

MUSTREAD

Two Army porters die after slipping from Gulmarg slopes

Srinagar: Bodies of two civilian porters who slipped from a forward area near the Line of Control in the Gulmarg sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district were recovered, officials said on Friday. The two porters, identified as Liyakat Ahmad Deedard and Ishfaq Ahmad Khatana — both residents of Chandoora in Baramulla — had skidded from a forward area into a stream on Thursday afternoon. Soon after the incident, a massive rescue operation was launched in the Gulmarg sector, which falls under the operational control of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Searches were also extended to the Poonch sector in the Jammu region, as it lies close to the area where the mishap occurred. The Poonch stretch of the LoC falls under the jurisdiction of the Nagrota-based White Knight (16) Corps of the Army.

Ahmed of Saket District Court dies by suicide

New Delhi: An Ahmed (court clerk) of Saket District Court allegedly died by suicide on Friday morning by jumping from the fifth floor of the court building. A senior police official said that the deceased was identified as Harish Singh Mahar, who was 60 percent physically disabled and was posted as an Ahmed. The police said that a suicide note was recovered from his possession. "I am committing suicide due to office work pressure... I am a 60 per cent handicapped person and this job is very tough for me. I succumbed to the pressure. Ever since I became an Ahmed, I have been having suicidal thoughts... No one is responsible for my suicide," his note said.

Major Accident in Thane Five Injured

Mumbai: Five people were seriously injured in a major accident on the Thane Ghodbunder Road section of National Highway 48 in Maharashtra on Friday. According to the police, the accident involving collision of many vehicles occurred at around 7.30 am. Multiple vehicles were piled up on NH-48 in Gaimukh Ghat stretch, resulting in extensive damage to more than 20 vehicles and disruption of vehicular movement on the crucial route that connects Mumbai, Thane and Nashik. Regional Disaster Management Cell (RDMC) and the Fire Brigade, rushed to the spot to carry out a rescue operation. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Couple dies of suffocation from burning stove

Koderma: A salon operator and his wife died of suffocation while sleeping on Friday by inhaling poisonous gases emitted by a burning coal stove, which they had kept in their room to keep themselves warm amid the cold weather in Jharkhand's Koderma district, police said. The deceased, residents of Puranagar, have been identified as Birendra Sharma (58) and his wife Kanti Devi (52). According to the couple's son Surendra Sharma, all family members had dinner around 11.30 pm on Thursday and retired to their respective rooms. While food is usually cooked on a gas stove in the household, on Thursday night, cooking was done on a coal stove for unspecified reasons.

Modern police fleet to intensify Himachal's war on chitta

Shimla: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that the campaign against 'chitta' and other narcotic substances would be intensified, as he flagged off 18 modern anti-chitta and patrol vehicles of the Himachal Pradesh Police from the State Secretariat here. The newly-inducted fleet comprises 12 anti-chitta vehicles, four anti-human trafficking vehicles and two ambulances for rescue operations. The initiative, according to the Chief Minister, is aimed at strengthening law and order by enhancing the operational capacity of the police force through modern technology and infrastructure. Addressing the occasion, Sukhu said that technology plays a crucial role in curbing drug trafficking and related crimes.

Rahul Gandhi launches broadside against BJP

Calls 'double-engine' govt a "speed of devastation"

New Delhi (UNI)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday mounted a sweeping attack on the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in states, accusing them of running a system driven by corruption, abuse of power and crony capitalism, and alleging that ordinary citizens are paying the price in the form of injustice, disasters and loss of lives.

In a strongly worded statement posted on platform X, Gandhi said the BJP's much-touted "double-engine" governments had "ruined people's lives across the country" and reduced the suffering of the poor, workers and middle class to mere statistics. "Corruption, abuse of power, and the poison of arrogance have spread from top to bottom in BJP's politics," he alleged.

Targeting the government's devel-



opment narrative, the former Congress president claimed that "in the name of 'development,' an extortion racket is running," while policies are designed to benefit a select few.

"Modi ji's 'double engine' is running, but only for billionaires. For the common Indian, this double-engine

government of corruption is not development, but the speed of devastation," Gandhi said.

Gandhi also raised pointed questions about the handling of several high-profile crime cases, alleging political protection for the powerful. Referring to the murder of Ankita Bhambhani in Uttarakhand, he said the case had "shaken the entire nation" but asked, "which BJP VIP is being protected by those in power? When will the law be equal for all?"

He drew parallels with the Unnao rape case in Uttar Pradesh, saying the country had witnessed how "criminals were shielded by the arrogance of power" and how much the victim had to suffer to receive justice.

The Congress has repeatedly accused the BJP of misusing state machinery to protect influential individuals, a charge the ruling party has denied.

Himachal HC partly allows PIL on local body elections

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh High court has partly allowed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking timely elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the state, while granting major relief to the state government by permitting a deferment of the polls by about 90 days, despite the State Election Commission's stated readiness to conduct elections earlier.

Pronouncing the judgment, a Division Bench of Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Romesh Verma held that Panchayati Raj Institutions are constitutional bodies and their elections cannot be postponed indefinitely. At the same time, the court accepted the practical difficulties highlighting during the proceedings and directed that the election process be completed by April 30.

Thiruvananthapuram (UNI)

In a major breakthrough in the Sabarimala gold theft case, Tantri Kandararu Rajeevaru, the chief priest of the temple, was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) following intensive questioning here on Friday.

Rajeevaru was summoned to the SIT office in Thiruvananthapuram and interrogated for several hours regarding the alleged misappropriation of gold from the temple. Sources say evidence gathered during the investigation linked him to a key accused in the case, raising suspicions about his involvement.

The SIT, led by senior officers, is probing the priest's connections with other individuals allegedly involved, including former Travancore Devaswom Board officials and temple staff. Law enforcement officials have indicated that further arrests

could follow as the investigation deepens.

The theft, which has been under investigation for several months, has drawn national attention. Authorities are examining the movement of temple assets and taking action under multiple statutes, including the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), to recover the missing gold.

The probe focuses on allegations that gold sheets and ornaments removed in 2019 from the Sreekoovil (sanctum sanctorum), door frames, and Dwarapalaka idols during gold-plating works were not fully returned.

Investigators suspect some of the gold may have been misclassified as copper or other base metals, allegedly facilitating its diversion. Discrepancies were reportedly found in mazars, inventory lists, and verification reports prepared at various stages of the project.

The Kerala High Court, closely monitoring the case, had earlier expressed serious concern over the lack of accountability in matters involving sacred temple assets.

Nitesh Rane accuses Thackerays of favouring outsiders

Warns Mumbai could be renamed



Mumbai (UNI)

Nitesh Rane launched a sharp attack on Raj Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray, questioning their contributions to the city despite being born in Mumbai.

Instead of developing the city, he alleged Rane and Thackeray had brought in Bangladeshis and Rohingyas into Mumbai.

"Did they achieve even a fraction of what Devendra Fadnavis has done for Mumbai's infrastructure and development over the years?" Rane asked rhetorically.

He also criticised Uddhav Thackeray, claiming he only managed to

turn "Matoshree 1 into Matoshree 2."

Rane alleged that the Thackerays wielded municipal power only for personal gains, meals, and tours outside the city.

"The real development of Mumbai has been done solely by Devendra Fadnavis. The Thackerays are just looters. Jihad Hrudaysamrat Uddhav Thackeray is nothing but a plunderer," Rane said.

He further warned voters, If Mumbai does not stay alert on the 15th, these people are ready to rename Mumbai... They are prepared even to issue fatwas for this purpose.

Looking at the results of the 2022 UP Assembly elections, there were 15 seats where the margin of victory or defeat was less than 1,000.

In 10 of these seats, the result was decided by a margin of less than 500 votes. Of these 15 seats, the BJP and

Lucknow (UNI)

Political parties have pulled up their socks to submit forms for enrolling left over voters in the Electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh after 28.9 million voters names were deleted on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

According to the statistics in 2022 assembly polls in the state, there were 114 seats where the margin of victory was less than 10,000. Of these, 63 went to the BJP and 41 to the Samajwadi Party.

Looking at the results of the 2022 UP Assembly elections, there were 15 seats where the margin of victory or defeat was less than 1,000.

In 10 of these seats, the result was decided by a margin of less than 500 votes. Of these 15 seats, the BJP and

its allies won 9, while the SP alliance prevailed in 6.

These SIR figures are considered worrying for the BJP. The party is concerned about the significant vote loss in urban areas.

The BJP has long been considered an urban party, and urban areas have seen a significant number of vote losses.

However, it's not just the BJP that will suffer losses, the Samajwadi Party will also face the impact.

In districts where a large Muslim population lives abroad for employment or other reasons, the Samajwadi Party will suffer losses. These voters' names have been removed from the voter list and will now have to go through a complex process to get their names re-included.

BJP's new state President, Pankaj Chaudhary and, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had warned that, "If the missing voters are not added in time, the BJP will likely suffer the most losses in seats with margins of less than 10,000."

Five Giridih workers abducted in Niger return safely to Giridih

Ranchi: All five workers from the Bagodar area of Jharkhand's Giridih district, who were abducted by militants in the West African nation of Niger, have returned safely to India.

The workers are currently in Mumbai, where medical examinations and necessary governmental and legal formalities are being completed. They are expected to return to their homes shortly after the process is concluded.

This information was shared by AJSU Party Central General Secretary and Spokesperson Sanjay Mehta during a press conference held at the party headquarters. The workers who have returned safely have been identified as Sanjay Mahto, Chandrika Mahto, Phaljiti Mahto, Raju Mahto, and Uttam Mahto.

Chennai (UNI)

data platform will become available to NIA, Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS) across the country, law enforcement agencies and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

Data related to any explosion, or IED incident at any location will be included in this system, and by using the data, crucial information and patterns can be obtained during probe.

"NIDMS will prove extremely important in investigating terrorist activities, understanding trends in explosions, and formulating effective strategies against them," HM added.

Shah pointed out that NSG's database has bomb explosions from the year 1999 till now, and through the NIDMS, this data will now be made available to all police forces across the country as also various intelligence and other investigative agencies.

Speaking at the launch 'Ungal Kanava Sollunga' (Tell your Dreams) programme, here he highlighted that the state government's policies are centred on delivering social justice

through comprehensive welfare measures in education, skill development, housing, health care, infrastructure, and targeted support for disadvantaged groups.

These initiatives are designed to uplift the oppressed communities, bridge socio-economic gaps, and promote dignity and equal opportunity for all citizens.

Under his leadership, the government has undertaken reforms and programmes intended to strengthen social harmony and reduce discrimination, resonating with Tamil Nadu's historical commitment to egalitarian principles rooted in rationalist and social reform movements.

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