The Aman Sandesh Times

Daily Evening English Newspaper

F-78, Industrial Area Phase-7, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali - 160055 www.theamansandeshtimes.com Mobile No. 8968900999 RNI NO.: PUNENG/2020/81962

Volume-05 Issue-151 S.A.S. NAGAR MOHALI, THURSDAY 25 JULY, 2024 Total Pages : 08 Price : 3.00

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Next New Moon
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PM Modi meets NDA allies in Maharashtra, discusses political situation in state



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met MPs of the NDA in Maharashtra.

According to the details, the Prime Minister, during his meeting with the MPs, discussed the political situation of the state.

Among those whom the Prime Minister met included Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, and others.

Discussions also took place on the assembly elections in the state.

The meeting comes a day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar demanded nearly 90 seats for the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) during his meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah.

During his brief meeting with Amit Shah, Ajit Pawar insisted on finalising the seat distribution as early as possible and avoiding "lingering around" till the last-minute like in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP won just nine of the 28 seats it contested in the Lok Sabha polls, down from 23 it won in 2019.

The Ajit Pawar-led NCP won just one seat, Raigad, while the Sharad Pawar faction bagged eight.

Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena faction of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is determined to contest 100 seats while the BJP has set a target of 160 to 170 seats.

Delhi court extends judicial custody of Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, K Kavitha in excise 'scam'



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A Delhi court today extended the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in money-laundering and corruption cases related to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja extended Kejriwal's custody in a money-laundering case, being probed by the Enforcement Directorate, till July 31, while his judicial custody in a corruption case, lodged by the CBI, was extended till August 8.

The judge also extended the judicial custody of Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia, Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K Kavitha and other accused till July 31 in the money-laundering case.

The accused were produced before the court through video-conference.

The Supreme Court had earlier granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the ED case. However, he continues to be lodged in Tihar jail here as he has not furnished the bail bond in the case.

He is in judicial custody in the Central Bureau of Investigation case.

Royalty on mineral rights not tax, rules SC in big win for states

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The Supreme Court today, in a landmark judgment, revoked its earlier order and upheld the rights of states to impose royalty on mining and mineral-use activities. In an 8:1 verdict, the bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, ruled that 'royalty' is not the same as 'tax' and said that states have the competence and power to impose royalty. Justice BV Nagarathna delivered the dissenting verdict.

The verdict is a big win for the mineral-rich states such as Odisha, Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, among others.

"Royalty is not in the nature of tax...We conclude that the observation in India Cements judgment stating that royalty is tax is incorrect. Payments made to the government cannot be deemed to be a tax merely because a statute provides for its recovery in arrears," Chief Justice said.

"We hold that state legislature is competent while designing a levy under entry 49 of list 2 to tax lands which comprises of mines and quarries," he added.

The majority of the judges on the bench held that states are not stripped of powers to impose cesses on mining or related activities.

"The legislative power to tax mineral rights lies with the State legislature and the Parliament does not have the legislative competence to tax mineral rights...since it is a general entry and Parliament cannot use its residuary power regarding this subject matter...State legislature has the legislative competence under Article 246 read with Entry 49 of List 2 to tax mineral bearing lands," the majority ruled.

Justice Nagarathna disagreed on both aspects.

"I hold royalty is in nature of the tax. States have no legislative competence to impose any tax or fee on mineral rights...I hold India Cements decision was correctly decided," she said.

During today's hearing, the central government argued that states cannot impose taxes on mineral-bearing lands and that royalties levied by the Centre eventually go to them only.

"The development of mineral industry needs uniformity at a national level, failing which fragmented state-wise levy will adversely impact the development of mineral and systemic utilisation of minerals in larger public interest," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had argued.

The matter was the oldest pending nine-judge bench case before the top court, and it had reserved its judgment in the case on March 14.

The case involves whether state governments are denuded of powers to tax and regulate activities concerning mines and minerals owing to the enactment of the MMDRA (Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act (Mines Act)).

In 1989, the Supreme Court held in the case of India Cements vs Tamil Nadu that royalty is a form of 'tax' under the MMDRA and that the imposition of cesses on such royalty was beyond the states' legislative competence.

After today's hearing, several petitioners urged the Supreme Court to clarify that the verdict is prospective and won't affect past transactions. To this, the bench, agreed to keep the case on July 31 to provide a clarification on the matter.

Terrorists will go to either jail or 'jahannum': Centre on J&K terror attacks

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Jammu : Terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir will either land in jail or be sent to jahannum (hell), the government told the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to a supplementary question from Congress MP Pramod Tiwari, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai asserted that the Modi government has zero tolerance for terrorism and the terrorist activities witnessed recently will be brought to an end.

Rai's remark came as the Union Territory has seen a spate of terror attacks recently, especially in the Jammu region.

"They (terrorists) will not succeed in their design," the minister said.

The minister informed the House that in the past few days, 28 terrorists have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir and some security personnel have also lost their lives.

Rai said since Article 370 was struck down in 2019, the security forces have killed about 900 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Modi government has zero tolerance for terrorism. We will end terrorism. They (terrorists) will be either in jail or jahannum... I want to assure the House," Rai said.

The minister also noted that during the UPA government's rule in 2004-2014, there were 7,217 incidents of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The number came down to 2,259 from 2014, when the BJP was voted to power, and July 21 this year, Rai said.

"These should not have happened. It is unfortunate but they (Opposition) should not do politics over it," the minister said.

Rai told the House that 2,829 citizens and security personnel lost their lives between 2004 and 2014. This number has come down by 67 per cent since 2014. Besides, there is also reduction of 69 per cent in terror incidents.

People in Jammu and Kashmir are now living in a peaceful environment and there is full guarantee of security, he said.

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Nasa model shows how climate-threatening carbon dioxide moves across India

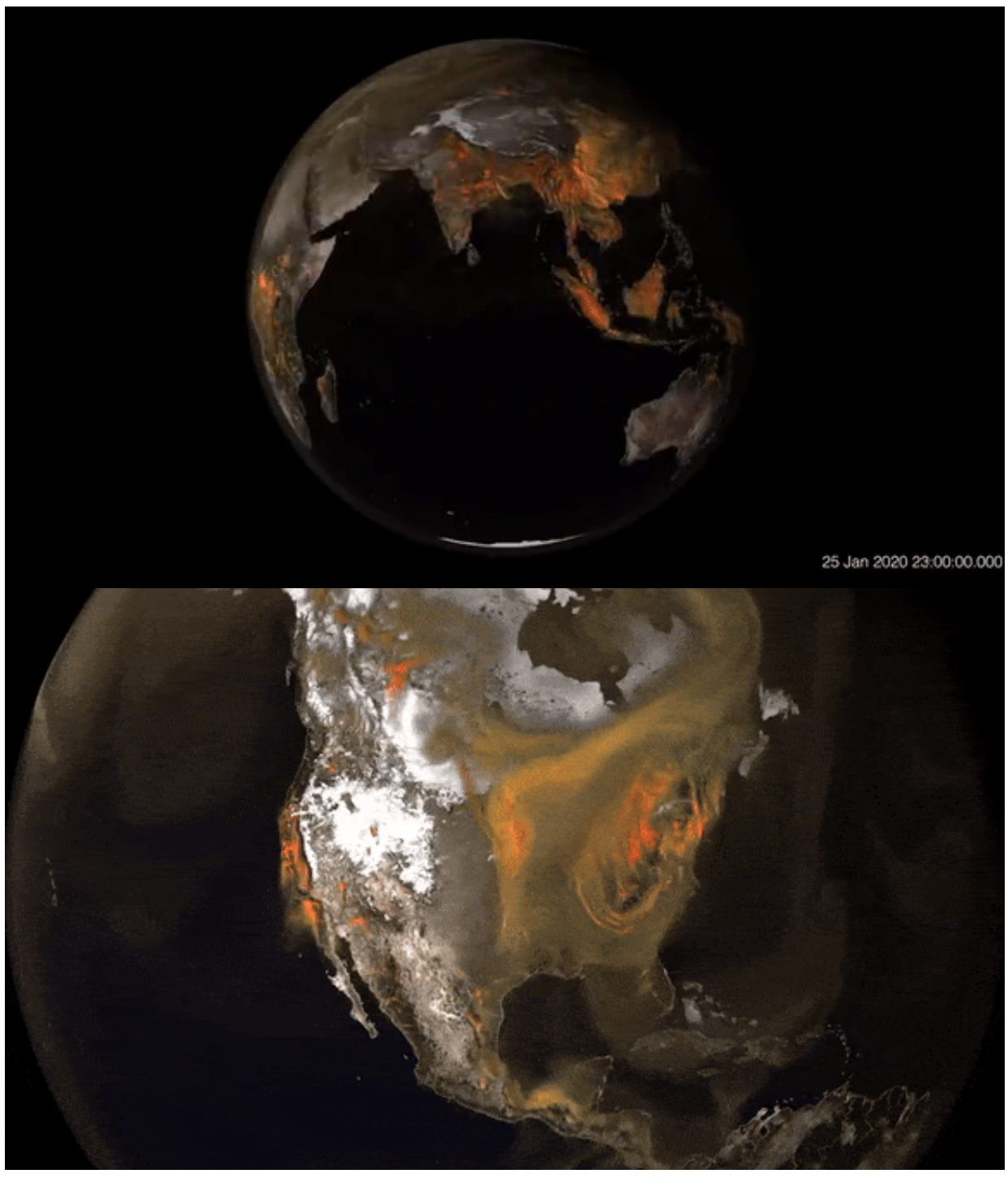
THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

NASA has released a mew high-resolution model that visualises the movement of carbon dioxide across the globe, including over India, offering unprecedented insights into the dynamics of this crucial greenhouse gas.

The model, created by NASA's Scientific Visualisation Studio using the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS), provides a detailed look at CO2 concentrations from January to March 2020.

The visualisation, powered by supercomputers, combines billions of data points from ground observations and satellite instruments to create a map over 100 times more detailed than typical weather models. This high resolution allows viewers to zoom in on specific emission sources, such as power plants, fires, and cities, and observe how CO2 spreads across continents and oceans.

Dr. Lesley Ott, a climate scientist involved in the project, noted that the model revealed persistent plume structures and interactions with weather systems that were previously unobservable in coarser simulations.



The map clearly shows that in China, the United States, and South Asia, most emissions originated from power plants, industrial facilities, and vehicles.

In contrast, Africa and South America's emissions were largely due to fires, including those related to land management, agricultural burns, and deforestation.

This visualisation comes at a critical time, as carbon dioxide levels continue to rise, contributing to global warming. NASA reports that 2023 was the hottest year on record, with most of the ten hottest years occurring in the past decade. The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere has increased from about 278 parts per million in 1750 to 427 parts per million in May 2024.

While some CO2 is necessary for maintaining Earth's temperature, the rapid increase in atmospheric CO2 over the past half-century has led to accelerated warming.

This new model provides valuable data for understanding and potentially mitigating the impact of CO2 emissions on our planet's climate.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
26 th July

Born on 26 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.



Aries
(March 21 - April 19)

July 26 th 2024 : Health front needs little care. All the money you had invested in the past to make your future prosperous will reap fruitful results today. Enroll yourself into short-term programs that will help you learn latest technologies and skills.

Taurus
(April 20 - May 20)

July 25 th 2024 : You may get rid from prolong illness. Today, you will understand the importance of money and how unnecessarily spending it can negatively affect your future. You should avoid controversial issues that could cause arguments with loved ones.

Gemini
(May 21 - June 20)

July 25 th 2024 : Meditation and yoga should be practiced for spiritual as well as physical gains. Today, you will be able to earn money without any help or assistance. Pending household jobs will take up some of your time. Sudden romantic encounter are foreseen today.

Cancer
(June21 - July 22)

July 25 th 2024 : Friday, July 26, 2024 Avoid conflict as it may worsen your illness. If you had borrowed some money from a member of your family, then it is best to return it today, or else that member can take legal action against you. Your mood might get perturbed because of the harsh words of your sweetheart.

Leo
(July 23 - Aug 22)

July 25 th 2024 : Evenings at the movie-theatre or dinner with your spouse seem to keep you in a relaxed and wonderful mood Due to a function being organized at home, you will have to spend a lot of money today. This can negatively affect your financial condition. Keep your love fresh like precious things.

Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)

July 25 th 2024 : Try to put your high energy to good use today. Use what you already have before rushing out to buy more. Health of an elderly person causes some worry. Your limitless love is very valuable for your beloved. Your rivals at work will get the result of their bad deeds today.

Libra
(Sep 23 - Oct 22)

July 25 th 2024 : You have to let go of the past if you wish to get out of the sentimental mood that grips you today. All the money you had invested in the past to make your future prosperous will reap fruitful results today. This is the perfect day to attract the attention of others without doing much on your side.

Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

July 25 th 2024 : Hectic work schedule may make you short-tempered. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. Spouse remains cooperative despite your erratic behaviour.

Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

July 25 th 2024 : Try to relax in-between work and avoid late nights. You will be presented with many new financial schemes today-Weigh the pros and cons carefully before making any commitment. Don't forget family obligation. Behave properly while going out with your mate.

Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

July 25 th 2024 : Today you will have ample of the time to do things to improve your health and looks Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment. Get everybody to your big party-You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group.

Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

July 25 th 2024 : A day of recreation and fun. You will make substantial gains if you invest on long-term basis. You will have limited patience today-but take care as harsh or imbalance words might upset people around you. A surprise message will give you sweet dream. Concentrate on your work and your priorities.

Pisces
(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

July 25 th 2024 : Religious feelings will arise making you visit a religious place to seek some divine knowledge from a holy person. Unexpected rise in your expenses would disturb your peace of mind. Give proper time to your family. Let them feel that you care for them. Sped your quality time with them.

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Bhagwant Mann to boycott NITI Aayog meeting after INDIA bloc decision to protest against Budget

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government, while expressing solidarity with the INDIA bloc has decided that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will not attend the Niti Aayog meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 27. The decision came after the opposition parties claimed that the Union Budget presented on July 23 was "discriminatory" as it did not allocate enough funds for the state ruled by non-NDA parties.

AAP Punjab said Mann would boycott the NITI Aayog meeting.

Alleging discriminatory treatment towards INDIA bloc-ruled states in the budget, barring West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, all INDIA bloc chief ministers have decided to boycott the NITI Aayog meeting.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin first announced the boycott in Chennai. Following this, the Congress said its chief ministers, including Himachal Pradesh's Sukhwinder Sukhu, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah and Telangana's Revanth Reddy, would skip the meeting.

Along with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan are also expected to give the meeting a miss.

However, as per reports, Mamata Banerjee and TMC's Derek O'Brien will attend the meeting and "strongly use the platform to hold the Union government responsible" for West Bengal's legitimate dues.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who Cares...?

Cobwebs pose a serious threat



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Loosely hanging overhead cables, wires pose a serious threat to both pedestrians and people on vehicles. The problem cannot be left unattended. Uncovered wires hanging loose can be spotted at several areas in the city. It's an open invitation to several road accidents.

The tangled power lines hanging off the electricity poles and nearby transformers can prove as ugly to one's dear life as they can prove to filter the reliance. These cobwebs of wires are a threat to the general public. Sources stated with the load at its peak during the summer, the risk of a major mishap arising out of a possible short circuit also two-folds as the wires get heat up abnormally. Notably, in most of the fire accidents, the short circuiting of wires acts as a catalyst.

Residents added, dangling power cables in various parts of the city are posing a risk to lives, People can lose their lives if they come in contact with these wires. The situation becomes worse during the monsoon. Anyone may lose precious life only because of electrical wires which are in turn hanging loosely above the heads of people.

Residents demanded, government should maintain a proper construction and design of electrical system which can save the precious life of several people. The government can consult trained electricians and also provide them with proper equipment to handle the problem. Residents suggested, the Electricity Department should come forward to put all electricity wires underground and all cable operators should be issued an instruction to put cable underground otherwise their license be terminated and demanded preventing measures should be taken by the authorities concerned. **But Who Cares???**

Equipment display by Chetak Coprs to Celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas Rajat Jaynati Mahotsav

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Chandigarh : To celebrate Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas and commemorate the selfless service of the fallen heroes of the Operation Vijay, Chetak Corps hosted a spectacular Weapon and Equipment Display "Know your Army" at the Bathinda Military Station today. The display drew a large enthusiastic crowd including more than 1500 students and NCC Cadets from various schools of Bathinda. The young attendees were capti-vated by an impressive showcase of the latest weaponry, equipment and state-of-the-art technology of the Indian Army inventory. The performance of live band with patriotic songs and an inspiring movie on Operation Vijay further enhanced the fervour of the event.

The event also featured interaction of students with gallant soldiers and officers providing young minds a glimpse into military life and inspiring future aspirations to join the armed forces.

Women's helpline number 181 become a boon for needy women of state: Dr. Baljit Kaur



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Women Helpline No. 181 scheme is being run by the Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development of Punjab to provide immediate and emergency assistance to the needy women of the state. Women helpline number 181 is proving to be a boon for the women of the state. This was expressed by the Minister of Social Security, Women and Child Development Dr. Baljit Kaur.

Cabinet Minister said that Women Helpline No. 181 Yojana is an excellent initiative by the Punjab Government to provide immediate and emergency assistance to the needy women of the state which aims to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency assistance to women affected by violence. She said that any needy woman who is being subjected to any kind of violence or harassment can call the women's helpline number 181 and ask for help.

The Minister further informed that around 150 calls are made to the women's helpline every day by needy women. she said that every month about 4000 to 5000 needy women are being provided with the necessary assistance through the women's helpline number 181.

Cabinet Minister added that a needy woman who is facing injustice or violence can call this helpline from any corner of Punjab and ask for help. Actions are taken to help women immediately by the One Stop Centers established in the state and the offices running under the department. She said that the main objective of this scheme is to protect the women section in every way. She said that women or girls in need can contact the women's helpline number 181 for immediate assistance. She said that the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is committed to the welfare of women.

Pb Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences to hold Liver Health Camp on July 27

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : In recognition of World Hepatitis Day, the Punjab Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (PILBS), Mohali, the first super-speciality institute dedicated to liver care, is going to organize a Liver Health Camp on July 27, 2024, at 9 AM in the OPD premises of the institute.

Divulging the details, the Director, Dr Virendra Singh said that the camp will offer services such as FibroScan, Hepatitis B and C screening, ultrasound abdomen and hepatology consultation for Rs. 1000. Additionally, to mark this significant day, PILBS will conduct a Walkathon at Sukhna Lake on 28th July 2024, at 6 AM, aiming to raise awareness about hepatitis, its prevention, and the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. The theme of this year is "Take action. Test, treat, vaccinate". These events highlight the PILBS's commitment to promoting liver health and engaging the community in crucial health discussions.

Two NCC Cadets from CGC Landran shine in National Shooting Camp

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Two National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from Chandigarh Group of Colleges (CGC) Landran, Cadet Saloni Nayak and Cadet Chetan, have brought laurels to the institution by being selected to attend a prestigious National Shooting Camp, held at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, which is a matter of pride for the institution. Additionally, their participation and good performance in the Inter Directorate Sports Shooting Championship 2024, earned them medals and certificates, which further helped strengthen their resolve to achieve their dream of serving their motherland by joining the Indian defence forces.

Cadet Saloni Nayak, pursuing B.Tech Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (AI &DS), and Cadet Chetan, a Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) student, showcased exemplary skills and dedication while at the camp, underscoring the values of courage, discipline, and selfless service instilled in them, through their NCC training at CGC Landran. The cadets had consistently participated in numerous NCC camps at group level, inter-group and directorate levels, undergoing rigorous training that prepared them well eventually leading to their selection, and participation in this national camp. Their success is also indicative of the support system and guidance provided by CGC Landran to help its students excel at all levels. "We are proud of Cadet Saloni Nayak and Cadet Chetan for their performance in the National Shooting Camp," said Dr. P.N. Hrisheekesha, Campus Director, CGC Landran. We are committed to supporting our students in balancing their academic pursuits with extracurricular activities such as NCC training. This achievement not only highlights their individual talents but also the collective effort of our faculty and staff, he added.

Expressing their gratitude, Cadet Saloni Nayak said, "I am thankful to CGC Landran for providing us with the resources and support needed to excel both academically and in our NCC training. The encouragement from our faculty has been instrumental in helping me achieve this milestone." Cadet Chetan echoed these sentiments, adding, "Balancing academics with rigorous NCC training was challenging, but the unwavering support from our teachers and the facilities at CGC Landran made it possible."

CGC Landran is dedicated in its efforts to provide an environment that nurtures talent and encourages its students to excel in various fields thus enabling their all-round development.

Strike by Hry government doctors inconveniences patients



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Patients faced difficulties and were left helpless as the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association called for a shutdown of health services in government hospitals today to protest non-fulfilment of doctors' demands.

Doctors at Civil Hospital in Sonepat sat on protest, while a long queue of patients waited outside a closed OPD window to get their registrations.

The state government has urged the body to consider the impact of the strike on patients.

Four HCMS Association doctors, including its president Dr Rajesh Khyalia, started an indefinite hunger strike in front of the office of the director general, Health Services, in Panchkula.

The doctors' demands include formation of a specialist cadre, a career progression scheme that ensures parity with central government doctors, no direct recruitment of senior medical officers (SMOs) and reduction in the bond amount for postgraduate courses.

"Over the past several months, we have been given repeated assurances pertaining to our various demands but they remain unfulfilled. So, we have decided to observe a total shutdown of health services including OPD, emergency, post-mortem," Khyalia said.

"On July 18, we were assured by the additional chief secretary, health, that a notification will be issued before July 24 pertaining to two demands -- assured career progression and the bond issue -- but nothing has happened," he said.

"We had told the government a month back that we would be compelled to shut down all services from July 25 (if our demands are not met)," he added.

On the government's invitation for talks on Thursday, Khyalia said, "We will attend the meeting, but if there is no outcome, then our strike will continue indefinitely."

In a letter to the HCMS Association, which represents government doctors in Haryana, Health Minister Kamal Gupta urged doctors to consider the impact of their strike on the general public.

"I understand that... numerous pressing demands (have been) put forth by your members, and I want to assure you that these concerns are being taken very seriously.

"Recently, I held a productive meeting with the chief minister and other senior officers to discuss these matters extensively. We recognise the importance of your demands and are actively working towards a resolution that will be satisfactory to all parties involved," he said.

"However, I urge each one of you to consider the impact of a strike on our patients and the general public. We have a responsibility to ensure that health care services remain uninterrupted, especially for those who rely on us in their times of need," the minister said.

Kangana Ranaut's Election From Mandi Challenged, HC Issues Notice

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Shimla : The Himachal Pradesh High Court on Wednesday issued notice to Kangana Ranaut, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Mandi, on a petition filed by a Kinnaur resident for setting aside her election on the grounds that his nomination papers to contest from the Lok Sabha constituency were allegedly wrongly rejected.

Issuing the notice, Justice Jyotsna Rewal directed Ms Ranaut to file a reply by August 21.

Ms Ranaut had won the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, defeating her rival Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh by 74,755 votes. She had polled 5,37,002 votes against Singh's 4,62,267 votes.

Pleading for setting aside the election of Ms Ranaut, the petitioner, Layak Ram Negi, maintained that his nomination papers were wrongly rejected by the returning officer (Deputy Commissioner, Mandi) and also made him a party.

Negi, an ex-employee of the forest department, said that he got premature retirement and produced a "no dues certificate" from the department along with nomination papers to the returning officer.

However, he was given a day to produce the "no due certificate" from the electricity, water, and telephone departments and when he submitted them, the returning officer did not accept them and rejected the nomination papers.

He pleaded that he could have won the election had his papers been accepted and said that the election be set aside.

Raghav Chadha to Centre: Bring back Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Golden Throne

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : In the ongoing session of Parliament, AAP leader Raghav Chadha raised the demand to bring back the golden throne of Maharaja Ranjit Singh from the UK. The Rajya Sabha MP requested the government to bring back the throne to India with an aim of reclaiming the country's rich cultural heritage.

The throne is currently kept at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. A symbol of the legendary king's power and legacy, it has been on display in the UK for centuries.

In his speech, Mr Chadha emphasized the significance of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's life and rule, highlighting his gallantry, state policies, and humanity. He urged the government to use diplomatic relations with the UK to retrieve the throne, inspiring future generations with the king's remarkable story.

"I demand that the government of India should speak to the UK government by using its diplomatic relations and make an effort to bring back that throne to India. That throne should come back to our country. We get inspiration from the life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh," Mr Chadha said.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, also known as the "Lion of Punjab," was a prominent figure in Indian history, ruling the Sikh Empire from 1801 to 1839. He united Punjab, promoted secular values, justice, equality, and cultural heritage, and his legacy extends beyond India's borders.

Raghav Chadha's demand comes with a call to incorporate Maharaja Ranjit Singh's incredible legacy and contributions into school textbooks, ensuring that students learn about his journey and good governance. This move aims to revive interest in India's rich history and cultural icons, promoting national pride and unity.

"I also demanded that we incorporate the incredible legacy and contributions of Maharaja Ranjit Singh ji to our history, in our school textbooks so that students can learn about his journey and good governance," the AAP leader said on X (formerly Twitter).

Ministry junks shorter rail route for Mohali

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : After posing hurdles to major highway projects in Punjab, the land acquisition issue has also scuttled a much-awaited railway project in the state.

Ravneet Singh Bittu, Minister of State for Railways, said the Mohali-Rajpura rail link project had been dropped by the ministry due to difficulties in the acquisition of land. If the link had materialised, it would have been extended up to Chandigarh.

Bittu said generous compensations being offered for acquisition of land were being turned down by landowners. If landowners agree to part with their land, then the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) will not let them," said Bittu.

The link, which was a long-standing demand of people of Punjab, would have shortened the distance between Mohali and Rajpura by 55 km compared to the present route between the two locations. The detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed link was prepared in 2016-17 with a cost of Rs 312.53 crore. The ministry had asked the Punjab Government for its consent to cost-sharing and to providing the land free of cost. "The state government recently informed the ministry that it is unable to procure the land," said Bittu.

The decision by the Railways came close on the heels of the cancellation of three major highway projects in Punjab by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) due to persistent hurdles in land acquisition. The step also brought to light the challenges faced in the state regarding the execution of infrastructure projects.

Underscoring the landowner's refusal to part with land despite offering handsome compensations, Bittu said the issue at hand was a political one and had nothing to do with the market value of land in the area. Bittu criticised the SKM for forcing the blockade on the Shambhu border. He said as a result of the blockade, commuters had to take detours and spend more money on fuel.

Bittu welcomed Rs 5,147 crore allocation in the Budget for railway network in Punjab. The fund allocated on account of the Railways for 2024-25 was 23 times the Rs 225 crore allocated to the state in the past railway budget passed by the UPA, said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addressing a press conference earlier in the day.

Part of Himachal's Leh-Manali Road closed after cloudburst triggers flash flood



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : A stretch of the National Highway-3 was closed for vehicular traffic following a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in Himachal's Kullu district, police said today.

No casualty has so far been reported in the incident that occurred late Wednesday, they said.

According to officials, the stretch between Dhundi and Palchan Bridge on NH-3, also known as Leh-Manali Road, was affected due to the cloudburst at Anjani Mahadev nullah in the Manali area.

Vehicles headed to Manali from Lahaul and Spiti via the north portal of the Atal Tunnel have been diverted towards Rohtang, the Lahaul and Spiti police said in an advisory today.

It also asked the commuters to travel only if necessary, drive cautiously, and stay aware of the possible danger en route.

A total of 15 roads, including 12 in Mandi, two in Kinnaur and one in Kangra district were closed for vehicular traffic while 62 transformers were disrupted in the state last night, the state emergency operation centre said.

There have been reports of damage to a power project and a few houses but these are yet to be confirmed by officials who are assessing the damage.

The local Met office issued a 'yellow' alert of heavy rain at isolated places in Himachal Pradesh for the next four days till July 28. It cautioned about damage to plantations and standing crops, vulnerable structures and 'kutcha' houses in the state due to strong winds and waterlogging in low-lying areas.

A total of 49 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state, which has suffered losses of approximately ₹ 389 crore, since the onset of monsoon on June 27, the emergency operation centre said.

3 members of robbers' gang arrested in Mohali, arms seized

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : The Mohali police have arrested three members of a robbers' gang with illegal weapons and stolen vehicles, an official said today.

The accused have been identified as Jaspreet Singh alias Jassi, a resident of Jhandi Wala village; Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Saraiali village, and Balkaran Singh, a resident of Tarsingh Wala village, Ferozepur district.

SSP Sandeep Singh Garg said, "The police have arrested three members of a gang involved in the robbery. The gang was involved in incidents of robbery and theft at various places in the district."

"Two motorcycles, a pistol, two cartridges, five mobile phones and other stolen items have been recovered from them," said the official.

A case has been registered against the accused under various sections of the BNS and Arms Act at Balongi police station.

Vicky Kaushal film stays steady, earns over Rs 40 crore

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Bad Newz, which was released in theatres on July 19, is receiving decent footfall in cinema halls during weekdays. After gaining momentum, July 24, the Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri, and Ammy Virk-led film witnessed a slight dip in its earnings.

According to the industry tracker Sacnilk, Bad Newz's box office collection on Day 6 was estimated to be Rs 3.25 crore. This brings the film's total collection to Rs 40.20 crore. The film had an overall occupancy of 12.36 per cent in the Hindi market and attracted the most footfall during the night shows.

Bad Newz has also been performing well worldwide. According to a Forbes report, the film did well in the Gulf region and North America on its opening day and gained strength over the weekend. Within the first three days of its release, the Anand Tiwari directorial had collected 6.4 million dollars worldwide.

The film has been breaking box office records for its lead actor Vicky Kaushal. It became his career's biggest opener by earning Rs 8.62 crore and gave him his second-best weekend collection (Rs 30.62 crore) after Uri: The Surgical Strike, which had earned Rs 35.73 crore over the weekend. Now, Bad Newz is on its way to becoming Vicky's second-best first-week earner, with over Rs 40 crore already in its kitty. His last theatrical release, Sam Bahadur, though a critical success, ended its first week at the ticket counters with a collection of Rs 36.75 crore. It faced competition from Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, which released on the same day.

Bad Newz is the story of a woman who gets pregnant and is told that her twins have two biological fathers. The doctor tells her that the rare condition is called 'Heteropaternal Superfecundation'. What follows is a story of confusion, drama, and romance.

The film has mostly failed to impress film critics. Tushar Joshi gave the film a 2-star rating, and a section of his review read, "Bad Newz resembles an Instagram filter that loses its sheen after first use. The surface is shimmery and looks glossy, but there is no material to sink your teeth into. The writing is shallow and flat. The punches never land."

Written by Ishita Moitra and Tarun Dudeja, Bad Newz is co-produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

Shah Rukh Khan, First Indian Actor, Honoured With Gold Coins By Grevin Museum In Paris



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : The Grevin Museum, Paris, honoured Shah Rukh Khan with customised gold coins, reported news agency IANS. The Dunki star has become the first Bollywood actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum. A paparazzo shared the news on his Instagram feed with a photo of the coin featuring Shah Rukh Khan's likeness, reported IANS. The Grevin Museum at Paris is a wax museum located on the Grands Boulevards on the right bank of the Seine river. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan has been immortalised in wax statues in the US, the UK, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Thailand, India, Singapore and Australia.

On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan had a stellar last year. He had three big releases - Pathaan, Jawan and Dunki. Pathaan, starring Deepika Padukone and John Abraham alongside Shah Rukh Khan smashed the box office. The blockbuster streak continued with Jawan as well. Jawan marked the Hindi debuts of director Atlee and superstar Nayanthara. The film grossed Rs 1,100 crore worldwide as per the industry tracker Sacnilk. Dunki marked the first collaboration between director Rajkumar Hirani and Shah Rukh Khan. The film received mixed reviews from critics and audience alike.

Shah Rukh Khan will be awarded the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival. The superstar will next be seen in King alongside Suhana Khan and Abhishek Bachchan. In a viral clip of Shah Rukh Khan congratulating Santosh Sivan after he received the prestigious Pierre Angenieux Excel Lens Award at this year's Cannes Film Festival, fans spotted the script of King on the table next to SRK. The film will be directed by Sujoy Ghosh.

Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba trailer: Taapsee-Vikrant tease a twisted romance

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The first full trailer of Taapsee Pannu and Vikrant Massey-starrer, Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba, is out. The trailer takes off after the events of the original film and introduces another romantic lead in the form of Sunny Kaushal.

In the released clip, we see Taapsee and Vikrant's characters trying their best to remain in touch and rekindle their romance after the events of the first film. However, things take a dramatic turn when Sunny Kaushal's character comes into the picture, promising more mayhem and chaos. At one point, it is implied that Taapsee's Rani will end up betraying Vikrant's Rishu, thereby unleashing his dark side.

Jimmy Sheirgill also makes an appearance towards the end of the trailer, presumably as a cop, seeking answers from Rani.

Speaking about her role in the film, Taapsee Pannu shared, "Reuniting with Rani feels like coming home, and I'm thrilled to dive back into her world again. The immense love and support I received for this film is overwhelming. Kanika has once again crafted a phenomenal arc for Rani, pushing the character to new depths. This time around, audiences will witness a Rani who is fiercer, more passionate, and even more complex. Director Jayprad Desai has done complete justice in bringing out these complexities on screen. She's a woman who will stop at nothing for love, and I can't wait for everyone to experience her journey."

Directed by Jayprad Desai, the film will release on Netflix on August 9.

Manika Batra vs Anna, Sharath Kamal faces Kozul in singles

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Ace Indian paddler and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manika Batra will face Great Britain's Anna Hursey in the women's singles opening round, while veteran player Achanta Sharath Kamal will clash with Slovenia's Deni Kozul on July 27, according to the draws announced. Manika, seeded 18th at the Games, became the first Indian woman to reach the round of 32 in singles at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. In other opening-round matches, Harmeet Desai will play against Abo Yaman of Jordan in men's singles, while Sreeja Akula, seeded 16th, will begin her campaign against Sweden's Christina Kallberg.

Commonwealth Games champion Sharath Kamal leads a six-member Indian table tennis contingent, with the 41-year-old set to make his fifth Olympic appearance. Manika will compete in her third consecutive Games. Gnanasekaran Sathiyan, a member of India's gold medal-winning men's teams at both the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games, has been selected as a reserve player. Recently, Manika achieved a career-best ranking of world No. 24 following her impressive performance in the Saudi Smash. In the women's team event, 11th-seeded India will start their campaign against fourth-seeded Romania. Alongside Manika and Sreeja, the team includes Archana Kamath, with Ayhika Mukherjee as the reserve player. The winning team will advance directly to the quarterfinals.

The Indian men's team, comprising Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar, and national champion Harmeet Desai, will face a tough challenge against top-ranked China in the opening round. The Paris Games will mark the first time India competes in the team event at the Olympics. The men's and women's team events in table tennis were introduced at the 2008 Beijing Games.

It's Story TIME

The Fox & the Leopard

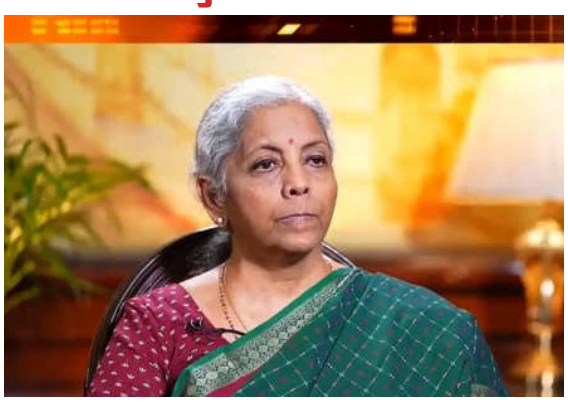
A Fox and a Leopard, resting lazily after a generous dinner, amused themselves by disputing about their good looks. The Leopard was very proud of his glossy, spotted coat and made disdainful remarks about the Fox, whose appearance he declared was quite ordinary. The Fox prided himself on his fine bushy tail with its tip of white, but he was wise enough to see that he could not rival the Leopard in looks. Still he kept up a flow of sarcastic talk, just to exercise his wits and to have the fun of disputing. The Leopard was about to lose his temper when the Fox got up, yawning lazily. "You may have a very smart coat," he said, "but you would be a great deal better off if you had a little more smartness inside your head and less on your ribs, the way I am. That's what I call real beauty." A fine coat is not always an indication of an attractive mind.





'I want to Give Relief to Middle class, But...': Nirmala Sitharaman Responds to Budget 2024 Backlash

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who made history with her seventh consecutive budget presentation on July 23, 2024, addressed key issues in an exclusive interview with Times Network Editor-in-Chief Navika Kumar.

This budget marked the Modi government's first comprehensive budget since returning to power for a third term.'I Laugh At It': Nirmala Sitharaman On Viral 'Tax Nahi Dena Hai Toh Kam Kamao' Meme | EXCLUSIVEAddressing the concerns of the middle class regarding the budget, Sitharaman acknowledged the questions and concerns. She explained that while she aims to provide relief to the middle class, there are limitations."I want to relieve the middle class but I have limitations too. I want to give relief by reducing the tax rate and that is why the standard deduction rate has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000. By increasing the tax rate, the tax liability of the high income class also increases.

The new tax regime was implemented with the aim of reducing the tax rate and has lower tax rates than the old tax regime."

GST and Relief for Common People Sitharaman also spoke about GST during the interview, speaking about her understanding of the middle class's challenges, being part of that demographic herself. "I am also from the middle class...and understand their problems.".

She said that before GST, different states imposed their own taxes on essential items, leading to varied prices across the country. GST has standardized the prices of essential goods nationwide, providing relief to the common people. The GST Council was established to ensure uniform prices for essential goods across the country.'Copy-Paste Job?': Nirmala Sitharaman's Savage Reply To Viral Budget Memes | ExclusiveCapital Gains Tax The budget 2024 saw an increase in the long-term capital gains tax from 10% to 12.5%. Sitharaman shared her thoughts on this during the interview. She mentioned that income up to Rs 1.25 lakh for small investors remains tax-free. The removal of indexation will not cause any harm, she assured. She explained that many small investors earn more but pay less tax, which led to the increase in the long-term capital gains tax rate from 10% to 12.5%.

Collegium refuses to make nine additional judges of Calcutta HC permanent



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Supreme Court Collegium recommended fresh one-year term for nine additional judges of the Calcutta High Court.

The recommendation said that Justices Biswaroop Chowdhury, Partha Sarathi Sen, Prasenjit Biswas, Uday Kumar, Ajay Kumar Gupta, Supratim Bhattacharya, Partha Sarathi Chatterjee, Apurba Sinha Ray and Md Shabbar Rashidi be appointed for a fresh term of one year with effect from August 31, 2024.

The Supreme Court Collegium took this decision despite the High Court Collegium unanimously recommending on April 29 that the nine judges should be made permanent and the Central government concurring with the same.

The Chief Minister and the Governor of the State of West Bengal did not convey their views on the recommendation of the High Court Collegium.

The Department of Justice of the Central government forwarded the above recommendation by invoking Para 14 of the Memorandum of Procedure which provides that if the comments of the Constitutional authorities in the State are not received within the prescribed timeframe, it should be presumed by the Minister of Law and Justice that the Governor and the Chief Minister have nothing to add to the proposal and proceed accordingly.

The Supreme Court Collegium then consulted judges of the apex court conversant with the affairs of the Calcutta High Court.

The judgments of the nine judges were assessed for merit and suitability.

After taking into account all of the above, the Collegium decided to grant a fresh one year term for all the above nine judges instead of making them permanent.

Governor CV Ananda Bose urges Mamata Banerjee not to make politically-motivated remarks on Bangladesh situation

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Kolkata : West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose has urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not to make any "politically-motivated populist remarks" on the current situation in neighbouring Bangladesh that could affect the nation's external affairs.

His remark came after Bangladesh Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud objected to Banerjee's recent remark of offering "shelter" to people from Bangladesh amid ongoing protests in the country.

"The Governor urges the CM not to make politically motivated populist remarks which would adversely impact the nation's external affairs," the Raj Bhavan said in a post on X.

Mahmud, in a video shared widely on X, was heard saying, "With all due respect to Mamata Banerjee, with whom we share a relationship of mutual interests...However, her statement has created confusion and has the potential to create confusion among people. Therefore, we have sent a note to the Indian government on her statement."

Mahmud communicated with the Indian government through diplomatic channels.

Banerjee, during the TMC's Martyrs Day rally in Kolkata on Sunday, referred to violence-hit Bangladesh, saying she would keep the doors of West Bengal open for people in distress from the neighbouring country and offer them shelter. She also posted similar comments from her X account.

BJP leader Amit Malviya has also posted a video of Hasan's remarks from his handle on X, saying, "Mamata Banerjee is a constant source of embarrassment, not just for West Bengal but also for India, now."

4 killed in Pune amid heavy rain, Mumbai sees second wettest July ever

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Incessant rain has led to severe waterlogging in Pune and Kolhapur, crippling normal life and prompting schools to shut. The situation is also grim in Mumbai, which has witnessed its second-wettest July ever with an overall rainfall of over 150 cm.

Several residential areas in Pune's Pimpri-Chinchwad have been flooded while four people died in rain-related incidents in the district.

State Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar took stock of the situation and also spoke to Divisional Commissioners and other officials of Mumbai, Pune and Thane over the phone and gave instructions to maintain alertness and for rescue and relief work.

The heavy rains are likely to continue across the different areas of the state in the coming days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement.

In Pune, at least four persons lost their lives in rain-related incidents.

Three men died of electrocution in the Deccan area of the city while trying to move their handcart, on which they used to sell egg dishes, got submerged due to heavy rains, one person died and another one sustained injuries in a landslide in the Tahmini ghat section of the city.

Water is being released at the rate of 9,400 cusec from the Khadakwasla dam following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas in Pune. The district administration has also cautioned people living in low-lying areas to remain alert.

The IMD has issued a red alert for Pune for the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, in the state's Raigad district, the local administration declared a holiday for schools, colleges and other educational institutions today in the wake of heavy rainfall. A similar order has been issued for Palghar's Wada and Vikramgad sub-divisions.

The weather department has issued a 'red alert' for both the districts, located on the west coast of the districts.Meanwhile, in the Kolhapur district, an alert was issued as the Panchganga River was flowing just a few inches below the danger mark.

As per the figures, the water level of the Panchganga at Rajaram weir reached 42.2 feet, which is 8 inches below the danger mark of 43 feet.

Chandrababu Naidu to order probe against Jagan Reddy's liquor policy

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Amaravati : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu alleged that the liquor policies introduced by the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government have caused a loss of Rs 18,860 crore to the state exchequer in the last five years. He said that the state will soon order a Crime Investigation Department (CID) probe into the alleged large-scale irregularities.

Releasing a white paper in the Assembly on the excise policy adopted by the previous YSRCP government, Chief Minister Naidu said that the assistance of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will also be sought as liquor was sold accepting payments only in cash, without any online transactions.

"Action will certainly be taken for causing such a huge loss to the exchequer," Naidu said, adding that details will be sought from the Health Department on how many people suffered from serious health problems due to the consumption of spurious liquor. He alleged irregularities in the excise regime under the YSRCP government.

The Chief Minister said that popular brands of beer were completely phased out while the sale of local brands, which were previously unknown, increased from zero to 12 lakh.

"Though even petty traders are accepting online payments these days, the previous government adopted a policy that there were no online payments with regard to liquor purchases. In fact, those who demanded bills for their payments were even taken into custody," he pointed out.

Further, he said that in the name of liquor, loans were raised for a period of 10 to 25 years, referring to it as a "big defrauding of the state in the country's history."

Naidu alleged that 1.78 crore litres of illicitly distilled liquor were seized between 2019 and 2024, resulting in increased crime, adverse health impacts, and failed enforcement, severely impacting poorer sections due to inflated prices. Expressing serious concern about the economic condition of the state, the Chief Minister stated that a detailed study is yet to be conducted on this.

Attacking Jagan Reddy further, Naidu said the past five-year rule was a case study on how governance should not be.

"The former chief minister, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, too is a case study on how the head of the state should not be. While some make mistakes to meet urgent needs, some commit mistakes out of greed. Yet others commit blunders with insanity. In the past five years, blunders were committed surely out of frenzy only to mint money," the Chief Minister remarked.

Naidu alleged that Jagan Reddy received 40 percent of the vote in the recent elections not because people liked him but because no awareness was created among the people.

CID arrests one in multi-crore Bhovi Corporation scam case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bengaluru : The Congress government in Karnataka has begun to probe the alleged scams during the BJP's regime. In action, the Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested one Subbappa, in the Bhovi Corporation scam.

According to the details, Subbappa was accused of misplacing nearly 200 files. He worked at the Bhovi Corporation headquarters.

Several cases were registered in connection with the case, across the state, alleging irregularities in the Bhovi Corporation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier said he would get the case investigated and had handed over the probe to the CID.

The CID, which is probing the multi-crore loan scam in the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation, has identified 10 primary bank accounts that received the embezzled money.

Some of these accounts belonged to private companies, according to the CID.

The scam occurred in 2021–22, involving bureaucrats and middlemen swindling large shares of loans under a job scheme for Bhovi community members.

While the corporation was to lend up to Rs 10 lakh, no beneficiary received more than Rs 30,000.

The scam came to light in 2022 when banks asked beneficiaries to repay the original amount.

Middlemen were in collusion with corporation officials, collected Aadhaar, PAN and other documents from beneficiaries, promising them loans up to Rs 10 lakh. They got the applicants' signatures on blank papers and two signed blank cheques.

The beneficiaries learnt about the cheating only after bank officials asked for repayment of the original amount.

Three First Information Report (FIR)s have been filed in the case - one each in Siddapura, Doddaballapura, and Kalaburagi.

The Kalaburagi case was transferred to the CID in February 2023, the Siddapur case in June 2023, and the Doddaballapura case in August 2023. There are a total of 13 suspects in the case.



Trump shooter googled John F Kennedy's assassination week before attack

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Washington : Thomas Matthew Crooks, who attempted to assassinate Donald Trump at a campaign rally on July 13, had searched online for details about the 1963 assassination of former US President John F Kennedy - popularly known as JFK - in the days before the attack, FBI director Christopher Wray said.

While testifying before a congressional committee on Wednesday, Wray said that the 20-year-old would-be assassin did a Google search for 'How far away was Oswald from Kennedy?' in reference to Kennedy's assassination by Lee Harvey Oswald.

"That obviously is significant in terms of his state of mind," the FBI director told the committee.

Lee Harvey Oswald shot and killed John F Kennedy on November 22, 1963, from a sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository as the then 35th President travelled by motorcate in Dallas.

Oswald's shots at Kennedy's motorcade were made from about 88 yards (around 81 metres). Thomas Crooks was even farther away, about 130 yards (around 119 metres).

Christopher Wray said that Thomas Matthew Crooks "appears to have done a lot of searches for public figures, in general" but there was no clear pattern to the research.

The FBI director further said that somewhere around July 6 or so, Thomas Crooks became "very focused" on former President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and his campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

That was the same day when Thomas Crooks registered to attend the campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, Wray said.

The FBI chief told members of the House Judiciary Committee that investigators have not established a motive for the shooting, but the federal agency are "digging hard because this is one of the central questions for us".

Thomas Crooks fired eight shots at the Pennsylvania rally, with bullets narrowly missing Donald Trump's face and grazing his ear. Three other rallygoers were injured as a result, and a 50-year-old volunteer firefighter was killed. A Secret Service agency quickly shot and killed the 20-year-old.

During his testimony, Christopher Wray said that no evidence emerged so far that suggested Thomas Crooks had any accomplices or co-conspirators, and he seemed to have been a "loner".

The FBI chief also said that the gunman flew a drone over the rally venue about two hours before Trump took the stage on July 13. The activity lasted for around 11 minutes. Wray said that the drone was not flown directly over the stage but about 200 metres away.

The drone and its controller were recovered in Thomas Crooks's car along with two "relatively crude" explosive devices, the FBI chief said. Another explosive was found in his residence.

Biden on ending re-election bid: Passing torch to new generation to unite country



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : US President Joe Biden said he is "passing the torch to a new generation" to unite the country, as he addressed the nation for the first time since quitting the presidential race. The 81-year-old said there is a time and place for younger voices, as he explained his move to end the re-election bid and called upon voters to defend the country's democracy.

"I have decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation. That is the best way to unite our nation," Biden said.

He asserted that the decision to withdraw from the fight for the president's post was in defence of democracy. However, he did not directly name Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, whom he has been referring to as a threat to democracy.

"I revere this office, but I love my country more. It's been the honour of my life to serve as your President. But in the defence of democracy, which is at stake, it's more important than any title," Joe Biden said.

"A cause of American democracy itself must unite to protect it...It's become clear to me that I need to unite my party in this critical endeavour. I believe my record as President, my leadership in the world, and my vision for America's future all merit a second term, but nothing, nothing can come in the way of saving our democracy," he further stated.

The US President said that despite drawing "strength" and finding joy in "working for the American people", the sacred task of "perfecting our union" is not about him but the citizens, their "families (and) future".

"It's about we, the people...I believe America is at inflexion," he added.

On July 21, Joe Biden announced his exit from the White House race and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor. The decision followed a crisis in his electoral prospects after his abysmal debate against Donald Trump last month, where Biden looked clueless and spoke haltingly while failing to rebut the Republican nominee's attacks.

The Democratic Party saw a mutiny against the US President, who was seeking re-election, with heavyweights including former President Barack Obama and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also pressing for his exit, raising concerns over his fitness for the White House job.

In his Oval Office address, Joe Biden called Kamala Harris "tough" and "capable" of facing Donald Trump in the November 5 election.

"She's experienced, she's tough, she's capable. She's been an incredible partner to me and a leader for our country. Now the choice is up to you, the American people," he said.

"There is a time and a place for long years of experience in public life, but there's also a time and a place for new voices," he explained.

Biden called this election year "one of those rare moments in history" when the decisions made now would determine the "fate" of America and "the world for decades to come".

"Americans are going to have to choose between moving forward or backward, between hope and hate, between unity and division. We have to decide if we still believe in honesty, decency, respect, freedom, justice and democracy," he said.

In his speech, Biden invoked previous presidents, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as he described his love for the office.

Further, he promised to complete his remaining six months as the US President, underscoring that he had a busy to-do list. The 81-year-old mentioned that he will work to end the war in Gaza, continue rallying support for Ukraine, and push for Supreme Court reform.

Move back to India, Khalistani terrorist Pannun tells Hindu-Canadian MP

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Ottawa : Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has released a video directing Canadian MP of Indian-origin, Chandra Arya, and his followers to "move back to India" immediately. Pannun also said that voting for the Khalistan referendum would take place in Canada's Calgary on July 28.

Chandra Arya, a Hindu-Canadian MP, has been vocal against the defacement of temples and other violent acts by Khalistanis in Canada.

"In response to my condemnation of the vandalism of the Hindu temple BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Edmonton and other acts of hate and violence by Khalistan supporters in Canada, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs for Justice has released a video demanding me and my Hindu-Canadian friends to go back to India," Chandra Arya posted on X.

This comes after a Hindu temple was vandalised in Edmonton, Canada, with graffiti painted on the walls. Chandra Arya, a member of the Canadian Parliament, condemned the vandalism and said that the country was "being polluted by Khalistani extremists".

In a video posted by Arya on X, Pannun told the Canadian MP and his supporters to leave Canada, accusing them of "working against Canadian values and against the Charter of Rights".

He also claimed that Arya was "promoting the interests of your masters, India".

Pannum said the MP and his supporters to "abandon their citizenship and move back to their motherland, India".

"We pro-Khalistan Sikhs have shown our loyalty to Canada for decades," Pannun added.

In response, Chandra Arya posted on X, "We Hindus have come to our wonderful country Canada from all parts of the world. From every country in South Asia, many countries in Africa and Caribbean, and many other parts of the world, we have come here and Canada is our land."

"We have made and continue to make an immense positive and productive contribution to the socio-economic development of Canada. With our long history of Hindu culture and heritage, we have enriched the multicultural fabric of Canada," Arya added.

Freight ship sinks, 2 dead as Typhoon Gaemi passes Taiwan

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Typhoon Gaemi swept through northern Taiwan today, killing two people, triggering flooding and sinking a freighter offshore, before heading across the sea and into China where it is expected to dump more torrential rain.

Gaemi made landfall around midnight (1600 GMT) on the northeastern coast of Taiwan in Yilan county. It is the strongest typhoon to hit the island in eight years and was packing gusts of up to 227 kph (141 mph) before weakening, according to the Central Weather Administration.\

As of 8.30 am (local time), it was in the Taiwan Strait and heading toward Fuzhou in China's Fujian province.

The storm cut power to around half a million households in Taiwan, though most are now back online, utility Taipower said.

Taiwan's fire department said a Tanzania-flagged freighter with nine Myanmar nationals on board had sunk off the coast of the southern port city of Kaohsiung and there had been no response from the crew. Search efforts were ongoing, it added.

The typhoon is expected to bring more rain across Taiwan, with offices and schools as well as the financial markets closed for a second day today.

Trains, including the high speed line linking northern and southern Taiwan, will be closed until 3 pm (0700 GMT), with all domestic flights and 185 international flights cancelled for the day.

Two people have died and 266 injured due to the typhoon, the government said. Taiwanese television stations showed pictures of flooded streets in cities and counties across the island.

Chinese weather forecasters said Gaemi will pass through Fujian province later on Thursday and head inland, gradually moving northward with less intensity. But weather forecasters are expecting heavy rain in many areas as it tracks north.

Government officials have already prepared for heavy rain and flooding, raising advisories and warnings in the coastal provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang.

In Fujian, government officials have relocated about 150,000 people, mainly from coastal fishing communities, state media reported. As gale force winds picked up, officials in Zhoushan in Zhejiang province suspended passenger waterway routes for up to three days.

Most flights were cancelled at airports in Fuzhou and Quanzhou in Fujian, and Wenzhou in Zhejiang, according to the VariFlight app.

Guangzhou rail officials suspended some trains that pass through typhoon-affected areas, according to CCTV.

Meanwhile, north China is experiencing heavy rain from summer storms around a separate weather system. Officials in capital Beijing upgraded and issued a red warning late Wednesday night for torrential rain expected through most of Thursday, according to Chinese state media.

Some areas have already experienced heavy rain and emergency plans were activated, with more than 25,000 people evacuated, according to Beijing Daily. Some train services were also suspended at the Beijing West Railway Station.

The Beijing Fangshan District Meteorological Observatory expects that by 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) many parts of the city will have more than 150 mm (6 inches) of rainfall in six hours, and in some other areas more than 200 mm (8 inches) in 24 hours.

US revises travel advisory for India: Don't travel to Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The United States has asked its nationals not to travel to Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, the India-Pakistan border, and parts of central and eastern parts of the country where Naxalites are active.

In a revised travel advisory for India, the State Department said it has updated to reflect information on the northeastern states.

"Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk," it said.

Overall India has been placed at Level 2. But several parts of the country have been placed on Level 4: Jammu and Kashmir, the India-Pak border, Manipur and parts of Central and East India.

"Do not travel to: The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest; within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict; portions of Central and East India due to terrorism and Manipur due to violence and crime," said the State Department.

In addition, it recommended Americans to reconsider travel to the northeastern states due to terrorism and violence.

"Indian authorities report that rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has happened at tourist sites and other locations. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning. They target tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities," the travel advisory said.

The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in rural areas. These areas stretch from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal. US government employees must get special authorisation to travel to these areas, it said.

Placing Manipur at "Level 4: Do Not Travel", the State Department said: "Do not travel to Manipur due to the threat of violence and crime. Ongoing ethnic-based civil conflict has resulted in reports of extensive violence and community displacement. Attacks against Indian government targets occur on a regular basis. US government employees travelling in India require prior approval before visiting Manipur."

"Do not travel to this state (with the exception of visits to the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh). Violence happens sporadically in this area and is common along the Line of Control (LOC) between India and Pakistan. It also occurs in tourist spots in the Kashmir Valley: Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. The Indian government does not allow foreign tourists to visit certain areas along the LOC," it said.

"India and Pakistan have a strong military presence on both sides of the border. The only official border crossing for non-citizens of India or Pakistan is in Punjab. It is between Attari, India, and Wagah, Pakistan. The border crossing is usually open, but check its current status before you travel. To enter Pakistan, you need a Pakistani visa. Only US citizens residing in India may apply for a Pakistani visa in India. Otherwise, apply for a Pakistani visa in your home country before traveling to India," it said.

Maoist extremist groups, or "Naxalites", are active in a large area of India that spans from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal, the advisory said.

Attacks against officers of the Indian government continue to occur sporadically in the rural parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand that border Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. Southwest areas of Odisha are also affected. The Naxalites have carried out many terrorist attacks, targeting local police, paramilitary forces, and government officials, it said.

"US government employees travelling in India require prior approval before visiting the states of Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as when visiting any areas outside the capital cities of Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura," it said.

Pro-Gaza protesters clash with cops outside US Capitol during Netanyahu's speech

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New York : Protesters demanding the US stop military aid to Israel hoisted Palestinian flags and burnt American ones outside Washington's Union Station in demonstrations against a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Less than a mile away, police used pepper spray on some of the thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters who gathered outside the US Capitol while Netanyahu spoke to Congress.

Seeking the support of US lawmakers for Israel's war in Gaza, Netanyahu sketched a vague outline of a plan for a "deradicalised" post-war Gaza and touted a potential future alliance between Israel and America's Arab allies.

He was due to meet President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris today and former President Donald Trump.

Shortly before he began speaking, US Capitol Police said marching protesters tried crossing a blockade and did not step back when asked.

"The crowd failed to obey our order to move back from our police line. We are deploying pepper spray towards anyone trying to break the law and cross that line," police said in a statement.

"We were no threat (to police)," said Sarah Bowles, a pharmacy technician from Delaware who attended the protest and assisted protesters who were injured. One of the protesting groups said police attacked demonstrators as they marched.

Pro-Palestinian groups and university students have for months protested in the US against Israel's offensive in Gaza, a Hamas-governed enclave where health authorities say nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Israel's military assault followed an October 7 attack by Hamas, whose militants surged into Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostages, according to Israeli figures.

Despite mediation efforts by the United States, Qatar and Egypt; Israel and Hamas have yet to forge a permanent ceasefire.

Netanyahu, while addressing Congress, said he had a message for the protesters.

"When the tyrants of Tehran who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair are praising, promoting, and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots," he said, using a Cold War-era term for people who are manipulated for a political agenda.

Protesters deny such charges and say their demonstrations are a response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza where nearly the entire 2.3 million population have been displaced.

A stage at the protest site near the Capitol was decked with banners, including one that declared the Israeli leader a "Wanted War Criminal" in reference to an arrest warrant sought by International Criminal Court prosecutors. Netanyahu denies war crimes allegations.

Nearby, demonstrators placed nearly 30 human-size cardboard coffins wrapped in Palestinian flags. Traffic was barred from several roads near the Capitol.

"I want all aid (to) be suspended to Israel due to its actions in Gaza," said Bradley Cullinan, who said he travelled to the area from Columbus, Ohio, 400 miles (640 km) away.

Oscar-winning actor Susan Sarandon took to the stage and condemned the death toll in Gaza. "No one is free until everyone is free," Sarandon said.

Dozens of Democratic lawmakers skipped Netanyahu's speech to Congress, expressing dismay over the deaths and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza where nearly all of its 2.3 million people have been displaced.

Members of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group carried Palestinian flags and signs reading "Free Palestine" and "Anti-Zionism is not antisemitism," while a group of younger protesters danced to Arabic music and carried large banners reading "Stop Arming Israel" and "Stop War Crimes in Gaza."

ICC prosecutors say there are reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant as well as Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Al-Masri and Ismail Haniyeh, bear criminal responsibility for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Discussions on Union Budget: J-K budget to come up for discussion and voting



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Amid the face-off between the government and the opposition, the debate on the Union Budget continues today in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including a discussion and voting on J&K's Budget.

The Opposition MPs had on Wednesday protested against the Budget in the Lok Sabha and staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha. The MPs also staged a protest on the premises and raised slogans against the government.

In the Lok Sabha apart from the Budget discussion, four ministers will lay papers on the table: K Rammohan Naidu for the Ministry of Civil Aviation; Shripad Naik for the Ministry of Power; Shobha Karandlaje for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Tokhan Sahu for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Union Minister Ajay Tamta will make a statement "regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 342nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2023-2024) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways".

Minister Manohar Lal will move a motion to elect two members to the Rajghat Samadhi Committee. "That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee for the term commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

In the Rajya Sabha, as per the Business List, a statement will be made by Minister Sukanta Majumdar regarding the "Status of implementation of Recommendations/Observations contained in the 250th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 243rd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region".

The discussion on the Union Budget and that of the J&K Budget also continues in the Upper House.

Rahul Gandhi to appear before MP-MLA court in defamation case tomorrow

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Sultanpur : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will appear before the MP-MLA court here for hearing in a defamation case.

Congress district president Abhishek Singh Rana said today that Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, would land at Lucknow airport at 9 am on Friday and then proceed towards Sultanpur.

Local BJP leader Vijay Mishra had filed a defamation case on August 4, 2018 against Gandhi for making alleged objectionable remarks against the then BJP president and current Home Minister Amit



Shah in 2018.

The court had granted bail to Gandhi in the case on February 20.

Special Magistrate Shubham Verma has summoned Gandhi to record his statement on July 26.

NEET UG: Agency to soon release revised Results of Medical entrance exam

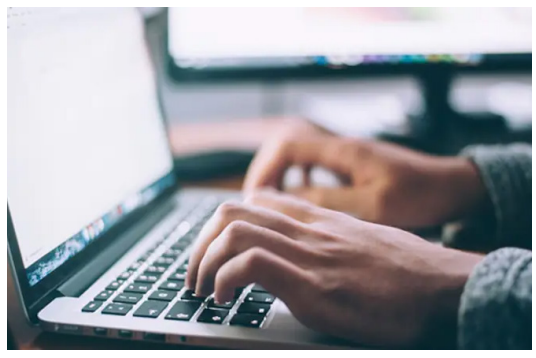
THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The National Testing Agency (NTA) is expected to release the revised results for the NEET UG exams today evening. As per a recent decision of the Supreme Court over four lakh students who gave the NEET-UG exam will lose four marks in the updated results.

A student had earlier pointed out that "Question No. 29" of the Physics section had two correct answers - when it should have only one correct answer.

The Supreme Court had asked the director of IIT-Delhi to set up a team of three experts and submit a report on the correct answer for a particular question of Physics by next day noon. Responding to this, the court said, "Regarding one question of Physics on atomic theory, marks shall not be given for two options, but only for one answer, which is option No. 4."

Education Minister Dharmendra



Pradhan had earlier announced that the final results for the medical entrance 2024 NEET-UG exam will be declared within two days according to the observations made by the Supreme Court.

The court ruled that only one correct answer from a set of four answers will be considered valid. The students who will lose four marks include 44 who had scored a perfect 720/720.

The court also dismissed a clutch of petitions seeking cancellation and retest of the medical entrance exam NEET UG 2024. Chief Justice Chandrachud noted that there was no data on record to indicate a systemic leak of question paper and other malpractices in the exam.

The NTA have been at the centre of a massive political row and protests by students over alleged large-scale malpractices ranging from question paper leaks to impersonation in the test held on May 5.

Apart from NEET UG, CUET exam results can also be declared in the next two days. About 24 lakh students appeared in the NEET UG examination and about 16 lakh students appeared in the CUET examination.

Chargesheet in Delhi hospital fire which killed 7 infants cites negligence

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Two months after a fire in east Delhi's private neonatal hospital, the Delhi Police on July 22 filed a 796-page charge sheet in the case and observed that the hospital was running without fire safety devices and staff did not act swiftly when the blaze began.

The charge sheet was filed at a city court and cited the statements of 81 witnesses along with forensic reports.

"During the investigation, we checked a total of eight points about the statutory requirement to run NICU and the norms which were violated by the hospital. Regarding fire safety, there is no document available to show the safety measures that have been implemented by the hospital. The hospital had the permission to function with five beds but was running with 12 beds," a senior police officer told news agency PTI, referring to the charge sheet.

A massive fire broke out at a private children's hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on May 25.

Seven infants were killed in the incident.

The officials of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said the blaze broke out at the Baby Care New Born Hospital at around 11.30 pm, which soon spread to two other adjacent buildings.

Due to the fire, many oxygen cylinders kept in the two-storey building exploded, which damaged the adjacent buildings.

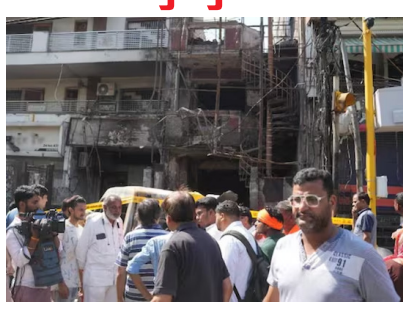
Two men -- the owner of the hospital, Naveen Khichi, and a BAMS doctor, Akash, who were on duty on the day of the incident, were arrested in connection with the case.

Documents received from the Directorate of Health Services, Delhi, prove that the nursing home was granted a license to run the NICU for five beds in 2021 for three years. The renewal application was under submission with DGHS.

The officer said only BAMS doctors were deployed to take care of infants admitted to NICU. No qualified nurses were deployed, the officer said, adding that it is a must that they must possess the minimum qualification of General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) along with DNC registration.

Police observed that at the time of issuance of a license, the accused gave a declaration that they would have five oxygen cylinders of Category B type and 15 cylinders of Category D type.

However, at the time of the incident, there were 31 oxygen cylinders kept in the hospital, which violated the declaration submitted by the hospital to the authorities, the officer said. These cylinders were stored in a hazardous manner and exploded when the



blaze started.

"From the investigation conducted so far and relying upon the statements of witnesses recorded under section 161 of the CrPC, sufficient evidence has come on record against the accused Khichi and Akash for the death of the seven infants by their known act of running a hospital for NICU beyond permissible beds, without qualified RMO and nurses, without fire safety devices and not acting swiftly in the event of fire," the charge sheet said.

Police, in their charge sheet, observed that the owner of the hospital is a qualified doctor and a professional person with full knowledge that newborn babies are very vulnerable and even a small incident can be fatal for them.

"Initially, the case was registered under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC, but subsequently, based on the evidence on record, section 304 (culpable homicide), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 34 (common intention) and 75 of the JJ Act were invoked," it read.

The charge sheet, while citing the statement of the nursing staff on duty, said the owner of the nursing home allowed the other male staff to cook on the rooftop.

This issue was also brought to the knowledge of the owner but to no avail, the charge sheet said, adding that the structural design of the nursing home was not safe for emergencies.

The inspection reports of forensic experts, the Delhi Fire Service, the Electrical Inspector and the MCD team, have also been annexed with the charge sheet.

The accused kept inflammable materials, like bundles of old papers and wooden materials, and their presence aggravated the fire.

The doctor, who carried out the post-mortem, opined that the cause of death of the infants was due to burns.

The viscera and femur samples of deceased infants were deposited in FSL in Rohini for analysis and expert opinion, and their reports are still awaited.

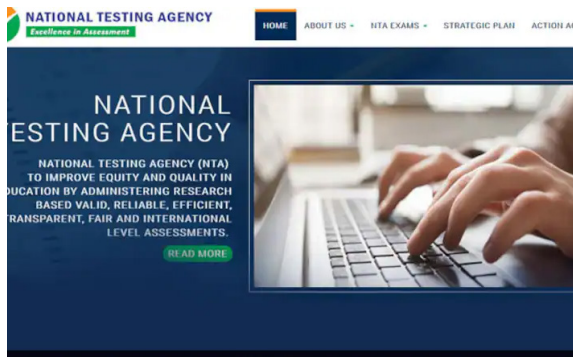
NTA issues warning against Fraudsters Misusing its Name

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The National Testing Agency (NTA) has released a notification warning stakeholders to be careful of fraudsters who were using the name of the agency for manipulating students.

Sharing the actual websites of the NTA and NEET UG examination, the agency noted that few dishonest people are misusing the name of the NTA and its officials through various websites. Some others are disguised as NTA officials and manipulating students.

The official notification by NTA reads, "Some unscrupulous elements are misusing the name of the NTA and its officials through various websites. Some other persons are also masquerading as NTA officials. Hence the public is informed to be aware of such impersonation or people using the names of NTA and its officials for any issue related to the manipulation of OMRs



in the case of NEET (UG)-2024 or any other examination of NTA."

NTA has further advised the general public to regularly visit the NTA website(s) https://www.nta.ac.in/ and https://exams.nta.ac.in/NEET/ for the latest updates regarding the examination.

The notification is released at a time when the National Testing Agency and the Union Education Ministry have been at the centre of a massive political row and protests by students over alleged large-scale malpractices ranging from question paper leaks to impersonation in the test held on May 5.

Meanwhile, the National Testing Agency is soon expected to release the revised results for the NEET UG exams by Thursday evening or Friday. As per a recent decision of the Supreme Court over four lakh students who gave the NEET-UG exam will lose four marks in the updated results.

Apart from NEET UG, CUET exam results can also be declared in the next two days. About 24 lakh students appeared in the NEET UG examination and about 16 lakh students appeared in the CUET examination.

College students thrashing juniors with sticks sparks outrage

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : An old video of some students assaulting and beating their juniors at a private college in Andhra Pradesh's Narasaraopet has gone viral, prompting police to register a case and launch an investigation. Police said the video was shot in February at a hostel of Sri Subbaraya and Narayana College in Narasaraopet.

The juniors were called to the hostel in the guise of NCC (National Cadet Corps) training and thrashed brutally.

The video shows a person bringing a student one by one into a room. The students are then beaten with sticks by a group of seniors. The seniors are seen laughing and encouraging each other to continue the assault as the students plead for mercy.



After the video came to light, police said an investigation would be conducted into the ragging incident. A case under various sections of the Prohibition of Ragging Act has also been registered.

Police said the incident happened on February 2 this year. The students involved in the incident have passed out, according to CI Chintala Krishna Reddy of One Town Police Station.

"We have registered a case against the students involved and will take stern action against them," Reddy said.

The inspector said ragging was a punishable offence and urged students to report such incidents to the management and police without any delay.

The video was also shared by the YSR Congress Party, which lashed out at the Chandrababu Naidu-led government over the law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh.

RNI NO.: PUNENG/2020/81962 Owner & Publisher : Atul Sharma

Owner, Publisher, Printer Atul Sharma Printed by: Atul Industries, Plot No. F-78, Industrial Area, Phase-7 S.A.S. Nagar Mohali.
Published by - F-78, Industrial Area, Phase-7, Mohali 160055, Editor: Atul Sharma, E-mail: theamansandeshtimes@gmail.com | Website: www.theamansandeshtimes.com