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Sunrise 7:16 AM (IST)

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12 Feb 2025
Next New Moon
29 Jan 2025

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Delhi Polls: Akhilesh Yadav and Samajwadi Party MPs to Campaign for AAP

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav along with his party MPs will campaign for the AAP candidates ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls on February 5, the Arvind Kejriwal-led party said today. Mr Yadav will join AAP supremo Kejriwal in a roadshow in Rithala on January 30. Several other MPs of the Uttar Pradesh-based party, including Iqra Hasan from Kairana, will also campaign for the Aam Aadmi Party. The AAP and the SP are part of the INDIA bloc which also includes the Congress. However, the SP leaders will only be campaigning for the AAP which is pitted against the Congress and the BJP in Delhi. The move reflects further alienation of the Congress within the Indian Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) led by it during the Lok Sabha polls last year. The AAP and the Congress -- sharing four and three of the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi -- had fought together against the BJP in last year's general



elections but are pitted against each another in the Assembly polls. Fissures appeared in the opposition alliance last year when several parties in it supported the idea of TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee heading the grouping, currently led by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr Kejriwal, without expressing his support for Banerjee, had said that the INDIA bloc leaders can take a call over the issue after discussions. Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Shatrughan Sinha will also canvass for the AAP in at least three Delhi constituencies on February 1 and 2.

Raghav Chadha Accuses Airlines of 'Fleeing' Maha Kumbh Pilgrims, Calls for Immediate Action

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha appealed to the government stop the arbitrary pricing of air fares, a day after an uproar over flights to Prayagraj costing Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000. Mr Chadha accused airlines of taking advantage of Mahakumbh devotees by charging exorbitant flight fares to Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh festival is underway. While calling the service of devotees "the biggest religion", the leader said in a video on social media called for their fair treatment. He urged the government to intervene and cap flight prices, making travel affordable for devotees. "Mahakumbh is the largest spiritual and faith event for Sanatan Dharma. After 144 years, this grand Mahakumbh is being celebrated in Prayagraj, attracting millions of devotees from around the world who wish to take a holy dip and engage in 'sadhana' and 'tapasya.' However, it is disheartening to see some airlines exploiting this occasion by significantly hiking flight fares. While the usual flight ticket to Prayagraj costs around Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000, devotees are now facing charges of Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000. This profiteering has left many devotees disheartened," he stated. Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed



airlines to increase capacity and rationalise fares for flights to Prayagraj during the ongoing Mahakumbh. To address the issue, the DGCA met with airlines on January 23, urging them to add more flights and rationalise fares. As a result, 81 additional flights have been approved for January, bringing the total number of flights to Prayagraj to 132 from across India. "In view of likely surge in demand, DGCA met airlines on January 23 and urged them to increase further capacity by adding flights and rationalising fares," DGCA said. On January 24, SpiceJet announced the addition of special flights to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh by introducing new direct flights from Guwahati, Chennai, and Hyderabad. On January 25, Akasa Air, ramped up its connectivity to Prayagraj with special flights from Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru via Delhi, in addition to its daily direct services from Mumbai.

Court Dismisses BJP's Defamation Case Against Atishi, Grants Major Relief

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A Delhi court today afternoon junked a BJP leader's defamation complaint against Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, who had been summoned in connection with the charges. The city's Rouse Avenue court, as it quashed the summons, noted that the AAP leader's comment had been made against the opposition party as a whole and not individual members of the organisation. In April last year Atishi - then a minister in former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's cabinet - alleged she, and other AAP leaders, had been approached by individuals linked to the BJP, demanding she join the party or face 'arrest' by the Enforcement Directorate within a month. A case was subsequently filed by the BJP's Praveen Shankar Kapoor. Insisting the claims by Atishi and other AAP leaders against the BJP were false, Mr Kapoor complained that none of them had furnished any material to substantiate their allegations. This was a month before Delhi was to



vote in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The Rouse Avenue Court's ruling will come as relief for the AAP and the Delhi Chief Minister, as each preps for next week's Delhi election; Atishi is standing for re-election from her Kalkaji seat. Furore over Atishi's 'join BJP or...' claim came as senior AAP leaders, including Mr Kejriwal and his former deputy, Manish Sisodia, were in jail on corruption charges linked to the alleged Delhi liquor excise policy scam. Atishi, in that time (when Mr Kejriwal was in jail), was one of the party's two most high-profile leaders, the other being Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj.

SC Rejects Plea for Dowry Law Guidelines, Stresses Need for Societal Change

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a petition seeking the introduction of guidelines to address the misuse of dowry laws. A division bench of the top court emphasised that a law by Parliament is in place, what is needed is a change in society. The petition was heard by Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice SC Sharma amid the discourse on the alleged misuse of dowry laws, particularly following the suicide of Bengaluru-based engineer Atul Subhash, along with similar cases, where accusations of fabricated allegations by wives have been raised. "We cannot do anything. Parliamentary law is there. Society has to change," Justice Nagarathna remarked. The court also rejected the petitioner, Advocate Vishal Tiwari's, contention that false cases create a burden on the judiciary. Justice Sharma remarked, "There's no burden upon us. We have taken an oath; it's our duty to decide cases". The top court further expressed its displeasure, stating that lawyers should not become litigants and expose themselves. "You are an advocate, never become a litigant. An advocate must never be a surety. Why do you want to expose



yourself?" Justice Nagarathna asked. Following the court's disinclination to hear the plea, Tiwari sought to withdraw the case, which the court then dismissed as withdrawn. The petition was filed following the suicide of Bangalore-based engineer Atul Subhash and sought the court's directions to the Centre to implement the observations made in its earlier judgment. The court had flagged the abuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, where the husband and his relatives are unnecessarily dragged into criminal cases alleging domestic cruelty against the wife. The petition also called for the formation of an expert committee, consisting of retired judges, lawyers, and legal experts, to review and reform existing dowry and domestic violence laws and suggest measures to prevent their misuse. Additionally, it proposed that marriage registrations should include a record of articles and gifts exchanged during the marriage.

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DeepSeek R1 AI: The Game-Changer Everyone's Talking About

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

If you go to X, aka Twitter, today and look at the conversation people are having around AI, or if you look at the AI news and developments, you will come across this word: DeepSeek. In particular, you will come across DeepSeek R1. Since this AI system became available last week, it has set the world of AI on fire. There are two specific reasons for that, and we will come to it. But the question that you might have is this: What is DeepSeek R1, and why is everyone talking about it?

The first part of the question is easy and straight to answer. DeepSeek is a Hangzhou-based AI research lab and the R1 is its latest AI model. The company was founded in 2023 by Liang Wenfeng, an engineer and entrepreneur with a background in AI and quantitative finance. Before creating DeepSeek, Liang led High-Flyer, a hedge fund known for using AI to analyse financial data. Liang's team at DeepSeek mostly consists of fresh graduates from top Chinese universities like Tsinghua and Peking University.

For the second part of the question, let's have a closer look at all the buzz. And boy, is the buzz. If you look at the conversation, almost everyone has something or other to say about DeepSeek R1, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, who used the moment to take a veiled potshot at OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman. Here is what Nadella tweeted, "Jevons paradox strikes again! As AI gets more efficient and accessible, we will see its use skyrocket, turning it into a commodity we just can't get enough of."

1 - What is DeepSeek R1?

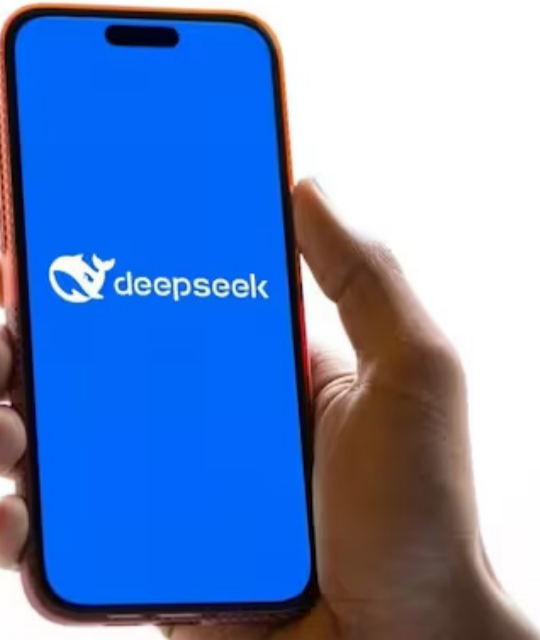
DeepSeek has two current models: The R1 and the R1 Zero. For now, only the R1 is available for users,

although the differences between the two AI models aren't all that clear-cut. On paper, though, we know that the R1 is a general-purpose AI system, whereas the R1 Zero uses only Reinforcement Learning, which means it is entirely self-taught. Anyway, those are technical bits and aren't exactly relevant to users like us.

What is relevant for us to know is that the DeepSeek R1 is an AI model that has been created by a China-based company and that it is as good as the latest — and competent — available AI systems like the OpenAI o1 and the Anthropic Claude.

2 - DeepSeek R1 is free and (probably) unlimited

One of the key reasons why DeepSeek has managed to create a buzz is its cost to end users: it is free. In a way, this is



the first extremely advanced AI system that is available for free to users. Other systems, like the OpenAI o1 and Claude Sonnet, require a paid subscription. And even with subscriptions, there are limits to how much users can utilise them. Google Gemini, too, is available for free, but it is also limited to older models for free versions and does have usage limits. DeepSeek doesn't seem to have limits. It is free to use, as in totally free.

3 - DeepSeek R1 is said to be extremely cost-effective

One reason why DeepSeek is likely free is because it is said to have some key technology breakthroughs. One of DeepSeek R1's biggest selling points is its cost-efficiency. While models like OpenAI's o1 cost around \$15 per million input tokens, the same tasks can cost as little as \$0.55 for DeepSeek. The low cost is likely the reason why the R1 is free for end users. And DeepSeek has apparently figured out a way to bring the cost down of an AI system by optimising it so well that it doesn't require huge computing or a gazillion graphics cards to run.

In fact, efficiency is the one point that has forced people to sit up and take note of DeepSeek, particularly in the US. This sort of efficiency was thought to be impossible until a few weeks ago, but now that DeepSeek has shown what is possible with just a few million dollars, AI companies like OpenAI and Google that are spending billions of dollars are looking like losers.

4 - DeepSeek R1 is open source

This is another key point that has excited people. Unlike the OpenAI or Google systems, DeepSeek R1 is open source. What this essentially means is that not only DeepSeek is making big US tech companies look extravagant and irresponsible in the way they are spending money, but it also takes away their ability to price their products higher. After all, what DeepSeek is essentially telling people here is that you don't have to spend 1000s of dollars to get access to OpenAI or Anthropic systems. Instead, you can just take this open-source model, tune it to your needs and use it in whatever way you want.

At the same time, the implications

are not just business-related. They are also geopolitical in nature. Instead of AI becoming another coveted and closely guarded system owned by certain countries like the US, an open-source model like DeepSeek frees up technology that can be used by any country in the world to create its own AI systems. This is probably why Marc Andreessen, an influential venture capitalist based in Silicon Valley, recently tweeted, "DeepSeek R1 is one of the most amazing and impressive breakthroughs I've ever seen — and as open source, a profound gift to the world."

5 - DeepSeek R1 is fun to use

If, after hearing about it so much, you go to DeepSeek and use the R1, you will find that another reason why everyone is talking about it is the way it works. The R1 comes with a feature that "shows" how the AI model thinks. It is incredible to see it reason itself and then do an analysis of the question or problem it is trying to address.

Sure, models by OpenAI and others, too, do the same. But they don't show this to users. DeepSeek R1, by default, shows it. And that sort of endears it to you while you use it to ask it questions or just have a chit-chat.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by:
Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
29th Jan

Born on 29th Jan : 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.

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 <h3>Aries</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : You will remain very active and agile today. Your health will fully support you today. 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.</p>	 <h3>Taurus</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. Profits in business can bring joy to the faces of many traders and businessmen today. It would make your family life more meaningful. Disappointment in love would not discourage you.</p>	 <h3>Gemini</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Overall health will be fine but travel will prove hectic and stressful. Improvement in finances is certain. Time to lend a helping hand to children to complete their home assignment. You will have serious problems with your lover if you dictate what to do.</p>
 <h3>Cancer</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Evening with friends will be pleasant but take care of excessive eating and hard drinks. Today instead of just sitting around-why not get involved in something- which will improve your earning power. Control your passion it may put your love affair in jeopardy.</p>	 <h3>Leo</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Take special care of other's feelings when as you pass a judgement. Any wrong decision made by you will not only affect them adversely but also give you mental tension. If you are traveling, then take special care of your valuables.</p>	 <h3>Virgo</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Your short temper could put you in some more trouble. You should not lend your money to anyone without considering it, as it can create major problems in the future. One-sided infatuation will prove disastrous today.</p>
 <h3>Libra</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Your evening will be marked with mixed emotions which can keep you tense. But there is no need to worry much-as your happiness will give you more joy than disappointment. Older relatives are likely to make unreasonable demands.</p>	 <h3>Scorpio</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Likely to face some setbacks. Don't lose heart but work harder to get desired results. Let these setbacks be the stepping stones. Relative will also help at the time of crisis. Devote your spare time in selfless service.</p>	 <h3>Sagittarius</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Unwanted thoughts may occupy your mind. Try to engage yourself in physical exercise because an empty brain is a devil's workshop. Real estate investment would be lucrative. You should do something exciting and different with people at home.</p>
 <h3>Capricorn</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Quit smoking as it would help you to remain physically sound. Explore new investment opportunities that come your way today- but commit yourself only after you have studied the viability of these projects. Today, you will want to share your life struggles with your partner.</p>	 <h3>Aquarius</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Health will remain fine despite a busy schedule. Today, you may spend your money on getting a defective electronic item fixed. Great day to pamper yourself and do things that you enjoy the most. Concentrate on your work and your priorities.</p>	 <h3>Pisces</h3> <p>Jan 29th 2025 : Your kind nature will bring many happy moments today. Monetary transactions will continuously take place throughout the day, and after the end of the day, you will be able to save enough. Your partner would be supportive and helpful.</p>

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BJP Holds Silent Protests in Pb Over Ambedkar Statue Incident, Calls for Justice

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : The controversy surrounding the attempted desecration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue in Amritsar has escalated, with the BJP holding silent protests across Punjab today. In Mohali, BJP leaders have tied black bands over their mouths in a symbolic act of protest. Similar demonstrations are taking place in districts including Jalandhar, as the party protests at the divisional level with participation from prominent leaders, former ministers, MPs, and MLAs. Mohali BJP President Sanjeev Vashisht condemned the growing unrest in Punjab, citing earlier attacks on police stations and now the defacement of Ambedkar's statue. He called for swift justice for the culprits behind the incident, stating that while the BJP's current protest is



silent, they will take stronger actions if necessary.

BJP leader Anil Sareen expressed his disappointment over the incident, stating that while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) displays Ambedkar's image in its offices, the statue's

desecration under their rule is deeply troubling. Sareen urged for strict action against the accused and a judicial inquiry to uncover who is behind the incident and trying to destabilize Punjab's peace. The incident occurred on the evening of January 26 in Amritsar, when the statue was targeted. Following the attack, police arrested the accused, and investigations are ongoing. Meanwhile, the Dalit community has called for a bandh in several parts of Punjab, including Ludhiana, Jalandhar, and Hoshiarpur. Authorities have increased security measures in these areas to prevent any untoward incidents.

Mandatory Display of Gurmukhi Script Boards in All Institutions, Shops, and Organizations Across District

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : As part of the efforts to promote Punjabi, the official language of Punjab, Punjab Government has issued instructions for displaying boards in Punjabi (Gurmukhi script) in all government and non-government offices, departments, institutions, organizations, educational institutions, boards, corporations, public and private shops, and commercial establishments in the state. District Language Officer Dr. Darshan Kaur informed that according to the Punjab Government's directives, all boards should primarily be written in Punjabi (Gurmukhi script) at the top. If any other language is used, it should be placed below the Punjabi language board. These guidelines also apply to semi-government and non-government organizations, private shops, and commercial



establishments, directing them to display their boards in Punjabi. According to a notification issued by the Punjab Government's Information and Public Relations Department on March 24, 2023, all institutions must display their names in Punjabi (Gurmukhi script), and if any other language is used, it should appear after the Punjabi script. Furthermore, the Punjabi script should occupy a more prominent space compared to other languages. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in penalties

as per the relevant provisions of the Act. Dr. Darshan Kaur urged all district residents and shopkeepers to cooperate fully in this initiative, considering it a moral responsibility to promote the Punjabi language and also encouraged people to ensure that the Punjabi words and phrases used in boards are correct and in proper context.

For any guidance or assistance regarding this matter, individuals can contact the District Language Officer's office in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) at any time.

Kejriwal's Controversial Statement Sparks Political Uproar

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : A controversial statement by former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal has ignited a political storm in Haryana. BJP leaders in Karnal, including BJP MLA Jagmohan Anand, have strongly protested against Kejriwal's remarks, burning effigies of both Kejriwal and Delhi's current Chief Minister Atishi. The BJP has demanded a public apology from Kejriwal for his statement. Recently, Kejriwal accused the Haryana government of poisoning the Yamuna River, suggesting that the BJP intended for people to die. The statement has sparked outrage among BJP leaders and workers. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini has also demanded an apology from Kejriwal. In response, Karnal MLA Jagmohan



Anand launched a blistering attack on Kejriwal and AAP, calling the accusation a "blatant lie" and accusing Kejriwal of using the issue to mislead the people of Delhi. He further claimed that the statement was part of a conspiracy to target Haryana's honest Chief Minister, Nayab Saini, who hails from the OBC community. Anand said, "Kejriwal should apologize publicly. His allegations not only undermine the Haryana

government but also the entire democratic system. The Chief Minister of Haryana represents 2.80 crore people, and such shameful remarks are unacceptable."

BJP leaders have also warned that if Kejriwal does not retract his statement and apologize, they will take further action. MLA Anand emphasized that the BJP's organizational response is ready, and that Kejriwal and Atishi will soon face consequences for their remarks. BJP leaders further asserted that Kejriwal's attempt to gain political mileage by targeting the Yamuna River will backfire, predicting that the people of Haryana will continue to support their Chief Minister, Nayab Saini, whose popularity is on the rise.

Western Command Hosts Seminar on the Evolving Role of Women Officers in the Indian Army

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Western Command held a seminar on the 'Evolving Role & Contribution of Women Officers in the Indian Army' at Chandimandir Military Station, chaired by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar.

The seminar offered a platform for women officers to discuss the challenges they face, including work-life balance, career progression, and leadership styles. The event also focused on the need for strengthening mentorship programs, revising deployment policies, and improving infrastructure to support women officers and soldiers. Lt Gen Katiyar reaffirmed the Indian Army's commitment to gender inclusivity, pointing to initiatives such as leadership training, gender sensitization workshops, and recruitment drives aimed at increasing the representation of women in the armed forces.



The Army Commander emphasized the vital role of Commanding Officers in mentoring their units and striking a balance between the aspirations of personnel and their tasks. He expressed satisfaction with the dedication and enthusiasm of women officers in the Command, who work alongside their male counterparts in all aspects of service.

In his concluding remarks, Lt Gen Katiyar stressed the importance of physical fitness, mental alertness, and moral integrity, underscoring the



need for these qualities to continue strengthening the Indian Army.

PIC OF THE DAY

WHO CARES...?

Roads Continue in poor state



Atul Sharma

Mohali : Residents, commuters and Industrialists in Mohali have expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of roads in different parts of the city including Industrial Area Phase 7 and 8B. Commuters said majority of the roads in Mohali, had developed more several deep pits and added that everybody was aware of the poor condition of the road as it is frequented by officials

of the administration. and also said that the officials concerned were aware of the fact that these pits caused more accidents. Most of the cuts in the road are found at the centre, forcing drivers to stick to the sides even on narrow lanes. Neither the main nor interior roads have been spared, making for bumpy rides and forcing residents to learn to circumvent potholes and uneven patches.

But Who Cares???

Gian Jyoti Model School Unveils State-of-the-Art Netball Ground Ahead of 2025 National Championships



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : In a grand ceremony, Hari Om Kaushik, Chairman, National Netball Development Committee, inaugurated the state-of-the-art netball ground at Gian Jyoti Model School, Phase 2, Mohali. During the event, Mr. Kaushik announced that the school will host the prestigious 2025 National Netball Championships. Known for his dedication to promoting netball in India, Mr. Kaushik commended the school for its visionary approach in developing world-class sports infrastructure, setting a new standard for sports development in the country. The inauguration ceremony was attended by several distinguished guests, including Vijender Singh Dahiya, General Secretary of the Netball Federation of India, and Arjuna Awardee S.P. Jagjit Singh, both of whom lauded the school's efforts in fostering sports at the grassroots level. J.S. Bedi, Chairman, Gian Jyoti

Group of Institutions, emphasized the institution's commitment to empowering students by integrating academic excellence with sportsmanship. He stressed the importance of sports in shaping character and leadership qualities in students. Mrs. Ranjeet Bedi, Director-Principal, reaffirmed the school's dedication to nurturing talent and providing a platform for students to achieve excellence on both national and international stages. A comprehensive discussion on the preparations for the 2025 National Netball Championships was led by Advocate Karan Avtar Kapil, General Secretary of the Netball Association of Punjab. He shared that the final event plan would be distributed to sports ministries, state sports departments, and all teams affiliated with the Netball Federation of India to ensure smooth coordination and successful execution of the championship.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal's Hunger Strike Enters 64th Day: Calls for Maha Panchayat on February 12

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's hunger strike on the Khanauri border, protesting over 13 demands including a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, has entered its 64th day. Today, Dallewal addressed the public from the site, inviting them to join the Maha Panchayat scheduled for February 12 at the Khanauri border. He emphasized that the presence of supporters would provide him with the strength to continue his fight.

In his 8-minute message, Dallewal highlighted four key points: MSP is Crucial for Punjab's Water Conservation. Dallewal reiterated that the demand for an MSP guarantee law is not just for Punjab but for the entire country. He explained that Punjab's water resources are at risk without proper MSP, which incentivizes farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. He expressed gratitude to the people of the country and thanked Waheguru for the strength to continue the struggle.

Health Concerns and Medical Aid
On January 18, the government sent a letter confirming a meeting with farmer leaders on February 14. Following advice from fellow activists, Dallewal accepted medical aid to address health issues arising from his prolonged fast, but clarified that the hunger strike would continue. He expressed hope that the government would address the demands, allowing him to attend the upcoming meeting.

Prayers for the Movement's Success
Dallewal shared his faith in the divine support for the farmers' movement, expressing gratitude for the blessings that had strengthened the struggle. He mentioned the upcoming Prakash of Shri Akhand Sahib on January 30 and the Bhog ceremony, which would thank Guruji for the progress made. He called for prayers for the success of the movement and fulfillment of the farmers' demands.

Invitation for Support at Maha Panchayat
Dallewal invited farmers, laborers, and citizens to gather at the Khanauri border on February 12 for a Maha Panchayat, similar to the one held on February 4. He expressed hope that the show of support would provide him with the strength to participate in the meeting with the



government scheduled for February 14. Three Major Mahapanchayats in February To mark the one-year anniversary of the farmers' movement, three Mahapanchayats will take place from February 11 to 13. The first will be held at Ratnapura Morcha on February 11, followed by a Kisan Mahapanchayat at Data Singh Wala-Khanauri Kisan Morcha on February 12. On February 13, another Mahapanchayat is scheduled in Shambhu, Farmers from Uttar Pradesh, led by activists such as Rajbir Singh, Udhm Chaudhary, and others, also arrived at Khanauri to express their support for Dallewal.

Commemoration for Shubhkaran
Farmers are preparing to mark the anniversary of the death of young farmer Shubhkaran, who was killed by police gunfire during last year's Kisan Andolan. A Samagam will be held on February 21 in his honor, with plans for a gathering in his village.

Background of the Farmers' Movement
The farmers' protest began on February 13 last year, demanding a legal guarantee for MSP. The government initially responded quickly, but after talks with senior leaders, including Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda, failed, the farmers decided to head to Delhi. The Haryana government stopped their movement with barricades, leading to clashes and the death of Shubhkaran Singh at the Khanauri border. The Punjab and Haryana High Court later ordered the removal of barricades, which the Haryana government appealed in the Supreme Court. Eventually, a high-power committee was formed, and Dallewal began his hunger strike on November 26, 2024.

As the protest nears its one-year mark, Dallewal remains committed to his cause, urging farmers and citizens to stand united in their fight for justice.

Rural Police Busts Armed Robbery Gang, Father-Son Duo Among Those Arrested



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jalandhar : In a major breakthrough against organized crime, Jalandhar Rural Police has successfully arrested two key criminals, including a father-son duo, involved in multiple armed robberies across rural areas. The police seized a significant cache of illegal weapons, stolen property, and recovered items worth several lakhs, announced Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harkamal Preet Singh Khakh on Tuesday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Raj Kumar and his son Rajveer alias Rohit, residents of Saidpur Jhiri in Police Station Shahkot, Jalandhar. The police team recovered three pistols, 25 live rounds, nine mobile phones, one smartwatch, and gold ornaments weighing six tolas from their possession. According to SSP Khakh, the breakthrough came after a tip-off led a special CIA team from Jalandhar Rural to set up a checkpoint near village Udhawal, under Police Station Mehtpur. The accused were caught at the naka, with one 32-bore pistol, two live rounds, and two mobile phones in their possession. Further interrogation revealed that the duo had been involved in a series of armed robberies and nighttime thefts. Rajveer, a drug addict, and his father, Raj Kumar, would target unsuspecting individuals, robbing them at gunpoint of their valuables such as cash, mobile phones, and jewelry. The police also uncovered that the accused obtained their weapons from one Sharanjit Singh alias Sonu, a resident of Saidpur Jhiri, who is currently on the run. Raids are underway

to apprehend Sharanjit Singh. A case has been registered at Police Station Mehtpur (FIR No. 13 dated 22.01.2025) under various sections of the Arms Act and related criminal charges. Profile of the Arrested Accused: Raj Kumar (Shooter) Father of Rajveer, resident of Saidpur Jhiri, PS Shahkot Key conspirator, involved in armed robberies

Expert in handling illegal weapons Accused in multiple theft and robbery cases Rajveer alias Rohit Son of Raj Kumar, resident of Saidpur Jhiri, PS Shahkot History-sheeter with multiple criminal cases Drug addict involved in violent crimes Previously linked to four criminal cases, including armed robbery and housebreaking

Seized Items: Three pistols (30 bore and 32 bore) 25 live rounds Nine high-end mobile phones A premium smartwatch Gold ornaments weighing six tolas Modus Operandi: Targeted rural areas for reconnaissance Used firearms to threaten victims and rob them Specialized in night-time operations and quick getaways Maintained a network for disposing stolen property Procured illegal weapons to expand their criminal activities Jalandhar Rural Police remains committed to curbing organized crime and drug trafficking in the region. Further arrests and recoveries are expected as investigations continue.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Granted 30-Day Parole Ahead of Delhi Assembly Elections

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, currently serving a 20-year sentence in connection with two rape cases, was granted parole for a month on Tuesday.

The parole comes ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, scheduled to be held on February 5. Singh, who is housed in Haryana's Sunaria jail, was released today morning, according to police sources. Singh has a large following in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and other states.



Dera Sacha Sauda, headquartered in Haryana's Sirsa, also boasts a massive following across the state, including Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Kaithal and

Hisar. Singh's past paroles have mostly coincided with elections in north Indian states. Last time, Singh was released on parole in October 2024, three days ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections.

This will be the first time Singh will be visiting his ashram in Sirsa since his conviction in 2017.

On previous occasions when Singh was out on parole, he was only allowed to visit his ashram in Uttar Pradesh's Baghat.

Anti-Corruption Bureau Arrests SHO for Accepting Bribe

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) team in Ambala, Haryana, has taken significant action against a corrupt police officer. SHO Gulshan Kumar of Barara police station was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000. The accused officer had allegedly demanded a monthly bribe in exchange for allowing the complainant's eight dumpers to operate on Barara's border.

The complainant, Narendra Kumar, had been using his dumpers to transport soil for a road construction project. SHO Gulshan Kumar reportedly sought a



regular bribe for allowing this activity to continue. Fed up with the officer's demands, Kumar approached the ACB to

report the corruption. The ACB swiftly set up a trap, instructing the complainant to deliver the agreed-upon bribe of Rs 30,000. Once the bribe was handed over, the ACB team apprehended the accused officer. The operation was conducted transparently and in the presence of witnesses.

SHO Gulshan Kumar had been posted at the Barara police station since August 16, 2023. A case has now been registered against him, and investigations are underway.

Dalit Community Calls for Bandh in Pb Over Vandalism of Ambedkar's Statue; Amritsar-Delhi Highway Blocked

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Dalit community in Punjab has called for a bandh across four districts—Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, and Moga—today in response to the desecration of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's statue in Amritsar. The protestors in Ludhiana have blocked the Amritsar-Delhi highway, demanding that the accused be charged under the National Security Act (NSA). In Ludhiana, shops in Ghandagar Market were closed, and a march was held, with a memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner. However, the bandh's impact in other parts of the city remained minimal, with shops and showrooms continuing to operate. Punjab Minister Kuldeep Dhaliwal assured that the police would thoroughly investigate the incident and publicly disclose the findings. Police had already filed an FIR against the accused, Akashdeep, on January 26.

The Incident Behind the Controversy The controversy began on the evening of January 26, Republic Day, when



Akashdeep, a 12th-grade graduate from Dharamkot, Moga, climbed the Ambedkar statue on Heritage Street in Amritsar. Using a ladder, he struck the statue eight times with a large hammer after setting fire to a stone constitution book placed under the statue. When private security intervened, Akashdeep initially resisted but was eventually apprehended. He was taken to the police station but was later released.

Akashdeep, who had recently returned from Dubai after three years of working there as a laborer, has not yet revealed his motives for the act. The police are set to

further question him on January 30.

Dalit Protests and Political Reactions
Following the incident, the Dalit community called for an Amritsar bandh on January 27, leading to protests in several markets, including Hall Gate. Shopkeepers in the Wall City Market also joined the protests, while demonstrators blocked Bhandari Bridge, causing significant traffic disruptions.

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema condemned the act, stating that a high-level investigation is underway and that strict action will be taken against those found guilty. He added that some elements are attempting to sow discord in the state, but the government would not allow these efforts to succeed.

Cabinet Minister Aman Arora emphasized Punjab's tradition of peace and brotherhood, stating that the people of the state would not allow divisive forces to break the unity and harmony that has always been a hallmark of Punjab.

3 Convicts Sentenced to Life for Murder of Akali Leader Vicky Middukhera

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Three men have been sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement in the 2021 murder of Akali leader Vikramjit Singh Middukhera, also known as Vicky Middukhera. The Mohali District Court delivered the verdict on January 27, sentencing Ajay alias Sunny alias Lefty, Sajjan alias Bhola, and Anil Lath, all of whom are associated with notorious gangsters and are believed to have been involved in sharp-shooting. Middukhera, 33, was gunned down in broad daylight on August 7, 2021, outside a property dealer's office in Sector 70, Mohali. The murder, which saw the victim being shot 15 times, was described as a planned attack. Vicky ran for about a kilometer in an attempt to escape his attackers, but was ultimately shot dead. His murder was later claimed by the Bambaia gang, a rival of the accused groups.



The court sentenced the three convicts under Section 302 (murder), the Arms Act, and Section 482. Each of the convicted men was also fined Rs 2 lakh. Vicky's lawyer, Advocate HS Dhanoa, expressed satisfaction with the verdict, noting that while they were pleased with the sentencing, they would decide whether to appeal the acquittals of certain other

accused individuals once the final judgment is issued.

The investigation into Vicky's murder remained unresolved for several months, despite the police interrogating over 26 gangsters. It was only after Delhi Police arrested key suspects that the conspiracy behind the murder was uncovered. Gangsters Amit Dagar and Kaushal Chaudhary, both imprisoned in Tihar Jail, were implicated in orchestrating the murder and arranging the

shooters. Vicky's family, including his elder brother Ajay, vowed to continue the fight for justice, calling this conviction the first step towards accountability. "I will fight till my last breath," said Ajay, reflecting the family's ongoing commitment to securing justice for Vicky.

Pb Police Arrest 2 Accused in Gumtala Police Post Attack, Uncover Links to Terrorist and Drug Smuggler

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Amritsar : In a major breakthrough, the Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Amritsar has arrested two individuals involved in the January 9, 2025, grenade attack on the Gumtala police post in Amritsar. The attackers, identified as Bagga Singh from Sirsa and Pushkar Singh alias Sagar from Amritsar rural, are believed to be part of a narco-terror module with international links. The police investigation has revealed that the attack was carried out to spread terror and target security forces in the state. The arrested duo is connected to US-based terrorist Happy Pasiyan and notorious drug smuggler Sarwan Bhola, who is linked to the drug network in Punjab and Haryana.



Authorities say Bagga Singh is a close relative of Bhola, whose criminal network is allegedly involved in smuggling large quantities of drugs, including heroin. Bhola's brother, Ranjeet Singh alias Cheeta, is currently imprisoned in

Bathinda jail over his involvement in a 532 kg heroin case.

In addition to the arrests, police have seized a hand grenade, two modern pistols, and several suspicious documents and mobile phones from the accused. Forensic examination of the mobile phones is underway to gather more details about the terrorist-narco network operating both within India and abroad.

The police have linked these activities to terrorist operations led by Happy Pasiyan, who is reportedly running a network from the United States. Investigations are ongoing to identify additional individuals involved in this transnational narco-terrorism syndicate.

Sky Force Box Office Day 4: Akshay Kumar's Film Sees Slow Monday, Close to Rs 70 Crore

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Actor Akshay Kumar and Veer Pahariya's film, Sky Force, witnessed a rather slow Monday after performing well in its opening weekend. The emotional war drama, set in the 1965 India-Pakistan war, collected Rs 6.25 crore nett on its first Monday, taking the total of four days to Rs 68.50 crore nett, reported the trade website Sacnilk.

Sky Force, directed by Abhishek Anil Kapur and Sandeep Kewlani, opened at Rs 12.25 crore nett on Friday. However, decent word-of-mouth on social media led the collections to rise on Saturday and Sunday, and the film wrapped its opening weekend at Rs 62.25 crore nett.

Check box office breakup of Sky Force after 4 days - nett collection (source: Sacnilk)

Friday: Rs 12.25 crore

Saturday: Rs 22 crore

Sunday: Rs 28 crore

Monday: Rs 6.25 crore



Total: Rs 68.50 crore
Sky Force is Veer's big Bollywood debut. The actor features as Squadron Leader Ajjamada B Devaiah, who is the only Indian Air Force officer to be posthumously given a Maha Vir Chakra, the second-highest military award in India.

The film also features Sara Ali Khan and Nimrat Kaur in important roles. While it tries to keep the story more

about the valour and contribution of Devaiah to the Indian Air Force and to the world of aviation, it also shows India's winning stand against Pakistan during the war.

Sky Force hit the screens unchallenged at the box office. However, the film has got only a few days of free run until Shahid Kapoor's Deva hits the screens on January 31.

14-Year-Old Noida Boy Discovers Asteroid Through NASA Project, Set to Name It



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A 14-year-old boy from Shiv Nadar School in Noida will name an asteroid that he discovered located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, thanks to his participation in a NASA project. The asteroid is currently named '2023 OG40', denoting the year it was discovered, but Class 9 student Daksh Malik will soon have the honour of giving it a permanent name.

He had submitted his preliminary detection of the asteroid last year, and now it has been officially confirmed by NASA as a "Provisional Discovery of a Main Belt Asteroid."

Speaking to the media, Daksh said he had been fascinated with space documentaries since he was much younger and that this opportunity was like a dream come true for him.

HOW DID DAKSH MALIK DISCOVER THE ASTEROID?

Malik and two of his schoolmates had been looking for asteroids for almost a year and a half as part of the International Asteroid Discovery Project (IADP) under the mentorship of Dr. Patrick Miller from Hardin Simmons University. The IADP is a collaboration between the International Astronomy Search Collaboration (IASC), Pan-STARRS, and NASA's Citizen Science Project. They had learnt about the IASC when the school's astronomy club sent them an email about the same in 2022.

Noida student of Class 9 discovers asteroid with NASA programme. It is a citizen science programme by NASA which encourages students and the general public to use their software and datasets to help find undiscovered asteroids.

This collaborative project provided participants worldwide with access

to high-quality astronomical data, including real images from the Pan-STARRS telescope in Hawaii, to discover new asteroids and important Near-Earth Objects.

It sees around 6500 participants from over 80 countries each year hoping to find an asteroid, but only a few make it, and the Noida teenager was one of them, though it was only after submitting six preliminary detections.

With this, Daksh Malik joins an elite group in India, with just five other students, who have reported discovering an asteroid.

He credited his school's observatory and astronomy programmes, and his teachers for providing an environment for him where he could nurture his passions.

"This journey has inspired me to reach for the stars - literally and figuratively - and I hope it encourages others to pursue their passions fearlessly," Daksh says.

NAMING AND VERIFICATION PROCESS

Daksh still hasn't made a final decision on naming the asteroid. He is oscillating between 'Destroyer of the World', and 'Countdown'. Whichever he chooses, the name change wouldn't be immediate.

The NASA verification process after the "preliminary detection" of the asteroid could take up to four or five years. NASA first observed the asteroid for a second time and if it is proven to be an asteroid, the Minor Planet Centre (MPC) grants it provisional status.

After that, it would then be recognised as official discoveries after further observations. After that, the International Astronomical Union in Paris would catalogue it in the global record.

Only after a full verification will Malik get to officially name the asteroid.

Jasprit Bumrah Makes History as 6th Indian to Win ICC Test Cricketer of the Year

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Jasprit Bumrah became the sixth Indian to win the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year after the star pacer picked up 71 wickets from 13 Test matches in 2024, topping the charts. Bumrah became the sixth Indian after Rahul Dravid (2004), Gautam Gambhir (2009), Virender Sehwag (2010), Ravichandran Ashwin (2016), and Virat Kohli (2018).

With Bumrah's award, India equalled Australia's record for most players to win the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year award. Steve Smith (2015, 2017) is the only man to have won the honour twice in his career. Bumrah finished as the leading wicket-taker in Test cricket in 2024, topping the charts with 71 wickets—far ahead of second-placed Gus Atkinson of England, who claimed 52 wickets in 11 matches.

Marking his return to the longest format in late 2023 after a prolonged absence due to a back injury, Jasprit Bumrah delivered an incredible performance, amassing a remarkable wicket tally and setting multiple records. The right-arm quick was instrumental in India's success in home conditions, helping secure series wins against England and



Bangladesh. He also rose to the occasion in challenging away conditions in South Africa and Australia.

He bowled an astonishing 357 overs in the format yet maintained an exceptional economy rate of 2.96, defying expectations in an era characterised by quick scoring in Tests. Bumrah's average for the year was an extraordinary 14.92, and he ended 2024 with a staggering strike rate of just 30.1.

His 71-wicket haul made him only the fourth Indian bowler to take more than 70 Test wickets in a calendar year, joining the elite company of Ravichandran Ashwin, Anil Kumble, and Kapil Dev. Among many standout performances,

Bumrah's best display in Tests came during the series opener against Australia in Perth.

With India missing regular captain Rohit Sharma, Bumrah stepped up to lead the team and inspired a famous victory. After Australia dismissed India for just 150 on the opening day, Bumrah spearheaded a stunning fightback with the ball, claiming a five-wicket haul with figures of 5/30. India responded by setting a monumental target of 534 for the hosts, and Bumrah returned to seal the victory with another impressive spell, taking 3/42. His efforts secured a resounding 295-run win and handed Australia their first loss at the venue.



The Elephant and the Ants

There was once a proud elephant who constantly bullied smaller animals. He would go to the anthill near his home and spray water at the ants. The ants, with their size, could do nothing but cry. The elephant just laughed and threatened the ants that he would crush them to death. One day, the ants had enough and decided



to teach the elephant a lesson. They went straight into the elephant's trunk and started biting him. The elephant could only howl in pain. He realized his mistake and apologized to the ants and all the animals he bullied.

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Passengers Attack Mahakumbh Special Train with Stones After Finding Doors Locked

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Harpalpur : A special train travelling from Jhansi to Prayagraj was pelted with stones at Harpalpur station after passengers waiting on the platform found the doors of the compartments locked. Videos circulating on social media show the attackers throwing stones at the train and shattering its windows as the passengers scream in fear.

In one of the videos, a passenger is heard saying that the train left the Jhansi station for Prayagraj around 8 pm yesterday. "The train reached Harpalpur and came under attack. They damaged the train and threw stones inside. They tried to kill passengers. There are women and children here."

This special train is being run for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, drawing visitors from across the country. Most passengers boarding the train



are headed to the spiritual fest. According to reports, many people were waiting at Harpalpur -- about two hours journey from Jhansi -- to board the train. But they found the doors locked when they tried to get on the train. The agitated passengers turned violent and started throwing stones at the compartments. They also shattered the windows of the train's doors, sparking panic among the passengers inside.

Harpalpur police station in-charge Pushpak Sharma said some people threw stones at the train when it reached the railway station around 2 am.

Railways spokesperson Manoj Singh said a crowd of passengers headed for Prayagraj were waiting on the platform. The train arrived and they tried to get inside, but found the doors locked. "They became agitated and created an uproar," he said, adding that Railway police reached the spot soon, calmed people down and sent them on their journey. "We want to appeal to the passengers to cooperate to ensure a smooth journey to Prayagraj and to prevent a repeat of such incidents. We are running special trains for this," he said.

Jewellery Brand CEO Arrested in Multi-Crore Torres Ponzi Scheme Scandal

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : The Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested Tausif Riyaz, the CEO of Torres Jewellery, in connection with over a 57 crore investment fraud case. Riyaz, also known as John Carter, who had been absconding since the case was registered at Shivaji Park Police Station, was arrested in Lonavala based on specific intelligence. Earlier, a look-out circular was issued against him.

Following his arrest, Riyaz was presented in court and remanded to police custody until February 3. The officials are actively searching for other suspects involved in the scam. The jewellery company is accused of duping thousands of investors through Ponzi and multi-level marketing



(MLM) schemes. The fraud surfaced when hundreds of investors protested at the company's Dadar store, leading to a police probe. The case, involving over 3,700 investors and losses exceeding Rs 57 crore, was transferred to the EOW due to its magnitude. Raids conducted as part of the investigation

have led to the seizure of cash and jewellery worth crores.

The Mumbai Police has also arrested three others linked to the scam, including Sarveh Ashok Surve, 30, an Aadhaar card operator named as a director of Platinum Hern Private Limited (the parent company of Torres Jewellery), Tania Karaxanovna Xasatova, 52, an Uzbek national who served as the company's general manager; and Valentina Ganesh Kumar, 44, a Russian national who was the store in-charge.

The investigation is still underway and the police are in search of others accused in the case.

Infosys Co-Founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, 17 Others Face Legal Action Over Alleged Casteist Slurs

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : A case was registered against Infosys co-founder Senapathy Kris Gopalakrishnan, former Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Director Balaram and 16 others under the Prevention of SC-ST Atrocities Act.

The complainant, Durgappa, a former IISc professor, who belongs to the tribal Bovi community, alleged he was unfairly targeted in a honey trap case in 2014, leading to his dismissal. Durgappa, who was a faculty member at the Centre for Sustainable Technology at the IISc, also claimed he faced casteist abuse and threats.



The FIR was registered at the Sadashivnagar police station in Bengaluru, following directions

from the 71st City Civil and Sessions Court.

At the time of writing this story, there was no response from the IISc faculty or from Gopalakrishnan, who also serves as a member of the IISc Board of Trustees.

Other individuals accused in the case include Govind Rangarajan, Sridhar Warriar, Sandya Vishwswaraih, Hari KVS, Dasappa, Balaram P, Hemalata Mhishi, Chattopadhyaya K, Pradeep D Sawkar and Manoharan.

Man dies by suicide, claims harassment by wife in note: 'She wants my death'

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : A man in Karnataka's Hubballi died by suicide and left behind a note in which he accused his wife of "torture". The man, identified as Peter Gollapalli, died by suicide on Sunday with his family members saying that he and his wife were going through a marital discord for the last three months.

In a note he left behind, Peter wrote to his father: "Daddy, I'm sorry." Peter went on to accuse his wife of torture, writing, "My wife Pinky is killing me, she wants my death... I am dying because of my wife's torture." According to Peter's brother Joyal, the family discovered his body at 12.30 pm on Sunday after returning from church. "He wrote a death note, in which he said that his wife Feebhe, whose nickname is Pinky, wanted him to die," Joyal said. "He also wrote, 'Daddy I'm sorry' and 'Anna (brother), please take care of parents'."

Peter's brother also said that the husband and wife were facing



problems in their marriage. "It's been two years since their marriage. They had been having problems for three months and were separated. The case is still ongoing in court," Joyal said. He also revealed that Peter was under immense stress due to the Rs 20 lakh as compensation demand in the divorce case. Peter's father, Obayya, alleged that his son had been mentally distressed due to his wife's behaviour and her family's demands. "My son passed away because of his wife's torture. He also wrote a letter stating the same. Police have taken that letter.

She would leave home randomly to stay at her mother's place and would tell my son that even if he died, she wouldn't return. Her brother demanded Rs 20 lakh as compensation in their divorce case," he said.

Obayya also alleged that Peter lost his job after a fight with his wife during an office meeting, which led to his employer terminating him. The couple had been married for two years but had reportedly been living apart for three months due to escalating conflicts.

A case has been registered under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which deals with the abetment of suicide.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the circumstances of the incident. The Ashok Nagar Police are currently examining the death note and other evidence to determine the next steps in the case.

Revanth Reddy Compares PM to Invader Mahmud of Ghazni, BJP Demands Apology

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mhow : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy sparked a row by likening Prime Minister Narendra Modi to medieval-era Turkish invader Mahmud of Ghazni at a rally organised by the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. Addressing the "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhaan" rally in Mhow, Reddy alleged that PM Modi was attempting to change the Constitution and repeal job reservations.

"We have read in history that Mahmud of Ghazni tried again and again to loot and conquer India. Similarly, today PM Modi is trying to change the Constitution and revoke reservations," the Telangana Chief Minister said.

The remark drew widespread condemnation from the BJP, with a host of leaders and ministers calling it "shameful".

"Highly condemnable! By comparing the most popular leader of not only India but the world, the respected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, with a foreign robber and invader, Mahmud Ghaznavi, Congress leader Revanth Reddy has shown his hateful mentality," tweeted Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Scindia demanded an apology from Reddy to the people of the country and the PM for his "disgusting" remarks. "I strongly condemn his statement. This statement is not only an insult to the Prime Minister, but also to the crores of poor, deprived people, women and tribal brothers of the country, for whom he (PM) is working day and night," Scindia further said.

Former BJP MLC from Telangana, Ramchander Rao, blamed Congress for meddling with the Constitution by imposing the Emergency, suppressing the rights of citizens and curtailing press freedom.

"It is ironic that Revanth Reddy accused PM Modi of attempting to

change the Constitution when it was, in fact, the Congress that meddled with the Constitution during its tenure. The Congress imposed Emergency, suppressed the rights of common citizens, and curtailed press freedom," he said.

Saying that Revanth Reddy and his associates were akin to "Alibaba and the 40 thieves", Rao claimed that looting has been the hallmark of the Congress.

"Congress is looting the people in Karnataka and Telangana. The party is exploiting the states and the country for personal gain," he said.

Amid a barrage of criticism from the BJP, Reddy took to X to turn the tables on the saffron party.

"The country is now comprised of two sets of forces - those who want to distort and destroy the Constitution, and those who are willing to stake their lives to protect the Constitution, our country, our values and the future of our people," Reddy tweeted.

Comparing the current situation to the freedom struggle, Reddy stated that the "Congress family" would struggle to save the Constitution, similar to how the grand old party struggled to free the country.

"It is our commitment to India that we believe in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar and the Constitution. Jai Babu, Jai Bheem, Jai Samvidhan," the Congress leader concluded his X post.

Tragedy Strikes at 'Laddoo' Ceremony: 5 Killed, 40 Injured in Stage Collapse

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : A stage collapsed at a Jain Nirvana festival in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat on Tuesday morning, killing 5 and injuring dozens, including women and children.

The incident happened when a makeshift stage, made out of bamboo and wood, collapsed during a laddoo ceremony. According to police officials, hundreds of devotees reached the spot to offer laddoos to Lord Adinath in the presence of Jain monks.

"This event has been conducted for nearly 30 years. At least 40 people have been injured. They have been admitted to the hospital and are undergoing treatment. Twenty

people have already been released after administering first aid," said Baghpat's District Magistrate Asmita Lal.

Officials, including senior police officials, rushed to the spot with a large police force to manage the situation. The injured were immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment.

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Trump Vows 'India Will Do The Right Thing' on Migrants After Call with PM Modi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : US President Donald Trump (local time) had a "productive" phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the two leaders discussed expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation and issues including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. This was the first telephonic conversation between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi since the Republican was sworn in for a second term on January 20.

Later, Mr Trump told reporters that PM Modi was scheduled to visit the United States sometime in February.

"I had a long talk with him this morning (Monday). He is going to be coming to the White House, over next month, probably February. We have a very good relationship with India," he told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The American leader noted he discussed the issue of immigration with the Indian Premier and said Prime Minister Modi "will do what's right" when it comes to taking back Indian immigrants who came to the US illegally.

The call came against the backdrop of reports suggesting that the Indian side was working on an early meeting between the two leaders. President Trump and PM Modi enjoyed warm relations in the US president's first term, but during his campaign for re-election, the 78-year-old American leader called India a "very big abuser" of trade and vowed to use tariffs on global imports into the US to correct



imbalances.

He has also threatened the BRICS group of nations, of which India is a part, with tariffs if they did not accept his demand of committing to not create a new currency. On Trade And Bilateral Relations In call with PM Modi, Mr Trump "emphasized the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship," a White House statement said.

The US is India's largest trading partner and two-way trade surpassed \$118 billion in 2023/24, with India posting a surplus of \$32 billion.

India is also an important strategic partner in the efforts of the United States to counter China, and in a social media post on Monday, PM Modi called Mr Trump a "dear friend" and said they were "committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership."

"We will work together for the welfare of our people and towards global peace,

prosperity, and security," the Prime Minister said.

An Indian statement said the leaders discussed technology, trade, investment, energy and defence and "agreed to remain in touch and meet soon at an early mutually convenient date."

The White House said both leaders emphasized their commitment to the Quad grouping that brings together the United States and India with Australia and Japan, with India to host Quad leaders later this year.

On Immigration The US President said PM Modi "will do what's right" when it comes to taking back illegal Indian immigrants from America. In a meeting with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar last week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized a desire to "address concerns related to irregular migration."

Mr Trump has pledged to crack down on illegal immigration and Bloomberg News reported last week that India and the US have identified some 18,000 Indian migrants who are in the US illegally. He has said he is open to legal migration of skilled workers and India is known for its massive pool of IT professionals, many of whom work across the world. They account for the bulk of the skilled worker H-1B visas issued by the United States.

Trump Calls for Abolishing Income Tax, Proposes Taxing Foreign Nations to Boost American Wealth

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : US President Donald Trump proposed abolishing income tax for US citizens, aiming to boost disposable income for individuals and families, as he described the move as a step toward restoring America to the "system that made us richer". To implement the complete abolition of income tax--which currently constitutes a significant share of federal revenue--Trump reiterated his call for across-the-board import tariffs.

"It's time for the United States to return to the system that made us richer and more powerful than ever before... Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich foreign nations, we should be taxing foreign nations to enrich our citizens," the US President said as he outlined his tax reform plans at a House Republican Members Conference.

Trump argued that the period from 1870 to 1913 was the wealthiest in US history, when a tariff-based economic system was



in place. He highlighted that the country generated "enormous" revenue through import tariffs during that era.

The Republican leader has been advocating for multifaceted tax cuts and intends to use import tariffs to offset the revenue shortfall from these proposed reductions. Trump affirmed this approach during his inaugural address and also announced the establishment of a special body to oversee import tariff management. "Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich

other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens. For this purpose, we are establishing the External Revenue Service to collect all tariffs, duties and revenues. It will be massive amounts of money pouring into our treasury coming from foreign sources," Trump said during his inaugural address on January 20.

The US president said that the country will immediately begin the overhaul of the trade system to "protect American workers and families". However, some economists have cautioned that Trump's plans for tariffs and tax cuts could lead to new inflationary pressures and sustain elevated interest rates. His proposals have also faced opposition from members of Congress, who have raised concerns about increasing deficits and potential execution challenges.

Billionaire Financier Scott Bessent Appointed as Donald Trump's Treasury Chief

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : Billionaire hedge fund manager Scott Bessent won Senate approval to become US Treasury secretary, placing him at the forefront of implementing Donald Trump's economic agenda -- which is already triggering global jitters.

Bessent, a Wall Street veteran who was born and raised in South Carolina, has defended the Republican president's tax cutting and tariff proposals while urging efforts to secure supply chains and the dollar's global status.

He cleared a confirmation vote with a comfortable margin of 68-29, with bipartisan support.

As Treasury chief, Bessent will have a hand in the administration's tax policies and its budget, confronting the debt limit and steering plans that could lead to fresh tariffs.

Mike Crapo, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, said Monday that Bessent was "committed to restoring the prosperity and opportunity" seen under Trump's leadership.

But Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the committee, warned it was unclear that Bessent would serve as a check on Trump's economic plans, which could weigh on consumers and small businesses.

Bessent, 62, has said he would back tougher sanctions on Russian oil majors as a way to end the war in Ukraine, while signaling a hawkish approach on China. Trump returned to the White House this month vowing lower taxes to aid Americans squeezed by high costs of living, and tariffs to pressure other countries to align on US concerns.

The president has warned of tariffs on allies and adversaries -- including major trading partners Mexico and Canada on February 1.

Now all eyes are on how his Treasury



chief walks the line between supporting these efforts and avoiding tensions that may roil the world economy.

At his hearing, Bessent disagreed that Trump's proposed duties on imports would be paid for domestically, noting that levies can be used in negotiations, to remedy unfair trade practices or to boost revenues.

He also took aim at government spending and high budget deficits.

He will have to grapple with Trump's promised tax cuts -- alongside their consequences for the US economy -- as he begins his role.

The Treasury Department has oversight across areas from federal finances to bank supervision. It also oversees US sanctions.

Family friend Bessent is the first Senate-confirmed openly gay cabinet official in a Republican administration.

He has been based in Charleston, South Carolina, with his husband and their two children.

Bessent has known the Trump family for three decades and was friends with the president's late brother Robert, he previously said.

"I was all-in for President Trump," he said on Trump ally Roger Stone's radio show. Bessent attended Yale University

and served as chief investment officer of Soros Fund Management, the macroeconomic investment firm of liberal billionaire George Soros.

In 2015, he raised capital, including \$2 billion from Soros, to start his own hedge fund.

More recently, Bessent said he had not spoken to Soros in years.

Bessent is chief executive at Key Square Group, but has committed to resigning from the position at the hedge fund and divesting his partnership share upon confirmation. 'Only-in-America'

During his confirmation hearing, Bessent recounted taking an internship in finance -- a job that came with an office pullout sofa, allowing him to live in New York rent-free.

"I've been involved in the financial markets ever since," he told lawmakers. "My life has been the only-in-America story that I am determined to preserve for future generations."

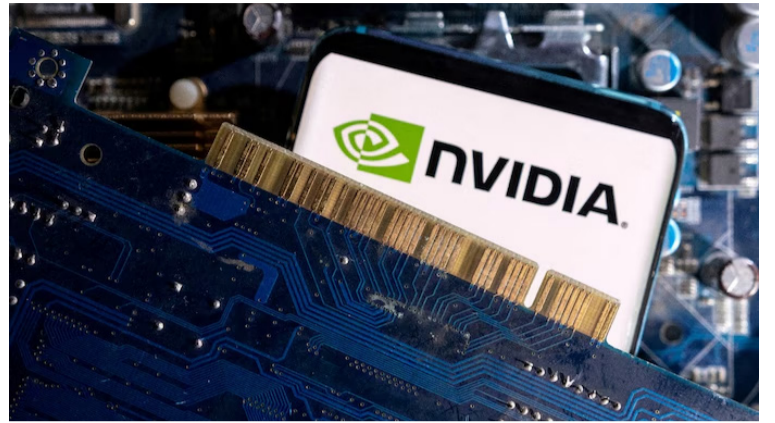
Urging for all tools to be used "to realign the economic system to better serve the interests of working Americans," Bessent has criticized "unfair distortions" in global trade.

He previously floated the idea of Trump nominating a "shadow Fed chair" to dilute the influence of Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell.

But he has since dropped the idea and stated that he supports the central bank's independence in policymaking.

"President Trump is going to make his views known, as many senators did," Bessent said in his hearing on January 16. He added that on monetary policy, the Fed's rate-setting committee "should be independent."

Nvidia Faces Historic \$593 Billion Plunge as DeepSeek Soars, Shattering Market Records



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

London : US stock futures steadied, the dollar ticked higher and tech stocks in Asia slid today following a wave of selling as apparent advances by a Chinese AI startup cast doubt on US dominance and spending in one of the market's hottest sectors.

Overnight, chipmaker Nvidia dived 17 per cent, wiping off nearly USD 593 billion in the biggest market capitalisation loss in history.

"We are on the front edge of an urgent re-evaluation of a narrative that has gripped the market for almost two years. That makes it hard to shrug off after 36 hours," said Brent Donnelly, president of trading and analytics firm Spectra Markets.

Nvidia stock was up slightly in after-hours trading. Nasdaq 100 futures rose 0.1 per cent and S&P 500 futures were broadly flat.

Nvidia supplier Advantest was down 10 per cent in Japan today, taking losses for the week so far to nearly 19 per cent. There were further sharp falls for AI-backer SoftBank Group, down 5.5 per cent, and data-centre cable maker Furukawa Electric, down 8 per cent. Both had already fallen heavily on Monday, with SoftBank now 13 per cent lower after two days and Furukawa down 20 per cent.

Data centre landlords tumbled in Australia. Tech heavy markets in Taiwan and South Korea were closed for a holiday.

Nvidia accounted for most of the 3 per cent drop in the Nasdaq on Monday, though selling extended from Tokyo to New York and hit everything with a slice of the AI supply chain, from cable makers to data centres, power utilities and software firms.

The CBOE Volatility Index, known as Wall Street's fear gauge, leapt and safe-haven assets such as government bonds, the yen and the Swiss franc all rallied.

Ten-year US Treasury yields fell 9.5 basis points, and were last steady at 4.55 per cent in Asia. Fed fund futures have put in an extra 9 bps of easing by year-end. Even oil prices dropped 2 per cent on worries about energy demand.

DeepSeek, a little-known startup from

Hangzhou, China, has a free AI assistant it said was developed very cheaply using lower-cost chips and less data than US rivals.

"The narrative that's concerning people here is that DS has delivered performance-topping models on a shoestring budget," said JP Morgan sector specialist Josh Meyers in a note to clients.

"This has been seen by some as egg-on-the-face of the big, multi-billion dollar operations like OpenAI, Google and Anthropic. And it's calling into question whether we're going to need multi-billions of dollars in compute capex when DeepSeek's leading distilled models can run natively on an iPhone."

BROAD RISK-OFF MOOD

On Wall Street, the S&P 500, dropped 1.5 per cent. Chipmaker Broadcom, fell 17.4 per cent and the Philadelphia semiconductor index dropped 9.2 per cent - its biggest loss since March 2020. Gold prices declined more than 1 per cent as investors liquidated bullion to cover losses elsewhere.

Google parent Alphabet fell 4.2 per cent and Microsoft fell 2.1 per cent, with both steadying in after-hours trade.

In Europe, the STOXX Europe 600 technology index fell more than 3 per cent and ASML, which makes chip manufacturing equipment, fell 7 per cent.

Bitcoin, lately a barometer of markets' risk appetite, dropped below USD 100,000 for the first time in a week before steadying around USD 101,700.

The dollar fell nearly 1 per cent against the yen overnight and 0.4 per cent against the Swiss franc - two currencies that often gain during periods of market unease.

Early today it ticked higher against both, trading at 155.36 yen and making modest gains elsewhere, holding the euro to USD 1.0454. Markets in China were closed to usher in the Lunar New Year and Hong Kong trade closes at noon.

Both the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank meet to set interest rates later in the week.

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One Nation, One Election Report Costs Centre Rs 95,000 · Rs 491 Per Day



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The government spent Rs 95,344 on drafting the 'One Nation, One Election' report, according to the Ministry of Law and Justice. The details were disclosed in response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed.

The report assessed the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections across the country. A high-level committee, chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was constituted on September 2, 2023, to work on the report. The committee submitted its findings on March 14, 2024, after 194 days.

The expenditure translates to approximately Rs 491 per day, assuming the committee worked daily. If non-working days were accounted for, the per-day cost could be higher.

The RTI application sought from the government a detailed breakdown of the expenses incurred in drafting the report, including costs on research consultancy, travel, and printing. In response, the government stated that the expenditure was categorised under the following categories: Information, Computer, and Telecommunication Office Expenses

Professional Services
Machinery and Equipment
Digital Equipment
Domestic Travel Expenses
Printing and Publication

No payments were made to committee members, as revealed in response to another query. This suggests that the members contributed to the report on an honorary basis.

The committee included Chairman Ram Nath Kovind, Union Minister Amit Shah, former Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh, former Lok Sabha Secretary General Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, Senior Advocate Harish Salve, and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Law and Justice, was a Special Invitee, and Dr. Nitin Chandra served as the committee's secretary.

On December 17, 2024, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Law (Amendment) Bill were introduced in the Lok Sabha. A total of 269 members supported the bills, while 198 opposed them. The government has recommended referring the bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for further consultation.

Poll Body Seeks Haryana's Response After AAP Alleges High Ammonia Levels in Delhi Water

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered the Haryana government to submit a factual report by today noon (January 28) regarding allegations of increased ammonia levels in the water supplied from Haryana to Delhi, according to sources. The high level of ammonia in Yamuna has purportedly disrupted water availability in the national capital, sources said.

The directive came after a representation was jointly submitted by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, accusing BJP-ruled Haryana government of deliberately polluting Yamuna water ahead of the Delhi assembly elections.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched a scathing attack on the BJP over the issue and accused the Haryana government of mixing "poison" in the Yamuna water to disrupt Delhi's water supply.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Delhi Jal Board Shilpa Shinde wrote to the Chief Secretary, and said that Kejriwal's statements are "factually incorrect, without any basis and misleading".

"Such false statements lead to fear-mongering among Delhi residents and also adversely affect relations with upper riparian states," she was quoted as saying in the letter. She asked the Chief Secretary to bring the matter to the Lieutenant



Governor's attention.

Kejriwal had alleged, "Nothing is a bigger sin than depriving people of water. The BJP is trying to leave the people of Delhi thirsty for its dirty politics. They are mixing poison in the water being sent from Haryana. This contaminated water is so toxic that it cannot be treated by the water treatment plants present in Delhi. The BJP wants to commit mass murder of Delhi residents. We will not let this happen."

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi claimed 30% of the Delhi residents are at risk of water shortage because of the high ammonia content in Yamuna water.

"The ammonia-laden water has pushed three major water treatment plants in Delhi—Wazirabad, Chandrawal, and Okhla—to the brink of shutdown," she said.

Atishi alleged that "Haryana's actions are politically motivated to impact the upcoming elections."

HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER'S COUNTERCLAIMS

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini responded to AAP's allegations and called the claims "baseless".

"The allegation of polluting Yamuna water is baseless. Yamuna's pollution is Delhi's doing. I've met people in Haryana who are forced to drink polluted water because of Delhi's untreated waste. The AAP government is responsible for the 28 drains polluting Yamuna before it even reaches Haryana," said the Haryana Chief Minister.

He accused the AAP chief of failing to clean the river despite promises. Haryana Minister Anil Vij also responded to the controversy and called Kejriwal "a factory of lies".

"Kejriwal is a factory of lies. Conduct a quality check at the point where our water enters Delhi then compare it with the water quality in Delhi. The difference will be clearly visible. Cleaning the Yamuna in Delhi was Kejriwal's responsibility, which he failed to fulfill," said the minister.

The Delhi elections, which are scheduled to take place on February 5, will witness a fierce triangular contest between the AAP, BJP and the Congress. The ruling AAP, battling a wave of corruption allegations, will be eyeing a hat-trick.

Controversy Erupts Over Mallikarjun Kharge's 'Dip Won't Remove Poverty' Remark at Maha Kumbh

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on Maha Kumbh have sparked a political row following his attack on BJP leaders taking holy dips at the grand spiritual event in Prayagraj. In response, the BJP called Kharge's remarks "an attack on Sanatan Dharma" and sought an explanation from Congress.

Kharge questioned the significance of taking a holy dip in the Ganga, accusing BJP leaders of turning the sacred ritual into a "competition" while critical issues like children dying of hunger, lack of education, and widespread poverty remained unaddressed.

"Does taking a dip in the Ganga remove poverty? Does it provide food? I don't want to hurt anyone's faith, and I apologise if my words have hurt anyone. But while children are dying of hunger, unable to go to school, and labourers are not getting paid, BJP leaders are competing to take dips in the Ganga. They keep doing it until they look good on TV. The nation will not benefit from such people," Kharge said



while addressing the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow.

The comments came on the same day Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participated in the holy ritual and took a dip in the Ganga. The BJP was quick to hit back, accusing Kharge of targeting Hindus and reading out from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's script.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra criticised Kharge's remarks, calling them an attack on Sanatan Dharma. "Can he say such things about any other religion? Such

statements are condemnable, and the Congress party must provide an explanation. This is the same Kharge who said they would destroy Sanatan Dharma if they came to power," Patra said. Meanwhile, Amit Malviya also weighed in, accusing the Congress of harbouring a deep-seated animosity toward Hindus.

"Kharge ji is speaking, but the words are of the Gandhi family. Why does the Congress hate Hindus so much? The Maha Kumbh comes once in 144 years, but Congress leaders are so agitated that they curse Hindus. First, Hussain Dalvi mocked the Kumbh, and now Kharge has opened a front. Congress has become the new Muslim League, and its extinction is in the nation's interest," Malviya said. Since its commencement on January 13 with Paush Purnima, Maha Kumbh has attracted over 110 million devotees who have taken sacred baths at Prayagraj during the initial fortnight, according to reports on

Roundtrip to Maha Kumbh Costs More Than a Trip to the Maldives, Shocking Revelations

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

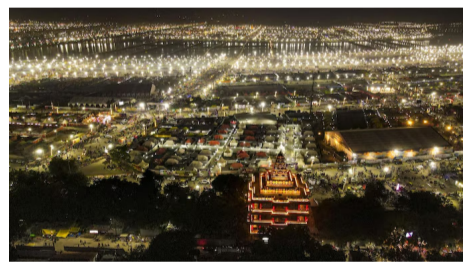
New Delhi : An international trip to the Maldives can cost you much less than a holy dip during the Maha Kumbh mela. The absence of proper regulation on surging airfares has enabled airlines to inflate ticket prices to as high as Rs 64,000 for a round trip to the Maha Kumbh Mela from Chennai, outpricing even the most lucrative travel destinations like the Maldives or Bali.

The situation is similar in other metro cities like New Delhi, Kolkata, and Bangalore, where ticket prices to Prayagraj range between Rs 35,000 and Rs 50,000 during key snan days.

The surge is evident during the important days of Mauni Amavasya Snan (Jan 29), Basant Panchami (Feb 3), Maghi Purnima (Feb 12), and Mahashivratri (Feb 26). From New Delhi, a round trip to Prayagraj around January 31 costs a staggering Rs 49,600, compared to the standard fare of Rs 9,060.

The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) on Monday urged airlines to rationalise airfares to Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh, addressing the concerns over soaring ticket prices. To accommodate the rising demand, the DGCA approved 81 additional flights in January, increasing Prayagraj's air connectivity to 132 flights nationwide.

While international round trips to popular destinations like the Maldives are priced below Rs 30,000 for the same period, airfares from Prayagraj to major metro cities soar to an average of Rs 50,000 - a striking 300-600 per cent surge from standard fares.



VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal stated that while the Uttar Pradesh government ensures security and facilities for devotees, numerous religious, social, and philanthropic organisations are offering selfless services during the Kumbh Mela.

He criticised airlines for exploiting the surge in passengers by hiking economy fares by "200 to 700 per cent due to which the devotees visiting Maha Kumbh and returning from there are facing serious inconveniences".

A round trip to Prayagraj on February 14 (the eve of Maghi Purnima), costs over Rs 33,000 from Delhi, Rs 40,000 from Hyderabad/Chennai/Kolkata, and above Rs 45,000 from Mumbai or Bengaluru—prices higher than many popular international flights.

Many devotees opted for alternative travel routes, such as flying to Lucknow and continuing the journey by bus to the site of the holy snan.

"The steep costs initially made me question whether the trip would fit within my budget. However, attending the Maha Kumbh is a profound, once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience that I couldn't bear

to miss. Instead of cancelling, I chose to explore alternate routes," says Jainy Shah, who plans to visit the Maha Kumbh during Maghi Purnima.

FLYING ABROAD VS FLYING WITHIN INDIA

Domestic flights in India were once an affordable and convenient travel option. However, this trend has shifted, with international destinations often proving cheaper than some domestic routes. For instance, a round-trip from Delhi to Kochi or Guwahati can cost as much or even more than flights to Bangkok, Dubai, or Europe during certain seasons.

The standard airfares to international destinations such as Bali (Rs 24,300), Bangkok (Rs 20,200), Vietnam (Rs 23,400), and Dubai (Rs 39,000) remain considerably lower than the exorbitant rates for Prayagraj flights during the Maha Kumbh.

This is not the first time domestic travel in India has outpriced international trips. A similar trend was observed during the Coldplay concert earlier this month, where fans were forced to reluctantly resell their concert passes.

Skyrocketing airfares, the lack of affordable train tickets, and steep accommodation costs in Ahmedabad and Mumbai compelled many to reconsider attending the event.

A round trip from Bengaluru to Mumbai was priced at a staggering Rs 28,000. Similarly, for the Ahmedabad concerts scheduled for Jan 25 and 26, the round-trip fare from Bengaluru soared even higher, reaching Rs 35,000.

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