

## Former Mumbai Minister Baba Siddique Shot Dead, Bishnoi Gang Claims Responsibility

Aman Rasheed

**Mumbai:** Former minister Baba Siddique was shot and killed on Saturday night outside his son's Mumbai office by unknown assailants.

When the unknown attackers began fire at approximately 9.30 p.m, Siddique was hit in the chest several times and was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.

Hours after the murder, in a social media post, suspected to be connected to gang member Shubham Rameshwar Lonkar, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the murder.

Investigation by the Mumbai police later revealed that the shooters were Dhamraj Kashyap and Shiv Kumar Gautam who hail from Uttar Pradesh and worked as laborers in Pune before being lured into the criminal world. The suspects who are under arrest and put under police custody revealed that they had been monitoring Siddique for months and were given ₹50000 each for the hit. Three arrests have already been made in the case. Dhammaraj Rajesh Kashyap (23), Gurmail Baljit Singh (19), and Pravin Lonkar (29) have

been arrested. However, Shiv Kumar Gautam, who fired the shots and gave orders to kill Siddique, remained at large.

After the murder of Baba Siddique, Shiv Kumar had gone to Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh to meet some henchmen of the gang. The Mumbai Police had tracked him down to Omkareshwar but failed to catch him. Police then traced about 45 people, including his family members and close aids and started tracking their movements closely. After which, police narrowed down to the four people.

Apparently, the house next to Shiv Kumar's residence was a safehouse for him. The police apprehended him and his four aids there on Sunday.

Baba Siddique was a prominent politician who worked for decades in the Indian National Congress, before recently joining the Nationalist Congress Party. He was known for his lavish parties and Bollywood connections, and was instrumental in Mumbai's development, helping improve the city's educational and sewage system.

## Student Records Videos of Girls In College Washroom Near Bengaluru, Arrested

Madhura Patil



The students at the ACS College of Engineering in Kumbalgodu alleged the accused used to record videos on his mobile phone and circulated them on social media.

**Bengaluru:** A 21-year-old engineering student was arrested on Saturday for allegedly recording videos of female students inside the washroom of the college near Bengaluru. The accused was identified as a 7th-semester Computer Science student named Chikkagollarahatti Kushal. The students at the ACS College of Engineering in Kumbalgodu alleged the accused used to record videos on his mobile phone and circulated them on social media.

Upon learning of the incident, a group of students entered the restrooms to confront the accused. Massive protests erupted in the college as the news broke, and the police had to rush there to control the situation. The cops assured them of strict action against the accused, a seventh-semester Computer Science student. Police sources said the accused had recorded around 7-8 videos on his mobile, which were discovered by fellow students.

According to the police sources, the man had around 7 to 8 videos of girls from the college recorded on his phone. Students said the ac-

cused had also threatened to kill them if they escalated the issue. They also alleged that he might be a habitual offender. Last month, there was a huge uproar in Andhra Pradesh when some students allegedly found a hidden camera in the women's toilet in an engineering college.

A case was registered in connection with the alleged incident at the SR Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district. However, the police said that there were no such hidden cameras found in the students' washroom.

Students alleged that the management did not pay heed to their complaints. The students have called off their protest but have said they would attend classes only if the college management takes strict action.

The mobile device has been sent to the cyber department for a thorough examination to recover all data and ascertain the full extent of his actions. Police have assured that they are taking the matter very seriously and are taking all the legal actions necessary.



## PM Modi Announces India to Host Olympics After Paris 2024 in USA Speech

Abhirami

**New Delhi:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India was doing everything possible to host the next Olympics in 2036. This commitment has come amid celebrations over India's performance in the just-concluded Paris Olympics, where the country won a total of six medals, consisting of five bronze and one silver. India's Neeraj Chopra is notably the only athlete to win silver in the main event. Addressing the people of India at the Nassau Coliseum in New York, Prime Minister Modi said that Indians will participate in The Summer Olympics will be held in India.



Like last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's commitment to hosting big sporting events underlining the government's "athlete-centric" approach. As he spoke to the contingent of para-athletes in Delhi following their stellar per-

formance at the Hangzhou Para-Asian Games, Modi said that the country is committed to supporting athletes and providing the enabling environment for excellence in sports. Modi's comment reflects a larger strategy of better performance and in-

creasing participation in all spheres.

The PM outlined that India was transforming both in the sports culture as well as a "sporting society." He said, "It has turned into a big hub in all fields whether it is sports, business, environment, or entertainment. Modi had also regarded the IPL as one of the "best leagues" in the world, describing its global appeal and the major role it plays in the promotion of sports throughout the world. India: The vision is to increase the status of India at the international sports arena through the interaction of active athletes and fans.

## Malappuram breathes easier as all Nipah contacts test negative

Sarah Ann Sebastian

**Malappuram:** Kerala Health Minister Veena George said on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 that the contact samples of the 13 people who were in contact with the 24-year-old man who died of Nipah virus in Malappuram district last week, tested negative for the virus. 175 people in the contact list of the deceased man and the samples of 13 people, who were in the high-risk category, tested negative at Manjeri Government Medical College Hospital in Malappuram.

The man had difficulty walking and had visited several hospitals over the days for his body pain. Health

Authorities in Kerala confirmed the Nipah Virus as the reason for the death of the man. "Samples of those in the high-risk categories and people who were showing symptoms have been collected and will be sent for testing today (Tuesday)," said Health Minister Venna George. Although the chance

of any spread of the disease is unlikely, all preventive measures are being taken by the department and all samples would be tested. Ms George also mentioned how the state was in constant contact with the Centre and Health authorities in Karnataka where the deceased man was studying.



Kerala Government imposed restrictions on containment zones in Malappuram. Five wards in two panchayats were declared containment zones and directions have been issued not to gather in large numbers. The district authorities have asked shops in the containment zones to close by 7 p.m. Cinema halls, schools, colleges, Anganwadis and tuition centres will remain shut in the containment zones.

Since May 2018 when Kerala reported the first Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode district, there have been 3 more outbreaks including the latest one

## Lack of funds leave Hampi University struggling for survival.

Aviva Joy Christopher

**Hampi:** The Hampi Kannada University, which started 33 years ago, unfortunately due to lack of funds and dwindling numbers, faces existential crisis. The university officials say that the requests are falling on deaf ears, although successive vice-chancellors have been writing to the government requesting additional funds, including a recent request which was sent two weeks ago. Although, according to documents the university has to clear at least 2.63 crore dues to the contractor who used to provide human resources. The dues were accumulated since the year 2021 and as of this year have only received 1.92 crore. This must be used to pay the salaries of at least 19 guest lectures and 72 non-teaching staff.

The Hampi University, is probably the only university in India which is dedicated

to one language, says that they were unable to clear the dues because of the scarcity of funds. Student enrolment has drastically fallen this year, because of the dwindling funds and increasing teacher vacancies. And, while there were about 446 students who were conducting research and study of the language and culture of Karnataka, this year the numbers have fallen up to surprising number of 101 students facing existential crisis.

The situation is even saddening as the Gulbarga Electricity Supply Ltd has to disconnect the power twice last year for the delay in repaying the dues last year.

Srikar M S, Higher Education Department Principal Secretary said, he is taking care of the salaries and the pensions, which forms a large part of the funds system for the University.

## CANDIDATES WITH 40% DISABILITIES OR MORE NOT DENIED

Anjana G Menon



**Delhi:** Previously, the Supreme Court had denied the candidates with 40% disabilities or more to pursuing MBBS admissions.

This decision is overturning a previous rule by the Medical Council of India (MCI), which stated that the eligibility is limited to candidates who do not have disabilities above 40%.

Therefore, the disability is not a bar for eligibility to pursue MBBS. The new decision came in as a response to a case filed where several candidates were suitable for writing the exams but were denied admission. The new rule is supported by

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which orders equal opportunities in education. The MCI's decisions were criticized by the judge stating that the potential of qualified candidates was undermined and their rights were being violated.

This change is expected to bring a difference in the representation of people who are differently abled in the medical field, increasing equality and enriching the workforce diversity. Just as education systems change to be more holistic toward students, society creates greater safe spaces to establish our unified identity.

## High Level Panel Discussion from CPCB, on the study of the Toxic Heavy Metals in Vegetables in Bangalore.

Aviva Joy Christopher

**Bengaluru:** A high-level committee for the comprehensive study to assess the heavy metal contamination of vegetables in Bengaluru, was proposed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). 400 samples of vegetables were studied, under the National Green Tribunal bench sought details on the contamination of vegetables found in a study by the EM-PRI (Environment Management Policy Research Institute), the development came soon after. As per the report



on 24th September, traces of Iron, Cadmium, Lead and Nickel were higher than limits stated by the Food and Agricultural Organisation. Heavy metals and pesticides must only be carried out by the Fssai approved laborato-

ries and the vegetables residues should be compared and that must also be compared with the Fssai approved standards, said CPCB and notified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. "Further comprehensive

study is required", the CPCB said to ascertain a five member committee. Bhopal along with CPCB regional director from Bengaluru, a member forms the Karnataka State Pollution Control and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru said. FSSAI does not recognise CPCB labs, and it is said that FSSAI members must be included into the committee. Related details to the study, the research, the sample size, location and laboratories will be soon decided by the committee.

## CRPF officer killed in firefight with militants in Jammu's Udhampur

Saanvi Rathi

**Udhampur:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer was killed in a brief exchange of fire between militants and a CRPF patrol in Jammu's Udhampur district on August 19, 2024.

A police spokesman said it was during an area domination patrol at Chill, Dudu, that an exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of the J&K Police and CRPF. The incident marks a troubling development in the Jammu region, which had been relatively calm in recent years compared to Kashmir.

There has been a noticeable increase in terrorist activities in Jammu, especially in



Soldiers give tribute to the late CRPF Officer

the southern parts of the Pir Panjal range, which features dense forests and rugged terrain that offer concealment for insurgents.

The ongoing operation aims to neutralise the terrorists responsible for today's at-

tack and restore security in the area. The region has seen heightened security concerns following a similar incident on August 14, where an army officer, Captain Deepak Singh, was killed during an encounter in Doda. The at-

tack also resulted in injuries to a civilian.

The recent uptick in violence underscores the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in managing insurgent threats and maintaining peace in the region. As the counter-terror operation continues, authorities are working to address the security situation during the area domination patrol at Chill in Dudu, exchange of fire took place between terrorists and joint parties of JKP and CRPF. In the encounter, one inspector of CRPF suffered bullet injuries and attained martyrdom. Operation continues," the Udhampur Police posted on X.

## India bundled out for 46 against New Zealand

Samyukth M

**Bengaluru:** Indian cricket team were all-out for 46 by the Kiwis in the first test match on wednesday in Chinaswamy. This is India's lowest total in an innings at home and the third lowest in India's Test history; their 46 all out ranks behind only the 36 against Australia in Adelaide 2020 and 42 against England at Lord's 1974.

After captain Rohit Sharma misjudged the field, and chose to bat first backfired remarkably as the Indian

batting order collapsed like a castle of cards with Rishabh Pant scoring the highest amongst all with 20(49).

As for the Indian bowling, Jasprit Bumrah was in a class of his own, bowling an 8-over spell for 29 runs and taking both wickets for India in the fourth innings. Mohammed Siraj did the hard yards but could not claim a wicket. The fielding of the Indian turned out to be pathetic. New Zealand ended the day with 110/2.



## BMTC conductor halts bus after driver suffers heart attack

Neharika N Prasad

**Bengaluru:** On Tumakuru Road Wednesday morning, a BMTC conductor prevented a serious collision by jumping into the moving bus's cabin and stopping it when the driver passed out from a heart attack.

The 39-year-old driver, died of cardiac arrest while driving the bus. The bus grazed another BMTC vehicle, but the conductor swiftly brought it to a stop.

Following the completion of scheduled journeys on route No. 1256M/1, the bus, which had conductor Obalesh on board and Kiran Kumar at the wheel, was making its way back to the depot at Dasanapura from Nelamangala.

The car struck another bus after the driver passed out from a heart attack, according to BMTC officials. While seated at his assigned seat, Obalesh noticed Kiran sagging in the chair. He hur-

ried over to the driver's compartment, where he miraculously took over and brought the car to a stop.

Drivers walking by and the crew of the second bus assisted in getting Kiran to a hospital 200 meters away. Medical personnel, however, declared him dead.

Luckily, there were no passengers on the bus at the time of the occurrence, and there were no cars in front of it.

"I have been working in BMTC for 11 years and never experienced such a situation. We were heading to the depot and it was our last trip. All of a sudden, the driver collapsed and our vehicle brushed another bus on the left. I managed to press the break in the bus and no pedestrian or motorists were injured." Reddy noted that approximately 12,000 bus crew members have undergone screening.