranks.

Now retired, Sub Parvez Ahmed's journey in olive green began in March 1991 and spanned 25 years until his retirement in March 2019. His career saw him serve in both operational deployments and instructional roles, where he trained younger soldiers, while also excelling in specialised military courses that earned him recognition over the years. For the people of Kamsar, however, his service did not end with retirement.

During Operation Sindoor, when tensions in the region escalated, the veteran once again stepped forward. Drawing on his deep knowledge of the terrain and close ties with local communities, he quietly supported deployed troops, helping with logistics and coordination at personal risk.

**ICG intercepts three vessels, foils major mid-sea oil smuggling network**

New Delhi (UNI)

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) busted an international oil smuggling racket through a planned sea-air coordinated operation. The operation dismantled an intricate network involved in the illicit transfer of large volumes of oil and oil-based cargo originating from conflict-ridden regions.

In a statement issued here today, the Ministry of Defence stated that on 5 February, three suspect vessels were intercepted by Indian Coast Guard ships approximately 100 nautical miles west off Mumbai. Sustained rummaging of the vessels, corroboration of electronic data recovered onboard, verification of documents, and detailed interrogation of crew members enabled the ICG specialist boarding teams to



establish the complete chain of events and confirm the criminal modus operandi.

The smuggling syndicate employed a modus operandi wherein cheap oil was transported by seagoing vessels and transferred mid-sea to motor tankers in international

waters. Initial investigations revealed that the syndicate comprised handlers operating across multiple countries, coordinating the sale and transfer of cargo between vessels at sea.

The operation was initiated following detection by ICG's technolo-

gy-enabled surveillance systems, which identified a motor tanker engaged in suspicious activity within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

A subsequent digital investigation and data pattern analysis of vessel movements led to the identification of two additional vessels converging on the tanker, suspected to be involved in illicit ship-to-ship transfer of oil-based cargo, thereby evading substantial duties owed to coastal states, including India.

On confirmation of digital evidence through physical boarding, all three vessels were apprehended. Preliminary findings indicate that the vessels frequently changed their identities to evade detection by maritime law enforcement agencies.

**SIT questions UDF convenor Adoor Prakash in Sabarimala gold theft case**

Thiruvananthapuram: In connection with the Sabarimala gold theft case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday questioned United Democratic Front (UDF) convenor and Congress MP Adoor Prakash at the Crime Branch headquarters, the Kerala Police said.

Earlier on Friday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a summons to Unnikrishnan Potti for detailed interrogation on Friday regarding the Sabarimala gold theft case, in which he is the main accused.

Potti was released on Thursday after the Kollam Vigilance Court granted him statutory bail in the case being probed by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).