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"ThankFul For Respect": Mamata Banerjee on Support For INDIA Leadership



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, now sought after to lead the INDIA Bloc, today thanked all those supporting her -- Lalu Yadav was the last voice yesterday to join the chorus.
Ms Banerjee thanked everyone for the "respect" they have shown her, but did not elaborate further.
"I am thankful to everyone for the respect the leaders have shown me. I am thankful to everyone. I pray for everyone's good health. I want them to stay well and their parties to do well. I want INDIA to do well. That's what I want but today I want to wish everyone on behalf of our Jagannath Temple," she said.
The leaders of the parties that form the INDIA alliance are expected to meet after the ongoing Parliament session. It will be the first after the Lok Sabha elections and also after the Congress's major electoral losses in Haryana and Maharashtra.

House must run, ally Trinamool Congress-BJP dictating it- Rahul Gandhi

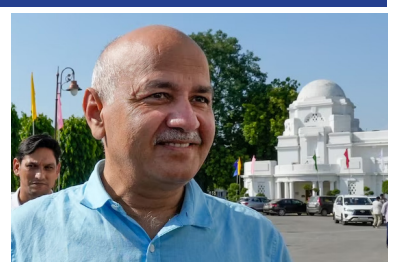


THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Congress MP Rahul Gandhi today assured that the Opposition's aim was for the Lok Sabha to function amid the almost-daily protests in Parliament that have led to washing out of proceedings. However, the Trinamool Congress suggested that the House runs as per how the Congress and BJP dictate it.
"Our aim is that the House must run, and a discussion should happen in the House. Let them say whatever they want against me, we want the Constitution debate on December 13," Rahul Gandhi told reporters outside Parliament.
He added that, regardless of what BJP leaders might allege, "we only want the House to function".

Manish Sisodia's bail conditions in liquor policy case relaxed

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The Supreme Court today relaxed the bail conditions for former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the liquor policy case, deleting the requirement to report to investigating agencies twice a week.
"We don't find the said condition necessary," the bench stated while modifying the conditions imposed during Sisodia's bail on August 9 in connection with corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.
The order applies to both the CBI and Enforcement Directorate cases. Sisodia, however, will still be required to regularly attend trial court proceedings, the top court clarified.
The court's decision came after Sisodia's counsel, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, argued during a hearing on November 22 that the AAP leader had already complied with the bail conditions by appearing before the investigating officers 60 times.
Sisodia was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023, over alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy for 2021-22. The ED arrested him in the related money laundering case on March 9, 2023. He resigned from the Delhi cabinet on February 28, 2023.
After spending 17 months in prison, Sisodia was granted bail by the Supreme Court on August 9, 2024. In its order, court had cited the principle that "bail is the rule and jail is the exception," while pointing to the long delay in starting trial in the case.
It also imposed certain conditions, one of which required the AAP leader to appear before investigating officers twice every week to ensure his cooperation in the investigation.
The court's relief comes as a shot in the arm for Sisodia ahead of the high-stakes Delhi assembly polls, which he is contesting from the Jangpura seat. He launched his election campaign by attending a 'Hanuman Chalisa' recital with local residents in his new constituency.
The ruling Aam Aadmi Party shifted the former education minister from Patparganj, the seat held by him since 2013, to Jangpura this time. It instead fielded newly inducted educator Avadh Ojha from Patparganj.
Elections for the 70-member Delhi Assembly are due in February next year. The AAP, which has been in power since 2015, is eyeing a third consecutive term.

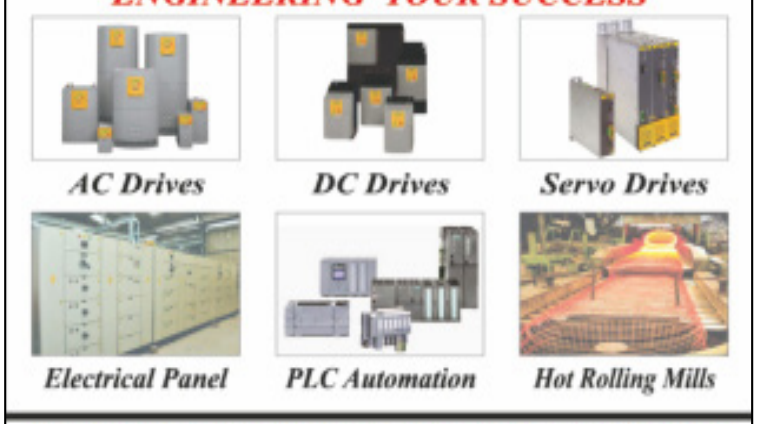
3 drug peddlers arrested

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Srinagar : Three drug peddlers in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district have been arrested, police said today.
A police statement said, "Continuing efforts to combat the menace of drugs in society, Baramulla Police have arrested three drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession."
The officials said that a team from Police Station Pattan, led by SHO intercepted a vehicle (Ertiga, registration number JK05M-8404) at a checkpoint near the Railway Crossing Pattan.
"The vehicle was occupied by three individuals who were identified as, Jhon Mohd Mir, son of Gh Mohd Mir, resident of Nillah Palpora; Mohd Yaqoob Mir, son of Late Ab Aziz, resident of Nillah Palpora; and Faisal Ahmad Hajam, son of Gh Qadir, resident of Pushwari Anantnag. During the search, 78 grams of contraband Charas (in powder form) were recovered from their possession. The accused have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Pattan for further legal proceedings," said the officials.
"Additionally, the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has been seized. A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered at Police Station Pattan and an investigation is underway. We urge the public to report any instances of drug peddling or other criminal activities to the nearest police establishment or dial 112," the officials said further.
The police have been stressing that the cooperation of the community is vital in eradicating the drug menace.
"Baramulla Police reiterate their commitment to taking strict legal action against those involved in criminal activities," a police statement read.
J&K Police have intensified their crackdown on drug smugglers and peddlers since the menace has been plaguing the local youths. Further, it is believed that drug addiction is used as a subjugating tactic to lure youth towards terrorism.
Funds generated from the rug trade, according to intelligence agencies, are used partly to fund various terrorist outfits in the union territory.

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Historic No-Trust Vote Against Rajya Sabha Chair, and the Numbers

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



In a historic first the Congress-led INDIA bloc on Tuesday moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, alleging partisan functioning of the House under his stewardship. The notice was tabled this morning, triggering the inevitable squabbling and an adjournment.

The filing of the motion followed a raucous 48 hours in Parliament; the Upper and Lower House both saw chaos and disruptions as the BJP and the opposition clashed over the ruling party's allegations - that Congress MP Sonia Gandhi and businessman George Soros are colluding to defame India, adversely impact its economy, and harm national security, a charge the party firmly rubbished.

At last count 60 opposition MPs - including those from Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool, and the AAP of Arvind Kejriwal, parties that often disagree with the Congress - had backed the move, which is a first in Indian parliamentary history.

The motion was submitted under Article 67(B) of the Constitution, which allows for the removal of the Vice President. But since the VEEP - also Mr Dhankhar - is also the ex officio Rajya Sabha Chair, removing one removes the other.

What Does Article 67(B) Say?

"... a Vice-President may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council of States passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People; but no resolution for the purpose of this clause shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution..."

The first potential stumbling block for the opposition is the 14-day rule.

If the opposition is compelled to submit a 14-day notice, then it means the motion cannot be debated this session, which is scheduled to finish on December 20 - nine days more.

The opposition is aware of this, and the improbability of their motion being carried, but have insisted this is not about the numbers, that it is about sending a message to the ruling party.

This is a symbolic move, sources within the INDIA bloc have told.

The No-Confidence Motion Numbers

Even if the motion is somehow allowed to be voted on, in politics it comes down, always, to the numbers. And does the opposition have the numbers to carry its motion?

In a nutshell, no.

Article 67(B) requires a simple majority of the Rajya Sabha MPs - i.e., half of those voting + 1 - for it to be passed. As of today, that number is 116 votes.

The Rajya Sabha, at full strength, has 245 members but 14 seats are vacant.

The opposition, for now, has significantly fewer than 116 MPs on its side.

While that could increase, the fact is the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is in control. As of September, it has a six-seat majority, not counting fence-sitters like the YSR Congress Party.

The opposition, including those not with the INDIA bloc, have only 85 seats.

The Congress, in an effort to move that goalpost, called out the YSRCP.

"Will Jagan (Mohan Reddy's) party have the courage to support the motion... or will he stay loyal to Modi and Shah while making empty statements?" Manickam Tagore said in a post on X.

The YSRCP has eight MPs in the Rajya Sabha.

Also, possibly, in play are the seven with Odisha's BJD. Party boss and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "We are examining it (the motion, and) will take whatever step is necessary..."

The BJD was thumped by the BJP in the Assembly and federal elections earlier this year, suggesting that whatever understanding there may have been in the past - the BJD, while not a member of the BJP's alliance, often provided issue-based support - does not hold good at this time.

Even with these 15 on its side, the opposition is still short of the 116-mark.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju underlined that point Tuesday evening, saying, "The NDA has the majority in the Rajya Sabha... the notice must be rejected... it will be rejected."

And even if, as is wildly unlikely, 31 NDA MPs cross-vote, and the no-confidence motion is passed by the Rajya Sabha, it must then be ratified by the Lok Sabha.

And here the BJP has a brute majority, making it almost certain the motion will fail.

What Led To No-Confidence Motion

The motion was tabled by an INDIA bloc frustrated by what it said was a series of partisan rulings from the Rajya Sabha Chair. The proximate cause, they said, was allowing BJP MPs to record speeches about alleged links between Mrs Gandhi and George Soros despite having rejected 11 earlier notices.

The opposition ranks also complained of the Chair rejecting multiple notices from their side to discuss other issues, including communal violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, cyclone damage in Tamil Nadu, Manipur's ethnic violence, and the nearly five-year-long farmers' protest.

After submitting the no-confidence motion, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh slammed the Rajya Sabha Chair for "the extremely partisan manner in which he has been conducting proceedings".

"We try, every day, to have a discussion, but they don't want to have a discussion... that is why they get the House adjourned through any reason," the Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said.

A number of BJP leaders counter-attacked, including union ministers Giriraj Singh and Kiren Rijiju.

Mr Singh declared it was the Congress playing foul. "Why are they not clarifying George Soros' connection with Sonia Gandhi? They are not letting the House run..." he said. And Mr Rijiju called the Chair "our guide" and accused the Congress and its allies of having "always insulted the Chair".

The BJP's Sonia Gandhi-Soros attack followed a French news report that claims "hidden links" between the OCCRP (Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project) that is partly funded by Mr Soros and partly by a department of the United States government. The party alleged the Congress uses OCCRP reports "targeting" India to criticise the government and Indian interests.

Last week the BJP also targeted Rahul Gandhi, calling him a "traitor" and naming him, Mr Soros and "some American agencies" as part of a "triangle trying to destabilise India". The Congress, meanwhile, has just as firmly refuted the claim. "We are patriots..." the party has thundered in response.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
12 th Dec

Born on 12 th Dec : 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

Dec 12th 2024 : Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. New sources of income will generate through people you know. Visiting guests occupy your evenings. Your love relationship is turning magical; just feel it.

Taurus

Dec 12th 2024 : Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. Today, you can come across a person in a party who can give you some important advice to strengthen your economic side. A family get-together will see you occupy the center stage.

Gemini

Dec 12th 2024 : Your swift action will motivate you. To achieve success-change your ideas with time. This would broaden your vision-widen your horizon-improve your personality and enrich your mind.As a result, you'll be in dire need of money but to no avail.

Cancer

Dec 12th 2024 : Your enormous confidence and easy work schedule brings you enough time to relax today. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable.Students of this zodiac sign can get engrossed in their mobile phones for the whole day.

Leo

Dec 12th 2024 : Start your day with a little exercise- It's time you start feeling good about yourself- Make it a regular feature everyday and try to stick to it.Your eyes are so bright that they can light up a dark night of your lover.This is going to be the best day of your married life.

Virgo

Dec 12th 2024 : Your energy level will be high. Financially, you will remain strong. Due to the benefic placement of planets and nakshatras, you'll come across numerous opportunities to earn money today. Evening with friends will be pleasurable.

Libra

Dec 12th 2024 : You may control your weight by exercising. Control your expenses and try not to be too lavish in your spending today. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Your mood might get perturbed because of the harsh words of your sweetheart.

Scorpio

Dec 12th 2024 : Today you will be full of energy-Whatever you do- you will be able to do it in half the time you generally take. Today, a creditor can visit you and ask you to repay your loan. Although you will repay the amount, but it can further create financial hardships in life.

Sagittarius

Dec 12th 2024 : As food owes its flavour to salt-some unhappiness is essential only than you realize the value of happiness. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well.

Capricorn

Dec 12th 2024 : Quit coffee especially heart patients. You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially.You will be in the mood for love-and the opportunities would be plenty.

Aquarius

Dec 12th 2024 : Tension at home would make you angry. Suppressing them would only increase physical problem. Get rid of it with physical activity. It is better to leave the irritating situation. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered.

Pisces

Dec 12th 2024 : Mould your thoughts to some positive thinking as you fight the fearsome monster of fear otherwise you would become the passive and unrelenting victim of this arch demon. You can become capable of earning money with anyone's help.

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Deputy Mayor Issues Notice to GMADA Over Drainage Pipe Extension

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Deputy Mayor Mohali, Kuljeet Singh Bedi, has issued a notice to the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) regarding the extension of a drainage pipe from Kumbra to Baba White House. The notice requests GMADA to extend the drainage pipeline to the Motor Traffic Lights. This extension is vital for improving the city's drainage system and preventing waterlogging in key areas.

It is pertinent to mention here that Deputy Mayor Kuljeet Singh Bedi had written to GMADA's Administration, requesting the extension of the drainage line to the Motor Lights.

In response, GMADA conducted a survey but has refused to carry out the work, citing concerns about other service lines installed by the Municipal Corporation that GMADA claims it is unaware of.

In the notice, Bedi stated that GMADA had informed him that the survey showed the levels were suitable for the extension, and the work could be completed with minimal cost. He criticized GMADA's stance, calling it unreasonable, as the extension is a basic requirement, just like the widening of the road from Kumbra to Baba White House.

Bedi further emphasized that the Municipal Corporation is currently facing a financial crunch and cannot afford to carry out the work. Bedi has urged GMADA to complete the extension during the ongoing road development work. He also suggested that GMADA could easily obtain information about the other service lines from the Municipal Corporation.

Additionally, Bedi mentioned that he had met with the Mohali Municipal Commissioner and discussed the issue, urging them to raise it with GMADA officials in writing.

Bedi also highlighted the recurring waterlogging problems in areas like Sector 71, Mator, Sector 70, Phase 3B2, and Phase 7, which cause significant damage every year due to poor drainage. He stressed that the drainage pipeline extension is essential to mitigate these problems.

With both GMADA and the Municipal Corporation having conducted surveys and confirming the feasibility of the work, Bedi insisted that the project could be completed at a low cost. He pointed out that the Municipal Corporation's drainage survey and model for the entire city also recommended this extension.

Finally, Bedi warned that if GMADA officials continue to refuse to undertake this basic work, he will be forced to seek legal advice and take legal action against GMADA, holding its officials responsible for any delays.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who Cares...?

Unipoles Hidden Under Overgrown Tree Branches Cause Concern



Atul Sharma

Mohali : In an unusual and concerning development, unipoles (large advertising billboards mounted on single poles) have been found to be camouflaged under the overgrown branches of trees across various parts of the Mohali city. These unipoles, which are often used for advertising purposes, have been effectively hidden by the dense foliage, creating potential safety hazards and diminishing the aesthetic value of the area.

Residents and commuters have raised concerns that the overgrowth not only obstructs the visibility of these boards, but could also pose risks to pedestrians and vehicles, especially in areas with high traffic. The overgrown branches create a visual obstruction, making it difficult for drivers to spot these structures in time, which could lead to accidents.

Authorities are requested to take notice of the situation, with discussions underway about trimming tree branches to ensure the unipoles are more visible and do not obstruct the surroundings.

Additionally, there are concerns about the lack of proper maintenance and monitoring of these advertising installations, which may be exacerbating the issue.

Officials are urged to take responsibility for ensuring the unipoles are properly maintained and do not pose any safety risks to the public.

But Who Cares???

AAP Releases First List of Candidates for Municipal Elections

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has officially announced its first list of candidates for the upcoming Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council elections in Punjab. In total, the party has declared 784 tickets across the state.

The list includes candidates for 94 wards from Ludhiana, 56 from Patiala, and 74 from Amritsar, as revealed by AAP's Punjab President, Aman Arora, during a press conference today.

Arora also mentioned that approximately 175 tickets are still pending, with plans to announce them later in the evening. He assured that the party is striving to ensure that no eligible candidate is left behind in the selection process.

Speaking about AAP's vision for the elections, Aman Arora expressed confidence in the party's victory, similar to its successes in previous elections. He highlighted that the promises made by AAP to the people of Punjab are being actively fulfilled, with the party working diligently to address public grievances and deliver on its commitments.

The Municipal elections are seen as a crucial test for AAP in Punjab, as the party seeks to consolidate its position in local governance.

MC to launch drive against illegal ads

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Chandigarh : Taking note of mushrooming advertisements and sky-signs put up in violation of the provisions of the Chandigarh Advertisement Control Order, 1954, Municipal Commissioner Amit Kumar today directed the enforcement staff to start a special drive throughout the city to remove and seize these unauthorised advertisements.

He told the officials to confiscate unauthorised advertisements and sky-signs and impose penalties on violators.Through a public notice in various newspapers on November 24, the MC had asked the violators to remove all such advertisements. They could get these approved from the competent authority after paying charges within 15 days.

However, none of the violators has adhere to the notice.

Liquor Prices Set to Rise in Punjab

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : Liquor lovers in Punjab are in for a shock as the state government plans to increase the prices of both foreign and domestic liquor. The Punjab government is in the process of drafting its new excise policy for the financial year 2025-26, which could see liquor prices rise by 5 to 10 percent. Additionally, license fees may also be increased.

This move comes after the Punjab government had kept liquor prices stable for some time, with the last price adjustment even resulting in a reduction. However, in order to improve the state's financial situation, the government is considering raising the prices in the upcoming excise policy.

For the current financial year, the state had set a revenue target of Rs 10,350 crore, of which 80 percent has already been achieved. To further boost revenue, the government is looking at adjustments in the excise policy for 2025-26, with consultants suggesting a price hike. Suggestions from liquor traders across the state have been sought, and these will be discussed in a meeting scheduled for December 24.

It is pertinent to mention here that the current excise policy of Punjab will remain in force until June 11, 2025.

Punjab Becomes First State to Issue Guidelines for Playway Schools



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Punjab government has become the first state in India to issue comprehensive guidelines for playway schools catering to children under the age of six. The new policy, announced by Punjab Women and Child Development Minister Baljit Kaur in a press conference today, aims to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of young children enrolled in these schools.

Under the new guidelines, the state government will closely monitor both private and government-run playway schools. The policy mandates several key measures for these institutions:

- Child Admissions: Schools will no longer require screening tests or parent interviews for child admissions.
- Teacher-Child Ratio: A teacher will be responsible for no more than 20 children.
- Infrastructure: Playway schools must have open classrooms, proper boundaries, play areas, clean drinking water, and child-friendly toilets. A fire extinguisher will also be mandatory.
- Safety and Monitoring: CCTV cameras will be installed in schools, and the department will regularly monitor both the infrastructure and teacher behavior.
- Food Regulations: Junk food will be banned, both from home and from the school premises.
- Health and Welfare: Regular health check-ups will be conducted, with records maintained by each school.
- Teacher Conduct: No form of physical or mental abuse will be allowed. Teachers must engage with children in a positive, non-bullying manner.
- Library Facilities: A library will be available within the play schools to promote learning through play.

Additionally, the Punjab government will register all playway schools, ensuring the department has a record of all children. Schools that fail to comply with these guidelines will have their registration revoked.

The registration process for playway schools will begin within the next month, with annual renewals thereafter. The new regulations are aimed at improving the overall quality and safety of early childhood education across the state.

CM pays obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Bhabhor Sahib



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Nangal : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann today paid obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Bhabhor Sahib to offer prayers and seek blessings of almighty to give enormous strength to serve the people of state with all humility and dedication.

The Chief Minister said that he was fortunate to have got an opportunity to serve the state and this visit was aimed at expressing his gratitude to almighty for bestowing this service. Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated his firm commitment to ensure overall development, peace and communal harmony besides cherishing the aspirations of all sections of the society. He also prayed for the progress and development of the state and prosperity of its people.

The Chief Minister sought blessings of almighty to give enormous strength to him for serving the people of state with full dedication. He offered prayers at Gurdwara sahib and reiterated the firm commitment of his government to serve the people of the state regardless of caste, colour, creed and religion to create a harmonious society. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that as taught by the great Gurus the ethos of love, brotherhood and harmony in the society will be maintained at every cost and will ever remain their top priority of the state government.

The Chief Minister thanked the Almighty for bestowing upon him the responsibility to serve the people of Punjab with sincerity, dedication and commitment to fulfill their aspirations. He said that it is always a unique experience for him to visit such holy shrines, which are fountainheads of inspiration and positivity for millions of people from around the world. Bhagwant Singh Mann said by the God's grace his government is leaving no stone unturned to come up to the expectations of people and top priority is being accorded by the government to implement pro-people and development oriented policies.

NIA raids in many districts of Punjab. raids the house of Arsh Dalla's henchman



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Moga : National Investigation Agency raids are going on at many places in Punjab. The NIA team has interrogated a person in Regar Basti here. The daughter of the person whose house the NIA team reached was getting married and during this time the NIA team reached his house. According to him, ten to fifteen days ago, a call had been received on his daughter's phone from abroad, and NIA officials had come to inquire in this regard. The team members had reached the house of Baljeet Singh, resident of Regar Basti, at around five in the morning.

The family members were still sleeping when the team knocked at the gate. Along with interrogating Baljeet Singh, the officials also examined his mobile. It is being told that Baljeet Kumar is a sanitation worker and works for a contractor. Baljeet Singh has refused to say anything in the media.

At the same time, in Mansa, NIA has raided the houses of Vishal Singh and Mehshi Boxer in the city. Vishal Singh is lodged in Patiala jail, but his relations with Arsh Dalla are said to be. Whereas Maheshi Boxer is a former player and is currently said to be linked to drug smuggling.

In Bathinda also, NIA has conducted raids in Sandeep Singh Dhillon Kotha Guru, Bobby Mode Mandi and Jhandewala. The NIA team has raided the house of a person named Amandeen on Malout Road in Sri Muktsar Sahib, who is currently lodged in Nabha jail. A case has been registered against him under NDPS Act.

NIA team raided the house of a person located on Bathinda-Malot Road in Muktsar. It is said that this raid lasted for about five hours. It is said that the person named Amandeep, whose house was raided by the NIA team, is lodged in Nabha jail and a case is registered against him under the NDPS Act in Tanda.

It is said that during this raid which lasted for five hours, the team has also recovered some items, but no information regarding this has been revealed yet. It is also being told that Amandeep's relations with drug smugglers are also being investigated by the NIA team.

Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav Celebrated at GMSSS-10 Chandigarh

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav, or Indian Languages Festival, was celebrated today at GMSSS Sector 10, Chandigarh, to honor the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, a renowned Tamil poet and freedom fighter known for his advocacy for the unity and appreciation of all Indian languages.

The state-level event was organized by the Department of School Education, UT Chandigarh Administration, with Shri Rajeev Verma, Adviser to the Administrator of Chandigarh, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Ms. Prerna Puri, Secretary of Education, was the Guest of Honour, and other senior officers from the Education Department and Chandigarh Administration also attended the celebration.

Shri Rajeev Verma emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting India's diverse languages, he encouraged the younger generation to take pride in the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of India, stressing that the Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav not only celebrates linguistic diversity but also fosters unity and mutual respect among the diverse population of Chandigarh.

The event marked the conclusion of a week-long series of activities. These activities aimed to promote cultural harmony and national integration by encouraging students to engage with the country's diverse languages. Competitions, poetry recitations, language workshops, and cultural performances were held, showcasing the traditions and expressions of various linguistic communities.

Schools from all over Chandigarh participated in the festival by setting up clusters, with each cluster representing a different region of India.

These clusters put up stalls displaying the language, lifestyle, and culture of their respective regions.

Students also took part in literary events, with Anushka, a class VIII student from PMSHRI GGMSSS-18, reciting a poem on 'Bhasha Utsav' written by Sh. Ramesh Sharma, Lecturer in Sociology at the same school. Sukrita from GMSSS-16 presented a rendition of Subramanian Bharati's famous poem, while GMSSS-16 staged a captivating play highlighting the importance of regional languages in India.

The festival successfully celebrated India's linguistic diversity, fostering a sense of national unity and cultural pride among the youth.

AAP announces 784 candidates for Punjab MC polls

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : With just a day left to file nomination papers, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today announced 784 candidates for the upcoming Municipal Corporation (MC) elections.

The announcement was made by AAP Punjab chief Aman Arora and working president Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi. The party is supposed to announce candidates for 977 wards of five municipal corporations and 44 municipal councils.

Arora said the remaining candidates will be announced later today.

Meanwhile, the Congress on Tuesday released its first list of 63 candidates for the civic body polls. The party fielded mostly new faces. However, the distribution of ticket has sparked a row within the Congress with senior leaders and former MLAs Bains brothers at loggerheads as both are seeking ticket for their own confidants.

Elections to five municipal corporations -- Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Phagwara -- and 44 municipal councils and nagar panchayats in Punjab would be held on December 21.

The process of filing nominations started on December 9 and the last date is December 12. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on December 13 and the last date for the withdrawal of nominations is December 14.

Cold wave continued in many districts of Punjab; Yellow alert till December 14

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : Along with snowfall in the mountains, cold wave is also going on in Punjab and Chandigarh. The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert of cold wave till December 14. While during the last 24 hours, an increase of 0.4 degree in the average maximum temperature of Punjab and 0.3 degree in Chandigarh temperature has been recorded.

However, the temperature in the state is 3 degrees lower than normal. The highest temperature in Punjab has been recorded in Anandpur Sahib at 22.2 degrees. The temperature of all other districts is less than this. The lowest temperature was recorded in Gurdaspur and Pathankot. People are facing huge difficulties in morning and evening.

Today there is a yellow alert of cold wave in Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Faridkot, Muktsar, Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur, Rupnagar and Mohali. There is no rain alert yet.

Badi incident in Dahala Punjab. Pathi Singh's brutal murder

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Beas : Last night, unknown assailants brutally killed a young man, Pati Singh, near village Madh near Beas. This incident took place when Pati Singh was returning from his duty at Akhand Path Sahib. Meanwhile, unknown people surrounded him and killed him with sharp weapons. The deceased has been identified as Ramandeep Singh.

After receiving the information about the incident, the local police also reached the spot. The police have taken possession of the dead body and started further action. The police have called a separate team to investigate the incident. After this incident, there is an atmosphere of panic in the area.

Shah Rukh Khan visits Vikas Khanna's restaurant, chef recalls holding back tears

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Shah Rukh Khan recently dined at Chef Vikas Khanna's restaurant, Bungalow, in New York. On December 10, the chef shared a photo with SRK and his team and recalled how he was holding back his tears during his conversation with him. In his Instagram post, he mentioned that his life revolves around three people and SRK is one among them.

In the photo, SRK, sporting long hair, can be seen posing for a picture with Vikas Khanna and three other people. Vikas captioned the post, "My life revolves around 3 people - BK, SK, SRK. My Maa, Sanjeev Kapoor & The King (sic)," his post read.

Vikas recalled how SRK asked him to sit with him when he visited Bungalow in New York. "As we spoke about me going to cinema everyday to watch DDLJ with my sister and every movie of his. He became my hero for who he is. His voice. His patience. His confidence. His compassion. His friendship. To hold back my tears I looked up the glass ceiling and saw the clear crescent of moon watching over me (sic)," he wrote.

He concluded his post saying, "Poeple who lose the ones they loved the most, always find signs of them watching over us. Today is dedicated to you Sir. You holding my hand and saying, 'Bungalow represents us. Our parents. Our ancestors. Our India.' This is everything to a scared-paranoid-failed child from Amritsar (sic)."

Established in March 2024, Vikas Khanna's Bungalow has been honoured with the Michelin 2024 Bib Gourmand Award.

On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan was last seen in Dunki. The actor is prepping for his upcoming film, tentatively titled King. Directed by Sujoy Ghosh, the film will see SRK sharing the screen with his daughter, Suhana Khan. The film is expected to go on floors in the coming weeks.

Anirudh Ravichander has been roped in to compose the music for King. More details about the cast and crew will be announced soon.

Kareena Kapoor gets PM Modi's autograph for her sons as she meets him with Family

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Kareena Kapoor Khan and Neetu Singh shared pictures from their meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Kapoor family met the PM to invite him to the RK Film Festival on December 14. This festival will honour the late actor, director, and producer Raj Kapoor on his 100th birth anniversary.

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Aadar Jain, Armaan Jain, and Neetu Singh posed for a group picture with the PM.

Kareena got the PM to autograph a note for her sons, Taimur and Jeh.

PM Modi was seen conversing with one of Bollywood's most renowned families, the Kapoors.

PM Modi was seen conversing with one of Bollywood's most renowned families, the Kapoors.

"We are deeply humbled and honoured to have been invited by the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of our grandfather, the legendary Raj Kapoor," Kareena captioned the photo.

Sharing a selfie, Neetu Kapoor added in an identical caption to Kareena, "Thank you, Shri Modi ji, for such a special afternoon. Your warmth, attention, and support in celebrating this milestone meant the world to us."

Alia Bhatt congratulates Payal Kapadia on Golden Globe nomination: History is yours

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt extended her congratulations to filmmaker Payal Kapadia for her Golden Globe Award nomination for her film All We Imagine As Light. She has been nominated for the Best Director (Motion Picture category) at the 82nd Golden Globes awards 2025. Besides that, the film has also been nominated in the Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language category at the prestigious awards ceremony.

Expressing her excitement and pride on social media, Alia wrote, "History is yours." In the Best Non-English Language Motion Picture category, All We Imagine As Light will compete with French film Emilia Perez (which also won the most nominations at the 82nd Golden Globes), The Girl With the Needle, I'm Still Here, The Seed of the Sacred Fig and Vermiglio.

Earlier, Rajkummar Rao also congratulated Payal on securing two nominations. "Congratulations @ payalkapadiafilm This is awesome. All the very best. Rooting for you", he wrote.

Reacting to her nomination, Payal Kapadia, "I'm deeply honoured by this nomination and grateful to the HFPA for this recognition. This is a celebration of everyone who worked so passionately on the film. To everyone in India, All We Imagine as Light is still in theatres - please go watch it and support us."

The recognition comes at a time when All We Imagine As Light continues to attract attention worldwide, having already made waves on the international film circuit. Its success at the Golden Globe nominations adds to the growing acclaim for Indian cinema on the global stage.

All We Imagine As Light, which released theatrically in India on November 22, had earlier won accolades internationally. The film became the first Indian film to win the prestigious Grand Prix at Cannes 2024.

'Welcome' actor called for award show in UP, kidnapped, then tortured for 12 hours

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : After comedian Sunil Pal, actor Mushtaq Khan has also come forward and said that he was recently kidnapped on the pretext of being invited to an event. His business partner Shivam Yadav spoke and shared the ordeal the actor went through. He stated how Mushtaq was called for an award show in Meerut on November 20.

Shivam shared that Mushtaq was even given an advance amount that was transferred to his account and flight tickets were sent. When the actor landed in Delhi, he was asked to step into a car and was soon driven away to the outskirts of Delhi, said to be somewhere near Bijnor.

Shivam said that the alleged kidnappers tortured Khan for almost 12 hours and demanded a crore as ransom.

They eventually took more than Rs 2 lakh from the actor and his son's account. Early in the morning, when Khan heard the morning azaan, he realised a mosque would be close by and ran away from the place. He sought help from the people there and, with the help of the police, returned home.

"Mushtaq sir and his family were completely shaken over what happened to him. However, he was always sure that he would file an FIR after he composed himself. Yesterday, I went to Bijnor and filed an official FIR. We have proof of the flight ticket, the bank accounts and even CCTV footage near the airport. He also recognises the neighbourhood, even the house where he was kept. I think the police team will surely get the culprits soon," Shivam said.

The incident holds an uncanny resemblance to what happened to comedian Sunil Pal recently. The comedian had told that he was lured to a location under the pretext of attending an event. The kidnappers initially demanded a ransom of Rs 20 lakh but released him after he managed to arrange approximately Rs 7.5 lakh with the help of friends.

Similar incidents involving Mushtaq and Sunil make one wonder if a syndicate is operating to harm celebrities and defraud them under the pretext of event invitations.

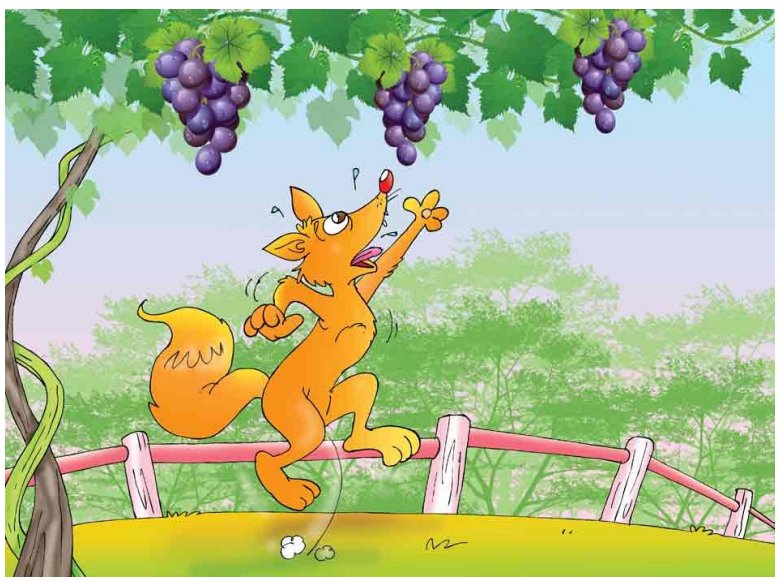
When asked about the same, Mushtaq's business partner said, "We had no clue about the case. After Mushtaq sir returned, we spoke about the incident with a few of our close friends. When Sunil's case was highlighted in the media, they informed us about the same. It is shocking that two public figures from the industry had to go through a similar ordeal. We hope there is awareness and protection in the future for everyone."

The Stree 2 actor is said to be doing fine as of now and will address the media in a few days.

It's story TIME

The Fox and the Grapes

A hungry fox once looked everywhere for food. He couldn't find anything until he stumbled upon a farmer's wall. He saw big, purple, juicy grapes. He jumped as high as possible to reach the grapes. No matter how many times he tried, he failed. Finally, he gave up and went home, thinking to himself that the grapes must have been sour anyway.





Kiren Rijiju rips into Opposition for no-trust motion against Jagdeep Dhankhar

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





New Delhi : Chaos erupted in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday as the government and Opposition locked horns over a no-trust motion against Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The opposition had filed a notice to impeach Dhankhar, accusing him of partisan conduct as the Chairperson of the Upper House.

The uproar began as soon as the House convened, with Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju launching a scathing attack on the opposition. Defending Dhankhar, he said, “If the opposition attacks the dignity of the Chairman, we will protect.”

Rijiju praised the Vice President, calling him a “farmer’s son” who has upheld the dignity of the House.

Lashing out at the opposition MPs, Rijiju added, “You have no right to be members if you can’t respect the Chair. We have taken an oath to protect the sovereignty of the country.”

He was referring to US-based billionaire George Soros. Since last week, the ruling BJP MPs have been raising the issue of alleged nexus between Soros and the Congress posing a threat to national security.

Opposition members protested vociferously, leading to a heated exchange. Rijiju doubled down, saying, “You stand with forces who are against the country. Notice has been given against the Chairman. It is difficult to find such a Chairman. He has always talked of the welfare of the poor and protected the Constitution. Congress should apologise to the nation.”

The uproar forced an adjournment of the House until noon. When the session resumed, BJP President and Union Minister JP Nadda continued the attack, urging condemnation of the Opposition’s motion.

“This is a question about the sovereignty of the country,” Nadda said amid opposition protests. “Bringing a no-confidence motion against the Chair is a design to deviate the attention of the nation... It should be condemned by one and all.”

Calling it a matter of the nation’s internal and external security, the BJP chief alleged that Congress is becoming a tool of outside forces.

The proceedings descended into further chaos, with the opposition and treasury benches trading accusations over the no-trust motion and the Soros issue. Unable to restore order, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar adjourned the House for the day.

Parliament proceedings were washed out in the first week of the winter session starting November 25 due to protests by opposition members demanding discussion on issues like the indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani in a US court and Sambhal violence.

Bengaluru techie's father on his suicide: He was frustrated, never showed it to us

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





New Delhi : The father of 34-year-old software engineer Atul Subhash, who died by suicide in Bengaluru after alleging harassment by his estranged wife and her family, said his son was frustrated due to repeated legal disputes. Pawan Kumar said his son told him that the mediation court did not work as per law, and he had to go to Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur from Bengaluru 40 times to face cases filed by his wife and her family.

"In March, Atul Subhash told us that those in the mediation court do not work as per law, not even as per the rules of the Supreme Court. He had to go to Jaunpur from Bengaluru at least 40 times. She (Atul's wife) used to frame one charge after another. He must have been frustrated but never let us feel that," a teary-eyed Pawan Kumar said.

"Suddenly, we received information about the incident. He sent a mail to our younger son around 1 am. We cannot express the level of tension that our son would have been in," he said. Asked whether his son's allegations against his wife were true, he said it was "100 per cent true".

Atul Subhash, who was found hanging at his Bengaluru residence, left behind a 24-page suicide note and a 90-minute video detailing allegations of harassment and extortion against his wife, her family, and a family court judge in Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, his younger brother, Bikas Modi, said Atul Subhash was facing nine to ten false cases and that he gave his life "fighting against the system". He also said that his brother was battling multiple legal cases and had been subjected to demands of Rs 3 crore to settle disputes.

"For people working in Bengaluru, it's not possible to always commute to Uttar Pradesh for a case. But he was being harassed constantly," Modi said.

He also expressed frustration with laws that he felt were skewed against men.

"He should get justice at any cost. The laws are made for women, and a lot of women take advantage of it, especially in divorce cases. Asking for Rs 40,000 maintenance for a four-year-old child studying in Uttar Pradesh is just not maintainable," Modi said.

Cruelty law being misused for personal vendetta against husband: SC

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The Supreme Court has warned against the misuse of the law in marital dispute cases lodged by women against their husbands and families, saying that it cannot be used as a "tool to unleash personal vendetta".

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh on Tuesday made the observation while setting aside a cruelty case filed against a man and his family under Section 498(A), which the Telangana High Court had refused to dismiss earlier.

Section 498(A), or Section 86 under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), protects married women from being subjected to cruelty by the husband or his relatives. Under this law, the accused can be imprisoned for 3 years and above and may also be liable for a fine.

The woman lodged the case after her husband filed a petition seeking the dissolution of their marriage.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court said just a mere reference to the names of family members in such cases without providing evidence of their alleged involvement, cannot form the basis for criminal prosecution.

The court said the introduction of Section 498(A) was aimed at stopping cruelty inflicted on a woman by her husband and his family, by ensuring swift intervention by the state.

"However, in recent years, as there has been a notable rise in matrimonial disputes across the country, accompanied by growing discord and tension within the institution of marriage, consequently, there has been a growing tendency to misuse provisions like Section 498(A) as a tool for unleashing personal vendetta against the husband and his family by a wife," it said.

The top court further said that making "vague and generalised" allegations in such cases would "lead to the misuse of legal processes and encourage the use of arm-twisting tactics by a wife and her family".

"Sometimes, recourse is taken to invoke Section 498(A) against the husband and his family in order to seek compliance with the unreasonable demands of a wife. Consequently, this court has, time and again, cautioned against prosecuting the husband and his family in the absence of a clear prima facie case against them."

The Supreme Court also said that the Telangana High Court "committed a grave error" for not rejecting the case, saying it was filed by the wife with ulterior motives to settle personal scores and grudges.

Kerala pushes for increased central tax share, disaster relief aid

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The Kerala government has urged the 16th Finance Commission to increase its share of central taxes from 41 per cent to 50 per cent, while advocating for a reduction in the population-based share of the divisible pool from 45 per cent to 30 per cent.

Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, acknowledged these demands, stating the panel remains open to suggestions and will decide after consultations with all states.

Speaking to the press after discussions with Kerala officials, Panagariya highlighted the state’s concern about being penalised for its economic growth and successful population control measures. The state proposed introducing a new criterion based on population density, a factor previously overlooked by earlier commissions.

Additionally, Kerala sought a 100 per cent increase in grants for its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and raised concerns about the central government’s cess and surcharges, which reduce states’ revenue shares. Kerala also advocated for restoring the central share in central projects to 75 per cent from the current 60 per cent.

Panagariya emphasised the challenges surrounding cess and surcharge allocations, and said: “The central government has the constitutional mandate to impose cess and surcharge. When state governments demand an increase in their share of taxes to 50 per cent, there is a possibility that the Centre may impose more cess and surcharge. Both the Centre and the states have legitimate grounds.”

He said that Kerala has asked for a reduction in the area-based share of the central tax pool, proposing it be lowered from 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

Panagariya noted that with his visit to Kerala, the commission has now consulted 14 states, with 14 more to visit before finalising its report.

A government source stated that Kerala effectively presented its case to the commission. According to them, the state outlined its concerns and emphasised the need for recommendations that address the imbalance in revenue collection powers and expenditures between the Centre and the states.

“The Finance Commission has the constitutional authority, under Article 280, to address these issues,” the source said.

The source also noted that Kerala highlighted the unequal distribution of central tax revenues, pointing out disparities between the Centre and the states.

Varanasi priest slits own throat, dies after 24-hour ritual for Goddess Kali

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Varanasi : A 40-year-old priest in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, died by suicide after reportedly becoming frustrated when he did not receive a vision of Goddess Kali despite 24 hours of continuous worship.

Amit Sharma, a resident of the city’s Gaay Ghat area, invoked the deity before slitting his throat with a cutter in the courtyard of his rented home.

His wife, Julie, who was cooking at the time, heard him cry out, “Maa Kali darshan do” (Mother Kali, show yourself). Moments later, she found him bleeding on the floor, a cutter next to him, surrounded by shocked neighbours who had rushed upstairs after hearing screams.

Sharma was rushed to the hospital by his wife and neighbours but was declared dead upon arrival.

Julie told the police that Sharma had been performing intense worship rituals for 24 hours, locking himself in the room with the belief that Goddess Kali would appear to him. When this did not happen, he reportedly became distraught and took his life.

Police have sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

"Tamil Nadu's Per Capita Income Surpasses National Average, GSDP Grows by 14%"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Tamil Nadu’s economic performance in 2022-2023 demonstrated significant growth, with the state’s Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rising by 14 per cent to reach Rs 23,64,514 crore, surpassing the national average in terms of per capita income, Principal Accountant General (Audit-I), Tamil Nadu, D Jaishankar announced. He attributed this growth to the pivotal contributions of the industries and services sectors.

“Tamil Nadu’s per capita income stands at Rs 3.08 lakh, nearly 56 per cent higher than the national average of Rs 1.96 lakh. The state is making a better contribution to the economy,” Jaishankar noted, addressing reporters on the State Finances Audit report for the year ending March 2023, tabled in the Assembly earlier in the day.

Highlighting the state’s improved financial performance, Jaishankar said revenue receipts increased by 17.47 per cent during 2022-2023 compared to the previous year, thanks to a rise in both tax and non-tax revenues. Tamil Nadu’s own tax revenue formed the bulk of these receipts, contributing 62 per cent of the total. This included Rs 53,823 crore from the state goods and services tax (SGST) and Rs 59,143 crore from taxes on sales and trade. Additionally, non-tax revenue rose by an impressive 41 per cent, reaching Rs 4,944 crore.

“The rise in revenue indicates that the state’s collection mechanisms have been functioning more effectively,” Jaishankar said.

The Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2003 mandates the state to achieve a revenue surplus by 2023-2024. The report indicated that the state is on track to meet its targets, although challenges remain, particularly concerning the financial health of the state transport corporation.

The state transport corporation’s debts have increased to Rs 21,980 crore, marking a 3 per cent rise since 2017. This was attributed to higher employee expenses, which grew from 55.20 per cent to 63.55 per cent, and losses of Rs 495 crore incurred due to staff redeployment, the report detailed.

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"Trump Pledges 'Fully Expedited' Permits For $1 Billion US Investments"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Washington : US President-elect Donald Trump has pledged "fully expedited permits", including environmental approvals, for companies that invest $1 billion in the country.

Although he did not specify who would be eligible for the fast-tracked approvals, energy projects, including natural gas pipelines, export terminals, solar farms and offshore wind turbines, meet the billion-dollar criteria.

In a post on his Truth Social app on Tuesday, the President-elect said that anyone making a $1 billion investment in the US "will receive fully expedited approvals and permits, including, but in no way limited to, all environmental approvals".

"Get ready to rock," he added.

As per the US National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), government agencies are required to assess environmental effects before approving any energy or infrastructure projects like pipelines and highways.

Trump's announcement will come as a boon to companies that have long-complained about delays regarding such assessments.

Tech billionaire Elon Musk, whose EV company Tesla has been accused of violating environmental regulations in the US in the recent past, praised Trump's announcement.

"This is awesome," he tweeted.

American environmental bodies have, however, slammed the President-elect's decision, saying that it violated NEPA and was illegal.

Evergreen Action, a Washington-based environmental group, said, "We need to address permitting in this country. Rigging the approval process so only wealthy corporations benefit, ain't it."

"Trump is unabashedly and literally offering to sell out America to the highest corporate bidder," the Associated Press quoted Lena Moffitt, the executive director of Evergreen Action, as saying.

She said the plan was "obviously illegal" and another example of Trump "putting special interests and corporate polluters in the driver's seat, which would result in more pollution, higher costs and fewer energy choices for the American people."

Meanwhile, Alexandra Adams, chief policy advocacy officer at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said Trump should be careful what he wishes for.

"What if someone wants to build a waste incinerator next to Mar-a-Lago or a coal mine next to Bedminster golf course?" she said in reference to Trump's Florida residence and New Jersey golf club, respectively.

"Police Raid President Yoon Suk's Office in Martial Law Probe"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's office was raided by the police today as part of an investigation into the imposition of martial law in the country.

According to a report by the Korean Times, the raids were also conducted at the offices of the Seoul Metropolitan Police and the National Assembly Police Guards as part of the investigation.

TOP DEVELOPMENTS FROM SOUTH KOREA

President Yoon Suk Yeol was not present in the office when the police raided the presidential office building to gather material related to the imposition of martial law, the Korean Times reported.

In South Korea's biggest political crisis, Yeol imposed martial law on December 3 to thwart "anti-state forces" among his domestic political opponents. However, the martial law was taken back after South Korean lawmakers unanimously rejected the decree.

Earlier on December 9, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was banned from leaving the country over a failed attempt at imposing martial law.

Former South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong-Hyun tried to end his life in a prison in eastern Seoul, where he is being kept on sedition charges related to a martial law investigation.

Hyun was shifted to a protective cell and his health remained stable after the incident, South Korean news agency Yonhap quoted Shin Yong-hae, the head of the correctional centre, as saying on the matter.

South Korean police chief Cho Ji-ho was also arrested by investigating officials on Wednesday as the probe into President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law that has plunged the country into a constitutional crisis intensified.

National Police Commissioner Cho Ji-ho was arrested on insurrection charges, adding that he has been accused of deploying police to block lawmakers from entering parliament after the declaration of martial law on December 3.

South Korea's principal opposition party, the Democratic Party (DP), is expected to introduce a new impeachment motion against President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday over his failed bid to impose martial law in the country.

According to news agency Yonhap, the move by DPK comes after a motion to impeach Yoon was scrapped last on December 7 due to a lack of quorum as nearly all lawmakers from Yoon's ruling People Power Party boycotted the vote.

Several unions of workers have also called for strikes on Wednesday against the imposition of Martial law in the country. The country's metal workers' union, including workers at the Kia Corp automakers, has declared a protest strike for Wednesday. Members of financial institutions including the Bank of Korea also plan to join a protest rally.

75 Indian Nationals Evacuated

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : India evacuated 75 Indian nationals from Syria, two days after rebel forces overthrew autocratic President Bashar al-Assad, ending his 14-year rule. All Indian nationals have safely crossed over to Lebanon and will return by available commercial flights to India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The evacuation, coordinated by the embassies of India in Damascus and Beirut, was put into effect following an assessment of the security situation, the ministry said.

"The Government of India today evacuated 75 Indian nationals from Syria, following recent developments in that country. The evacuees included 44 'zaireen' from Jammu and Kashmir who were stranded at Saida Zainab," the statement read.

The government said it accorded the highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad.

"Indian nationals remaining in Syria are advised to stay in touch with the Indian Embassy in Damascus at their emergency helpline number +963 993385973 (also on WhatsApp) and email ID (hoc.damascus@mea.gov.in) for updates. The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely," the MEA said.

The Syrian government collapsed on Sunday as the rebels seized control of the capital Damascus after capturing several other prominent cities and towns. Assad fled the country after the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) took control of Damascus, marking the end of his family's 50-year rule.

Russian state media reported that Assad is in Moscow and will be given asylum. His nearly 14-year tenure was marked by civil war, bloodshed and a brutal crackdown on his political opponents.

The MEA said it was monitoring the unfolding developments in Syria and advocated a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process going forward in that country.

Trump Launches Perfume with Photo of Jill Biden: 'Enemies Can't Resist

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : For $199, you can get a whiff of strength, power, and victory. What's more? Even your enemies can't resist it, says US President-elect Donald Trump.

Announcing his new fragrance line with a political twist by using a photo of himself sitting next to First Lady Jill Biden, Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social app, "A fragrance your enemies can't resist!"

Referring to his comeback as President of the United States and his survival of multiple assassination attempts, Donald Trump named the perfume 'Fight, Fight, Fight', calling it the "sweet scent of victory."

Trump touted his new fragrances as "great Christmas gifts for the family." The fragrance is available for $199 (Rs 16,886).

"Here are my new Trump Perfumes & Colognes! I call them Fight, Fight, Fight, because they represent us WINNING," he added.

'Fight' was one of the first words Trump spoke after surviving an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania. The phrase has since appeared on a variety of Trump products, including T-shirts, mugs, and gold coins.

TRUMP AND THE BIDENS

The photo of Jill Biden sitting near Donald Trump was taken on December 7, during the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. This event, attended by numerous heads of state and officials, marked the restoration of the landmark five years after a devastating fire toppled its spire.

The duo's smiling faces stood in stark contrast to the months of heated tensions and harsh exchanges during the campaign, where Trump had claimed that her husband, President Joe Biden, was "thrown out like a dog" after he dropped out of the race amid widespread criticism of his debate performance.

Biden, however, was quick to extend an olive branch to the president-elect, meeting with Trump for nearly two hours in the Oval Office just one week after defeating Vice President Kamala Harris to secure a second term. First Lady Jill Biden also handed Trump a handwritten letter for his wife, Melania Trump, who did not accompany him on his post-election visit to the White House.

"Friendship Above All: Rajnath Singh Highlights Bond with Putin"



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow during the 21st session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

The high-level discussions focused on deepening bilateral defence collaboration and exploring new avenues of partnership between the two nations.

During the meeting, Singh emphasised the enduring friendship between India and Russia, describing it as "higher than the highest mountain and deeper than the deepest ocean".

He reaffirmed India's unwavering support for its Russian allies, adding, "India has always stood by its Russian friends and will continue to do so in the future."

The leaders underscored the immense potential of their partnership, with Putin acknowledging the remarkable outcomes achieved through joint efforts in the defence sector.

The meeting highlighted India's commitment to enhancing cooperation with Russia in areas such as advanced weapons systems, technology transfer, and military training.

Singh also met Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov in Moscow and discussed ways to deepen the strategic partnership between both countries.

"Despite great pressure on India, both in public and private spheres, we have consciously decided to continue our close contacts with Russia and to deepen and expand our interaction," Rajnath Singh said.

Belousov noted the historical strength of Indian-Russian relations, highlighting the key role played by the leaders of both nations in cementing the bilateral ties. He said that PM Modi and Putin's meeting during the Brics Summit in Kazan had further deepened the privileged strategic partnership between both countries, especially in the defence sphere.

"I am confident that our meeting will further strengthen Indian-Russian relations in the field of defence and security," he added.

As part of his Moscow visit, Singh is scheduled to pay tribute to Soviet soldiers at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' and meet members of the Indian community later. His itinerary reflects a blend of diplomatic engagement and efforts to strengthen cultural ties.

Singh's three-day visit to Russia, which began night, included a significant milestone on its first day. He participated in the commissioning of the Guided Missile Frigate INS Tushil (F 70) into the Indian Navy at Kaliningrad, marking another step in Indo-Russian defence cooperation.

The Defence Minister's visit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Russia in October, during which the Prime Minister attended the 22nd India-Russia Summit and participated in the Brics Summit in Kazan.

The ongoing high-level engagements underline the strategic importance of the India-Russia relationship and its role in ensuring regional and global stability.



Rahul Gandhi Presents Rose and Tricolour to Rajnath Singh During Parliament Protest



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Congress continued its unique form of protests using different props in Parliament premises over the Adani bribery case. After jackets, masks and bags, Congress leaders today (December 11) were seen giving roses and Tricolour to BJP MPs. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, was seen handing a rose and a Tricolour to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as soon as he stepped out of his car to enter Lok Sabha.

INDIA bloc leaders were seen carrying roses and Tricolour as they stand at the entrance of Parliament building.

"We are waiting for the BJP friends. We wanted to give them a card with an Indian flag and a rose. We wanted to send the message that the nation is most important," said Congress MP Manickam Tagore.

The incident happened during Opposition protest outside the Parliament accusing the central government of avoiding discussions on the bribery charges against Adani in the US. Since the session began on November 20, both Houses have experienced constant disruptions over the issue.

Since the session began on November 20, both Houses have faced constant disruptions over various issues.

While the Congress demanded a discussion on the Adani issue, the BJP alleged that former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the Congress have links with billionaire philanthropist George Soros, claiming an association with an organisation funded by the Soros Foundation, which allegedly backed the idea of separating Kashmir from India.

Last month, US prosecutors charged Adani, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over $250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than $2 billion in profit.

(December 10), Opposition INDIA bloc parties submitted a notice to bring a motion in the Rajya Sabha for the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. They accused him of "partisan" conduct as the chairman of the Upper House.

If the motion is moved, these parties would need a simple majority to get it passed. However, they lack the requisite numbers in the 243-member House. Opposition members, nevertheless, insisted that it was a "strong message to fight for parliamentary democracy."

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till noon as the opposition and treasury benches traded charges over the no-trust notice against Chairperson Dhankhar.



Arvind Kejriwal Rules Out Alliance with Congress For Delhi Polls

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal reiterated that his party would contest the upcoming Delhi assembly elections on its own, firmly dismissing speculation about a possible alliance with the Congress.

"Aam Aadmi Party will be fighting this election on its own strength in Delhi. There is no possibility of any alliance with Congress," Kejriwal posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Kejriwal's statement follows reports suggesting that AAP was in the final stages of negotiating a seat-sharing arrangement with Congress for the Delhi elections.

This is not the first time the AAP leader has ruled out a tie-up with Congress despite being part of the INDIA opposition bloc. Earlier this month, Kejriwal stated unequivocally that the party would not forge any alliances for the Delhi assembly polls as it eyes a third consecutive term.

The AAP has been in power in Delhi since 2015. The upcoming assembly polls, slated to be held early next year, will likely test the ruling party's governance credentials against the BJP's efforts to expand its influence in the city-state.

The INDIA bloc, a coalition of 26 opposition parties, had been hoping to consolidate anti-BJP votes in the capital, but Kejriwal's stance signals a potential fracture in unity.

AAP and Congress fought the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi together earlier this year. Both parties drew a blank, with the BJP winning all seats, which might have led both parties to rethink joining hands in the assembly polls.

Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav admitted as much, calling the tie-up with AAP "a mistake" and asserting that the Congress will contest all 70 assembly seats in the city on its own.

"The decision on going solo was taken after the Lok Sabha results and the official position of the party is even now very clear that we will fight on all 70 seats by ourselves and there will be no alliance," Yadav said last month.

The decision sets the stage for a triangular contest in the Delhi assembly polls, with AAP, Congress, and BJP vying for power. In the past two assembly elections in 2015 and 2020, AAP won 67 and 62 seats respectively, while the BJP secured three and eight seats in the 70-member legislature. The Congress drew a blank in both elections.

PM's Adviser Clarifies: No Direct Funding from George Soros

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Professor Shamika Ravi, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), has shot back at Congress leader Pawan Khera after he claimed that she had received funds from an organisation funded by American investor George Soros, who is at the centre of a political firestorm between the Congress and the BJP.

Calling Pawan Khera's charge "entirely incorrect", Shamika Ravi clarified that Soros's Open Society Foundation funded the Indian School of Business (ISB) in 2006-07 when she was an assistant professor but "no money directly to any faculty member".

"In 2006-07, the Open Society funded ISB (for work on financial inclusion) – where I was an assistant professor teaching and researching on the topic. No money came directly to any faculty member," Shamika Ravi said.

She also asserted that it was only 18 years after her stint with the ISB that she joined the EAC-PM. The adviser to the Prime Minister also called it a "fit case for defamation".

"18 years later, I joined the EAC-PM. I have never been more proud of my work, my nation or my Prime Minister. Meanwhile, in 2020, George Soros declared his anti-India designs and guess who swarms towards him?" Shamika tweeted, taking a swipe at the Congress.

Khera, amid the BJP's charge of alleged links of Congress leaders with George Soros, tweeted that Shamika Ravi received a grant from the Open Society Foundation, indicating a potential conflict of interest, and called for an inquiry into her activities.

INDIA Bloc to Approach SC Over Alleged 'EVM Tampering

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : The INDIA bloc is set to file a petition in the Supreme Court, challenging alleged irregularities in election procedures and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in Maharashtra.

The INDIA bloc's decision to approach the Supreme Court against the Election Commission was announced by Prashant Jagtap, leader of the Sharad Pawar NCP faction, who contested and lost the Assembly elections from the Hadapsar seat in Pune.

The announcement came after a high-level meeting involving NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar, AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal, and senior Congress leader and noted lawyer Abhishek Singhvi.During the meeting, the leaders deliberated on the alliance's legal strategy to challenge alleged irregularities in election procedures and EVM protocols.

Prashant Jagtap highlighted a key grievance, alleging that names of voters were deleted and added in Maharashtra until three days before polling day. "We have data to back our claim," Jagtap said, emphasising the seriousness of the alleged lapses.

The alliance has accused the ruling NDA of poll rigging during the Haryana and Maharashtra assembly elections, alleging that the process was manipulated to favour the government.

EVMs have been a contentious issue between the Opposition INDIA bloc and the NDA. The Opposition has on several occasions accused the BJP of poll rigging to get desired results.

A similar sentiment was expressed by the INDIA bloc after the results of the Haryana and the Maharashtra Assembly polls. The exit polls had predicted a sweeping mandate for the Opposition in Haryana. However, the BJP got 48 seats in the 90-member Assembly while the Congress could only muster 37.

The Congress, which had started celebrating with jalebis following the exit polls, was left red-faced after the counting of votes. The party, which had punched way above its weight in the Lok Sabha polls, emerged second-best in Haryana.

However, the party accused the BJP of tainting the counting process, claiming that the saffron party had tampered with EVMs to rig the results in their favour.

The culmination of the Maharashtra Assembly elections painted a similar picture. Exit polls had predicted a close contest in the state. However, the Mahayuti returned to power with a thumping majority, winning 235 seats in the 288-member Assembly.

The Opposition raised serious allegations against the NDA, with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut taking the cudgels in his hands and accusing the ruling alliance of "stealing seats".

He further blamed former Chief Justice DY Chandrachud for the poll drubbing and asked for a repoll on ballot papers, asserting that the Maha Vikas Aghadi would undoubtedly emerge victorious if EVMs were made obsolete.

"Cannot believe Maharashtra, which listened to me as head of family during Covid-19, will behave with me this way... How could they (the ruling alliance) win so many seats in just a matter of four months? Where did they light candles for such a result?" said former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, alluding to the stark contrast between the INDIA bloc's performance in the Lok Sabha polls and the Assembly elections.

"'Human Error' and 'Lack of Training' Behind Mumbai Bus Tragedy, Probe Finds"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Days after a local city bus fatally knocked down seven people and injured 42 others in Mumbai, the city's transport department has suspected that a "human error" and "lack of proper training" led to the horrific accident.

A report by Regional Transport Office (RTO) officials, who conducted a probe after the accident, said that it seems the bus driver was inexperienced to drive the automatic transmission bus with no clutch and gear like the conventional buses, and he was probably not given proper training before being permitted to drive the 12-meter-long bus.

"If a driver doesn't have experience driving an automatic transmission bus, he doesn't get proper judgment of acceleration and braking initially. Hence, it seems human error may have caused the accident," an RTO official was quoted.

On December 9, an e-bus operated by Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) rammed into pedestrians and vehicles at around 9.30 pm on SG Barve Marg in Mumbai's Kurla (West), killing at least seven people and injuring 42 others. The bus driver, Sanjay More (54), was arrested after the incident.

BRAKES OF ILL-FATED BUS WERE WORKING WELL: OFFICIALS

In the inspection, the officials also found that the brakes and all other systems, including the headlights of the bus, were operating fine, thereby rejecting the possibility of a technical malfunction behind the accident.

According to RTO sources, the electric bus was just three months old as it was registered under the name of EVEY TRANS on August 20, 2024. The driver was supplied through a Pune-based third-party agency.

The inspection team checked all three CCTV cameras installed inside the bus, and their footage suggests that the entire horror unfolded within a span of 52 to 55 seconds, sources said.

"The entire horror happened within 52-55 seconds," said an official, adding that, as per the BEST's records, the driver had signed on duty on December 6 at around 2.45 pm, and the accident occurred at about 9.35 pm.

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