

MUSTREAD

Elephant attacks kill two in West Singhbhum; 21 dead in nine days

Ranchi: The terror of a rogue tusker has once again escalated in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, claiming two more lives on Friday morning. The incident occurred near Tilokuti village under Khadpos area of Benisagar Panchayat in the Majhgaon block. The victims have been identified as 40-year-old Prakash Malwa, a resident of Benisagar, and a child. Eyewitnesses stated that the child's body was reportedly stuck in the elephant's tusk, highlighting the brutality of the attack.

Haryana chief secy Anurag Rastogi undergoes heart surgery

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi has been admitted to a private hospital in Mohali after his health deteriorated, officials said on Friday. They said he complained of severe chest pain Thursday night, and was rushed to Fortis Hospital, where doctors confirmed he had suffered a major heart attack. Rastogi underwent surgery on Friday under the supervision of senior cardiac surgeon Dr PS. Mahant. Hospital sources said he is currently being monitored in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and is likely to be shifted to a private room in the next one or two days, depending on his recovery.

4-year-old child killed in leopard attack in Gondia

Gondia: A four-year-old child was killed in a leopard attack in Khadki (Dongargaon) village of Tiroda taluka in Maharashtra's Gondia district on Friday, triggering fear among residents of nearby rural areas, police said. The deceased has been identified as Hiansh Shivshankar Rangdale. According to officials, the child was sitting near a hearth in the backyard of his house with his parents when a leopard, believed to be hiding nearby, suddenly attacked and carried him away. Despite the parents' attempts to chase the animal while raising an alarm, the leopard escaped into the forest.

Fadnavis Unveils BJP Vision for Civic Polls

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis released the Bharatiya Janata Party manifesto on Friday for the upcoming Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation elections, pledging to transform the city into a developed, secure, clean and employment-oriented urban centre. The manifesto was unveiled at a programme held in the Chikalthana industrial area in the presence of state minister Atul Save, MP Bhagwat Karad, local MLAs and senior BJP leaders. Addressing the gathering, Fadnavis said the document presents a 25-year long-term vision aimed at ensuring balanced and sustainable growth of the city.

YSRCP alleges spiritual sabotage under CM's direction

Tirupati: YSRCP senior leader and former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy on Friday accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of being directly responsible for what he termed "the ongoing spiritual degradation of Tirumala shrine" and orchestrating a deliberate conspiracy to portray the YSR Congress Party as anti-Hindu. Speaking to the media here, he said that since B R Naidu took charge as TTD Board Chairman, the sanctity and prestige of Tirumala have been steadily declining, with repeated incidents of it being misused for political propaganda instead of being addressed administratively.

Eshwarappa seeks security upgrade after threat call

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Minister KS Eshwarappa on Friday sought an upgrade of his security cover, citing a suspected threat call from an international number. Eshwarappa met Shivamogga Superintendent of Police B Nikhil and submitted a letter requesting an investigation into the call and enhancement of his security arrangements. In the letter, he stated that he received a missed call from an international number on Wednesday.

Mamata Banerjee accuses central agencies of stealing documents

Kolkata (UNI)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stepped up her attack on the BJP-led Centre on Friday, alleging that central agencies were being used as political tools to intimidate the opposition and "steal" her party's internal strategy ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Addressing a rally after a 10-km long protest march, Banerjee accused the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of acting at the behest of the BJP and asserted that she had done nothing wrong by visiting premises linked to political consultancy firm I-PAC during the agency's raids a day earlier.

She said her intervention was in her capacity as chairperson of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), not as the chief minister.

"What I did yesterday, I did as the TMC chairperson. I have done noth-



ing illegal," Banerjee said, referring to her unexpected visit to the locations searched by the ED, including I-PAC offices and the residence of its India head, Pratik Jain.

I-PAC provides political consultancy services to the TMC.

The Chief Minister alleged that

the ED began its searches early in the morning and that by the time she reached the premises, "a lot could have already been taken away."

"You entered at 6 am; I went at 11:45 am. By then, many things might have been stolen," she said, accusing the agency of attempting to

access the party's strategic data before the 2026 polls.

Escalating her confrontation with the Centre, Banerjee claimed that "all agencies have been captured" and accused the BJP of forcibly assuming power in several states.

"You captured Maharashtra, Haryana and Bihar by force. Do you think you can capture Bengal too?" she asked, adding that political attacks only strengthened her resolve.

"If someone tries to hit me politically, I get politically rejuvenated and reborn," she said.

She also targeted the Election Commission, alleging that the BJP had "stolen" the mandate in Maharashtra with the poll panel's help and was now attempting to replicate the exercise in West Bengal through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) by deleting the names of genuine voters.

PM Modi to combine Somnath events

With India-Germany talks during Gujarat visit



drone show at the temple premises, highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of the historic shrine.

On January 11, the Prime Minister will participate in the Sharya Yatra at around 9:45 am, a ceremonial procession organised to honour the countless warriors who sacrificed their lives defending the Somnath Temple across centuries. He will then perform darshan and pooja at the temple at around 10:15 am. At about 11 am, the Prime Minister will attend a public function marking the Somnath Swabhimani Parv, an event centred on national pride, cultural resurgence and historical remembrance.

The Prime Minister will begin his visit in Somnath on January 10, arriving in the evening. At around 8 pm, he will take part in Omkar Mantra chanting at the Somnath Temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and a symbol of India's civilisational heritage. This will be followed by a

ED raids Uddhav-Led Sena's Nagpur District President and other leaders

Mumbai (UNI)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the residence and office of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's Nagpur district president Uttam Kapse and other Nagpur-based Sena leaders on Friday, in connection with a 2021 sand smuggling case, sources said.

Though the ED raids began on Friday morning, the ED did not officially confirm the names of those raided till late evening. Significantly, the ED raid came exactly six days before the municipal corporation elections are set to begin on January 15, and according to political observers, the ED raid is a setback to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, though the political implications are still unclear.

Interestingly, some of the individuals whose premises were

searched are allegedly linked to Congress leader and former minister Sunil Kedar. The raid which began at 5 am in the morning was conducted by 10 teams of ED from Nagpur and Delhi. Premises belonging to Uttam Kapse, Prafulla Kapse, Vinod Gupta, Laxmikant Satpute, Dadu Kolte in Saoner, besides offices as well as residences of Sharad Rai, Manoj Gaikwad in Patanswangi and Amit Rai in Khampa, were raided by the ED, sources said.

According to sources, the ED conducted simultaneous raids at around 56 locations across Saoner, Khapa, Patanswangi and nearby areas in Nagpur, targeting residences and business establishments of individuals suspected to be linked to illegal sand extraction and its financial network.

Karantaka objects to Kerala's Malayalam Language Bill 2025

Bengaluru: Karnataka has formally raised objections to Kerala's proposed Malayalam Language Bill 2025, asserting that it poses a threat to Kannada-speaking minorities in the border district of Kasaragod.

The Karnataka Border Areas Development Authority (KBADA) submitted a memorandum to Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Aralkar, highlighting concerns that the legislation mandates Malayalam as the compulsory first language from Classes 1 to 10 across all schools, including Kannada-medium institutions.

The delegation warned that the move could marginalise linguistic minorities and infringe upon constitutional protections.

During the meeting, reports said the saffron party had demanded at least 56 of the total 234 seats includ-

ing earmarking some seats for other allies, besides the AMMK of TTV Dhinakaran, which could possibly return to the NDA fold after it had quit the alliance a couple of months back, opposing Mr Palaniswami as

the Chief Ministerial candidate.

Emerging out of the meeting, Mr Nagendran said this is only the first round of talks and further rounds of discussions would be held in the coming days.

BJP holds seat sharing talks with NDA head AIADMK

Chennai (UNI)

Ahead of the key Assembly elections due in four months, the BJP, which had revived its electoral ties with the Principal Opposition AIADMK, on Friday initiated seat sharing talks with the Dravidian major which is heading the NDA in Tamil Nadu.

A BJP delegation led by State Unit President and Legislature Party Leader Nainar Nagendran met AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami at the latter's official Greenways Road residence and held seat sharing talks.

Senior AIADMK leaders, including former Ministers were present at the meeting.

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RSS to establish Hindu organizations in Bangladesh, Sangh in 'Mission Mode' for Minority protection

Vrindavan (UNI)

A major strategy for safeguarding the interests of Hindus in neighbouring countries, is emerging from the deliberations at the All India meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) here, sources indicated on Friday. The RSS national executive meeting chaired by Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat is being held since early this week.

According to sources, the Sangh is now preparing to strengthen its presence and Hindu organizations in neighboring countries where Hindus are a minority and facing continuous threats. The Sangh has expressed deep concern over the declining Hindu population, particularly in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

During the meeting, data and discussions highlighted the fact that the

proportion of Hindus in the global population is decreasing. Top RSS officials deliberated on the fact that where Hindus are a minority, they are not organized, which makes them vulnerable to violence and persecution. Sources indicate that the Sangh will now work on the principle

of "organization wherever Hindus are a minority."

The current situation in Bangladesh was the subject of extensive discussion at the meeting.

According to sources, the RSS is now planning to organise local-level volunteers and establish Hindu organizations in Bangladesh. The objective is to prepare local Hindus for self-defense during times of disaster or violence and to protect their cultural identity.

To implement this strategic initiative, senior RSS officials are likely to hold an important meeting with representatives of the Indian government soon. This meeting will discuss diplomatic and grassroots measures to protect Hindus in neighboring countries and prevent demographic imbalances.

UP leading way in defence manufacturing: Rajnath Singh

Lucknow (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that the domestic defence production has gone up from Rs 46,000 crore to a record high of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore at present due to a defence corridor built in Uttar Pradesh.

"India is no longer weak. We are manufacturing our own weapons, and Uttar Pradesh is leading the way. This thinking, this hard work and this path is what make a country strong, and this is the path our government is following today," he said during a function here.

Rajnath Singh, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and union Heavy Indus-

Muslim welfare association reaffirms trust in Ajit Pawar; declares support

Pune: Muslim Welfare Association officially announced its support for the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) for the upcoming Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. A meeting of the minority community was held in Pimpri-Chinchwad in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, NCP President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawar assured the community that the party would remain firmly committed to safeguarding the legitimate rights of Muslims, ensuring social security, promoting education, and working for their overall development.

Salim Sarang, National President of the Muslim Welfare Association, said that Ajit Pawar's leadership, rooted in the ideology of Shivaji Maharaj, Shahi Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, has consistently upheld secular values. He has always stood firmly for the rightful demands of the Muslim community. He has supported the community during difficult times not merely through words but through concrete action, said Sarang.

BJP suspends 32 members for six years over anti-party activities

Nagpur (UNI)

Ahead of the forthcoming municipal elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has adopted a strict stance on party discipline by suspending 32 of its members for a period of six years on charges of anti-party activities.

According to the party, disciplinary action was taken against members who were either opposing the party's officially nominated candidates or contesting elections against them.

Those suspended include Sunil Mahalle (Ward 1); Devraj Wasnik (Ward 2); Nasimabu (Ward 3); Sachin Khobragade and Suresh Tembhare (Ward 4); Mahendra Gupta and Pushpa Kirpane (Ward 5); Runal

Chaudhary (Ward 9); Sunil Agrawal (Ward 14); Vinayak Dehankar (Ward 17); Dhira Chavan and Akshay Thawka (Ward 18); Prakash Ghate and Papu Yadav (Ward 19); Visha Larokar (Ward 20); Shubham Maudekar, Sulochana Kove and Rakesh Bhanarkar (Ward 21); Ravishankar Kumbhare, Dashrath Maske, Ashish Bhute and Nandini Bhute (Ward 22); Tekchand Sonboi, Nandu Ahir, Renu Dandare, Shubham Padole and Raja Ghose (Ward 24); Sunil Manapure (Ward 26); Sonali Ghodmare (Ward 31) and Deepak Chaudhary.

The BJP stated that the suspensions were essential to ensure organisational discipline and unity during the election period.

SC balances public safety with animal welfare, hearing adjourned to Jan 13

New Delhi (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Friday continued its extensive hearing in the stray dogs management case, weighing concerns of public safety against animal welfare and the need for humane population control measures.

Stray dogs management case

The matter was thereafter adjourned to January 13, 2026.

A Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N.V. Anjaria heard detailed submissions for the second consecutive day from animal rights activists, NGOs, victims of stray dog attacks, and other intervenors in the suo motu case titled In Re: "City Hounded By Strays, Kids Pay Price".

Animal welfare groups emphasised strict implementation of the



During the hearing, intervenors sought modifications of the Court's earlier directions concerning the management of stray dogs in residential colonies and institutional premises.

Animal welfare groups emphasised strict implementation of the

Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, advocating sterilisation, vaccination, and release of dogs in the same territorial areas, along with scientific and humane population control models aimed at reducing dog-bite incidents over time.

On the other hand, representatives of victims' groups pressed for removal of stray dogs from housing societies, citing rising instances of dog attacks and serious safety concerns, particularly for children and the elderly.

Appearing for an animal rights activist, Senior Advocate Mahalakshmi Pavani drew the Court's attention to alleged harassment and assaults on women dog feeders by vigilante groups, contending that authorities were failing to act on complaints or register FIRs.

Dense fog, low visibility disrupt flight operations

New Delhi: Low visibility and dense fog disrupted flight operations across several parts of India on Friday morning, leading to delays and diversions. IndiGo flight 6E-2334 from Delhi to Varanasi was diverted to Lucknow due to poor visibility caused by dense fog. Several other flights scheduled to operate and from Varanasi were also diverted.

Airlines issued travel advisories to minimise inconvenience to passengers. IndiGo, in a travel advisory issued on Friday morning, warned of possible disruptions due to low visibility and fog over Assam and Tripura. The advisory stated, "Low visibility and fog over Dibrugarh and Agartala may impact flight schedules. We are closely monitoring the weather and are doing our best to get you where you need to be safely and smoothly."

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