



MOHALI

Petrol / Ltr. Rs: 97.92/-

Diesel / Ltr. Rs: 88.39/-

LPG Rs: 862.50/-

CHANDIGARH

Petrol / Ltr. Rs: 94.30/-

Diesel / Ltr. Rs: 82.45/-

LPG Rs: 862.50/-

PANCHKULA

Petrol / Ltr. Rs: 95.91/-

Diesel / Ltr. Rs: 88.73/-

LPG Rs: 879.50/-

GOLD & SILVER

Rates Per Gram

GOLD

24 CARAT ₹ 98,500/-

22 CARAT ₹ 92,100/-

SILVER ₹ 100/-



SUNDER JEWELLERS

SCO 94, Sec. 35-C, Chandigarh
Phone: (172) 2613902, 5086902



MOHALI WEATHER 10:30 AM

Temperature 32°C

Sunset: 7:02 PM

Friday, 02.05.2025
Sunrise 5:38 AM (IST)

Next Full Moon

12 May 2025

Next New Moon

26 May 2025

For our valuable Readers,

If you want to share any News, Information, Grievances, or inputs etc with us, please send us on our

Whatsapp Number: 8968900999

or send an e-mail to: theamansandeshtimes@gmail.com

Note:

Your name and identity will be kept confidential if you wish for.

Mandal 2.0: Modi's Caste Census Gamble - Bold Reform or Ballot Play?

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Narendra Modi-led government announced its decision to conduct a nationwide caste census alongside the upcoming population enumeration - marking a dramatic departure from the BJP's historical position on caste-based data. The move comes months before elections in politically crucial states like Bihar and has ignited a tug-of-war between the BJP-led NDA and the Opposition over who deserves credit for the decision. The announcement, viewed by many as a bold reversal, is seen as a direct response to mounting political pressure and changing ground realities. During the 1990s, the BJP famously opposed the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations for OBC reservations, coining the slogan "Mandal ka jawab Kamandal se" to promote a unified Hindu identity over caste distinctions. Today, the saffron party is spearheading an initiative that could potentially transform India's social and political landscape-drawing comparisons to a "Mandal 2.0" moment. Expectedly, the Opposition wasted no time in claiming moral victory. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had first



raised the demand during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, called the decision an overdue but welcome step. "We had stated in Parliament that we would ensure the caste census takes place. We had also committed to removing the 50 per cent cap-an artificial barrier on reservations," Gandhi said. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the party had always pushed for a caste census and described the decision as long overdue. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, whose government conducted its own social, economic, and caste Survey earlier this year, hailed the Centre's move as validation of his administration's efforts. "What Telangana does today, India follows tomorrow," he said, noting that their survey found 56.32 per cent of the state's population belongs to Backward

Castes. The timing of the Centre's announcement has raised eyebrows, with many interpreting it as a strategic manoeuvre to protect the BJP's growing support among Other Backward Classes (OBCs) while maintaining its traditional upper-caste vote base. Just last year, Prime Minister Modi accused the Opposition of seeking to "divide people on caste, language and region", during a rally in Madhya Pradesh. In states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh - where caste equations significantly influence election outcomes-the caste census may help the BJP neutralise the narrative built by regional players like JD(U), RJD, and Samajwadi Party, who have long positioned themselves as defenders of backward caste interests. By initiating the process under the Union government's supervision, the BJP can shape the scope, pace, and political messaging of the exercise, thereby limiting the ability of opposition-ruled states to frame the debate on their own terms. However, the move is not without risk. The BJP has, over the last decade, carefully cultivated an image of Hindu

unity that deemphasises intra-Hindu caste divisions. A fresh enumeration of caste data may reopen long-standing demands for increased quotas, OBC sub-categorisation, and a redistribution of resources that could upset this fragile balance. The resulting social churn could potentially alienate sections of the BJP's upper-caste support base while emboldening calls for deeper affirmative action. Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly projected himself as an OBC leader who rose through hard work and merit, helping the BJP connect with non-dominant backward caste groups across the country. The push for a caste census could be seen as a natural progression-from symbolic recognition to structural empowerment. Analysts suggest this may mark the beginning of a new phase in Indian politics, one that mirrors the transformative impact of the Mandal era. With Bihar set to go to polls later this year and opposition parties rallying around the issue of caste equity, the BJP's announcement appears to be a pre-emptive political strike. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's state-level caste survey has already set the tone for national discourse, leaving the Centre little room to resist the demand without risking the perception of being anti-OBC.

CM Clears Ally's Role as CPM Faces Internal Strain

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Thiruvananthapuram : Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in an alleged effort to quell speculation and media chatter, issued a clarification concerning senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader PK Sreemathy's status within the Kerala unit. He affirmed that the veteran leader was not barred from attending state secretariat meetings - as long as they pertain to her designated responsibilities. "PK Sreemathy has been given organisational responsibilities related to her work for women. These are not connected to the Kerala unit of the party," Vijayan told reporters at a press conference on Wednesday. "So, there is no bar for her attending state committee meetings and any state secretariat meetings held in connection with that." The clarification came in the wake of media reports alleging that the senior leader, popularly known as Sreemathy Teacher, had been informally "banned" from state secretariat meetings by none other than the Chief Minister himself. These reports surfaced after an incident last week when, during a secretariat meeting, Vijayan allegedly told Sreemathy that her participation was not permitted and that no special exemption had been granted to her. According to sources, she responded by saying she had received no such communication from either party general secretary MA Baby or state secretary



MV Govindan. The exchange reportedly ended without further discussion, but Sreemathy did not attend the following secretariat meeting. However, she was present at the next day's state committee meeting, attending like a special invitee similar to other senior leaders who had stepped down. Vijayan's clarification sought to put these events in context. He explained that under the CPI(M)'s national rule, leaders above the age of 75 are expected to relinquish organisational responsibilities. In Kerala, this rule was implemented earlier this year, prompting the retirement of Sreemathy, AK Balan and Anavoor Nagappan from the state secretariat. "The general working period of comrades is 75 years. This is the position we have taken throughout the country. However, some concessions have been made. I am one of them," Vijayan said. "Organisational responsibilities are not given after reaching the age limit. Sreemathy Teacher was given the women's section."

Terror Plot Foiled in Pahalgam: Park Attack Averted After Recon of 3 Sites

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A week before the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on April 22, terrorists had conducted reconnaissance of three locations in the area on April 15, sources said. One of the terrorists surveyed the amusement park in Pahalgam, but the plan to attack the site was dropped due to heightened security. Sources added that the terrorists were found using an ultra-state communication system during the attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran valley. This system allows terrorists to communicate and exchange messages without using a SIM card, enabling short-range, secure communication. Two signals from this system were traced in the area during the attack. According to a preliminary forensic analysis and testimonies of survivors, the terrorists used military-grade weapons and advanced communication devices, indicating external logistical support. The Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir showed striking similarities to Hamas tactics used in Israel. Investigators reported the use of helmet-mounted body cams, identity checks, and encrypted apps by Pakistan-based terrorists. The attack targeted non-Muslims, particularly Hindus, in a tourist area. Security agencies are investigating local support and the source of high-tech equipment used by the attackers. Security agencies released sketches of the suspected terrorists behind the attack on April 23. **PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK**



On April 22, three terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists in the Baisaran meadow, which is around 5 kms from Pahalgam. The meadow - also known as 'mini Switzerland' - is accessible only by foot or by horseback. The Pahalgam carnage was one of the deadliest civilian attacks in the Kashmir Valley in recent years. The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the attack. Eyewitnesses said the terrorists emerged from the surrounding pine forests and fired at people picnicking, riding ponies, or eating at food stalls. Most of the victims were tourists, including two foreigners from the UAE and Nepal, and two locals. In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, a Cabinet Committee on Security meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took a series of sweeping diplomatic and strategic countermeasures against Pakistan, including the effective downgrading of diplomatic relations with Pakistan, closure of key border routes, suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, and the expulsion of Pakistani military attaches from its High Commission in New Delhi.



ATUL INDUSTRIES

MANUFACTURER PUBLISHER PRINTER

Manufacturers of : Exercise Books, Registers, Gatta/Corrugated Boxes, Wedding Cards
Deals In : Multicolour Printing, Office/School Stationery & General/Govt. Orders Supplier

atulindustriesmohali@gmail.com 0 89689 00999

Plot No. F-78, Indl. Area, Phase-7, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali

Amarjit Singh

075890-90001

093161-30691

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

Jasvinder Singh

98148-39124

Bajaj Associates (Regd.)

REAL ESTATE, PROPERTY & INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS
(GMADA APPROVED)

S.C.F. 28, Phase 5, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) 160059 (INDIA)

Near Punjab & Sind Bank

Tel : 0172-2260750, 2226643

E-mail : bajajassociatesph5@gmail.com

Bizarre Blunder Govt's Jagannath Temple Ad Sparks Stir

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

The West Bengal government's double-spread advertisement in newspapers for the Jagannath temple in Digha had a bizarre entry -- Female Vibrators in Digha. The advertisement was published in newspapers on April 30, the day of the prana pratishtha (consecration) ceremony at Jagannathdham, Digha, in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The advertisement featured in multiple newspapers, in Bengali and English, and was carried across India. This is a big embarrassment for the Mamata government also, given that it was trying a soft Hindutva approach with the Jagannath temple project. The project was an outreach to the Hindus of Bengal who were shocked at the abject surrender of Mamata Banerjee government and the Trinamool Congress to Muslim mobs during the anti-waqf law protests. The two-page advertisement by the West Bengal government carries an image of the Jagannathdham in Digha, a big cutout of Mamata Banerjee, a navigation map, and a description of the Jagannath temple. It provides the distance to the Jagannathdham in Digha from spots like the Kharagpur and Howrah stations, Esplanade and



Kolkata's Dum Dum airport. It also featured a QR code to watch the Pran Pratishtha ceremony live. Female Vibrators in Digha pinned location has crept into the advertisement on the navigation map. The map features spots around the Digha Jagannath temple and some nearby areas. The Female Vibrators in Digha is marked with a blue shopping bag icon, showing that it is a commercial spot. It is sandwiched between Amrabati Park and Jagannath Ghat, a religious spot.

The navigation map must have been picked up from online maps and escaped scrutiny. People on social media were quick to spot and flag the bizarre entry, "Female Vibrators in Digha". Bengaluru-based Karthik, flagging the error, called it an "unforgettable lesson" to always get a fresh pair of eyes to check an ad before it goes to print and to double-check details when using a Google Maps screenshot. "In the picture here, the map screenshot may look small, but consider you holding a 2-page newspaper spread in your hands and imagine the size of the map then. The map has been added specifically to show the location and hence is quite clear and readable in the print

version, including the unrelated/unwanted listing," Karthik wrote on X. Reacting to the "Mamata Banerjee government's advertisements for the inauguration of the Jagannath Cultural Complex in Digha", BJP leader Amit Malviya called the goof-up, "deeply disgraceful" and "a deliberate insult to Hindu sentiments". "It is deeply disgraceful that the Mamata Banerjee government's advertisements for the inauguration of the Jagannath Cultural Complex in Digha appeared to promote inappropriate content. This is a deliberate insult to Hindu sentiments and a profound disrespect to the devotees of Lord Jagannath. Such actions reflect a

lack of genuine devotion, driven instead by regressive and cynical political motives," Malviya posted on X on Wednesday. Just 180km from Kolkata, Digha -- a beach town -- has been popular with people from the city on weekend breaks and also with honeymooners. Of late, message parlours and spas, some with questionable reputations, have come up in Digha. It has become a haunt of college students and young professionals. Lord Jagannath, an avatar of Vishnu, is the presiding deity of Puri in Odisha. The coastal Odisha town is visited by millions of Jagannath devotees from Bengal every year. The distance between Digha and Puri is 345 kms. The Jagannathdham in Digha, inaugurated on April 30, the day of Akshay Tritiya, was constructed in three years.



Atul Sharma

Astro Speak by:
Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
02nd May

Born on 02nd May : 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.

DEV BHOMI SOLAR SOLUTIONS

Solar Water Heating System, Solar Street Lights, Solar Inverter,
Others S.P.V. Systems & Fabrication works

E-139, Industrial Area, Phase-7, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali - 160055
devbhomisolar@gmail.com, dpsharma5248@gmail.com

DP SHARMA
98557-25248
84270-06368

Aries

May 02nd 2025 : Health remains good. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered. Share your happiness with your parents. Let them feel worthwhile as feeling of loneliness and depression are erased. Your soulmate will think about you all day.

Taurus

May 02nd 2025 : Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Today, with the help of a close friend, some businessmen are likely to gain monetary benefits. This money can overcome many of your troubles. Today you will stop a heart from breaking.

Gemini

May 02nd 2025 : In spite of your high spirits you will be missing someone who couldn't be with you today. Those who were unnecessarily spending money till now will understand how hard it is to earn and save money, as sudden requirement amidst financial scarcity will arise.

Cancer

May 02nd 2025 : Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. Investment should be avoided today. For some- a new arrival in the family brings in moments for celebration and party. Your love life will bring you something really really awesome today.

Leo

May 02nd 2025 : Meditation would bring relief. You are very likely to attain financial benefits today, but you must perform charity and make donations, as it will acquire mental peace. Travel program made well in advanced might get postponed due to the health problems.

Virgo

May 02nd 2025 : Your doubting nature may show you the face of defeat. Control your expenses and try not to be too lavish in your spending today. Problems with servants- colleagues and co-workers cannot be ruled out. Stay away from gossip and rumours.

Libra

May 02nd 2025 : Don't get upset when you confront a tricky situation. As food owes its flavour to salt-some unhappiness is essential only then you realize the value of happiness. Attend some social gathering to change your mood. Today, your money can be spent on many things.

Scorpio

May 02nd 2025 : Today you are under magic spell of hope. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Love- companionship and bonding on the rise. Secret affairs can ruin your reputation.

Sagittarius

May 02nd 2025 : Take complete rest to regain your energy. You do not understand the importance of money in life, but today, you'll realize its significance as you'll be in need of finances but won't have enough to carry out. Your timely help would save someone to experience misfortune.

Capricorn

May 02nd 2025 : You are likely to spend your time in sports to maintain your physical stamina. Today, with the help of a native of the opposite sex, you are likely to get financial benefits in business or job. Unexpected good news from distant relatives will bring happy moments.

Aquarius

May 02nd 2025 : You are likely to enjoy some sporting activity which will maintain your physical fitness. Today you should focus on issues related to land, real estate, or cultural projects. Your pleasant behaviour would enlighten the family life. Today, you will fall in love.

Pisces

May 02nd 2025 : Health wise this period will be dull therefore be careful of what you consume. Today, seek the blessings of your elders before going out of the house, as it will benefit you. It is not the right time to share your personal feelings/secrets with your beloved.

WE ARE

HIRING

EXPERIENCED & FRESHERS

CONTENT WRITERS
REPORTERS | ANCHORS
VIDEO EDITORS | CAMERAMAN

GOOD SALARY

MUST BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH, HINDI, PUNJABI

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO
theamansandeshtimes@gmail.com

+91 89689 00999

F-78, PHASE 7, INDUSTRIAL AREA, MOHALI, SAS NAGAR

Protests Erupt Over Pb's Water Rights; Accuse BJP of Robbing State's Share

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : A wave of public anger swept through Mohali today as protesters rallied against what they called the BJP government's "dictatorial move" to divert Punjab's water to Haryana through the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). Demonstrators asserted that any attack on Punjab's rights would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Carrying placards and chanting slogans like "Punjab's water belongs to Punjab" and "Stop the theft of our rivers," the protesters accused the central government of systematically undermining



Punjab's constitutional rights

over its natural resources. They demanded an immediate reversal of the decision and restoration of full control to Punjab over its waters. Mohali constituency coordinator Karamjit Singh joined the protest, calling it a crucial fight for Punjab's future. "This is not just about water, it's about dignity, federalism, and the survival of our farmers," he said. Protesters urged the public to stand united against what they described as an ongoing injustice, and warned that if the central government doesn't revoke its decision, the agitation would intensify.

Dolphin (PG) College Chandigarh Named Leading Paramedical Institution in North India

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : In a significant recognition of its contribution to healthcare education, Dolphin (PG) College, Chandigarh, has been honoured as the "Emerging Paramedical College of North India" at the prestigious Education Conclave 2025: Taleem, held at Hotel Hyatt, Chandigarh, on April 30. The award was presented by the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, in the presence of key dignitaries, including Punjab Education Minister Sardar Harjot Singh Bains, who graced the event as Guest of Honour. Er. Vibhav Mittal, Vice Chairman of Dolphin (PG) College, accepted the award on behalf of the institution. This recognition highlights the college's growing prominence as a centre of excellence in paramedical and allied health sciences education in North



India. Known for its rigorous academic programs and industry-oriented approach, Dolphin (PG) College offers a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate courses attracting students from across India and neighbouring countries. With faculty members drawn from top medical institutions such as PGIMER and

AIIMS, the college emphasizes experiential learning through advanced laboratories, clinical training, and real-time exposure. The institution has established strategic collaborations with major hospitals and diagnostic centres across the Chandigarh Tricity and Punjab to ensure students receive high-quality professional training. Speaking at the ceremony, Er. Vibhav Mittal said, "This award is a testament to our commitment to producing skilled, compassionate healthcare professionals. We dedicate this honour to our faculty, students, and industry partners who continue to drive our mission forward." As Dolphin (PG) College continues to innovate and expand its academic footprint, this latest accolade reinforces its position as a leading force in shaping the future of allied health sciences in India.

PEC Chandigarh Hosts Swayam Prabha Awareness Session to Promote Digital Education Contributions

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Department of Aerospace Engineering at Punjab Engineering College (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh, organized an insightful Swayam Prabha Awareness Session on April 29, 2025, to encourage faculty engagement with the national digital learning initiative. The session focused on guiding educators from Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering disciplines on contributing high-quality content to the Swayam Prabha Direct-to-Home (DTH) educational platform. Coordinated by Dr. T.K. Jindal, Acting Head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering, and Dr. Prabhjeet Singh, Assistant Professor, the event featured expert presentations by Ms. Madhavi Rai and Mr. Akash Yadav, Project Executive Officers from IIT Kanpur's Swayam Prabha team. They shared valuable insights into the platform's



objectives, structure, and the processes involved in offering and managing courses for a nationwide audience. The session drew enthusiastic participation from faculty members of Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College (GNDEC), Ludhiana, including Mr. Lakhveer Singh Khana and Dr. Harmeet Singh, Professor and Head of Mechanical Engineering, who attended in person. Dr. Sehijpal Singh, Principal of GNDEC, and Dr. Balwinder Singh

Sidhu, Director, College Development Council at Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRS PTU), Bathinda, joined the session virtually. Senior faculty from PEC's Mechanical Engineering Department, including Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (Head), Dr. Sarabjit Singh, Dr. Harshit, Dr. Susheel, and Dr. Kamal Kumar, also participated in the event. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Head of the Aerospace Engineering Department at PEC, joined the session online. The event concluded with a dynamic discussion on how faculty can contribute to Swayam Prabha's vision of accessible, high-quality technical education for students across India. The interaction highlighted opportunities for academic collaboration and innovation in digital learning content.

CM Sukhu Inaugurates IPD Services at AIMSS Chamiana: Robotic Surgery to Begin Soon

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today inaugurated the In-Patient Department (IPD) services at the newly established Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialties (AIMSS) in Chamiana, near Shimla. The move aims to ease the patient burden on Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, and provide specialized medical services under one roof. The Chief Minister announced that AIMSS is set to become the first hospital in the state to offer robotic surgery, with Tanda hospital to follow suit. Departments such as Gastroenterology, Neurology, Endocrinology, Nephrology, Urology, and Plastic Surgery have already been shifted from IGMC to the super specialty facility. Within two months, Cardiology and Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery (CTVS) services will also be transferred to AIMSS. During his visit, CM Sukhu reviewed ongoing operations, interacted with medical staff, and directed officials to



ensure quality healthcare services. He also instructed the Public Works Department to upgrade the approach road to the hospital and assured that transport facilities would be improved for the convenience of patients. Highlighting the state government's commitment, the Chief Minister said that Rs 23 crore had been sanctioned from state resources to complete the hospital, which had remained under construction for years. The facility now houses 337 beds, high-end operation theatres, and a cath lab, and is expected to be fully operational within the next six months. "The state government is modernizing medical colleges, zonal and regional hospitals across Himachal to ensure patients receive world-class treatment

locally, saving time and money," the Chief Minister said. He added that three Tesla MRI machines will soon be installed at the medical colleges in Tanda, Hamirpur, and Nerchowk, replacing outdated equipment like the 19-year-old MRI machine at IGMC. He also emphasized that Rs 200 crore is being invested to upgrade hospitals with advanced technology, positioning Himachal Pradesh as a leader in modern medical infrastructure. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Health Minister Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil, Rural Development Minister Anirudh Singh, Health Secretary M. Sudha Devi, AIMSS Principal Brij Sharma, and other senior officials.

PIC OF THE DAY

WHO CARES...?

Mohali MC's Control Measures Miss the Mark as Illegal Flexes Run Rampant



Atul Sharma

Mohali : Residents have complained that illegal banners, posters, and hoardings have defaced the entire city. The unauthorised erection of flexes by political/religious parties has become rampant across Mohali, with iron pipe structures being installed at key intersections to reserve permanent spaces for these displays. Mohali Residents has complained that Roads and junctions are inundated with posters, banners, and hoardings. Residents complained that the whole Mohali city has been defaced with banners, posters, and hoardings. Pillars, road dividers, and govt property are being defaced with banners and posters. Nobody is being held accountable. I am not

blaming anybody, but as a citizen, I want our Mohali to be clean and green," said a senior citizen while talking to the team The Aman Sandesh Times. Residents demanded that Municipal Corporation should take strict legal action and impose fines on violators. However, Municipal Corporation's concerned signs department has turned a blind eye to these blatant violations, particularly when it comes to political/religious parties. Advertising flexes are prohibited on public and municipally owned spaces such as sidewalks, roads, street lamp posts, and school boundary walls. Despite this, many individuals continue to display flexes illegally on pavements. **Who Cares???**

Shemrock School Celebrates Labour Day with Fun Games, Tributes for Class D Staff



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Shemrock Senior Secondary School, Sector 69, Mohali, celebrated Labour Day with enthusiasm and heartfelt appreciation for its Class D staff members, recognizing their dedication and vital contribution to the school community. The event began with a welcome speech acknowledging the tireless efforts of the workers, followed by a fun-filled celebration organized specially for the support staff. The highlight of the program was a fancy dress competition presented by students, who dressed as community helpers and spoke about their roles—demonstrating respect for various essential professions. The Class D employees actively participated in fun games arranged exclusively for them, bringing smiles and laughter to the celebration. Special refreshments were served after school hours, and each staff

member received handmade cards, flowers, chocolates, and cash prizes for the game winners, as tokens of gratitude and recognition. Overwhelmed by the gesture, the workers expressed their heartfelt thanks to the school management, teachers, and students for making the day memorable. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Parneet Sohal emphasized the significance of honouring the contributions of every member of the school family. "This celebration is a meaningful way to thank our support staff for their priceless services. It also instills in our students the value of dignity of labour and respect for every role in the organization's success," she said. The event not only fostered a spirit of inclusivity but also reinforced the message that every role matters in building a thriving educational environment.

Water Row Escalates: CM Mann 'Not a Drop to Spare'. Calls Emergency Meeting



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The water dispute between Punjab and Haryana has intensified, with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann firmly stating that "not a single drop" of water will be given to Haryana. The ongoing conflict over the Bhakra Canal water supply has now triggered a political storm, bureaucratic reshuffle, and heavy police deployment at Nangal Dam. Speaking during a visit to Nangal Dam, CM Mann declared, "We don't have water. Don't expect any from us. Punjab's water belongs to Punjabis. We will not let it go to anyone else." The Chief Minister accused the BJP-led governments in Haryana and Rajasthan of acting in a dictatorial manner by unilaterally voting in favor of releasing water to Haryana during a Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) meeting. BBMB Reshuffle Amid Political Heat In a significant move, the Secretary of BBMB, Surinder Singh Mittal—appointed from the Haryana quota—has been replaced by Balveer Singh from Punjab. Earlier, Engineer Akashdeep Singh, Director of Water Regulation from Punjab's side, was also removed and replaced with Engineer Sanjeev Kumar from Haryana. These swift administrative changes have further fueled tensions. The Punjab Police, led by Ropar Range DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, has reportedly cordoned off the Nangal Dam control station, although officials claim it is merely a security review. CM Mann Calls Emergency Meeting CM Mann has announced that an all-party meeting or special Assembly session will be convened to address the issue, with a final decision expected soon. The Aam Aadmi Party has also called a meeting of its ministers and MLAs, which will be attended by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Mann himself.

BBMB Orders Full Supply to Haryana. An emergency meeting of the BBMB, held at the behest of Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, directed that 8,500 cusecs of water be supplied to Haryana—up from the 4,000 cusecs currently being given by Punjab. While Punjab's representatives opposed the decision, officials from Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi supported it. Punjab claims that Haryana has exhausted its water quota as of March, and that the reduced supply was being continued only on humanitarian grounds. Haryana CM Hits Back Haryana Chief Minister Naib Saini lashed out at the AAP leadership, accusing CM Mann of playing politics with water. "Because of Punjab CM, water will go to Pakistan. Punjab is our elder brother; we've never denied drinking water. This dirty politics must stop," he said. Saini further accused Arvind Kejriwal of being in political shock over the recent Delhi setback, alleging that he is now trying to divert attention by stoking regional tensions in Punjab. Punjab Finance Minister Responds Responding sharply, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said, "Not a single drop of water will go to Haryana. They misused drinking water for other purposes. Had they managed it better, it would have lasted till May 21." Background Punjab had reduced water supply to Haryana from 8,500 to 4,000 cusecs over the past 17 days. The BBMB's latest directive aims to restore full supply, but with rising political tension and administrative reshuffling, the issue has spiraled into a full-blown interstate conflict. The matter continues to draw sharp reactions from both states as the dispute over river water rights once again threatens to escalate into a broader political and legal battle.

Cracks Down on Littering: Rs.1,500 Fine for Tourists, Rs. 10,000 Without Car Dustbin



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : In a bold move to preserve the ecological beauty of its hills and tourist destinations, the Himachal Pradesh government has implemented two new rules aimed at curbing littering and promoting cleanliness. Effective from April 29, all commercial vehicles must now have dustbins installed, and a fine of ₹1,500 will be imposed on anyone found littering in public spaces, including tourists and locals. According to the new directive, owners of taxis, tempo travellers, buses (private and government), and commercial vehicles from other states operating in Himachal without a dustbin will face a penalty of ₹10,000. The initiative aims to tackle the growing waste problem, particularly during peak tourist seasons when the state sees an influx of 1.5 to 2 crore domestic and international visitors. The rules fall under the existing Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage Control Act (1995) and are being enforced by multiple government departments, including the Environment and Transport departments. Shimla's Regional Transport Officer, Anil, stated that while formal chalking has not yet begun, awareness efforts are underway, especially among transporters. "Currently, we are informing people and encouraging them to comply. Vehicles coming for passing are only approved

once dustbins are installed. Challans will begin in a week," he added. The state is also planning to introduce an online challan system via a mobile app, making enforcement more efficient. Employees from any government department will be authorized to issue challans, with no separate task force deployed at this stage. To support the new requirement, Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) and private taxi operators have already begun installing dustbins in their fleets. Large dustbins will also be set up at bus stands and public places to facilitate disposal. President of the Himachal Commercial Vehicle Union, Rajendra Thakur, welcomed the government's decision and urged both transporters and tourists to cooperate. "Keeping our mountains clean is everyone's responsibility. Dustbins are already being placed in most commercial vehicles," he said. The state government has previously taken several steps to protect the environment, including a ban on colored polythene envelopes since 1999, followed by a complete ban on polythene bags in 2009, and later on single-use plastics. With these new rules, Himachal Pradesh continues to strengthen its commitment to sustainable tourism and environmental protection, setting an example for other states to follow.

HC Slams UT Over Dilapidated Staff Quarters

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has taken serious note of the deteriorating condition of government quarters allotted to High Court employees in Chandigarh and has sought a detailed response from the Union Territory (UT) administration regarding alleged discrimination in allotment and poor maintenance. The court's action follows suo motu cognizance of a media report highlighting the crumbling state of staff quarters in Sectors 22, 24, 27, 29, and 33. The report described alarming scenes—broken walls, peeling plaster, termite-infested woodwork, falling cement dust from ceilings, and dangerously overgrown grass creating a risk of snakes and other animals. Bathrooms and kitchens were also reported to be in a severely dilapidated state.



During the hearing, the High Court asked the UT administration whether a separate housing pool has been considered for judicial staff and questioned the existing House Allotment Committee's composition, where only one of six members is a judicial representative—the Registrar General of the High Court. "When only one member out of six is from the judiciary, the majority lies with the administration. Is this fair?" the court asked pointedly.

In response, the UT administration informed the court that allotments are made based on a joint seniority list of UT and High Court employees. However, the court appeared dissatisfied with the lack of adequate judicial representation in the decision-making process. Amid the ongoing scrutiny, the UT administration has reshuffled key positions in the House Allotment Committee. Akhil Kumar has been appointed as the new Additional Secretary, replacing Saurabh Kumar Arora. In related administrative appointments, Dr. Richa has been named Registrar, Co-operative Societies, and Isha Kamboj has been appointed Director of the Museum and Art Gallery. The matter is expected to come up for further hearing, with the court emphasizing the urgent need to address the unsafe and inhumane living conditions faced by its own employees.

BBMB Water Release to Hry Triggers Row; Pb Official Transferred

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : A day after the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) directed the release of 8,500 cusecs of water from the Bhakra Dam to Haryana, a major controversy has erupted, culminating in the transfer of a senior Punjab officer. Akashdeep Singh, Director of Water Regulation at Nangal and a Punjab cadre officer, has been relieved of his post and replaced by Haryana cadre officer Sanjeev Kumar. The reshuffle is being seen as a strategic move to ensure the implementation of BBMB's contentious order, which the Punjab government has been opposing. Sources suggest that Akashdeep Singh had been adhering to the guidelines in the Regulation Manual, insisting on receiving a formal indent from Punjab



before releasing any water to Haryana. Allegedly under pressure from the Punjab government, he resisted the BBMB's directive until proper protocol was followed. In a twist, the official transfer orders

claim that the change was made at Akashdeep Singh's own request. However, Singh has since written to the BBMB denying that he ever made such a request. Amid rising tensions, the Punjab government is now exploring legal options to challenge the move. The state's Chief Engineer has also written to the BBMB, stating that Sanjeev Kumar lacks experience in water regulation and is primarily trained in dam safety. The state has demanded an immediate reversal of the transfer. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab has announced statewide protests against the BBMB's decision, escalating what has now become a politically charged water dispute between the two states.

Capt Amarinder Extends Support to Kashmiri Students Amid Harassment Concerns

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Amid rising reports of harassment and intimidation faced by Kashmiri students in Punjab, Chandigarh, and other parts of the country, former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has reached out to express solidarity and extend unconditional support to the affected students. In a heartfelt telephonic conversation with Nasir Khuehami, National Convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), Capt Amarinder conveyed his deep concern over the recent spate of targeted incidents involving Kashmiri students in educational institutions. "Every Kashmiri student is like my own child. They are like my family—an inseparable part of India," Capt Amarinder said. "Punjab is as much their home as Kashmir. My doors are always open to them, anytime, for anything."



Reassuring Kashmiri youth of their safety and dignity, the Patiala royal and senior Congress leader emphasized that Punjab would always remain a safe and inclusive space. "To every Kashmiri student facing intimidation or injustice, please know you are not alone. I stand with you," he added. Khuehami welcomed the outreach, calling it a much-needed gesture of

reassurance in a climate of fear and anxiety. "Captain Amarinder Singh's message sends a strong signal of inclusivity. At a time when minorities are being targeted and alienated, voices like his are critical in upholding secularism and unity," he stated. He also urged authorities and educational institutions to take prompt and strict action against those attempting to disrupt communal harmony. Capt Amarinder further stressed, "We won't allow fear to win. Attempts to divide us will be defeated by unity and compassion. Kashmiri students must feel safe wherever they choose to study across India." His intervention comes at a crucial moment, as concerns grow over the safety of Kashmiri students, many of whom have traveled long distances from conflict-hit regions to pursue education and opportunity.

Pakistani National, 69, Dies of Cardiac Arrest Just Before Deportation

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Amritsar : A 69-year-old Pakistani national, who was to be sent back to his nation, died of cardiac arrest here, officials said. Abdul Waheed was brought from Srinagar by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for his repatriation to Pakistan. He had been living in India for the last 17 years and was found with an expired visa by the police, they said. Meanwhile, a total of 224 Indian nationals and Pakistani citizens who were holding No Obligation to Return to India (NORI) visas crossed over to India through the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at the Attari border. A total of 139 Pakistani nationals crossed over to the other side. Monika Rajani, 35, a Pakistani passport holder having NORI and Long Term Visa



(LTV), crossed over to India along with her five-year-old India-born daughter Saimara. She said, "I have crossed over to India from Pakistan in a panic with the fear that ICP may be closed at any time. I belong to a Hindu family and married a Hindu man at Vijayawada around nine years

back. My in-laws and husband from Vijayawada were waiting here to receive me." "I crossed over to India at 3 pm, where it took around three hours for customs and Immigration clearance. It was difficult for children travelling with their mothers to wait for all the necessary clearances due to the scorching heat," she said. Before leaving for Vijayawada, my family members and I will visit the Golden Temple, she said. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack last week, the Centre announced a slew of measures, including suspension of diplomatic relations with Islamabad, and ordering all Pakistanis on short-term visas to leave India or face action.

Terror Plot Foiled on Border; Large Cache of Arms Recovered

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Amritsar : The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with Punjab Police, intercepted a substantial cache of arms and ammunition near Bharopul village in Amritsar district. Acting on intelligence from the BSF's Intelligence Wing, a joint search operation was conducted on the evening of April 30. The operation led to the recovery of two hand grenades, three pistols with six



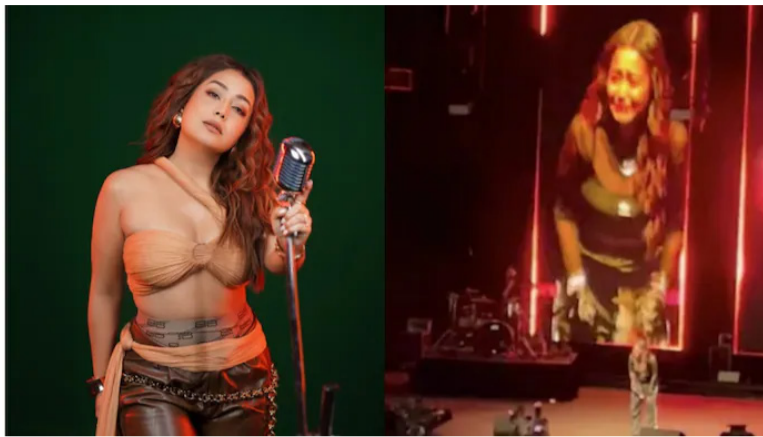
magazines, and 50 live rounds.

The recovered arms and ammunition have been handed over to the police for further investigation. This coordinated effort highlights the vigilance and preparedness of the BSF and Punjab Police. The swift and coordinated action by Punjab Police has prevented a possible major terror incident, and reaffirmed its commitment to national security and the protection of citizens.

Neha Kakkar Breaks Silence Amid New Claims in Melbourne Concert Row

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Singer Neha Kakkar posted on social media following the controversy surrounding her Melbourne concert in March. On Wednesday, the artiste shared a cryptic note on Instagram, tagging her brother Tony Kakkar. The post came a day after one of the organisers claimed that she refused to perform for the audience of '700 people' at the concert. The 36-year-old supported her brother, with a snippet from his newly released song 'Koi Apna Hoga'. In the caption of her post, Kakkar wrote, "I would call this #TonyKakkarGenre." She also featured the song on her Instagram story, mentioning the lyrics of the song: "Tere girne ke peeche koi tera apna hoga, yeh jaankar bhi rishta tujhko rakhna hoga." The post is seen by fans as a subtle yet powerful message by Kakkar after receiving backlash for the concert. The singer went viral in March for an emotional on-stage apology, claiming that the event organisers failed to provide basic arrangements and caused delays.



However, her claims were soon refuted by the organisers, who alleged that Kakkar arrived late and was hesitant to perform. Event host and rapper Pace D, in a recent interview with Siddharth Kannan, stated that Kakkar's team demanded a fuller venue before she would take the stage. "She kept saying things like, 'I won't go now; I won't do this,'" he claimed. Pace D added that he personally spoke with organiser Preet Pabla, who confirmed that multiple delays were made at the singer's end.

Meanwhile, event spokesperson Bikram Singh Randhawa said despite an eager crowd waiting since 7:30 pm, the singer did not perform until 10 pm, causing frustration among attendees. Pace D claimed that Neha Kakkar's team told the event organisers she wouldn't perform until the venue was full. He said in the same interview that he heard Kakkar allegedly saying, "Only 700 people? Until more people come in, and this place fills up, I am not going to perform."

'Chhaava' Star Viineet Kumar Singh Set to Welcome First Child with Wife Ruchira

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Actor couple Viineet Kumar Singh and Ruchira Singh are all set to embrace parenthood as they await the arrival of their first child. Viineet, who recently gained widespread recognition for his performances in 'Chhaava', 'Jaat', and 'Superboys of Malegaon', shared the exciting news in an interview with Hindustan Times. The couple tied the knot in November 2021. Speaking about this new chapter, Viineet said, "This phase is incredibly special for both of us. We're overjoyed and can't wait to welcome our baby. Everything feels new, and I want to be present for every moment." Ruchira, who joined him for the interview, added with a smile, "I'm so happy! There's so much happening, and my emotions are all over the place!" The couple shared how pregnancy



has been keeping them on their toes. "I'm a workaholic, so I'm glad to be busy during this phase of my life," said Ruchira. Viineet chimed in, "I try my best to take care of Ruchira. I wrap up work as quickly as I can and rush home." He further shared, "I've figured out my schedule, so I can accompany her for doctor's visits. I'm planning to take paternity

leave once the baby arrives in July." Professionally, 2025 has turned out to be a fantastic year for Viineet. Crediting his streak of success to his "baby's luck," the actor is thrilled with his back-to-back releases - 'Match Fixing', 'Chhaava', 'Superboys of Malegaon', and most recently, 'Jaat'.

Girl Group W.i.S.H Eyes Dream Collab with Jungkook, Dua Lipa

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : 90s kids of India have swayed to tunes by all-girl groups like Viva and Asma, and have tried to look as cool as they did! However, at a time when pop was progressing in countries like South Korea and Japan, India saw a slump. In fact, there hasn't been a new girl group in 22 years! That changed with the emergence of W.i.S.H in 2024. W.i.S.H, as the group says, stands for "World Inka Stage Hai". With four super-talented members - Ri (Riya Duggal), Sim (Simran Duggal), Zo (Zoe Siddharth), and Suchi (Suchita Shirke) - the band is already making waves in a year. In an exclusive interview with India Today Digital, W.i.S.H speaks about their initial challenges, working together while maintaining individuality, what sets them apart from K-pop groups, global stars they would like to collaborate with, and their goals for 2025.



There has not been a girl group for 22 years and then you guys made a smashing entry to the scene. Why do you feel it took more than two decades for a girl gang to be formed? Ri: We have amazing musical talent and culture in India but I feel so far, the industry has been dominated by Bollywood and the culture of playback singing. In the 90s, there were many pop artists and groups like Asma, Band of Boys, Euphoria, etc. but Bollywood music soon took over. With social media booming, we are seeing a shift in the trend of there being more non-film pop artists in the limelight and audiences are accepting this new different-sounding music. It takes a lot of effort, infrastructure, and investment to launch a girl group which we've been lucky to have. Mikey McCleary, the brain behind W.i.S.H, had this same thought of why there hasn't been a girl group for 22 years, and the rest is history.

What were the initial challenges of coming together as a group, and how did you overcome them?

Suchi: So we all come from different musical backgrounds and experiences. The sisters were independent artists releasing their songs as a duo... Zo was on the stage and switched to her duo too. I was working as an intern in a film production company and music/dance was just my pass time. When we came together we all had a lot to learn from each other... to sit and write music together isn't quite easy because there are too many opinions but somehow because we all were on the same page in terms of music style luckily it all worked smoothly. When it comes to dance and rehearsals... we all have to really push ourselves at times and that takes a lot from us because we all have different body types... but come what may... we have 'the show must go on' attitude on, always!

How do you ensure each member's individuality shines while maintaining the group's cohesive image?

Ri: The great thing is that the four of us each have our strengths or areas where we excel, and we make sure right from our songwriting to our final music videos, that we highlight these aspects. Suchi is a fantastic dancer, she also has a very cool rhythmic style of writing. Zoe has a wonderful husky tone, she usually takes care of all the lower harmonies that none of us can reach. Sim has a very high vocal range (whistle tones and all) and pop voice. I'm all over the place (laughs) - I like singing soft as well as belted vocals and also enjoy breaking into character with our raps!

We usually write songs and parts keeping

these in mind and make sure everyone has their solo moment to shine. We also know when we have to take a back seat and let others do their thing because, at the end of the day, we are one group and artist.

What steps do you take to compete on a global scale, especially in terms of production quality, choreography, and marketing?

Sim: We've been regularly training and working towards Wish in singing and dancing for 2 years before we launched in March. And even before wish, our experience in our own individual careers we were working as professional singers and performers. Releasing music in English and other globally spoken languages while preserving local flavors. Showcasing Indian culture and its diversity as a strength and USP. We couldn't have asked for a better music label in Sony Music, as they bring their expertise and experience. And lastly, the four of us are deeply involved in every step of the process to make sure whatever we do is world-class!

iPop is gaining momentum globally. How do you see Wish contributing to this movement, and what sets you apart from international girl bands, especially K-pop groups?

Suchi: W.i.S.H is fresh and brand new right now.. we are writing and composing songs everyone would love to listen and dance to.. it usually caters to young gen-Z girls and boys who love pop music. The four of us have grown up listening to a lot of pop music as kids and now as ipop is gaining momentum globally we're sort of aware of the drill to make our songs known.. we're all working hard to take W.i.S.H on a global stage.

What sets us apart from other groups is, I guess... we all have distinct personalities and styles but at the same time we're also a lot like each other.. we don't really follow a K-pop type system of diets and who is the leader/vision etc etc.. it's a chill system... all good in the hood.. we just enjoy making music and dancing to it!

K-pop has set a benchmark for discipline and training. How does Wish adopt or differ from such rigorous preparation?

Zoe: Training is necessary either way, whether it's a K-pop girl group or an Indian one. However, K-pop has a built-in system and its production of groups has been going on for decades. India doesn't have that boot camp training system here as we are the first girl group made in India in over 22 years. We're paving the way to create this form of music and artists to be prevalent here.

In K-pop, teens are trained to do this professionally, whereas the four of us are professionals who have come together to put all our experience into making this succeed. We do believe that we need to train and work hard and stay consistent, but we are also a part of the creative process for most parts of the girl group, and so we need to be in all areas at once.

In order to find balance, we have to make sure we are physically training, but not overworking, and then using our minds and vocal abilities for the rest. We won't be able to follow the K-pop method, so what we are doing is making our own method.

It's Story TIME

The Ugly Duckling

A little duckling was born looking very different from his siblings. The other ducklings called him ugly and made fun of him. Feeling like he didn't belong, the little duckling ran away and searched for a place where he could be accepted. Seasons passed, and one day, he saw his reflection in a lake. To his surprise, he had grown into a beautiful swan! He wasn't an ugly duckling at all—he had just been different all along. **Moral of the story:** Don't judge someone by how they look. Everyone is special in their own way, and real beauty is about being yourself.



CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

PLAYCLASS TO CLASS IX

Explore with curiosity, experiment with precision and inspire discovery.

Kids R Kids **ADMISSION OPEN**

Secondary School
Sector 42-C, Chandigarh

2025-'26

www.sjpresidiumchd.com/0172-2646048,7347244242

Congress Chief Questions Need for Loans to Fund Dream

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Amaravati : Andhra Pradesh Congress chief YS Sharmila raised strong objections against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's decision to build the state capital, Amaravati, using borrowed money. Sharmila said that instead of pushing Andhra Pradesh into debt, the government should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a grant of Rs 1.5 lakh crore to fund the project. She pointed out that Rs 2 lakh crore is needed to complete the construction of Amaravati.

Currently, the state government has a land bank of 54,000 acres for the capital. Naidu recently told the Finance Commission that building Amaravati would cost Rs 77,249 crore, of which Rs 31,000 crore has already been arranged through loans from the World Bank, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). Another Rs 47,000 crore is still needed.



"We are asking Chandrababu why build a capital with debt?" Sharmila said in a press statement.

She also took a swipe at Modi, who is visiting Andhra Pradesh on May 2 to relaunch the Amaravati works. Sharmila accused both the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) of acting as "slaves of Modi" and claimed that despite laying the foundation stone in 2015, Modi

has not provided any funds for the project in the past 10 years. Sharmila also alleged that the "real estate mafia" was active during the first five years of the Amaravati project, from 2014 to 2019.

Earlier, Sharmila claimed she was put under house arrest in her Vijayawada villa by the state government. She questioned the Chief Minister on social media: "Why am I under house arrest? Why is going to my office a crime? Why are you trying to curtail our constitutional rights?"

She said the Congress had planned to visit Amaravati for a study, which led to her house arrest. Later, Sharmila protested at the Congress office, Andhra Ratna Bhavan, where tensions rose after BJP workers allegedly threw eggs at the building. She was briefly detained by the police but later released.

Revanth Reddy Applauds Centre's Nod for Caste Survey

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy praised the government's decision to include a caste survey in the forthcoming national census and credited Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's persistent efforts to raise the issue.

"Today, finally, we proved that what Telangana does today, India will follow tomorrow," Reddy said.

The Chief Minister said that Rahul Gandhi was the first leader to seek a nationwide caste census during the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra and Telangana was one of the first states to implement it.

"This was the first (caste census) in independent India, the last one being conducted in 1931 by the British. A state-wide comprehensive social, economic, caste survey was conducted and it was found that 56.32 per cent of the population belong to the Backward Castes," he said.

"Based on the report tabled in the Telangana Assembly, the state also resolved and proposed 42 per cent reservations for OBCs in education, work and political positions," he added.

Reddy praised Rahul Gandhi's vision and said that despite being in the Opposition,



the caste survey has taken the shape of a policy. "We are proud that the actions of the Telangana government for OBC empowerment have inspired the country and India has agreed to also follow the actions of our state," he said.

In February last year, the Congress-led Telangana government announced it was going to hold a door-to-door household socio-economic survey and caste census. Based on the outcomes of the survey, the Reddy government brought the bill to increase the reservation quota of the backward classes in the state from 23 per cent to 42 per cent in March 2025.

Meanwhile, AIMIM MP Asaduddin

Owaisi also congratulated Reddy "for his leadership in implementing the historic caste census in Telangana". He added that the Telangana government's move to implement the caste survey "was the first-ever initiative of its kind in independent India".

Owaisi has urged the central government to compile "proper data on the backwardness of Muslims". He said the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and other data clearly demonstrate that Muslims were economically, socially and educationally backward.

Caste census will be included in the next national census exercise in a "transparent manner", Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Wednesday, saying a decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The census exercise was to commence in April 2020 but got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Had the exercise been carried out as per the 10-year schedule, the report would have been published in 2021.

Wedding Gold Is Woman's Property, Must Be Returned: HC

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

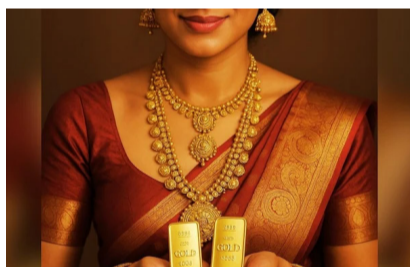
Thiruvananthapuram : The Kerala High Court has ruled that gold ornaments and cash gifted to a bride at the time of wedding are to be treated as her exclusive property or 'Streedhan', reaffirming the legal right of women over such possessions. The division bench comprising Justices Devan Ramachandran and MB Snehalatha delivered the verdict, while allowing a petition by a woman from Kalamassery, Ernakulam. She had challenged a family court decision that had denied her claim for return of gifts and ornaments following divorce proceedings.

The court observed that "unfortunately there are numerous cases where such valuable possessions are misappropriated by husband or in-laws."

"Due to the private and often informal nature of such transfers, it becomes merely impossible for women to produce documentary evidence proving ownership or misappropriations. In such a situation the courts have to rely on the principle of preponderance of probabilities to deliver justice."

The bench noted that insisting on rigid legal proof would be unrealistic in such matters, especially given the personal and undocumented nature of wedding gifts.

The petitioner had contended that she was given 63 sovereigns of gold and a



two-sovereign chain by her family at the time of marriage in 2010, along with an additional six sovereigns of gold gifted by relatives. However, she alleged that except for the mangalsutra, a bangle, and two rings used regularly, all the ornaments were taken to her parents-in-law's room under the pretext of safekeeping. The relationship later soured over the alleged non-payment of an additional Rs 5 lakh demanded by her husband.

The woman substantiated her claim by presenting documents that showed the gold had been purchased with money her parents had deposited in a fixed deposit. The high court, after reviewing the case, directed that 59.5 sovereigns of gold, or its current market value, be returned to the petitioner by her husband.

The court, however, noted that she was unable to provide proof regarding the additional six sovereigns of gold said to have been given by her relatives, and

therefore rejected that portion of her claim. Similarly, her plea for the return of certain household articles was denied due to a lack of evidence regarding their misappropriation.

Highlighting the broader implications of such cases, the court observed that gold given to a bride at the time of marriage is often retained by the husband or his family under the guise of safekeeping or as part of family customs. In most instances, the woman does not receive a written record or receipt for these transfers, and her access to the ornaments can be restricted. This becomes especially problematic when disputes arise; such as in cases of domestic violence, dowry harassment, or divorce, where the woman may claim that her jewellery was misused or never returned.

"The woman rarely gets a written record or receipt for such transfers and the woman's access to her own ornaments can be restricted. When disputes arise, especially in cases of domestic violence, dowry harassment or divorce, the woman may claim that her gold ornaments have been misused or never returned. However, since she seldom receives the list or acknowledgment of the items given to her, proving ownership becomes difficult. Courts have to understand this practical difficulty and cannot insist on rigid legal proof as in criminal cases," the court said.

"Even Nehru Backed It": BJP Hits Back at Rahul Over Caste Census Support



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : As political tempers flared over the Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the next national census, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a scathing attack on the Congress, invoking former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's opposition to caste-based data collection. Pradhan's remarks came in response to Rahul Gandhi's "welcome" note on the decision and amid an intensifying tug-of-war between the government and the Opposition over who deserves credit for the move.

Pradhan said Nehru was against the idea and had described caste census as "anti-progress", accusing the Congress of having historically resisted efforts to empower marginalised communities.

"Yesterday, once again, the people of the country saw through the hollow claims," Pradhan said, targeting the opposition. "This was not a sudden decision. The government has always believed in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. After a long gap, the OBC community is finally getting its rightful place - this is what the government has intended."

He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had personally led the initiative and stressed that from the first census till now, there had never been a caste-based enumeration.

"But this time, there will be one," he declared, noting that Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken about the government working on this nearly eight months ago.

Intensifying his attack on the Congress, Pradhan said, "Some people seemed rattled yesterday. They said - 'The government may be theirs, but the system is ours.' But in 1951, whose government and system was it? Wasn't it Jawaharlal Nehru back then? Nehru was opposed to a caste-based census."

He further accused the Congress of harbouring a "deep resentment" towards the Prime Minister. "Now some are saying they too had thought of this idea. But Congress has always been against tribals, the deprived, OBCs, and the backward communities."

His remarks came amid a growing war of words between the BJP and the Congress over who deserves credit for the move to conduct a caste census - a long-standing political flashpoint.

The PM Modi-led NDA government announced its decision to carry out a caste-based count, a significant step towards what it called "social justice".

The announcement followed a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, after which Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw accused the Congress of using the issue for "political mileage" and delaying action for years despite promising one in 2010.

While the Opposition welcomed the move, it served as a back-handed compliment to the NDA, as the Congress accused the BJP of agreeing to conduct a caste census only after months of sustained pressure from Rahul Gandhi, who repeatedly raised the demand in Parliament and kept the issue alive.

The Congress claimed that the ruling party had long resisted the demand, but eventually succumbed under political pressure.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders responded sharply, claiming the decision was a delayed implementation of their own vision. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asserted that the party had consistently demanded a caste census, with Rahul Gandhi being one of its most vocal advocates.

"I raised this issue in Parliament multiple times and even wrote to the Prime Minister. The INDIA bloc had also made this a key demand during the Lok Sabha election campaign," Kharge said in a statement on X.

Rahul Gandhi welcomed the government's announcement but said it was long overdue. "We had stated in Parliament that we would ensure the caste census takes place. We had also committed to removing the 50 per cent cap on reservations. PM Modi used to claim there are only four castes. We don't know what changed, but suddenly, after 11 years, the caste census has been announced," he said.

While the Congress expressed support for the move, it demanded clarity on the timeline. Rahul Gandhi added that the census was just the beginning. "Our vision is to bring a new development paradigm through caste census," he said, arguing that true social justice also requires reevaluating participation levels of OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis in national life - not just adjusting reservation quotas.

Tragic Ajmer Hotel Fire Kills 4, Injures 4; Female Firefighter Among Victims

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A fire broke out in a hotel in Ajmer, claiming the lives of four individuals and injuring four others. Among the injured was a female firefighter who sustained burns while trying to douse the flames.

Lokbandhu, District Collector, immediately reached the spot and confirmed that the fire had been brought under control.

Om Prakash, Deputy Inspector General of Police, also arrived at the scene to oversee the situation and monitor the rescue and relief operations.

According to Ward Councillor Bharti Shrivastav, the fire erupted around 7:45 AM and rapidly consumed the entire hotel



within half an hour. "The hotel is located in the congested Diggi market of ward no.16 in Ajmer. In just thirty minutes, it was reduced to ashes," she said. She confirmed that two individuals, including a child, jumped from the

hotel to save themselves and suffered injuries. "The victims have been rushed to the hospital for treatment. Firefighters and police have arrived at the scene, breaking windows to rescue those trapped inside," she added.

Commenting on the challenges posed by closely packed hotels in the market area, Shrivastav raised concerns about safety regulations.

"These hotels have been operating here for a long time. Authorities should not have allowed their construction and operation in such a narrow space. The roads here are too cramped, making it extremely difficult for rescue teams to access the site quickly," she said.

The Aman Sandesh Times

PRINT Subscriptions

The Aman Sandesh Times
Delivered at your home

₹ 75 / Per Month ₹ 800 / Yearly

Includes ...

- Convenient home delivery of The Aman Sandesh Time
- Includes access to e-Edition.

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL

89689 00999

The Aman Sandesh Times

www.amansandeshtimes.com

F-78, Industrial Area, Phase-7, Mohali (Pb.)

US Urges Pak to Aid Pahalgam Probe, Asks India to Ease Tensions

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : Amid escalating tension between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, the United States has encouraged New Delhi and Islamabad to de-escalate tensions. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, reaffirming the US's commitment to cooperate with India against terrorism and urging Pakistan's cooperation in investigating the "unconscionable" attack in Kashmir. The United States' top envoy asked the leaders of both nuclear-powered neighbours to work to de-escalate tensions between them. During a call with Mr Jaishankar, Mr Rubio voiced solidarity with New Delhi and expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam. He also reaffirmed the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism, but also encouraged caution as India accuses Pakistan of backing the attack and calls for retaliation, according to US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce. Mr Rubio encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia. After the call, Mr Jaishankar posted on X that "perpetrators, backers and planners" of the attack "must be brought to justice."



While on call with Prime Minister Sharif, Mr Rubio asked Pakistan to condemn the attack in Kashmir on April 22 and cooperate in an investigation. The US Secretary of State "urged Pakistani officials' cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack, Ms Bruce said. Mr Rubio told the Pakistani Prime Minister to work with India to de-escalate tensions, re-establish direct communications, and maintain peace and security in South Asia. "Both leaders reaffirmed their continued commitment to holding terrorists accountable for their heinous acts of violence. The Secretary urged Pakistani officials' cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack," said Ms Bruce. Pahalgam Attack and US Response India has blamed Pakistan for the attack after The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) claimed responsibility for it. Pakistan, meanwhile, denies responsibility

and has called for a neutral probe. In public, Washington expressed support for India after the attack that was condemned by President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, but it has not criticised Pakistan. India is an increasingly important US partner as Washington aims to counter China's rising influence, meanwhile, Pakistan remains Washington's ally even as its importance diminished after the 2021 US withdrawal from neighbouring Afghanistan. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed, India has taken a raft of measures, downgrading diplomatic ties with Pakistan. As intelligence reports reportedly place Pakistan-based groups behind the Pahalgam attack, New Delhi has suspended the Indus Water Treaty of 1960—a historic first— and revoked all visas issued to Pakistani nationals. The Wagah-Attari border has also been closed amid a tense relationship between the two nuclear powers. In retaliation, Pakistan meanwhile closed its airspace to Indian airlines and also exchanged fire across their de facto border. Pakistan's defence minister has said a military incursion by India was imminent.

Wildfire Chaos: National Emergency as Residents Flee, Abandon Vehicles



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jerusalem : A massive wildfire sweeping through the outskirts of Jerusalem has triggered a national emergency in Israel, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate and sending thick plumes of smoke over the country's capital. The blaze, described by authorities as one of the largest in the nation's history, erupted-coinciding with Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers-and has rapidly spread due to dry conditions and strong winds. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that the rapidly advancing flames could reach Jerusalem itself, calling it "a national emergency, not just a local one". He emphasised the need for more fire engines and firebreaks, saying, "The priority right now is defending Jerusalem." Thick smoke billowed above highways as firefighters battled the flames, with the military deployed to assist in evacuation and rescue efforts. Israel's emergency medical service, Magen David Adom (MDA), said it had treated 23 people so far, including 13 who were hospitalised with burns and smoke inhalation. The agency warned that hundreds of civilians remained at risk from what it called the worst wildfires in years. The blaze forced authorities to shut down Route 1, the main highway connecting Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Scenes of chaos unfolded as residents abandoned their vehicles and fled on foot, with flames closing in on the roadway. Video footage showed the fire creeping towards residential neighbourhoods and even a Catholic monastery, while

dark smoke blanketed the Jerusalem skyline. Police evacuated entire communities along the highway corridor, including areas ravaged by fires just a week ago. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir suggested that arson may be a factor in the disaster, with police arresting a resident of east Jerusalem caught allegedly trying to ignite a field in the city's southern area. Fire Chief Eyal Caspi said the situation was dire: "Our aircraft can't do anything right now due to the weather conditions... Our goal is to save lives." He added that Israel was "apparently facing the largest fire in a decade". The country's firefighting services have banned access to national parks and forests in affected areas. Multiple roads have been closed, and train routes suspended as the fires advanced. Events planned for Independence Day on Thursday, including the national ceremony at Mount Herzl-located near the fire zone-have been cancelled. A recorded dress rehearsal was broadcast instead. The Israeli government has appealed for international help, and firefighting aircraft from Italy, Croatia, and North Macedonia are on their way to support local crews. Helicopters continue to drop water over the blazes while emergency units scramble to keep pace with the rapidly shifting fire lines. Comparisons are being drawn to the devastating 2010 Mount Carmel fire, which lasted four days, claimed 44 lives, and destroyed more than 12,000 acres in northern Israel. Officials fear the current fire could surpass that catastrophe in scale and impact.

Hafiz Saeed Gets 4X Security, Pak Army Deployed After J&K Attack: Sources

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Pakistan has sharply increased security for Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed-believed to be the mastermind behind the recent Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead-by nearly four times, sources told India Today TV. The enhanced security cover includes a 24x7 deployment of armed personnel from the Pakistan Armed Forces, with extensive surveillance measures now in place around Saeed's known residence in Lahore, they said. Hafiz Saeed's house - located in Mohalla Johar Town, a densely populated residential area in Lahore-has come under an intensified security net following the April 22 attack. The Pakistan Army, ISI, and Lashkar operatives are jointly overseeing his protection, sources said, adding that drone surveillance has been deployed to monitor the compound, while roads within a 4-kilometre radius have been equipped with high-resolution CCTV cameras. No civilian movement is permitted near the building, and drones are banned in the area.



Sources said this heightened security protocol was put in place shortly after the Pahalgam attack, claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba. Though TRF made the public claim, Indian agencies believe Hafiz Saeed played a central role in orchestrating the strike. The incident has triggered fresh diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan, drawing sharp responses from both sides. Despite being designated a global terrorist by the United Nations and the United States-and carrying a USD 10 million bounty-Saeed continues to live openly in Pakistan. His residence, far from being

hidden or discreet, lies in the heart of Lahore, surrounded by civilians. Accessed satellite images and videos revealing Hafiz Saeed's compound, which includes three key structures: his fortified residence, a large mosque and madrasa serving as his operational base, and a newly constructed private park. The footage shows Saeed living comfortably under the watch of Pakistani security personnel, contradicting Islamabad's repeated claims that he is behind bars on terror-financing charges. The country's intelligence agency, ISI, has also reviewed Saeed's security, and his residence is being converted into a 'sub-jail', allowing him to operate with minimal restrictions while technically remaining in custody. Security around Saeed had already been increased in 2021 after a car bomb exploded near his house, killing three people. Last month, his protection was again tightened following the killing of his close aide Abu Qatal, and Pakistani intelligence agencies reportedly reviewed the entire security arrangement.

Strategic Minerals, Strategic Alliance: The US-Ukraine Pact Shaping Global Supply Chains

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : After months of tense negotiations, the United States and Ukraine have signed an "economic partnership agreement" on the joint exploitation of Kyiv's energy and mineral resources, which are vital for new technologies and largely untapped. The US will also establish an investment fund in Ukraine to spur its economic recovery from its war with Russia as part of the deal. The minerals deal has been the subject of tense negotiations for months since US President Donald Trump returned to the White House in January, and nearly fell through hours before it was signed. US President Donald Trump had initially demanded rights to Ukraine's mineral wealth as compensation for an estimated \$175 billion in aid provided to Ukraine since the beginning of the war. After initial hesitation, Ukraine accepted a minerals accord as a way to secure long-term investment by the United States, as Trump tries to drastically scale back US security commitments around the world. It marks a breakthrough in Washington-Kyiv ties after they nadired following a public showdown between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during their meeting at the White House in February. Announcing the signing of the deal in Washington, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says it shows "both sides' commitment to lasting peace and prosperity in Ukraine." "This agreement signals clearly to Russia that the Trump administration is committed to a peace process centred on a free, sovereign and prosperous Ukraine over the long term," Bessent said. "And to be clear, no state or person who financed or supplied the Russian war



machine will be allowed to benefit from the reconstruction of Ukraine." The Treasury statement notably mentions Russia's "full-scale invasion" of Ukraine -diverging from the Trump administration's usual formulation of a "conflict" for which Kyiv bears a large degree of responsibility. What's Inside US US-Ukraine Mineral Deal According to Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, the accord allowed Kyiv to "determine what and where to extract" and that its subsoil remains owned by Ukraine. Ukraine is rich in natural resources, including rare earth metals, which are used in consumer electronics, electric vehicles and military applications, among others. Global rare-earth mining is currently dominated by China, which is locked in a trade war with the US after Trump's sharp tariff increases. Ukraine also has large reserves of iron, uranium and natural gas. Svyrydenko said Ukraine has no debt obligations to the United States under the agreement, a key point in the lengthy negotiations between the two countries. The deal, she said, also complied with Ukraine's constitution and Ukraine's campaign to join the European Union, key elements in Ukraine's negotiating position. It would ensure revenue by establishing contracts on a "take-or-pay"

basis. "Importantly, the Agreement sends a signal to global partners that long-term cooperation with Ukraine--over decades - is not only possible but reliable," Svyrydenko said on X. Ukraine Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said on national television that the agreement with US was "good, equal and beneficial." In a post on Telegram, Shmygal later stated that the two countries would establish a Reconstruction Investment Fund with each side having 50 per cent voting rights. "Ukraine retains full control over its subsoil, infrastructure and natural resources," he said. Meeting a key concern for Kyiv, he said Ukraine will not be asked to pay back any "debt" for the billions of dollars in US weapons and other support since Russia invaded in February 2022. "The fund's profits will be reinvested exclusively in Ukraine," he said. It would ensure revenue by establishing contracts on a "take-or-pay" basis, he added. Ukraine's first deputy prime minister, Yulia Svyrydenko, stated that the agreement would make no changes to the ownership of state-owned companies, including nuclear energy producer Energoatom and Ukrnafta, Ukraine's largest oil producer. Moreover, the income and contributions to the fund would not be taxed in the US or Ukraine, she said, "to make investments yield the greatest results". Per an earlier Reuters Report, a draft of the US-Ukraine agreement showed Ukraine secured the removal of any requirement for it to pay back the US for past military assistance, something Kyiv had staunchly opposed.

Required REPORTERS CAMERAMAN MALE / FEMALE

REPORTING COMMUNICATION SKILLS MUST

CONTACT 89689 00999

India Engages UN Council Members After J&K Terror Attack



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : India reached out to Denmark in line with its diplomatic overdrive to apprise the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council about the brutal Pahalgam terror attack with cross-border linkages.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from seven non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council.

Jaishankar held a phone conversation with his Danish counterpart Lars Lokke Rasmussen and is understood to have conveyed to him India's resolve to bring the perpetrators of the April 22 attack to justice.

"Spoke with FM @larslokke of Denmark. Appreciate his support and solidarity over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Also exchanged views about our bilateral cooperation," he wrote on X.

Jaishankar's phone conversations with foreign ministers of the non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council assumes significance as Pakistan is also a member of the influential UN body for the 2025-26 period.

The external affairs minister held conversations with his counterparts from Algeria, Greece, Guyana, Panama, Slovenia, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike. In its April 25 statement on the attack, the UNSC condemned the terror attack in the "strongest terms" and reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the "most serious" threats to international peace and security.

However the statement was seen as "inadequate".

The non-permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, and their membership rotates.

In the last few days, India reached out to various world capitals apprising the

nations about the "cross border" links to the terror attack.

Several world leaders including US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi to condemn the attack.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, US Vice President J D Vance, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli also spoke to Modi.

Jaishankar's phone calls with his counterparts from the non-permanent members of the UNSC comes as India mulls options to respond to the terror attack.

Modi said the "perpetrators and conspirators" of the Pahalgam attack will be "served with the harshest response".

"The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done," Modi said in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

"The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response," he said.

Modi asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam attack.

He said this while chairing a meeting that was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services.

Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

Delhi Court Permits NIA to Collect Tahawwur Rana's Voice, Handwriting Samples

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A Delhi court has allowed the NIA to collect the voice and handwriting samples of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a source said.

Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) Judge Chander Jit Singh, who on April 28 extended Rana's custody for 12 days, passed the order on April 30 on an application moved by the agency.

Rana, a close associate of 26/11 main conspirator David Coleman Headley



alias Daood Gilani, a US citizen, was brought to India after the US Supreme

Court on April 4 dismissed his extradition to India.

On November 26, 2008, a group of 10 Pakistani terrorists went on a rampage, carrying out a coordinated attack on a railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre, after they sneaked into India's financial capital using the sea route.

As many as 166 people were killed in the nearly 60-hour assault.

High Alert on Border as ISI Footprint Grows: Sources

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Amid ongoing tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, intelligence agencies and security forces have been asked to maintain a high alert along the borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar, sources said.

The agencies have been told to be extra-vigilant along the Bangladesh border in view of the actions by the Muhammad Yunus-led government and the increasing presence of Pakistan's ISI and Pakistani military officials there.

Pakistan has been trying to strengthen relations with its Bangladeshi counterparts along with radical Islamist groups there.

Pakistan is likely to use these radical elements, who have a support base in Indian areas bordering Bangladesh, to create trouble for India in case hostilities erupt between the two nations.



Indian agencies have been actively monitoring the situation along the Bangladesh border post the riots in Bengal's Murshidabad during protests over the Waqf law.

The violence in Murshidabad district, which borders Bangladesh, left three dead and hundreds injured. A report submitted to the Centre said that Bangladeshi miscreants stoked the violence.

The high alert along India's eastern border comes amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, which is fearing retaliation by New

Delhi following the terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 dead.

Sources said a rattled Pakistan has started mobilising its troops along its border with India and has kept its navy on standby. This even as Pakistan continues to resort to unprovoked firing along the LoC by violating

the ceasefire.

The development came after Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that the government had "credible intelligence" indicating India might carry out a military strike within the next 24 to 36 hours.

Pakistan's knee-jerk reaction came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with the three service chiefs, granted the military "complete operational freedom" to respond to the April 22 attack.

India Deploys Jammers to Disrupt Pak Aircraft Navigation

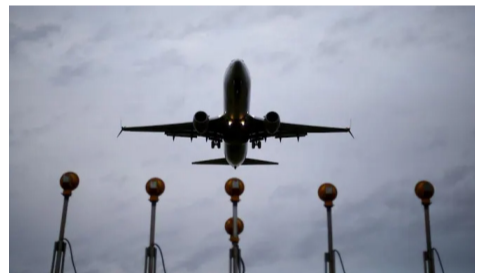
THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : India has deployed advanced jamming systems along its western border to disrupt the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) signals used by Pakistani military aircraft, significantly degrading their navigation and strike capabilities, sources said. The move comes after India shut its airspace for all Pakistani-operated flights effective from April 30 to May 23.

The Indian jamming systems are capable of interfering with multiple satellite-based navigation platforms, including GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), and Beidou (China) - all of which are used by Pakistani military craft, sources further said.

The deployment is designed to impair Pakistan's situational awareness, targeting accuracy, and the effectiveness of precision-guided munitions during any potential conflict or incursion, they added.

The move comes amid rising tensions



between the two countries after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people died. Days later, India issued a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) restricting its airspace, effective from April 30 to May 23, to all aircraft registered, operated, or leased by Pakistan - including commercial airlines and military flights.

The NOTAM was issued shortly after Pakistani carriers had already started rerouting to avoid Indian airspace due to concerns over potential Indian retaliation, officials said. With the restriction now formalised, Pakistani

airlines will be forced to take longer and costlier routes over Chinese or Sri Lankan airspace to access Southeast Asian cities such as Kuala Lumpur.

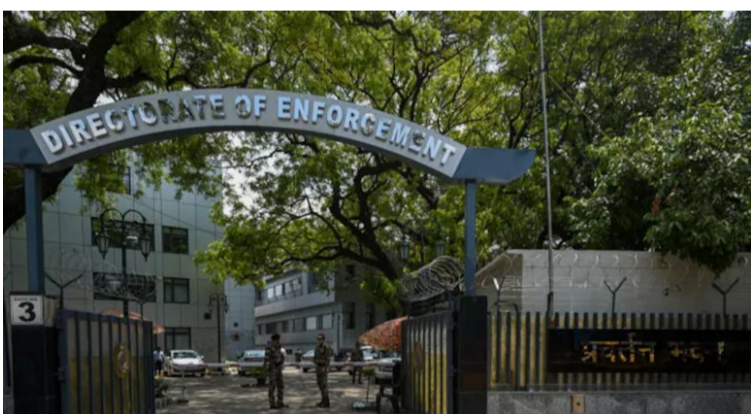
The airspace closure is part of a series of retaliatory measures taken by India in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. India had earlier suspended the Indus Waters Treaty and

revoked visas of Pakistani nationals.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the national carrier with a fleet of 32 aircraft, is expected to be particularly affected. Many of Pakistan's flights to Southeast Asia and the Far East will now be extended by one to two hours.

These detours will require more fuel, increase crew duty hours, and potentially force rescheduling or frequency cuts. In contrast, Indian carriers such as IndiGo operate over 370 aircraft, while Air India has more than 200 in service and hundreds more on order.

ED Reveals Over 1,700 Money Laundering Cases in Trial Stage



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Over 1700 money laundering cases probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are currently in the trial stage and the delay in courts can be attributed to the general delay in the justice system in the country, Enforcement Directorate Director Rahul Navin said today. The top officer of the Enforcement Directorate, however, said the conviction rate of the Enforcement Directorate cases was 93.6 per cent as out of 47 cases decided by courts till now, there have been only three acquittals.

A total of 1,739 cases of PMLA are under trial at present and the delay in prosecution in the money laundering cases can be attributed to general delay in the justice system in the

country, he said while addressing the Enforcement Directorate Day event held here.

Mr Navin said he "candidly" acknowledges pending investigation in PMLA cases, saying it will be the agency's efforts to file chargesheets in such cases before courts.

He said the Enforcement Directorate will use advanced technology and forensics in its investigations.

The federal probe agency has completed 69 years of its existence as it was established on May 1, 1956. It implements two criminal laws--The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA)-- apart from the civil provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Navy Plans Live-fire Drills Off Gujarat Near Pakistan Exercise Zone

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Indian Navy has issued four green notifications for firing in a coastal area off the Gujarat coast, just 85 nautical miles from the region where Pakistan is currently conducting its naval drills in the Arabian Sea, according to sources.

In naval terms, a "green notification" refers to a public notice issued by maritime authorities informing ships and aircraft about planned live-firing exercises in a specific area and timeframe. These notifications are meant to ensure safety by alerting civilian and commercial vessels to avoid the designated zones during military activities.

According to sources, the Indian Navy has been carrying out various exercises, with more demonstrations



scheduled over the coming days. The firing notifications are valid from April 30 to May 3, 2025.

According to Defence sources, Pakistan has issued its fourth naval missile firing notification in the past week but has not launched any missile on the previous three occasions. The Indian Navy is closely monitoring the situation and Pakistan's activities in the region.

The development comes amid heightened tensions between both countries after 26 people were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

In recent days, Indian Navy ships have conducted multiple anti-ship missile firings in the Arabian Sea as part of ongoing naval exercises.

Indian Navy shared several pictures and videos of BrahMos anti-ship and anti-surface cruise missiles being fired from warships in the middle of the Arabian Sea.

These firings are aimed at validating the operational readiness and precision strike capabilities of the Indian Navy in maritime combat scenarios.