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MOHALI WEATHER 10:30 AM

Temperature 31°C

Sunset: 7:28 PM

Friday, 12.07.2024
Sunrise 5:29 AM (IST)

Next Full Moon
21 July 2024
Next New Moon
04 Aug 2024

PM Modi meets economists ahead of Budget for 2024-25

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is meeting eminent economists to elicit their views and suggestions for the upcoming Budget, a senior government official said. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on July 23.

Besides economists and sectoral experts, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery and other members also attended the meeting.

Finance Minister Sitharaman, Planning Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran and economists Surjit Bhalla and Ashok Gulati and veteran banker K V Kamath among others were present in the meeting. The Budget for 2024-25 will be the first major economic document of the Modi 3.0 government, which, among other things, is expected to lay the road map for making India a developed nation by 2047.

President Droupadi Murmu, in her address to the joint sitting of Parliament last month, had indicated that the government would come out with historic steps to accelerate the pace of reforms.

She also said the Budget will be



an effective document of the government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision.

Sitharaman has already held discussions with various stakeholders, including economists and captains of Indian industry, on the forthcoming Budget.

Several experts have urged the government to provide tax relief to the common man to boost consumption and take steps to check inflation and accelerate economic growth.

The economy has recorded a growth rate of 8.2 per cent in 2023-24.

Earlier in February, Sitharaman presented an interim budget for 2024-25 in view of the Lok Sabha elections.

Senior BSF and police officials meet after terror attack

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jammu : Senior BSF and police officials gathered at a high-level interstate security review meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua today, days after terrorists, who are believed to have infiltrated from across the International Border, ambushed an army patrol.

Five army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer, were killed and as many injured when terrorists opened fire on two army vehicles on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountain road near Badnota village, about 150 km from the district headquarters of Kathua.

The meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir DGP RR Swain, his Punjab counterpart Gaurav Yadav and Special Director General of BSF, Western Command, YB Khurania, among others, to review the security grid along the International Border and plug any loopholes, officials said.

ADGP (Law and Order), J-K, Vijay Kumar, ADG (Law and Order), Punjab, Arpit Shukla and IG-rank BSF officers of Punjab and Jammu were also



present at the meeting, they said. The officials said the terrorists are believed to have successfully infiltrated through the International Border and managed to reach the dense forests of Machedi that connects Basantgarh in Udhampur and Bhadrawah in Doda district.

The terrorists have also used the route in the past when militancy was at its peak in the area over two decades ago. The area was cleared of terrorist presence but the revival of terror activities has led to serious security concerns.

More than 50 persons have so far been detained for questioning as a massive manhunt for the terrorists entered the fourth day today.

SC judge recuses from hearing Manish Sisodia's plea for revival of bail petitions in excise policy cases



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kumar today recused from hearing pleas of AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia by which his bail petitions have been sought to be revived in the excise policy scam cases.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Karol and Sanjay Kumar said another bench in which Justice Kumar is not a member will take up Sisodia's two separate pleas for reviving his bail petitions in cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the excise policy 'scam' case.

As soon as the matter was taken up for hearing, Justice Khanna said, "Our brother has some difficulty. He will not

like to hear this matter for personal reasons."

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, requested the bench to list the matter urgently, saying time is of essence.

He said the trial has not yet commenced in both the cases.

The bench said another bench will take it up on July 15.

On June 4, the top court had refused to entertain the bail pleas of Sisodia in cases lodged by the CBI and the ED in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

Sisodia had earlier moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court's May 21 verdict which dismissed his bail pleas in the cases probed by the two central agencies.

Government employees to get leaves to spend time with parents, in-laws



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Guwahati : The Assam government has declared two days of special casual leave in November for its employees to spend time with their parents or parents-in-law, the chief minister's office (CMO) said today.

The special leaves cannot be used for personal enjoyment and those without parents or parents-in-laws will not be eligible for the leaves, it added.

"The Assam government, under the leadership of CM Dr @himantabiswa, has declared special casual leave for state government employees on November 6 and 8, 2024, to spend time with their parents or parents-in-law," the CMO said in a post on X.

It said the leave must be used

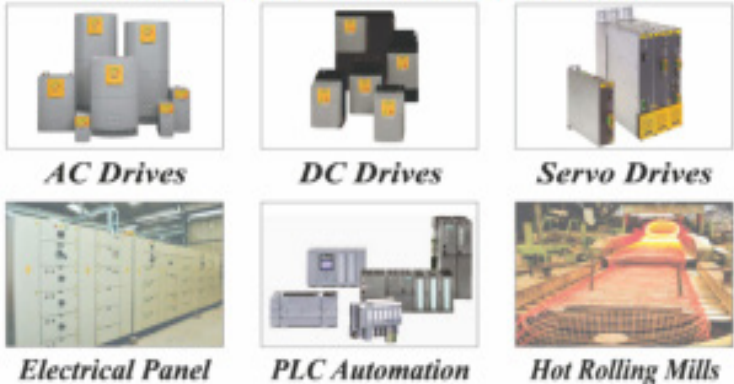
"solely for spending time with ageing parents or parents-in-law to honour, respect, and care for them, and not for personal enjoyment".

The leaves can be availed along with holiday for Chhath Puja on November 7, second Saturday holiday on November 9 and Sunday on November 10, the CMO said.

It said that employees in essential services can avail it in a phased manner, and those who do not have parents or parents-in-law will not be entitled to it.

The two special casual leaves for spending time with parents and parents-in-law for government employees was announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in his first Independence Day speech after assuming office in 2021.

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Environmental concerns over Starship launch: SpaceX calls report misleading

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

A day after the New York Times reported growing environmental concerns in and around SpaceX's Boca Chica Starship Super Heavy testing facility, SpaceX issued a strong rebuttal. The Elon Musk-founded company claimed that the report contains misleading information about the company's environmental impact at its Boca Chica, Texas site.

The aerospace company specifically addressed allegations regarding the decline of the threatened piping plover population in the area.

In its statement, SpaceX asserts that the frequently cited 2021 study by Newstead and Hill, which reported a 54% decline in the piping plover population through 2021, is "outdated and unreliable." The company points out significant flaws in the study's methodol-



ogy, including inconsistent timing of field visits and incomplete habitat surveys.

SpaceX emphasised that the presence of

piping plovers in any given location is highly variable and affected by numerous factors unrelated to population size. The company also notes that piping plovers do not nest in Texas but primarily use the area for migration or wintering.

Importantly, SpaceX


highlights a 2022 follow-up report by the same researchers, which reanalysed the data and found no significant change in the piping plover population at Boca Chica over time. This updated analysis balanced the initial decreasing trend with an increase in the

final year of the study. Furthermore, SpaceX reports conducting its own nine-year monitoring program using a protocol developed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The company's findings, based on consistent monthly surveys over the past two years, show little to no evidence of strong trends, either increasing or decreasing, for any target species, including piping plovers.

SpaceX is already gearing up for the fifth test flight of its ambitious Starship Super Heavy spacecraft as it aims to catch the humongous boosters and land them safely this time.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by:
Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
12 th July

Born on 12 th July: They can read the motives of others and are good judges of character. These ambitious, career-oriented people have a pragmatic nature yet dream large. They possess a generous soul and the desire to be part of the crowd but may be unwilling to show these aspects of their personality. They are consistent, dependable, and loyal. They often have more than their share of emotional ups and downs in romantic love. Finding the right person can be a chore, but when they do, they want that person with them for a lifetime. This could relate to a difficult childhood or feeling left out of the family. They are sometimes unsure in their parenting role. They believe in strict discipline but don't want to restrict their children the way they themselves may have been. The people born on this date are worriers and often suffer from worrier's ailments: headaches, backaches, upset stomach, and sleeping disorders.

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



















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 Aries (March 21 - April 19) July 12 th 2024 : Keep your poise as you are likely to confront some difficulties otherwise-it may put you in some serious trouble. Especially control your anger which is nothing but a short madness. The arrival of money today can relieve you from many financial troubles.	 Taurus (April 20 - May 20) July 12 th 2024 : Make serious efforts to improve your personality. Simply ignore those who approach you for business credit. Your interference in wife's affairs could make her frenzy. Take her permission to avoid temper flare up. You can easily avoid the problem.	 Gemini (May 21 - June 20) July 12 th 2024 : Keep your poise as you are likely to confront some difficulties otherwise-it may put you in some serious trouble. Especially control your anger which is nothing but a short madness. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position.
 Cancer (June 21 - July 22) July 12 th 2024 : You are going to enjoy the pleasure of leisure. Those who were going through financial crisis for a long time can attain money from anywhere today, which will eliminate several life problems in an instant. There may be opportunities to attend social functions- which would bring you in close contact with influential people.	 Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) July 12 th 2024 : Don't force and compel people to do things for you. Think in terms of other's want and interest that will give you unlimited happiness. Bank dealing need to be handled very carefully. Your knowledge and good humour would impress people around you. Understand the feelings of your beloved today.	 Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) July 12 th 2024 : Unwanted thoughts may occupy your mind. Try to engage yourself in physical exercise because an empty brain is a devil's workshop. Those who are married may have to spend a lot of money on the education of their children today. Social activity with your family would keep everybody in a relaxed and pleasant mood.
 Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) July 12 th 2024 : Don't depend on fate and try to improve your health as fortune is a lazy goddess which will never come to you. It is high time for you to control your weight and restart exercising to regain your health. Increase in income from past investment is foreseen.	 Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) July 12 th 2024 : Money position and financial problems are however a source of tension. Real estate investment would be lucrative. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems- Ignore them and don't let this bother your mind. Girlfriend may deceive you.	 Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) July 12 th 2024 : Your hope will bloom like a rich delicate fragrant and dazzling flower. Monetary transactions will continuously take place throughout the day, and after the end of the day, you will be able to save enough. Watch out what you say when you are in a group-You could be severely criticized for your impulsive remarks.
 Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) July 12 th 2024 : A day of recreation and fun. If you are planning on hanging out with your friends, then spend money thoughtfully, as you are likely to suffer from money loss. A day for renewal of bonds and ties with relations. You will be popular and easily attract members of the opposite sex.	 Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) July 12 th 2024 : Elderly people need to take care of their health. Good day for real estate and financial transactions. Your knowledge and good humour would impress people around you. Don't lose heart-failures are quite natural they are the beauty of life. This is one of those great days when you will feel good at the workplace.	 Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) July 12 th 2024 : Try to get out of your office early for some recreation. Today, investing in land or any property can be fatal for you. Avoid making such decisions as much as possible. New look- new outfit- new friends could be for you today. Little chance to escape from the Cupid's arrow.

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Will knock the door of honorable HC if no action is taken within three weeks- Bedi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Deputy Mayor Mohali Municipal Corporation Kuljit Singh Bedi has issued legal notice to Punjab Chief Secretary along with Principal Secretary Housing, Principal Secretary Transport Department, Deputy Commissioner Mohali and Chief Administrator GMADA to make the Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Bus Stand of Mohali and its adjoining road operational.

The notice reads that within three weeks the bus stand should be effectively made operational and the one way road adjoining the bus stand which has been taken over by the bus stand, should be restored otherwise he will knock the door of the court which will be the responsibility of the above officials and the Punjab government.

In this legal notice sent by Kuljit Singh Bedi through his lawyers Ranjivan Singh and Risham Rag Singh, it is said that half of the road adjacent to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Bus Stand was taken over by the bus stand construction company so that the work of the bus stand can be done quickly. He said that the company left the work of the bus stand and ran away, but the possession of the road was not given back to Gmada and now the road has started to sink from one side, which can cause a major accident.

It has been said in the notice that Kuljit Singh Bedi gave memorandum letters to various officials regarding this issue of public interest several times to get this bus stand operational and to take back the possession of this road and he also went to their offices and met them. Apart from this, the issue was brought to the attention of the officers and the government through the media, but there was no solution. He said that this road is the entry point of Mohali and people enter Mohali city only from here after landing from the flyover, due to which there is some-



times a big traffic jam. This brings disrepute to the city of Mohali and questions the performance of the officials.

The notice states that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Inter-State Bus Terminal (Mohali Bus Stand), Phase 6, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) project was started in 2009 and was to be completed by June 2011 by the then government. Spread over seven acres, it was supposed to be an inter-state bus terminal with shops and office space, multiplex, five-star hotel, three multi-storied towers along with a bank and a helipad, but even after 13 years, it is yet to be completed.

The notice states that Kuljit Singh Bedi Deputy Mayor of Mohali is a forward-thinking and enthusiastic individual who has taken various matters related to the welfare of the people of Mohali at various forums including the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court for logical resolution of issues of public interest. Kuljit Singh Bedi had earlier filed PILs regarding increasing water supply capacity from Kajauli Water Works to Mohali, providing hot lines to water storage tanks in Mohali to ensure uninterrupted water supply. Besides opening of communi-

ty centers under various departments, shifting of liquor vendors from green belts, against imposition of property tax by the state government, demanding adequate/effective steps to remove heaps of stinking garbage from the streets, (2007), cleaning of open spaces/parks/roads/of Mohali due to state-wide strike in 2014. Kuljeet Singh Bedi also fought for establishing/Construction of Old Age Homes in Mohali and other districts of Punjab State (Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act), closing of community health centre of Phase 3B1 Health Center at Mohali in guise of opening Liver and Biliary Institute. Apart from this, Deputy Mayor Kuljit Singh Bedi's case regarding non-payment of dues by the Electricity Department to the Municipal Corporation is also going on in the court.

The notice states that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Inter-State Bus Terminal (Mohali Bus Stand), Phase 6, Mohali, S.A.S. Nagar, was inaugurated in the year 2016 but the bus stand has been practically closed since its inauguration. The notice said that within three weeks this bus stand should be made operational and the one way road adjacent to its basement should also be restored which is under the occupation of the bus stand and a kind of forest has grown there. This road is also getting washed away from one side.

Deputy Mayor Kuljit Singh Bedi said that if this does not happen, he will knock the door of the honorable Punjab and Haryana High Court against the above officials and the Punjab government, the full responsibility of which will be on these officials and the Punjab government.

PIC OF THE DAY

WHO CARES...?

Manholes Remain Uncleaned in Mohali



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Large quantities of dry tree leaves and sand are visibly scattered across various parts of Mohali city, obstructing road gullies and clogging drains. This accumulation poses a significant challenge to the city's cleanliness and hygiene standards.

Heaps of dry tree leaves and sand, deposited along medians and road sides, have become a common sight in Mohali, exacerbating concerns among residents and commuters. Sources within the Municipal Corporation attribute this worsening situation to a lack of sand sweeping vehicles and a shortage of sanitary workers employed for clearing sand. According to recent studies, the Municipal Corporation urgently requires additional sanitary workers to address the mounting issue of sand heaps and unattended dry leaves. Experts emphasize that manual sweeping exacerbates the problem by dispersing settled dust back into the air, even with the application of water. They recommend either suspending manual sweeping practices or promptly acquiring mechanical sweepers.

Residents and commuters have reported experiencing discomfort and health issues due to the dust on city roads, including red and burning eyes, sneezing, coughing, and allergies. In response to such concerns, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued directives to all municipal corporations and local bodies in cities with poor air quality levels, including Mohali. The NGT mandates the sprinkling of water on roads before sweeping to mitigate dust pollution. It specifies that water used for this purpose should be sourced from sewage treatment plants to conserve freshwater resources. Additionally, the NGT instructs municipal bodies to undertake further measures such as planting grass, herbs, and shrubs on pavements and open dusty areas. Despite these directives, the persistent issue of uncleaned sand and dry leaves in Mohali highlights the need for urgent action by the Municipal Corporation to ensure a cleaner and healthier city environment. **But Who Cares?**

Pb explores further opportunities for litchi export to UK

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Following the successful maiden export of Punjab's litchi to England, United Kingdom Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Caroline Rowett today called upon Punjab Horticulture Minister S. Chetan Singh Jouramajra to discuss strategies for future litchi consignments and sharing and promoting agro-allied technologies.

During the high-level meeting, which was focused on expanding Punjab's agricultural export potential and fostering international collaborations, S. Chetan Singh Jouramajra highlighted Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann's vision of positioning Punjab's products on the global map, citing the recent litchi shipment as a prime example of the government's initiative to explore new markets for the state's produce.

Potential collaborations in solar energy, artificial intelligence and drone mapping, Advancements in precision agriculture, opportunities in agribusiness ventures, exploration of carbon and water credits and development of a unified brand for Punjab's exports was also



discussed in length and width.

Rowett expressed keen interest in the litchi export program and assured the development of a roadmap for future collaborations between Punjab and the United Kingdom.

Horticulture Minister S. Chetan Singh Jouramajra informed that the next big shipment of litchi from the state will be exported to England soon.

Notably, the recent litchi export initiative, launched by Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APE-DA), marked a significant milestone for Punjab's agricultural sector. The exported litchis, sourced from the sub-mountainous districts of Pathankot, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur, are renowned for their deep red colour and superior sweetness due to the region's favourable climate.

It is also worth mentioning that Punjab's litchi cultivation spans 3,250 hectares, yielding approximately 13,000 metric tons annually, positioning the state as a potential major player in the global litchi market.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Mrs. Shailender Kaur and other officials.

Pb Govt seeks applications for recruitment of Chairperson. State Scheduled Castes Commission

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is continuously striving for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes of the state.

The Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities has invited applications until August 6, 2024, for the recruitment of the Chairperson for the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission.

Divulging in this regard, Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur stated that the Punjab Government seeks to appoint a Chairperson for the State Scheduled Castes Commission to ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes for the Sched-



uled Castes, thereby ensuring that the intended beneficiaries receive the full benefits of these schemes.

Dr. Baljit Kaur further informed that applicants should be at least at the rank of Principal Secretary and should not be over 65 years of age

to be eligible for the post.

She said that interested candidates can submit their applications to the office of the Director, Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities Department at SCO No:7, Phase-1, SAS Nagar, Mohali until August 6, 2024.

She added that applicants who applied to the advertisements dated 8.5.2023, 29.5.2023, 16.9 2023 and 17.10.2023, must reapply, as previous applications will not be considered.

Applications received after the specified date or those that are incomplete will not be entertained.

INLD, BSP to jointly contest upcoming Hry elections

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will jointly contest the upcoming Haryana elections, Abhay Singh Chautala, Secretary General, Indian National Lok Dal announced today.

"In Haryana, we have decided to jointly fight the upcoming assembly elections. Today, the feeling of common people is to oust the BJP from power and keep the Congress party at bay, which looted the state for 10 years earlier," Abhay Singh Chautala said in a press conference.

Chautala further called the Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda an "agent" of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"Former CM and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda is an agent of the BJP. He has proved that he works as an agent...We will fulfil all the promises," he added.

Announcing the alliance BSP supreme Mayawati said the two parties had come together to uproot the anti-people parties the Congress and the BJP.

"Bahujan Samaj Party and Indian National Lok Dal will fight the upcoming assembly elections in Haryana together with the re-



solve to defeat the anti-people parties and form a new coalition government, which was announced in a joint press conference in Chandigarh today with my full blessings," Mayawati said in a post on X.

"We have resolved to form a welfare government for all the sections of the society in Haryana. There has been complete unity and agreement in the distribution of seats etc. in this alliance by giving full respect to each other. I have full hope that this mutual unity will defeat the opponents with the blessings of the people and form a new government,"

she added. BSP national coordinator, Akash Anand said that the coalition government will be able to give very good results in Haryana. "If you go to the villages and talk to the people, you will know how much anger and resentment is there among the people here, how their voices were not heard, how work was not done for them. We feel that the coalition government will be able to give very good results here. We are confident that we will form the government,"

Earlier, Indian National Lok Dal Secretary General Abhay Singh Chautala had met BSP president Mayawati at the latter's residence in Lucknow on July 6.

"In that meeting, it had been decided that out of 90 assembly seats in Haryana, the BSP will contest on 37 seats," Akash Anand said. In the 2019 Haryana Assembly polls, BJP won 40 seats, Congress won 31 seats, JJP won 10 seats and INLD won 1 seat. The Haryana Assembly Elections are to be held this year on 90 Assembly seats.

Water everywhere, Delhi turned into a 'river' after a few hours of rain.

Earlier they were worried about water. now they are worried about water



MP Sanjeev Arora calls on Union Minister JP Nadda



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ludhiana : Rajya Sabha MP from Ludhiana Sanjeev Arora who is also a Member of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, met the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda in New Delhi.

In a statement here on Thursday, he said he informed the Minister that he has actively participated in parliamentary duties with a focus on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

He further informed the Minister that since his membership to the Upper House, he raised a total of 8 questions in the Parliament related to Health and Family Welfare issues. During the Zero Hour, he made one significant intervention, highlighting the need to make Ayushman Scheme more effective by enabling the poor to get full benefits. He also made one special mention, drawing attention of the August House regarding affordable healthcare in hospitals getting benefits from the Government under the Income Tax Act.

Further, Arora apprised the Minister that the subject of health is remarkably close to his heart, therefore, his contributions through various forms and tools are dedicated in enhancing the health sector and addressing key concerns within his capacity as an MP, Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee, on Health and Family Welfare and as an Industrialist.

Arora also urged the Minister to make Ayushman Scheme more effective. He stated that as of now average spent on patients treated under Ayushma is Rs.12,000 which is ex-

ceptionally low.

Average Bed count on hospital empaneled are around 45 Beds, which shows that bigger hospitals with critical treatment are mostly inaccessible by the patients being treated under the Ayushman Scheme. Some actions which make Ayushman more successful were discussed. A change in health insurance plans was discussed to reduce out of pocket expenses in the country which is as of now around 60%.

On Medical Education front a cap of 150 seats of UG(MBBS) were discussed. This has an ambiguity as Medical Colleges with history cannot be in the same league as new hospitals. He suggested that older medical colleges should be eligible for more MBBS seats if they fulfill the criteria of infrastructure.

He pointed out that Respiratory Medicine has been deleted under UG course.

Keeping in view Covid, TB and recent spike of another pandemic in China which is also related to respiratory issues. He suggested to have it as a separate subject in UG and not club it with General Medicine.

Meanwhile, Arora said the Minister gave a patient hearing to him and appreciated his active participation in parliamentary duties with a focus on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

He said the Minister assured him to look into all the suggestions given by him in the larger public interest. He hoped that his suggestions, if accepted and implemented, would benefit people at large across the country.

Declared unsafe. Himachal's rural folk abandon villages



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : The large-scale migration of people from the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh to nearest cities is a matter of concern for the state government. One can see hundreds of old houses abandoned in villages. The new generation is unwilling to settle in the rural areas. This is happening because of the fact that even after 75 years of independence, governments that ruled the state failed to develop amenities. Many rural areas of the state suffered devastation due to natural calamities in the last few years, and the government has failed to repair and restore the roads or introduce better water supply schemes. Many villages have been declared unsafe by the government where hills were sinking because of large soil erosion and landslides.

Information gathered by The Tribune reveals that poor infrastructure, road network, frequent power failures in the rural areas of the state, lack of medical and education facilities and various other factors led to large-scale migration from hill areas. Governments which reigned the state turned a blind eye to the problems and no efforts were made to stop the migration. Hundreds of families from rural areas of Kangra and adjoining Mandi districts have shifted to Palampur, Baijnath, Joginder Nagar, Gopalpur, Bhawarna, Papprola in the past five years. Dozens of colonies have come up in and around Palampur, where several outsiders have settled and bought costly lands. Similar is the situation in other districts of the state.

"Environmental degradation, over exploitation of natural resources, illegal mining and reckless cutting of hills have

further compounded these problems. The policy of the state government for exploiting natural resources with total disregard environment laws and not caring for the consequences have further degraded the ecology of the hill state region which has created serious problems for the rural population forcing them to leave their villages" said Subhash Sharma, an environmentalist and member of NGO People's Voice. The Himalayan mountain ranges are comparatively young and not yet fully established. The overexploitation of natural resources in the hill region has caused large landslides, flash floods and soil erosion, which in some cases have even changed the geography of the region and caused untold hardships to the local people.

The state government should come out with a comprehensive plan to attract people back to their villages in the hill state. The government should make efforts to make villages connected with a well-developed road network, medical and education facilities which will give confidence to the locals to get immediate assistance during emergencies. Moreover, it should stop the over exploitation of natural resources because of illegal mining, cutting of green cover.

It should strengthen the rural health services, emergency healthcare facilities should be created in villages at the panchayat level and these should be well-connected by road to medical centres at the block and district levels. Livelihood opportunities should be developed at the village level.

INLD, BSP announce alliance for Hry Assembly election

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Announcing a tie-up between the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in the upcoming assembly election in Haryana, INLD secretary general Abhay Singh Chautala and BSP national coordinator Akash Anand said the alliance would explore joining hands with other like-minded social and political outfits.

The INLD-BSP alliance's CM face will be Abhay Chautala. Saying that the INLD would contest 53 seats of the total 90 while the BSP would fight on the remaining 37, the two leaders highlighted the main points of a joint manifesto.

It included doing away with the



contractual employment and offering permanent jobs, setting up solar plants and panels across the state that so that nobody has to pay more than Rs 500 as electricity bill. The joint manifesto also promises free water, old-age pension of Rs 7,500 per

month, Rs 21,000 unemployment allowance to the youth, one employed person in every house, and a free gas cylinder.

Clearing the backlog of SC jobs, 100-yard plots to SC families, free coaching for competitive exams to SC students, free education up to Class 10 for SC and BC students, increase in quota of SC and BC students in MBBS and the rollback of mandatory bond for the general category was also promised.

Pb Forest Dept proposes increase in Sukhna eco zone

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : In a withdrawal from its stand of demarcating 100 metres as eco sensitive zone (ESZ) around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary on the Punjab side, the Punjab Forest Department has come up with a fresh draft for increasing the demarcated area. The draft will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval, before being sent to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

A senior government functionary said an increase in the ESZ area has been proposed after consultation with stakeholders. Earlier, the Union Forest Ministry had rejected the Punjab Government's proposal of only 100 metres of ESZ around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary after the Chandigarh Administration objected to it.

Recently, the Union Ministry had issued a draft notification demarcating area from 1 km to 2.035 km around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary as ESZ on the Haryana side in Panchkula district. Though the UT Forest and Wildlife Department has declared from 2 km to 2.75 km area as ESZ of the sanctuary, it has been seeking a similar zone from Haryana and Punjab.

After Haryana's move to increase the demarcated area of the zone was approved by the Union Ministry, Punjab has also increased the demarcated area and would be seeking approval of the



Union Ministry. Officials said 90 per cent of the sanctuary area fell in Haryana and Punjab.

The Supreme Court in its June 2022 order had ruled that each national park and wildlife sanctuary must have an ESZ of minimum 1 km, measured from the demarcated boundary of such protected forest.

The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary is home to seven Schedule I animal species under the Wildlife Act, including leopard, Indian pangolin, sambar, golden jackal, king cobra, python and monitor lizard. The Schedule I species are considered endangered and need protection.

A few years ago, the issue of declaring an ESZ around Sukhna Lake had become a bone of contention between

Punjab and UT. Punjab wanted to have just 100 metres of ESZ as it would pave the way for controversial Rs 1,800 crore multi-storey Tata Camelot project in Kansal (Punjab), which was to come up near the sanctuary. In 2019, the project was struck down by the Supreme Court citing interests of then 95 MLAs of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, who were to get flats in the project.

Earlier, the Union Forest Ministry had rejected the Punjab Government's proposal of only 100 metre of ESZ around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary after the Chandigarh Administration objected to it. Recently, the Centre had issued a draft notification demarcating area from 1 km to 2.035 km as ESZ on the Haryana side in Panchkula district.

Finally, Punjab to give 50 acres land in New Chandigarh for Metro depot

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Punjab Government has finally agreed to allocate nearly 50 acres in New Chandigarh for the construction of a Metro depot. The decision has paved the way for the tricity Metro project.

The UT Administration had sent repeated reminders to the Punjab Government for the allocation of the piece of land identified for the construction of the Metro depot in New Chandigarh.

A senior officer stated the government was ready to allocate nearly 50 acres, but the clearance by the Forest Department was pending to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

The Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) prepared by the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) identified the need for a depot in New Chandigarh. The land, already earmarked, is crucial for the inspection and maintenance of the Metro system once operational.

Earlier, a proposal for an additional depot in Zirakpur was declined by the state government. However, in collaboration with the



Haryana Government, plans are underway to set up a depot in Sector 27, Panchkula, as an alternative solution.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has recently given in-principle approval to the proposed Metro project to be underground in the heritage sectors (I-30) of the city.

The UT Administration had recommended that the proposed Metro project for the city should be mainly underground to preserve the city's aesthetic structure.

A sub-committee of the Chandigarh Heritage Conservation Committee, considering the city's heritage status, had recommended the underground line for the entire Metro project. The UT Administration had communicated this decision to the ministry, and a detailed report on the underground project was requested for a final decision. The Administration had submitted the report to the ministry for the final decision.

The sub-committee had suggested that no stretch of the Metro in the planned city should be elevated. This is also in sync with the recommendations of the Chandigarh Master Plan 2031.

In a bid to preserve the heritage status of the city, the Administration had recommended that the Metro within the sectoral grid should be underground despite the substantially higher cost.

According to UNESCO guidelines, the Metro section connecting the Capitol Complex and the Sukhna Lake needs heritage impact assessment.

24-year-old beaten to death over affair with minor

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Rewari : A 24-year-old man from Rajasthan was allegedly beaten to death in Rewari by the family of a girl who suspected he was having an affair with her, police said today.

The incident happened in Chitrakur village of Rewari, they said.

Two uncles of the girl have been arrested in connection with the man's death, police said. They have been identified as Dinesh and Ravinder.

"We have taken them on two-day police remand on a city court order and are questioning them," Inspector Prahlad Singh, SHO Khol police station, said. According to police, Mohit, a



native of Alwar district's Giglana village, had gone to meet the 17-year-old girl at her house in Rewari.

When the girl's grandparents saw him they raised an alarm and woke up the rest of the family that beat Mohit.

The victim was rushed to a hos-

pital in Rewari by his family members who had come to the village after hearing about the incident. Mohit succumbed at the hospital.

"We found Mohit severely injured when we reached

there. We took him to a local doctor, who referred him to Rewari, but he died. We did not know Mohit had an affair," said Rajesh Kumar, an uncle of Mohit.

Inspector Prahlad Singh said police are conducting raids to nab other suspects.

'Kalki' box office day 14: Prabhas' film at Rs 536 crore before 'Indian 2' release

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : 'Kalki 2898 AD' is going to enter into its third weekend at the box office. Before the 'Indian 2' release, it has already collected Rs 536.75 crore nett in India, including Rs 7.5 crore, reported the trade website sacnilk.

Starring Prahas, Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles, the film's business dropped slightly in the weekdays, but the third weekend is expected to see tangible growth. The Telugu market is leading with a total of Rs 252.1 crore in 13 days, followed by the Hindi market where the film has minted Rs 229.05 crore. 'Kalki 2898 AD' is aiming to enter into the Rs 1000 crore club at the global box office and between Rs 700-800 crore by the end of its domestic run.

Week 1: Rs 414.85 crore

Friday: Rs 16.7 crore

Saturday: Rs 34.15 crore

Sunday: Rs 44.35 crore

Monday: Rs 10.4 crore

Tuesday: Rs 8.8 crore

Wednesday: Rs 7.5 crore



Total: Rs 536.75 crore
Meanwhile, 'Kalki' is going to share screens with 'Indian 2' at the box office from Friday. The Kamal Haasan-starrer is one of the most anticipated Tamil movies of the year and is riding heavily on the success of its prequel - 'Indian' - which was released in 1996. The vigilante thriller is directed by Shankar and is expected to open well. It will largely depend on word-of-mouth to gauge its box office

performance in the longer run. However, it can provide a slight dent in the smooth run of the Nag Ashwin-directorial, at least in the South Indian market. In the Hindi belt, Akshay Kumar's 'Sarfire' is going to hit the screens on Friday. It is the Hindi remake of Suriya's award-winning film, 'Soorarai Pottru', and is expected to perform decently at the ticket window, without really hampering the 'Kalki' run.

Uruguay star Darwin Nunez punches Colombia fans in ugly fight at Copa America



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Charlotte : A fight broke out between Uruguay players and a section of hostile Colombia fans at the Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte today after the Copa America semi-final between the two teams. Liverpool star Darwin Nunez was among the ones who were seen punching fans in the stands during the ugly post-match scenes. Fans were seen hurling caps, cans, and punches at the Uruguay players, who were making their way back to the changing room after a disappointing loss in the last-eight match.

In a video shot by one of the fans at the Bank of America Stadium, Darwin Nunez can be seen getting irked by chants from Colombian fans before he enters the stands and throws punches at a few of them. Barcelona's Ronald Araujo and Atletico Madrid's Jose Maria Gimenez were also seen standing alongside Nunez when the fight broke out. Security officials and police officers rushed to calm the situation down and escort the players away from the scene. A few players, including Nunez, returned to the field and met their families, who reportedly were abused by a section of fans.

Uruguay captain Gimenez lashed out at the security situation in Charlotte, saying the players feared for the well-being of their families, pointing fingers at hostile behaviour from Colombia

fans, who dominated the stands today.

"It's a total disaster. There wasn't a single police officer. They showed up half an hour later. A disaster. And we were there, standing up for ourselves, for our loved ones," Gimenez told the broadcasters after the match. "Our families are suffering because of some people who have a few drinks and don't know how to drink, who act like children. Hopefully, they'll take more precautions for the next game so this doesn't happen again, because this is a disaster," he added.

Nunez, who looked shaken after the incident, was cooled by his Liverpool teammate Luis Diaz and veteran Luis Suaraz.

It was a disappointing evening for Nunez and Uruguay as they paid the price for not being clinical with their chances in the Copa America semi-final. Nunez missed three good opportunities to put Uruguay in the lead in the first half before Colombia took the lead in the 39th minute after Jefferson Lerma headed a corner into the net.

Colombia were down to 10 men after Daniel Munoz was sent off after a second yellow for elbowing Uruguay's Manuel Ugarte in the chest. It was a heated affair on the field as the referee handed out seven yellow cards, including a red.

Vicky Kaushal reacts to Sunny Deol's 'Tauba Tauba' post: Following your footsteps

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Actor Vicky Kaushal reacted to Sunny Deol's viral video of performing 'Tauba Tauba' hook step. The 'Bad Newz' actor reacted by reposting Sunny's Instagram story. Vicky added that he follows Deol's 'footsteps and hooksteps.'

Vicky Kaushal's song 'Tauba Tauba' from his upcoming film 'Bad Newz' continues to trend at the top. The 'Gadar' actor shared the meme on social media, writing, "When they say you can't dance, but you find out you did it before anyone else (sic)." Vicky Kaushal responded to it by writing, "Following your footsteps and hook steps sir (sic)."

Previously, filmmaker Karan Johar shared the meme showing Sunny Deol performing steps similar to those done by Vicky Kaushal in the 'Bad Newz' song.



Earlier, actors such as Salman Khan and Hrithik Roshan lauded Vicky Kaushal for his moves in 'Tauba Tauba'. 'Tauba Tauba' is the first song from 'Bad Newz' and features Vicky with Triptii Dimri and singer Karan Aujla. The song has been choreographed by Bosco-Cesar. 'Bad Newz' is produced by

Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Amritpal Singh Bindra, and Anand Tiwari. The film, based on heteropaternal superfecundation, will be released in theatres on July 19, presented by Amazon Prime in association with Dharma Productions and Leo Media Collective.

It's story TIME

The Tortoise and the Hare

This is an extremely popular story about a hare and a tortoise. The hare is an animal that is known to move quickly, while a tortoise is one to

move slowly. One day, the hare challenged the tortoise to a race simply to prove that he was the best. The tortoise agreed. Once the race began the hare was easily able to get a head start. Upon realizing that the tortoise is far behind. The overconfident hare decided to take a nap. Meanwhile the tortoise, who was extremely determined and dedicated to the race was slowly nearing the finish line. The tortoise won the race while the hare napped. Most importantly he did it with humility and without arrogance. When you work hard and persevere, you can achieve your goals. Slow and steady wins the race.



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India has given 'Buddha' to world, not 'Yudh': PM Modi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Emphasising India's long-standing commitment to global peace and prosperity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the Indian diaspora in Vienna, stated that India has given 'Buddha' to the world, not 'Yudh' (war).

PM Modi highlighted India's aspirations for global leadership in the 21st century, asserting that the country is working towards being the "best, the brightest, achieving the biggest, and reaching the highest milestones".

"For thousands of years, we have been sharing our knowledge and expertise. We didn't give 'Yudha' (war), we gave the world 'Buddha'. India always gave peace and prosperity, and therefore India is going to strengthen its role in the 21st century," PM Modi said in Vienna. The Prime Minister made these remarks in Australia during his two-nation tour, which also included Russia. In Moscow, he highlighted the importance of finding a peaceful solution to the Ukraine war during talks with President Vladimir Putin.

PM Modi's visit to Austria was the



first by an Indian Prime Minister in 41 years. He referred to the visit as a "meaningful" one and said, "This long wait has come to an end on a historic occasion. India and Austria are celebrating 75 years of their friendship". "India and Austria are geographically on two different ends, but we have many similarities. Democracy connects both the countries. Our shared values are liberty, equality, pluralism, and respect for the rule of law. Our societies are multicultural and multilingual. Both countries celebrate diversity, and

a big medium to reflect these values are elections," the Prime Minister remarked.

In his discussion with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and Chancellor Karl Nehammer, PM Modi discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in several sectors, including the environment and combating climate change. He also discussed the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia, with the two leaders.

In Moscow, the discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin was focused on trade, defence, strategic cooperation. PM Modi told the Russian President that waging war is not the solution to longstanding issues.

The Prime Minister reached New Delhi today morning after the tour to Russia and Austria.

WhatsApp chat reveals IAS officer's demands: House, car, separate office

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Pune : Puja Khedkar, the Maharashtra probationary IAS officer who was transferred over alleged misuse of power, demanded a separate office, a car, and a house for herself, details of her WhatsApp chat with the Pune District Collector revealed. The officer made these demands before assuming charge as Assistant Collector in Pune.

The District Collector had flagged these unusual demands to the Chief Secretary. In his report, he suggested that it would be inappropriate to continue Khedkar's training in Pune and mentioned that it might lead to administrative complications.

The officer was offered her own chamber. However, she declined it due to the lack of an attached bathroom, the Collector's report stated. Before joining, Khedkar visited the office with her father, Dilip Khedkar, and together they proposed to use a VIP hall located next to the mining department as her cabin. The probationary officer was told that she was not entitled to these facilities on probation, and accommodation will be provided to her.

Following the District Collector's re-



port, Khedkar, the 2023-batch IAS officer, has been transferred to Washim district for the completion of her training. She will serve there as a 'supernumerary Assistant Collector' till July 30, 2025.

She also used her private Audi car with a red-blue beacon light and VIP number plate and had also installed a 'Maharashtra government' board on her private car.

Following the controversy, a scrutiny of her appointment documents revealed that she allegedly submitted fake disability and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to clear the civil ser-

VICES examination.

Khedkar appeared for the civil services exam under the OBC and visually impaired categories. She also submitted a mental illness certificate. In April 2022, she was asked to undergo medical tests at AIIMS to verify her disabilities. However, Khedkar refused to attend these examinations

on six different occasions, an official stated.

Later, an MRI scanning certificate she produced from a private facility, accepted and confirmed her IAS appointment.

Inconsistencies were also found in Khedkar's claims to OBC non-creamy layer status. According to the election affidavit of her father, Dilip Khedkar, who contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls on a Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi ticket, his wealth was shown to be worth Rs 40 crore. This raised questions about her OBC qualification as well.

Andhra minor gangraped, murdered by boys from same school, body dumped in canal

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Amarawati : An eight-year-old girl in Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal district was allegedly gangraped and murdered by three minor boys, according to the police. After the murder, the boys dumped her body in a canal to destroy evidence.

The victim was a Class 3 student, and two of the accused, aged 12, were studying in the sixth standard. The third boy, aged 13, was in Class 7. Both the victim and the accused were said to be students at the same school.

The incident occurred in Pagidyalala on Sunday but only came to public after the police arrested the suspects.

The father of the minor girl had filed a missing complaint on Sunday, stating that his daughter, who was playing in the park, had disappeared.



Despite extensive searches in Muchumarri Park and interrogations of locals for leads, the police were unable to locate the girl. They then deployed a sniffer dog to aid in the search.

The dog's clues led the police to the residences of the three minor boys. Following an initial investigation, the boys were arrested.

During questioning, the boys reportedly confessed to raping and murdering the young girl.

According to their statement, the boys noticed the girl playing near Muchumarri Park. They asked her to join them for a game and she agreed.

Subsequently, they took her to a secluded area near the Muchumarri irrigation project and assaulted her in turn. Fearing repercussions if the girl reported the assault to her parents, they decided to murder her. They later disposed of her body in a nearby canal and fled the scene.

Apple goes big on iPhone 16 production, plans to ship 90 million units for 2024

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Apple iPhone 16 series is set to launch globally in September. During the WWDC 2024, the tech giant announced that the iPhone 16 series will bring in a software update, iOS 18. This update will revamp several key features of the device. As the iPhone 16 series will bring extensive changes, the reports claim that Apple is looking at a high demand among the buyers. As per a new report, Apple is preparing 90 million units of iPhone 16 devices for 2024 alone. As compared to last year's production of the iPhone 15 series, production will see a boost by 10 per cent.

A report, published in Bloomberg, anticipates its Apple Intelligence feature will boost demand for the new iPhone 16 series, potentially leading to a successful 2024, particularly in markets like China. However, Apple is playing catch-up with Chinese smartphone makers like Xiaomi and Huawei, which have already integrated AI capabilities into their devices, giving them a head start in the AI race.

While the tech giant bets on the Apple Intelligence of the iPhone 16 series, it is interesting to note that it may not roll out completely in September. Another Bloomberg report



stated that the revamped Siri with Apple Intelligence will only be released in 2025 and not before that. The beta version for the same will arrive for testing in January.

Apple Intelligence will introduce writing tools to help users rewrite, proofread, and summarise text across Mail, Notes, Pages, and third-party apps. The Rewrite feature will offer different versions of text, adjusting tone as needed. There is also a Proofread feature that will help check grammar and structure, suggesting edits. The Summarise option can condense long texts into brief formats like bulleted lists or tables.

In another Apple Intelligence feature, users can highlight urgent emails at the top of the inbox. Users can preview summaries instead of the first few lines, simplifying the handling of long threads. Smart Reply offers quick response suggestions, ensuring comprehensive replies.

Apple has also introduced a Genmoji feature that will allow users to create custom emojis by typing descriptions. These can represent friends and family based on photos and be used in messages as stickers or reactions, enhancing communication.

All these features are expected to arrive globally in September with the launch of iPhone 16 series. However, a few new updates, which were mentioned during the WWDC 2024 event, have to wait a little longer. Apple discussed how the new Siri will be able to take command of all the features within the apps, for the first time. For instance, with the help of AI, Siri will be able to open individual documents, move a note to another folder, send or delete an email, open a particular publication in Apple News, email a web link, or even ask the device for a summary of an article. But these updates will not come before 2025.

Delhi HC lists for September 9 Kejriwal's plea against ED summons in excise case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court today listed for hearing on September 9 Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging the summonses issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into an excise policy-linked money-laundering case.

A bench headed by Justice Prathiba M Singh granted four more weeks to the AAP leader to file a rejoinder to the reply submitted by the ED.

The senior counsel, appearing for Kejriwal, sought more time to file the rejoinder saying there are certain changes in the circumstances and they have not been given a proper legal interview, a plea for which is pending in the high court.

"Let the rejoinder be filed in four weeks," the bench, also comprising Justice Amit Sharma, said.

The counsel for the ED had earlier said the petition against the summonses was infructuous after Kejriwal's arrest by the agency on March 21 in the money-laundering case following the high court's refusal to grant him interim protection from coercive action.

On April 22, the court had given two weeks' time to Kejriwal to file his rejoinder. On the next date of hearing in May, the court allowed him four weeks more to place his



stand on record.

The AAP national convenor had approached the high court in the wake of the ninth summons issued by the ED asking him to appear before it on March 21. The high court bench had on March 20 asked the ED to file its reply with respect to the maintainability of the petition. The next day, it asked the ED to also respond to Kejriwal's plea seeking protection from arrest, saying "at this stage" it was not inclined to grant him any interim relief. Kejriwal was arrested by the ED later that evening.

On June 20, the trial court granted bail to Kejriwal in the money-laundering case but on June 25, the high court stayed the bail order following a challenge mounted by the ED.

On June 26, the CBI arrested the Delhi chief minister in the excise policy-related corruption case.

Groundwater temperature could rise by 3.5°C. become undrinkable for billions

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A global study has revealed that shallow groundwater temperatures are projected to increase by an average of 2.1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.

This alarming forecast comes from the world's first global groundwater temperature model, developed by an international team of researchers including Dr. Gabriel Rau from the University of Newcastle and Dr. Dylan Irvine from Charles Darwin University.

The model predicts that the most severe warming will occur in Central Russia, Northern China, parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest. Australian groundwater temperatures are also expected to rise significantly.

Dr. Irvine emphasises the critical importance of groundwater for life on Earth and warns that increasing temperatures could threaten temperature-sensitive ecosystems dependent on groundwater.

The researchers stress that while much attention has been given to climate change's impact on weather events and water availability, the effects on groundwater must not be overlooked.

The study's findings have far-reaching implications for water quality, ecosystem health, and human safety. Dr. Rau explains that warmer groundwater holds less dissolved oxygen, which could lead to fish deaths in rivers that rely on groundwater during dry periods.

Perhaps most concerning is the potential impact on drinking water safety. The model estimates that by 2099, between 59 and 588 million people worldwide could be living in areas where groundwater temperatures exceed the highest drinking water temperature guidelines set by any



country.

This increase in temperature could promote pathogen growth, posing significant risks to human health, especially in regions where access to clean drinking water is already limited.

The warming groundwater also presents economic risks, potentially disrupting industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and energy production that rely heavily on groundwater resources.

To help visualise these projected changes, the research team has developed an interactive online application using Google Earth Engine. This tool allows users to explore annual mean, maximum, and minimum groundwater temperatures at various depths for different years and climate scenarios.

As the world grapples with the multifaceted challenges of climate change, this study underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate global warming and its impacts on vital water resources.

The findings have been published in Nature Geoscience.

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Ukraine's Zelenskyy meets US Congressional leaders amid worries over Trump return

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy returned to the US Capitol (local time) to cement relationships with lawmakers who will vote on future US aid for his country, which could be in jeopardy if former President Donald Trump is re-elected.

Zelenskyy, who is in Washington for this week's NATO summit, met with leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives and members of committees involved in defence, spending, diplomacy and national security.

"It's an incredibly important mission and we've got to stand by Ukraine," Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner told Reuters.

The visit comes amid deep uncertainty about this year's US presidential election, which pits incumbent Democrat Joe Biden, a strong supporter of aid to Ukraine, against the Republican Trump, who has expressed scepticism about the amount of aid given.

Zelenskyy awarded the Order of Merit of Ukraine to Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell before having lunch with a group of Democratic and Republican senators. He later sat down with the Republican House of Representatives speaker, Mike



Johnson, telling reporters he had just invited Johnson to Kyiv.

Johnson, a close Trump ally, said it would be difficult to find the time for a trip before the November election, when every seat in the House will be up for grabs and his fellow Republicans hope to preserve or expand their narrow majority.

"We'd sure like to. The schedule's pretty tight through the election for us, so it's difficult to find the time to go, but we'd certainly like to," Johnson said.

Biden's uneven June 27 debate performance against Trump and low public approval have raised fresh doubts about his mental fitness, and a handful of congressional Democrats have called for Biden to step aside. Reuters reported last month that two Trump

advisers had presented the Republican candidate with a plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine - if he wins the November 5 election - that involves telling Kyiv it will only get more US weapons if it enters peace talks. Zelenskyy urged US political leaders in a speech on Tuesday not to wait for the outcome of the US election before moving forcefully to help Ukraine and called for fewer restrictions on the use of US weaponry.

In Congress, dozens of Trump's closest allies have voted repeatedly against assisting Zelenskyy's government, although Democrats and more internationally focused Republicans have worked together to approve the \$175 billion in aid for Ukraine Washington has approved since Russia invaded in February 2022.

Most recently, Johnson changed course in April - months after Biden requested the money - and allowed the House to vote on and pass \$61 billion in assistance for Ukraine.

When Zelenskyy last visited Congress in December, Johnson had said he would not support Biden's request for additional funding.

US to resume shipping 500-pound bombs to Israel for Gaza war



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : President Joe Biden's administration will resume shipping 500-pound bombs to Israel but will continue to hold back on supplying 2,000-pound bombs over concerns about their use in densely populated Gaza, a US official said (local time).

The US in May paused a shipment of 2,000-pound and 500-pound bombs due to concern over the impact they could have in Gaza during the war that began with Hamas's deadly October 7, 2023 cross-border raid.

The administration's particular concern had been the use of such large bombs in Rafah, where over one million Palestinians had taken refuge.

"We have been clear that our concern has been about the end-use of the 2,000-lb bombs, particularly for Israel's Rafah campaign, which they have announced they are concluding," a US official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

One 2,000-pound bomb can rip through thick concrete and metal, creating a wide blast radius.

The US official said the 500-pound bombs were put together in the same shipment with the larger ones that were paused and therefore got held up.

"Our main concern had been and remains the potential use of 2,000 lb bombs in Rafah and elsewhere in Gaza. Because our concern was not about the 500 lb bombs, those are moving forward as part of the usual process," the official added.

The US has notified Israel that it is releasing the 500-pound bombs but keeping the hold on the larger ones,

a person familiar with the matter said. In June, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed Washington was withholding weapons, and pleaded with US officials to remedy the situation. Biden's aides expressed disappointment and confusion over the Israeli leader's remarks.

During his visit to Washington, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said there had been significant progress on the issue of US munitions supply to Israel, adding "obstacles were removed and bottlenecks were addressed".

Despite the pause on one shipment, Israel has continued to receive a steady flow of US weaponry.

Reuters reported last month that between the start of the Gaza war last October and end-June, the US has transferred at least 14,000 of the MK-84 2,000-pound bombs, 6,500 500-pound bombs, 3,000 Hellfire precision-guided air-to-ground missiles, 1,000 bunker-buster bombs, 2,600 air-dropped small-diameter bombs, and other munitions.

International scrutiny of Israel's military operations in Gaza has intensified as the Palestinian death toll from the war has exceeded 38,000, according to the Gaza health ministry, and has left the coastal enclave in ruins.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict began on October 7 when Palestinian Hamas terrorists attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 others hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

'Can't win against': Top Fundraiser George Clooney Urges Biden to Quit

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New York : Actor George Clooney, one of the Democratic Party's leading fundraisers, made an emotional and heartfelt plea for President Joe Biden to end his faltering reelection campaign.

Clooney -- a member of the Hollywood elite that provides key support to the Democrats -- joined a growing list of public figures calling for Biden, 81, to step aside after his terrible debate performance against Donald Trump last month.

"I love Joe Biden," Clooney wrote in the New York Times. "I consider him a friend, and I believe in him... But the one battle he cannot win is the fight against time."

A self-described "lifelong Democrat," Clooney co-hosted a star-studded fundraiser with Biden in Los Angeles only last month featuring former president Barack Obama.

The Biden campaign said that the event brought in a record \$28 million.

"It's devastating to say it, but the Joe



Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fund-raiser was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010," Clooney wrote, referencing a famous hot-mic clip from Biden's vice presidency.

"He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate," Clooney said -- a direct challenge to Biden's claim that his poor debate showing was a one-off.

"The dam has broken" on Democratic lawmakers publicly calling for Biden to withdraw, Clooney

said, asking more come forward.

"Top Democrats -- Chuck Schumer, Hakeem Jeffries, Nancy Pelosi -- and senators, representatives and other candidates who face losing in November need to ask this president to voluntarily step aside."

The Oscar-winner brushed aside worries that Biden's exit would create chaos four months before an election in which the Democrats hope to keep Trump from power, and did not endorse a replacement candidate.

The party should hear from contenders such as Vice President Kamala Harris, Maryland Governor Wes Moore and others, "then we could go into the Democratic convention next month and figure it out," he wrote.

American Airlines plane tyre blows on runway, pilot aborts flight

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : An American Airlines flight heading for Phoenix in the US narrowly avoided a major accident when one of its tyres exploded on the runway seconds before taking off from Florida airport on Wednesday (local time).

A viral video of the moment was captured when Flight 590 was taxiing at the Tampa International Airport before taking off just before 8 am (local time). Suddenly, the right side of the tyre burst and caused fire sparks, sending a trail of smoke into the air, the video shows.

The plane kept on taxiing despite the tyre explosion before being stopped at the end of the runway. Later, emergency vehicles rushed to the spot after the plane was stopped.

At least 174 passengers and six crew members did not suffer any injuries and were evacuated from the flight and the plane was sent to the terminal, American Airlines spokesperson Alfredo Garduno said.



The airline said the passengers were shifted to a replacement flight and that other flight operations at the Florida airport were not affected due to the incident.

In a statement, American Airlines said Flight 590 "experienced a mechanical issue on the runway prior to taking off". "We never want to disrupt our customers' travel plans and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused," it added.

the airline said.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the US's federal aviation agency, the crew "reported multiple blown tyres" and that it will probe the incident. The agency said no injuries were reported and the passengers were deplaned safely and bussed to the terminal.

"American Airlines Flight 590 aborted its takeoff from Tampa International Airport around 7:50 am local time on Wednesday, July 10, after the crew reported multiple blown tyres. Passengers were deplaned on the taxiway and bussed to the terminal," the FAA said in a statement.

"The flight was headed to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The FAA will investigate. Please contact the airline for additional information," it added.

UK cops locate suspect in triple murder of radio commentator's family

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

London : British police said (local time) they had located a man wanted in connection with the murder of three women, the wife and two daughters of a BBC horse racing commentator, in an incident believed to have involved a crossbow. Officers had discovered the three victims, aged 25, 28 and 61, with serious injuries at the house in Bushey, a leafy town 20 miles (around 32 km) northwest of London, on Tuesday evening. They had died at the scene a short time later. The BBC said that the women were Carol Hunt, the wife of its commentator John Hunt, and two of their daughters.

A huge search involving armed officers was launched for suspect, Kyle Clifford, with police warning the public not to approach the 26-year-old.

"Following extensive enquiries,



the suspect has been located and nobody else is being sought in connection with the investigation at this time," Detective Inspector Justine Jenkins from the local Major Crime Unit said in a statement.

Police said Clifford had been located in north London and was receiving medical treatment after being found with injuries. No shots were fired by police, the statement added.

ed. The victims were yet to be formally identified but police said they believed Clifford was known to the three women.

Earlier, Chief Superintendent Jon Simpson called the incident "horrific", telling reporters a crossbow and possibly other weapons were believed to have been involved. Friends and colleagues of Hunt expressed their shock at the news.

"Impossible to comprehend the pain. Just know we are all here for you John. We love you pal - racing loves you," ITV horse racing commentator Matt Chapman said on X.

England boss Southgate emotional after Euro semis win: 'We all want to be loved'



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : England coach Gareth Southgate came up with an emotional reaction to his critics after the Three Lions made it to the Euro 2024 final, beating the Netherlands 2-1 in the semi-final in Dortmund on Wednesday, July 10. Southgate has been facing the heat from fans and pundits for their over-cautious approach in major tournaments in the recent past. England winning their first major title in 58 years might help Southgate prove his naysayers wrong and become an idol in English football history.

After overseeing a thrilling win over the Netherlands in the semi-final, Southgate said he was thrilled to give the fans a moment like Wednesday evening to celebrate. Southgate was uncharacteristically emotional after the final whistle was blown in Dortmund as he let out a roar and wore a big smile on his face throughout the evening.

"We all want to be loved, right? When you're doing something for your country and you're a proud Englishman, when you don't feel that back and when all you read is criticism, it's hard. So to be able to celebrate the second final is very, very special," Southgate said.

"If I hadn't been on the grass, I'd have been watching, celebrating like they were. We are kindred spirits in many ways but of course, I'm the one who has to pick a team. So to be able to give them a night like tonight, it's very special."

England will take on unbeaten Spain in their first-ever away final in the

Euros. Southgate's men battled back from behind in their semi-final. Xavi Simmons's stunning strike gave the Netherlands the lead in the 7th minute. However, England equalised through a controversial penalty from Harry Kane. Just when it looked like the two teams would need the extra 30 minutes, substitute Ollie Watkins scored a screamer in the 91st minute to seal the win.

Southgate soaked in the adulation of the traveling fans in an emotional moment. It has been a turnaround of sorts for the English tactician. Cups were thrown at Southgate from the stands after England's 0-0 draw against Slovenia in the group stage. England have progressed to the final after having some laboured wins -- 1-0 win over Slovakia and win on penalties against Switzerland.

Southgate is aware that England need to raise their game against Spain, who have been arguably the best team of the tournament. Spain came back from behind to beat France 2-1 in the semi-final in Munich.

"The only reason I took the job was to try and bring success to England as a nation and try and improve English football. To be able to take the team to its first final overseas, I'm immensely proud of that," Southgate said.

"We play the team who have been the best team in the tournament and we have a day less to prepare so it's a huge task. But we're still here and we're fighting."

Kejriwal used part of "Liquor Scam" Kickbacks, AAP Refutes

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal "directly used" part of the alleged ₹ 100 crore generated from the "kickbacks" of the Delhi excise policy "scam" by staying in a luxury hotel in Goa, the Enforcement Directorate has claimed in its chargesheet filed against the AAP chief. The federal probe agency also said the GoM (Group of Ministers) constituted by his government in this context was a "sham".

A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court took cognisance of the prosecution complaint, filed on May 17, and issued a production warrant for the jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader for July 12.

The 55-year-old politician and the AAP have been named as accused in this seventh supplementary chargesheet filed in the case.

Regarding Mr Kejriwal's role, the 209-page chargesheet said, "Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi is the kingpin and key conspirator of the Delhi excise scam in collusion with ministers of Delhi govt. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders and other persons."

The AAP, which rules Delhi and Punjab, responded to the ED chargesheet on Tuesday saying the BJP-led government at the Centre was hatching a "big conspiracy" against the party and that the political outfit was being finished off.

"Arvind Kejriwal has directly used part of these proceeds of crime personally by making Chanpreet Singh (another accused in the case) to make payment for Sh Arvind Kejriwal stay and event at the Grand Hyatt, Goa," the agency claimed.

It said that Mr Kejriwal also "mingled" these proceeds of crime with the funds of the Delhi government.

It has been alleged that the 'South Group' of politicians and liquor businessmen gave ₹ 100 crore worth of kickbacks to gain a favourable position in the Delhi excise policy for 2021-22 and out of these funds, ₹ 45 crore was sent for the AAP campaign in Goa during the 2022 assembly polls.

"The AAP kept the expenses made out of the proceeds of crime of ₹ 45 crore out of the books and did not disclose the same to the Election Commission of India," it said. In this manner, it alleged, Mr Kejriwal "had the control over the proceeds of crime of ₹ 100 crore at each stage, and thus activity of generation, acquisition and possession, transfer use and concealment and projection of the same as untainted carried out on this proceeds of crime by Sh Arvind Kejriwal".

The agency said Mr Kejriwal was "liable" to be punished for his role in commission of offence of money laundering under section 4 of the PMLA and also "vicariously"



as he is responsible for the conduct of the business/affairs of the AAP, deemed a company under section 70 of the PMLA.

The agency recorded Mr Kejriwal's statement 11 times since he was arrested on March 21 from his official bungalow in Delhi, but alleged that he gave "evasive replies" and "concealed information" during his custodial interrogation.

The ED said it has seized a number of digital devices used by Mr Kejriwal but he refused to open these gadgets and this denial was recorded in writing and captured in the video footage of his questioning.

In his defence, Mr Kejriwal told ED interrogators that his lawyers have advised him that he is "not required" to share the password of these devices, the chargesheet said. "Mr Kejriwal who is the ultimate in-charge of AAP and was intrinsically involved in the acts of policy formulation, kickback scheme and the final use of the proceeds of crime thus generated including conspiracy thereof," the ED claimed.

It said Mr Kejriwal being the national convener and member of the national executive of AAP, was ultimately responsible for the funds being used in the election expenses including in the Goa assembly elections. The agency claimed that another accused in the case-- Vinod Chauhan-- was "managing postings" for officers in Delhi Jal Board (DJB) "through" Arvind Kejriwal.

It is alleged that Chauhan was responsible for transfer of ₹ 25.5 crore from Delhi to Goa, out of the alleged kickbacks of ₹ 45 crore meant for poll campaign.

The ED said the GoM constituted by the Delhi government was "a sham as revealed by statements of the excise officials who revealed that they were never consulted on any major policy decision."

It said Delhi Transport minister Kailash Gehlot recorded his statement with the agency saying that he "simply agreed to the policy changes since Manish Sisodia (former Delhi deputy CM and excise minister) was a senior leader and he had told that increase in the profit margin from 5 per cent to 12 per cent was a good proposal and thus he (Gehlot) accepted it".

Over 1 lakh students failed in Class 9 in Delhi government schools

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : More than one lakh ninth-grade students in Delhi government schools failed their annual exams for the 2023-24 academic year. Similarly, over 46,000 eighth graders and 50,000 eleventh graders did not pass their annual exams.

The Delhi Directorate of Education (DDE) disclosed this information in response to an RTI application filed by a PTI Bhasha correspondent. Delhi has 1,050 government schools and 37 Dr BR Ambedkar Schools of Specialised Excellence. According to the data, 1,01,331 ninth-grade students failed in 2023-24, compared to 88,409 in 2022-23, 28,531 in 2021-22, and 31,540 in 2020-21.

For eleventh grade, 51,914 stu-



dents failed in 2023-24, down from 54,755 in 2022-23, 7,246 in 2021-22, and only 2,169 in 2020-21. Additionally, 46,622 eighth-grade students failed in 2023-24 following the cancellation of the 'no-detention policy' under the Right to Education Act.

An anonymous official from the

Delhi Education Department explained that under the new 'Promotion Policy,' students in classes V to VIII who fail the annual exam will not advance to the next grade. However, they will have another opportunity to improve their scores

through a re-examination within two months.

To pass this re-exam, students must score at least 25 percent in each subject. Those who fail will be placed in the 'repeat category,' meaning they must remain in the same class until the next academic session.

'Satark' railway police team seizes jewellery worth Rs 1.89 crore from passenger

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chennai : The Railway Protection Force (RPF) detained a train passenger and recovered gold jewellery worth Rs 1.89 crore and Rs 15 lakh cash in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli.

The RPF team, conducting routine checks under "Operation Satark" against illegal transportation of contraband items and theft, detained a man upon suspicion on the Chennai Egmore-Mangaluru Express.

The man, identified as R Lakshmanan, was travelling from Chennai Egmore to Trichy on the train.

During searches, the RPF



team found the valuables in a black shoulder bag carried by Lakshmanan. The seized items included gold jewellery weighing 2796 grams, valued at Rs 1.89 crore, and Rs 15 lakh in cash.

Upon inquiry, it was revealed

that Lakshmanan was transporting the items to distribute it in Madurai.

Lakshmanan was handed over to the Income Tax department for further inquiry, along with the seized items.

No mass malpractice in NEET-UG exam. Centre tells SC, cites IIT report



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Centre filed its affidavit before the Supreme Court in the NEET-UG case, denying any mass malpractice in the medical entrance exam conducted on May 5.

During a hearing, July 8, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) to file their responses on the extent of the paper leak and possible segregation of the wrongdoers from others. In its affidavit, the government attached an IIT Madras report after data analytics on NEET-UG exam, which states "neither any indication of mass malpractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefitted leading to abnormal scores".

"The marks distribution follows the bell-shaped curve that is witnessed in any large-scale examination indicating no abnormality," the affidavit reads.

The Supreme Court is hearing a batch of petitions regarding alleged irregularities in the medical entrance examination. The pleas include those seeking cancellation of the examination and conducting it afresh, alleging irregularities and malpractices in the May 5 test.

During a hearing on Monday, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud remarked that the leak of the question paper was an "admitted fact" and before making a decision to hold a re-examination, "we must be conscious of the extent of the leak as we are dealing with 23 lakh students".

"The Union of India is taking all-round efforts to devise solution-oriented mechanism while ensuring that on one hand no candidate guilty of malpractice gets any benefit and on the other hand, ensuring that 23 lakh students are not required to be bur-

dened with a fresh test merely based upon unsupported apprehensions," the affidavit reads.

The allegations of irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, including paper leaks and discrepancies in granting grace marks, have sparked protests and political outcry by the opposition across India. An unprecedented 67 students initially scored a perfect 720, with suspicions of irregularities arising from six top scorers being from a single centre in Haryana.

Regarding the increase in marks obtained by students, the Centre attributed it to the reduction in syllabus.

"There is an overall increase in the marks obtained by students, specifically in the range of 550 to 720. This increase is seen across the cities and centres. This is attributed to 25 per cent reduction in syllabus. In addition, candidates obtaining such high marks are spread across multiple cities and multiple centres, indicating very less likelihood of malpractice," the Centre's affidavit reads.

In its affidavit, the Centre also said that counselling will be conducted in four rounds starting from the third week of July. "If a candidate is found beneficiary of any malpractice, his/her candidature would be cancelled at any stage during the counselling process or even afterwards," the affidavit reads.

"If an exercise is to be conducted by NTA and by the Union government so as to identify any further beneficiaries of the question paper leakage, a considered decision at the policy level would have to be taken by the government on the status of the counselling," it further read.

Terrorists forced locals at gunpoint to cook food before attack

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jammu : Terrorists, who attacked an Army convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua that left five personnel dead, had forced many villagers to cook food for them at gunpoint before carrying out the ambush.

The terrorists wore body cameras during the attack and wanted to snatch the weapons of the Army personnel, who displayed great courage and bravery, and foiled their plan despite being injured, sources said.

Five Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer, were killed, and as many were injured when terrorists ambushed a patrolling party on the rugged Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountainous road near Badnota village in Kathua district.

This was the fifth terror attack in the Jammu region within a month.

According to sources, terrorists were attacking in areas which are very far from security formations and have



poor road connectivity so that security forces took time to send reinforcements.

More than 20 suspects were detained for questioning by police, sources said, adding that security agencies had intensified their probe into the attack.

The Army personnel who died in the line of duty were identified as JCO Anant Singh, Head Constable Kamal Rawat, soldier Anuj Negi, Rifleman Adarsh Negi and NK Kumar.

Earlier, sources said the Kathua attack was carried out by Pakistani terrorists who used sophisticated weapons to maximise casualties, according to sources. The terrorists conducted reconnaissance of the area, possibly with the help of local supporters, hinting at a planned targeted attack, sources had added.

The terrorists used advanced weapons including M4 Carbine rifles and explosive devices, among other ammunition, according to sources.

In a strong response to the attack, the Defence Ministry said the sacrifice of the soldiers "will not go unavenged".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the deaths of the Army personnel and stressed that the soldiers were determined to ensure peace in the region.

Over 30 people killed in a day across UP due to lightning strikes

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Uttar Pradesh : More than 30 people were killed in separate incidents across Uttar Pradesh due to lightning strikes. The deaths have been reported as the state grapples with flooding, which brought normal life to a standstill.

With 11 deaths, Pratapgarh accounted for the most fatalities due to lightning strikes, followed by seven in Sultanpur, six in Chandauli, five in Main-



puri and four in Prayagraj. Dozens of people in these

districts have suffered burn injuries as well.