

MUSTREAD

Ranchi Civil Court receives fresh bomb threat

Ranchi: Ranchi Civil Court on Saturday received a fresh bomb threat through email, prompting heightened security and a search operation across the premises. Police sources said the email warned that the court complex would be blown up using RDX. The threat is being treated seriously, especially as a similar email was received on Feb 6. Ranchi Police launched a verification process and began a comprehensive search of the court complex. The Bomb Disposal Squad and dog squad were deployed. The main entrance gate on the Collectorate side was temporarily closed as a precaution. Senior police and district administration officials monitored the situation.

Gas leak, fire reported at BCCL mine in Dhanbad

Dhanbad: Fire and an alleged gas leak at a coal mine under Bharat Coking Coal Limited triggered panic in Tetulmari area of Dhanbad district on Saturday, affecting local residents and leading to a road blockade. The incident occurred at the Bhumi outsourcing mine under BCCL Area 04 within Tetulmari police station limits in Bagmara subdivision. Thick smoke and flames were reported from the site. Local residents alleged that gas was leaking from the mine into nearby habitations. Some people complained of breathing difficulty and eye irritation. Protesting against alleged negligence by BCCL authorities, villagers blocked the Sijua Dhanbad main road, disrupting traffic for several hours.

Banned satellite phone recovered from Swiss passenger

Varanasi: CISF personnel recovered a banned satellite phone from a foreign passenger's bag in the security hold area at Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport here on Saturday. The airport administration and CISF immediately informed the police. The foreign national has been identified as Andre Cyril Neuwenswander (34), a resident of Switzerland. According to Phulpur police, CISF recovered the banned satellite phone from the bag of Andre Cyril Neuwenswander (resident of Luschan, Switzerland) in the security hold area at around 12 noon. After preliminary questioning, he was handed over to the local police at around 13:30, where he was questioned by agencies including the Intelligence Bureau (IB), ATS, and the LIU.

Four killed, two injured in car-lorry collision in Kozhikode

Kozhikode: In a tragic incident, four people died and two others were injured following a collision between a car and a parked lorry at Modern Bazar near Ramanattukara in Kozhikode around 3 am on Saturday. All the deceased were passengers of the car. They have been identified as Dhinil from Ramanattukara, Ajeesh, Vimal, and Shyamlal, from Feroke. The fifth passenger in the car, Dhijil from Pantheerankavu, is hospitalised with serious injuries. The lorry driver, Usman Kutty, sustained minor injuries. The car, which was going from Kozhikode to Feroke, collided with the parked lorry. Fire and Rescue personnel rescued those trapped inside the car by cutting open its doors with gas cutters.

Raj: Tika Ram Jully's mother passes away

Jaipur: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Rajasthan Assembly, Tika Ram Jully's mother Chalti Devi passed away at the SMS Hospital late on Friday night, after a brief illness. She was 90 years old. Devi is survived by two sons, LoP Jully and his sibling Mukesh - a businessman and small time politician in Haryana. The nonagenarian late on Friday evening had suddenly complained of breathing trouble and had vomited too. She was immediately rushed to the hospital where she collapsed later. Her funeral took place at Jully's native village Kaathuwas in Alwar district today afternoon. Large number of people and Congressmen, including several dignitaries like former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra, were present.

Rahul, Kharge launch Congress campaign for 2027 Punjab Assembly polls in Barnala

Chandigarh (UNI)

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and party National President Mallikarjun Kharge arrived in Barnala to address a massive public gathering, marking the official launch of the Congress campaign for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. Titled "Kisan-Mazdoor Rally" or "MNREGA Bachao Sangram," the event is strategically focused on the Malwa region, a traditional stronghold of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), where Congress recently won the Barnala by-election. The rally aims to consolidate support among farmers and laborers across the 69 seats of the Malwa belt. During the rally, the Congress leadership is expected to launch a scathing attack on the Central Government over its handling of the MGNREGA scheme and the potential impact of the India-US trade deal



on the agricultural sector. Senior party leader Pawan Kumar Bansal criticized the union Government for restructuring MGNREGA, alleging that the changes would mislead the public and place an undue

financial burden on state governments while hurting the interests of laborers. The party has even featured posters depicting Rahul Gandhi as an MGNREGA worker to foster a direct connection with the rural populace.

Rahul warns Punjab Congress leaders against infighting, stresses teamwork

Addressing a massive party rally in Barnala on Saturday, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi issued a sharp warning to the Punjab unit of the party regarding persistent internal discord. Emphasizing the necessity of collective effort, Gandhi asserted that political success is a product of unified teamwork rather than individual actions. He told the gathered leadership that a single player cannot win a game and urged them to function as a cohesive team, warning that those who fail to do so would be placed on the "reserve bench".

PM Modi hails spirit of innovation on National Science Day



New Delhi (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended greetings on National Science Day, celebrating India's scientific achievements and reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening research and innovation across the country. In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister said, "Today, on Na-

tional Science Day, we celebrate the spirit of research, innovation and scientific curiosity that drives our nation forward."

National Science Day is observed annually on February 28 to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Nobel laureate CV Raman. The discovery, announced in 1928, demonstrated the scattering of light and led to Raman becoming the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. Highlighting the historical significance of the occasion, Modi said, "This day commemorates the groundbreaking discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman. This discovery placed Indian research firmly on the global map."

The Prime Minister emphasised the government's continued focus on fostering scientific temper and expanding research opportunities for young innovators.

Jharkhand Police intensify anti Naxal drive

Ranchi: Jharkhand Director General of Police Tadasa Mishra on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting on crime and law and order, with focus on anti-Naxal operations and intelligence-based policing.

At the meeting held at the state police headquarters, the DGP directed officers to intensify operations against extremists and expand awareness of the state's surrender policy. Monitoring of extremists released on bail was also ordered.

Senior officers were asked to maintain pressure in affected districts while facilitating rehabilitation of those willing to surrender under existing policy provisions. The DGP stressed strengthening the intelligence network. He directed officials to bolster informer systems and enhance digital surveillance for real-time inputs and swift action. Cybercrime trends were reviewed along with conventional crimes.

Gehlot dismisses PM Modi's verbal attack against Congress

Jaipur (UNI)

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reacted sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's massive onslaught against the Congress at a public meeting in Ajmer today terming the PM's utterances as "expression of political desperation" and "moral bankruptcy".

In a detailed post on his social media 'X' Twitter handle Gehlot wrote - "Today in Ajmer, the comments made by Prime Minister Sh. @narendramodi regarding the Congress party are a symbol of his political desperation. For those belonging to an ideology that didn't sacrifice even a fingernail in the freedom struggle to level allegations of dividing the country against the Congress, a party with a glorious history of leading the freedom struggle, is not only ridiculous but also proof of moral bankruptcy."



In a strongly worded tweet, Gehlot quipped - Modi ji, remember that opposing you is not the same as opposing the country. Do not make the mistake of considering yourself greater than the nation. It is saddening that you used an official government platform solely for narrow politics.

First phase of final voter list released in West Bengal; over 5.46 lakh names dropped

Kolkata (UNI)

The Election Commission of India on Saturday released the first phase of West Bengal's final electoral roll after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), deleting over five lakh names while keeping around 60 lakh voters under adjudication.

The final list has been made available online, enabling voters to check their status by entering their EPIC (voter ID) number on the Commission's website.

As per the data released, 5,46,053 names have been removed in this first phase of the final list.

The draft electoral roll had carried 7,08,16,630 names.

During the revision process,



1,82,036 new voters were added through Form-6, while another 6,671 names were included through Form-8.

According to the list published on Saturday, the total number of voters in the state now stands at 7,04,59,284.

However, the Commission clarified that a significant por-

tion of the list is still provisional in nature.

Of the 7,04,59,284 names published, as many as 60,06,675 voters have been kept in a "judicial review" or "under consideration" category.

The Commission indicated that scrutiny of these cases is still underway and further dele-

tions or additions are likely once the process is completed.

The SIR exercise in West Bengal was announced on October 27 last year, when the total electorate stood at 7,66,37,529.

After the enumeration phase, a draft roll was published on December 16.

That draft list saw the deletion of 58,20,899 names, bringing the total number of voters in the draft roll down to 7,08,16,630.

It was this draft list that formed the base for the final roll released on Saturday.

During the scrutiny of the draft roll, around 1.52 crore voters were identified for hearings.

Brahmin gathering in Lucknow sees leaders from BJP, SP, Congress share stage

Lucknow (UNI)

The "Prabuddha Samagam 2026" organized by the All India Brahmin Mahasabha at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, showcased the unity of the Brahmin community. Senior leaders from the BJP, Samajwadi Party (SP), and Congress were present on the same platform on Saturday.

The proposed provisions related to the UGC and Swami Avimukteshwarananda were the main topics of discussion at the event.

During the event, BJP Rajya Sabha member and former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Dinesh Sharma faced protests for not making a statement on the UGC Act. Attendees demanded a clear stand on the UGC, but when he refused, sloganeering began. The situation escalated to the point where he had to leave his address midway and sit back.

Former Governor and BJP leader Kalraj Mishra stated that he had openly opposed the UGC provisions and described them as promoting separatism.

BJP hits out at TMC on its Rajya Sabha choices



New Delhi (UNI)

The BJP on Saturday slammed the ruling All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal for ignoring its cadres and nominating to the Rajya Sabha "individuals who were not with the party during its difficult

years, when it struggled in opposition and workers carried the flag through blood, sweat and sacrifice."

"What message does this send to TMC's grassroots workers?" the West Bengal unit of the saffron party - the TMC's chief competitor in the upcoming Bengal elections - asked in a social media post.

"Couldn't the Trinamool Congress find a single political leader from within its own ranks?"

"Not one dedicated party worker for four Rajya Sabha seats? Instead, nominations go to an actress, a singer (formerly with the BJP), a former police officer and a lawyer - individuals who were not with the party during its difficult years, when it struggled in opposition and workers carried the flag through blood, sweat and sacrifice," the BJP said.

Jairam Ramesh calls PM Modi's Israel visit 'shameful'

New Delhi (UNI)

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his recent visit to Israel, describing it as "shameful" in light of the joint military strike launched by Israel and the United States on Iran.

In a strongly worded statement, Ramesh said the escalation was "fully expected" given the military build-up by the two allies in recent months, and accused the Prime Minister of displaying "the highest moral cowardice" by proceeding with the visit.

"Two days after Mr. Modi celebrated his visit to Is-

rael, Israel and the US have begun their joint assault on Iran," Ramesh said.

"This was fully expected given their military build-up in the last few months. Mr. Modi nevertheless chose to go to Israel, where he displayed the highest moral cowardice."

Ramesh further alleged that the Prime Minister publicly declared India's support for Israel during the visit and accepted an award, even as tensions in West Asia were reaching a breaking point.

"He declared that India stood with Israel and got himself an award for saying so," Ramesh said.

IT raids on BSP MLA Uma Shankar Singh's associates uncover benami mining leases

Lucknow (UNI)

Income Tax Department raids on properties linked to BSP MLA Uma Shankar Singh and his associates have revealed alleged benami (proxy-owned) mining leases and large-scale financial irregularities across Lucknow, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra.

Officials say several benami leases were held in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra, with a Lucknow resident, Ishteyaq of Sadar Bazaar, reportedly close to former UP Mining Minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati, holding the largest number.

Officials suspect these leases facilitated illegal mining and possible extortion by local officials, who may soon face questioning.

Investigators have identified over 100 bank accounts and lockers linked to Singh,



Pradesh and other states.

The Income Tax Department is assessing potential tax evasion, which could lead to involvement by the Benami Property Prohibition Unit if illegal mining proceeds are confirmed.

Raids also uncovered a doubling of turnover in Singh-linked companies over the past two years, along with documents

his family, and associates. Banks have been instructed to freeze these accounts as authorities probe alleged high-value property transactions across Uttar

suggesting involvement in government contracts for mining and road construction. Preliminary evidence points to widespread unaccounted transactions. Various papers, diaries, handwritten records, and other materials allegedly linked to unaccounted transactions were recovered. Preliminary investigations suggest possible financial irregularities.

Authorities are now examining how many mining leases were secured by Singh's companies and the extent of actual mining carried out.

A 2025 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report had flagged Singh-associated companies for illegal mining, estimating a revenue loss of Rs 60 crore, a matter officials believe is connected to the current Income Tax actions. Raids at other locations are expected to continue until Friday.

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