

Nalanda University's revival symbol of commitment to re-establish its glory in modern form: Prez Murmu

RAJGIR: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the revival of Nalanda University is a symbol of national and international commitment to re-establish its glorious heritage in a modern setting.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the university here, she said the ancient Nalanda university had been a great centre of knowledge for about eight centuries, and its fall was a monumental loss not only for India but also for the entire world.

"Its revival is a symbol of national and international commitment to re-establish the university's glorious heritage in a modern setting," Murmu said.

The President expressed confidence that Nalanda University will emerge as a leading global educational institution at a time when the "world faces many complex challenges, and the need for compassionate, independent and critical thinking" is greater than

ever. "At the same time, the benefits of its progress should also reach the society where it is established," she asserted.

The President appreciated the university's community outreach initiatives to connect with traditional knowledge systems.

Murmu congratulated graduating students and said their achievements are the result of perseverance, discipline, and intellectual commitment.

Conferring degrees to the graduates, the President said the students of the institute receive a "shared inheritance" of humanity.

"Students graduating from here receive two things -- a degree and an inheritance. While the degree is their personal achievement, the heritage of humanity they inherit here is a shared one," Murmu added.

The President also awarded gold medals to 36 students of the Nalanda



University. She expressed happiness that over half of the graduating students this year comprised students from more than 30 countries.

"Today's ceremony is a reaffirmation of a promise that knowledge shall endure, that dialogue shall prevail, and that learning shall continue to serve humanity," she said.

On the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, the President said, "Lord Mahavir and Buddha spread the message

of non-violence, compassion and love to the entire humanity from this region of Bihar."

She said that some of the finest minds in the history of Buddhist thought lived and worked in Nalanda.

"For close to eight centuries, ancient Nalanda was the intellectual heart of Buddhist scholarship in Asia. I am confident that Nalanda University can emerge as a leading global centre for Buddhist studies. I encourage the university

to invest in this field with resolve, depth and openness," Murmu said.

The President said that Nalanda University must embody the spirit of enquiry, dialogue, and synthesis to regain its glorious tradition. "The ancient Indian traditions of learning were never rigid. Instead, they encouraged enquiry, dialogue, and synthesis. Nalanda must once again embody this spirit, and bring together knowledge systems from across disciplines and cultures," she said.

Such a development, the President said, will be in sync with the government's renewed emphasis on holistic, multi-disciplinary, and value-based education through the National Education Policy-2020.

She also took part in a tree-planting event before the convocation ceremony, and praised the university's commitment towards achieving the goal of net-zero emissions.

Telangana Minister seeks urgent additional LPG supplies from Centre for autorickshaws

HYDERABAD: Telangana Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday urged Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri for urgent additional LPG supplies by the Centre in view of shortages being faced by LPG autorickshaws in the state, mainly in Hyderabad. In a letter addressed to Puri, Reddy said the domestic LPG supply is being maintained at 10 per cent to meet essential household needs, and commercial LPG allocations are being regulated in accordance with the Union government's guidelines. However, the auto LPG segment in Telangana has been significantly impacted, he said.

A large number of autorickshaws in the state operate on LPG and as per available data, around one lakh LPG autorickshaws are plying in the state, he said.

The auto LPG distribution network in Telangana comprises both PSUs and private operators, with PSUs, including IOCL,



HPCL and BPCL, collectively accounting for a share of 20 per cent operating 33 outlets, while private operators operate network of 110 outlets accounting for 80 per cent market share.

"Due to prevailing supply constraints, there is a shortfall of around 55 MTs per day of auto LPG, the majority of private outlets are facing a dry-out, leading to disruptions in public transport services and consequent public disorder," Reddy said.

Reddy urged the union minister to ramp up auto

LPG availability at PSU outlets and immediately issue instructions to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL to support the private marketing companies by supplying the deficit LPG to private entities engaged in auto LPG distribution.

While the current price of auto LPG at public sector outlets is Rs 75 per litre, the private marketing companies are selling at Rs 93 per litre, he said, adding regulatory measures should be put in place to prevent unwarranted price increase by private entities during the crisis.

Ambedkar's statue vandalised in Punjab

HOSHIARPUR: A statue of B R Ambedkar, installed atop a building in Noorpur Jattan village here, was vandalised on Tuesday by some unidentified persons, police said.

A rod-like object was used to damage the statue, which was encased in toughened glass, they said.

Later in the day, a video surfaced on social media in which pro-Khalistan leader Gurbat Singh Pannun of the banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) purportedly claimed responsibility for the vandalism.

Officials said they are examining the video for veracity.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Garhshankar, Daljit Singh Khakh, said a case was registered against unknown people.

Police said no CCTV cameras were installed there, but their teams are examining CCTV footage

from nearby areas. This is not the first such incident.

In June last year, the same statue was vandalised, following which an FIR was registered.

Meanwhile, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) workers, led by its Punjab unit chief Avtar Singh Karimpuri, visited the spot and protested.

Karimpuri condemned the act and demanded that the accused be arrested within 72 hours.

He also announced a party rally in the village on April 18, demanding protection for the Dalit icon's statues.

Karimpuri attacked both the AAP-led Punjab government and the BJP-led central government, alleging that they failed to protect Ambedkar's statue.

He said this is the ninth incident of statue vandalism in the region.

CPI(M) claims morphed image of Biman Bose shows him leading Ram Navami rally, lodges complaint

KOLKATA: The CPI(M) on Tuesday complained to the Kolkata police commissioner, claiming that a morphed image of Left Front chairman Biman Bose has been circulated on social media, in which he is shown leading a Ram Navami rally donning a saffron scarf.

The complaint by party secretariat member Samik Lahiri stated that the morphed image also shows the 86-year-old CPI(M) leader holding a 'gada' (blunt mace-like weapon) with saffron flags bearing the slogan "Jai Shri Ram."

"It is clear that this has been done with an intention to create hatred and tension in society and incite violence, particularly before the assembly election in West Bengal," it stated. Lahiri sought an investigation into the matter and necessary action at the earliest.

The elections to the 294-member West Bengal assembly will be held in two phases - on April 23 and 29. Votes will be counted on May 4.

No safety for women, police in TN, claims AIADMK chief Palaniswami

SIVAKASI: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday lashed out at the DMK government over the law and order situation and claimed there was no safety for women and police in Tamil Nadu.

Speaking at an election rally seeking votes for party candidates for the April 23 polls, Palaniswami said soon after his government assumes office post the elections, it would eradicate ganja trafficking within three months.

The AIADMK chief also assured support for the firework and match industries in the district.

He slammed the DMK government for stalling the Cauvery-Gundar River linking project and asserted that his party would implement it once it forms a government.

Referring to the establishment of a medical college and hospital at an outlay of Rs 400 crore in Virudhunagar district during the previous AIADMK government, he said the DMK took credit for the project.

No rain in UP except drizzle in Aligarh

LUCKNOW: Aligarh on Tuesday recorded traces of rain, while the rest of the state remained dry, the meteorological department said in a statement. State capital Lucknow recorded a maximum temperature of 37.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum temperature of 23 degrees Celsius.

Banda was the hottest city in the state, where mercury touched 40.2 degrees Celsius.

Ayurveda most sustainable system for lifestyle-related diseases: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday said Ayurveda is the most sustainable system of care for managing lifestyle-related diseases such as stress, diabetes and hypertension.

Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of Shri Dhanwantri Ayurvedic College and Hospital here, he said Ayurveda promotes a holistic balance of physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

The chief minister said the Haryana government is strengthening the AYUSH sector by upgrading infrastructure, promoting research and expanding services.

He added that Shri Krishna AYUSH University has been established in Kurukshetra at a cost of

around Rs 500 crore.

He said AYUSH wings have been set up in all districts under the National Health Mission, and 52 AYUSH medical officers have been recruited to expand services at the grassroots level.

Saini said around 400 Ayurvedic dispensaries and 138 sub-health centres have been upgraded into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AYUSH) while Panchakarma centres are being set up in every district.

He added that the construction of Baba Khethanath Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital in Narnaul has been completed while several AYUSH institutions in Nuh, Ambala, Hisar and Panchkula are at different stages of development.



Highlighting yoga's global recognition, he said International Yoga Day is observed on June 21 following an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The chief minister said the state is promoting yoga

in rural areas through yoga and Vyayamshalas in villages, with 965 already operational and work underway on more.

He urged students to contribute to the future of Ayurveda through innovation and research.

East, central, NW India to witness more heatwave days than usual: IMD

NEW DELHI: Some parts of east, central and northwest India, along with the southeast Peninsula, are likely to see more heatwave days than usual between April and June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast on Tuesday.

During these months, maximum temperatures are expected to be normal to below normal over many parts of the country, except most parts of east and northeast India and eastern parts of central India and adjoining peninsular regions, where above-normal maximum temperatures are expected.

"During the hot season (April-May-June), above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except some regions of Maharashtra and Telangana, where normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely," said the IMD.

The department also stated that in April, monthly maximum temperatures are likely to be normal to below normal over many parts of the country.

However, above-normal maximum temperatures are expected over many parts of east and northeast India and some parts of northwest India and southern peninsular India during the

month. Also, above-normal monthly minimum temperatures are most likely over most parts of India, except for some isolated pockets in the southern peninsula, where normal minimum temperatures are expected during April.

The rainfall during April 2026, averaged over the country as a whole, is most likely to be above normal.

"Normal to above-normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except Northeast India. Below-normal rainfall is expected over many parts of northeastern India," the IMD said.

Man killed by in-laws amid marital discord with wife in Ghaziabad, 2 held

GHAZIABAD: A man was allegedly killed by his father-in-law and others here following a marital discord with his wife who was in her maternal home due to the dispute, police said on Tuesday.

It was an inter-faith marriage between Nitin Kumar Jayant and Muskan and had been facing some strains the past few days, they said.

A group of men, including Muskan's father Mehruddin, allegedly thrashed Nitin and strangled him and left him near a culvert in Bhaneda village. Two people have been arrested in the case but police have not revealed their identities yet.

The incident came to light after Teela Mor police received an emergency call around 7:15 am about an unconscious man lying



near the culvert.

The victim, a resident of Geetanjali Vihar in Loni, was rushed to a nearby hospital and later referred to GTB Hospital in Delhi, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Shalimar Garden Atul Kumar Singh, the couple got married about a year ago "with mutual

consent". However, the couple had been facing domestic discord for the past few days, following which Muskan had returned to her parental home.

Police said that on Monday, Nitin's Baghat-based in-laws visited his residence and took him along on the pretext of resolving the dispute.

During the journey to their village, an argument allegedly broke out, which

escalated into a fight. The accused allegedly thrashed Nitin and strangled him before abandoning him in an unconscious state near the culvert, police said.

An FIR has been registered on the complaint of the victim's younger brother, Amit Kumar, who had accompanied him for the mediation.

In his complaint, Amit alleged that Mehruddin, one Asif Ali and some unidentified persons were involved in the assault.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including murder, officials said.

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the case, while efforts are underway to nab the remaining accused, police added.

Police seize drugs worth Rs 5.14 crore, 11 held



BENGALURU: Police on Tuesday said they had seized drugs worth approximately Rs 5.14 crore across five police station limits in the city and arrested 11 persons, among them two foreign nationals.

Police said that, on various dates, officers received specific inputs from informants that banned substances such as MDMA, ganja, hydro ganja and heroin were being sold in the jurisdictions of Yelahanka New Town, Adugodi, Bharathinagar, Jalahalli and Pulikeshinagar police stations.

Based on the information, cases were registered under the NDPS Act at the respective police stations, and searches were conducted at locations identified by the informants.

During the questioning, the accused allegedly confessed that they procured drugs from unidentified foreign nationals, as well as from sources in other states and local suppliers at low prices, and sold them to the public, including college students, for profit,

police said in a release. Police seized 2 kg and 7 grams of MDMA, 31 kg and 396 grams of ganja, 220 grams of hydro ganja and 162 grams of heroin. A two-wheeler used in the crime was also seized.

In one of the cases, one accused is absconding, police said.

They added that efforts are underway to trace the unidentified suppliers and that further investigation is in progress.

The 11 accused have been produced in the court on different dates and remanded to judicial custody.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said a foreign national was arrested in connection with the seizure of 2 kg and 7 grams of MDMA in the Yelahanka New Town police station limits, valued at around Rs 4 crore in the open market.

"We have gathered certain inputs during his interrogation, based on which details of consumers and suppliers are being traced," he added.

MCD extends deadline for property tax amnesty scheme till April 30

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has extended the last date of availing the Property Tax Amnesty Scheme 2025-26 till April 30, the Delhi Mayor said on Tuesday. Announcing the extension, Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said the decision was taken in view of the positive response from citizens and to allow more taxpayers to settle their pending dues under the Sumpattikar Niptaan Yojana (SUNIYO) scheme. He urged property owners and occupiers to make use of the scheme, describing it as a "golden opportunity" to clear outstanding liabilities without incurring interest or penalties. The mayor said that the scheme will not be extended beyond April 30. Under SUNIYO, taxpayers can avail a complete waiver of property tax, interest and penalties for the period prior to 2020-21, provided they pay the principal tax amount for the current financial year 2025-26 and the preceding five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. Officials said the late fee will remain unchanged at five per cent, as applicable during the February-March extension period.

Delhi CM expresses grief over loss of lives in temple accident in Bihar

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday expressed grief over the death of several devotees in a stampede at the Sheela Mata temple premises in Bihar's Nalanda.

She expressed her deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayed that may God grant peace to the departed souls, and bestow strength upon their families to bear this boundless sorrow.

Taking to social media platform X on Tuesday, Delhi CM said that the news was extremely heartbreaking. She also wished for a swift recovery of all those who were injured in the mishap.